Department of Religions and Cultures Course Offering 2018-2019

| FALL | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----|----|-----------|--------|
| 619/828 | WGS in (South) Asia | LO | W | 4:00-6:15 | R 103 |
| 630 | Saints, Singers & Songwriters: Jewish Music from the Psalms to Leonard Cohen | NR | Т | 4:00-6:15 | FA 202 |
| 639/838 | Comparative Religious Law: | | | | |
| | Jewish & Islamic | IR | Th | 4:00-6:15 | R 103 |
| 639B/833 | Material Christianity | CDH | Μ | 1:00-3:15 | FA 202 |
| Winter | | | | | |
| 610 | Methods | LDT | Т | 5:00-7:15 | FA 202 |
| 613/835 | Islam and Nature | RF | Th | 4:00-6:15 | R 103 |
| 616 | Scriptures Numinous: Mysticism in Asia | MDJ | W | 6:00-8:15 | FA 202 |
| 621 | Foucault | ML | Μ | 6:00-8:15 | R 103 |
| Fall/Winter 890 | Doctoral Seminar | IR | т | 4:00-6:15 | R 103 |
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Fall

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619/828 Women, Gender & Sexuality in South Asian Religions

L. Orr W 4:00-6:15 In this seminar, we draw on materials relating to the Buddhist, Jain, Hindu and Islamic traditions in the South Asian context in order to explore issues relating to women, gender, and sexuality. Our approach from an historical perspective will include consideration of: normative and narrative gender models; embodiment and desire; gender, devotion and ritual; and hierarchies and households. Contemporary issues for discussion will include sexualized and gendered labour and gender, religion, and politics.

630 Saints, Singers & Songwriters: Jewish Music from the Psalms to Leonard Cohen N. Ravvin T 4:00-6:15

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.

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639/838 A Comparative Religious Law: Jewish & Islamic

Jewish & IslamicI. RobinsonTh4:00-6:15This 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 surveytheories of law in both religious traditions and investigate the teaching and enforcement of law in specificreligious communities as well as the interface of religious and civil law in contemporary western countries,including Canada. It will explore several issues in the light of religious law including war and peace, women'scomportment and marital status, business, and bioethics.

639B/833 Material Christianity C. Daniel-Hughes M 1:00-3:15 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.

Winter

610MethodsL. DiTommasoT5:00-7:15The course introduces MA students to some of the main approaches to the academic study of religion. We will
explore the various kinds of questions, approaches, and techniques that inform our understanding of
"religion," "comparative religion," "the history of religions" and "the social-scientific study of religion". Our
investigation focuses on methodologies used and the ways in which these colour, control and reflect the
representation of the distinct religious experience and expression under discussion.

613/835Islam and NatureR. FoltzTh4:00-6:15Religions have long played a significant role in how we frame our relationship to nature. An increasing global
awareness of the worsening environmental crisis is raising new questions about how religious traditions teach
us to value the natural world, whether as stewards or as exploiters. The case of Islam is especially pertinent,
given that environmental degradation disproportionately affects the world's poor, many of whom are Muslims.
This course will allow students to explore how discussions on the environmental crisis are playing out in the
context of Islam and the Muslim world.

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616 Scriptures Numinous: Mysticism in Asia M. Desjardins W 6:00-8:15 This course is a seminar that 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.

621FoucaultM. LalondeM6:00-8:15The 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.

890/3Doctoral SeminarI. RobinsonT4:00-6:15

The aims of the seminar are (1) to introduce you to a range of approaches to and issues in the study of religion (as well as to faculty members of our Department and of our sister departments at UQAM and Laval); and (2) to help you develop professional skills and gain experience – in terms of collegial interaction, self-expression, teaching, and gaining access to funding and opportunities for presenting your research to scholarly audiences. The seminar is held within the framework of our joint doctoral program with UQAM and Laval, and there will be several opportunities to collaborate with your colleagues from these universities.