

**RELIGION DEPARTMENT
2015-2016 SPRING
COURSE OFFERINGS**

Graduate Program

REL 504 */AUD

Studies in Greco-Roman Religions - Authority, Ritual, and Politics in Early Christianity

Elaine H. Pagels

1:30 pm - 4:20 pm M

Our seminar investigates several major topics (c. 70 C.E.- 500 C.E.), including the following: Authority, "Scriptures," and leadership, seen in comparison with Jewish groups; Rituals, especially exorcism, in context of Greco-Roman cosmology and practices; Constantine's "Christian empire"; Discoveries of "heretical" texts.

REL 505 */AUD

Studies in the Religions of the Americas - Twentieth-Century American Religious History

Judith Weisenfeld

1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T

This course provides a broad introduction to major themes in and recent literature exploring the history of American religions in the twentieth century.

REL 513 */AUD

Studies in Ancient Judaism - The Palestinian Talmud

Moulie Vidas

1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T

This course examines the literary and intellectual character of the first Talmud, the Yerushalmi, and the scholarly culture that produced it. It centers on certain general characteristics that make this work distinct from the rabbinic literature that preceded it, on close readings of selected passages, and on possible connections between the developments evident in the Yerushalmi and in other contemporaneous scholarly works of the Greco-Roman world.

REL 519 */AUD

Religion and Critical Thought Workshop

Eric S. Gregory

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 522 */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 524 */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. 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

Moulie Vidas

11:00 am - 12:20 pm T

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 532 */AUD

Studies in Chinese Religions - Buddhism and Daoism

Stephen F. Teiser

1:30 pm - 4:20 pm T

Survey of recent scholarship in the field, focusing on the schools of Chinese Buddhism, Tantric Buddhism, Buddhism and empire, and interactions between Buddhism and Daoism. Readings primarily in English. Especially for students preparing for general exams in the field of Chinese Religions.

REL 533 */AUD

Readings in Japanese Religions - The Buddhist Tradition

Jacqueline I. Stone

1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Th

In this seminar we read representative examples of Buddhist texts in Japanese and kanbun from the Heian through modern periods. Readings are drawn from multiple genres and may include doctrinal writings, ritual manuals, didactic tales, sermons, and personal letters. Supplementary readings in Japanese and English scholarship may be assigned. To some extent, readings may be chosen to accommodate participants' research interests. Use of bibliographic and reference sources is also introduced.

REL 541 */AUD

Religion, Freedom, and Equality—taught at Columbia University

Jeffrey L. Stout

4:10 pm – 7:00 pm W

This interdisciplinary seminar will consider religion's relationship to politics in the context of modern arguments for freedom & equality. The course will be taught at Columbia University, & will include students & faculty from Princeton, Columbia, & Yale. The instructors will be Jeffrey Stout (Religion, Princeton University), Akeel Bilgrami (Philosophy, Columbia University) & Philip Gorski (Sociology, Yale University). Topics will include 17th-century English radicals; civil religion, secularism, & dialogical democracy; Marxism & its influence on Gutierrez, MacIntyre, & West; Gandhi, King, & Michnik.

For admission, send an email of no more than 300 words, copied to all three instructors, stout@princeton.edu, ab41@columbia.edu, philip.gorski@yale.edu, explaining why you wish to take the course & how previous work prepared you for it. Grades for Princeton students will be submitted by Professor Stout, who will be the only instructor of the course listed on Princeton transcripts. Princeton students should enroll through the Princeton system.

REL 542 / NES 542 */AUD

Islamic Thought and Society, 18th-20th centuries

Muhammad Q. Zaman

1:30 pm - 4:20 pm W

Using primary sources in translation, this seminar introduces students to the thought of key Muslim figures active between the 18th and the 20th centuries. What are the legal, theological, and other traditions with reference to which their writings are to be understood? How do we relate their work to the social and political contexts in which it was produced? How have the questions to which they were responding changed during this time?

REL 545 */AUD

Explorations in the Science of Ritual

Naphtali S. Meshel

TBA

The seminar is an experiment in developing a formal means of representation with a strong explanatory power for a diverse set of ritual systems. It begins by focusing on Ancient Israelite and South Asian sacrificial ritual texts and practices, and it extends the investigation to systems of purity and impurity.

For more detailed information on each course, please visit:

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