

**RELIGION DEPARTMENT  
2011-2012 SPRING  
COURSE OFFERINGS**

**Graduate Program**

**REL 505 \*/AUD**

**Studies in the Religions of the Americas - Writing Religion in America**

**Kathryn A. Gin**

**1:30 pm - 4:20 pm M**

This graduate-level course examines different styles of writing religion in America (historical narrative, observer-participant monograph, etc.), as well as different strategies for writing the various parts of a book-length work (introductions, conclusions, tables of content (organization)). The first half of the course focuses on close readings of texts in American religion. The second half of the course functions as a workshop in which students will have opportunities to write in the styles examined and to critique each other's work.

**REL 508 \*/AUD**

**Studies in Religion and Morality - Political Theology**

**Eric S. Gregory**

**1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Th**

Recent developments in political theory, theology, and cultural criticism have led to revived interest in political theology. This seminar examines these developments, assessing them in relation to older traditions of political theology and more conventional approaches to "religion and politics" as defined by classical liberalism. The class also will consider these projects, and their critics, in the context of contemporary global politics.

**REL 513 /JDS 513 /NES 537 \*/AUD**

**Studies in the Hebrew Bible: Texts and Puzzles \*/aud**

**Total Course Enrollment: 15**

**Naphtali S. Meshel**

**1:30 pm-4:20 Th**

The seminar will examine the priestly literature of the Hebrew Bible through a careful reading of three groups of texts: The Priestly mythology in Genesis; the ritual systems of Leviticus; and the prophecies of the priest-prophet Ezekiel. We will discuss the broader implications of these texts for the study of myth, ritual, and prophecy. Proficiency in Biblical Hebrew is not required; however, students with a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew will be encouraged to work with the texts in the original.

**REL 519 \*/AUD**

**Religion and Critical Thought Workshop**

**Jeffrey L. Stout**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm Th**

A weekly, year-long workshop 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 \*/AUD**

**Religion and Culture Workshop**

**John G. Gager**

**12:30 pm - 2:00 pm W**

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 \*/AUD**

**American Religious History Workshop**

**Kathryn A. Gin**

**3:00 pm - 4:20 pm Th**

A weekly, year-long workshop focused on the current research of visiting presenters, current students, and faculty in American religious history. 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 526 \*/AUD**

**Religions of Late Antiquity Workshop**

**Elaine H. Pagels**

**3:00 pm - 4:20 pm W**

A weekly, year-long workshop providing students in the Religions of Late Antiquity with the opportunity to present their current research for discussion.

**REL 531 \*/AUD**

**Readings in Chinese Religions - Chinese Buddhist Cosmology**

**Stephen F. Teiser**

**1:30 pm - 4:20 pm W**

Introduction to basic cosmological ideas of East Asian Buddhism through close reading of early foundational texts in Chinese. Focus on genre, style, grammar, and vocabulary. Research tools, methods, some secondary sources also introduced. Reading knowledge of classical Chinese required. Students from all departments welcome.

**REL 534 \*/AUD**

**Studies in Japanese Religions**

**Jacqueline I. Stone**

**1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T**

An intensive introduction to Japanese Religions past and present and an examination of key issues in recent scholarship. Designed for students planning to take general exams, teach, or simply acquire a background in this field. Topics may include interactions of Buddhism with local religious culture; the emergence of Shinto; lay and monastic Buddhism; new religious movements; millenarianism; death ritual; and religion-state relations. Readings are primarily in English, supplemented by Japanese for those with sufficient language skills. To some extent, topics may be chosen to accommodate participants' research interests.

**REL 582 / AAS 582 \*/AUD**

**Study of Race, Gender & Slavery in Western & Non-Western Societies**

**Shaun E. Marmon**

**1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Th**

This seminar is an interdisciplinary inquiry that will examine: 1. The theories, practices and historiographies of slavery in non-Western societies, including pre-modern societies defined as "Western" and 2. The historiography of the constructions of race/ethnicity in both Western and non-Western contexts. The symposium "Slavery, Race and Gender in Islamic Societies: A Comparative Perspective," to be held at Princeton March 17-18, will be a component of the seminar.

**REL 586 / NES 586 \*/AUD**

**Religious Authority in Modern Islam**

**Muhammad Q. Zaman**

**1:30 pm - 4:20 pm W**

How far reaching is the "fragmentation" of religious authority in modern Islam? How have traditional religious scholars sought to rearticulate their authority in conditions of radical change? On what basis do "new religious intellectuals" make their claims to authority? How has the state shaped structures of religious authority? What is peculiar to modern Islam so far as conceptions of and contestations over religious authority are concerned? These are among the questions this seminar seeks to examine.

**For more detailed information on each course, please visit:**  
**<http://registrar1.princeton.edu/course/course.cfm>**