Academics - Autumn 2001 Course Descriptions

DVSC 622 30100
Introduction to Religion and the Human Sciences
Doniger/Rosengarten
Open only to Divinity School students. Discussion groups will be arranged the first day of class.

BIBL 603 30600
Introduction to Biblical Civilization
Frymer-Kensky
How to read a biblical story. In this course we will investigate the various techniques and methodologies that open up the biblical story. We will read biblical stories using the lenses of historical criticism, narrative symbolism, cultural context, intertextuality, reader-oriented techniques, feminist criticism and interpretive history. There will be a short final examination. In addition, students will be asked to write a short paper that is either a critical report of a scholar's work or a multi-layered study of a story not covered in class. Ident. JWSC 31000 / JWSC 20000 / HUMA 20000 (This course fulfills Ministry requirement).

BIBL 603 33900
Intro. to Biblical Hebrew
Staff

BIBL 603 35100
Introduction to Koine Greek
Staff
PQ: Open to college students with consent of Instructor. Ident. NTEC 35100.

BIBL 603 38700
Genesis 12-38
Frymer-Kensky
A study of the ancestral stories in Genesis. This is an intensive course which will concentrate on the complexities of the biblical stories. Emphasis will be placed on text preparation and recitation, use of scholarly commentaries and an awareness of cultural background information from the ancient world. Students will prepare an oral presentation on a topic to be assigned and a research paper on a topic of the student's own choosing. PQ: Hebrew Ident. Div HIJD 34800 / JWSG 38400

BIBL 603 40800
Biblical Law
Frymer-Kensky
First class will meet on Thursday, October 4th. Ident. Law 56702
BIBL 603 43900
I Corinthians
Mitchell
An exegesis course focusing on the historical context, literary composition, and rhetorical structure and purpose of this major Pauline letter, with consideration also of such issues as the sociology of early Pauline congregations, forms of early Christian ritual, the relationship between rhetoric and theology in Pauline thought, and the historical legacy of this argument for church unity for women, slaves, dissenters, and others within the church.
Iden. NTEC 43900

BIBL 603 44500
Philo of Alexandria
Martinez
In this course we will read the Greek text of Philo's De Opificio Mundi with other brief excerpts here and there in the Philonic corpus. Our aim will be to use this treatise to elucidate the character of one of the most prolific theological writers of the first century. We will seek to understand Philo as a Greek author and the nature and origins of his style, Philo as a proponent of middle Platonism, and Philo as a Jew in the context of Alexandrian Judaism. We will also examine his use of the allegorical method as an exegetical tool, and its implications for early Christian approaches to the biblical text.
PQ: Two years of Greek or consent of instructor.
Iden. NTEC 44500

BIBL 603 53100
Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures
Sommer
A critical examination of the notions of biblical theology, Old Testament theology, and Tanakh theology. We will read selections from the major theologies produced during the twentieth century, as well of critiques of the field (Eichrodt, von Rad, Childs, Barr, Rendtorff, Brueggemann, Levenson, Goshen-Gottstein, Stendahl, etc.). Key concerns of the course will include: What is the difference between doctrinal theology and biblical theology? What is the difference between biblical theology and the history of Israelite religion? Can biblical theology exist? Has anyone written a biblical theology as yet?
Iden JWSG 30700

THEO 604 30100
History of Christian Thought I
McGinn
Development of the major themes in the history of Christian thought down to the mid-fifth century.
Iden. HCHR 30100

THEO 604 46600
Self, World, Other: The Thought of Paul Tillich
Schweiker
This course is a careful study of the thought of Paul Tillich, one of the most important 20th century theologians. The course will center on Tillich's major work, the Systematic Theology, but attention will also be
given to his writings on ethics and culture. The course will end with an examination of Tillich's legacy in terms of contemporary theologies of culture. Previous work in theology or ethics required. Seminar participation and paper.
Ident. RETH 46600

THEO 604 47300
Conceptions of Tradition in Judaism I
Fishbane and Mendes-Flohr
An exploration of the epistemological and phenomenological structures of tradition, and their formulations in classical and medieval Jewish literature. Sources will be studied in translation, alongside the original language.
Ident. HCHR 47300 / HIJD 47300 / JWSG 48800

THEO 604 48300
Theology of Karl Rahner
Carr
An analysis of the content of Rahner's theology and its characteristic methods. Some attention will be given to critical assessment of his thought.

DVPR 605 30200
Moral Perfectionism
Cavell
This is a three-quarter class and will meet four times per quarter.
Ident. RLST 24000 / PHIL 31200

DVPR 605 51100
Twentieth Century Philosophy: Vladimir Jankélévitch
Davidson
A study of some central texts by Vladimir Jankélévitch, one of the most significant twentieth-century French philosophers, whose major works have unfortunately not been translated into English. Texts will be drawn from Jankélévitch writings on moral philosophy, the aesthetics of music, and metaphysics. Some attention will also be given to Jankélévitch's relation to Henri Bergson and to Emmanuel Levinas.
Ident PHIL 51100

CHRM 606 30200
The Public Church in America
Gamwell
Opening course in the sequence for first-year M.Div. students.

CHRM 606 30500
Colloquium
Boden/Thompson
(Do not register for this course.)

CHRM 606 35500
Arts of Ministry: Worship
Staff
HIJD 625 41800
The Attitude of the Jewish Sages (Rabbis) toward Christianity and Christians during the First Four centuries
Herr
This course will analyze the attitude of Jewish Rabbis toward Christianity during its early history. This will be done against a double background: (1) the attitude of the early church towards Jews and Judaism, and (2) the different attitudes of pagans towards Judaism, on the one hand, and Christianity on the other. Rabbinic texts will be discussed and translations will be provided.
Ident JWSC 41800

HIJD 625 42500
Jewish Studies 424. Women and Family amongst Jews in the Period of Misnah and Talmud
Herr
This course will evaluate the status of women in Jewish society between the first century CE and the fourth century CE. The status and role of women will be analyzed according to various aspects and criteria: halakhic (legal), socioeconomic, ideological, etc. Emphasis will be placed on evaluation of Rabbini sources, as well as on comparison between Jewish life in different lands and between the Jewish and the Greco-Roman worlds.
Ident JWSG 42500

HIJD 625 47000
Studies in Aggadic Midrash
Fishbane
An examination of selections from Midrash Ecclesiates Rabba. Attention will be given to exegesis and theology, and their interrelation.
PQ: Advanced Rabbinic Hebrew
Ident. JWSG 47900

HIJD 625 47300
Conceptions of Tradition in Judaism: Part I
Fishbane and Mendes-Flohr
An exploration of the epistemological and phenomenological structures of tradition, and their formulations in classical and medieval Jewish literature. Sources will be studied in translation, alongside the original language.
Ident. HCHR 47300 / THEO 47300 / JWSC 48800
HIJD 626 30100
History of Christian Thought I
McGinn
Development of the major themes in the history of Christian thought down to the mid-fifth century.
Ident. THEO 30100

HIJD 626 41600
American Sermons
Gilpin
A seminar on the cultural history of preaching in America from the first New England settlements to mass media evangelism and the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The course will examine the sermon both in its theological and religious context and in its relation to other forms of public rhetoric in American history.

HIJD 626 43200
Colloquium: Ancient Period
Mitchell
A critical reading of influential narratives—both ancient and modern—of "the rise of Christianity" in the first four centuries, in interaction with selected ancient primary texts illuminating crucial issues (e.g. demographics, conversion, persecution, martyrdom, asceticism, women's participation, ecclesiological and ritual structures, intellectual lineages), personalities (e.g., Ignatius, Perpetua and Felicitas, Irenaeus, Antony, Eusebius, Constantine, Augustine) and events. On-going reflection on the nature of historiography itself.
PQ: None. Greek and Latin skills are not required, but will be put to good use where available.
Requirements: Readings in primary and secondary literature, one oral presentation, final paper.

HIJD 626 47300
Conceptions of Tradition in Judaism I
Fishbane and Mendes-Flohr
An exploration of the epistemological and phenomenological structures of tradition, and their formulations in classical and medieval Jewish literature. Sources will be studied in translation, alongside the original language.
Ident. THEO 47300 / HIJD 47300 / JWSC 48800

HIJD 628 32900
Classical Theories of Religion
Lincoln/Riesebrrodt
PQ: Graduate students only.
Ident. DVPR 32900 / SOCI 46700 / SALC 20400/48200 / FNDL 24400 / HCUL 32900
HIJD 628 35000
Mahabharata in English Translation
Doniger
A reading of the Mahabharata in English translation (van Buitenen, Narasimhan, P.C. Roy, and Doniger [ms.]), with special attention to issues of mythology, feminism, and theodicy. (Consent of Instructor)
Ident. SALC 20400

RLIT 635 37100
Theory of Literature: The Classical Background
Yu
A close reading of texts by Plato, Aristotle, Horace, Longinus, Origen, Augustine, Aquinas, Boccaccio, Dante, selected theorists of the Italian Renaissance, Sidney, and Dryden, for the purpose of providing resources for current work in literary theory and religious criticism.
PQ: Open to college students with consent of Instructor.
Ident. ENGL 31600 / CMLT 31600

RLIT 635 37700
Baudelaire et Mallarme
Meltzer
This course will address the issue of modernity and the roots of modernist concerns. We will begin with the writings of Baudelaire in conjunction with those of Benjamin. Mallarmé will be put in the context of a radicalization of Baudelaire's project and as an attempt to create an absolute which negates the possibility of transcendence. Besides the primary texts, readings will include works by Derrida, Janet Wolff, and others.
PQ: Good reading knowledge of French.
Ident. FREN 37700

RLIT 635 56200
Seminar: Story of the Stone I
Yu
A two-quarter sequence on the monumental classic of eighteenth-century China (variously titled "Dream of the Red Chamber" or "Hongloumeng"). Lecture and discussion supplemented by readings in a common core of criticism and student presentations each session. term paper required at the end of the second quarter.
PQ: Open to undergraduates with consent of Instructor.
Ident. CHIN 57600 / CMLT 5100

RETH 638 33500
Introduction to Ethical Theories
Gamwell
An introduction to major alternatives in Western philosophical ethics and especially to the ethical theories of Aristotle, Aquinas, and Kant.

RETH 638 45800
Politics, Ethics, and Terror
Elshtain
An examination of three responses to twentieth century totalitarianism—Arendt, Bonhoeffer, and Camus. What ethical wellsprings were drawn upon to confront Nazism and Stalinism? What sorts of arguments about the
function of ideology, the loss of limits, the transgression of "orders of being," metaphors of plague or other ravages got deployed and to what ends? What is the connection between explanation, understanding, and action in the "dark times" through which our thinkers lived or in which they died?

Ident. PLSC 45800

RETH 638 46600
Self, World, Other: The Thoght of Paul Tillich Schweiker
This course is a careful study of the thought of Paul Tillich, one of the most important 20th century theologians. The course will center on Tillich's major work, the Systematic Theology, but attention will also be given to his writings on ethics and culture. The course will end with an examination of Tillich's legacy in terms of contemporary theologies of culture. Previous work in theology or ethics required. Seminar participation and paper.

Ident. THEO 46600

DVSR 639 32900
Classical Theories of Religion Riesebrodt/Lincoln
PQ: Graduate students only.

Ident. HREL 32900 / SOCI 46700 / HCUL 32900

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