

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

Undergraduate Program

AAS 318 / REL 318

Black Women and Spiritual Narrative

Wallace D. Best

W 7:30 pm-10:20 pm

Department Area Requirement: Religion in America

This course will analyze the narrative accounts of African American women since the 19th century. Drawing on the hypothesis that religious metaphor and symbolism have figured prominently in black women's writing (and writing about black women) across literary genres, we will explore the various ways black women have used their narratives not only to disclose the intimacies of their religious faith, but also to understand and to critique their social context. We will discuss the themes, institutions, and structures that have traditionally shaped black women's experiences, as well as the theologies black women have developed in response.

ENG 357 / AMS 354 / REL 394

Topics in American Literature - The Supernatural in American Literature

Sarah Rivett

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).

The 1692 Salem witch trials defied rational explanation. How does one reconcile invisible specters flitting through the night or inflicting harm on young girls with religious orthodoxy and scientific modernity? Beginning with the crisis exposed by Salem, this course charts how a supernatural domain of sleepwalking, ghosts, and transcendence persists throughout American literary history. We read novels about Salem alongside the more general appearance of supernatural phenomena in slave narratives, Native American prophecies, and ghost stories. Oscillating between spirit and matter, the supernatural interrogates what haunts America.

JDS 303 / NES 311 / REL 303

Elementary Biblical Hebrew II

Naphtali S. Meshel

MWF 9:00-9:50

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).

Students will achieve a basic ability to read the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in its original language. During the semester, students will continue studying grammar and developing vocabulary. Upon completing the grammar textbook, students will read large passages from the Bible from all genres.

JDS 320 / REL 395

The Bible in Modern Political Thought

Oded Schechter

W 1:30-4:20

Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought

In this course we will discuss the Bible's status in modern political thought. The aim of the seminar is to explore the following issues: To what extent is the Bible admitted in modern political thought? What is authority of the Bible? What are the new ways of reading the Bible? Is reading and interpreting the Bible a political act? Can we speak about modern European political thought as independent of the Bible? Is the Bible a book for secular politics? We will discuss religious opposition to the Bible as a political authority.

NES 340 / REL 338

Muslim South Asia

Muhammad Q. Zaman

M 1:30-4:20

Department Area Requirement: Islam

Religious, cultural, and political developments in South Asia, home to nearly a third of the world's Muslim population, have long exerted considerable influence on the greater Muslim world. This seminar is concerned with religio-political thought and movements in Muslim South Asia from the 18th century to the present. Topics include: Sufism; the impact of colonialism on Islamic thought and institutions; evolving Islamist trends from late colonial times to the present; and debates on Islamic law and the position of women in India and Pakistan.

SOC 340 / REL 390

God of Many Faces: Comparative Perspectives on Migration and Religion

Patricia Fernández-Kelly

TTh 10:00-10:50

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).

Immigrants often experience discrimination in areas of destination. Religion can strengthen their sense of worth, particularly when the circumstances surrounding departure from the country of origin are traumatic, as with exiles and refugees. We take a comparative approach and use examples from the United States, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The course broaches questions such as: how does religion transform (and how is it transformed by) the immigrant experience? When is religion used to combat stereotypes? Are there differences between the way men and women or dominant groups and racial minorities understand religion?

NES 364 / REL 390

Secularism in Muslim Central Asia and the Middle East

Iren N. Ozgur and Michael A. Reynolds

W 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).

The rise of revivalist and radical religious movements in Muslim societies understandably has spurred interest in the politics of Islam. Yet Muslims have also had extensive experience with secular politics. Central Asia and the Middle East in the 20th century saw secularization projects that fundamentally transformed Muslim societies and left legacies that will persist long into the 21st century. Drawing on the disciplines of history, religious studies, anthropology, and political science, this course explores how Central Asian and Middle Eastern Muslims embraced and rejected, assimilated and resisted, constructed and negotiated secularism.

REL 219

Business Ethics and Modern Religious Thought

David W. Miller

TTH 3:00-4:20

Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought

The course objective is to learn basic ethics theory and develop practical tools for business ethics, with particular attention throughout the course to the role of religion and spirituality in ethical formation, frameworks, and decision making. This will be applied to contemporary business ethics case studies, and will include several guest CEO visitors.

REL 220**Approaches to the Study of Religion****Eddie S. Glaude****MW 10:00-10:50****Department Area Requirement: Required Course, Departmental**

In this course we will read the representative "classics" in the study of religion. We will see that "religion" has been approached in a number of different ways, and that these different approaches are relatively recent because, in some significant respects, the notion of "religion" is no older than its study in the "West." This modern western concept then is the subject of this course. The course is not an introduction to "world religions" nor is it a methods course. Students are invited to think critically about religion as a subject of academic inquiry.

REL 226 / EAS 226**The Religions of China****Stephen F. Teiser****TTH 9:00-9:50****Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia**

A thematic introduction to the history of Chinese religion. Topics include cosmology, ancestors, gods, mythology, ethics, shamanism, divination, gender, and mortuary ritual. Readings drawn from a wide range of sources, including sacred scriptures, philosophical texts, popular literature, and modern ethnography.

REL 236 / NES 236**Introduction to Islam****Shaun E. Marmon****TTH 1:30-2:20****Department Area Requirement: Islam**

This introductory course provides a thematic overview of Islamic beliefs, rituals and practices. We will study both majority Muslim societies and Muslim minority communities in the past and present. The course will highlight commonalities among Muslims but will also focus on historical, geographical and cultural diversities. Course materials include primary sources in translation, academic articles and books, feature and documentary films, fiction in translation, internet sites and power point presentations. Students will be required to participate in at least one of two possible field trips in the New York/New Jersey area.

REL 243 / JDS 243**Purity and Sacrifice in Ancient Israel****Naphtali S. Meshel****MW 11:00-12:20****Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

The course will examine two interrelated topics in the study of ancient Israelite religion--purity and sacrifice--from a wide range of perspectives, including text-historical, archeological, anthropological, and cognitive. The course will try to answer such questions as: Is impurity evil? Are there universal patterns in ritual? And do rituals have meaning? Our primary sources will be the Hebrew Bible, the Qumran Scrolls, and early rabbinic literature. The value of comparative research in these fields will be demonstrated through the examination of texts on purity and sacrifice from the ancient Near East and from India.

REL 246 / JDS 246**Ancient Judaism from Alexander to the Rise of Islam****Martha Himmelfarb****M 12:30-1:20 W 1:30-3:20****Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

This course offers an introduction to the development of ancient Judaism during the eventful millennium plus from the establishment of the Torah as the constitution of the Jewish people in the fifth century BCE--an event that some have seen as marking the transition from biblical religion to Judaism--to the completion of the other great canonical Jewish document, the Babylonian Talmud, in perhaps the sixth century BCE. The weekly lecture and assigned readings will provide historical context, but the focus of the course will be on primary texts that reflect the major developments in ancient Judaism, to be treated during a two-hour precept.

REL 251**The New Testament and Christian Origins****Lance W. Jenott****TTH 10:00-10:50****Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

This course introduces students to the various documents now collected together in the New Testament, the second section of the Christian Bible. The course's approach is historical, asking questions about the people who wrote the texts, the social and political circumstances in which they wrote, and what they hoped to achieve by writing. The goal is to critically examine the texts as historical witnesses to the earliest followers of Jesus and the development of what eventually became Christianity. Special emphasis is placed upon the diversity of perspectives represented in the collection.

REL 258**Religion in American Society****Kathryn A. Gin****TTH 11:00-11:50****Department Area Requirement: Religion in America**

A broad survey of religion in American society from the colonial era to the present. Emphasis on religious encounter and conflict; the relationship between religious change and broader social and political currents; religious innovations and transformations; immigrant religions; secularization, resurgence, and pluralism. Mix of primary and secondary source readings.

REL 276 / LAS 276 / WOM 276**Saints and Sinners: Women and the Church in Colonial Spanish America****Jessica Delgado****MW 11:00-11:50****Department Area Requirement: Religion in America**

An introductory exploration of women's experience of and participation in the Catholic Church and colonial Christianity in Spanish America. Through primary sources, secondary readings, lectures, and discussion, we will look at women's roles in the processes of conquest and colonization; how conversion and religious change affected gender ideologies and gender relations within indigenous communities; women's daily encounters with the church and participation in devotional culture; and the ways women's complex relationships with the colonial church was shaped by race and social status.

REL 305 / JDS 305**Ancient Magic in Theory and Practice****Michael Meerson****T 1:30-4:20****Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

The course will examine a broad spectrum of artifacts crafted and written by practitioners-magicians in the Late Antique Mediterranean. Starting with Greek Magical Papyri and amulets, we shall discover the esoteric world of secret signs and language, and the magical use of plants and animals. We shall try to reconstruct and explain a number of magical rituals described in papyri and amulets, learning our abilities and limitations in understanding those for whom the magic was real.

REL 307**Martyrdom: Self, Suffering, and Community in early Christianity and Beyond****Adam H. Becker****Th 1:30-4:20****Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

This course examines the theory and practice of martyrdom in Western Religious traditions. We begin by closely studying the development of the martyrological paradigm in early Christianity and how martyrdom participated in the culture of the Greco-Roman and Jewish Mediterranean world. We will address issues as intimate as the body and as public as spectacles and the communal definition. In the end we will trace how martyrdom is deployed and functions in modern culture in various phenomena, such as the "Columbine martyrs," "martyrdom operations" (suicide bombers), political martyrdom, and modern notions of holy war.

REL 308**Evil in Christian Thought and Practice****Phillip N. Haberkern****M 1:30-4:20****Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought**

This course is an examination of how theologians, preachers, and communities came to terms with evil in the world. Beyond a consideration of the theological abstraction of evil, however, this class will examine how certain individuals and groups came to be identified as the embodiment of evil--either the demonic agents of Satan or Antichrist himself--and persecuted as such. This course will cover period of Christian history from roughly 300 to 1600, and will focus on three groups in particular who came to be recognized as the personification of Christian ideas of evil: medieval heretics, the Jews, and witches.

REL 310**Pentecostalism as a Global Religion****Wallace D. Best****TTH 1:30-2:50****Department Area Requirement: Departmental Only**

Pentecostalism is the fastest growing religious movement in the world, spreading especially in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, having a major impact on the religious, social, and economic practices in those regions. This course looks into the religious and cultural sources of the movement from its birth in Los Angeles in 1906, focusing on such distinctive features as healing, expressive bodily worship, "speaking in tongues," and its special appeal to people on the margins of society.

REL 315 / AAS 316 / JDS 314

Athens and Jerusalem: Philosophical, Theological, and Political Implications

Leora F. Batnitzky and Cornel R. West

W 1:30-4:20

Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought

This course explores the meanings and implications of claims that "Athens" and "Jerusalem" constitute the two poles of Western Civilization. Focusing on classical and pre-modern philosophical, literary, and religious texts, the first part of the course considers the history of the distinction between Athens and Jerusalem for understanding different conceptions of reason, revelation, justice, evil, and free will. The second part of the course turns to modern political appropriations of "Athens and Jerusalem" in arguments about the meanings of modernity, social justice, multiculturalism and higher education, and definitions of the "West."

REL 319

Religious Encounters in the Colonial Atlantic World

Albert J. Raboteau

T 1:30-4:20

Department Area Requirement: Religion in America

The encounter of Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans in the world of the colonial Atlantic from the mid-fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries constituted "America." This course will examine the religious dimensions of the encounter of these different peoples across time and space.

REL 335 / NES 356

Moses and Jesus in the Islamic Tradition

Shaun E. Marmon

W 1:30-4:20

Department Area Requirement: Islam

The course will focus on the changing representations of the prophets Musa (Moses) and `Isa (Jesus) within the Islamic tradition. Course materials include readings in translation from the Qur'an, hadith, Sufi poetry, the popular "Tales of the Prophets" as well as modern Islamic texts on social justice, and novels. We will examine the ways in which these prophets, while recognized by Muslims as foundational figures in Christianity and Judaism, played and continue to play a prominent role, as monotheistic prophets and as religious exemplars, in many diverse aspects of Islamic thought and practice.

REL 382

Death and the Afterlife in Buddhist Cultures

Jacqueline I. Stone

MW 1:30-2:50

Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia

In this seminar we will study Buddhist approaches to death, dying, and the afterlife in a variety of Buddhist cultures. Topics may include theories of ritual and anthropological studies of mortuary rites; Buddhist cosmology and the doctrine of karmic causality; Buddhism, the family, and rites for ancestors; Buddhist funerary and mortuary practices; tales of exemplary deaths; accounts of journeys to the hells and other postmortem realms; the placation of ghosts and revenants; and changes in contemporary Buddhist funerals. Continued in "Other Information."

REL 385 / HLS 385

Spiritual Exercises: Classics of Christian Spirituality

Albert J. Raboteau

TH 1:30-4:20

Department Area Requirement: Departmental Only

This seminar will focus on several of the classic texts of Eastern and Western Christian (primarily Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox) spirituality and their authors. Topics will include the development of spiritual tradition and "schools" within specific historical and social contexts.

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