



RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2010-2011

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

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COURSE GUIDE

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**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2010-2011**

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www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/longview/socsci/philosophy/religion/symbols.htm

This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2010-2011 academic year and information contained herein is subject to change. Students are advised not to purchase any texts without the approval of the professor concerned.
Due to the renumbering of courses in the Department, students should consult the list of equivalent undergraduate courses in the back of the 2010-2011 undergraduate calendar.

FACULTY

A list of the full-time faculty follows below. All possess degrees from universities and/or schools of advanced studies that represent the best academic centres for the study of religion in North America and India. All have published books that have made a contribution to their particular fields of study, have published in learned journals and given papers at learned societies. They have also won a reputation among their students for being good teachers, concerned about the quality of instruction at Concordia University, as well as for being "available" and committed to the development of a more meaningful student life.

Full-Time Faculty

Chair

Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill)

Professors

Michel Despland, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Michael Oppenheim, Ph.D. (University of California)

Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard)

T.S. Rukmani, D.Litt., Ph.D. (Delhi University) - Chair in Hindu Studies

Associate Professors

Lorenzo DiTommaso, Ph.D. (McMaster)

Richard Foltz, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Norma Joseph, Ph.D. (Concordia)

Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)

Norman Ravvin, Ph.D. (Univ. of Toronto) – Chair in Quebec & Canadian Jewish Studies

Assistant Professors

Donald Boisvert, Ph.D. (University of Ottawa)

Marc Lalonde, Ph.D. (Concordia)

Marc des Jardins, Ph.D. (McGill University)

Naftali Cohn, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)

Carly Daniel-Hughes, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Shaman Hatley, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

General Objectives

The Department of Religion is dedicated to the academic study of religions and other social and cultural phenomena in so far as they have been influenced or affected by religions. We are interested in the comparative study of many religions. Although we do study how many religious traditions articulate and defend their own self-understandings, we treat these theologies and buddhologies academically and comparatively.

Nature of Religious Studies

The academic study of religion is a multi-disciplinary enterprise. It involves the historical examination of religious movements, the literary analyses of their literatures, philosophical reflections on beliefs and teachings, the social scientific investigations of their rituals, practices, texts, and institutions, the psychological study of their participants and ethical inquiries regarding both their moral writings and social roles.

Correspondingly, the faculty in the department have been trained in a number of academic disciplines including history, sociology, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy, psychology and theology as well as in the study of particular religious traditions.

KNOWLEDGE OF TWO MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Department believes that every Major or Honours student in Religion or in Judaic Studies should possess, at time of graduation, a knowledge of at least two major religious traditions. For example, the student who is pursuing a Major in Judaic Studies will take some courses in a religious tradition other than Judaism. This basic principle reinforces the emphasis upon the centrality of the discipline of the History of Religions. A particular religious tradition can best be understood in the context of the general religious history of humankind.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The Department of Religion offers at the undergraduate level: minors, majors and honours programmes in Religion and in Judaic Studies. The degree requirements for all of these programmes can be found below. We also offer several graduate programmes: an M.A. in the History and Philosophy of Religion, an M.A. in Judaic Studies, and a Ph.D. in Religion. For further information on our graduate programmes, please contact the graduate programme assistant at 848-2424 ext.2077.

Women and Religion

As part of the Department of Religion's undergraduate curriculum, a concentration in **Women and Religion** is offered. A variety of special courses are included in the regular program for the BA major in Religion. Religion majors can focus on this area for either the primary or secondary concentration requirements.

The study of women and religion is a growing field in which the Department of Religion of Concordia University has long been a leader. This structured concentration solidifies our commitment to this field and enables us to prepare students in a systematic and consistent fashion. The concentration furthers the work of the department in that it will allow students to pursue course work from a comparative, cross-cultural and multi-tradition perspective. The study of the role of women in the history and practice of religion introduces our students to an exciting and vital area of study.

Degree Requirements

60 B.A. Honours in Religion:

- 12 In a language related to thesis; or in a related discipline such as: Anthropology, Classics, English Literature, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Women's Studies.
- 6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³, 215³
- 21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
- 6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
- 6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
- 3 RELI 409³
- 6 RELI 410⁶

42 B.A. Major in Religion

- 6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³ or 215³
- 21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
- 6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
- 6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
- 3 RELI 409³

24 Minor in Religion

- 6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³ or 215³
- 18 RELI elective credits (chosen in consultation with Departmental advisor)

60 B.A. Honours in Judaic Studies

- 12 Chosen from: HEBR 210⁶, HEBR 241³, HEBR 242³, RELI 401³
Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew by a written examination may substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental adviser.
- 6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³, 215³
- 3 RELI 220³
- 9 Chosen from RELI 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³
- 9 Chosen from RELI 329³, 336³, 338³, 339³, 381³, 391³, 392³, 395³, 407³
- 6 Chosen from RELI 223³, 224³, 225³, 226³, 302³, 316³, 318³, 319³, 320³, 321³, 322³, 323³, 324³, 325³ or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
- 3 Chosen from RELI 332³, 334³, 335³ or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
- 3 RELI elective credits at the 300 or 400 level
- 3 RELI 409³
- 6 RELI 410⁶

48 B.A. Major in Judaic Studies

- 12 Chosen from Hebrew Language: HEBR 210⁶, HEBR 241³, HEBR 242³, RELI 401³
Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew by a written examination may substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental adviser.
- 6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³, 215³
3 RELI 220³
- 9 Chosen from RELI 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³
- 9 Chosen from RELI 329³, 332³, 334³, 335³, 336³, 338³, 339³, 381³, 391³, 392³, 395³, 407³ or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
- 6 Chosen from RELI 223³, 224³, 225³, 226³, 302³, 316³, 318³, 319³, 320³, 321³, 322³, 323³, 324³, 325³ or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
- 3 RELI 409³

24 Minor in Judaic Studies

- 6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214^{3 a}, 215³
3 RELI 220³
- 6 Chosen from RELI 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³
- 9 RELI elective credits at the 300 or 400 level (chosen in consultation with the departmental advisor)

24 Minor in Iranian Studies

- 3 RELI 318³
- 3 Chosen from ANTH 323³ or ANTH credits dealing with the peoples and cultures of Iran or Persia and approved by the departmental advisor
- 3 Chosen from CLAS 230³ or HIST 219³; HIST 240³, 241³, 467³, POLI 391³, 395³
- 3 Chosen from RELI 224³, 316³, 317³, 319³, 383³, 411³
- 6 Chosen from RELI 412³, 414³ or RELI courses dealing with the religions of Iran or Persia
- 6 Credits chosen from any courses dealing primarily with Iran or the Eurasian regions historically influenced by Iranian and Persian culture and approved by the departmental advisor

NOTE: Any of the courses above may be substituted by an appropriate course approved by the departmental advisor.

Areas of Concentration

A - Asian Religions (21 credits) - chosen from any of the following:

- RELI 224³ Introduction to Islam,
RELI 225³ Introduction to Hinduism
RELI 226³ Introduction to Buddhism
RELI 316³ Medieval Islam
RELI 318³ Shiite Islam
RELI 319³ Modern Islam
RELI 340³ Veda & Upanishads: Fountainhead of Hindu Thought
RELI 341³ Hindu Sadhana: From Yajna to Yoga

RELI 342³ The Golden Age of Bhakti
 RELI 346³ From Rammohun Roy to Gandhi and After
 RELI 347³ Religion and the Arts in South & Southeast Asia
 RELI 348³ Religion and Society in South & Southeast Asia
 RELI 349³ Religions of China and Japan
 RELI 350³ Theravada Buddhism
 RELI 364³ Mahayana Buddhism
 RELI 383³ Women and Religion: Islam
 RELI 384³ Women and Religion: Hinduism
 RELI 385³ Women and Religion: Buddhism
 RELI 411³ Studies in Qur'an and Hadith or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

B - Christianity (21 credits)

3 RELI 223³ Introduction to Christianity
 12 Chosen from RELI 301³ Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible, RELI 302³ Biblical Studies II: Christian Origins, RELI 320³ Catacombs, Crusades and Convents: History of Christianity I, RELI 321³ Mystics, Heretics and Reformers: History of Christianity II, RELI 322³ From Toleration to Political and Social Activism: History of Christianity III or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
 6 Christianity elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

C - Judaism (21 credits)

3 RELI 220³ Introduction to Judaism
 3 RELI 301³ Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible
 6 Chosen from: RELI 326³ Ancient Judaism, RELI 327³ Medieval Jewish Thought & Institutions, RELI 328³ Modern Judaism or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
 9 Judaic Studies elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

D - Women and Religion (21 credits)

3 RELI 233³ Introduction to Women and Religion
 6 Chosen from: RELI 381³ Women and Religion: Judaism
 RELI 382³ Women and Religion: Christianity
 RELI 383³ Women and Religion: Islam
 RELI 384³ Women and Religion: Hinduism
 RELI 385³ Women and Religion: Buddhism
 RELI 391³ Women and Jewish History: Ancient & Medieval
 RELI 392³ Women and Jewish History: Modern or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
 9 Chosen from: RELI 372³ The Human Body in Religious Faith and Practice
 RELI 380³ Sexuality in the History of Religion
 RELI 387³ Goddesses and Religious Images of Women
 RELI 389³ Women's Ritual: Expressions and Expertise
 RELI 406³ Feminist Hermeneutics & Scripture
 or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
 3 Women and Religion elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

E – Islam (21 credits)

- 6 Chosen from: RELI 224³, 316³, 319³
- 12 Chosen from: RELI 314³, 315³, 317³, 318³, 348³, 383³, 412³: from 316 or 319 if not taken to satisfy requirements in first category; from 411 or 416 if not taken to satisfy requirements in third category: or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
- 3 Chosen from RELI 411 or 416; or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

NOTE: Majors in Religion concentrating in Islam may count up to six credits of Arabic toward the Islam concentration. Honours students concentrating in Islam must take at least nine credits of Arabic, to be counted in the 12-credit "language related to thesis" category of the Honours program. Honours students may also count an additional six credits of Arabic toward their program.

NOTE: Students who demonstrate fluency in Arabic by a written examination may substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental advisor.

Southern Asia Studies

The Department of Religion participates with History, Political Science and several other departments in the Southern Asia Studies Programme which offers a major and a minor as follows:

MAJOR (42 credits)

6 credits History 261 and Religion 215

3 credits History 364, 347, 393 or 462

6 credits Political Science 336, 424, 482

9 credits Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 342, 346, 347, 348, 350, 384

NOTE: Any of the above courses may be substituted by a Special Topics course on Southern Asia in the same Department and approved by the departmental advisor.

18 credits Chosen from any relevant courses in the core disciplines, including Special Topics courses (not already counted towards the above requirements) or courses dealing with Southern Asia in the Departments of Economics, Education, English, Geography, Sociology/Anthropology, The Faculty of Fine Arts, and the John Molson School of Business.

MINOR (24 credits)

6 credits History 261 and Religion 215

6 credits History 364, 393 or 462

Political Science 336, 424, 482

Economics 311, 319

6 credits any from Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 342, 346, 347, 348, 350, 384; or FMST 335

NOTE: Any of the courses above may be substituted by an appropriate course on Southern Asia approved by the departmental advisor.

6 elective credits from any courses dealing primarily with Southern Asia, and Special Topics courses in any discipline with a Southern Asia theme or focus. Other courses may be substituted for many of the above with the Programme Advisor's permission.

Please see the Undergraduate Calendar for further details on the Southern Asia Studies Programme.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Donald Boisvert: dlb@alcor.concordia.ca or Dr. Carly Daniel-Hughes (June 1 on): cdanielhughes@gmail.com

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Student Advising

Students who have questions concerning their programme of study or need assistance relating to academic difficulties can contact the Department either by phone (848-2424, ext. 2065) or email religion@alcor.concordia.ca and make an appointment to meet with an undergraduate advisor.

Undergraduate Listserve

Religion students and students taking one or more Religion courses have the option of being added to the Religion Undergraduate Listserve. This listserv helps to keep students informed of upcoming events, guest speakers and academic deadlines.

Department Web Page

Visit the Department's webpage and find information on the various courses offered, course outlines, faculty research interests, guest lectures and conferences, information on our graduate programmes plus much more:

<http://religion.concordia.ca>

THE BOYD SINYARD AWARD

Each year the Boyd Sinyard award is given to the outstanding graduating student in Religion. The award is named after the first chairman of the Department of Religion at Sir George Williams University.

CONCORDIA RELIGION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CRSA)

If you are studying within the Department of Religion (i.e. if you are an Honours, Major, Minor or just taking a course offered by the department), you are a member of the CRSA. CRSA is a student-administered organization dedicated to fostering community and expanding the educational experience of all Religion students. Each year the executive branch of CRSA (five students elected to plan and administer CRSA affairs) offers Religion students the chance to meet each other and faculty at various social gatherings, as well as the opportunity to enliven their education by attending CRSA sponsored lectures given by learned academics and religious thinkers from all parts of the world. CRSA members are urged to take advantage of the student lounge located in the basement of annex R (2050 Mackay). This is a place where students can study, hang out or use the free phone. If you would like more information about CRSA, leave a message in our mailbox at the Department of Religion.

COURSES

FALL AND WINTER 2010-2011

(/2 = Fall 2010 /4 = Winter 2011)

RELI 209/4 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1315-1430

THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course explores the conceptual elements that underlie the religious experience. These elements include the notion of the sacred, beliefs, cosmologies and myths, the origins and understanding of evil, ethics and salvation. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 210/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1015-1130

RELIGION IN PRACTICE

Instructor: Laurie Lamoureux Scholes

This course focuses on the day-to-day practice of religious traditions. Included are the expression of religious experiences through art, music, and scripture; transmission of these religious expressions through ritual, worship and mystical/ecstatic practices; and the construction and maintenance of different types of religious authority and communal identities. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 214/2 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

RELIGIONS OF THE WEST

Instructor: Shaun Turriff

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that arose in Western Asia, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course examines contemporary forms of religious life in those parts of the world where these traditions have spread, as well as indigenous religions. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these various traditions. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 214 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 215/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1145-1300

RELIGIONS OF ASIA

Instructor: Perwaiz Hayat

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that have arisen in and spread throughout Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China and Japan. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these traditions. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 215 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 216/2 – Onl EC (3 credits) and RELI 216/4 – Onl EC (3 credits)

ENCOUNTERING WORLD RELIGIONS

Instructor: Howard Joseph

This course serves as an introduction to some of the religions of today's world, and explores several contemporary contexts where people of diverse religious backgrounds come into contact with one another. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 298C or RELZ 216 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 220/2- A (3 credits)

M.W. 1315-1430

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the history of Jews and of Judaism from ancient times until the present. It will emphasize the continuities, changes and interrelationships with respect to Jewish social, religious and intellectual life through the ages. It will also carefully examine the varieties of belief and practice in contemporary Jewish life. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 222 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 223/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J.1015-1130

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY

Instructor:

This course provides an introduction to key developments and enduring structures in the historical evolution of Christianity. It examines the variety of expressions of faith that are embodied by the Eastern churches (e.g. Greek and Russian Orthodox, Syrian) and the Western (e.g. Roman Catholic, Protestant), and traces the ways in which institutions, symbols, and rituals have in the past and continue today to carry forward the Christian tradition as a world religion in a variety of cultural contexts.

RELI 224/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J.1145-1300

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

Instructor: Richard Foltz

This course explores the religious tradition of Islam through the beliefs and practices of the vast number of Muslims scattered throughout the world — in the Middle East, Indonesia, India and Pakistan, North America, and other places. It examines the scriptures and common rituals or "pillars" of the religion, as well as expressions of life and culture in the past and present such as the law (shariah), the Islamic arts, and the mystical orders. The course also provides a historical framework of the classical period of Islam up to the Abbasid empire (eighth century). **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 313 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 225/4 – A (3 credits)

T. 1800-2015

INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

Instructor: Shaman Hatley

This course surveys Hinduism in its diverse history, sects, schools of thought, sacred texts, spiritual practices, and contemporary interpretations. We will focus on several prominent dimensions of the tradition, including the Hindu temple, mysticism and

metaphysics in the Upanisads, karma and rebirth, dharma (religious duty and the cosmic/social order), moksha (liberation), gender and caste, devotional traditions, and narrative literatures. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 226/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J.1445-1600

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

Instructor: Howard Gontovnick

This course introduces students to the diversity of forms of Buddhism that have emerged in history and are practiced today. It examines those aspects that are shared in common by Buddhists all over the world, including reverence for the Buddha, support of the monastic order, and adherence to the Buddha's teachings. The course explores the ways in which these ideals and beliefs are expressed through such Buddhist practices as worship, study, pilgrimage, and meditation. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 350 or 364 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 233/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1145-1300

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN AND RELIGION

Instructor: Donna Goodman

This introduction to the particular problems and issues in the study of women and religion uses case studies from various religious traditions. The course presents a survey of the different levels of participation, the complex ritual activities, and the intriguing divine imagery associated with women that are found in many religious traditions. Questions pertaining to the contemporary feminist discourse on such topics as witchcraft, matriarchy, and goddess religions are also explored.

RELI 300/4 - AA (3 credits)

T. 1800-2015

CULTS AND RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY IN NORTH AMERICA

Instructor: Susan Palmer

This course takes a sociological and historical approach towards understanding new religious movements (NRMs), popularly known as "cults". The course examines the reasons for their controversial status in society, and undertakes a survey of the beliefs, rituals, leadership, membership, recruitment strategies, and social organization of a number of specific NRMs. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number or RELI 217 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 301/2 - A (3 credits)

M.W.1015-1130

BIBLICAL STUDIES I: THE HEBREW BIBLE

Instructor: Naftali Cohn

This course introduces one of the great works of world literature, the Hebrew Bible. The focus will be the religious worlds represented in the Bible, the Bible in its original and subsequent historical contexts, the literary genres of the Bible, the history of the biblical period, and the Bible's important motifs and major theological concepts. The goal of the course is to appreciate what the Bible tells us about its own time and what it might mean to us today.

RELI 310/2 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 1445-1600

RELI 310/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J.1445-1600

SELF AND OTHER: EXPLORING VALUE CHOICES IN PERSONAL &
INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of personal and interpersonal relations, families and friendships, and health and medical care. These issues are discussed in relation to traditional and contemporary moral perspectives, both religious and non-religious. Topics covered may vary from year to year, but may include discussions of conscience and career, privacy, sexual relations, harassment, substance abuse, abortion, euthanasia, and gay and lesbian relations. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 331 or RELZ 310 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 312/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1015-1130

JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of social, legal, and political relations. These issues are discussed in relation to both traditional and contemporary moral perspectives, both religious and non-religious. Topics covered typically include discussions of social and economic inequality, welfare, poverty, just punishment, business ethics, public ethics, economic development, and sustainable development. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 332 or RELZ 312 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 317/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1315-1430

SUFISM

Instructor: Umberto Cicchetti

The course explores the emergence and development of Islamic mysticism beginning with pious individuals in the eighth century and coalescing into institutional forms by the tenth. Attention is given to the teachings of key mystical figures, the Sufi orders, and the social role of Sufism. Sufi poetry, music, and other forms of devotion and practice are studied in the contexts of diverse Muslim societies over the past 1,000 years up to the present. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 379 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 319/4 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

MODERN ISLAM

Instructor: Dragos Stoica

Modernity – defined as a specific worldview with ideological and in some respects hegemonic underpinnings – was initially imposed on the Muslim world from without, yet over the past two centuries the issue of how to internalize and “Islamicize” it has become one of the defining challenges for Muslim societies and individuals. This course surveys some of the main questions raised by modernity for Muslims and the various types of responses to it that Muslims have sought to formulate and put into practice, particularly in terms of how knowledge is defined, how society is governed, and how men and women are to relate to each other and to non-Muslims. **Note:**

Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 379 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 320/2 –A (3 credits)

M.W. 1145-1300

CATACOMBS, CRUSADES, CONVENTS

Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

What possessed ancient Christians to die in the Roman arena or to leave the cities for a life of solitude in the deserts? Why did they develop the doctrine of the Trinity? How did the papacy emerge as a central power in Western Europe? Why did medieval Christians charge on the Holy Land in a series of bloody crusades? How did the cult of the saints come to play such an important role in Christian life? This first course of the historical sequence on Christianity examines these and other questions. It considers the transition of Christians, as minority in the Roman Empire, to a position of political, social and cultural power in Western Europe. The course covers major theological debates of the early church, martyrdom and persecution, the rise of monasticism, the schism between East and West, the birth of the papacy, and ends with the flowering of medieval mysticism and scholasticism in the high middle ages. The goal is to familiarize students with some of the most influential Christian thinkers of the pre-modern period, especially Augustine and Aquinas, but also with religious lives of pre-modern Christians. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 303 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 322/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1015-1130

FROM TOLERATION TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM: HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY III

Instructor: Michel Despland

This third course of the sequence on Christianity, historically considered, examines the rise of the doctrine of toleration and its progressive implementation by modern nation states. Attention is focused on the transformations that this imposed on Christian belonging and Christian thinking. The course looks at the evolution of the churches from the mid-seventeenth century up to the contemporary period, with particular attention to attitudes toward women, education of children, poverty, slavery and missions. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 306 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 328/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W 1145-1300

MODERN JUDAISM

Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will briefly survey pre-modern Jewish history and thought. It will then detail the challenges to Judaism presented by the changes in European economic, political and intellectual developments beginning in the seventeenth century. It will finally outline the spectrum of Jewish responses to these challenges. Topics to be studied will include among others Orthodox Judaism, Hasidim, Reform Judaism, Zionism and Secular Yiddishism.

RELI 332/2 – A (3 credits)
CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

T.J. 1145-1300

This course explores the Jewish voice in Canadian literature which can be seen to be the first opening toward a multicultural tradition in this country. Writers such as A.M. Klein, Mordecai Richler, Henry Kreisel, and Leonard Cohen created an English-language tradition of Jewish writing that is varied, provocative, and lively. Students look at novels, short stories, some poetry, memoir, and criticism. Students also consider non-Jewish authors, such as Gwethalyn Graham and Mavis Gallant, who were among the first to write about Jewish characters for an English-speaking Canadian audience. This course allows students to consider issues related to Canadian identity and culture, ethnic studies, and multiculturalism alongside literary questions. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 335 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 339/4 – A (3 credits)
IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST ON RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

T.J. 1445-1600

This course will explore some of the ways that Jewish thought and, secondarily, Christian thought have responded to the destruction of European Jewry, the *Shoah* or Holocaust. Although Jewish and Christian thinkers have regarded the Holocaust as both unthinkable and unimaginable, they felt compelled to confront it. We will look at the effort of philosophers and theologians to assess the magnitude of the event, the challenges it poses for Jewish and Christian life, tradition and thought, and the responses required to meet its challenges. Among the thinkers that will be studied are: Martin Buber, Abraham Heschel, Eliezer Berkovits, Richard Rubenstein, Elie Wiesel, Emil Fackenheim, Arthur Cohen, and Irving Greenberg. Finally, the impact of the Holocaust on our understanding of Western culture, and even the nature of humans, will be assessed. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 358 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 340/2 – A (3 credits)
VEDA AND UPANISADS
Instructor: Shaman Hatley

M.W.1315-1430

This introduction to the religious concepts, practices, and wisdom of ancient India is based on the literature of the Vedic period, including the Upanishads. The course examines the contribution of various aspects of the Vedic tradition to the development of Hinduism, and explores the interaction among religions in the ancient period.

RELI 346/4 - A (3 credits)
FROM RAMMOHUN ROY TO GANDHI
Instructor: Shaman Hatley

T.J.1145-1300

This course concerns Hindu traditions in the modern world, beginning with the period of colonial British rule in South Asia. We will examine the writings and historical contexts of influential Hindu reformers, intellectuals, and activists, including Ram Mohun Roy, Dayananda Sarasvati, Swamy Vivekananda, the Tagores, V.D. Savarkar,

and (especially) Mahatma Gandhi. Issues of focus include the history of the modern idea of “Hinduism,” responses to European thought and institutions (including Christianity), Hindu understandings of modernity, social change and reform, religious nationalism, contemporary gurus and their transnational movements, and Hinduism in the diaspora.

RELI 375/2 and /4 – Onl EC (3 credits)

RELIGION IN CANADA

Instructor: Laurie Lamoureux Scholes

This course examines the history, contributions and sociological profile of different religious traditions within Canadian society. In particular, the influence of these traditions on Canadian politics, law and culture is considered, as well as the challenges a number of them faced in coming to Canada. Attention is also paid to the interaction of different religious groups within the broader Canadian context. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 363 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 376/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

The discipline of Psychology of Religion can usually be described in terms of two streams. The first is experimental and empirical and the second “humanistic”, philosophical and theoretical. This class will focus on the second stream. It will seek insights from the convergence of the disciplines of psychology and religious studies in addressing such questions as: What does it mean to be religious? What is the role of religion in individual development? What is the place of relationships to others in religious life? How is authenticity characterized? How are gender differences treated in the psychology of religion? We will explore some of the classical psychological theories of religion, those developed by James, Freud, Erikson, and Jung, as well as more recent developments by post-modern and feminist theorists.

RELI 378/4 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

DEATH AND DYING

Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

This course provides a comparative perspective on the variety of conceptions and practices related to death and dying that are found in different world religions. In addition, the course considers how people in contemporary North American society utilise traditional religious concepts and rituals, scientific understandings and medical procedures, or innovative combinations of ideas and practices to cope with, and make sense of, the problem of death. Lectures, discussions and some small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. Guest lecturers will be invited. Students should complete the course with some general understanding of, and critical appreciation for, the ways in which different religious traditions explain death and its attendant issues, and how these might assist individuals in coping with their own death or that of others.

RELI 380/2 – A (3 credits)
RELIGION AND SEXUALITY
Instructor: Marcel Parent

T.J. 1315-1430

This course examines, from comparative and historical perspectives, the interplay of religion and human sexuality. It will look at: 1) the development of attitudes towards sexuality within diverse religious traditions, and 2) religious and cultural manifestations of sexuality. Topics may include, among others, sexual images of the sacred; human reproduction; gender and identity; religion, the body and sexual desire; women; marriage; virginity and celibacy; sexual variance; homosexuality; sexuality and fetishism. Other topics may be selected according to the interests of the class. Lectures, discussions and some small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. Guest lecturers will be invited.

RELI 384/4 – A (3 credits)
WOMEN ND RELIGION: HINDUISM
Instructor: Leslie Orr

M.W. 1315-1430

This course examines the roles of women in Hindu religious life. The course focuses particularly on the impact of historical change; on the activities and experience of women in India, in the course of the last three thousand years; and on the relation between Hindu conceptions of “the feminine” and women’s situation.

RELI 385/2 – A (3 credits)
WOMEN ND RELIGION: BUDDHISM
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

T.J. 1315-1430

This course explores the situation, activities, and experiences of women within Buddhism. Using an historical approach, the course examines the circumstances of women in early Buddhism, and traces subsequent developments in India, Tibet, Southeast Asia, the Far East, and the West, up to the present day

RELI 386/4 - AA (3 credits)
WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND RELIGION
Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

M. 1800-2015

This course approaches the study of magic, witchcraft, and religion from a variety of perspectives. Taking examples from indigenous cultures, the ancient world, medieval Europe, the early modern period and contemporary movements, the practices and rituals that have been labeled magic or witchcraft are examined, along with the responses to them. The course explores how magicians and witches view themselves, how different cultures relate to them, and how magic, witchcraft, and religion merge and diverge. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 387/2 - A (3 credits)

T.J.1315-1430

GODDESSES AND RELIGIOUS IMAGES OF WOMEN

Instructor: Norma Joseph/Leslie Orr

This comparative survey of female divinity and feminine imagery studies various religious traditions. Among the issues to be explored are the imaging of goddesses as mothers; the conception of forces like fertility, energy, materiality, and knowledge as feminine; the correspondences and relations between goddesses and women; and the contemporary feminist recovery of the Goddess.

RELI 394/2 - AA (3 credits)

J.1800-2015

HISTORY OF SATAN:EVIL PERSONIFIED IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY

Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

Adversary, Tempter, Deceiver, Fallen Angel, Evil Incarnate, King of Hell, Anti-Hero: the figure of Satan has exerted a tremendous impact on western civilisation. Portrayals of Satan very much reflect changing ideas about the nature of the universe and our place within it. This course investigates i) the origins and early notions of Satan in biblical and extra-biblical texts, and ii) the ongoing development and significance of the figure in religious and secular literature and modern popular culture. We will touch on conceptions of evil, hell, demons, and the Antichrist. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 or RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 396/2 - A (3 credits)

T.J.1015-1130

FOOD AND RELIGION

Instructor: Norma Joseph/Leslie Orr

This course examines food cultures and food rituals and explores religious meanings and the making of religious identities. The preparing and sharing of food defines religious community and expresses religious values. In looking at food in several world religions, this course focuses on how food can serve as a medium of transmission and transaction, and on the roles that women and men, gods and ancestors, and other beings and forces have in this network. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 398D/4 -A (3 credits)

T.J.1315-1430

VATICAN 101: PAPACY IN HISTORY

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Donald Boisvert

The Roman Catholic papacy is one of the oldest continuous religious institutions in the world. Popes have wielded immense religious, social, political, cultural and economic influence down through history, and the position continues to enjoy a great deal of moral prestige and influence in today's world. The office has been occupied by some remarkably holy individuals, while others have been considerably less so. This course will provide a survey overview of the papacy, with emphasis on the significant personages holding this office, their teachings, roles and wider influence in history.

RELI 398E/4 –A (3 credits)
MIDDLE EASTERN CHRISTIANITIES
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

T.J. 1145-1300

This course aims to provide students with a broad perspective on different Middle Eastern Christian communities, with a particular focus on the presence of these communities in the Canadian Diaspora. It will cover the histories and traditions of the major Middle Eastern Christian communities, among them: Antiochian-Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Coptic, Maronite, Melkite and Syriac. Particular attention will be paid to the theological, liturgical and institutional histories of these important Christian denominations, as well as to their presence in, and contributions to, the broader Canadian society. The first half of the course will document the rich cultural and historical circumstances in which these traditions developed, and the second half, with the assistance of a series of expert guest lecturers, will focus closely on each Church in the Canadian and North American context, as well as ecumenical dialogue with other Christian denominations and traditions.

RELI 398F/4 – A (3 credits)
POLITICS AND RELIGION IN CHINA
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

T.J.1315-1430

This course will begin with the study of early concepts of religious practice and rites during the Han dynasty and will proceed to identify religious elements of important rebellions, social and intellectual movements throughout Chinese history such as the Yellow Turbans rebellion and the Five Bushels of Rice (*wudoumi dao*) of Zhang Jue in Sichuan. It will look at the collusion of religious sects, power and religious persecutions (ex.:444 and the Toba Wei persecution of Buddhism under a Daoist monarch). It will also research the relationships between the Imperial systems such as the imposition of imperial laws governing the different religious institutions during the Tang dynasty. It will also investigate religious, political as well as economic factors which were behind the Huichang Persecution (845) of Buddhism. It will then proceed to investigate government regulations on religion during the Imperial Period (Song to Qing) and will focus on case studies of significant importance (ex.: the Northern Song and the Daoist Shenxiao Sect; Mongol rule and the Quanzhen Sect of Daoism; Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism in the Ming; The Manchu patronage of Buddhism; popular religions, rebellions and how local cults became national religious movements during the Ming-Qing Periods). Finally we will seek to understand better the attitude towards religion of the present Chinese government in regards to its historical heritage.

RELI 398H/2 – AA (3 credits)
MUSLIM CULTURES AND HUMAN RIGHTS DISCOURSES
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Mona Tajali

T. 1315-1600

The (in)compatibility of human rights with Islam has been the subject of much scholarly research. This course will analyze the various debates surrounding this issue from a sociological and popular cultural stance, with particular emphasis on the recent

developments of rights activism from within an Islamic framework. While the earlier weeks will introduce Universalist and Relativist conceptualizations of human rights as well as the impact of globalization on contemporary Muslim cultures; the later weeks will present the various debates on each of the key areas of rights activism in the Muslim world, including family law, minority rights, women's rights, honor killing and stoning, and other cultural practices. The course will also analyze the impact of domestic, transnational and international movements and rights campaigns on human rights in Muslim cultures.

RELI 398K/4 – AA (3 credits)

M. 1800-2015

DEBATING DARWIN

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Brandon Daniel-Hughes

Although aspects of the Darwinian theory of evolution are constantly changing, its basic principles are as well founded as any scientific theory. Why, then, 150 years after the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, does Darwinism continue to garner so much attention, both positive and negative, from those with an interest in religion? This class will begin with a historical overview of religious responses to Darwinism, with a special focus on Roman Catholic and Protestant Christian reactions. The second section of the class will focus attention on the intellectual issues of the contemporary evolutionary debate, with a focus on its theological, philosophical and political dimensions. The final section of the course will concentrate on Darwinian theories of human religiosity and their problematic appropriation by the "New Atheists."

RELI 398L/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1145-1300

MYTHS OF ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA AND IRAN

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Manya Saadi-nejad

Ancient Mesopotamia was the meeting ground between two of the world's great human cultural families, the Semitic and the Indo-European. This encounter, which began over 4,000 years ago and continues to the present day, has been one of the most productive in all of human history. This course examines the earliest cultural vestiges in the form of Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, and Persian myths, including diverse creation stories, the Great Flood, and heroic epics such as Gilgamesh and the Persian Book of Kings. A central theme will be the interplay between Semitic and Indo-European religion and the synthesis which emerged from repeated encounters between the two over the course of many centuries.

RELI 398M/4 –AA (3 credits)

J. 1800-2015

ENVIRONMENTALISM AND THE BIBLE

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

The Bible is replete with references to the natural world. But the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament view nature as a created entity, which both restricts the ways in which it is understood and assumes a purpose for it. This course examines the natural world in the Bible and the Christian tradition, and how these conceptions have informed humanity's relationship to the environment in western thought from ancient to

contemporary times. The course will also investigate the spiritual bases of modern environmental movements.

RELI 398R/2 – AA (3 credits)

T. 1800-2015

CHINESE RELIGIONS

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

This course introduces students to the Chinese worldview and how competing religious traditions coexisted and evolved. It will study Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism in China. It will address important issues pertaining to religious minorities, popular cults, the sinicization of Buddhism, the relationships between politics and religion, State Cults and Ritual, indigenous religions and their fate in regards to dominating trends, and the rise and organization of secret societies.

RELI 398Z/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J.1015-1130

ANGELS AND DEMONS

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Naftali Cohn

From the Bible to contemporary film and fiction, Jewish texts have always been populated by creatures of the supernatural and the metaphysical. In this course we will investigate the ways in which these delightful, frightful, and sublime creatures have been imagined by different Jewish authors and groups throughout the centuries. Our survey of Jewish Angels and Demons and the worlds they inhabit will illuminate the varieties of Jewish belief and experience that have existed from ancient times to today and will take us to the very core of the Jewish imagination about life, death, and beyond.

RELI 406/2 – AA (3 credits)

M. 1800-2015

(cross-listed with RELI 650A)

FEMINIST HERMENEUTICS AND SCRIPTURE: WOMEN IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

Instructor: Norma Joseph

This course will explore the narrative traditions of the Hebrew Bible as it portrays women's experience and participation in the Israelite community. The context of the discussion will be the Judaic tradition and its perspective and outlook on women. A variety of Judaic approaches will be discussed such as are found in classical commentaries, legends and midrashic literature. Feminist attempts at interpretation and criticism will form the basis of the class. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 407A/4– AA (3 credits)

M.1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 688B)

JEWISH MYSTICISM

(Topics in Jewish Studies)

Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the mystic current in Judaism from its ancient origins to the

present. It will include topics such as ancient Jewish cosmological speculation as expressed in The Book of Formation [Sefer Yezirah], the origins of Kabbala and The Book of Splendor [Sefer ha-Zohar], the Kabbalistic revival of the sixteenth century, the Hasidic movement, and contemporary popularizations of Jewish mysticism. Professor Naftali Cohn will contribute to several lectures in this course.

RELI 409/2– B (3 credits)

M.W.1615-1730

METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This class will introduce students to some of the major perspectives in the contemporary study of Religion. The lectures will present a historical and thematic treatment of the ways Religion has been studied from its beginning as a discipline to the present time. The texts will explore the contemporary terrain in terms of insights emerging from anthropological studies, hermeneutical studies, and debates in cultural studies. Current scholars of Religion will also be invited to share their experiences and research.

RELI 412/4 - AA (3 credits)

W. 1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 612F/4 AA)

RELIGIONS OF IRAN

Instructor: Richard Foltz

Iran is one of the major birthplaces of world religions, including Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and the Baha’I faith, as well as numerous minor sects. Iranian culture has also played a major role in informing and transforming Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. This course covers the long history of Iranian civilization in terms of the religious life of Iranians and the many other peoples who have been affected and influenced by Iranian society from the Mediterranean world to South and East Asia. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 498 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 498A/2 – AA (3 credits)

W. 1800-2015

(cross-listed with RELI 614U/2 AA)

RELIGION AND SCIENCE: VEDANTA AND SCIENCE

Instructor: T.S. Rukmani

“Since Antiquity, both scientists and philosophers all over the world have been searching for the ultimate reality that underlies natural phenomena, including matter and forces of nature, life and consciousness as well as the origin and evolution of the universe as a whole. The various explanations in the West have eventually led to the formulation of two important scientific theories in the 20th century: Einstein’s theory of relativity and quantum physics, both theories which have significantly altered our understanding of matter, energy, space and time. We also have insights coming from the fields of psychology and neurosciences in recent years that address the deep nature of consciousness. In the Indian context, the school of Advaita Vedanta, grounding itself in the insights presented in the Upanisads, arrived at the conception that Brahman, which is identified with consciousness, is the ultimate reality from which everything derives. In the last decades, a number of scientists, inclined philosophically, have

noted affinities between modern science and Vedanta pertaining to consciousness and the nature of ultimate reality. This course addresses these questions and introduces the students to both western and eastern views of nature and consciousness. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating*

RELI 498C/4 - AA (3 credits)

W. 1800-2015

(cross-listed with RELI 670J/4 AA)

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

In 1947 a shepherd boy accidentally discovered some scraps of ancient texts in a cliff cave near the Dead Sea. Sixty years later, the Dead Sea Scrolls have radically altered our knowledge of the Hebrew Bible and early Judaism, and shed new light on the origins of Christianity. This advanced undergraduate course, which also is being offered as a graduate seminar, introduces students to the Scrolls and their tremendous impact in these areas. Knowledge of Hebrew and Aramaic is an asset but not required. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498E/4 – AA (3 credits)

T. 1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 616W/4 AA)

SCRIPTURES OF THE NUMINOUS: READINGS IN DAOIST TEXTS

(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course introduces students to important Daoist Scriptures in translations in a chronological manner. Through these readings, students are expected to become familiar with the written corpus of different Daoist movements: from the early Huang-Lao traditions to the messianic movements of the Yellow Turbans to the Celestial Masters and the other main traditions of early Daoism. This course will also seek to cover key writings from the Medieval to the Late Imperial eras in order to understand the formation of the dominant sects of contemporary Daoism such as the Complete Perfection Sect (chuanzhen and its subjects) and the Zhengyi affiliations. A prior familiarity with Chinese religions is expected. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498F/2– AA (3 credits)

J. 1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 636A/2 AA)

RELIGION AND LITERATURE

(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

What are the strengths of literary works in understanding religious tradition? In what way can literary texts stand as revisions or re-interpretations of religious texts and belief? This course will apply these questions with regard to a number of religious

traditions. Readings will include canonical religious, literary and critical texts. We will consider the way that certain provocative books have created social and political unrest, as well as examining the way that certain thinkers help us understand literary undertakings as expressions of religious modes of thought and creativity. *This course is a seminar format one, in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498G/4- AA (3 credits)

J. 1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 641L/4 AA)

THE MAKING OF CHRISTIANITY

(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

How did “Christianity” emerge from a welter of alternates and possibilities? Or did it? Over the last fifty years, scholars have increasingly argued that Christianity in its formative centuries was not defined by unity, but rather multiplicity and diversity. In other words, Christianity emerged slowly through a series of struggles over what would constitute “orthodoxy,” a category that we will discover is more slippery than its ancient proponents proclaimed. This course will trace important points of contestation and debate in the emergence of orthodox Christianity, including: Christian identity, canon, martyrdom, heresy, relationship to Judaism, Christology, visions and prophecy, and ecclesiastical hierarchy. Offering a solid historical foundation in early Christianity, this course will include considerations of select martyr and apocryphal acts, “Gnostic” and Valentinian treatises, saints’ lives, the writings of major Christian thinkers like Origen and Augustine, as well as with material culture, such as art and architecture. *This course is a seminar format one, in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498H/4- A (3 credits)

W. 1530-1745

(cross-listed with RELI 629S/4 A)

PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION: POST-FREUDIAN

(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course will examine intellectual currents in psychoanalysis since Freud and explore how these may impact the ways that religion is presented and understood. The first part of the class will seek to understand the nature of Freud’s basic insights into mental life, behaviour and therapy, as well as some of the streams of psychoanalytic theory and practice that emerged after his death. Theories about the relational context of the self will be of primary interest. The second part of the class will investigate how relational theories of the self have been used, and may be used in the future, to explore religious life. *This course is a seminar format one, in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498L/4– AA (3 credits)
(cross-listed with RELI 662A/4 A)
JEWISH RITUAL AND LITURGY
(Advanced Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Naftali Cohn
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

J. 1600-1815

What are Jewish rituals? What do Jewish rituals accomplish? What makes these rituals Jewish? In order to answer these three fundamental questions, we will study closely classical Jewish texts about traditional rituals and we will watch and experience video footage and actual performance of Jewish rituals. Rituals studied will include prayer, festival rites, and rituals of the life cycle, and will include both better and lesser known examples. Approaching these rituals and texts from an anthropological, historical, and literary perspective, our study of these rituals will shed light on the variety of meanings and functions ritual practice has for Jews and on the important but shifting place that ritual observance has had for Jews throughout the ages. Note that Professor Ira Robinson will be making a number of guest appearances in this course. *This course is a seminar format one, in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498M/2– A (3 credits)
(cross-listed with RELI 670H/2 A)
THE TALMUD
(Advanced Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Naftali Cohn
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

M. 1600-1815

The Talmud has been censored, burned, and maligned by outsiders at the same time as it has been revered by Jews for the past two millennia as one of the central texts of Judaism and Jewish tradition. Through a close reading of selected passages from the Mishnah, the Babylonian Talmud, and the Jerusalem Talmud, as well as a survey of current debates in the scholarship, we will set out the Talmud's key components and methodologies and situate the Talmud in its ancient cultural context. By actively engaging these ancient texts, we will attempt to uncover what has given and continues to give the Talmud so much power to inspire. *This course is a seminar format one, in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498P/4– AA (3 credits)
(cross-listed with RELI 616X/4 AA)
COSMOLOGIES OF INDIA: BUDDHIST, HINDU, JAIN
(Advanced Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Leslie Orr
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

W. 1830-2045

In this course, we will explore the various formulations found in different Indian religious traditions relating to the origin, structure, character, and future of the universe. We will examine ideas about time and space, infinities and eternities, spirituality, materiality and divinity, soteriological schemes, the functioning of karma in the cosmos, and concepts of “levels” of existence and of understanding. Our special concern will be to investigate the significance of cosmologies to ritual and ethical

practices, and to explore how differences among cosmologies reveal the distinctive features and doctrinal and institutional developments of the Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain traditions.

RELI 498Z/2-AA (3 credits)

T.1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 619E/2 AA)

RITUAL AND BODY IN TANTRA: TANTRA, TAOISM, & SUFISM

(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Shaman Hatley

Prerequisite: Permission of the Department

This course examines intersections between ritual and the body in the tantric traditions, both Hindu and Buddhist, as well as in Taoism and Sufism. While embedded in distinct historical and cultural contexts, these esoteric traditions developed bodily disciplines, contemplative practices, and conceptions of a “subtle” physiology in some cases possessing fascinating similarities. The course will explore these apparent congruences, grounded in the study of the traditions in their own contexts and in light of theoretical literature on comparison, esotericism, and the body in ritual. Subjects covered include conceptions of a subtle or esoteric physiology, the bodies of gurus and saints, physical rejuvenation and the quest for immortality, sexuality and sexual ritual, bodily mortification, alchemy and the body, and historical interactions between practitioners of Tantra, Taoism, and Sufism.

Department of Religion - Timetable Fall 2010

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10:15-11:30	210 301	322 396	210 301	322 396
11:45-13:00	233 320	224 332 398L	233 320	224 332 398L
13:15-14:30	220 317 340	380 385 387	220 317 340	380 385 387
14:45-16:00	376 214	226 310	376 214	226 310
16:15-17:30	409 406/650A (16:00) 498M/670H (16:00)		409	498F/636A (16:00)
18:00-20:15		398R 398H	374A	394

Department of Religion - Timetable Winter 2011

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10:15-11:30	312	223 398Z	312	223 398Z
11:45-13:00	215 328	346 398E	215 328	346 398E
13:15-14:30	209 384	398D	209 384	398D
14:45-16:00	319 378	310 339	319 378	310 339
16:15-17:30	407A (16:00)	498E/616 W	498H/629S (15:30-17:45) 412 (16:00)	498G/641L (16:00) 498L/662A
18:00-20:15	386 398K	225 300	498C/670J 498P/616X (18:30-20:45)	398M