

**RELIGION DEPARTMENT
2009-2010 SPRING
COURSE OFFERINGS**

Graduate Program

REL 504

Studies in Greco-Roman Religions - Early History of Christianity: Valentinus and Valentinian tradition */aud

Professor(s): Elaine H. Pagels

Description/Objective: Seminar investigates what we know of the influential Egyptian Christian teacher Valentinus (a.k.a. "arch heretic"), c. 150 CE; the work and teaching of his most prominent followers, Heracleon and Ptolemy, as well as the sources often classified as Valentinian, such as, Gospel of Truth, the Tripartite Tractate, Interpretation of the Gnosis, and how these engage social, political, and religious issues within the early Christian movement. Professors Christopher Marksches from Germany and Einar Thomassen from the University of Bergen, Norway, have both agreed to participate while visiting Princeton next spring.

REL 505

Studies in the Religions of the Americas - Visual and Material Cultures of American Religion */aud

Professor(s): Judith L. Weisenfeld

Description/Objective: Course explores how visual and material cultures shape religious experiences and practices in the United States. We consider ways of visualizing the invisible, the production of sacred space, the religious body as a site for visual expression, material culture and consumer practices, religion in the formal arts, and the politics of representing religion.

REL 507/AAS 507

Studies in Religion and Philosophy - Religion & the Fragility of American Democracy: Emerson & Baldwin */aud

Enrollment by application or interview. Departmental permission required.

Professor(s): Eddie S. Glaude, Jeffrey L. Stout

Description/Objective: Close readings of selected writings of two of America's most influential public intellectuals: Ralph Waldo Emerson and James Baldwin. Attention is given to their views on religion, ethics, and politics - with particular attention to race.

REL 509 - CANCELLED

Studies in the History of Islam - Race & Slavery in Islamic & Western Societies */aud

Professor(s): Shaun E. Marmon

Description/Objective: An interdisciplinary graduate seminar to explore the complex historiography of a vast, divergent and often controversial modern scholarship on historical constructions of race and ethnicity and on the relationship between those constructions and institutions of slavery in the "West" and in the Islamic world. Graduate students from a range of specializations and departments who want to go beyond the often heavily Eurocentric/Amerocentric focus of race/slave studies are invited to join the seminar. Final research paper required.

REL 511

Special Topics in the Study of Religion - Studies in Indian Religions: Classics and Controversies */aud

Professor(s): Jonathan C. Gold

Description/Objective: Examines the emerging body of "classics" in South Asian religions (Rig Veda, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata, Manavadharmashastra, Ramayana, Bodhicaryavatara, in English translations) against the backdrop of both (1) the history and development of Indian Religions, and (2) the controversial modern history of the interpretation of India. Topics to be covered will include: the idea of an Indian "classic"; readings of these texts for "traditional" vs. "Neo-Hindus", as well as for modern scholarship; colonialism and Indology; relating texts to temples and rituals, lineages and regional identities, and philosophical systems.

REL 519**Religion and Critical Thought Workshop** */aud**Professor(s):** Eric S. Gregory**Description/Objective:** A weekly seminar focused on current student and faculty research in religion and critical thought, designed primarily for graduate students working on dissertations and general examination essays on the philosophy of religion, religious ethics, and the role of religion in politics.**REL 522****Religion and Culture Workshop** */aud**Professor(s):** Eric S. Gregory**Description/Objective:** A weekly, year-long workshop devoted to the critical discussion of research in progress in the ethnographic, historical, and normative study of religion and culture. Designed for dissertation writers receiving fellowships from the Center for the Study of Religion and post-doctoral fellows.**REL 524****American Religious History Workshop** */aud**Professor(s):** Judith L. Weisenfeld**Description/Objective:** A weekly, year-long workshop focused on the current research of visiting presenters, current students, and faculty in American religious history. The workshop is designed primarily for Ph.D. students in the field, but is open as well to undergraduate concentrators with a strong background in the study of American religion and culture. Note: REL 523 (fall) and REL 524 (spring) constitute this year-long workshop. In order to receive credit and/or a grade, students must take the course both semesters.**REL 590****Pedagogy in Religious Studies and the Humanities****Professor(s):** Kathi Kern**Description/Objective:** This graduate seminar will explore the issues concerned with teaching humanities in the twenty-first century academy. Students will be exposed to a range of pedagogical philosophies and will have the opportunity to articulate their own vision of teaching. Particular attention will be given to strategies for student-centered, inquiry-based instruction in the humanities. Students will have an opportunity to develop teaching portfolios, syllabi, and to create assignments that meaningfully incorporate technology and new media into the college classroom.**For more detailed information on each course, please visit:****<http://registrar1.princeton.edu/course/course.cfm>**