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<td>Philosophy of Religion</td>
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<td>CR 0010-13</td>
<td>Gender and Islam</td>
<td>Kennedy-Day</td>
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<td>CR 0040-01</td>
<td>History of Religion in America</td>
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<td>CR 0042-01</td>
<td>Introduction to History of South Asian Religions</td>
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<td>CR 0045-01</td>
<td>Introduction to Buddhism</td>
<td>Walser</td>
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<td>Catholicism</td>
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<td>An Introduction to Yiddish Culture</td>
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<td>Music and Prayer in the Jewish Tradition</td>
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<td>Roots of the Jewish Imagination</td>
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<td>CR 0199-04</td>
<td>Senior Honors Thesis Modern Hindu Religions: Raja Yoga</td>
<td>Walser</td>
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**COMPARATIVE RELIGION FACULTY**

**Joseph Walser**, Associate Professor  
Department Chair  
Joseph.Walser@tufts.edu  
Asian religions  
126 Curtis Street, Room 305

**Heather Curtis**, Assistant Professor  
Heather.Curtis@tufts.edu  
Christianity, religion in America  
126 Curtis Street, Room 302

**Peggy Hutaff**, Senior Lecturer  
Peggy.Hutaff@tufts.edu  
Bible and feminist theologies  
126 Curtis Street, Room 301

**Kiki Kennedy-Day**, Lecturer  
Kiki.Kennedy-Day@tufts.edu  
Islamic Studies  
126 Curtis Street, Room 303

**Elizabeth Lemons**, Senior Lecturer  
Elizabeth.Lemons@tufts.edu  
Religion and culture, philosophy of religion  
126 Curtis Street, Room 301

**Reverend David O’Leary**, Senior Lecturer  
David.OLeary@tufts.edu  
Catholicism, world religions, and ethics  
Goddard Chapel
CR 0006-01 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Introduction to the philosophical analysis of major religious concepts, such as God, human nature, freedom of will, immortality, and the problem of evil, through a study of representative types of religious philosophies.

LEMONS

F+ (TR 12:00-1:15)

CR 0010-13 GENDER AND ISLAM

This course will focus on the specifics of gender in Islam. Formerly, the emphasis has been on women, specifically women at the Qur’an: What is their status, as reflected in the Qur’an? This semester we will open the course up a bit more and investigate other gender issues, particularly constructions of masculinity (because an investigation of the female alone is incomplete) and homosexuality in Islam, including the thought of Joseph Massad. We hope to move beyond stereotypes and investigate the origins and ramifications of woman in the modern world.

KENNEDY-DAY

E+ (MW 10:30-11:45)
CR 0022-01 INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT

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

HUTAFF  F+ (TR 12:00-1:15)

CR 0040-01 HISTORY OF RELIGION IN AMERICA

Cross-listed as History 0099-04

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.

CURTIS  G+ (MW 1:30-2:45)
CR 0045-01  INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

The history, doctrines, and practices of Buddhism in India, China, and Korea. Philosophical theories of the Buddha, meditation, and nirvana. Aspects of Buddhist social and institutional history.

WALSER  11 (T 6:30-9:00)

CR 0056-01  CATHOLICISM: PEOPLES, CULTURES, TRADITIONS, AND BELIEFS

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.

O'LEARY  E+ (MW 10:30-11:45)

CR 0104-01  FEMINIST THEOLOGIES

Survey of feminism's impact on the religious commitments of women and on traditional religious institutions, beliefs, and practices. Feminist scholarship in the study of scriptural texts and other historical sources, the rise of women's rituals and alternative spiritualities, religious feminism in relation to other struggles for human dignity and liberation and how the inclusion of women's perspectives is influencing the craft of theology itself.

HUTAFF  H+ (TR 1:30-2:45)
CR 0144-01 TANTRA

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.

WALSER 2 (W 9:00-11:30)

CR 0192-06 RELIGION AND CONTEMPORARY U.S. FILM

This course focuses on the depiction of religions and religious issues in recent films popular in the United States. By exploring religious studies approaches to film, film as an art form, and various film theories (e.g., cultural studies, feminist, etc.), we will analyze how religion and religious issues are addressed in film. In particular, we will reflect on how films depict underlying ideals, persistent questions, and unresolved conflicts relating to religion in contemporary American culture.

LEMONS 1 (T 9:00-11:30)
CR 0192-15  WOMEN AND RELIGION IN AMERICA: 1600 TO PRESENT

This seminar examines the significance of women’s presence in American religious history from the 17th century to the present. We will explore the role of religion in shaping, upholding, resisting and transforming gender norms in a variety of social and cultural contexts. Drawing upon a range of primary sources, including poetry, court records, conversion narratives, autobiographies and novels, as well as on important secondary works in the field of women’s history, we will ask how participants in diverse religious traditions have understood women’s “nature,” defined their “roles” in society, and debated their “calling” to religious leadership. Students will undertake a semester-long project based on primary-source research in the religious history of American women.

CURTIS 2 (W 9:00-11:30)

CR 0192-16  ISLAMIC LITERATURE

This course is an exploration of the literary heritage of Islam through religious texts. (We will be reading translated texts.) We will read selections from the Qur’an, tafsir (commentary), hadith (tradition), al-Ghazali and Rumi. The selection from Rumi will be poetry, as an example of Sufi poetry (the mysticism of Islam). The student should be prepared to consider literary criticism: the question of irony in the Sura of Joseph and resistant translation, for example. Further texts will be included.

KENNEDY-DAY 10 (M 6:30-9:00)

CR 0199  SENIOR HONORS THESIS

FACULTY
CR 0042-01  INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIAN RELIGIONS

Cross-listed as History 0059-01

South Asia has a rich cultural legacy, which has spread around the world through its diasporic communities. Not only did it produce several world religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, but it has also been home to ancient communities of Muslims, Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians. Whether through its fabled spices or fine textiles, its legacy within the British empire as “a jewel in the imperial crown” or its influence today on internet technology, global fashion, film and literature, South Asia remains prominent and vital on the global map. In an interdisciplinary manner, students will be introduced to a broad history of the region by investigating the crossroads between history, literature and religion. With an emphasis on primary source readings, we will examine the history of the region from the Vedic Age up to the late twentieth century. We will investigate particular aesthetic, religious and political traditions as they illuminate significant trends or events in the history of the Subcontinent.

JHALA  F+ (TR 12:00-1:15)

CR 0049-01  LOVE FROM HUMAN TO DIVINE IN THE ARAB AND MUSLIM WORLD

Cross-listed as Arabic 0192

This course presents a variety of literary and mystical texts from different Arab and Muslim countries, and from different times as well. Love is understood here in its widest sense: human and divine. Woman is apprehended as a central metaphor. She appears as the embodiment of beauty, and the reflection of the sublime. Sufism as spiritual and literary tradition is situated in the context of its claim to universality through the power of love and the metaphysical doctrine of Unity.

EL-ZEIN  H+ (TR 1:30-2:45)

CR 0065-01  INTRODUCTION TO YIDDISH CULTURE

Cross-listed as Judaic Studies 0065

From the shtetl to suburbia, a survey of the development of Yiddishkeit in Eastern Europe from the Middle Ages to the present, with emphasis on language, literature, culture, transition to America, Jewish-American literature. Readings include Sholom Aleichem, I. B. Singer, Malamud, Bellow, Roth, and others. Meaning of modern revival of ethnicity, ethnic chauvinism, stress on universal cultural patterns and similarities of ethnic experience.

GITTLEMAN  H+ (TR 1:30-2:45)
CR 0078-01  JEWISH WOMEN

Images, experiences, and accomplishments of Jewish women in life, literature, and tradition from Biblical times to the present. Focus on individual women from various times and cultures; discussion of basic issues, present conditions, and prospects.

ASCHER

L+ (TR 4:30-5:45)

CR 0098-01  MUSIC AND PRAYER IN THE JEWISH TRADITION

The role and function of music in Jewish worship and cultural identity. Focus on the Kabbalat Shabbat. Topics to include participation vs. performance in worship, music and historical authenticity in prayer, music and religious experience, and the invention and presentation of tradition. Liturgical music and dual culturalism in the American Jewish community.

SUMMIT

H+ (TR 1:30-2:45)
CR 0124-01 EARLY MEDIEVAL ART

Pre-requisite: FAH 1 or permission
Cross-listed as Art History 0124
Irish, Carolingian, Ottonian, and Anglo-Saxon art, 600-1100 A.D. Emphasis on metalwork and manuscripts.
OVERBEY
D+ (TR 10:30-11:45)

CR 0126-01 ROOTS OF THE JEWISH IMAGINATION

Cross-listed as Judaic Studies 126
An introduction to Jewish myths, legends, and mystical doctrines that were influential in the formation of Jewish imaginative literature. Topics include the life and death journey of the soul; Israel's exile among the nations; the Messiah and the end of days; the Throne of Glory and the divine name; angels, demons, and beasts of fancy. All texts read in English.
ROSENBERG
K+, M+ (W 4:30-7:15)

CR 0129-01 GENDER AND MEDIEVAL ART AND LITERATURE

Cross-listed as Art History 129 and German 129
Representations of medieval sex/gender arrangements in art and literature ca. 1000-1300 C.E.
Constructions of gender through religious and scientific teaching and images; its impact on roles authors/makers and patrons played by men and especially women such as Hrotsvit, Hildegard, Jeanne d'Evreux. Secular and religious works, such as the Bayeux Embroidery and the Nibelungenlied, the Hortus Deliciarum, and the writings of the "mystics," in light of medieval and present-day gender theories. (Also offered as lower-level: CR 0029)
CAVINESS, NELSON
10+ (M 6:00-9:00), Extra meeting TBA

CR 0142-01 JEWISH EXPERIENCE ON FILM

Cross-listed as Judaic Studies 142
Selected classic and contemporary films dealing with aspects of Jewish experience in America, Europe, and Israel, combined with reading on the cultural and philosophical problems illuminated by each film. One weekly session will be devoted to screenings, the other to discussion of the films and readings. In English.
ROSENBERG
Exception (T 4:30-7:30), L+ (R 4:30-5:45)
COMPARATIVE RELIGION MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Ten courses distributed as follows:

**Foundation Requirement** (one course)
After taking two courses in the department, students must take Theory and Method in the Study of Religion (CR 0099), offered in the fall.

**Diversity Requirement** (four courses)
Students should have exposure to at least four different religions traditions. This may be accomplished 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. Students are to take four classes within the department to achieve the diversity requirement. The adviser and the chair of the Department of Comparative Religion must approve the courses taken to fulfill this requirement.

**Depth Requirement** (three courses)
Students must choose a subfield in religious studies. This may be one religious tradition, the traditions of a geographical region, or a religious textual tradition. Students must demonstrate that they have taken at least three classes in that specialty. One of the three courses must be in the doctrinal (theological and philosophical) aspects of religion. In their chosen areas of specialization, students must take two above-100 level courses. These may include an independent study, or a senior thesis. The departmental adviser and the chair must approve the student's area of specialization. No course may count for both the diversity and depth requirements.

**Additional Courses** (two courses)
Two courses listed or cross-listed in comparative religion, regardless of subject area, are required.
Department of Comparative Religion
126 Curtis Street
Medford, MA 02155

Lynn Wiles, Department Administrator
(617) 627-3563
lynn.wiles@tufts.edu

Paige Johnson, Staff Assistant
(617) 627-6528
paige.johnson@tufts.edu