

**Graduate Course Offerings
2014-2015**

610/2	Methods	M. 16:00-18:15	N. Joseph
612B/2 498H	Studies in Islamic Mysticism	J. 18:30-20:45	L. Clarke
614L/2 498X	Tantric Traditions South Asia	J. 11:00-13:15	S. Hatley
616G/2 385	Women and Religion: Buddhism	J. 13:15-16:00	L. Orr
629R/2 398Q	Philosophy of Religion	W. 13:15-15:30	M. Oppenheim
630I/2 498U	Ethnography and Religion	T. 18:30-20:45	H. Kaell
630Q/2 498V	Queer Christianity & 828E	J. 16:00-18:15	D. Boisvert
650/2 301	The Hebrew Bible	M.W. 14:45-16:00	N. Cohn
698M/2 498K	Autobiography & Jewish Identity	T.16:00-18:15	N. Ravvin
609/4	Theories of Religion	M. 18:00-20:15	M. Lalonde
619K/4 498R	Taoism/Buddhism in China	J. 16:00-18:15	M. des Jardins
619V/4 384	Women and Religion: Hinduism	W. 18:00-20:15	L. Orr
649K/498T/833R/4	North American Christianity	T. 16:00-18:15	H. Kaell
662A/4 498O	Jewish Ritual and Liturgy	W. 16:00-18:15	N. Cohn
698N/4 498L	Hebrew Bible and Cont. Lit.	T. 18:00-20:15	N. Ravvin
890/3	Doctoral Seminar	M 1-3:30	L. Orr

Fall /2

RELI 610/2 Methodological Problems in the Study of Religion M 16:00-18:15 N. Joseph

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the possibilities (and pitfalls) involved in the academic study of religion. Through a consideration of the work of some classic and more contemporary authors in the field, we will explore the various kinds of questions, approaches and techniques that are used in doing "comparative religion," "the history of religions" and "the social-scientific study of religion". Our investigation will focus on methodologies used and the ways in which these colour, control and reflect the representation of the distinct religious experience and expression under discussion.

**RELI 612B/2 Studies in Islamic Mysticism J. 1830-2045 L. Clarke
(Crossed with 498H/2)**

Using texts of selected Sufi thinkers, students explore mystical experience as expressed in the Islamic tradition. Perspectives from comparative mysticism are applied in the reading. Although the course is given in translation, the Persian or Arabic texts will be made available for those learning or able to read the original languages. The mystic considered in 2014 is Jalal al-Din Rumi, also known as Mevlana or Mowlana, and the basic text is his "Meaning of All Things" (*Masnavi*).

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RELI 614L/2 Tantric Traditions of South Asia J. 1100-1315 S. Hatley
(crossed with RELI 498X)

This course examines the history, textual sources, ritual, philosophies, and social contexts of the tantric or “esoteric” traditions of South Asia, and explores the roles of tantric practice in the broader landscape of South Asian religion and culture.

RELI 616G/2 Women and Religion: Buddhism J. 1315-1600 L. Orr
(crossed with RELI 385)

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

RELI 629R/2 Philosophy of Religion W.1315-1530 M. Oppenheim
(crossed with PHIL 398C/RELI 398Q)

This course introduces students to some classical and contemporary discussions and research in the field of Philosophy of Religion. It will explore such standard topics as: the nature of religion, religious experience, faith and reason, religious language, religion and science, religious diversity, and religion and morality. We will also come to see in what ways comparative Philosophy of Religion and feminist Philosophy of Religion challenge the very nature, parameters, and traditional questions of Philosophy of Religion as a whole.

RELI 630I/2 Ethnography and Religion T. 1830-2045 H. Kaell
(crossed with RELI 498U)

This seminar is meant to introduce students of religion to debates and themes that have coloured the anthropology of religion over the last century. We will cover key themes and epistemologies in order to give students a base from which to think about their own fields, disciplines, and historical eras. As such, this course begins with classic anthropology texts but quickly moves into contemporary issues (e.g. power/agency, materiality, post-colonialization, modernity, consumption, healing, group dynamics, and individual experience). Although not a methods class, we will also think about the “reflexive” and activist turns in ethnography. Students will engage in peer teaching through book reviews and subsequent discussions.

RELI 630Q/2 Queer Christianity J. 1600-1815 D. Boisvert
(Crossed with RELI 498V, RELI 828E)

This course will examine the multiple critical intersections between and among alternative, non-normative genders and sexualities in the history of Christianity. In particular, it will consider the insights provided by queer theory in analyzing, understanding and critiquing this history.

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RELI 650/2 Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible M.W.1445-1600 N. Cohn
(crossed with 301)

An introduction to the methods and results of biblical scholarship with regard to the history, culture, and religion of ancient Israel. Particular attention is given to the major religious affirmations and theological concepts of the Hebrew Bible that have become central in the subsequent development of Judaism.

RELI 698M/2 Autobiography And Jewish Identity T. 1600-1815 **N. Ravvin**
(crossed with RELI 498K, ENGL 498C)

This course will approach autobiography from a creative and scholarly standpoint. We will explore the genre, from the particular position of Jewish writing and culture. Students will have the opportunity, as part of their written work, to write their own autobiographical diary or memoir. This will allow us to approach things historically, generically as well as personally. The course meetings will include conventional lectures as well as some in-class discussion of students' own writing. Students of Jewish history, literature, creative writing and cultural studies will find their backgrounds intersect with the course's approach.

Winter/4

609/4 Theories of Religion M. 18:00-20:15 M. Lalonde

The purpose of this course is to introduce, compare, and critically examine a selection of contemporary theories of religion. Some of these include the phenomenological, the cognitive, the critical, the feminist, the social scientific, and the theological. In the process, the student will encounter and sort through a variety of theoretical terms and approaches as well as engage numerous meta-theoretical perspectives and questions. Indeed, the latter task is just as important as surveying the different theories of religion. For here we will learn to think and talk about religion in a "theoretical way." In the final analysis, it is hoped that this "way" will continue to inform the student's examination of religion as they pursue their own particular course of study.

RELI 619K/4 Taoism And Buddhism In China **J. 1600-1815** **M. Des Jardins**
(crossed with RELI 498R)

Daoism is a religious tradition which is indigenous to China with some of its writings dating as far back as the 6th century B.C.E. Buddhism entered China in the 2nd century C.E. and from the very beginning influenced religious practices and introduced a religious worldview which ended up affecting not only Daoism but also a wide range of issues relating to politics (religion and the state), public policies, economics and culture. Buddhism brought with it questions which had never been asked in China before which provoked reactions from all spheres of society. Daoism also influenced Buddhism to a point where ritual and meditative practices involving the pursuit of immortality, healing, martial arts and magic became prevalent in many Buddhist monasteries. This course studies these two main religious traditions of China and their interaction from the 2nd century C.E. to the contemporary scene.

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**RELI 619V/4 Women and Religion Buddhism W. 1800-2015 L. Orr
(crossed with RELI 394)**

This course examines the roles and activities of Hindu women. Issues to be considered include the construction in history of models for the "Hindu woman" and the ways in which such models have shaped Hindu women's lives and experience, the religious activities of Hindu women, the contemporary concerns. The relation between abstract Hindu conceptions of "the feminine" — as a force to be revered, regulated, or repressed — and the actual circumstances and activities of Hindu women, both in the present and in the past, is discussed.

**RELI 649K/4 North American Christianity T. 1600-1815 H. Kaell
(crossed with RELI 498T, RELI 833R)**

This seminar examines themes in the history of American Christianity, focusing on the nineteenth century to the present. It asks how religion has shaped people's lives, the country's laws, and the public culture. In 2014, the theme is U.S. Christianity in a global perspective. We will examine the diversification of American Christianity through immigration and the impact of religious ideas from abroad, as well as how U.S. religions and religious people have impact the world through missions, media, megachurches, etc.

Students should have at least some prior working knowledge of U.S. history or religion and religious culture in the secular world will find engaging material in our readings.

**RELI 662/4 Jewish Ritual and Liturgy W. 1600-1815 N. Cohn
(crossed with RELI 498O)**

This course is an in-depth exploration of Jewish rituals. Applying insights from the theoretical study of ritual and with an awareness of the varying cultural contexts of Jews from ancient times to today, the course pieces together how specific rituals work, what they accomplish, and how they come together to form a "fabric" of Jewish ritual life and of lived experience more generally.

**RELI 698N/4 Hebrew Bible and Contemporary Literature T.1800-2015 N. Ravvin
(crossed with RELI 498L and ENGL 498P)**

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 re-entered 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.