RELIGION DEPARTMENT
2014-2015 FALL
COURSE OFFERINGS

Undergraduate Program

REL SEM
Required Colloquium for Junior Majors
Professor(s): AnneMarie Luijendijk
Day/Time: 10:00-11:50 am F
First semester Junior Majors participate in a required workshop on research and writing that culminates in a five to seven-page JP proposal. 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 (HA) No Audit
Great Books of the Jewish Tradition
Martha Himmelfarb
3:00 pm - 4:20 pm M W
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
This course is intended to introduce students to the classical Jewish tradition through a close reading of portions of some of its great books, including Bible, the rabbinic midrash, the Talmud, Rashi's commentary on the Torah, Mishneh Torah, the Zohar, and the Haggadah. We will pay particular attention to the role of interpretation in forming Jewish tradition.

REL 207 (EM)
Visualizing Buddhism: Art, Religion, and Philosophy
Eric R. Huntington
11:00 am - 12:20 pm M W
Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia
Art, ritual, and material culture can be powerful expressions of religious belief. This course is organized around conceptual themes governing key philosophies, rituals and art forms in Himalayan Buddhism. Students will gain a basic introduction to Buddhist religion and history, as well as coming to understand the inestimable role of art and material culture in religion, seeing the ways in which artworks can express ideas, epitomize practices, and transmit beliefs. The course will involve topics from the past 2500 years, emphasizing regions of South Asia that include northern India, Nepal, and Tibet.

REL 212 / JDS 212 (EM)
Jewish Thought and Modernity
Yonatan Y. Brafman
11:00 am - 12:20 pm M W
Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought
This course examines Jewish contributions and reactions to the configuration of social, cultural, intellectual, economic, and political factors known as modernity. It explores how these factors challenged traditional Jewish life and how Judaism was variously reinterpreted to adapt and respond to them. It consists of a historical and thematic survey of modern Jewish thought, spanning from the rise of Enlightenment rationalism to the more recent existentialist and postmodern turns. In the process, it probes the nature and continuing relevance of the concept of modernity as well as interrogates the category of "Jewish" thought.

REL 226 / EAS 226 (EM)
The Religions of China
Stephen F. Teiser
10:00 am - 10:50 am M W
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 230 / JDS 230 (HA)
Who Wrote the Bible
Naphtali S. Meshel
1:30 pm - 2:50 pm M W

Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
The course will introduce students to the Hebrew Bible ("Old Testament") in its ancient Near Eastern setting. Key concepts often associated with the Hebrew Bible, such as God, damnation, sin, and history, will be scrutinized through a careful reading of a selection of Biblical texts including the Creation and Garden of Eden narratives in Genesis, the laws of Leviticus, the prophecies of Ezekiel and the poetry of Song of Songs. Particular attention will be paid to the transformations that the texts underwent through a continuous process of transmission and interpretation.

NES 240 / REL 240 (EM)
Muslims and the Qur'an
Muhammad Q. Zaman
10:00 am - 10:50 am M W

Department Area Requirement: Islam
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 252 (HA)
From Jesus to Constantine: How Christianity Began
Elaine H. Pagels
11:00 am - 11:50 am M W

Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
How did the movement that began with a few followers of Jesus of Nazareth become a world religion? We will investigate the earliest primary sources, gospels & historical accounts, Jewish & Roman, showing what was known about Jesus—including secret gospels; letters written to & from Roman emperors about whether to kill Christians to stop the movement; first hand accounts of trials, prison diaries, & martyrdoms; what Jesus & Paul said about sexual practices & gender; what converts wrote about why they chose Christianity, despite the dangers; how emperor Constantine--and, shortly after, Augustine--influenced what we know as Christianity today.

REL 261 / CHV 261 (EM)
Christian Ethics and Modern Society
Eric S. Gregory
11:00 am - 11:50 am T Th

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

REL 324 (EC) na, npdf
Mind and Meditation
Jonathan C. Gold
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T

Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia
This course examines the philosophy, history, and methods of Buddhist meditation. Primary readings will be Buddhist works on the nature of the mind and the role of meditation on the path to liberation (nirvana). We will ask how traditional Buddhist views have been reshaped by modern teachers, and we will interrogate the significance of current research on meditation in the fields of neuroscience, psychology and the philosophy of mind. In addition to other coursework, students will be practicing meditation and keeping a log and journal. Some coursework in Philosophy or Religion is expected.
CANCELLED REL 328 / GSS 328 (SA)
Women and Gender in Islamic Societies
Shaun E. Marmon
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Th

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 355 / HLS 356 (HA) na, npdf
The Apostle Paul in Text and Context: His Letters, His Communities, and His Interpreters
AnneMarie Luijendijk
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T

Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
ENROLLMENT BY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW. DEPARTMENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED.
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. Over Fall break (October 23- November 2) 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 357 (HA)
Religion in Colonial America and the New Nation
Seth Perry
11:00 am - 12:20 pm T Th

Department Area Requirement: Religion in America
This class covers the history of religion in America from European contact through the 1840s or so. Emphasis will be on primary readings, organized chronologically around a few recurrent themes: contact and exchange; authority and dissent; the relationship between theological reasoning and everyday life. We'll pay particular attention to changing conceptions of religion's role in social organization and competing religious views of human nature over time.

REL 367 / AAS 346 (HA)
The American Jeremiad and Social Criticism in the United States
Eddie S. Glaude
1:30 pm - 2:20 pm M W

Department Area Requirement: Religion in America
This course examines the religious and philosophical roots of prophecy as a form of social criticism in American intellectual and religious history. Particular attention is given to what is called the American Jeremiad, a mode of public exhortation that joins social criticism to spiritual renewal. Michael Walzer, Sacvan Bercovitch, and Edward Said serve as key points of departure in assessing prophetic criticisms, insights and limitations. Attention is also given to the role of black prophetic critics such as James Baldwin, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Cornel West.

REL 450 (EM) No Pass/D/Fail
Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit
Jeffrey L. Stout
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm M

Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought
ENROLLMENT BY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW. DEPARTMENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED.
This seminar will focus on the conceptions of knowledge, recognition, ethical life, value conflict, freedom, morality, religion, and the Absolute developed in G.W.F. Hegel's most influential book, The Phenomenology of Spirit, which we will be reading in English translation.
Cross-listed Courses

AAS 365 / REL 362 / ENG 394 (LA)
Migration and the Literary Imagination
Wallace D. Best
7:30 pm-10:20 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).

This course will explore the various meanings of The Great 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.

ANT 208 / REL 208 (SA)
Religion and Media
Carolyn M. Rouse
11:00 am - 12:20 pm 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).

This course explores how religious media in the United States shapes cultural and social identities. From televangelism to religious radio programming, the mass marketing of faith is contributing to how people understand themselves as gendered, raced, and classed subjects. But are these programs helping to sustain a fragile consensus within and between religious communities, or are they threatening religious pluralism? This course examines what is at stake politically in this religious war of symbols generated within mediascapes.

CLA 326 / HIS 326 / REL 329 (HA) No Pass/D/Fail
Topics in Ancient History - Slavery in the Roman World
Brent D. Shaw
1:30 pm - 2:50 pm M 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).

This course considers the problem of slavery in the Roman world, from the early Republic to the end of the Empire. There will be some coverage of the background developments in the slave system under the earlier age of the Greek city-states. A wide range of subjects concerning slavery in Roman society will be considered including the causes of the creation of the Roman slave system, the ways in which it was maintained, its main social and economic functions, and the problem of resistance to servitude.

JDS 302 / NES 302 / REL 302
Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
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 in the original language. During the semester, students will learn the script and the grammar, develop a working vocabulary, and read a selection of Biblical passages. The course is designed specifically and exclusively for beginners with little or no previous knowledge of the language. Students with prior experience in the language should contact the instructor about course alternatives.

NES 221 / JDS 223 / REL 216 (HA)
Jerusalem Contested: A City's History from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives
Jonathan M. Gribetz
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm M
NES 245 / HIS 245 / MED 245 (HA) na, npdf
The Islamic World from its Emergence to the Beginnings of Westernization
Michael A. Cook
3:00 pm - 4:20 pm T Th
Department Area Requirement: Islam
Begins with the formation of the traditional Islamic world in the seventh century and ends with the first signs of its transformation under Western impact in the 18th century. The core of the course is the history of state formation in the Middle East, but other regions and themes make significant appearances. The course can stand on its own or serve as background to the study of the modern Islamic world.

NES 269 / POL 353 (HA)
The Politics of Modern Islam
Bernard A. Haykel
1:30 pm - 2:20 pm T Th
Department Area Requirement: Islam
This course examines the political dimensions of Islam. This will involve a study of the nature of Islamic political theory, the relationship between the religious and political establishments, the characteristics of an Islamic state, the radicalization of Sunni and Shi'i thought, and the compatibility of Islam and the nation-state, democracy, and constitutionalism, among other topics. Students will be introduced to the complex and polemical phenomenon of political Islam. The examples will be drawn mainly, though not exclusively, from cases and writings from the Middle East.

NES 339 / REL 339 (HA) na, npdf
Introduction to Islamic Theology
Hossein Modarressi
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm M
Department Area Requirement: Islam
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.

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