



RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2013-2014

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

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**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2013-2014**

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<http://www.alignmentsonline.com/GraphicRes/crscent1.jpg>

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

This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2013-2014 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 2013-2014 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

Lorenzo DiTommaso, Ph.D. (McMaster)

Professors

Richard Foltz, Ph.D. (Harvard)

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

Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Associate Professors

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

Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill)

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

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

Marc des Jardins, Ph.D. (McGill)

André Gagné, Ph.D. (Université catholique de Louvain/Université de Montréal) cross-appointed with Theology

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

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

Hillary Kaell, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Marc Lalonde, Ph.D. (Concordia)

Limited Term Appointment

Shital Sharma

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

6 credits History 364, 347, 393 or 462 and/or any Special Topics course(s) on Southern Asia in the same Department

3 credits Political Science 336 and/or any Special Topics course(s) on Southern Asia in the same Department,

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, 347, 393 or 462 and/or any Special Topics course(s) on Southern Asia in the same Department

Political Science 336,
Economics 311, 319

6 credits any from Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 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. Lynda Clarke: lynda.clarke@concordia.ca or Dr. Marc Lalonde: marc.lalonde@concordia.ca

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 listserve 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
SUMMER 2013
(April 30 – June 13)

RELI 214/1 - AA (3 credits)
RELIGIONS OF THE WEST
Instructor: Calogero Miceli

T.J. 1015-1245

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 215/1 - AA (3 credits)
RELIGIONS OF ASIA
Instructor: Shital Sharma

M.W. 1230-1500

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.

COURSES

FALL AND WINTER 2013-2014

(/2 = Fall 2013 /4 = Winter 2014)

RELI 209/2 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 0845-1000

THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION

Instructor:

This course explores the conceptual, symbolic, and practical elements that constitute, what we can call, “the religious imagination.” In general terms, the religious imagination entails the human effort to engage and respond to “reality” in a religious fashion. To be sure, what constitutes “religion” here is both highly variable and extremely complex. Nevertheless, students of religion have learned to identify unique patterns of human life and thought that claim to bear witness to, what is variously called, “the sacred,” “the holy,” “the ultimate,” or “the real.” Toward achieving a greater comprehension of the religious imagination at work in this phenomena, this course will examine existing expressions of the sacred, religious belief, religious mythology, religious philosophies, and ritual practice. It is in relation to these facets of “the religious imagination” that we will explore a way of thinking and living that has endured across the centuries and around the world. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 210/4- A (3 credits)

W.F. 0845-1000

RELIGION IN PRACTICE

Instructor:

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 214/4 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

RELIGIONS OF THE WEST

Instructor:

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 215/2 - A (3 credits)

W.F. 1015-1130

RELIGIONS OF ASIA

Instructor: Shital Sharma

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 RELIGIONS

Instructor:

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)

W.F. 0845-1000

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Instructor:

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 223/2 - A (3 credits)

M.W.1145-1300

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)

M.W.1615-1730

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

Instructor:

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 225/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1445-1600

INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

Instructor: Shital Sharma

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)

W.F.1315-1430

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

Instructor:

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 233/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 0845-1000

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN AND RELIGION

Instructor:

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 298L/4 – AA (3 credits)

T. 1800-2015

INTRODUCTION TO IRANIAN CIVILIZATION

(xlisted HIST 298L)

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Richard Foltz

Iran has played a central role in world history, both as a nexus of interactions between the peoples of Eurasia and as the seat of major empires—including the Achaemenid, the Parthian, the Sasanid, the Abbasid, the Il-Khan, and the Safavid—that cover a period of more than two millennia. Persian culture, especially literature but also administration, music, food, and the arts, became the “high” culture for many neighbouring peoples from the Balkans to China. In the realm of religion Iran has given rise to Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and the Baha'i faith, as well as numerous minor sects; Iranian culture also played a major role in informing and transforming Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. This course covers the long history of Iranian civilization and its widespread influence on peoples from the Mediterranean world to South and East Asia.

RELI 298O/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1015-1130

INTRODUCTORY PERSIAN

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor:

This course provides an introduction to speaking and writing modern Persian, a language spoken by over 100 million people. Known for its rich literary tradition which stretches back several thousand years, Persian is the official language of Iran, Tajikistan, and

Afghanistan. Unlike most of its regional neighbours it is a member of the Indo-European family of languages, which includes English, French, German, Russian, Greek, Sanskrit, and many others.

RELI 300/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J.1145-1300

CULTS AND NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN NORTH AMERICA

Instructor:

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 302/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1145-1300

BIBLICAL STUDIESI: CHRISTIAN ORIGINS

Instructor:

A critical survey of Christian origins, this course focuses on New Testament literature and considers historical setting, history of text, religious and cultural significance. Attention is paid to extra-canonical literature and other relevant sources.

RELI 312/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 0845-1000

JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Instructor:

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 316/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 1015-1130

CLASSICAL ISLAM

Instructor:

The course explores the various aspects of Muslim civilization from its initial spread from Arabia to Spain, sub-Saharan Africa, India, and China, up to the age of the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal empires in the 16th and 17th centuries. Special attention is given to the emergence of schools of law, theology, philosophy, and mystical orders, as well as the literature, arts, and architecture of diverse Muslim societies.

RELI 318/2 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

SHIITE ISLAM

Instructor: Lynda Clarke

This course explores the history and ideas of Shiism, from the inception of the movement to the present. The various sects are introduced and treated, including the Twelvers,

Ismailis, Zaydis, Druze, and Alawites. Basic Shiite doctrines such as crypto-religion (*taqiyyah*), esoterism, messianism, quietism, and syncretism are considered in comparison with other religions. Study of the modern period treats subjects such as theocracy, political activism, and martyrdom. The course examines the centres of Shiite population: Southern Asian, Iran, Iraq and the Gulf, Lebanon, and North America.

RELI 319/4 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

MODERN ISLAM

Instructor: Lynda Clarke

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.

RELI 325/2 –A (3 credits)

T.J. 1315-1430

LEADERS, REBELS AND SAINTS

THE RELUCTANT GODDESS: MARY IN CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS

Instructor: Donald Boisvert

This course, which varies in focus from year to year, investigates the lives of controversial or influential women and men in the history of different religious traditions. Going beyond mere biography, the course situates particular figures within their social and cultural contexts, while dealing with how such prominent figures were viewed, portrayed, and used by others. This year, the course will focus on Mary. Mary is one of the central figures of the Christian tradition. In fact, she is its pre-eminent female saint, and devotion to her has been an important feature of Christianity through the centuries. Not all Christian churches view her in similar ways, however. This course will examine Mary as she is honoured and understood by the diverse Christian traditions, with a particular emphasis on the historical, cultural, theological and gender dimensions of her cult. **Note:** Students who have received credits for RELI 308 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 326/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J.1145-1300

ANCIENT JUDAISM

Instructor:

This course examines the variety of Judaic expression in the period of Late Antiquity. This includes the concepts, institutions, and literature of both rabbinic and non-rabbinic Judaism as well as their biblical background. The development of rabbinic systems of thought and law, as well as their expression in rabbinic literature, are considered.

RELI 327/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1015-1130

MEDIEVAL JEWISH THOUGHT AND INSTITUTIONS

Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course examines the intellectual, religious, and social history of selected Jewish communities during the Middle Ages. Both internal Jewish developments and changing Jewish relations with their non-Jewish neighbours are considered.

RELI 329/2 – A (3 credits)
ISRAEL: RELIGION AND STATE
(xlisted POLI 398U)
Instructor: Ira Robinson

M.W.1015-1130

This course studies the emergence and development of the state of Israel, from the beginnings of the Zionist movement to the present time. It also explores the major political, social, and intellectual developments in both the pre- and post-state periods. The role of Judaism within the changing state is a primary focus.

RELI 331/4 – A (3 credits)
LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST
(xlisted ENGL 398X)
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

M.W. 1145-1300

Religious, historical, literary, and political contexts have been applied to come to terms with the events of the Holocaust. All of these are relevant as students read important and provocative novels dealing with such issues as ethics, the relationship between art and history, the use of humour and popular cultural forms, as well as the way that storytelling helps direct our understanding of events that are often said to be incomprehensible. The wider impact of fiction dealing with the Holocaust on the popular media, including film, CD-ROMs, video, and news reporting, is also considered **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 332/2 – A (3 credits)
CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE
(xlisted ENGL 398Z)
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

T.J. 1015-1130

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 344/4 - A (3 credits)
HINDU MYTH AND NARRATIVE
Instructor: Shital Sharma

T.J.1015-1130

This course approaches Hinduism through its narrative literature, especially the great epics (the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*) and mythological texts (*Puranas* — the "Ancient Books"). Through stories of gods, devotees, villains, and heroes, the course explores the development of significant themes in the Hindu tradition, from ethics and philosophy to asceticism and devotion. An important focus of the course is the enduring cultural significance of myth and the epics, as retold through the ages in a variety of

languages, cultural contexts, and media, including classical and vernacular texts, the oral tradition, drama, dance, and cinema.

RELI 347/2 - A (3 credits)

T.J.1015-1130

RELIGION AND THE ARTS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Instructor: Shital Sharma

This course is an introduction to the religious art of South and Southeast Asia, including an examination of Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic architecture, sculpture, painting, and performing arts. The course examines the ways in which sacred art is related to myth and symbol, religious values, and goals, ritual, religious experience, and social and political realities.

RELI 348/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J.1315-1430

RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Instructor: Shital Sharma

This historical and sociological examination of religion's impact on and intersection with the structures of South and Southeast Asian society, explores such issues as caste and class, gender and family relations, links between religion and the state, and relations between Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim communities.

RELI 353/4 - A (3 credits)

M.W.1315-1430

RELIGION AND THE ARTS IN THE WEST

Instructor:

This course explores the way in which the fine arts, literary arts, and performing arts have given expression to, and shaped the experience of, religious realities in the history of the West, and also considers the ways in which, in a more recent and contemporary context, art may be seen as engaging with aspects of divinity and spirituality. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 355/4 - A (3 credits)

M.W.1445-1600

RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

It is often said that we live in a violent world but that religion represents the search for peace, love, and understanding. In many instances this is indeed the case and we will be concerned to explore its inspiration. Yet considered historically, it is not unusual for religion to be a central factor in the motivation and expression of violence. What, then, is the nature and character of the relationship between religion and violence? The purpose of this course is to investigate this question on a number of different levels. It will examine the meaning of violence in its multiple forms (as physical, psychological, moral, ideological, etc.) at both the individual and social levels of existence. Within that framework, the course will compare and contrast various religious traditions in the course of their historical development as they relate to the theme and reality of violence. By examining their sacred writings, theologies, rituals and communal actions, this course will chart the diverse contributions of religious life and thought to both the perpetuation and resistance to human violence.

RELI 361/4 - A (3 credits)
RELIGIONS OF JAPAN
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

M.W.1145-1300

This course uses a historical approach to understand the development of Japanese religious traditions. It investigates popular Japanese cults and religions, the assimilation of foreign religious thought and practices, and the implantation of Buddhism, Confucianism, and other models from China. Religious sectarianism, state-regulated religious schools, cults, and the role of religion in the establishment of Japanese national identity are also studied. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 349 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 364/2 - A (3 credits)
MAHAYANA BUDDISHM
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

T.J. 1145-1300

This course studies the origins and evolution of the Mahayana Buddhist in India, and the spread and growth of various Mahayana traditions in East Asia. It examines developments in texts, doctrine, philosophy, ethical ideals, practices (worship and meditation), and institutions.

RELI 368/2 - A (3 credits)
RELIGION IN NATIVE TRADITIONS
(xlisted FPST 398Y)
Instructor: Denise Nadeau

T.J.1145-1300

This overview looks at the many diverse religious traditions of the First Nations populations in North America. The course examines the sacred stories, ceremonial patterns, life cycle rituals, and religious activities in their varied expressions. Consideration is given to the historical interaction of Indigenous government with religious practices. The fall session will examine how women from various Indigenous Traditions of Turtle Island have affirmed, adapted or renegotiated their traditions in the context of colonization and missionization. Readings, films and speakers will include women who are developing practices of resurgence and renewal within their respective Indigenous knowledge systems and, through storywork and ceremony, are applying Indigenous principles, values and laws. The course will consider how Indigenous women's understandings of resurgence and decolonization can inform the decolonization of settler, diasporic and Indigenous populations.

RELI 373/2 - A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO MYSTICISM
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

T.J. 1445-1600

This course examines the concepts of mysticism articulated by contemporary scholarship. It then looks at mystical texts and experiences from a variety of religious traditions both comparatively and with respect to their position within the dynamic of their own traditions.

RELI 376/4 – A (3 credits)
PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

T.J. 1445-1600

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)
DEATH AND DYING
Instructor:

W.F. 1145-1300

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 380/4 A (3 credits)
SEXUALITY IN THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS
Instructor: Donald Boisvert

T.J. 1315-1430

This course examines, from a comparative and historical perspective, the interplay between religion and sexuality. It looks at the development of attitudes towards sexuality within diverse religious traditions, and religious manifestations of sexuality. Topics include, among others: human reproduction, gender roles and identity, birth control, abortion, celibacy, sexual variance, and homosexuality.

RELI 381/2 – A (3 credits)
WOMEN AND RELIGION: JUDAISM
Instructor: Norma Joseph

M.W.1315-1430

This course explores the status and religious roles of women within the Judaic tradition. Its focus is on the practice of the religion, especially the ritual and legal spheres. The relationship between common practice, popular attitudes, and formal legal principles is examined in order to inquire into issues of gender and religion.

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

W.F.1315-1430

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 394/4 - AA (3 credits)
HISTORY OF SATAN:EVIL PERSONIFIED IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

W.F.1015-1130

Adversary, Tempter, Deceiver, Fallen Angel, Evil Incarnate, King of Hell, Anti-Hero. Portrayals of Satan 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 the Bible and extra-biblical texts, and ii) the development and significance of the figure in religious and secular literature and modern popular culture. Topics for discussion include evil, hell, the Antichrist, and the end of the world. **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 396/4 –A (3 credits)
FOOD AND RELIGION
Instructor: Norma Joseph

M.W.1315-1430

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 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 a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 398G/2 – A (3 credits)
ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION
(Selected Topics in Religion)
(xlisted ANTH 398E)
Instructor: Hillary Kaell

T.J.1315-1430

The earliest anthropologists, writing first from armchairs and then from the field, theorized the role of religious belief. The increasingly sophisticated portraits of religion produced by cultural anthropologists have had a major impact in the broader academic study of religion. This course is meant to introduce students to debates and themes that have coloured the anthropology of religion over the last century. We will cover some classic anthropological texts but focus mainly on contemporary issues (e.g. self-reflexivity, power/agency, materiality and consumption, post-colonialization, post modernity/secularity, communities). Students will be graded on fieldwork assignments, class discussion and examinations.

RELI 398H/2 – A (3 credits)
CLASSICAL PERSIAN LITERATURE
(Selected Topics in Religion)
(xlisted ENGL 398T)
Instructor: Richard Foltz

T.1800-2015

For well over a thousand years poetry has been a central and defining feature of Persian culture. Moreover, it has had a huge and lasting influence over neighbouring Turkic, Indic, and other civilizations. This course provides an overview of some of the major figures and works of the classical Persian literary tradition. All readings will be available in English translation; students with knowledge of Persian may read in the original if they choose.

RELI 403/2 – A (3 credits)
QUESTIONS AND CONTROVERSIES IN CHRISTIANITY

J. 1600-1815

Prerequisite: Six credits in 300-level Christian Studies courses or permission of the department

Instructor: Hillary Kaell

Montreal is one of the most religiously diverse places in the country. It brings together believers from all over the world – evident in structures from soaring Cathedrals to store-front churches. This course asks what urban Christianity looks like, how it interacts with other faiths, the role of faith for recent immigrants and why it can be perceived to pose a threat. We will use innovative pedagogical approaches, combining lectures with site visits and case study method. Visits may include a Buddhist monastery, a Pentecostal storefront church, and a Mormon center. Students may produce final projects that engage the community, rather than a standard final essay. This course is a seminar and permission of the professor is required. Please read the undergraduate calendar for the general description of this course.

RELI 409/2– A (3 credits)
METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION

M.W.1315-1430

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This class explores the conceptual and practical foundations that have established the discipline and study of religion as it has developed over the last century or so. At the conceptual level we will be concerned to enquire: how have scholars gone about the study of religion? What sorts of approaches and methods have they relied on? What are the suppositions of these approaches and methods? What kinds of languages and philosophies have been used to explain such scholarly efforts? We will also attend to the various interests that have inevitably guided such research. What are these interests? What are their sources and inspiration? How are they related to wider social, cultural, and historical realities? Thus ours will be a critical examination of religious studies as we endeavour to understand, analyze, and situate the component parts that make up the method and study of religion today. However, we will also be concerned to put these critiques into practice. Toward that end, a portion of this course will be devoted to a guided fieldwork project.

RELI 498I/2 - A (3 credits)

J. 1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 616B/2 A)

MEDITATION PRACTICES OF EAST ASIA

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course explores a number of different systems of meditative practices with their corresponding philosophies and worldviews which were influential in China, Tibet and Japan. For example, students will be introduced to the alchemical transformative processes and the inner worlds of Taoism as well as the rituals of Esoteric Buddhism. The Chan\Zen exercises and discourses which are aimed at provoking a spiritual crisis will be examined as well as the visionary meditation of Pure Land Buddhism. The goal of this course is to initiate students to the major spiritual trends and religious traditions which had as goal to bring its adepts to spiritual realization as conceived by these respective schools. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498L/2 – A (3 credits)

T.1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 698N and ENGL 498P)

HEBREW BIBLE AND CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course is designed to complement department offerings on religious canonical texts and on religion and literature. It will introduce students to important literary works of the past century that aim to update, revise or provocatively interrogate established religious texts and narratives. We will discuss the historical and literary character of the Hebrew Bible and its influence on broader literary traditions. We will focus on the way its narratives supply literary tradition with archetypal stories, characters and motifs. The urge to rewrite aspects of the biblical tradition recurs over time, and we seem, in the past decade, to have reentered another period of literary vitality based on the Bible. Students interested in Jewish canonical texts, modern literary canons, popular literature, biblical narrative and religious culture in the secular world will find engaging material in our readings. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498Q/2– A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

(cross-listed with RELI 614Y)

“SCRIPTURE” IN THE BUDDHIST AND HINDU TRADITIONS

Instructor: Leslie Orr

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

In this course we will examine and compare the ways in which oral and written religious "texts" have been produced and have found their place within the Buddhist and Hindu traditions. We will trace the development of, and attitudes towards, "scripture" in Hindu and Buddhist South Asia, and in the Buddhism of Southeast and East Asia. Among the issues we shall investigate are: the creation, canonization and transmission of scriptures; the authority, interpretation, and application of scriptures; and the relation between scripture and ritual and social practice. *This course is a seminar format one, in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating*

RELI 498S/4 – A (3 credits)

W. 1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 618B)

REFORM, REVIVAL, RENAISSANCE: CONSTRUCTING HINDUISM IN COLONIAL INDIA

Instructor: Shital Sharma

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This seminar focuses on religious reform in colonial India. The content of this course will be drawn from primary and secondary sources, which center on figures such as Rammohun Roy, Dayananda Saraswati, Swami Vivekananda, and Karsondas Mulji. The religious reform movements launched by some of these figures in the nineteenth century – like the Brahmo Samaj and the Arya Samaj – attempted to remove or reconstitute existing social and religious ideologies and practices, such as image worship, caste, and women’s domestic rituals. Our debates will center on gender and domestic reform, print culture, the formation of the middle classes, caste politics, and Sanskritization, and we will explore how these processes became implicated in religious reform.

Department of Religion - Timetable Fall 2013

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000	312	209	220 312	209	220
10:15-11:30	329 298O	332 347	215 329 298O	332 347	215
11:45-13:00	223	326 368 364	223	326 368 364	
13:15-14:30	381 409	325 398G	226 381 409	325 398G	226
14:45-16:00	318 498Q	225 373	318 498Q	225 373	
16:15-17:30	224	498L (1600-18:15)	224	403 (1600-1815) 498I (1600-1815)	
18:00-20:15		398H			

Department of Religion - Timetable Winter 2014

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000	233		210 233		210
10:15-11:30	327	344 316	327 394	344 316	394
11:45-13:00	302 331 361	300	302 331 361 378	300	378
13:15-14:30	353 396	348 380	353 386 396	348 380	386
14:45-16:00	214 319 355	376	214 319 355	376	
16:15-17:30			498S (1600-1815)		
18:00-20:15		298L			