



RELIGIONS AND CULTURES

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2018-2019

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGIONS AND CULTURES
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2018-2019

**DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGIONS AND CULTURES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2018-2019**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Faculty 3
2.	Introduction to the Department 4
3.	Knowledge of Two Major Religious Traditions 4
4.	Departmental Programmes 4
5.	Services Available to Students 8
6.	The Boyd Sinyard Award 8
7.	Concordia Religion Students' Association8
8.	Course Offerings & Descriptions 2018-19 Summer/Fall/Winter 10
9.	Department of Religions and Cultures 2018-19 Fall/Winter Timetables 35

Office

Room FA-101, 2060 Mackay Street, SGW Campus

Phone Number

Concordia University (514) 848-2424 (ext. 2065 Department of Religions and Cultures)

Staff

Munit Merid, Assistant to the Chair

ext. 2065, email: munit.merid@concordia.ca

Tina Montandon, Assistant to the Graduate Programme Directors

ext. 2077, email: tina.montandon@concordia.ca

Advisor

Marc Lalonde, ext. 2047 , email: marc.lalonde@concordia.ca

Images on cover page taken from: <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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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

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

Professors

Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill) (sabbatical 2018-19)

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)

Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard) – Chair in Quebec and Canadian Jewish Studies

Associate Professors

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

Marc des Jardins, Ph.D. (McGill)

Hillary Kaell, Ph.D. (Harvard) (sabbatical 2018-19)

Assistant Professors

Marc Lalonde, Ph.D. (Concordia)

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

General Objectives

The Department of Religions and Cultures 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 Religions and Cultures 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 Religions and Cultures' undergraduate curriculum, a concentration in **Women, Gender, and Sexuality** 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 Religions and Cultures 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
- 18 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
- 6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
- 9 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, excluding RELI 209, 210, 214, and 215

60 B.A. Honours in Judaic Studies

- 9 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 advisor.
- 3 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³, 215³
- 12 Chosen from RELI 220³, 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³
- 27 Electives chosen from courses in Judaism at the 200, 300, or 400 level. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course. Up to 12 credits may be substituted with courses in a related tradition and 12 credits with courses in a related language such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish, for a maximum of 15 credits combined
- 3 RELI 409³
- 6 RELI 410⁶

42 B.A. Major in Judaic Studies

- 9 Hebrew language, typically chosen from: HEBR 210⁶, HEBR 241³, HEBR 242³, RELI 401³
Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew may substitute religion courses at the 300 or 400 level approved by the undergraduate advisor.
- 3 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³, 215³
- 12 RELI 220³, 301³, 326³, 328³

- 15 Electives chosen from courses in Judaism at the 200, 300, or 400 level. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course. Up to six credits may be substituted with courses in related traditions and related languages such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish.
- 3 RELI 409³

24 Minor in Judaic Studies

- 3 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³ a 215³
- 9 Chosen from RELI 220³, 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³
- 12 Electives chosen from courses in Judaism at the 200, 300, or 400 level. Up to six credits may be substituted with courses in related traditions and related languages such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish

24 Minor in Iranian Studies

- 12 Chosen from RELI 227³, 305³, 306³, 313³, 317³, 318³
- 12 Chosen from any courses related to Iran in various departments at Concordia approved by the undergraduate advisor, including those not already taken at the first level of requirement. Examples of courses offered at various times include Pahlavi and other ancient Iranian languages, Modern Persian, Iranian Mythology, Manichaeism, Avesta, and Classical Persian Music. Students may also request credit for Iran-related courses taught at other Quebec universities.

Areas of Concentration

A - Asian Religions (18 credits) - chosen from any of the following:

- 6 Chosen from RELI 224³, 225³, 226³, 360³, 361³, 362³
- 12 Chosen from any courses on the subject of Asian religions, including Islam. This may include courses not already taken from the first level of requirement. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

NOTE: With permission of the advisor, Major in Religion concentrating in Asian religions may count up to six credits of a related language study, such as Chinese or Sanskrit. Honours students concentrating in Asian religions may also count an additional six credits of a related language study toward their program.

B - Christianity (18 credits)

- 6 RELI 223³, RELI 302³
- 12 Chosen from any courses on the subject of Christianity. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

NOTE: Majors in Religion students concentrating in Christianity may count up to six credits of a related language study, such as Greek, Latin, or Coptic. Honours students concentrating in Christianity may also count an additional six credits of a related language study toward their program.

C - Judaism (18 credits)

- 9 Chosen from RELI 220³, 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³
- 9 Chosen from any courses on the subject of Judaism. This may include courses not already taken from the first level of requirement. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

NOTE: With the permission of the advisor, Major in Religion students concentrating in Judaism may count up to six credits of a related language study, such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish. Honours students concentrating in Judaism may also count an additional six credits of a related language study toward their program.

D – Women, Gender, and Sexuality (18 credits)

3 Chosen from RELI 233³, 380³

15 Chosen from any religion courses on women, gender, body, sexuality, or food. This may include courses not already taken at the first level of requirement. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

E – Islam (18 credits)

6 Chosen from: RELI 224³, 316³, 319³

12 Chosen from any courses on the subject of Islam. This may include a course not already taken at the first level of requirement. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

NOTE: With permission, Major in Religion students concentrating in Islam may count up to six credits of a related language study, such as Arabic and Persian. Honours students concentrating in Islam must take at least six credits of Arabic and may also count an additional six credits of Arabic or another language related to Islam toward their program. Students who demonstrate competency in Arabic by a written examination may substitute Religion courses approved by the departmental advisor.

Southern Asia Studies

The Department of Religions and Cultures 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 Chosen from any relevant course in the Department of History

3 credits Chosen from any relevant course in the Department of Political Science

6 credits Chosen from any relevant courses in the Department of Religions and Cultures

24 credits Chosen from relevant courses in any department including but not limited to History; Religion; Political Science; Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics; Economics; English; Geography, Planning and Environment; Sociology and Anthropology; the Faculty of Fine Arts; and the John Molson School of Business. Students may also request credits for Southern Asia related courses (including languages) taught at other Quebec universities.

MINOR (24 credits)

6 credits History 261 and Religion 215

3 credits Chosen from any relevant course in the Department of History, Political Science, Economics or English

6 credits Chosen from any relevant courses in the Department of Religions and Cultures

9 credits Chosen from relevant courses in any department (see above)
Please see the Undergraduate Calendar for further details on the Southern Asia Studies Programme.

30 Certificate in Iranian Studies

- 18 Chosen from RELI 227³, 305³, 306³, 313³, 317³, 318³
12 Chosen from any courses related to Iran in various departments at Concordia approved by the undergraduate advisor, including those not already taken at the first level of requirement. Examples of courses offered at various times include Pahlavi and other ancient Iranian languages, Modern Persian, Iranian Mythology, Manichaeism, Avesta, and Classical Persian Music. Students may also request credit for Iran-related courses taught at other Quebec Universities.

For more information, contact:
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@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://www.concordia.ca/artsci/religion.html>

THE BOYD SINYARD AWARD

Each year the Boyd Sinyard award is given to the outstanding graduating student in Religions and Cultures. 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 Religions and Cultures (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 Religions and Cultures. The website is: www.crsaconcordia.weebly.com

SUMMER 2018

RELI 214/1 - A (3 credits)
RELIGIONS OF THE WEST
Instructor: Joseph Brito

M.W. 1015-1300

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 may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 226/1 - A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
Instructor: Marcel Parent

T.J. 1315-1600

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 credit.*

FALL 2018

RELI 209/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

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 215/2 – A (3 credits)

W . F . 0845-1000

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 220/2- A (3 credits)

W.F. 1015-1130

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Instructor: Steven Lapidus

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.1615-1730

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY

Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

This course provides an introductory survey of key developments and enduring structures in the historical evolution of Christianity. It examines the variety of expressions of faith embodied in different churches and traces the ways in which beliefs, 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 225/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1145-1300

INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

Instructor:

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 227/2 – AA (3 credits)

J. 1800-2015

INTRODUCTION TO IRANIAN CIVILIZATION (xlist HIST 298)

Instructor: Richard Foltz

Iran has played a central role in world history, giving rise to Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and the Baha'i faith, as well as numerous 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 and its influence on peoples from the Mediterranean world to South and East Asia in the realms of religion, literature, architecture, and the arts. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for RELI 412 or for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 298/2 - A (3 credits)

T.J.1445-1600

SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION

PROPHETS, PROSTITUTES AND WIVES: AN

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

Instructor: Norma Joseph

In this introductory course we will consider the representation of women's experiences and expressions in the narrative traditions of the Hebrew Bible. How are women presented? We find prophets, prostitutes, wives, shepherds, and sisters. All sorts of women! Readings and discussion will interrogate both feminist theory and Judaic tradition. We will discover understandings that question traditional perspectives on women. A variety of popular, Jewish and feminist approaches will be discussed. We will challenge our notions of women's place and participation both in the past and as presented even today.

RELI 300/2 – AA (3 credits)

M.1800-20:15

CULTS AND RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY

Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

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 RELI 217 or for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 301/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J.1015-1130

BIBLICAL STUDIES I: THE HEBREW BIBLE

Instructor: Naftali Cohn

This course introduces students to one of the great works of world literature, the Hebrew Bible. It familiarizes the student with the major genres of the Hebrew Bible and with the history, culture, and religion of ancient Israel. Particular attention is given to modern scholarly methods of interpretation, to the literary dimensions of the Bible, and to the subsequent development of Jewish interpretation and practice that builds on the Bible.

RELI 312/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1145-1300

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 316/2 - AA (3 credits)

T.1800-2015

CLASSICAL ISLAM

Instructor: Richard Foltz

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 320/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1315-1430

THE MAKING OF CHRISTIANITY

Instructor: Spyridon Loumakis

This course examines how Christianity emerged from a small, splinter movement within Judaism to become the religion of the Roman Empire. It traces the various debates that gave shape to this new movement, stressing the diverse perspectives evident in early Christian sources. Among the topics considered are Jewish and Christian relations, martyrdom and persecution, prophecy and visionary experience, orthodoxy and heresy, gender, sexuality and the body, canon and religious authority, as well as sacred space.

Note: *Students who have received credit for RELI 303 or for this topic under a RELI 498 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 325/2 - A (3 credits)

W.F. 11:45 - 13:00

PROPHETS, REBELS, AND SAINTS: CHRISTIAN SAINTS

Instructor: Alexander Nachaj

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. Specific topics for this course are stated in the Undergraduate Class Schedule; examples are Moses, Jesus and Mary.

RELI 331/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1145-1300

LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST (xlist ENGL 398 A)

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

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

RELI 337/2 – A (3 credits)

M. 13:45-15:45

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls changed our understanding of early Judaism and shed new light on Christian origins. The Scrolls preserve the oldest copies of the books that would come to be included in the Hebrew Bible, plus hundreds of other Jewish writings of the Hellenistic and early Roman eras: apocalypses, biblical interpretation and apocryphal stories, community rules, hymns and poems, legal and liturgical texts, wisdom literature, and much more. This course provides students with a basic introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls — the texts, the community, and their ideas — examined in the larger context of early Judaism. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 498 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 360/2 - A (3 credits)

M.W.1015-1130

RELIGIONS OF CHINA

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

This course concentrates on the historical development of Chinese religions from the earliest periods of Chinese civilization to contemporary times. It investigates the relationships among the classical religious traditions as portrayed through scriptures, commentaries, and rituals. Focus is placed on the unfolding of the five great religious currents of China: the classical imperial cults, Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, and popular cults. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for RELI 349 may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 380/2 - A (3 credits)

T.J.1615-1730

RELIGION AND SEXUALITY

Instructor: Steven Lapidus

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 386/2 - AA (3 credits)

W.1800-2015

WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND RELIGION

Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

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 390/2 –A (3 credits)
ANGELS AND DEMONS
Instructor: Naftali Cohn

T .J.1615-1730

This course explores the Jewish version of the supernatural world. Students are introduced to the varieties of Jewish belief and experience that have existed from ancient times to today; the ways of thinking about Jewish and human experience that have shifted and evolved over time; and the different reasons why authors may choose to engage with the supernatural world. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 398/2 –A (3 credits)
(xlisted HIST 398)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
POLITICS, RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN ASIA
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

M .W.1315-1430

This survey course is divided in three parts: The first part examines the two main systems of statecraft prevalent in Asia that were used in pre-modern societies, the Chinese Confucian and the Indian Dharmasastra models. These explorations will be supported by historical examples in East or South Asia's societies. The second part examine case studies of religiously fuelled rebellions and revolutions that shook the foundation of established kingdoms. The third part focuses on contemporary politics and their sometime difficult relationship with religious movements, foreign and indigenous. The goal is to highlight the dynamics between religion and politics based on historical instances. Case studies of Asian politics will be selected according to the speciality of the instructor and will be chosen among those ascribed to East Asia (China including Tibet, Korea, Japan), South-East Asia (Burma, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, etc) and South- Asia (India and Pakistan). The goal of this course is to provide the necessary historical perspective on political models of Asia which were long lasting and influenced the contemporary worldviews in Asian countries on religions with regards to statecraft, control and leniency.

RELI 398/2 –A (3 credits)
(xlisted RELI 630)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SAINTS, SINGERS & SONGWRITERS: JEWISH MUSIC FROM THE
PSALMS TO LEONARD COHEN
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

T .1600-1815

This course will explore music as part of canonical religious tradition, as part of popular culture, and as creative work. Jewish religious music is little understood – the Psalms were set to musical arrangements that we no longer know about. In Europe, over centuries, Jews could not be part of the mainstream musical undertakings of majority culture. This shifted in the Enlightenment period. A fascinating singular tradition is that of the klezmer musician, a professional position for male Jewish musicians that lasted from the seventeenth century to the beginning of the Second World War (and was transformed in North America into something different and new). Montreal presents an endpoint of sorts for klezmer culture, but its own creative forces can be explored through the musical career of Leonard Cohen, who will provide the course with its own endpoint.

RELI 409/2 – AA (3 credits)

M.1800-2015

METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION

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 498/2 - A (3 credits)

Th.1600-1815

(xlisted RELI 639 A RELI 838 A)

ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION

COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS LAW: JEWISH AND ISLAMIC

Instructor: Ira Robinson

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course will examine issues related to religious law through a comparison of two religious-legal systems: Judaism and Islam. In so doing, it will deal with methodological issues in “comparing” religions. It will survey theories of law in both religious traditions and investigate the teaching and enforcement of law in specific religious communities as well as the interface of religious and civil law in contemporary western countries, including Canada. It will explore issues in the light of religious law including war and peace, women’s comporment and marital status, business, and bioethics. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498/2– B (3 credits)

M. 1300-1515

(xlisted RELI 639 B RELI 833 B)

ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION

MATERIAL CHRISTIANITY

Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course explores the role of objects, spaces, environments, bodily senses, as well as embodied practices and performances, with a view to how they have informed Christian religious life in different times and places. We will be particularly interested in the ‘felt’ aspects of religious life. We will consider rich examples from across the Christian tradition (e.g. fasting, mourning and grief, dress, relics, images, built spaces, or theatrical productions, from medieval passion plays to evangelical “Hell Houses”). Recent theoretical turns to materialism and affect will also be addressed in order to challenge dualisms in the study of religion, such as mind over matter or body. Offering a broad survey of the Christian tradition, this course allows students to develop a final research project that connects with their interests in Christian history and/or the study of religion.

This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

WINTER 2019

RELI 210/4 – A (3 credits)
RELIGION IN PRACTICE
Instructor: Lindsey Jackson

W.F. 845-1000

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 216/4– EC (3 credits)
ENCOUNTERING RELIGIONS
Instructor: Laurie Lamoureux Scholes

online

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 this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 224/4 – A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
Instructor: Perwaiz Hayat

T.J.1315-1430

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, South and Southeast Asia, 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), mystical orders, and the arts

RELI 226/4 – A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
Instructor: Mai Bui Linh Dieu

T.J.1015-1130

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 credit.*

RELI 233/4 - A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN & RELIGION
Instructor: Claire English

M. W.1315-1430

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, patriarchy, and goddess religions are also explored.

RELI 306/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1315-1430

RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN CONTEMPORARY IRAN

Instructor: Manya Saadi-nejad

Heir to one of the world's great civilizations, Iran today is often viewed negatively by the West. However, the reality of life in the Islamic Republic differs in many ways from popular conceptions. This course explores the roots, development and current situation of a uniquely modern and dynamic contemporary Muslim society. Topics include gender relations, political theory, contemporary literature and the arts.

RELI 310/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

SELF AND OTHER: IDENTITY AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT

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.

RELI 328/4 - AA (3 credits)

M.W. 1615-1730

MODERN JUDAISM

Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course surveys the major historical events, sociological and political forces, and intellectual currents which shaped Judaism in the modern period as well as the ways that Jewish communities responded to these forces. Among the topics explored are Emancipation, forms of religious adjustment, anti-semitism, the experience of Jewish communities in Russia and North America, the Holocaust, and Zionism and the state of Israel.

RELI 343/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1015-1130

YOGA IN HISTORY, THOUGHT, & PRACTICE

Instructor:

This course examines the history, thought, and practices of Yoga in their religious and cultural contexts. In the modern West, Yoga has become popular as a secular form of exercise. However, as this course shows, the diverse Yoga traditions of India have also involved sophisticated analyses of the mind and systems of meditation. Intrinsic to no single religion, Yoga has had roles in most South Asian traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sufism or Islamic mysticism. The course surveys this rich history, and the various forms of meditative and physical discipline Yoga has entailed. *Note: Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 347/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1445-1600

RELIGION & THE ARTS IN SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA

Instructor:

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 350/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1145-1300

THERAVADA BUDDHISM

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

This course examines the early history, doctrine, institutions, and practices of Buddhism in India, and follows the development of Theravada Buddhism in the countries of Southeast Asia up to the present day.

RELI 355/4 – AA (3 credits)

F.1015-1300

RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course explores how religion may be seen to engender or exacerbate violence, as well as the ways that religion may critique, prevent or even offer alternatives to violence. Sacred writings, theologies, rituals and communal actions of particular communities are studied, as well as notions of the self, the group, others, outsiders and enemies. In particular, the life-work and writings of such key figures as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King are studied in order to provide some religious perspectives on the relationship between non-violence and the resistance to injustice. *Note: Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 365/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1145-1300

RELIGION AND LITERATURE

(xlist ENGL 398 A)

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

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. Our texts will include novels, poetry, critical studies and religious canonical texts. Our goals will include an appreciation of the religious traditions under discussion, as well as an increased understanding of their key texts and their literary character. Alongside this, we will try to understand what draws literary artists to subject matter drawn from religious tradition, and how such attractions move their careers in surprising directions.

RELI 378/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 1615-1730

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 382/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1015-1130

WOMEN AND RELIGION: CHRISTIANITY

Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

The focus of the course is the role of women and the conflicting patterns of gender construction in the history of Christianity. Through a critical use of primary and secondary sources, both visual and textual, the course explores the sources of women's power and subordination in order to illuminate the relationship between gender and the Christian tradition.

RELI 387/4 – A (3 credits)

M. 1145-1430

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 394/4 – AA (3 credits)

M. 1800-2015

HISTORY OF SATAN

Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

This course investigates the origins, development, and significance of personified evil, that is Satan and his demons, in early Judaism and in the history of Christianity. Consideration is given to some of the most important literary and visual depictions of this figure and his story from the ancient world through the Middle Ages to present day. The course sheds light on how intellectuals thought of this figure and also how Satan came to play an important role in popular culture down through the centuries. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 396/4-A (3 credits)

T.J. 1145-1300

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

RELI 398/4-C (3 credits)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SEX, GENDER, AND JEWS
Instructor: Naftali Cohn

M.W. 1015-1130

This course explores diverse approaches to human sexuality and gender through the lens of Jewish culture and it investigates Judaism through the lens of gender and sexuality. Throughout the term, we will engage directly with a range of evidence, from ancient texts to archaeological artifacts to contemporary film and television. Our goal is to uncover insights and different approaches to these areas of human experience. Topics to be covered may include: divergent constructions of masculinity and femininity; non-binary, fluid, and trans gender; ritual, holiness, the body, and sexual activity; gender and everyday life; ethnic identity and sexual relations outside the group; homosexuality; marriage; procreation; and sexual assault. With each of the different topics, we will consider whether there are uniquely Jewish approaches to sexuality and gender, and what the lens of this particular cultural tradition can contribute to our understanding of this one facet of the human experience.

RELI 398/4-D (3 credits)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
NORTHERN LIGHTS: RELIGION & FILM IN CANADA
(xlist FMST 398)
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

T.J. 1615-1730

This course will explore the relationship between film and religious narratives while concentrating on how Canadian film and cultural criticism has approached this topic. Some of the general questions we will ask include: What are the special challenges and outcomes of addressing religious themes in film? Cinema has in the course of its development usurped some of the power of organized religion. In what way are films suited to exploring religious narratives and ideas? We will examine the film culture of Canada with an awareness of the influence of American and European film. We will highlight independent films and the output of the National Film Board of Canada, with particular attention to the NFB documentary tradition and the work within that context of aboriginal directors and writers. Students interested in a range of traditions, in the relationship of religion and popular culture, in the relationship between Quebec and the rest of Canada, will be able to pursue these research areas.

RELI 398/4- E (3 credits)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SUSTAINABILITY AND RELIGION
(xlist LOYC 398 E)
Instructor: Richard Foltz

T. 1800-2015

The environmental crisis is arguably the first truly global crisis that humanity has faced. Increasingly, scholars and others are coming to see it not as a crisis of technology but rather as one of values. Since religions are the primary source of values in any human society, we may look to the world's various religious systems to better understand how

they place humans within the broader context of nature, how they teach us to value it, and what our responsibilities are towards the non-human world.

RELI 498/4 – AA (3 credits)

M. 1800-2015

(xlisted RELI 621 AA)

ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION

FOUCAULT

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

The purpose of this course is to explore Michel Foucault's philosophical contribution to critical thought and theory. First situating his work within the intellectual and cultural milieu of post-World War II France, the class will next examine in detail numerous essays and interviews by Foucault which outline his effort to "think otherwise." What does it mean to think otherwise? What substantiates the uniqueness of Foucault's critical thought? Toward answering these questions the class will delve into the genealogical approach, the complex of power/knowledge, the subversive effect of subjugated knowledges, and the practice of problematization, among other topics. The end goal will be to consider the various types of critical-philosophic projects that Foucault's work inspires. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498/4 – BB (3 credits)

W. 1600-1815

(xlisted RELI 616 AA)

ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION

SCRIPTURES OF THE NUMINOUS: MYSTICISM IN ASIA

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course is a seminar which focuses on mystical writings in translation along the themes of immortality, inner alchemy, meditation, ecstasy, and direct experience of the absolute. The scriptures and treatises will be a reflection of one focused region. It will study these writings in context with their cultural traditions as well as their social and political environment. The cultures and religions concerned are (not exclusively) located in East (China, Japan, Korea), South (India, Nepal), and Central Asia (Tibet, Afghanistan, and the Persian world) and are chosen according to the speciality of the instructor. Among the religious tradition concerned are those of Buddhism, Daoism, Indigenous and Popular Cults, various strands of Hinduism, Jainism, Shinto, and other. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

Department of Religion - Timetable Fall 2018

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000			215		215
10:15-11:30	360	301	360 220	301	220
11:45-13:00	225 312	331	225 312 325	331	325
13:15-14:30	320 398 337 (13:45-15:45)	498/630 (13:00-15:15)	320 398		
14:45-16:00	209	298	209	298	
16:15-17:30	223	380 398B 390	223	380 498A 390	
18:00-20:15	300 409	316	386	227	
20:30-22:45					

Department of Religion - Timetable Winter 2019

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000		214	210	214	210
10:15-11:30	343 398c	226 382	343 398c	226 382	355 until 13:00
11:45-13:00	350 398 F 387 until 14:30	365 396	350 398 F	365 396	
13:15-14:30	233	224 306	233	224 306	
14:45-16:00	310 347		310 347		
16:15-17:30	328	378 398 D	328 498 BB	378 398 D	
18:00-20:15	498 AA 394	398 E			
20:30-22:45					