

Fall 2017

Religion Courses

School of Arts and Sciences Signature Course!!!! 840:105

Religions Now: 21st-Century Controversies

How religious concerns shape people's views and affect policy regarding such diverse issues as same-sex marriage, climate change, global economic inequality, and health care.

Professors Williams and Kolbaba

Fulfills 21C and AH Core Requirements

840:112: Death and Afterlife

This course focuses on concepts of death, resurrection, reincarnation, and other forms of the afterlife in religious traditions around the world. Ever popular! Available in HYBRID format. Professors Myladi and Bishop.

Fulfills AH Core Requirement.

840: 201: Introduction to the Bible 1: Torah and Prose.

An introduction to the Torah (first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures) and the historical material in the Biblical books Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel. The Bible is studied in the context of ancient Near Eastern literature, history, religion, mythology, and law.

Professor Rendsburg. **Fulfills HST and AH Core Requirements.**

840:111: The Hero's Quest: Religion, Mythology, and Harry Potter HYBRID COURSE (meets once a week)

This course focuses on a major theme found in the narratives of nearly every religious tradition: the Hero's Quest. It will also discuss how the theme of the Hero's Quest is present in modern fantasy literature and film (yes, we're talking about Harry Potter, among others). Definitions and discussions of myth, modernity, and the nature of religion will be front and center. Professor Russell-Jones

NEW COURSE!! 840:101: GODS, MYTHS, AND RELIGIONS IN A SECULAR AGE

An introduction to the academic study of religion, this course focuses on four areas of study: myth; religious authority; purity and sacred space; and ritual practices. Topics studied may include popular notions of religious "cults"; religious fundamentalism and violence; and debates about religion and science. A great introduction for the Religion major or minor, AND a great course for the student who simply wants to take an introductory course on religion. Three sections: Professor Surowitz-Israel and Professor Fruchtman

Fulfills 21C and AH Core Requirements

840:202 New Testament

Introduction to the basic scriptures of Christianity and to the historical context in which they were written. A chance to gain some fundamental knowledge about the history of Christianity in particular and about western culture in general. **Fulfills HST Core Requirement.**

840:204 Hindu Scriptures

Interpretation of basic Hindu scriptures in their historical, literary, and theological contexts and analysis of how they contributed to the various traditions and spiritual paths of Hindus. Professor Sherbow.

840:211: Introduction to Religion in Asia

It's just like the title sounds—an introduction to the religions of South, Southeast, and East Asia. Two sections for your convenience! Professor Jiang and Professor Sherbow. **Fulfills HST, AHo, and AHp Core Requirements. *A required course for majors and minors!***

ONLINE!!! 840: 307: JESUS

The career and teaching of Jesus viewed in historical context. How perceptions of that career and teaching have been interpreted throughout history and down to the present. Professor Ketchum

840:212: Religions of the Western World

An introduction to the three traditions that we traditionally call "western" (even though they all come from what we call the Middle East—it's so confusing): Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Three sections: Professor Pavlin and Professor Ballentine. **Fulfills HST, SCL, and AHo Core Requirements. *A required course for majors and minors!***

840:226: Islam HYBRID COURSE—meets once a week on campus

Muhammad and the development of Muslim beliefs and practices; major movements and their effects on historical and current events. Professor Mojaddedi. **Fulfills HST and AHo Core Requirements.**

840:311: Christians, the "Other" and Violence

History and analysis of Christians as both victims and perpetrators of violence from early Christianity to the present. Topics will include martyrdom, crusades, the European Wars of Religion in early modern Europe, 20th century religious conflicts, and contemporary political discourse. **Fulfills WCR Core Requirement**

THIS ONE FILLS UP FAST!

840:319: Religion in American History

Kind of what it sounds like—a survey of religion and various religions in American history.

Discussion of religion and politics, gender, science, technology, economy, immigration, and a multiethnic society.

Professor Surowitz-Israel

Fulfills HST, WCR, WCD Core Requirements

840:314: Origins of Western Morality

From the Jewish and Greek moral traditions that influenced early Jews and Christians to the development of peculiarly Christian ideas about morality, this class explores such hot-button issues as wealth and poverty, slavery, sexual ethics, and gender norms. **FULFILLS HST, WCR, and WCD Core Requirements**

840:316: Evangelicalism in the United States.

Key developments within American evangelicalism during the 20th century, especially evangelicals' varied responses to major political, economic, social, and cultural trends in the United States.

Fulfills Core HST, WCR, WCD

840:366: The Yoga of Devotion: Bhakti

An overview of some of the main forms that Hindu devotion, Bhakti, has taken over the centuries, with emphasis on the main streams of Bhakti focused on Shiva, Vishnu, and the various forms of the Goddess.

Professor Bryant

840:369: Buddhist Philosophy

Buddhist Philosophy has EVERYTHING: interdependence, impermanence, relativity; suffering; path to liberation; meditation; karma as cosmic justice; death and rebirth; compassion as a central ethical value. We explore these ideas in Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan Buddhism. Professor Jiang

840:372: Islamic Mystical Literature HYBRID COURSE

The literary output of mystics in the Islamic world. We will focus on mystical teachings, as well as poetry, biography, and the modern novel, all in English translation. Professor Mojaddedi.

Fulfills AHo, WCR, WCD Core Requirements

All Religion (840) Majors must take at least one 400-level seminar.



840:405: The Western Encounter with Hinduism

An overview of representations of Indian in the western religious landscape from the earliest interactions between India and the West, through subsequent cultural and intellectual exchanges, the colonization of the subcontinent, and the post-colonial aftermath. Special attention will be paid to the Orientalist construction of Hinduism in the modern period.

840:426: Apocalypse: Religious Movements and the End of Time

What could be more interesting than the end of the world? Professor Wasserman