

Graduate Program

REL 501 */AUD

Religion and the Tradition of Social Theory

Eddie S. Glaude

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

A critical introduction to developments in social theory that have influenced the academic study of religion, including the classic contributions of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber as well as more recent debates in anthropology and cultural theory. Required of, and designed for, first- and second-year graduate students in religion; others must receive the instructor's permission to enroll.

REL 504 */AUD

Studies in Greco-Roman Religions - Introduction to Judaism in the Greco-Roman World

Martha Himmelfarb

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

The goal of this course is to introduce a significant part of the literature of the Jews of Palestine and Egypt in the period from Alexander to the destruction of the Second Temple, together with a sampling of some recent scholarship on these works. The introduction is necessarily selective, and it will thus reflect to some degree my interests and preoccupations, but I have made an effort to give you some sense of the range of Jewish texts in the period. I hope that this breadth of coverage will provide the background you need for your own work.

REL 505 */AUD

Studies in the Religions of the Americas - Hemispheric Reflections

Jessica Delgado

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

The study of religion in Latin America and the United States have developed in parallel ways, exploring similar questions, but in relative isolation from one another. (A particularly illustrative example is the conceptual move towards "lived religion" by scholars of religion in the US and "local religion" by Latin Americanists.) This course seeks to bring Latin American and US religious history into conversation around key issues and theoretical concepts.

REL 508 */AUD

Studies in Religion and Morality - Political Theology

Eric S. Gregory

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

Recent developments in political theory, theology, and cultural criticism have led to revived interest in political theology, both as a matter of intellectual history and, at times, as a rejection or problematizing of secular politics. This seminar examines these developments, assessing them in relation to older traditions of political theology and more conventional approaches to "religion and politics" as defined by classical liberalism. We also will consider these projects, and their critics, in the context of contemporary global politics.

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 that we will cover in this context will be gender, slavery, religious minorities, ethnicity and hybridity, communal violence and concepts of transgression. Readings will include scholarly literature and Medieval Arabic texts.

REL 510 */AUD

Special Topics in the Study of Religion - Religious Authority in America

Seth A. Perry

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

Beginning with the conceptual question of what "religious authority" might be, in this course we will investigate the historical and current relevance of the concept in America in terms of the political and the personal. With respect to the former, questions of law, secularism, and pluralism will loom large; the latter will take us into questions about charisma, tradition, and celebrity. How is "religious authority" established, maintained, lost? How does it interact with other types of authority?

REL 518 */AUD

Religion and Critical Thought Workshop

Leora F. Batnitzky

10:00 am - 11:50 am **Th**

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

Jessica Delgado

11:00 am - 12:20 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

Judith Weisenfeld

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

Moulie Vidas

11:00 am - 12:20 pm **W**

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 531 / EAS 537 */AUD

Readings in Chinese Religions - Manuscripts, Knowledge, and Religion in Medieval China

Stephen F. Teiser

1:30 pm – 4:20 pm **F**

Close reading of manuscript sources to study the production of knowledge in medieval China, focusing on the relations between belief systems (such as natural history), the activity of manuscript copying, the practice of ritual, and social action. The course aims to develop skills in philology, paleography, history, religious studies, interdisciplinary work, and the use of new primary sources to generate new research questions. Prerequisites include basic knowledge of classical Chinese, the languages of modern scholarship, and historical studies.

REL 534 */AUD

Studies in Japanese Religions - Issues in Scholarship

Jacqueline I. Stone

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

This course will provide an intensive introduction to Japanese Religions past and present and examine key issues in scholarship. It is designed for those planning to take general exams, teach, or simply acquire a background in this field. Topics may include interactions of Buddhism with local religious culture; the emergence of Shinto; lay and monastic Buddhist practice; doctrinal issues; modern transformations of religious traditions; and religion-state relations. Readings will be chiefly in English, supplemented by Japanese for those with sufficient language skills. Some topics may be chosen to accommodate participant research interests.

REL 536 */AUD

Studies in Indian Religions - Up to 1300

Jonathan C. Gold

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

This course is a survey of major text traditions in Indian religions, with an emphasis on the historical/cultural framework against which to read the development of Buddhist traditions. Major topics addressed are: "Orientalism" & "Hinduism"; Vedas & Upanisads; Early Buddhism; Dharmasastras & Mahabharata; Mahayana Buddhism; and Tantra & Vajrayana.

CLA 547 / PAW 503 / HLS 547 / REL 547

Problems in Ancient History - Sacred Space

Michael A. Flower

Moulie Vidas

9:00 am - 11:50 am **T**

This interdisciplinary seminar explores the nature of "Sacred Space" in a cross-cultural perspective. In addition to addressing large theoretical questions (What makes a space "sacred"? What are its functions and uses? How do these evolve over time?), we examine specific locales and case studies. These include temples and sanctuaries as well as natural locations, such as mountaintops, caves, and springs. The temporal and geographical range will be broad, including the Near East, Greece and Rome, from early times to Late Antiquity.

For more detailed information on each course, please visit:

<http://registrar.princeton.edu/course-offerings/>