

**RELIGION DEPARTMENT  
2010-2011 FALL  
COURSE OFFERINGS**

**Undergraduate Program**

**REL SEM**

**Required Colloquium for Junior Majors**

**Professor(s): Lance Jenott**

**Day/Time:** First organizational meeting will be Friday, September 17, 2010. Time to be announced.

**Description:** First semester Junior Majors participate in a required workshop on research and writing that culminates in a ten-page research paper. The colloquium is a non-credit fifth course. The grade for the colloquium is factored into the final grade for the junior independent work. **Students do not need to add this course on SCORE.**

**JDS 202 / REL 202**

**Great Books of the Jewish Tradition**

**Professor(s): Elisha R. Russ-Fishbane**

MW 11:00-12:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Does NOT satisfy sub-field requirement; does NOT count as departmental.

**Majors may petition to count this as a cognate course (in addition to the 8 required courses for the major).**

**Description:** This course introduces students to key themes and trends of the classical, medieval, and modern Jewish tradition through a close reading of some of its most influential literature. Our readings will include portions of the Bible, classical rabbinic literature, medieval Jewish poetry, philosophy, and mysticism, and modern Jewish writers from Moses Mendelssohn to Sholem Aleichem and from Abraham Isaac Kook to Abraham Joshua Heschel. We will pay special attention to the multiple approaches to tradition and change over the centuries and to the struggle over the meaning of Judaism in its engagement with an ever-changing world.

**REL 225**

**The Buddhist World of Thought and Practice**

**Professor(s): Jacqueline I. Stone**

MW 1:30-2:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Religions of Asia

**Description:** This course surveys the development of Buddhism from its beginnings in India through some of its later forms in East Asia, Tibet, and the West. Attention will be given to continuity and diversity within Buddhism, its modes of self-definition as a religious tradition, the interplay of its practical and trans-worldly concerns, and its transformations in specific historical and cultural settings.

**REL 230/ JDS 230**

**Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel**

**Professor(s): Naphtali S. Meshel**

MW 10:00-10:50

**Department Area Requirement:** Ancient Mediterranean

**Description:** A critical introduction to the Hebrew Bible in its historical, ideological and intellectual setting within the ancient Near East will be offered. Central problems in Biblical studies will be addressed, e.g., the historical value of Biblical narrative, the documentary hypothesis, and the process of canonization. A selection of texts from the Hebrew Bible will be read in class (in translation) from a broader, comparative point of view, including the narratives of the Deluge and of Samson and Delilah, the pentateuchal dietary laws, and the poetry of Song of Songs.

**NES 240 / REL 240**

**Muslims and the Qur'an**

**Professor(s): Muhammad Q. Zaman**

MW 10:00-10:50

**Department Area Requirement:** Islam

**Description:** A broad-ranging introduction to pre-modern, modern, and contemporary Islam in light of how Muslims have approached their foundational religious text, the Qur'an. Topics include: Muhammad and the emergence of Islam; theology, law and ethics; war and peace; mysticism; women and gender; and modern debates on Islamic reform. We shall examine the varied contexts in which Muslims have interpreted their sacred text, their agreements and disagreements on what it means and, more broadly, their often competing understandings of Islam and of what it is to be a Muslim.

**REL 261/CHV 261****Christian Ethics and Modern Society****Professor(s): Eric S. Gregory**

TTh 11:00-11:50

**Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought**

**Description:** An introduction to Christian ideals of conduct, character, and community, and to modern disputes over their interpretation and application. Are Christian virtues and principles fundamentally at odds with the ethos of liberal democracy oriented toward rights, equality, and freedom? What do Christian beliefs and moral concepts imply about issues related to feminism, racism, and pluralism? What is the relationship between religious convictions, morality, and law? Special emphasis on selected political and economic problems, sexuality and marriage, bioethics, capital punishment, the environment, war, and the role of religion in public life.

**REL 262****Religion and Human Rights****Professor(s): Alison L. Boden**

TTh 3:00-4:20

**Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought**

**Description:** This course will compare conceptions of the human being, the source and content of human rights, and the very nature of rights themselves between various religious traditions and the particular notion of rights that is embodied in international law. We shall then examine specific rights questions in light of religious teaching--rights challenges both inter-religious and intra-religious in nature--including free speech and proselytism, sexual orientation, and the persecution of religious minorities. The course concludes with an in-depth study of the theology, ethics, and practice of rights within Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism.

**REL 291****The Two Swords: Church and State in Christianity and Islam****Professor(s): Phillip N. Haberkern**

MW 11:00-12:20

**Department Area Requirement: Departmental Only**

**Description:** This course will examine the interaction of organized religions and secular authorities in the Middle Ages and early modern period, incorporating both European states and Muslim polities. At the heart of the course are some simple questions with very complicated answers: how do secular authorities enlist, coopt, or suppress religious bodies in their efforts to shape society? Is conflict or cooperation "typical"? And, what sorts of generalizations can we draw based on a comparison of nominally Christian and Muslim states?

**REL 301 / HLS 301****Eastern Orthodox Christianity****Professor(s): Albert J. Raboteau**

T 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement: Departmental Only**

**Description:** Although recent interest in iconography and in the Jesus Prayer has introduced Eastern Orthodoxy to the West, ignorance of the complex history of this major tradition of Christianity is widespread. This seminar offers a detailed overview of the history, doctrine, liturgical practice, and spirituality of Eastern Orthodoxy through reading and discussion of primary and secondary texts.

**REL 304****Jewish and Christian Festivals: Temptation, Competition, and Rejection****Professor(s): Israel Yuval**

Th 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

**Description:** The relationship between Judaism and Christianity, their concepts of time and symbols, all are inscribed in and prescribed through their liturgy. The lion's share of these liturgies have been shaped in the long period from the origins of Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism to the Middle Ages. We are going to survey various modes of Jewish-Christian interaction in this continuous liturgical discourse, in particular the cycle of liturgical time/year: Purim, Passover-Easter; Shavuot-Pentecost; The Ninth of Av; New Year; Yom Kippur- Encainia; Sukkot-Hanukkah; Hanukkah-Christmas-Sol Invictus; Sabbath-Sunday.

**POL 309 / REL 309****Politics and Religion****Professor(s): Jan-Werner Müller**

MW 1:30-2:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Does NOT satisfy sub-field requirement; does NOT count as departmental.**Majors may petition to count this as a cognate course (in addition to the 8 required courses for the major).****Description:** Close study of texts that illuminate the relationship between religiosity and politics - especially the tensions between them and possibilities for mutual support. Particular attention is paid to the following questions: to what extent political morality needs to be grounded in religious sentiment, especially whether democracies need a 'civil religion' to sustain themselves; whether some modern political movements are best understood as 'secular religions'; and how secular and religious citizens should interact in contemporary democracies.**AAS 321 / REL 321****Black Power and Its Theology of Liberation****Professor(s): Eddie S. Glaude**

MW 10:00-10:50

**Department Area Requirement:** Religion in America**Description:** This course examines the various pieties of the Black Power Era. We chart the explicit and implicit utopian visions of the politics of the period that, at once, criticized established black religious institutions and articulated alternative ways of imagining salvation. We also explore the attempt by black theologians to translate the prophetic black church tradition into the idiom of black power. Our aim is to keep in view the significance of the Black Power era for understanding the changing role and place of black religion in black public life.**REL 325 / EAS 337****Chinese Religion and Modernity****Professor(s): Jennifer Eichman**

T 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Religions of Asia**Description:** Analytical treatment of the conceptual problems posed by the concepts of "religion," "modernity," and their confluence in recent Chinese history. Some historical background provided in the early weeks. Issues include definitions of religion, the problem of popular religion, anthropological approaches to Chinese culture, state control of religion, ritual practice, ethnicity and resistance, state violence, gender, and globalization.**REL 328 / WOM 328****Women and Gender in Islamic Societies****Professor(s): Shaun E. Marmon**

W 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Islam**Description:** This seminar focuses on issues of gender and sexuality in Islamic societies, past and present. Readings are drawn from the fields of history, religious studies, anthropology and sociology. Readings also include a wide range of texts in translation, including novels and poetry. Films are an integral part of the course. Topics include: women's lives; women's writings; female piety; marriage and divorce; sexuality and the body; and women and Islamic fundamentalism.**NES 334 / REL 334****Modern Islamic Political Thought****Professor(s): Muhammad Q. Zaman**

M 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Islam**Description:** An examination of major facets of Islamic political thought from the late nineteenth century to the present in a broadly comparative framework and against the backdrop of medieval Islamic thought. Topics include: the "fragmentation" of religious authority and its consequences for Muslim politics; conceptions of the shari'a and of the Islamic state; and Islamist discourses on gender, violence, and relations with non-Muslims.**NES 339 / REL 339****Introduction to Islamic Theology****Professor(s): Hossein Modarressi**

M 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Does NOT satisfy sub-field requirement; does NOT count as departmental.**Majors may petition to count this as a cognate course (in addition to the 8 required courses for the major).****Description:** This course is a general survey of the main principles of Islamic doctrine. It focuses on the Muslim theological discourse on the concepts of God and His attributes, man and nature, the world to come, revelation and prophethood, diversity of religions, and the possibility and actuality of miracles.

**REL 340/JDS 340****Ancient Judaism and the Dead Sea Scrolls****Professor(s):** Martha Himmelfarb

MW 11:00-12:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Ancient Mediterranean

**Description:** This course studies the history of Judaism in ancient Palestine from the emergence of the Torah as an authoritative document under Persian rule in the middle of the fifth century BCE through the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, with an emphasis on the critical reading of primary sources. Much of the second half of the course is devoted to the Dead Sea Scrolls and their implications for our understanding of ancient Judaism.

**REL 357****Religion in Colonial America and the New Nation****Professor(s):** Kathryn Gin

TTh 1:30-2:50

**Department Area Requirement:** Religion in America

**Description:** Social and intellectual history of American religion from colonial encounters, through the eighteenth-century revivals, past the Enlightenment and Revolution, and into the early republic. Special emphasis on power relations, cultural negotiations, and theological transformations as different religious traditions, and cultural and ethnic groups, came into contact. Focus on primary source readings.

**SPA 357 / REL 387****Caribbean Messianisms, Utopias and Revolutions****Professor(s):** Rachel L. Price

TTh 3:00-4:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Does NOT satisfy sub-field requirement; does NOT count as departmental.**Majors may petition to count this as a cognate course (in addition to the 8 required courses for the major).**

**Description:** A course on messianic, utopian, and revolutionary thought in and of the Caribbean. How is the idea of the Caribbean rooted in Christian thought? How have the Haitian and Cuban revolutions been shaped by religious iconography--from "voodoo" to the dove on Castro's shoulder? What is the relation between a Dominican cult and US interventions in the region? In approaching these questions, we will pair a range of literary and historical readings with philosophical considerations of messianism's and utopia's relation to politics and time.

**AAS 365 / REL 362****Migration and the Literary Imagination****Professor(s):** Wallace D. Best

W 7:30 pm – 10:20 pm

**Department Area Requirement:** Does NOT satisfy sub-field requirement; does NOT count as departmental.**Majors may petition to count this as a cognate course (in addition to the 8 required courses for the major).**

**Description:** This course will explore the various meanings of migration and mobility found in 20th century African American literature. Through careful historical and literary analysis, we will examine the significant impact migration has had on African American writers and the ways it has framed their literary representations of modern black life.

**REL 370****Re-Enchanting the World: Religion and the Literature of Fantasy****Professor(s):** Albert J. Raboteau

Th 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Departmental Only

**Description:** Starting with the premise (articulated by Max Weber and many others) that the "modern" world has become disenchanted, this seminar will deal with the role of folktales, myths, children's stories, science fiction and other literary forms in attempting to re-enchant the world by force of imagination. The course will focus upon the traditional myths and religious themes which frequently are recast in contemporary fantasy literature.

**PHI 393/JDS 393/REL 393****Spinoza: Philosophy, Religion, and Politics****Professor(s):** Oded Schechter

W 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement:** Critical Thought

**Description:** In this course we will develop a reading of Spinoza's philosophy by working through his Ethics. We will consider Spinoza's conceptions of ontology, focusing on the relation of ontology to human existence, politics and religion.

**EAS 415 / HIS 415**

**Intellectual History of China to the Fifth Century**

**Professor(s): Willard J. Peterson**

Th 1:30-4:20

**Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia**

**Description:** Critical consideration of a selection of monumental contributions to early Chinese thought, and the uses to which they were put by later Chinese thinkers. Readings will be from English translations such as: [Analects],[ Lao-tzu], [Chuang-tzu], [Mencius],[ I-ching] and secondary works. All assignments are available on reserve.

For more detailed information on each course, please visit:

<http://registrar1.princeton.edu/course/course.cfm>