Undergraduate Program

REL REL 217 (SA)
American Evangelicalism
Ryan P. Harper
MW 12:30-1:20
Department Area Requirement: Religion in America
This course examines the history, practices, beliefs, and aesthetics of American evangelical Christians. Beginning in the eighteenth century and proceeding to the present day, we will explore the sermons, theological treatises, memoirs, and music of this vast, diverse, often hard-to-define group of Christians. Students will learn how to compare and contrast varieties of evangelical Christianities and how to assess the relationship between evangelicalism and American culture.

REL 222 / HUM 222 / VIS 244 (EC)
Visions of Transformation: Religious and Secular
Jeffrey L. Stout
MW 10:00-11:50
M 7:30-10:20PM Film
Department Area Requirement: Required Course, Departmental
An examination of thinkers (e.g. Pascal, Marx, Freud) and filmmakers (e.g. Hitchcock, Kurosawa, Friedrich) who distinguish between a way of life they regard as sinful, oppressive, and/or deluded and a process of change in which the alleged defects are overcome. An introduction to modern debates over religion and to film as a vehicle for social criticism.

REL 227 (EM)
Tibetan Buddhism
Jonathan C. Gold
TTh 11:00-11:50
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 246 / JDS 246 (HA)
Ancient Judaism from Alexander to the Rise of Islam
Martha Himmelfarb
TTh 10:00-10:50
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
This course offers an introduction to the development of ancient Judaism during the eventful millennium 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.
REL 251 (HA)
AnneMarie Luijendijk
MW 11:00-11:50
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
This course investigates how the Christian movement began, using ancient sources - Jewish, Greek, Roman, and Christian - about Jesus of Nazareth. We read the letters of the Apostle Paul and New Testament gospels, along with such recently discovered gospels as the Gospel of Thomas and the Gospel of Mary Magdalene. We will discuss the formation of the New Testament collection; views of Jesus and his message; attitudes toward sexuality, gender, race and community. This course will also include readings and analysis of contemporary perspectives. Accessible to students new to these sources, as well as to those familiar with them.

REL 253/GSS 253/HLS 253 (HA)
Early Christian Women: From Mary Magdalene to Martyred Mothers
AnneMarie Luijendijk
TTh 1:30-2:50
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
In this course we explore early Christian women as preachers, prophets, martyrs, mothers, and virgins. You will develop sophisticated reading skills by studying and interpreting a wide variety of early Christian texts and evidence from the material world (frescoes, papyrus letters). We meet, among others, Chloe, Jesus' mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, Thecla, and Perpetua and Felicitas. Questions we will investigate are: How did male Christian authors view the position of women in their communities? What can we extract historically about women? How do ancient debates relate to contemporary issues on gender and religion?

REL 258 (SA)
Religion in American Society
Judith L. Weisenfeld
MW 1:30-2:20
Department Area Requirement: Religion in America
This course explores the dynamics of religion in contemporary America. We consider such themes as religious encounter and conflict; patterns of tradition and change; the relation of religion to broader political currents and debates (including race, sexuality, gender, science, economics); "secular" spiritualities, the challenges of religious pluralism; and religion and popular culture.

REL 261/CHV 261 (EM)
Christian Ethics and Modern Society
Eric S. Gregory
TTh 12:30-1:20
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 322 / EAS 322 (HA)
Buddhism in Japan
Jacqueline I. Stone
TTh 1:30-2:50

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 325 (EM)
Hindu Scriptures
Jonathan C. Gold
M 1:30-4:20

Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia
This course is an introduction to classic scriptural sources for Hinduism: Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, The Laws of Manu, Mahabharata, and Ramayana. These texts present a complex, interconnected set of stories, rituals, concepts, roles, and philosophies that evolved over two millennia. We will spend most of our time looking closely at source texts (in English translations), dipping occasionally into theoretical work on ritual and myth. We will seek, in Hindu scriptures, their historic contexts, their mirroring and questioning of social structures and norms, and their nuanced, localized expressions of general human yearnings.

REL 328 / GSS 328 (SA)
Women and Gender in Islamic Societies
Shaun E. Marmon
Th 1:30-4:20

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 335 / NES 356 (HA)
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 examplars, in many diverse aspects of Islamic thought and practice.
REL 338 / NES 340 (HA)
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.

REL 344 / JDS 344 / GSS 344 (HA)
Sex in Ancient Judaism and Christianity
Moulie Vidas
W 1:30-4:20
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
Contemporary discussions about sexuality are filled with Jewish and Christian texts from antiquity. Quotations from the Bible and its ancient interpretations are continuously used to make claims about sexual behavior and sexual desire. Yet these texts themselves come from a very different world, with values, facts and passions of its own. This course examines the classical Jewish and Christian texts on sexuality within their own ancient historical context. Throughout the course, we will emphasize the diversity of positions in antiquity and the broad cultural conversations in which these positions were staked.

REL 347 / JDS 347 (EM)  na, npdf
Religion and Law
Alexander L. Kaye
W 1:30-4:20
Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought
A critical examination of the relation between concepts of "religion" and "law," as they figure in the modern state. The course will survey theoretical tools for thinking about these issues and their historical development before applying them to case studies in Europe and the Middle East. With the benefit of these comparative studies, and a new historical and philosophical insights, we will then address religion, politics and law in contemporary America.

REL 352 (HA)  na, npdf
Jesus of Nazareth: Ancient Controversies, New Interpretations
Elaine H. Pagels
ENROLLMENT BY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW. DEPARTMENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED.
M 1:30-4:20
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
In this seminar we will first investigate the earliest known sources--both gospels in the New Testament and "gnostic gospels" outside the NT, including the Gospels of Thomas, Mary Magdalene, and Philip. Second, we will explore a range of attempts to place Jesus in historical context. And third, we will look at interpretations of Jesus in poetry, theology, fiction, and film.
In the United States, we often think of religious conversion as a radical change in belief on the part of the individual. But historically, and still in much of the world today, religious conversion is as much political as theological. This seminar focuses on religious conversion from the perspectives of politics, international law and human rights, history, literature, post-colonialism, race, psychology, anthropology, and religious studies. Our aim is to understand the complexity of thinking about religious conversion as well as the very category of "religion."

This seminar examines the tangled and changing relationship between religion and constructions of race in American history. We will consider such topics as American interpretations of race in the Bible, religion and racial slavery, race and missions, religious resistance to the idea of race, and popular culture representations of racialized religion.

This course will trace the history of black gospel music from its origins in the American South to its modern origins in 1930s Chicago and into the 1990s mainstream. Critically analyzing various compositions and the artists that performed them, we will explore the ways the music has reflected and reproached the extant cultural climate. We will be particularly concerned with the four major historical eras from which black gospel music developed: the slave era; Reconstruction; the Great Migration, and the era of Civil Rights.

This course is an introduction to Muslim cultures in the United States. Each week we will draw upon texts from anthropology, sociology, history, and other fields to develop an understanding of the historical and present diversity of Muslim communities in America. The first half of the course provides a survey of Muslim communities in this country from the 17th to the 21st centuries. The second half features a thematic approach to a variety of topics: 9/11, women and gender, religious conversion, interfaith relations, youth, mosques as institutions, and Islamophobia.
CLA 326 / HIS 326 / REL 329 (HA) No Pass/D/Fail
Topics in Ancient History - Religion in Roman Society
Matthew M. McCarty
TTh 3:00-4:20

**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).
This course will provide not only an introduction to the varieties of religious practices, concepts, and communities in the Mediterranean and Europe from 50 BC-AD 400, but using this as a foundation will explore the ways in which social change, competition, conflict, and discussion drove the development of a set of shared religious premises, although with sharply marked community boundaries, in the first three centuries AD. Broad themes covered include: the nature of religion in the ancient world, the development of ideas and identities, imperialism and the negotiation between local and pan-Mediterranean.

NES 418 / REL 418 / POL 418 (SA) No Audit CANCELED
Religion and State Relations in Comparative Perspective
Mirjam Künkler
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).
In this comparative seminar we examine models of secularism in contemporary Europe, North America, South Asia and the Middle East, and explore the implications of religion-state relations for the quality of democratic citizenship. We start with an overview of the relationship between religion, democracy and secularism and ask what role religion should and should not play in democratic public discourses. We then compare the institutional models of secularism. In a final section, we study the relationship between religious freedom and human rights, and the challenges religious laws may create for democratic and democratizing polities.

SOC 340 / REL 390 (SA)
God of Many Faces: Comparative Perspectives on Migration and Religion
Patricia Fernández-Kelly
MW 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?

For more detailed information on each course, please visit:
[http://registrar1.princeton.edu/course/course.cfm](http://registrar1.princeton.edu/course/course.cfm)