

RELIGION COURSES, SPRING 2010

(HP) RELI 10: What Is Religion?

Ann Burlein TR 12:45-2:10 p.m.

Julie Byrne TR 2:20-3:45 p.m.

This course is designed to introduce students to the academic study of religion. It provides an opportunity to learn about the historical, scriptural, ritual and theological claims of two distinct religious traditions. Students will gain concrete information about the way religious beliefs and practices shape the world, and will learn how scholars study religious traditions in a pluralistic context. Students will also be introduced to some of the methodological tools that scholars use to think critically and constructively about religious traditions.

First Year Seminars: *give students the opportunity to work in a seminar format with a member of the faculty in an area of the faculty member's research interests. Only first-year students are permitted to enroll in the following course. For details, please visit www.hofstra.edu/fyc, or contact the Center for University Advisement.*

(CC) RELI 14S, Section 01: Musics of the Muslim World

Hussein Rashid

TR 10:05 a.m.- Noon

When Mos Def spits the basmallah, is he Muslim? When Satchmo blows up the world, is he Muslim? The musics of the Muslim world reflect religious faith through cultural production. Wherever Muslims have gone, including in the United States, they have created unique musical sounds. We will use music as a tool to explore Muslim law, popular traditions, and questions of authenticity. The politics of music are also an important part of understanding how culture and religion interact. Using lyrics and sounds, our goal is to examine the multiple ways in which music and Muslims are bound together. The course wraps up with a discussion of whether hip-hop is the first uniquely Muslim music in the United States.

(CC, HP) RELI 16: Religions of India

Balbinder Bhogal

TR 11:10 a.m.- 12:35p.m.

This course examines the central traditions, ideas and practices of the major religions of India, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Sikhism. Major themes explored in a comparative context include: violence and eroticism, death and immortality, wisdom and ritual.

(CC, HP) RELI 19: Introduction to Buddhism

Kumiko Endo

TR 4:30-5:55 p.m.

This course is an introduction to the wide range of Buddhist ideas and practices that have developed within the diverse regions of Asia. You will also be introduced to various Buddhist literary and artistic expressions.

(HP) RELI 20: Magic, Miracles and Medicine in the Greco Roman World

Stephanie Cobb

TR 11:10 a.m.-12:35 p.m. and 12:45-2:10 p.m.

This course examines the concepts of magic, medicine, and miracle in the ancient world. Are, for example, magical incantations different from prayers? If so, how? Are doctors different from magicians? Is religion supplication and magic manipulation? Is religion licit and magic illicit? Reli 20 attempts to understand these categories and the prejudices that accompanied them.

(CC) RELI 75: Mysticism and the Spiritual Quest - Sufism

Hussein Rashid

TR 2:20-3:45p.m. and 4:30-5:55 p.m.

This course will provide students with a general account of the history of the concept of mysticism within the study of religion. Students will focus in detail on ONE mystical tradition- Islam (Sufism), getting acquainted with its practices as well as the intellectual, artistic and material culture that it has produced. We will use contemporary American Sufism as a starting point for discussing the roles that mysticism and spirituality play in the contemporary Western world.

Prerequisites and Course Notes:

Same as PHI 102. Credit given for this course or PHI 102, not both.

(CC) RELI 80: Life, Death and Immortality

John Teehan

MWF 10:10-11:05 a.m. and MF 11:15 a.m.-12:40p.m.

An examination of the concepts of life, death and immortality as represented in religious, philosophical, and literary texts from a range of cross-cultural sources and from various historical periods. Attention will also be given to contemporary cultural treatments of the notion of an afterlife, as well as scientific examinations of such beliefs.

Prerequisites and Course Notes:

Same as PHI 103. Credit given for this course or PHI 103, not both.

(CC, HP) RELI 101: Jesus in Myth, Tradition and History

Stephanie Cobb

TR 2:20-3:45 p.m.

This course examines literary and historical records of Jesus' life. Students will examine canonical and non-canonical accounts of Jesus' life in order to identify individual author's theological emphases. In addition, students will learn the history of the quests for the historical Jesus from the Enlightenment to modernity. The course will also explore the various representations of Jesus in modern film.

Prerequisites and Course Notes:

Any RELI or JWST course.

(CC) RELI 103: Warrior Saints: An Introduction to the Sikh Religion

Balbinder Singh Bhogal

TR 9:35-11:00 a.m.

This course will introduce students to the phenomena, beliefs, practices and central teachings of Sikhism. Its main focus will be the often misunderstood alliance between mysticism and politics in the Sikh religion exemplified by the figure of the Warrior-Saint (or Saint- Sipahi). Other topics for discussion include the role of gender, construction of memory, and Sikh responses to modernity.

Prerequisites and Course Notes:

Credit will be given for this course or RELI 155, but not both. (Formerly RELI 155).

(HP) RELI 109: Sex and the Body in Religious Studies

Ann Burlein

MW 2:55-4:20 p.m.

We do sexuality, gender, and our bodies in ways that are far more complex than everyday words can capture. This course will introduce you to the major theoretical moves which scholars use to catch a glimpse of these more complex ways, particularly when it comes to religion. The bulk of the class will involve close readings of key contemporary theorists. As we move through each theorist, we will practice using their concepts to make sense of Daoist meditation practices.

Prerequisites and Course Notes:

Formerly 140M

RELI 140S: Heretics, Skeptics and Freethinkers ** Available as HP credit**

John Teehan

MW 2:55-4:20 p.m.

This course will look at religion from the perspective of the outsider: those who have challenged more traditional or institutionalized religious expressions; those who have questioned the nature and/or existence of God(s); and those who have offered alternatives to a religious worldview. This approach will allow us to appreciate the vital role dissent has played in the history of religious thought.

Prerequisites and Course Notes:

None

(HP) RELI 154: Varieties of the American Catholic Experience

Julie Byrne

TR 4:30-5:55 p.m.

Explorations of the varieties of Catholicism in the US: 1) as a common spiritual impulse across different times and contexts; 2) as a highly differentiated religion whose members both shared and contested its meaning; and 3) as a prism for understanding historical developments for America and Americans in general. This course begins by trying to define Catholicism, including close reading of primary sources.

Prerequisites and Course Notes:

ANY one of the following: RELI 10,12,13,14F,14S,15,16,17,18,50,70,75,80 or 85