

Department of Religion Undergraduate Course Offerings

Spring 2014

As of: 1/23/14

840:112	<p>DEATH AND AFTERLIFE Various religious concepts of death, resurrection, reincarnation, and other forms of afterlife; their relevance to this-worldly life. (Open to freshmen and sophomores.) 01, TF1, DC (Hybrid) 02, MTh2, DC 03, MW5, CAC</p>
840:201	<p>INTRO BIBLE I; TORAH & PROSE (3) This is the first course of a two-semester sequence. The main goal is to introduce students to the literature of the Bible, focusing on the Torah and the historical material in Joshua through Samuel. Emphasis is placed on literary, historical, and theological matters. Special use is made of archaeological discoveries. The Bible is studied against the backdrop of ancient Near Eastern literature, history, religion, mythology, and law. (Credit not given for both this course and 01:563:220.) 01, TF1, DC</p>
840:202	<p>NEW TESTAMENT (3) Interpretation of basic Christian scriptures in translation; influence of Jesus and Paul on the early Christian community. (Same as 563:223.) 01, TTh5, DC 02, W3F4, DC 03, MTh1, DC</p>
840:203	<p>ISLAMIC SCRIPTURES: QURAN AND HADITH (3) Introduction to sacred texts of Islam; emphasis on words and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad, collectively known as the Hadith or Sunnah. The course will explore how revelation bridges the gap between the divine and human by examining Islamic scriptures in their historical, theological, legal, and mystical contexts. (Same as 01:685:233.) 01, MW5, CAC</p>
840:206	<p>INTRO BIBLE II: PROPHETS AND POETRY (3) Second course of two-semester sequence. Introduce students to the literature of the Bible, focusing on the Prophets, historical backdrop of the prophetic message as revealed mainly through the book of Kings, and other relevant poetic material (Psalms, Job, etc.). Emphasis placed on literary, historical, theological matters. Special use made of archaeological discoveries. Bible studied against the backdrop of ancient Near Eastern culture. (Credit not given for both this course and 01:563:206). 01, MTh2, CAC</p>
840:211	<p>RELIGIONS OF THE EASTERN WORLD (3) Religious beliefs, practices, and sacred writings of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. 01, MTh3, CAC 02, TTh4, CAC</p>
840:212	<p>RELIGIONS OF THE WESTERN WORLD (3) Religious beliefs, practices, and sacred writings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 01, MW5, CAC 02, TTh5, CAC 04, MTh3, DC 05, MW4, CAC</p>
840:222	<p>THE QUESTION OF GOD IN MODERN CULTURE (3) Questions faced by religion in the contemporary era: faith and reason, religious experience, role of religion in a scientific society, nature of God. 01, TTh5, DC Jones</p>

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840:307	<p>JESUS (3) ONLINE COURSE The career and teaching of Jesus viewed in historical context; development of the Gospel tradition and its effect on later concepts of Christ. 90, Chat Sessions, Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m..... Gallagher-Elkins 91 (No Chat Sessions) Gallagher Elkins</p>
840:313	<p>LATIN CHRISTIANITY (3) Western church tradition from the third through the thirteenth century; theological controversies and the development of sacraments; papacy, and religious orders. 01, MTh2, DC..... Kolbaba</p>
840:319	<p>RELIGION IN AMERICAN HISTORY (3) Survey of American religious history, exploring the relationship between religion and trends in such areas as politics, science, technology, gender relations, economy, and immigration. (Cross listed with 16:840:527:01.) 01, M2/3, DC..... Williams</p>
840:325	<p>PROPHET MUHAMMAD (3) PROPHET Muhammad's prophetic career in historical context; mystical and devotional tradition centering on him in Sunni and Shii Islam; sociopolitical reform movements based on prophetic model. (same as 01:685:325). 01, MW6, CAC Pavlin</p>
840:326	<p>ISLAM (3) Muhammad and the development of Muslim beliefs and practices; major movements and their effects on historical and current events. (Same as 01:685:326.) 02, MW4, CAC Mojaddedi</p>
840:333	<p>CARIBBEAN RELIGIONS (3) Examination of the history and role of the diverse religious components of the Caribbean basin from Indigenous practices to Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism and the emergence and development of African belief systems and practices such as Vodou, Santeria and Rastafarianism from the 18th century to the present. (same as 01:836:333) 01, TTh6, CAC Surowitz</p>
840:351	<p>WOMEN IN WESTERN RELIGIONS (3) Images and roles of women in Judaism, Christianity and Islam; attitudes toward women expressed in these religious institutions; religious experiences of women mystics and religious practices favored by women. (same as 01:988:349) 01, TF2, DC Bishop</p>
840:357	<p>KRISHNA (3) Examination of the various faces and theologies of Krishna, one of the most important Hindu deities. Depiction in the Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, and Bhagavata Purana with reference to rasa theory, a medieval taxonomy of various moods in which the devotee approaches God as a lover, child, friend or master. 01, T2/3, DC..... Bryant</p>
840:367	<p>TAOIST PHILOSOPHY (3) This course focuses on two foundational texts of classical Taoism, the <i>Dao De Jing (Tao Te Ching)</i> and the <i>Zhuangzi (Chuang Tzu)</i>. We will examine the two texts closely, and study their various interpretations, both traditional and contemporary. At the end, we will briefly look into the Taoist influence on the West as well as the Western transformation of Taoism. 01, T3/4, DC..... Jiang</p>
840:368	<p>HINDU PHILOSOPHY (3) Upanishads, Patanjali, Bhagavad-Gita; theories of matter, energy, states of consciousness; meditation. Yogas of knowledge, action, devotion. Karma. Ethics. Comparison of Hindu and Western cosmology. (same as 01:730:368) 01, TTh5, LC..... Bryant</p>

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840:370	<p>BUDDHISM, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (3) This course offers an exploration of the histories of Buddhist social and political culture in Southeast Asia from premodernity to the present. We read primary literary and historical texts, inscriptions, and art historical and archaeological evidence, as well as current interdisciplinary scholarship in Buddhist and Southeast Asian Studies, to consider how Buddhism has played, and continues to play, a vital role in the construction of norms and habits of the sociopolitical domain. Examples of particular thematic foci include diverse regional Buddhist practices and understandings of law, gender, class, political authority, the family, monastic institutions, colonialism, and economic life. (Cross listed with 16:840:570:01). 01, W5/6, DC Lammerts</p>
840:358	<p>BHAGAVAD GITA (3) An analysis of this important Hindu scripture. Influential commentaries will be studied, and attention directed to Indian and western appropriations of the text. 01, TTh6, DC Sherbow</p>
840:393	<p>TOPICS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION: TRADITION AND INNOV. IN AMERICAN JEWISH RITUAL (3) (Cross listed w/01:563:348:01 & 01:050:300:04) 01, TTh4, CAC..... Surowitz</p>
840:401	<p>SEMINAR IN OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE (3) The relationship between biblical traditions and sanctifying violence, through critical analysis of how violent acts may be justified by appeal to notions of the divine. Instances of ritual violence and sanctified combat from ancient Mesopotamian literature, iconography, and the Bible, as well as the use of biblical "scripture" to frame violence within early Jewish and Christian traditions. Current comparative and theoretical discussions of religious violence. (prerequisite: 840:302, 303, 304 or permission of instructor) ..Cross listed with 16:840:549:01 01, Th3/4, DC..... Scoggins-Ballentine</p>
840:424	<p>RELIGION & SCIENCE: NEUROSCIENCE AND CONTEMPLATIVE EXPERIENCE (3) The last decade has seen an explosion of neuro-scientific studies of meditative and contemplative practices and experiences. This course will introduce students to this research with a focus on its implications for understanding contemplative practices in particular and the relationship between religion and science in general. We will focus primarily on neuroscience in relation to practices in Christianity and Buddhism. We will begin by discussing some of the issues raised for religious studies by the encounter between contemplative practices and scientific research. Then we will look at some of these practices in Christianity and Buddhism, especially those that have been the subject of neuro-scientific investigation. We will then spend several weeks reading relevant and recent research articles on these topics. We will conclude with a discussion of the religious implications of this research. The course will be taught by Dr. James W. Jones who is a Professor in the Religion Department and a practicing clinical psychologist with training in psychophysiology and cognitive neuroscience as well as philosophy of religion and philosophy of science. This course is open to graduate students and to juniors and seniors. 01, T1/2, DC..... Jones</p>

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840:456	<p>SEMINAR ON RUMI (3) On the basis of primary sources in English translation, this seminar will focus on Rumi's didactic writings (poetry and prose), in order to identify his distinctive teachings and their place in the context of the Sufi tradition and Persian mystical literature. (<i>prerequisite: 01:840:326 or 01:840:356; only open to majors in their junior or senior year</i>). Cross listed with 16:840:556:01 01, M 6/7, DC Mojaddedi</p>
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