Department of Religion
New Fall 2015 Courses

REL 270 (HA)
The Bible in America
Seth A. Perry
10:00 am - 10:50 am T Th
In this course we will examine the historical and current place of the Bible in America, from Puritans' use of the Geneva Bible to nineteenth-century Hebrew printing to twenty-first century bible apps. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which different communities have read, referred to, presented, translated, and interpreted the Bible over time. Our readings will encompass both secondary sources addressing these questions and a variety of American bibles, from eighteenth-century pulpit bibles to contemporary comic books.

REL 308 / GSS 338 / ART 387 / HUM 338 (EM) No Audit
The Buddhist Individual
Eric R. Huntington
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Th
How does a tradition portray an individual, and how does an individual see themselves within a tradition? From epics of kings to private visionary experiences, the relationship of the individual to the tradition is a central theme of Buddhism. This course examines different conceptions of the individual by looking at numerous examples, including devoted patrons, accomplished masters, and struggling practitioners. Major themes include the structure of early Buddhist society, the roles of women, and autobiography. Topics will be drawn from 2,000 years of literature and artwork from India and Tibet.

REL 320 (EM)
The Problem of Evil
Liane F. Carlson
1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Th
**Also open to Freshmen & Sophomores**
What is evil? Can you really call someone evil if you believe their character and history are shaped by chance? How have the atrocities of the 20th century influenced how artists, philosophers and theologians depict evil? The course will begin by exploring traditional efforts to reconcile the existence of evil with an omnipotent, loving God. Next, students will consider modern reactions against the problem of evil as depicted in literary, philosophical, and religious texts. Finally, the course will end by questioning how we evaluate evil and the possibility of atonement in a nominally secular world.

REL 351 (HA)
Priests and Priesthood from the Hebrew Bible to Ancient Judaism and Christianity
Martha Himmelfarb
11:00 am - 12:20 pm T Th
Priests played a central role in the religion of ancient Israel, performing sacrifice and judging matters of purity. When the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE brought an end to sacrifice, priests could no longer perform these tasks. But it was impossible for Jews and Christians to ignore priesthood because priests and their activities were enshrined in the Torah, which now stood at the center of Judaism and held a place in the Christian Old Testament. This course examines ideas about priests and priesthood in order to understand how ancient Jews and Christians saw themselves in relation to God, the cosmos, and each other.

**Learn more about fall 2015 courses and faculty members at http://religion.princeton.edu/**