

**RELIGION DEPARTMENT**  
**2014-2015 SPRING**  
**COURSE OFFERINGS**

**Graduate Program**

**REL 504 \*/AUD**

**Studies in Greco-Roman Religions - Ritual and Liturgy in Late Antiquity**

**AnneMarie Luijendijk**

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

How did people in Late Antiquity worship? What happened in a temple, synagogue, church or shrine? What at home? What did people say and do? How did ritual experts and laypeople act and interact? What practices surrounded birth, marriage, travel, illness, feasts and death? Who prays, sings hymns, reads scripture? What is our evidence for every day (and idealized) practices and where are the biases in the evidence? What changes in ritual and liturgy this period and why? We will examine a range of primary sources (literary, papyrological, archaeological), historical scholarship and theoretical writings.

**REL 505 \*/AUD**

**Studies in the Religions of the Americas - Religion in America to 1865**

**Seth A. Perry**

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

In this course we will engage questions of approach, method, periodization, and scope in the study of religion in America through the Civil War. Texts will consist of secondary literature with both classic and contemporary importance to the field, along with brief primary sources selected and presented by students.

**REL 513 \*/AUD**

**Studies in Ancient Judaism - Pure Fantasy: Systems of Purity and Impurity in Ancient Israel**

**Naphtali S. Meshel**

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

We will read selected passages from Biblical and post-Biblical texts pertaining to the concepts of purity and impurity, and create a multi-dimensional model for the synchronic and diachronic analysis of these complex systems.

**REL 519 \*/AUD**

**Religion and Critical Thought Workshop**

**Eric S. Gregory**

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

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 520 / NES 520**

**Approaches to Islamic Intellectual History**

**Muhammad Q. Zaman**

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

This seminar provides a broad-ranging introduction to and assessment of approaches to pre-modern and modern Islamic intellectual history. How, and with what success, have scholars tried to place particular developments in their varied intellectual, political, socio-economic, and cultural contexts? What constitutes the relevant context and how should one try to mediate among competing ways of accounting for particular intellectual developments? What assumptions - historiographical, sociological, normative - have guided recent work and how do they compare with an earlier generation's scholarship? These are among the questions we address.

**REL 522 \*/AUD**

**Religion and Culture Workshop**

**Elaine H. Pagels**

**M 12:30-1:50**

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 524 \*/AUD**

**Religion in the Americas Workshop**

**Wallace D. Best**

**Th 3:00-4:20**

A weekly, year-long workshop focused on the current research of visiting presenters, current students, and faculty in American religious history. 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 526 \*/AUD**

**Religions of Late Antiquity Workshop**

**AnneMarie Luijendijk**

**TBA**

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 \*/AUD**

**Readings in Chinese Religions - Chinese Buddhist Ritual Texts**

**Stephen F. Teiser**

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

Graduate seminar involving the close reading of several ritual texts over the history of Chinese Buddhism, including ancient, medieval, and modern examples. Knowledge of Classical Chinese and at least one of the modern research languages (Chinese, Japanese, French, German) required. Some attention also to Indian models, tools for the study of Chinese Buddhist texts, and ritual theory.

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