

Department of Religion Course Offerings

Spring 2013

As of: 1/17/13

840:112	<p>DEATH AND AFTERLIFE SECTION 01 IS HYBRID COURSE – 02 and 03 MEET IN CLASS ONLY. (3) Various religious concepts of death, resurrection, reincarnation, and other forms of afterlife; their relevance to this-worldly life. (Open to freshmen and sophomores.) 01, TF1, DC (In-person class meeting dates (all on Friday): 1/25, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/8, 3/15, 4/5, 4/19, 4/2, 5/3. 02, MW4, CAC 03, MW5, CAC</p>
840:201	<p>HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT (3) Interpretation of basic Hebrew scriptures in translation; history of religious themes such as sin, covenant, and prophecy in ancient Israel. (<i>Same as 563:220.</i>) 01, MTh3, CAC 02, MTh1, DC 03, TF1, DC</p>
840:202	<p>NEW TESTAMENT (3) Interpretation of basic Christian scriptures in translation; influence of Jesus and Paul on the early Christian community. (<i>Same as 563:223.</i>) 01, TTh5, DC 02, MTh2, DC</p>
840:203	<p>ISLAMIC SCRIPTURES: QURAN AND HADITH (3) Introduction to sacred texts of Islam; emphasis on words and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad, collectively known as the Hadith or Sunnah. The course will explore how revelation bridges the gap between the divine and human by examining Islamic scriptures in their historical, theological, legal, and mystical contexts. (<i>Same as 01:685:233.</i>) 01, MW5, CAC</p>
840:204	<p>HINDU SCRIPTURES (3) Interpretation of basic Hindu scriptures in their historical, literary, and theological contexts to see how they contributed to the development of various traditions and spiritual paths in Hinduism. 01, TF3, CAC</p>
840:211	<p>RELIGIONS OF THE EASTERN WORLD (3) Religious beliefs, practices, and sacred writings of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. 01, TTh6, DC 02, TF2, DC 03, TTh5, CAC</p>
840:212	<p>RELIGIONS OF THE WESTERN WORLD (3) Religious beliefs, practices, and sacred writings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 01, MW6, CAC 02, TTh6, CAC 03, TF2, DC 04, MTh2, CAC 05, MTh3, DC</p>

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840:240	<p>LOVE AS ETHIC AND IDEA (3) The Judeo-Christian religious tradition, viewed through the concept of love as moral and theological ideal, from the biblical period to the present. 01, TTh4, DC</p>
840:242	<p>INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT JUDAISM (3) This course will investigate the historical development of Jewish beliefs and practices in ancient times, spanning the Biblical and post-Biblical periods. Issues to be studied include Sabbath, festivals, circumcision, dietary laws, sacrifice, prayer, monotheism, covenant, and eschatology. Our sources will include both classical texts, such as the Bible and the Mishna, and information forthcoming from archaeological discoveries, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls and excavated synagogues. (Credit not given for both this course and 01:563:222:01) 01, MW5, CAC</p>
840:250	<p>JEWISH MYSTICISM AND KABBALAH (3) Survey of Jewish mystical traditions from the early rabbinic traditions to the central text of kabbalistic literature, the Zohar, in 13th century Spain. (Credit not given for both this course and 01:563:250.) 01, MW6, CAC</p>
840:303	<p>HEBREW PROPHETS (3) Development and diffusion of Israelite prophetic thought from early associations with divination in Near Eastern culture through the Exile and later decline. (<i>Prerequisite: 840:201 or 563:220 or permission of instructor; not open to Freshmen. Same as 563:325.</i>) 01, TF3, CAC</p>
840:305	<p>APOCALYPSE NOW; RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS AND THE END OF TIME (3) The course compares ancient, Medieval, and contemporary apocalyptic movements. Case studies will include the Jewish apocalyptic movement associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls and Pauline Christianity, Medieval apocalypticism surrounding Joachim of Fiore and the Crusades, and more contemporary movements such as Jonestown and the Left Behind series of Christian thrillers. 01, TTh4, DC</p>
840:307	<p>JESUS (3) ONLINE COURSE The career and teaching of Jesus viewed in historical context; development of the Gospel tradition and its effect on later concepts of Christ. (<i>prerequisite: New Testament, 840:202 or 563:223, or permission of instructor</i>) 90, Chat Sessions, Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m.</p>
840:318	<p>CONTEMPORARY CATHOLIC THEOLOGY (3) Roman Catholicism, from the French Revolution to the present; thinkers such as Lammenais, Newman, and Gilson; topics such as liturgy, political rights, theological pluralism. 01, MTh3, DC</p>
840:324	<p>CHINESE RELIGIONS (3) Religious concepts and classic texts of Confucianism and Taoism; relation of religion to society and self in China, including role models and paradigms for self-transformation; alchemy and meditation 01, T 2/3, DC (Double Period)</p>
840:319	<p>RELIGION IN AMERICAN HISTORY (3) Survey of American religious history, exploring the relationship between religion and trends in such areas as politics, science, technology, gender relations, economy, and immigration. 01, MTh3, DC</p>

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840:323	<p>BUDDHISM (3) Rise of Buddhist theory and practice in the context of Indian culture; encounters with indigenous religions of East and Southeast Asia; development of Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana. 01, TTh4, CAC</p>
840:326	<p>ISLAM (3) Muhammad and the development of Muslim beliefs and practices; major movements and their effects on historical and current events. <i>(Same as 01:685:326.)</i> 01, MTh1, CAC 02, MW6, CAC</p>
840:328	<p>SHI'I ISLAM (3) History, doctrines, rituals, theosophy and structure of authority of the major schools of Shi'i Islam, with a focus on the Twelver Imami tradition from its beginnings until the present day. 01, TTh4, CAC</p>
840:330	<p>RELIGION IN LATIN AMERICA (3) Exploration of the religious complexity of Latin America, including Christianity, indigenous and syncretic practices and traditions. <i>Credit not given for both this course and 01:590:330:01.</i> 01, MTh1, CAC</p>
840:350	<p>WOMEN IN EASTERN RELIGION (3) Images and roles of women in major Asian religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Women's autobiographical accounts of religious experiences; attitudes toward women expressed in these religious institutions; the feminine as a symbol of the divine; representative great goddesses such as Kuan-yin <i>(same as 01:988:321)</i>. 01, TF3, DC</p>
840:368	<p>HINDU PHILOSOPHY (3) Upanishads, Patanjali, Bhagavad-Gita; theories of matter, energy, states of consciousness; meditation. Yogas of knowledge, action, devotion. Karma. Ethics. Comparison of Hindu and Western cosmology. <i>(same as 01:730:368)</i> 01, TTh5, CAC</p>
840:356	<p>SUFISM, MYSTICAL ISLAM (3) Based essentially on primary sources, the course examines both Islamic mystical theory and practice, paying particular attention to a range of core Sufi doctrines. <i>(same as 01:685:356)</i> 01, MW4, CAC</p>
840:394	<p>TOPICS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION: CHRISTIANS, PAGANS, JEWS (3) Though scholars tend to focus on the relations between Jews and Christians—shared background to eventual parting of the ways—the “Old Religion,” also known as Paganism, was a vital component of the religious landscape of the first centuries of the Common Era. This course seeks to address this oversight, by examining rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity as they engage Pagan religious ideas and ideals. The most central of these involves the emergence of a religious model that recognizes a canonic work as the primary (and perhaps sole) source of all knowledge, and considers commentary on this work an important religious enterprise. In this context we will examine the Pagan, Jewish, and Christian traditions of allegorical interpretation of Scripture (with Homer as the Pagan “Scripture”), and some of the remarkable parallels between the assumptions these groups make about their canonic texts. Other topics covered include: Pagan imagery and the problem of art in Jewish synagogues and Christian churches; Jewish membership in Pagan philosophical schools; Pagan support of Jewish religious practices as a tool in the Pagan anti-Christian polemic. <i>(Credit not give for both this course and 563:395:01 and 190:494.)</i> 02, MW4, CAC</p>

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840:421	SEMINAR IN RELIGION AND SOCIETY (3) Interaction of religion and society in the thought of selected theologians, ethicists, and sociologists of religion. <i>(prerequisite: one course in western religious traditions or permission of instructor. Only open to religion majors in their junior or senior year.)</i> 01, TTh5, DC
840:426	SEMINAR IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION :TAOIST PHILOSOPHY (3) 01, T, 2/3 (double period), DC This course focuses on two foundational texts of classical Taoist philosophy, the Dao De Jing (Tao Te Ching) and the Zhuangzi (Chuang Tzu). We will examine key Taoist concepts like nature, spontaneity, efficacy, potency, and authenticity, and look into the Taoist critique of the Confucian morality. We will briefly look into the Taoist influence on the West as well as the Western transformation of Taoism. <i>(Only open to religion majors in their junior or senior year.)</i>