

## RELIGION COURSES, FALL 2010

**(IS) RELI 150 Approaches to the Study of Religion** Ann Burlein TR 12:45-2:20 PM

This course will help you give your ideas about religion a critical edge. We will study a variety of frameworks, as well as read case studies- of a vodou priestess and of Islamic women in Egypt- which puts these frameworks into practice.

**Prerequisites/Course Notes: Any RELI or JWST course. \*\*This course is Required for Religion Majors. It is only offered every two years. If you are graduating in the next two years, NOW is the time to take it.\*\***

**(HP) RELI 10 What Is Religion** Julie Byrne MW 2:55-4:20 PM and 4:30-5:55 PM

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 how 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.

**(HP) RELI 14F, Section 01: Yoga, Psychology and South Asian Religions FIRST YEAR SEMINAR**

Balbinder Bhogal TR 10:05 AM- 12:00 PM

Are there religious, psychological or “yogic” states of mind that transcend time, place, and language? Within the Indian context, the answer is often “yes!” In the Sikh tradition, this state of mind (chauta-pad) gains a new, political dimension, which connects this private mental state to a socio-political self that has responsibilities to others. This course will explore this extraordinary state as it relates to the traditions of South Asian Religions, Psychology and Yoga.

**(CC) RELI 19 Introduction to Buddhism** Kumiko Endo TR 4:30-5:55PM & 6:30-7:55PM

This course is an introduction to a wide range of Buddhist ideas and practices that have developed over time with focus on southern Asia. In addition to studying various Buddhist literary and artistic expressions, we will discuss Buddhism’s transfer from Asia to the West.

**(CC) RELI 60 Heretics, Freethinkers and Skeptics** John Teehan MW 2:55-4:20 PM

This course will look at religion from the perspective of the “outsider”: those who have challenged more traditional or institutionalized religious expressions; who have questioned the nature and/of existence of God(s); or who have offered alternatives to a religious worldview.

**(HP) RELI 76 History of Irish Spirituality** Phyllis Zagano MW 2:55-4:20PM

This course explores the history of Irish mysticism and spirituality and relates them to Irish history and literature. We will read a variety of texts before and from 1500 years of Christianity in Ireland and focus on the competing claims of various traditions and practices.

**(CC) RELI 80 Life, Death and Immortality** TBD TR 12:45-2:10 PM and 2:20-3:45 PM

Examination of the concepts of life, death, and immortality as represented in religious, philosophical, and literary texts (western and non-western). Attention will be paid to contemporary cultural treatments of the afterlife, as well as their scientific examination.

**(CC) RELI 85 Comparative Religious Ethics** Hussein Rashid TR 4:30-5:55 PM

A comparative exploration of the ways in which diverse religious traditions attempt to guide the conduct of their adherents. The student will be asked to master enough historical material in order to speak about different traditions, as well as emphasizing philosophical and theoretical traditions.

**(CC) RELI 103 Warrior Saints: Sikh Religion** Balbinder Bhogal TR 12:45-2:10PM

This course will introduce the student to the phenomena, beliefs, practices and central teachings of Sikhism. The main focus will be the often misunderstood alliance between politics and mysticism.

**(HP,CC) RELI 104 Buddhist Thought** Joshua Schapiro TR 11:10-12:35 PM

This course will explore and examine the core Buddhist ideas and their interpretation and development within and across major schools of Buddhism (possibly including Theravada, Vajrayana, Mahayana and Western). Key concepts will be explored, with an emphasis on their relevance in today's world.

**Prerequisites: RELI 15, 19 OR 75.**

## **JEWISH STUDIES COURSES FALL 2010**

**JWST 14F , section 01 The Chosen People: Jews and Pop Culture FIRST YEAR SEMINAR** David Kaufman TR 11:10 AM-12:35 PM

A study of famous Jews in America. By examining the cultural phenomenon of fame in tandem with the history of American Jews, we gain a better understanding of each. Some historical figures to be discussed include: Houdini, Lenny Bruce, Irving Berlin, Bob Dylan, Bernie Madoff and Adam Lambert, among others.

**(HP) JWST 015R Foundations of Jewish Tradition and Culture** MW 4:30- 5:55 PM

The Jewish heritage in terms of its beliefs, laws and folkways in classical and modern Hebrew literature.

**(HP) JWST 101R, Section A: Jews and Judaism in America** David Kaufman TR 9:35-11:00 AM

First settling here in 1654, Jews have come to be an integral part of American society and have made Judaism a prominent American religion. How has this tiny minority (< 2% of the population) established itself as such an influential element of the American landscape? An exploration of the 350-year history of Jewish life in America, investigating immigration, community, religion, culture, politics and identity.

**(HP) JWST 101R, Section B: Jews and Social Justice** TR 9:35-11:00 AM

This course is an exploration of the centrality of social justice in Judaism. Study classical and contemporary Sources on the responsibility of every human being to help "mend a broken world".