

DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGIONS AND CULTURES
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE
2026-2027

**DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGIONS AND CULTURES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2026-2027**

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This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2026-2027 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 2026-2027 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

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

Marc des Jardins, Ph.D. (McGill)

Lorenzo DiTommaso, Ph.D. (McMaster)

Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)

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

Associate Professors

Miranda Crowdus, PhD (The City University, London)

Assistant Professors

Sowparnika Balaswaminathan, PhD (University of California)

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

General Objectives

The Department of Religions and Cultures is dedicated to the academic study of multiple religious and cultural groups in Canada and around the world. Our focus is on cultural phenomena, sometimes in comparative context, typically with attention to history, systems of thought and practices, literature and pop culture, power, gender, and sexuality.

Nature of the Study of Religions and Cultures

The academic study of religion is a multidisciplinary enterprise. Current emphases in the department include decolonizing, gender and sexuality, feminism, intersectionality, history, ethnography and fieldwork, literature, moving images, pop culture, systems of thought, and ethics.

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 MA graduate programme director: ma.reli@concordia.ca

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

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 209, 210, 214, 215, 220, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227
- 15 cr chosen from the following groups: Tradition; Region
- 12 cr chosen from the following groups: Themes in Religions and Cultures; Women, Gender, and Sexuality
- 6 cr chosen from Religions and Cultures courses at the 300 or 400 level
- 3 cr RELI 409 Methodology and the Study of Religion
- 6 cr RELI 410 Honours Thesis

42 B.A. Major in Religions and Cultures

- 6 cr chosen from RELI 209, 210, 214, 215, 220, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227
- 15 cr chosen from the following groups: Tradition; Region
- 12 cr chosen from Themes in Religions and Cultures; Women, Gender, and Sexuality
- 3 cr RELI 409 Methodology and the Study of Religion

24 Minor in Religions and Cultures

- 6 cr chosen from RELI 209, 210, 214, 215, 220, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227
- 18 cr additional elective Religions and Cultures courses at the 200, 300, and 400 level

60 B.A. Honours in Judaic Studies

- 9 chosen from: HEBR 210⁶, HEBR 241, HEBR 242, RELI 401
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 209, 210, 214, 215
- 12 chosen from RELI 220, 301, 326, 327, 328
- 27 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 language such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish, for a maximum of 15 credits combined.

42 B.A. Major in Judaic Studies

- 9 cr Hebrew language, chosen from HEBR 210, 241, 242, RELI 401
*students who demonstrate proficiency in Hebrew may substitute religions courses at the 300 or 400 level approved by the undergraduate advisor
- 3 cr chosen from RELI 209, 210, 214, 215

- 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, 214^{3 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.

Course Groups:

Tradition

RELI 220, 223, 224, 225, 226, 230, 231, 301, 307, 308, 311, 313, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 324, 326, 327, 328, 332, 333, 334, 336, 337, 343, 344, 346, 350, 351, 363, 364, 368, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 390, 391, 392, 394, 395, 397, 401, 402, 404, 405, 407

Region

RELI 214, 215, 227, 306, 308, 315, 329, 332, 334, 336, 347, 348, 351, 353, 360, 361, 362, 375, 393

Themes in Religions and Cultures

RELI 209, 210, 216, 235, 298, 300, 310, 312, 325, 331, 354, 355, 357, 358, 365, 366, 370, 371, 373, 374, 378, 379, 394, 396, 398, 410, 496, 498

Women, Gender, and Sexuality

RELI 233, 372, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 393, 420

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 in Southern Asia Studies (42 credits)

3 cr chosen from:

RELI 215 Religions of Asia

RELI 348 Religion and Society in South and Southeast Asia

3 cr chosen from:
HIST 261 History of South Asia
HIST 364 Modern South Asia

3 cr chosen from the following group:
History of South and Southeast Asia courses (see UG calendar)

9 cr chosen from the following group:
Religions and Cultures of South and Southeast Asia courses (see UG calendar)

6 cr chosen from the following group:
Theory and Method courses (see UG calendar)

18 cr chosen from the following group:
Electives in South and Southeast Asia (see UG calendar)

Minor in Southern Asia Studies (24 credits)

3 cr chosen from:
RELI 215 Religions of Asia
RELI 348 Religion and Society in South and Southeast Asia

3 cr chosen from:
HIST 261 History of South Asia
HIST 364 Modern South Asia

18 cr chosen from the following group:
Electives in South and Southeast Asia (see UG calendar)

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 listserv 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 RELIGIONS AND CULTURES STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CRACSA)

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 CRACSA. CRACSA is a student-administered organization dedicated to fostering community and expanding the educational experience of all Religion students. Each year the executive branch of CRACSA (five students elected to plan and administer CRACSA 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 CRACSA sponsored lectures given by learned academics and religious thinkers from all parts of the world.

SUMMER 2026

RELI 210/1 - A (3 credits)
RELIGION IN PRACTICE

M.W. 1315-1600

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.

RELI 378/1 - A (3 credits)
DEATH AND DYING

T.J. 1015-1300

This course provides a comparative perspective on the variety of conceptions and practices related to death and dying that are found in different world religions. In addition, the course considers how people in contemporary North American society utilize traditional religious concepts and rituals, scientific understandings and medical procedures, or innovative combinations of ideas and practices with which to cope.

FALL 2026

RELI 209/2 – A (3 credits) THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION

T.J. 0845-1000

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 220/2- A (3 credits) INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

M.W.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 224/2 – A (3 credits) INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

W.F.1015-1130

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 226/2 – A (3 credits) INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

T.J. 1015-1130

This course introduces students to the diversity of forms of Buddhism that have emerged in history and are practised 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 227/2 – AA (3 credits) **(HIST 298)** INTRODUCTION TO IRANIAN CIVILIZATION

T.J.1445-1600

Iran has played a central role in world history, giving rise to Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and the Baha’i faith, as well as numerous minor 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.

RELI 230/2 – A (3 credits)
JUDAISM AND POPULAR CULTURE

T.J. 16:15-17:30

This course explores examples of American popular culture — film, television, comedy, graphic novels — from the early-20th to the early-21st century that touch on Jews and Judaism. The course reveals ways in which Judaism has developed in the past century and the nature of a uniquely Jewish current that has developed a life of its own in the sphere of popular culture.

RELI 300/2 – A (3 credits)
CULTS AND RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY

M. 1745-2015

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.

RELI 311/2 – A (3 credits)
GLOBAL CHRISTIANITIES

M.W.1015-1130

This course examines contemporary Christianity in its many forms around the world, placing special emphasis on the Global South. It pays special attention to how people, ideas and ministries cross borders and the implications of globalization for Christian practice and theology. Topics covered may include televangelism and media, Internet religion, pilgrimage, immigration, refugees and “transplanted” religion, mega-church networks, post-colonial missions and “reverse” missionaries, Pentecostalism and the rise of African and Asian Independent Churches.

RELI 312/LOYC 398/2 A (3 credits)
(LOYC 398 A)
JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

M.W.1615-1730

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 319/2 – A (3 credits)
MODERN ISLAM

W.F. 1315-1430

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 325/2 – A (3 credits)
LEADERS, REBELS, SAINTS: MARY

T.J. 1315-1430

This course, which varies 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 328/2 – A (3 credits)
MODERN JUDAISM

T.J. 1145-1300

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 331/2 – A (3 credits)
(ENGL 398 E)
LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST

T.J. 1015-1130

Religious, historical, literary, and political contexts have been applied to come to terms with the events of the Holocaust. All of these will be relevant as we read important and provocative works 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 us understand events that are often said to be “incomprehensible.” We will work hard to understand the historical record, and the gradual way that history was addressed by different genres and art forms. We will consider the wider impact of literature dealing with the Holocaust on the popular media, including film, comics, video, museum shows, the Internet and news reports. Course texts will allow us to consider European and North American responses, well- and little-known writers, as well as figures whose work has become both iconic and problematic.

RELI 360/2 – A (3 credits)
RELIGIONS OF CHINA

W. 17:45-20:15

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.

RELI 372/2 – A (3 credits)
RELIGION AND THE BODY

M.W.16:15-17:30

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.

RELI 3140/2 – A (3 credits)
(HIST 398 C/POLI 317)
MALCOLM X

M.W. 14:45-16:00

This course explores the life, activism, ministry, and enduring importance of Malcolm X, a Black civil rights leader who made an indelible impact on North American society as a devout Muslim. Students analyze primary sources and identify Malcolm X's complex religious and political philosophy as it evolved through his career and in its wider cultural and ideological contexts. Topics covered may include Malcolm X's vision on faith, race relations, social justice, and Islam in America, as well as the history of the Nation of Islam and the socio-political landscape of liberation theology, radical political movements, and Islamic revivalism of the 1960s.

RELI 382/2 – A (3 credits)
WOMEN, GENDER, SEXUALITY: Christianity

M.W. 11:45-13:00

This course examines the categories of women, gender, and sexuality, and the experiences related to those categories, in Christian contexts. Topics under investigation include feminist historiography, feminist, womanist and queer readings of primary sources and traditional Christian symbols, sexual practice and reproductive health, and the intersections of gender, race and colonialism. The course proceeds historically, offering examples from across the Christian tradition, but places emphasis on contemporary North America.

RELI 409/2 – AA (3 credits)
METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

W.1745-2015

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 2027

RELI 216/4– EC (3 credits) ENCOUNTERING RELIGIONS

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 223/4 - A (3 credits) INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY

M.W. 1615-1730

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) INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

M.W.0845-1000

Hinduism is a tradition that is one and many, consistent and chaotic, fixable and constantly evolving. The idea of Hinduism as a singular religion has been argued to be a colonial disciplinary practice. Thus, with diverse philosophical strains of thought about the meaning and goal of life, the existence of divine presence(s), the quality of matter and the self, and the practical ways in which an individual can and should lead their life, Hinduism is a catch-all term for often contradictory beliefs. Furthermore, the proximity of multiple religious traditions in South Asia has led to syncretic practices, wherein the lines between religious, cultural, and secular can blur and shift. In this course, students will encounter the various ways in which Hinduism has been imagined, disciplined, and practiced, through sacred texts and commentaries, scholarly debates, practices and rituals, and aesthetic, visual, and performative traditions. We will examine beliefs and practices that can be canonically categorized as Hindu, as well as those that challenge such categorization, and others that demand a change in the definitional boundaries of

Hinduism. Lastly, we will also look at how power and hierarchy are woven through this tradition, and discuss historical and contemporary political issues relevant for understanding how Hinduism functions in today's world, and what "modern" Hindus would consider a good life. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 235/4 – A (3 credits) (HIST 235) THE HOLOCAUST

T.J.1145-1300

Beginning with a discussion of Jewish communities in Europe and America before 1933, this course traces the evolution of anti-Semitism, nationalism, and racism, the rise of Hitler and the Nazi movement, the shaping of Nazi ideology, the growing demonization of the victims of the Holocaust and the genocide against them in their various countries, resistance by the victims, and the parts played by bystanders in the outcome of the Holocaust.

RELI 250/4 – A (3 credits)
(HIST 298 L)

T.J. 1015-1130

DECOLONIZING THE LOCAL: CONCORDIA, MONTREAL, AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL HISTORY

This course follows trends at the forefront of Canadian recognition of colonialism and its impact on Indigenous and other 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 to the rest of the city’s earliest area of settlement, to tell the story 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 churches and religious orders, including the Grey Nuns, a key Montreal institution linked with Concordia and its surroundings through the university’s acquisition and redevelopment of the Grey Nuns Mother House. 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 233/4 – A (3 credits)

W.F. 1015-1130

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN AND RELIGION

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 310/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J.1445-1600

SELF AND OTHER: IDENTITY AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT

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 312/4 – A (3 credits)
(LOYC 398B)

T.J. 1615-17:30

JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

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 316/4 – A (3 credits)
CLASSICAL ISLAM

M.W.1145-1300

The course explores the various aspects of Muslim civilization from its 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 320/4 – A (3 credits)
(HIST 398 K)
THE MAKING OF CHRISTIANITY

M.W.1145-1300

This course examines Christianity in the Roman Empire. It introduces students to critical engagement with a wide variety of ancient sources for studying the earliest Christians and ancient traditions about Jesus. The course also considers how scholars have used these sources to generate histories about Christianity and the implications, both past and present, of these historical representations. Topics considered may include authority, ritual, prophecy and visions, sacred space, scripture, as well as gender and the body, violence, slavery, and Roman imperialism.

RELI 343/4 – A (3 credits)
YOGA IN HISTORY, THOUGHT, AND PRACTICE

M.W.1445-1600

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.

RELI 350/4 – AA (3 credits)
THERAVADA BUDDHISM

W. 1745-2015

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)
RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

M.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.

RELI 366/4 – A (3 credits)
RELIGION AND MUSIC

M.W.0845-1000

This course explores sacred music in its religious and cultural contexts. It examines the

ways in which religion has served as an inspiration and performance context for music across the world, and some of the ways in which musical expression has been central to religious practice. Topics range from Gregorian chant to Quranic recitation, from Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh devotional song in South Asia to esoteric Tibetan chant, and from J.S. Bach to Gospel singing in African-American churches.

RELI 371/4 – A (3 credits)
CARE AND HEALING

T.J.1315-1430

This course examines the intersection between religion, defined broadly, and the concepts and techniques of care. The course explores the ways in which the body is defined in various cultures, the relationship between the body, health, and ethics, gendered approaches to health and healing, and the epistemologies of spiritual care. With an interdisciplinary approach, this course combines the study of primary documents with historical, medical, anthropological, popular and social media narratives.

RELI 386/4 – A (3 credits)
WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND RELIGION

T.J.1145-1300

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 labelled 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.

RELI 387/4 – A (3 credits)
GODDESSES AND RELIGIOUS IMAGES OF WOMEN

T.J. 1015-1130

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)
HISTORY OF SATAN: EVIL PERSONIFIED IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY

M.1745-2015

This course investigates the origins, development, and significance of Satan in early Judaism and the history of Christianity. Consideration is given to some of the most important literary and visual depictions of this figure 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.

RELI 3840/4 – A (3 credits)
WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY: HINDUISM, BUDDHISM, JAINISM

TJ. 1315-1430

This course considers the situations, activities and experiences of women and gender non-conforming people in relation to the religious traditions of Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism. The course focuses on South and Southeast Asia within historical and contemporary post-colonial frameworks, including diasporic contexts. Among the topics considered are definitions and models for gendered identities, ritual practices and labour,

asceticism, erotics and sexual ethics, the politics of gender, and new perspectives on feminist, queer and transgender theories.

RELI 398/4 – AA (3 credits)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
RELIGION AND POPULAR CULTURE

T. 1745-2015

This course explores the intersections of religion and popular culture. Among topics for discussion include: defining popular culture in today’s digitally integrated society; popular culture in multi-media form (film, anime, comics/manga, video games, TV/net series, music); religion *in* popular culture and religion *as* popular culture; fandom and virtual religion; the commodification of religion and spirituality; the functions of traditional religious themes and tropes in new pop-cultural forms; and the global “apocalyptic shift” of the past fifty years and its pop-cultural expressions.

RELI 3890/4 – A (3 credits)
QUEER SPIRITUALITIES

M.W.1315-1430

This course treats gender, sexuality, spirituality and religiosity from an intersectional and queer theoretical approach. It introduces students to histories and discourses around these interrelated areas of human experience. It also addresses the construction and production of queer spiritualities and the queering of religion. Topics may include global sexualities; celibacy, asexuality and queerness; queerness in history; colonial and post-colonial understandings of sexuality and religion; queer pornography; and tantric practice and other forms of esoteric spirituality.