RELIGION DEPARTMENT
2014-2015 FALL
COURSE OFFERINGS

Graduate Program

REL 502 */NC
Philosophy and the Study of Religion
Leora F. Batnitzky
9:00 am - 11:50 pm M
The impact of twentieth-century philosophical ideas on the academic study of religion: naturalism, phenomenology, hermeneutics, structuralism, Nietzschean genealogy, and American pragmatism, among other philosophical movements.

REL 504 / CLA 516 / HLS 505 */AUD
Studies in Greco-Roman Religions - Community Formation in Early Christian Sources
Elaine H. Pagels
2:00 pm - 4:50 pm M
Course focuses on basic primary sources, both Greek and Latin, that offer evidence for the early history of Christianity (100-400 CE). To allow for breadth of reading and to include participants from various departments, one may read primarily in English, with reference to the original texts as necessary.

REL 505 */AUD
Studies in the Religions of the Americas - Sexuality and Religion in America
Wallace D. Best
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T
This course explores the relationship between sexuality and American religion. Sexuality has long been a contested and contentious issue within American religious contexts, and the need for greater understanding and clarity has only increased over the last half century. We will be particularly focused on the way in which religiously informed notions of sex and sexuality have touched every area of American life, including popular culture, politics, and the law.

REL 508 */AUD
Studies in Religion and Morality - Monarchies, Empires, and Republics
Jeffrey L. Stout
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm W
This seminar considers competing accounts of religion and its relation to domination, liberty, and political sovereignty, beginning with Dante and ending with Hume, but not including Hobbes and Locke.

CANCELLED REL 509 / NES 510 */AUD
Studies in the History of Islam - Legal Categories and Social Realities
Shaun E. Marmon
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm W
This seminar explores the relationship (or dissonance) between legal and social categories in the context of late Medieval Muslim societies. Some of the topics covered in this context are gender, slavery, religious minorities, ethnicity and hybridity, communal violence and concepts of transgression. Readings include scholarly literature and Medieval Arabic texts. Students are expected to write a final research paper making some use of Arabic sources.

REL 513 */AUD
Studies in Ancient Judaism - Apocalyptic Literature of the Byzantine Era
Martha Himmelfarb
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T
The events of the seventh century--the wars between Byzantium & Persia followed by the Muslim conquest--seemed to some Jews to signal that the messianic age was about to dawn. From a very different angle of vision Christians felt called upon to explain the significance of the Muslim conquest for their eschatological expectations. This course considers the literature produced by Jews and Christians in response to these events & the impact of Jewish & Christian texts & traditions on each other against the background of earlier Jewish & Christian apocalyptic literature & the messianic expectations of the centuries before the rise of Islam.
REL 518 */AUD
Religion and Critical Thought Workshop
Eric S. Gregory
10:00 am - 11:50 am W
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. Note: REL 518 (fall) and REL 519 (spring) constitute this year-long workshop. In order to receive credit and/or a grade, students must take the course both semesters.

REL 521 */AUD
Religion and Culture Workshop
Elaine H. Pagels
12:30 pm - 1:50 pm T
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. Note: REL 521 (fall) and REL 522 (spring) constitute this year-long workshop. In order to receive credit and/or a grade, students must take the course both semesters.

REL 523 */AUD
Religion in the Americas Workshop
Wallace D. Best
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. 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 525 */AUD
Religions of Late Antiquity Workshop
AnneMarie Luijendijk
1:30 pm - 2:50 pm M
A weekly, year-long workshop providing students in the Religions of Late Antiquity with the opportunity to present their current research for discussion. Note: REL 525 (fall) and REL 526 (spring) constitute this year-long workshop. In order to receive credit and/or a grade, students must take the course both semesters.

REL 532 */AUD
Studies in Chinese Religions - Popular Chinese Religion
Stephen F. Teiser
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T
Critical examination of enduring and recent scholarship on popular Chinese religion, ethnography, and modernity. Designed for graduate students preparing for general examinations or research in Chinese religion. Open to others with permission of the instructor.

REL 538 */AUD
Studies in Tibetan Religions - Buddhist Lineages
Jonathan C. Gold
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm M
This course introduces Tibetan Buddhist traditions based on sources in translation, emphasizing the historical development of the major lineages and their distinctive practice traditions. Course topics will include Tibetan tantric systems and rituals; Tibetan innovations in and approaches to Buddhist philosophy; Tibet's distinctive approach to religion and politics; Tibetan views of space and locality; Tibetan scholasticism; and the challenges posed by modernity and Chinese rule.

For more detailed information on each course, please visit: http://registrar.princeton.edu/course-offerings/