Department of Religion

Fall 2009 Courses

Tufts University
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Religion Department Courses

REL 1 Introduction to Religion  O’Leary
11 T 6:30-9:00

REL 6 Philosophy of Religion  Lemons
F+ TH 12:00-1:15

REL 10-15 Islam: Scripture, Authority, and Canon  Garden
D+ TH 10:30-11:45

REL 21 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible  Hutaaff
F+ TH 12:00-1:15

REL 35 Introduction to Christianity  Curtis
I+ MW 3:00-4:15

REL 42 Religion and US Politics  Curtis
E+ MW 10:30-11:45

REL 48 Introduction to Islam  Garden
J+ TH 3:00-4:15

REL 56 Catholicism  O’Leary
E+ MW 10:30-11:45

REL 99 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion  Lemons
1 T 9:00-11:30

REL 199 Senior Honors Thesis

Courses Co-listed with Religion

REL 4 Art, Ritual, and Culture Hoffman E MW 10:30 - 11:20, C-LST FAH 1-01
REL 5 Intro to the Arts of Asia Kaminishi D+ TH 10:30-11:45, C-LST FAH 5-01
REL 10-1 Introduction to the Arts of Armenia Maranci J+ TH 3:00-4:15
REL 10-10 Introduction to Judaism Summit H+ TR 1:30-2:45, C-LIsT JS 92
REL 15 Japanese Architecture Kaminishi J+ TH 3:00-4:15, C-LIST FAH 15
REL 25 Medieval Architecture Overbey G+ MW 1:30-2:45, C-LIST FAH 25
REL 28 Medieval Art: Mediterranean Hoffman K+ MW 4:30-5:45, C-LIST FAH 28
REL 68 Martin Luther: Man and His Era Brown J+ TH 3:00-4:15, C-LST GER 68
REL 73 Aspects of the Shephardic Tradition Asher L+ TR 4:30-5:45, C-LIST JS 73
REL 115 Japanese Architecture Kaminishi J+ TH 3:00-4:15, C-LIST FAH 115
REL 125 Medieval Architecture Overbey J+ TH 3:00-4:15, C-LIST FAH 125
REL 128 Medieval Art: Mediterranean  Hoffman G+ MW1:30-2:45, C-LIST FAH 128
REL 132 The Book of Genesis  Rosenberg K+, M+ W 4:30-7:15, C-LIST JS 132
REL 134 Myth, Ritual, and Symbol  Stanton F+ TR 12:00-1:15, C-LST ANTH 132
REL 157 Theories Spiritual Development  Scarlett 7 W 1:30-4:00, C-LISH CD 157
REL 192-18 Law & Religion in Middle Eastern History  Manz 7 W 1:30-4:00

Please see sponsoring departments’ websites for course descriptions.

Course Descriptions

REL 1 Introduction to Religion
Fr. David O’Leary  11 T 6:30-9:00
An introduction to the field of religion to give the student an understanding of the basic elements of the subject: the major characteristics, the forms and expressions, and the contributions to man’s personal and social orientation.

REL 6 Philosophy of Religion
Elizabeth Lemons  F+ TH 12-1:15
This course offers an introduction to the philosophical analysis of major religious issues. We will explore such topics as the nature of religion, religious experience, and ultimate reality, the problem of evil or suffering, and the relationship between faith and reason and between religion
and science. By exploring different philosophical approaches to the study of religion—including existential, phenomenological, linguistic and comparative, students will develop constructive responses to the variety of ways in which philosophers analyze religious beliefs and practices in diverse world religions. Co-listed as PHIL 16.

**REL 10-15 Islam: Scripture, Authority, and Canon**

Ken Garden  
D+ TH 10:30-11:45

Islamic scripture does not consist exclusively of the Qur’an. In addition to the canonical Qur’an, there are also anecdotes about the Prophet Muhammad known as Hadith, which exist in a spectrum of canonicity. Quranic references to the lives of other prophets, Biblical and otherwise, find additional fleshing out in the “Tales of the Prophets” (qisas al-anbiya’), of which there is no canonical version and whose authority is contested. The Hadith find their context in the biography of the prophet, known as the Sira, of which there is, likewise, no canonical version. This class will explore these four scriptural genres and their interrelationship. This will be done through extensive readings in translation, scholarship on the origins of the Qur’an and Hadith, and comparison of Biblical narratives to Quranic narratives and narratives from the Tales of the Prophets.
REL 21 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
Peggy Hutaff  F+ TH 12-1:15
We will study the Hebrew Bible to become familiar with the works of its individual authors, and to gain an understanding of the historical circumstances in which they wrote, as well as to survey the historical development of ancient Israel’s religious beliefs and institutions. Topics will include the life of Moses, the production of Israel’s codes of law, the construction of theological language and imagery, the rise of the monarchy and the temple, accounts of creation, psalms and wisdom literature, and the lives and legacies of the Israelite prophets.

REL 35 Introduction to Christianity
Heather Curtis  I+ MW 3-4:15
This course surveys the development of Christianity from the first century to the present. We will study the key figures, events and issues that helped shape the Christian tradition in a variety of cultural, social and historical contexts. In addition to exploring the major ideas, institutions and practices associated with Christianity, we will pay close attention to the diverse forms and expressions that Christian faith and life have taken in different time periods and among a range of communities. Co-listed as HIST 52.
REL 42 Religion and US Politics
Heather Curtis  E+ MW 10:30-11:45
“In God we Trust,” “One Nation Under God,” “God Bless America,”: phrases like these alert us to the on-going influence of religion on American public life. This course explores the role of religion in shaping American civic engagement and political activity from the seventeenth century to the present, aiming to put contemporary events in broader historical context. Key topics and themes include: the relationship between church and state in the colonial period; faith and the founders; religion and social activism in the antebellum era (especially anti-slavery and women’s rights); religion, race and Civil Rights; religious “outsiders” and American politics (particularly Mormons, Catholics, and Muslims); spirituality and social protest in the 20th century (pacifism; feminism; and economic reform); the rise of the religious right; religion and American politics post-9/11; and the 2008 presidential election. Co-listed as HIST 126.

REL 48 Introduction to Islam
Ken Garden  J+ TH 3:00-4:15
This course will begin with an overview of Muslim scripture and sacred history as seen by both Sunni and Shiite. It will present Muslim ritual, the religious disciplines of law, theology, and mysticism, and also popu-
lar understandings and practices of Islam. The class will end with an exploration of various manifestations of Islam in the Modern world.

**REL 56 Catholicism**
Fr. David O’Leary  E+ MW 10:30-11:45
An introduction to the development of the Catholic Church, exploring the key historical epochs and events that shaped and created the contemporary church. The dynamics of crisis and change as these are manifested in history and as they function today. Doctrines, traditions, and institutional forms will be examined in their specific historical and cultural contexts.

**REL 99 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion**
Elizabeth Lemons  1 T 9-11:30
The seminar aims to enhance students’ capacity to analyze and discuss theoretical and methodological issues in the academic study of religion. We will explore selected important modern texts that raise enduring questions about such issues as the nature of religious phenomena, their purpose in societies, and their comparability across cultures. In addition, we will consider recent work by scholars of religion that critiques earlier perspectives and/or raises new issues. Discussion of case studies will facilitate analysis of the benefits and liabilities of various methodological and theoretical perspectives. Through analysis of significant approaches and issues, students will develop an understanding of their own presuppositions and perspectives in relation to the field of religious studies. Prerequisites: two Religion courses, or permission. Required course for Religion majors and minors.
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.
Notes
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English Bible

Heather Curtis, Assistant Professor
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Christianity, religion in America

Kenneth Garden, Assistant Professor
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Islam, Islamic Revival, Sufism

Peggy Hutaff, Senior Lecturer
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Bible and Feminist theologies

Elizabeth Lemons
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Religion and culture, philosophy and religion

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Japanese history and religions

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Catholicism, medical ethics, world religions

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Asian religions