



RELIGIONS AND CULTURES

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2022-2023

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGIONS AND CULTURES
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2022-2023

**DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGIONS AND CULTURES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2022-2023**

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 2022-23 Summer/Fall/Winter 10
9.	Department of Religions and Cultures 2022-2023 Fall/Winter Timetables 21

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 and Undergraduate Programs Assistant

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

Tina Montandon, Assistant to the Graduate Programme Directors

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

Advisor

Dr. Marc Lalonde: marc.lalonde@concordia.ca

Email : religion@concordia.ca or call 514-848-2424 ext. 2065

Images on cover page taken from: <http://www.alignmentsonline.com/GraphicRes/crscent1.jpg>

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

This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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. 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

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

Professors

Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill)

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

Lorenzo DiTommaso, Ph.D. (McMaster)

(winter 2023 sabbatical)

Richard Foltz, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Norma Joseph, Ph.D. (Concordia)

(sabbatical 2022-2023)

Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)

Norman Ravvin, Ph.D. (Univ. of Toronto)

Associate Professors

Marc des Jardins, Ph.D. (McGill)

Assistant Professors

Sowparnika Balaswaminathan, PhD (University of California)

Miranda Crowds, PhD (The City University, London)

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 Religions and Cultures, 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, Gender and Sexuality

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 Religions and Cultures. Religions and Cultures 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: for the groups listed below, please see UG calendar online.

60 B.A. Honours in Religions and Cultures:

- 12 cr In a language related to thesis; or in a related discipline such as: Anthropology, Classics, English Literature, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Women's Studies.
- 6 cr Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³, 215³, 220³, 223³, 224³, 225³, 226³, 227³
- 15 cr Chosen from the following groups: Tradition and/or Region
- 12 cr Chosen from the following groups: Themes in Religions and Cultures and/or Women, Gender and Sexuality
- 3 cr RELI 409³
- 6 cr RELI 410⁶

42 B.A. Major in Religions and Cultures

- 6 cr Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³, 215³, 220³, 223³, 224³, 225³, 226³, 227³
- 15 cr Chosen from the following groups: Tradition and/or Region
- 12 cr Chosen from the following groups: Themes in Religions and Cultures and/or Women, Gender, and Sexuality
- 6 cr RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
- 3 cr RELI 409³

24 Minor in Religions and Cultures

- 6 cr Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³, 215³, 220³, 223³, 224³, 225³, 226³, 227³
- 18 cr Additional RELI elective credits chosen in consultation with the departmental advisor at the 200, 300 and 400 level.

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.

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. Lynda Clarke: Lynda.clarke@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:
<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/religions-cultures.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.

SUMMER 2022

RELI 215/2 – A (3 credits)
RELIGIONS OF ASIA
Instructor: Perwaiz Hayat

M.W. 1315-1600

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 372/2 - A (3 credits)
RELIGION AND THE BODY
Instructor: Steven Lapidus

T.J.1015-1300

This study of religious attitudes to the human body focuses on the body as a foundation for religious symbolism, religious community and identity, ritual, and religious experience. The course examines these problems with reference to various religious traditions. Issues examined include purification of the body; eating; mortification and mutilation of the body; attitudes towards dead bodies and physical immortality; attitudes towards bodies as gendered; embodied spirituality and incarnation.

FALL 2022

RELI 210/2 – A (3 credits)
RELIGION IN PRACTICE
Instructor:

W.0845-1130

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

RELI 214/2 – A (3 credits)
RELIGIONS OF THE WEST
Instructor:

T.J. 1445-1600

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 220/2- A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM
Instructor: Miranda Crowdus

T.J.0845-1000

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)
INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

T.J. 1015-1130

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 224/2 – A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
Instructor: Lynda Clarke

W.F.1445-1600

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 225/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1145-1300

INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

Instructor: Sowpamika Balaswaminathan

This course surveys Hinduism in its diverse history, sects, schools of thought, sacred texts, spiritual practices, and contemporary interpretations. We will focus on several prominent dimensions of the tradition, including the Hindu temple, mysticism and metaphysics in the Upanisads, karma and rebirth, dharma (religious duty and the cosmic/social order), moksha (liberation), gender and caste, devotional traditions, and narrative literatures. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 226/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J..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.

RELI 233/2 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1615-1730

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, patriarchy, and goddess religions are also explored.

RELI 298/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1445-1600

SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION

DE/COLONIZING THE LOCAL: CONCORDIA, MONTREAL, AND
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL HISTORY

(HIST 298A)

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course follows key trends at the forefront of Canadian recognition of colonialism and its impact on Indigenous people. It will use as its epicentre Concordia - the history of the land where the campus stands, and around it - to enliven our sense of pre-colonial lives and the meaning of contact in the places where we attend and teach classes. It will radiate outward toward the rest of the city that was the earliest area of settlement, to tell the story and the stakes of Christian missionizing and its relationship to colonial power. It will consider the links between local institutional and cultural histories and Canadian Residential Schools, which were initiated by the Federal government and run by a variety of churches and orders, including the Grey Nuns, a key Montreal institution linked with Concordia and its surroundings. We will make use of literary and other creative renderings, attend to the way Canadian cities developed around the colonial facts we explore, while examining, as well, Concordia's platforms for "Indigenization" and "Decolonialization."

RELI 300/2 – AA (3 credits)
CULTS AND RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY
Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

M.1745-20:15

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 306/2 – AA (3 credits)
RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN CONTEMPORARY IRAN
Instructor: Richard Foltz

J. 1745-2015

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 310/2 – A (3 credits)
SELF AND OTHER: IDENTITY AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

T.J.1615-1730

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 312/2 – A (3 credits)
JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

T.J.1315-1430

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.

RELI 313/2 – A (3 credits)
ZOROASTRIANISM
Instructor: Richard Foltz

F.0845-1130

Zoroastrianism, an ancient but little-known faith now counting no more than a few hundred thousand practitioners living mainly in India and Iran, is one of the most significant traditions in the history of religions. It provided a world-view and ethical framework later adopted by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and shares significant common roots with Hinduism. The Zoroastrians of India — the Parsis — have continued to play an influential role in shaping that country’s development in modern

times. This course covers the 3,000-year history of Zoroastrianism, including controversies surrounding its origins, its contributions to other religions, its eventual decline and the surviving global Zoroastrian diaspora of contemporary times.

RELI 332/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1145-1300

CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE
(ENGL 398B)

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

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.

RELI 343/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

YOGA IN HISTORY, THOUGHT, AND PRACTICE

Instructor: Sowpamika Balaswaminathan

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 360/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1145-1300

RELIGIONS OF CHINA

Instructor:

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 362/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1315-1430

RELIGIONS OF TIBET

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with current issues in Tibetan studies and to enhance understanding of Tibetan religion in Tibet, China and the rest of the world. It examines the “nameless” popular religions of Tibet, including mountain cults, shamanism, spirit possession and a variety of manifestations of popular religion.

Students become familiar with the main schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the Bon religion, their history, dogma, lineages, philosophical enquiries, ritual and ascetic practices.

NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 383/2 – A (3 credits)

J.1745-2015

WOMEN AND RELIGION: ISLAM

Instructor: Lynda Clarke

The course explores various issues related to women and gender in Islam, including role models, ritual, gendered space, the rulings of Islamic law, and sexuality. The issues are examined principally through the lens of modern Islam and lives of modern Muslims, including those in Canada and the West.

RELI 388/2 –A (3 credits)

T.J.1145-1300

QUEERING THE BIBLE
(LOYC 398R)

Instructor:

This course examines the wide variety of perspectives on sexuality within Scripture. It considers the ancient contexts in which these texts were composed as well as how Jews and/or Christians have read these texts over time, in light of changing notions of sexuality and gender. Among the topics considered are gendered and sexual identities, celibacy, marriage, same-sex relationships, human reproduction and child-rearing, and sexual desire. Ultimately, it addresses how the Bible reflects and has informed the various Jewish and/or Christian perspectives on these issues.

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)

M.W. 16:15-1730

QUEER SPIRITUALITIES

Instructor:

This course treats the intersection of gender, sexuality, spirituality and religiosity from an intersectional and queer theoretical approach. It introduces students to histories and discourses around these inter-related areas and is organized thematically. It will also address the construction and production of queer spiritualities and the queering of religion. Topics under consideration include, as follows: global sexualities; celibacy, asexuality and queerness; queerness in history; colonial and postcolonial understandings of sexuality and religion; queer pornography; tantric practice and other forms of esoteric spirituality.

RELI 409/2 – AA (3 credits)

T.1745-2015

METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

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.

WINTER 2023

RELI 209/4 – A (3 credits)
THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

T.J. 1615-1730

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

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 227/4 – A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO IRANIAN CIVILIZATION
(xlist HIST 298A)
Instructor: Richard Foltz

Fr.0845-1130

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 308/2 – A (3 credits)
CHRISTIANITY IN THE UNITED STATES
Instructor:

M.W.1145-1300

This course introduces students to the history of Christianity in the United States. from the 1630s to the present, with an emphasis on the modern period. It traces how the U.S. has become the most religious country in the developed world and explores how Americans understand and practice Christianity. It covers key historical moments and movements, including Puritanism, revivals and awakenings, missions, abolition and slavery, fundamentalism, anti-Communism and Pentecostalism. **NOTE:** *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 310/4 – A (3 credits)
SELF AND OTHER: IDENTITY AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT
(xlist LOYC398C)
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

T.J.1315-1430

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 317/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1315-1430

SUFISM

Instructor:

The course explores the emergence and development of Islamic mysticism, beginning with pious individuals in the eighth century and coalescing into institutional forms by the 10th. Attention is given to the teachings of key mystical figures, the Sufi orders, and the social role of Sufism. Sufi poetry, music, and other forms of devotion and practice are studied in the contexts of diverse Muslim societies over the past 1,000 years.

RELI 319/4 – A (3 credits)

W.F.1445-1600

MODERN ISLAM

Instructor: Lynda Clarke

This course surveys some of the questions raised by modernity for Muslims and the various responses Muslims have sought to formulate and put into practice. Issues addressed may include government, law, gender, relations with the West, and religious authority.

RELI 325/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1015-1130

LEADERS, REBELS, SAINTS: MARY

Instructor:

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 329/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W.1145-1300

ISRAEL: RELIGION AND STATE

Instructor:

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)

T.J. 1145-1300

LITERATURE & THE HOLOCAUST

(ENGL 398 F)

Instructor: Norm 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:** Student 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)
RELIGION AND VIOLENCE
(LOYC 398E)
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

T.1745-2015

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 368/4 – A (3 credits)
RELIGION AND INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS
Instructor:

T.J.1015-1130

This course examines the diverse Indigenous Traditions in the context of Turtle Island, or North America. Foregrounding the perspectives of Indigenous peoples, the course considers the impact of settler colonialism on Indigenous communities. Topics may include Christian missions, residential schools, Indigenous views of sacred, the land, gender and sexuality, ethics, and storytelling.

RELI 378/4 – A (3 credits)
DEATH AND DYING
Instructor:

M.W.1015-1130

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 utilize traditional religious concepts and rituals, scientific understandings and medical procedures, or innovative combinations of ideas and practices with which to cope.

RELI 380/4 – A (3 credits)
RELIGION AND SEXUALITY
Instructor:

T.J. 1445-1600

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 386/4 - 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 390/4- A (3 credits)
ANGELS AND DEMONS IN JUDAISM
Instructor: Naftali Cohn

M.W. 1445-1600

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: Student 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)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
MALCOLM X
Instructor:

M.W.1615-1730

Malcolm X was a black civil rights leader who made an indelible impact on North American society, black life, culture, and activism. He was also a devout Muslim. This course explores Malcolm X's life, his activism and ministry, and his ongoing importance for today. It places particular emphasis on his Muslim faith and the history of the Nation of Islam, of which Malcolm X was a part for much of his career.

RELI 398/4 – B (3 credits)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
RELIGIOUS BODIES IN SOUTH ASIA
Instructor:

T.J. 1315-1430

This course explores embodied practices and conceptions of embodiment in South Asian religions, including Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism, and Islam. We will examine bodily disciplines and asceticism, as well as ecstatic practices, possession, and the adornment and celebration of the body. We consider divine bodies and the bodies of animals and plants, gendered bodies, and the body in life and death. We seek to understand the variety of ways that physiology and the senses are linked to the moral, spiritual, and psychological dimensions of human being – and the methods employed to influence and transform the character of this being.

RELI 398/4 – C (3 credits)

T. 1745-2015

SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION

NORTHERN LIGHTS: RELIGION AND FILM IN CANADA

(FMST 398)

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course will explore the relationship between film, religion, and traditional spiritual narratives while concentrating on how Canadian film and cultural criticism have approached this topic. Some of the questions we will 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 or 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 Indigenous directors and writers. Students interested in a range of traditions, in the relationship between Quebec and the rest of Canada, will be able to pursue these research areas.

RELI 398/4 – E (3 credits)

M.W.1145-1300

SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION

DECOLONIZING POP CULTURE

(LOYC 398P)

Instructor:

This course will explore how popular culture can be understood from a variety of decolonial perspectives. We will explore the relationship between theory and practice, the material and epistemic, as it relates to decolonial action and critique, as well as concrete movements of decolonization like Land Back, Water Protectors, Saytyagraha, and BLM. From this perspective of decolonial critique we will then analyse a variety of examples in popular culture that reify or resist contemporary colonial attitudes, and critically evaluate their effects. We might look at popular forms of media like Southpark, the film Fire, sports, holidays, the Ramayana, yoga, comic books, and more! Possible moments of analysis include: cultural appropriation, Orientalism, settler moves to innocence, neoliberalism, Marxism, recentring oral and visual traditions, the White Savior Industrial Complex, and capitalism.

RELI 398/4 – F (3 credits)

T.J. 0845-1000

SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION

HIP HOP AND URBAN YOUTH CULTURE

Instructor: Miranda Crowdus

This course looks at the artistic, social, and cultural implications of hip-hop through its intersections with urban, working-class youth cultures in Canada. Focusing on hip-hop's four primary elements, rapping, DJing, graffiti art, and breakdancing, we will explore the social and cultural influences and historical contexts that shaped each of these forms, as well as the connecting principles that they share. We will explore the broader historical, political, and performative context of the African Diaspora experience in the Americas and hip-hop's subsequent adaptation and mobilization by other disenfranchised minorities who identify with its message. Students will learn about and listen to the music of a range of Canadian hip-hop artists and investigate projects that aim to offer support systems for disenfranchised youth. A particular focus will be on Montreal-based grassroots multi-lingual rap practiced by minority groups. Topics relating to hip-hop production and consumption will include criminalization of racialized youth, the adaptation of rap music

as protest music on a global level, relating to multiple struggles on all sides of the social and political spectrum, as well as its mobilization for localized power-struggles and emancipation.

RELI 398/4 – G (3 credits)

J.1745-2015

SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION

SUSTAINABILITY AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

(LOYC 398 AR)

Instructor: Richard Foltz

This seminar-format course will explore connections between the ethics of human interactions with non-human animals and non-sustainable economic activities. The Western cultural tradition has long treated humans and animals as separate categories, with different systems of ethics and values applied to each. How humans perceive their relationship with animals affects choices about diet, understandings of our place in the world, and increasingly, issues of habitat preservation, environmental degradation, and the ethics of scientific research.

Fall 2022

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000		220	210 (until 11:30)	220	313 (until 11:30)
10:15-11:30		223		223	
11:45-13:00	225 360	332 388	225 360	332 388	
13:15-14:30	362	226 312	362	226 312	
14:45-16:00	343	214 298A	224 343	214 298A	224
16:15-17:30	233 398 A	310	233 398 A	310	
17:45-20:15	300	409		306 383	
20:30-22:45					

Winter 2022

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000		398 F		398 F	227 (until 11:30)
10:15-11:30	325 378	368	325 378	368	
11:45-13:00	308 329 398 E	331	308 329 398 E	331	
13:15-14:30	317	310 398 B	317 386	310 398 B	386
14:45-16:00	390	380	319 390	380	319
16:15-17:30	209 398 A		209 398 A		
17:45-20:15		355 398 C		398 G	
20:30-22:45					