

## **DEPT. OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2020 COURSE OFFERINGS**

**REL 101-01: Religion in World Cultures [GM2,H, V] M,W,F 10:00 - 10:50 am - Professor Ma**

**REL 101-02: Rel. in world Cultures [GM2, H,V] T,TH 2:45-4:00 pm - Professor Rinehart**

This course introduces religion by surveying the world views, practices, and institutions of global religious traditions. It considers both common and distinctive spiritual preoccupations of religious practitioners and the astounding variety of religious expression across the human family. It examines the historical development of religions, their sacred writings, their myths, rituals, and symbols, and their contemporary forms. The course is also concerned with methods of studying religion. [GM2,H,V]

**REL 103: Religion, Myth, & Fantasy [GM1,H] T,TH 8:00-9:15 am - Professor Ziolkowski**

A study of the nature of fantasy and the fantastic, and their relation to religion and religious expression. Students examine various texts and tales, as well as films, from a wide range of historical times and traditions around the world, focusing on the modes through which they convey different kinds of religious experience, beliefs, and meanings. Themes include fate of the soul after death, conflict of good and evil, and boundaries between the real and the unreal. [GM1,H]

**REL 201: Biblical Imagination [H,V] M,W 11:00 am- 12:15 pm - Professor Carr**

An Introduction to the religion of ancient Israel this course is an examination of Biblical perspectives on the great questions through close reading of selected texts; appropriation and interpretation of the book as "Scripture" by both Jewish and Christian communities. [H,V]

**REL207: The Quran [H,V] M,W,F - 9:00 - 9:50 am - Professor Patel**

A study of the Quran that focuses on the origin and compilation of the text, a sociocultural history of its interpretation, and its function in Muslim life. The course also examines the Quran as scripture and its major themes. [H,V]

**REL 211: Hinduism [GM2, H,V] T,TH 11:00 am - 12:15 pm. - Professor Rinehart**

This course is an introduction to the vast, complex religious tradition of India known as Hinduism. The course begins with a survey of the historical development of key Hindu concepts, texts, and practices, with special focus on Hinduism's extensive mythological tradition. We will also study the many forms of Hindu worship and meditation. The course considers issues of recent and contemporary concern such as the relationship between Hinduism and politics both in colonial and independent India, differing views regarding caste and gender responsibilities, and Hinduism outside India. Course materials include novels and documentary films addressing issues within contemporary Hinduism. No prerequisite. Counts toward Asian Studies major/minor [GM2, H, V]

## DEPT. OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2020 COURSE OFFERINGS

**REL 214: Christianity: Jesus to Third Millennium [GM2,H,V] T,TH 1:15-2:30 pm - Professor Ziolkowski**

A study of the main branches of Christianity—Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant—in a worldwide scope with reference to their common Biblical inheritance, historical developments, characteristic doctrines, and institutional expressions. Together with a central text book, other readings are assigned by authors representing the viewpoints studied. [GM2, H,V]

**REL 215: Islam [H,V] M,W,F. 8:00-8:50 am - Professor Patel**

An introduction to Islam, a religion that flowered into a world civilization. It covers the vast and dynamic range of Muslim religious life from Muhammad's time to the present. The broad survey spans the foundational texts to the Quran and prophetic traditions as well as later Islamic thought, including jurisprudence, theology, and mysticism. The course highlights modern debates within and about Islam. Topics include political Islam, religious pluralism, the limits of jihad, and the possibilities of Islamic feminism. [H, V]

**REL 217: Latino/a Religions [GM1, H,V] M,W,F 3:10 -4:00 pm - Professor Hendrickson**

A study of the religious traditions of Latinas and Latinos in the United States. The course looks at various forms of Catholicism, the growth of Protestantism in Hispanic communities, and a variety of Afro-Caribbean religions. Emphases are placed on the lived devotions of Latinas/os, on the differences among Mexican, Caribbean, Central and South American groups, and on the role of religion in ethnic identity formation and maintenance. [GM1, H, V]

**REL 233: Female Divinities in China [H,GM1] M,W,F 1:10-2:00 pm - Professor Ma**

This course examines the various forms in which women figured in the spirit world in premodern and early modern China, how these roles evolved, and what they tell us about the nature of Chinese religion and about the social roles and relations attributed to women. Readings will include primary texts and modern scholarship on popular female divinities. Comparisons with the Western tradition and the neighbor culture of Japan will also be integrated into discussions. [H, GM1]

**REL 240: Theories of Religion [H,SS,W] T,TH 9:30-10:45 am - Professor Ziolkowski**

Following a brief survey of the history and development of the scholarly study of religion from the Enlightenment to the present, this seminar closely examines some of the most influential theories and methods employed in the field. Reading both classic and contemporary texts, we consider approaches that range from the anthropological, sociological, and psychological to the historicist, phenomenological, comparativist, feminist, and postmodernist. We also consider recent considerations of religion from the perspective of biological and cognitive-scientific perspective. Classes involve a combination of lectures, extensive discussion, and student presentations. [H,SS,W]

## DEPT. OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2020 COURSE OFFERINGS

### **REL 304: Spirituality & Transformation [GM1,H] M,W 11:00am -12:15 pm - Professor Patel**

What is spirituality? How and why do human beings seek to transform themselves? This course explores these and other questions primarily through the lens of Islamic mysticism (Sufism), but also through Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah) and the booming American Self-Help industry. Sources include both primary and secondary texts, including translations when appropriate. Active participation and lively discussion are encouraged. [GM1,H]

### **REL 308: Visual Culture & Religious Identity [GM1,H,W ] TH 7:00-9:50 pm - Professor Carr**

This course introduces the concept of visual culture as a window into the study of religion. Secondary texts are juxtaposed with primary sources. These sources suggest that the construction of religious communities and identities has taken place in the context of cultural exchange. We look at how various traditions have used images to construct community boundaries and ideologies. What and when have communities shared, disputed, and diverged? How has the presentation of “others” been an aspect of religious identity? [GM1, H,W]