

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION – UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS – SPRING 2017
As of : Wednesday, February 08, 2017
(subject to change)

| Course Number | Title | Description | Day(s) | Campus | Cross-Listing | Comments |
|----------------------|--|---|---------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01:840:101:01 | Gods, Myths, and Religions in a Secular Age (Hybrid) (3) | This course introduces students to the academic study of religion by focusing on four major areas of inquiry: myth; religious authority; purity and sacred space; and ritual practices. We will draw on diverse source material, including Indian, Muslim, Greek, Chinese, and Christian traditions but maintain a focus on the appropriation and re-interpretation of these traditions in the modern, secular west. Sub-topics will include popular notions of “cults,” magic, and illegitimate religion; race, ethnicity, and gender; religious fundamentalism and violence; and debates about religion and science in the 20 th and 21 st centuries. Another goal will be to familiarize students with major theories of religion, including the work of E. B. Tylor, Sigmund Freud, Karl Marx, Émile Durkheim, Clifford Geertz, and Bruce Lincoln as well as contemporary Cognitive Science research. [21C] [AH]. Prof. Wasserman | W4 | DC | | Hybrid. Some meetings online. |
| 01:840:101:02 | Gods, Myths, and Religions in a Secular Age (3) | Same as above. Prof. Fruchtman | TTh4 | DC | | |
| 01:840:111:01 | The Religious Quest: The Hero’s Quest (3) | This course will focus on a major theme found in the narratives of nearly every major (and minor) world religious tradition: the hero’s quest. This common theme appears in the scriptures, stories, and legends of religions as different as the animism of the Trobriand islanders to the strict monotheism of Islam. While the details differ, representations of the hero’s quest follow a remarkably similar pattern across time and distance. In analyzing this common theme, we will explore the genre of “mythology,” as it relates to other categories of religious narratives. While examining the Hero’s Quest step by step as it appears in religious narratives, we will also discover how this theme is present in the contemporary world in popular fantasy literature and film. Some 20 th century scholars of religion have argued that “modern man” lives in a “desacralized world,” and we will use the course material to question this assumption, and consider what is meant by the term “modern,” and indeed, what is meant by the term “religion,” in today’s world. Prof. Russell Jones | TTh4 | LC | | |

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| 01:840:111:02 | The Religious Quest: The Hero's Quest (3) | Same as above. Prof. Russell Jones | TTh5 | LC | | |
| 01:840:112:01 | Death and Afterlife (Hybrid) (3) | Various religious concepts of death, resurrection, reincarnation, and other forms of afterlife; their relevance to this-worldly life. [AHo] Prof. Bishop | T1 | DC | | Hybrid. Some meetings online. |
| 01:840:112:02 | Death and Afterlife (3) | Various religious concepts of death, resurrection, reincarnation, and other forms of afterlife; their relevance to this-worldly life. [AHo] Prof. Myladil | MW4 | LC | | |
| 01:840:112:03 | Death and Afterlife (3) | Various religious concepts of death, resurrection, reincarnation, and other forms of afterlife; their relevance to this-worldly life. [AHo] Prof. Myladil | MW5 | BC | | |
| 01:840:115:90 | The Birth and Death of God from Mesopotamia to Postmodernity (Online Course) (3) | Explores how long-held conceptions of a cosmos full of many divine beings relate to more recent notions of monotheism and atheism. Prof. Ballentine | N/A | N/A | | Online course |
| 01:840:202:01 | New Testament | Interpretation of basic Christian scriptures in translation; influence of Jesus and Paul on the early Christian community (same as 563:223). SAS Core Code: HST. Prof. Kocar | MTh3 | DC | 01:563:223:01 | |
| 01:840:203:01 | Islamic Scriptures (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). Prof. Pavlin | MW6 | CAC | 01:685:233:01 | |
| 01:840:206:01 | Intro. Bible II | 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). [HST] [AHp] Prof. Rendsburg | MW6 | CAC | 01:563:206:01 | |
| 01:840:211:01 | Religion in Asia (3) | Introduction to the history of religions in South, Southeast, and East Asia. [HST] [AHo] [AHp] Prof. Lammerts | TTh4 | CAC | | |
| 01:840:211:02 | Religion in Asia (3) | Introduction to the history of religions in South, Southeast, and East Asia. [HST] [AHo] [AHp] Prof. Sherbow | TTh5 | CAC | | |
| 01:840:212:01 | Religions of the Western World (3) | Religious beliefs, practices and sacred writings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. [HST] [SCL] [AHo] Prof. Fruchtman | MW4 | DC | | |
| 01:840:212:02 | Religions of the Western World (3) | Religious beliefs, practices and sacred writings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. [HST] [SCL] [AHo] Prof. Pavlin | MW5 | CAC | | |

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| 01:840:224:01 | Hinduism (3) | Historical development of religious beliefs and practices in the culture of India; syncretism, mysticism, devotion, and personal disciplines. Prof. Sherbow | TTh6 | CAC | | |
| 01:840:250:01 | Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah (3) | Survey of Jewish mystical traditions from the early rabbinic traditions to the central text of kabbalistic literature, the Zohar, in 13th century Spain.(Credit not given for both this course and 01:563:250.) | MTh2 | CAC | 01:563:250:01 | |
| 01:840:301:01 | Ancient Near Eastern Religions (3) | Religious patterns in Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Canaan, Israel, and Egypt from texts in translation; their impact on cultural development of the Near East (same as 01:563:324.) Prof. Ballentine | MTh3 | CAC | 01:563:324:01 | |
| 01:840:305:01 | Apocalypse Now? Religious Movements and the End of Time (3) | The course compares ancient, Medieval, and contemporary apocalyptic movements. Case studies will include the Jewish apocalyptic movement associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls and Pauline Christianity, Medieval apocalypticism surrounding Joachim of Fiore and the Crusades, and more contemporary movements such as Jonestown and the Left Behind series of Christian thrillers. SAS Core Code: HST, WCR, WCD. Prof. Dixon | MW4 | CAC | | |
| 01:840:305:02 | Apocalypse Now? Religious Movements and the End of Time (3) | Same as above. Prof. Dixon | MW6 | DC | | |
| 01:840:307:90 | Jesus (Online) (3) | The career and teaching of Jesus viewed in historical context; development of the Gospel tradition and its effect on later concepts of Christ. Prof. Ketchum | N/A | N/A | | Online Course. Chat Sessions Thurs., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. |
| 01:840:307:91 | Jesus (Online) (3) | The career and teaching of Jesus viewed in historical context; development of the Gospel tradition and its effect on later concepts of Christ. Prof. Ketchum | N/A | N/A | | Online Course. Chat Sessions Thurs., 4-6 p.m. |
| 01:840:314:02 | Origins of Western Morality (Hybrid) (3) | The ways that early Christian groups used Jewish and Greek moral traditions and reshaped them according to their developing interests. These interests came to shape the moral language, laws, politics, and social codes of Christian Europe and America. The course will pay particular attention to the roles of Hellenistic philosophy, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, the letters of Paul, the teaching attributed to Jesus in writings from the end of the first century C.E., and the development of ascetic practices and ideology. Issues of importance to the course include the variety of ancient options available for thinking about ethical psychology, the concept of porneia (harlotry) and the attack on traditional Mediterranean religion, the | MTh2 | DC | | |

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| | | family/household and opposition to it, wealth/poverty, slavery, sexual ethics and gender norms. [HST] [WCR] [WCD] Prof. Kocar | | | | |
| 01:840:351:01 | Women in Western Religions (Hybrid) (3) | Examines the construction of gender in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Historical sources will shed light on the roles for men and women in each tradition and contemporary readings will bring discussion of these issues into the present.. Prof. Bishop | T2 | DC | | Hybrid course. Some meetings online. |
| 01:840:358:01 | 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. Prof. Bryant | TTh4 | CAC | 16:840:558:01 | |
| 01:840:368:01 | 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). [HST] [AHo], [AHp].Prof. Bryant | TTh6 | LC | 01:730:368:01 | |
| 01:840:369:01 | Buddhist Philosophy (3) | Interdependence, impermanence, relativity; suffering; path to liberation; meditation; karma as cosmic justice; death and rebirth. Compassion as central ethical value. Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan Buddhism (same as 01:730:369). [HST] [AHo] Prof. Jiang | TTh5 | CAC | 01:730:369:01 | |
| 01:840:393:01 | Topics: Islam in South Asia (3) | <i>Islam in South Asia</i> is part of the Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum a Big 10 collaboration in which our institution is participating. [For more information about DISC, see digitalislam.umich.edu .] This course is taught from the University of Michigan by renowned instructor, Farina Mir , an expert in the field of the social, cultural, and religious histories of late-colonial India. In her course, Dr. Mir explores the history of Muslim communities and institutions in South Asia and introduces students to the broad historical currents of the expansion of Islam in the Indian subcontinent. The course meets twice a week in real-time using video conferencing technology and telepresence. Throughout the semester, Rutgers students will study with a local adjunct professor with whom they will meet weekly to discuss course readings, directly paralleling the student experience and course structure at Michigan. Students will also take part in two on-site visits from Dr. Mir to the Rutgers campus. Each of these aspects of the DISC program help to ensure a high quality student experience at the distance campus. Students are able to enroll directly at Rutgers University for course credit. | TTh3 | CAC | | Distance Learning offered through University of Michigan. Course dates, 1/5-4/18) |

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| 01:840:394:01 | Topics: Gender and Sexuality in Jewish Life and Culture (3) | Students will enrich their understanding of both gender theories and sexual theories. They will learn about perceptions of the body and sexuality in Western societies in comparison to those in Eastern societies, gaining a deeper understanding of the key differences. Finally, they will gain the basic tools necessary to explore different Jewish texts and literature from the Bible, Talmud, Midrash, and Mystical (Hasidic) texts to Modern Israeli Poetry, literature and Cinema. | MW5 | CAC | 01:563:394:01 | |
| 01:840:394:02 | Topics: Introduction to Sikhism (3) | Description: TBD | MW7 | CAC | | |
| 01:840:410:01 | Evolution of Christian Orthodoxy (3) | History, theology, and social context of the formation of Christian orthodoxy from the First Council of Nicea to the Second Council of Nicea. Prof. Kolbaba | W3/4 | DC | | |
| 01:840:426:01 | Seminar in the Study of Religion: Origins of Moral Thinking in China (3) | What makes us human? What is a good life? Why is ritual so central to such visions? What is proper relationship with others, from family, friends, strangers and spirits? Is our relationship with others contingent to or constitutive of us as humans? What should one do when one's parent or child commits a crime? Is political office a higher calling that is worth sacrificing one's life or, rather, is it just an expression of our egoism and hence a waste of life? What is the source of political legitimacy? Is the state the solution to the ethical, social and political malaise of human society or is it the very culprit of human suffering? These are some of the questions early Chinese religious thinkers were grappling with. The classical period from the time of Confucius in 6 th century to the unification under the first emperor in 221 BCE has always been considered the single most creative and vibrant chapter in Chinese intellectual history. In this course we will closely examine how the above questions are addressed by those thinkers, traditionally categorized as Confucian, Mohist, Daoist (Taoist) and Legalist (cross listed with 16:840:522:01). Prof. Jiang | T2/3 | DC | 16:840:593:01 | |