

**RELIGION DEPARTMENT  
2016-2017 FALL  
COURSE OFFERINGS**

**Undergraduate Program**

**REL 217 / JDS 217 (HA)** *Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit*

**The Five Books of Moses**

**Baruch J. Schwartz**

11:00 am - 12:20 pm **T Th**

**Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean**

The Five Books of Moses (collectively: the Torah, or the Pentateuch), as viewed in modern, critical scholarship, are the key to understanding the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament. This course will focus on the content, themes and literary features of the Pentateuch in its historical context, in light of its ancient Near Eastern background, and in its role within the canon of Scripture. Attention will be given to the process of authorship, composition, transmission and ultimate acceptance of these writings in the formative period of Judaism.

**REL 219 / SOC 219 (EM)** *No Audit*

**Business Ethics and Modern Religious Thought**

**David W. Miller**

11:00 am - 11:50 am **M W**

**Department Area Requirement: Departmental Only**

The course objective is to learn basic ethics theory and develop practical tools for business ethics, with particular attention throughout the course to the role of religion and spirituality in ethical formation, frameworks, and decision making. This will be applied to contemporary business ethics case studies and wider issues surrounding faith and work, and will include guest CEO visitors. Lecture/Precept

**REL 225 (HA)** *Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit*

**The Buddhist World of Thought and Practice**

**Jacqueline I. Stone**

1:30 pm - 2:20 pm **M W**

**Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia**

This course surveys the development of Buddhism from its beginnings in India through some of its later forms in East Asia, Tibet, and the West. Attention will be given to continuity and diversity within Buddhism, its modes of self-definition as a religious tradition, the interplay of its practical and trans-worldly concerns, and its transformations in specific historical and cultural settings. Lecture/Precept

**NES 240 / REL 240 (EM)** *Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit*

**Muslims and the Qur'an**

**Muhammad Q. Zaman**

10:00 am - 10:50 am **M W**

**Department Area Requirement: Islam**

A broad-ranging introduction to pre-modern, modern, and contemporary Islam in light of how Muslims have approached their foundational religious text, the Qur'an. Topics include: Muhammad and the emergence of Islam; theology, law and ethics; war and peace; mysticism; women and gender; and modern debates on Islamic reform. We shall examine the varied contexts in which Muslims have interpreted their sacred text, their agreements and disagreements on what it means and, more broadly, their often competing understandings of Islam and of what it is to be a Muslim. Lecture/Precept

**REL 246 / JDS 246 (HA)** *Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit*

**Ancient Judaism from Alexander to the Rise of Islam**

**Martha Himmelfarb**

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

**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 CE. Lecture/Precept

**REL 256 / AAS 256 (HA)** *Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit*

**African American Religious History**

**Wallace D. Best**

12:30 pm - 1:20 pm **T Th**

**Department Area Requirement: Religion in America**

This course will trace the origins and historical development of African American Religion in the United States in all its various forms, beginning with the Colonial period and ending with the era of Civil Rights in the late 1950s and early 1960s. "Slave Religion" and its impact on the subsequent cultural, theological, and material expressions of black religion will serve as the theoretical centerpiece of the course. We will also analyze and discuss the predominance of "urban religion" and the rise of New Religious Movements such as the Black Hebrews and the Nation of Islam after the First World War and during the Great Migration. Lecture/Precept

**REL 320 (EM)** *Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit*

**The Problem of Evil**

**Liane F. Carlson**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought**

What is evil? Can you really call people 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 324 (EC)** *na, npdf*

**Mind and Meditation**

**Jonathan C. Gold**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia**

This course examines the philosophy, history, and methods of Buddhist meditation. Primary readings will be Buddhist works on the nature of the mind and the role of meditation on the path to liberation (nirvana). We will ask how traditional Buddhist views have been reshaped by modern teachers, and we will interrogate the significance of current research on meditation in the fields of neuroscience, psychology and the philosophy of mind. In addition to other coursework, students will be practicing meditation and keeping a log and journal. Some coursework in Philosophy or Religion is expected.

**REL 328 / GSS 328 (SA)** *Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit*

**Women and Gender in Islamic Societies**

**Shaun E. Marmon**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Islam**

Topics include: Women and the Law; Women and Sexuality; Gender and Seclusion; Women and Modernity; Gender and Post-Colonial Societies; Women's Voices; Women and Film; Politics of Women's Bodies; Women and Modern Islamic Revivalism. No prior background in Islam or Gender Studies required. Readings from fields of history, religious studies, anthropology, sociology and politics. Weekly primary sources in translation include: religious texts, popular literature, court records, letters, novels, poetry, autobiography, newspapers and films with subtitles.

**REL 358 (HA) *No Audit***  
**Religion in American Culture since 1830**  
**Brendan Pietsch**

12:30 pm - 1:20 pm **M W**

**Department Area Requirement: Religion in America**

The relationship between religion and society in the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Particular attention will be paid to the rise of religious liberalism and fundamentalism, the social gospel, New Thought, modern forms of religious experience, the effects of consumer culture on religious practices, and the impact of science on religious belief.

**REL 378 / GSS 378 / LAS 379 (HA) *Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit***  
**Religion, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Latin America**

**Jessica Delgado**

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

**Department Area Requirement: Religion in America**

This seminar explores scholarship on the history of religion, gender, and sexuality in Latin America, focusing primarily on the mainland colonial period (1492-1821), but including some pre-colonial and the nineteenth century material. Through historical studies, primary documents, and discussion, students will consider connections between religious beliefs, spiritual and sexual practices, gendered social relations, and the ways race, class, and gender intersected with ideas about moral and social order in the period under study. We will also think critically about how scholars have portrayed these subjects.

**REL 399**  
**Junior Colloquium (Non-credit)**  
**Staff**

9:00 am - 10:50 am **F**

**Required Colloquium for Junior Majors**

First semester junior majors participate in a non-credit colloquium with a member or members of the faculty. In addition to short assignments throughout the term that prepare majors to research and write a junior paper (JP), students are expected to produce a five to seven-page JP proposal. The grade for the colloquium is factored into the final grade for the junior independent work.

### Cross-listed Courses

**CLA 326 / HIS 326 / REL 329 / HLS 329 (HA) No Pass/D/Fail**

**Topics in Ancient History - The City of Rome in Antiquity**

**Harriet I. Flower**

7:30 pm - 10:20 pm **W**

**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 offer a cross-disciplinary study of life, politics, and culture in the city of Rome from the early fourth century BC to the second century AD. Literary, epigraphical, numismatic, and archaeological sources will be used to study the following topics in a specifically urban and Roman context: Roman politics in an urban context, religion and festivals, topography and architecture, oratory, spectacle and games, city administration, police and security, the law and the courts, city markets and the economy, the urban population and its composition, demography, and the quality of life in the city.

**JDS 302 / NES 302 / REL 302 Graded A-F, P/D/F, Audit**

**Elementary Biblical Hebrew I**

**Judah Kraut**

10:00 am - 10:50 am **M W F**

**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).**

Students will achieve a basic ability to read the Hebrew Bible in the original language. During the semester, students will learn the script and the grammar, develop a working vocabulary, and read a selection of Biblical passages. The course is designed specifically and exclusively for beginners with little or no previous knowledge of the language. Students with prior experience in the language should contact the instructor about course alternatives.

**NES 339 / REL 339 (HA) na, npdf**

**Introduction to Islamic Theology**

**Hossein Modarressi**

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

**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 is a general survey of the main principles of Islamic doctrine. It focuses on the Muslim theological discourse on the concepts of God and His attributes, man and nature, the world to come, revelation and prophethood, diversity of religions, and the possibility and actuality of miracles.

**For more detailed information on each course, please visit:**

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