REL 1003 Introduction to World Religions

This course is an introduction to the major religions of the world: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism. We will examine the central aspects of these religions including the doctrinal, ethical, ritual, experiential, and social dimensions, and explore similarities and differences between these religious traditions.

Wood | WF 12:45-2:00 | MPA 309

REL 1009 The Hebrew Scriptures

The Hebrew Bible (Tanak/Old Testament) is a rich, diverse, vibrant collection of sacred literature from ancient Israel and Judah. Contained in the Hebrew Bible are great epics, laws, engaging narratives, prophetic oracles, hymns of praise, wisdom literature, and romantic love poetry. Because the materials in the Bible are often very similar to similar texts from Ancient Egypt, Ancient Babylon, Ancient Syria, and Ancient Lebanon, we will sometimes look at those materials for comparison as well. And, of course, we will also look at some Hebrew inscriptions from the First Temple and Second Temple periods, as these too shed light on the Biblical text. The approach to all materials is historical. There will be a mid-term and a final exam in the course, along with an eight-page paper as well. And the only prerequisite for this course is an open mind to the diverse genres of literature and beliefs in the Hebrew Bible. I look forward to seeing you in the course, but space is limited so please sign up soon.

Rollston | TR 11:10-12:25 | 2020K 26

PSTD 1010 Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution

This course explores major thinkers and themes in the field of peace studies and conflict resolution, with a focus on philosophical and religious foundations of peace and justice movements in the 20th century. We will examine peace and conflict through an interdisciplinary lens and on personal, local, and international levels.

PSTD 1010.10 Almutawa | MW 9:35-10:50 | MON 250

PSTD 1010.11 Carroll | MW 4:45-6:00 | TOMP 206
REL 2501 Hinduism
This course will study continuity and change in Hinduism, with emphasis on historical development and the consolidating features of the religion, and attention to relations between classical and popular living forms.
Hebbar | MW 2:20-3:35 | 1957 E 211

REL 2562 Mythologies of India
This course explores the lore of Indian gods (Vedic, Puranic), heroes (epics), and holy men (Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Tantric), as well as ties with Indian art, caste, cult, cosmology, and spiritual ideals.
Hebbar | T 7:10-9:00pm | 1957 E 211

REL 2922 Ethics and World Religions
This course examines modern concepts of ethics and their relation to major world religions: religion as stimulus and barrier to moral change; and, modern moral issues and religious ethics. This course utilizes primary and secondary texts to analyze cases and issues ranging from bioethics to war.
Koukios | TR 11:10-12:25 | PHIL 416

REL 3161 The Life and Thought of Paul
This course delves into backgrounds of early Christianity, first-century religious and social conditions affecting the spread of Christianity, the life and journeys of Paul, and Paul’s presentation of the Christian faith.
Duff | MW 3:45-5:00 | PHIL 736

REL 3343 Religion in the Renaissance and Reformation
In this course, we will explore the transformation of the Western understanding of human identity and destiny from the end of the Middle Ages to the Age of Reason.
Wood | MW 2:20-3:35 | 1957 E 316

REL 3414 Islamic Philosophy and Theology
This course examines the origins and development of Islamic philosophy and theology within the broader context of the Islamic intellectual tradition. It defines Islamic philosophy, discusses its relation to Western and particularly Greek philosophy, and examines different philosophical schools that emerged within the Islamic world. In addition, the course also analyzes the development of Islamic theology, Kalam, and introduces the most important schools of theology and their most pertinent figures.
REL 3425 Islamic Political Thought
This course investigates major trends in the development of Islamic political thought during the last fourteen centuries. Its objective is to present the students an understanding of Islamic political thought from within the Islamic civilization. This course discusses Islamic political thought from its inception to its elaboration and expansion by philosophers, theologians and political theorists, and to its encounter with political thought coming from the Western world in modern period.

Faghfoory | TR 9:35-10:50 | TOMP 303

REL 3481 Women in Islam
This course examines the ways in which Islam has articulated gender identity and male–female relationships, and conversely, how women have constructed, interpreted, and articulated Islam and their places within it. Same as WSTU 3481.

Samadi | W 3:45-5:00 | PHIL 348

REL 3881 Women, Gender, and Religion in China
This course is a historical introduction to the concepts of body, gender, and womanhood in Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist, and popular Chinese religious traditions. Women’s roles in religious ritual and practices; the influence of Christianity and modernity. Same as WSTU 3881.

Kang | F 12:45-3:15 | ROME 206

REL 3923 Violence and Peace in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
This course provides historical analysis of the violent and peaceful dimensions of the three Abrahamic faiths, with focus on the relationship of the scriptures of each of the three traditions to the later interpretations that supported both violent and peaceful readings of those texts.

Eisen | MW 12:45-2:00 | 1957 E 315

REL 3945 The Psychological Study of Spirituality
This course explores the complex interrelationship between psychology and spirituality: health and wellness; development of a spiritual life; psychological factors involved in spirituality; therapy and multicultural issues. Same as PSYC 3945.

Schell | TR 9:35-10:50 | MON 113
In recent decades meditation had gone from an esoteric practice to a mainstream technique of self-transformation. Bill Clinton, Sting, Katy Perry, Helen Mirren, Jerry Seinfeld and many more sing its praises (sometimes literally). But what is meditation and how does it work? Why would people subject themselves to a strict regimen of “doing nothing” in times where there is so much to do? In this course we will focus on Buddhist meditation. We will begin the course by discussing the meditation movement in the West and the recent boom in scientific studies of meditation. Meditation is often described as a value-free exercise, one that is as secular as Tai-chi or Yoga poses but what is lost when we secularize the practice? To answer this question, we will examine some of the critiques of modern meditation practice. We will then explore together different styles of Buddhist meditation, learn about the religious world from which they emerged and what purpose they serve in their traditional context and highlight the radical demand they put on us. Finally, for fun, we will also practice some of these methods in class.

Aviv | TR 11:30-12:45 | AMES B112