

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

Undergraduate Program

**JDS 303 / NES 311 / REL 303**

**Elementary Biblical Hebrew II**

**Naphtali S. Meshel**

**10:00 am - 10:50 am M W F**

**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.

**NES 339 / REL 339 (HA) *na, npdf***

**Introduction to Islamic Theology**

**Hossein Modarressi**

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

**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).**

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.

**NES 364 / REL 399 (SA)**

**Secularism in Muslim Central Asia and the Middle East**

**Michael A. Reynolds**

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

**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.

**SOC 340 / REL 390 (SA)**

**God of Many Faces: Comparative Perspectives on Migration and Religion**

**Patricia Fernández-Kelly**

**10:00 am - 10:50 am T Th**

**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?

**REL 209 / NES 219 (EM)**

**Jihad: Just War and Holy War**

**Yasir S. Ibrahim**

**10:00 am - 10:50 am M W**

**Department Area Requirement: Islam**

This course focuses on studying the historical development of the religious views of peacemaking and warfare in the Islamic tradition. The course will help students to compare and contrast the Just War tradition in the West with the Jihad doctrine in Islam. In addition, students will have the opportunity to read and analyze classical and modern Muslim writings on the subject. The course also aims at introducing students to Western scholarship on the topic of jihad and just war and the contribution of this scholarship to the subject in terms of methodology and application on specific case studies.

**REL 219 (EM)**

**Business Ethics and Modern Religious Thought**

**David W. Miller**

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

**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 226 / EAS 226 (EM)**

**The Religions of China**

**Stephen F. Teiser**

**10:00 am - 10:50 am T Th**

**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 227 (EM) *No Audit***

**Tibetan Buddhism**

**Jonathan C. Gold**

**11:00 am - 11:50 am T Th**

**Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia**

This course is a survey of the Buddhist traditions of Tibet, focusing on the doctrines and practices associated with the main schools of tantric ritual and meditation. Topics covered will include: the origins of the distinct forms of Buddhism in Tibet; Buddhist responses to historical challenges; the special relationship between politics and religion in Tibet; the role of Tibetan Buddhist scholars and scholasticism; Tibet through the lenses of the Chinese, and the West; and Tibetan Buddhist art.

**REL 251 (HA)****The New Testament and Christian Origins****AnneMarie Luijendijk****11:00 am - 11:50 am M W****Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

A historical introduction to early Christian texts within and outside of the New Testament canon. The course emphasizes studying ancient sources relevant for early Christianity from a variety of backgrounds (Jewish, Greco-Roman, Christian) and teaches different strategies to read these texts. When possible, archaeological remains and papyrological sources are brought in as material context. The precepts function to explore important topics such as early Christian attitudes towards slavery and the position of women in Early Christianity and to bring up debates in contemporary culture involving New Testament and other early Christian texts.

**REL 257 (HA) *No Pass/D/Fail*****Religion and American Movies****Judith L. Weisenfeld****10:00 am - 10:50 am T Th****Department Area Requirement: Religion in America**

The controversy over Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" sits in a long history of complex interactions between religious Americans and popular movies. In this course we explore the politics of representing religion at key moments in American film and religious history. We consider how movies provide unique insight into aspects of American religious life and how representations of religion reveal the shifting contours of constructions of American identity. Topics include: censorship; representations of religious, ethnic, and racial minorities; gender, sexuality, and religion; recent filmmaking strategies of religious groups.

**REL 304 / GER 333 (EC) *na, npdf*****Faith and Knowledge****Samuel W. Goldman****1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Th****Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought**

This course examines the relation between faith and knowledge. We will consider questions including: Is faith a distinctive and perhaps authoritative mode of cognition? How much, if anything, can we know about God? Is a "religion of reason" a legitimate possibility? Or is it a contradiction in terms? The focus will be on debates within and about the German Enlightenment. Readings include Kant, Hegel, and Kierkegaard, among others.

**REL 307 / JDS 307 (SA)****Family Law in Roman Judea-Palestine****Michael Meerson****1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Th****Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

We will focus on main components of matrimonial law, such as the act of marriage, adoption, maintenance, inheritance, and guardianship. Our purpose will be the comprehension of Jewish documents composed in Roman Judea-Palestine, and of legal principles that governed the composition of these documents. We will proceed towards this goal through the diverse background of Hellenistic and Roman jurisprudence, ranging from the city-state codes to the Corpus Iuris Civilis. The course is built around case studies derived from the documents of the "Cave of the Letters" in Judean Desert and Egyptian juristic papyri as comparative material.

**REL 313 (EC) *No Audit***

**Pragmatism and Religion: James and Dewey**

**Eddie S. Glaude**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought**

This seminar will examine the works of two important classical pragmatists, William James and John Dewey, and their views about religion. Several questions will guide our efforts: how do James and Dewey understand and respond to evil and death? Is a conception of God important to their thoughts about religion? Attention will be given throughout the course to the concepts of nature, experience, and piety.

**REL 322 / EAS 322 (HA)**

**Buddhism in Japan**

**Jacqueline I. Stone**

**1:30 pm - 2:50 pm M W**

**Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia**

This course will examine representative aspects of Buddhist thought and practice in Japan from the sixth century to the present. We will focus on the major Buddhist traditions--including Lotus, Pure Land, esoteric Buddhism, and Zen--as well as Buddhism and the literary arts, modern challenges to traditional Buddhism, and contemporary Buddhist movements. Readings will include scriptures, sermons, tales, and philosophical essays, as well as selected secondary sources. Some background in either Japan or Buddhism is strongly recommended.

**REL 328 / GSS 328 (SA)**

**Women and Gender in Islamic Societies**

**Shaun E. Marmon**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Islam**

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.

**REL 331 / NES 332 (EM)**

**Islamic Liberalism**

**Muhammad Q. Zaman**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Islam**

Though it makes considerably fewer headlines than does Islamism (or Islamic fundamentalism), liberalism in its different shades has long been a highly significant facet of modern Islamic thought. This seminar is concerned with the history of Islamic liberalism in varied contexts (the Arab Middle East, Iran, India, Pakistan, and contemporary Western societies), the tensions and ambiguities that have characterized liberal thought, and the contestations within the ranks of the liberals and between them and their opponents from the late 19th century to the present.

**REL 333 / JDS 333 (HA)**

**Jewish Mysticism and Magic in Late Antiquity**

**Peter Schäfer**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

The course traces the development of Jewish mysticism from its origins in the Bible (Ezekiel) to Merkavah mysticism, the first full-fledged mystical movement in ancient Judaism. We follow the dangerous ascent of the few initiates to the divine throne in heaven, their vision and participation in the heavenly liturgy. Since mysticism and magic are closely interrelated in antiquity, special emphasis will be put on the magical aspects of Jewish mysticism.

**REL 354 (HA) *na, npdf***

**Demons and Angels, Heaven and Hell**

**Kathryn A. Gin**

**Elaine H. Pagels**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Departmental Only**

This course explores the early sources and continuing American manifestations of other worldly beings and realms. How have ideas about angels and demons, hell and heaven reflected the concerns, values, and identities of believers over time? Are changing representations indicative of changing social group formations and ideals? Can evolving religious beliefs about the other world ever drive social and political change? Each week we will put ancient sources in conversation with American material.

**REL 355 / HLS 356 (HA) *na, npdf***

**The Apostle Paul in Text and Context: His Letters, His Communities, and His Interpreters**

**AnneMarie Luijendijk**

**ENROLLMENT BY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW. DEPARTMENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED.**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

In this seminar we will: 1) study the New Testament letters of the apostle Paul in their first-century context and their earliest interpretations; and 2) explore recent trends in Pauline scholarship, including the New Perspective. We will pay special attention to archaeological finds from the Pauline cities, which help us understand better the cultural, political, and religious milieu in which the letters were received and read. In the Spring break (March 15-25) the class will travel to Greece and visit the archaeological sites of the cities with early Christ-communities and other important or relevant sites.

**REL 363 (EM)**

**Religion and Ethical Theory**

**Jeffrey L. Stout**

**ENROLLMENT BY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW. DEPARTMENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED.**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought**

This seminar will examine philosophical accounts of what it means to live well, focusing mainly on works written in the last half century that are relevant to issues in religious ethics: whether morality requires a religious foundation, the ethical significance of divine commandments, and the concepts of virtue, goodness, evil, horror, holiness, sainthood, faith, and the sacred. Among the philosophers to be discussed are Richard Rorty, Elizabeth Anscombe, Alasdair MacIntyre, Iris Murdoch, Stanley Cavell, and Robert Merrihew Adams.

**REL 364 (EM) *na, npdf***

**Love and Justice**

**Eric S. Gregory**

**ENROLLMENT BY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW. DEPARTMENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED.**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought**

Analysis of philosophical and theological accounts of love and justice, with emphasis on how they interrelate. Is love indiscriminate and therefore antithetical to justice, or can love take the shape of justice? What are the implications for moral, political, and legal theory? Attention will be given to discussions of citizenship, welfare reform, forgiveness and reparations, and criminal punishment. The seminar also considers recent efforts to revive a tradition of political theology in which love's relation to justice is a prominent theme.

**REL 375 / GSS 376 (HA)**

**Gender, Bodies, and Sacraments: Penitence and Eucharist in Catholic Europe and the Americas**

**Jessica Delgado**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Departmental Only**

This seminar will examine the gendered and embodied meanings of sacraments, first through a sustained examination of confession and communion in Catholicism, and second, through an additional example of each student's choosing. Readings will focus on the changing practices and meanings of penitence and Eucharistic sacrifice in medieval and early modern Europe, colonial Latin America, and the contemporary US. Students will also choose an additional example through which to explore the relationship between gender and sacrament in its historical context and will bring this independent reading to bear in class discussions when appropriate.

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