

DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGION

SPRING 2010
COURSE BOOKLET



SPRING 2010 COURSES

RELIGION DEPARTMENT COURSES

REL 10-02 Sufism

Garden G+ MW 1:30-2:45 PM

REL 10-16 Religion and Film

Lemons F+TR 12:00-1:15 PM

REL 22 Introduction to the New Testament

Hutaff F+TR 12:00-1:15 PM

REL 40 History of Religion in America

TBA J+ TR 3:00-4:15 PM

REL 44 Introduction to Hinduism

Walser 10 M 6:30-9:00 PM

REL 57 Religions, Money & Sex

O'Leary E+MW 10:30-11:45 AM

REL 104 Feminist Theologies

Hutaff H+ TR 1:30-2:45 PM

REL 106 Contemporary Religious Thought

Lemons 1 T 9:00-11:30 AM

REL 144 Tantric Buddhism

Walser 1 T 9:00-11:30 AM

REL 152 Islam & Modernity

Garden I+ MW 3:00-4:15 PM

COURSES CO-LISTED WITH RELIGION

REL 10-09 Special Topics Maranci, C-LST FAH 92-04

REL 11 Buddhist Art Kaminishi J+ TR 3:00-4:15 PM, C-LST FAH 11

REL 65 Introduction to Yiddish Culture Gittleman H+ TR 1:30-2:45 PM, C-LST JS 65*

REL 78 Jewish Women Ascher J+ TR 3:00-4:15 PM, C-LST JS 78*

REL 98 Music & Prayer in Jewish Tradition Summit H+ TR 1:30-2:45 PM, C-LST JS192-04, MUS 54

REL 126 Roots of the Jewish Imagination Rosenberg ARR W 4:30-7:15 PM, C-LST JS 126*

REL 127 Cathedrals and the Arts, 1150-1300 Maranci I+MW 3:00-4:15 PM, C-LST FAH 127

REL 142 Jewish Experience on Film Rosenberg ARR T 4:30-7:30 PM & R 4:30-5:45 PM, C-LST JS 142*

REL 143 Sociology of Religion Aymer J+ TR 3:00-4:15 PM, C-LST SOC 143

Please see sponsoring departments' websites for course descriptions.

Religion Faculty

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ASIAN RELIGIONS

THE RELIGION MAJOR

Ten courses distributed as follows:

- Foundation Requirement

After taking two courses in the department, students must take REL 99 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion.

- Diversity Requirement (four courses)

Students should have exposure to at least four different religions traditions through classes in which four different traditions are taught, or through four courses, each focused on a different religious tradition, or through some combination thereof.

- Depth Requirement (three courses)

Students must choose a religious tradition, the traditions of a geographical region, or a religious textual tradition and take at least three classes in that specialty. One of the three courses must be in the doctrinal (theological and philosophical) aspects of religion and two must be 100-level courses.

- Two Additional Courses

The two courses can be listed or cross-listed within the department.

THE RELIGION MINOR

Five courses distributed as follows:

- Foundation Requirement

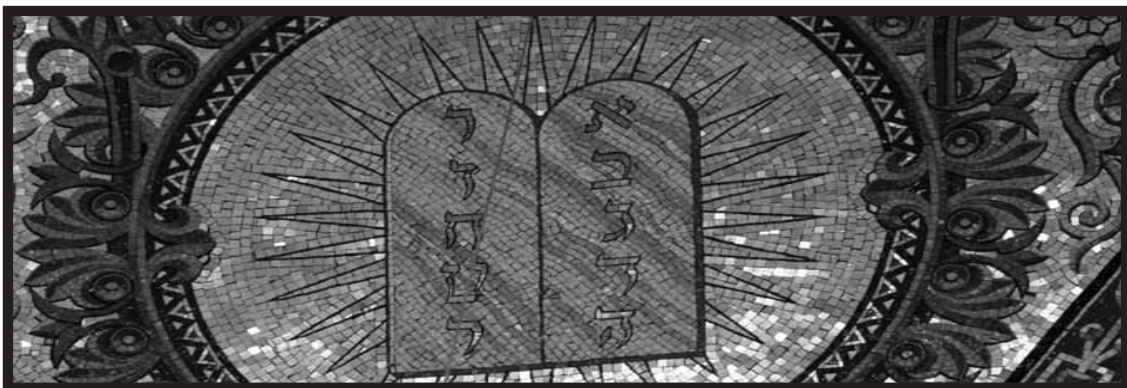
After taking two courses in the department, students must take REL 99 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion.

- Diversity Requirement (three courses)

Students should have exposure to at least three different religions traditions through classes in which four different traditions are taught, or through four courses, each focused on a different religious tradition, or through some combination thereof.

- Upper-division Requirement

One other course at the 100-level that does not count for any of the above requirements.





REL 10-02 Sufism

Ken Garden G+ MW 1:30-2:45 PM

Sufism is often defined as “Islamic Mysticism.” It is further described as a practice through which a Sufi seeks the “annihilation of the self” and “union with the divine” through “spiritual exercises.” But what do any of these terms actually mean? This course aims to demystify Islamic mysticism. We will begin with a brief overview of the Islamic religious tradition from a Sufi perspective to see what is particularly Islamic about Islamic mysticism. We will then turn to Sufi psychology and practice, asking how Sufism sees human nature and how it seeks to perfect it and thereby bring it closer to God, the ultimate source of its existence. We will then look at concrete, historical expressions of Sufi thought and practice in the world, asking what happens when the quest for the eternal and ineffable is instantiated in flesh-and-blood human beings with worldly relations and concerns. We will then grapple with the question of how to describe the indescribable experience of the divine. This course meets the Humanities distribution requirement.



REL 10-16 Religion and Film

Elizabeth Lemons F+ TR 12:00-1:15 PM

Some contemporary films depict religion, whether favorably or not, and many involve religious themes. In this class we will explore the mythological, theological and ideological approaches to film analysis proposed by scholars of religion; we will also consider film as an art form and draw on film theory (e.g., Marxist, psychoanalytic, feminist, cultural studies). By analyzing of a variety of films, we will assess how religion and the religious are portrayed. In particular, we will seek to identify persistent themes and tensions in the depiction of religion/religious issues. This course counts toward the Film Studies and Mass Communications Minor.



Religion 22 Introduction to the New Testament

Peggy Hutaff

F+ TR 12:00-1:15 PM

We will study the origins of Christianity and the evolution of its earliest beliefs and practices, as reflected in the writings ultimately selected for its canon. Topics will include: Jesus and his interpreters, Paul and his letters, beginnings of the church, interaction between Christians and their Jewish and Greco-Roman environments, and women's participation in the shaping of early Christian history. Occasional readings from non-canonical literature will add perspective.

REL 40 History of Religion in America

TBA J+ TR 3:00-4:15, C-LST HIST 31

This course is about religion in America from the arrival of European immigrants in the 16th and 17th centuries to the present. We will study major figures, events and issues that have helped to shape American religious history, while paying particular attention to the ways that social and cultural contexts have influenced religious experience in different times and places. Throughout, we will ask how religion has impacted the history of the United States, and, conversely, how religious traditions have been transformed by American culture. Key topics and themes include encounter and colonization; revivalism and reform; church and state; gender and women's history; spirituality and devotional life; slavery and race relations; immigration and ethnicity; innovation and secularization; and pluralism and diversity. This course meets the Humanities distribution requirement.



REL 44 Introduction to Hinduism

Joseph Walser 10 M 6:30-9:00 PM

In this course, we will be examining various aspects of Hinduism in their historical development by focusing on aspects of continuity and change. The course will begin with some of the more important texts of the Hindu tradition and will look at issues relating to ideas of God, Gods, the soul, ritual and caste duties and their political implications.



REL 57 Religions, Money, and Sex

David O'Leary E+ MW 10:30-11:45 AM

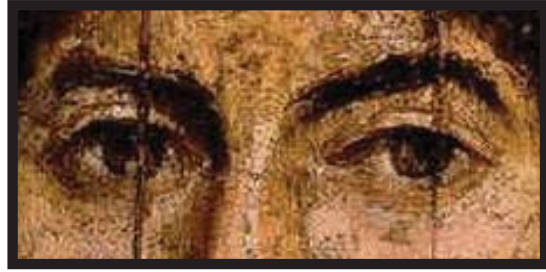
This course will survey the five major world Religions/Spiritual Paths; Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Special concentration will be given to what the faiths say about money, the economy and economic justice. Also, further exploration will be given to what the spiritual paths teach about the human body, issues of sexuality and sexual ethics. There will be weekly readings & reflection papers, mid-term, research paper and class presentation.



Religion 104 Feminist Theologies

Peggy Hutaff H+TR 1:30-2:45 PM

“Feminism,” says theologian Judith Plaskow, “is a process of coming to affirm ourselves as women/persons - and seeing that affirmation mirrored in religious and social institutions.”



This course will survey the impact which the growth of feminist/womanist consciousness during the last three decades has had on the religious commitments of women, as well as on traditional religious institutions, beliefs, and practices. We will explore new approaches and methods which recent feminist scholarship has brought to the study of ancient religious texts and other historical sources, and will assess how the inclusion of women’s perspectives is challenging, enlarging, and enriching the craft of theology itself. Also to be considered: the rise of new women’s rituals and alternative spiritualities, and the relationship of religious feminism to other struggles for human dignity and liberation.

REL 106 Contemporary Religious Thought

Elizabeth Lemons 1 T 9:00-11:30 AM

What does the “separation of church and state” mean for the role of religion in U.S. public life? How should religion and politics be related? How do religious thinkers address contemporary debates about the war on terrorism, racism, sexism, abortion and homosexuality? Is religion a problem or a resource? This semester “Contemporary Religious Thought” will explore representative positions concerning the relationship of religion and American public life and focusing on the topics of violence and sexuality. Exploring religion as both a problem and a resource in U.S. public life, the course aims to foster students’ capacity to discuss and analyze selected religious/political/social issues. This course meets the Humanities distribution requirement.





REL 144 Tantric Buddhism

Joseph Walser 1 T 9:00-11:30 AM

Advanced seminar examining the origins and practices of Tantra as it is practiced in the Himalayan region of Tibet and Nepal and its connections to earlier Indian ritual and alchemical theories. Focus will be on philosophical and socio-political context of sexual yogas and mandala meditations.

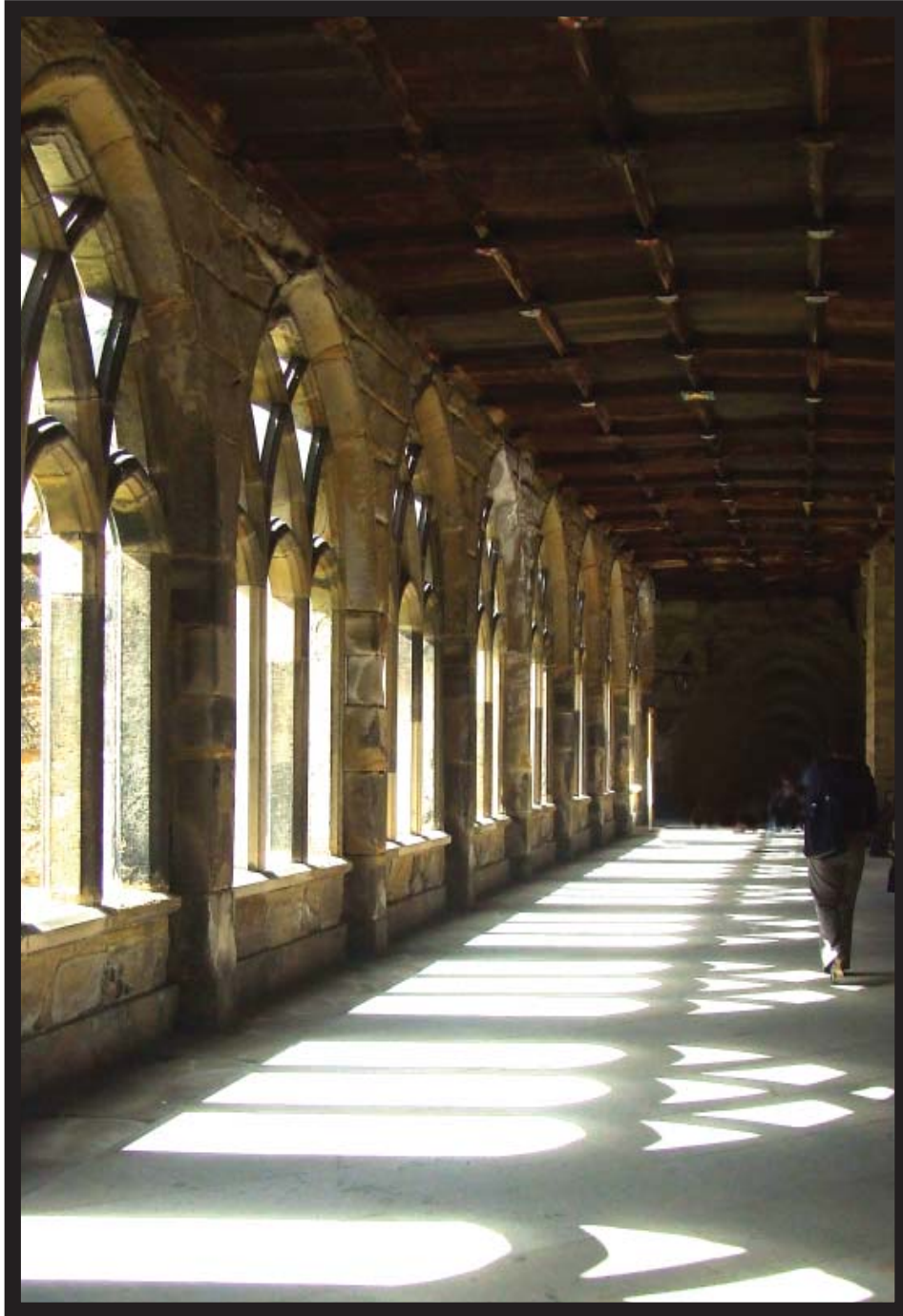
REL 152 Islam & Modernity

Ken Garden I+ MW 3:00-4:15 PM

The radical transformation in human societies, economies, institutions, and world-views over the past 200 years known as modernity has posed challenges to all religious traditions. This course will look at Muslim responses to these challenges. We will begin by exploring what we mean by “Modernity,” then looking at what we mean by Islam, focusing on its scripture, sacred history, and pre-modern Intellectual traditions. Then we will look at responses to modernity by Muslim intellectuals beginning in the 19th century. We will also look at broader trends in Islam over the past two centuries including Wahabism, Salafism, Muslim Modernism, Progressive Muslims, and Sufism.







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