

## RELIGION COURSES, SPRING 2012

**(HP) RELI 10 What is Religion?** Julie Byrne MW 4:30-5:55PM/ David Kaufman TR 2:20-3:45PM

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.

**(CC,HP) RELI 16 Religions of India** Balbinder Bhogal TR11:10AM-12:35PM

This course will examine the central traditions, ideas and practices of major religious traditions of India including Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Islam. Topics to be explored: violence and eroticism, death and immortality, and wisdom and ritual.

**(CC) RELI 19 Introduction to Buddhism** Kumiko Endo TR 4:30-5:55PM and 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. Study various Buddhist literary and artistic expressions, as well as Buddhism's transfer from Asia to the West.

**(HP) RELI 20 Magic, Miracle and Medicine in the Greco-Roman World** Sharon Keller TR 9:35-11:00AM

Magical incantations- are they prayers? Were ancient magicians the physicians of their time? This course explores these and many other related concepts of magic, miracle (religion) and medicine in antiquity.

**(CC) RELI 75 Mysticism and the Spiritual Quest** Ann Burlein TR 12:45- 2:10PM& 2:20-3:45PM

This course will explore the history of the concept of mysticism. We will focus on women medieval mystics in Christianity, Tibetan Buddhist practices of visualization, and Rastafarianism.

**Prerequisites & Course Notes:** Same as PHI 102. Credit given for this course or PHI 102, not both.

**(HP) RELI 77 Religion & the Media** Julie Byrne MW 2:55-4:20PM **ANCHOR COURSE FOR MEDIA BRIDGE**

Explore the many intersections between religion and the media. Examine religions, art and news while dealing with materiality, spoken word cultures, literacy, image, internet and the new social media.

**(CC) RELI 80 Life, Death and Immortality** Zagano MWF 10:10-11:05AM / John Teehan MW 4:30-5:5PM

Examination of the concepts of life, death and immortality as represented in religious, philosophical and literary texts (both western and non-western).

**Prerequisite(s)/Course Notes:** Same as PHI 103. Credit given for this course or PHI 103, not both.

**(HP) RELI 121 The Religious Mind** John Teehan MW 2:55-4:20PM

Welcome to the cognitive study of religion. The many methods of evolutionary studies, cognitive psychology, and neuroscience are now being used to investigate religious belief, behavior and traditions.

**Prerequisite(s)/Course Notes:** Any RELI, JWST or PHI course, or permission of the instructor.

**(CC) RELI 130 Thinking Mysticism: Gender, Sex and Power** Balbinder Bhogal TR 9:30-11:00AM

This course begins by questioning the very possibility of thinking about mysticism. It will explore the works of major theorists in the academic study of mysticism and charts important debates where mystical writings are set within broader socio-political and religious contexts.

**RELI 192 Internship in Religious Studies. 1-6 variable credit.** See Department Chair.

**FOR MAJORS ONLY: If you are need of 100 level courses (beyond those listed above), RELI 77 can be converted. Please see department chair. Also, consider PHI 163 (see below).**

### **JEWISH STUDIES COURSES SPRING 2012**

**(HP) JWST 016R Jews: From Medieval to Modern** David Kaufman TR 9:35-11:00AM same as RELI 23

The Jewish encounter with modernity, exploring several key questions: 1) How did the European Enlightenment and Emancipation lead to various forms of modern Judaism?; 2) How have modern economies and politics enabled Diaspora Jews to successfully integrate and contribute socially and culturally out of all proportion to their small numbers?; 3) How did modern Jewish nationalism (i.e., Zionism) lead to the establishment of the State of Israel?; and 4) How did modern antisemitism lead to the Holocaust? The course begins with an introductory study of Judaism and Jewish life in the Middle Ages; and ends with consideration of the question of American Jewish exceptionalism—5) How, compared with other Diaspora experiences in Jewish history, is America different?

**RELI 192 Internship in Jewish Studies. 1-6 variable credit.** See Department Chair.

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**VOCATIONAL BRIDGES: Take thematic courses that compliment your career goals. See Ann Burlein, department chair, for more info! Areas of concentration are:**

- **Religion, Health and Healing**
  - **Religion, Art and Media**
  - **Religious Diversity and Global Politics**
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### **OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST**

**(IS) WST 001 Intro to Women's Studies** Ann Burlein/ David Powell MW 2:55-4:20

An interdisciplinary course which introduces the major ideas and concepts of women's studies and a variety of gender-related issues. Our organizing theme will be women and silence: how women get silenced, how women silence themselves, the power of silence.

**(HP) PHI 163 Philosophy of Religion** Amy Karofsky TR 2:20-3:45PM

Traditional philosophical problems surrounding some basic conceptions in the Western monotheistic religions. Primary attention given to three broad topics: To what extent can belief in God be justified?; What, if anything, does the fact of evil tell us about God's nature?; Is religious discourse ordinary speech or in some way metaphorical or symbolic? Traditional arguments for and against God are discussed.

**(CC, IS) ASST 011 Introduction to Chinese Culture** Zhuyan Zhou MF 11:15-12:40

Course materials cover history, religion, philosophy, literature, theater, art, language and calligraphy to give students a bird's eye view of Chinese culture; from different perspectives these aspects of Chinese culture serve as mirrors to reflect the basic Chinese values that lie at the core of class discussion.