Academics

Autumn 2013 Course Descriptions

PLEASE NOTE: This document is subject to amendment. It is intended for descriptive and informational use only. DO NOT USE IT TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES. To register, please consult the University Time Schedules.

The Following "Special Courses" are for M. Div. students only:
629-60000-01/02 Special Course — Chicago Theological Seminary
629-63000-01/02 Special Course — Meadville Lombard Theol School
629-65000-01/02 Special Course — Catholic Theological Union
629-66000-01/02 Special Course — Lutheran Theological School
629-66500-01/02 Special Course — Garrett Theological Seminary
629-68000-01/02 Special Course — McCormick Theol. Seminary
629-69000-01-03 Special Course— Seabury Western Theo. Seminary

For "designated introductory courses" M.A. students may choose from the list of 300-level courses that do not require a pre-requisite.

**DVSC 30400 Introduction to the Study of Religion**
Rosengarten, Richard
T/TH 6:00-7:20 S106
Supporting course required of all M.A./M.DIV. students

**DVSC 42000 Divinity School: German Reading Exam**
Owens, Teresa
Monday, October 28, 6:00 p.m. S106
PQ: Open only to Divinity School students.

**DVSC 45100 Reading Course: Special Topic**
Staff: ARR
PQ: Petition with bibliography signed by instructor; enter section number from faculty list.

**DVSC 49900 Exam Preparation**
Staff: ARR
PQ: Open only to Ph.D. students in quarter of qualifying exams. Department consent. Petition signed by Advisor.

**DVSC 50100 Research: Divinity**
Staff: ARR
PQ: Petition signed by instructor; enter section number from faculty list.

**DVSC 59900 Thesis Work: Divinity**
Staff: ARR
PQ: Petition signed by instructor; enter section number from faculty list.
AASR 32900 Classical Theories of Religion
Wedemeyer, Christian
T/TH 10:30-11:50 S106

This course will survey the development of theoretical perspectives on religion and religions in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Thinkers to be studied include: Kant, Hume, Schleiermacher, Feuerbach, Marx, Müller, Tiele, Tylor, Robertson Smith, Frazer, Durkheim, Weber, Freud, James, Otto, van der Leeuw, Wachg, and Eliade.

Ident. HREL 32900/ANTH 35005

BIBL 31000 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Jewish Thought and Literature
Stackert, Jeffrey
T/TH 1:30-2:50 S106

The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is a complex anthology of disparate texts and reflects a diversity of religious, political, and historical perspectives from ancient Israel, Judah, and Yehud. Because this collection of texts continues to play an important role in modern religions, new meanings are often imposed upon it. In this course, we will attempt to read biblical texts apart from modern preconceptions about them. We will also contextualize their ideas and goals through comparison with texts from ancient Mesopotamia, Syro-Palestine, and Egypt. Such comparisons will demonstrate that the Hebrew Bible is fully part of the cultural milieu of the Ancient Near East. To accomplish these goals, we will read a significant portion of the Hebrew Bible in English, along with representative selections from secondary literature. We will also spend some time thinking about the nature of biblical interpretation.

Ident. RLST 11004/JWSC 20004

BIBL 31200 Philosophy: Plato’s Phaedrus
Martinez, David
T/TH 9:00-10:20 Cl 12

The Phaedrus is one of the most fascinating and compelling of Plato’s Dialogues. Beginning with a playful treatment of the theme of erotic passion, it continues with a consideration of the nature of inspiration, love, and knowledge. The centerpiece is one of the most famous of the Platonic myths, the moving description of the charioteer and its allegory of the vision, fall, and incarnation of the soul. We will read the entire dialogue, with special attention to the language and style and with a particular focus on religious and theological ideas.

Ident. GREK 31200/21200

BIBL 31400 Jewish History and Society I: Ancient Jerusalem
Chavel, Simeon
T/TH 10:30-11:50 S201
Ident. JWSC 20001/RLST
This course will examine the Acts of the Apostles, which should be called more correctly the “Acts of Peter and Paul,” since these two figures are the heroes of the story. One of the most fascinating aspects of Acts is the way in which the author of this second volume in a two-volume work (Luke-Acts) describes the encounter and the confrontation of the Christian message with the non-Christian culture and religion of the Mediterranean world and with non-Christian forms of religion. Specifically, we will concentrate on those texts in Acts which illustrate this interaction, sometimes in a dramatic way (e.g. Acts 19).

PQ: No Greek. Greek reading will be offered from 10:25-11:00

A close study of the theology of the book of Job, with an emphasis on religious phenomenology; tradition and the crisis of tradition; the idea of the question; and theological (re)constructions. The Hebrew text will be referred to and examined, but English translations used; knowledge of Hebrew not a prerequisite.

Ident. THEO 47901/HIJD 47901

According to Clement of Alexandria Hermes Trismegistus authored 42 “fundamental books” on Egyptian religion. The writings under his name which are extant, dating between the first and third centuries AD, incorporate many styles and genres, including cosmogony, prophecy, gospel, popular philosophy, anthropology, magic, hymn, and apocalypse. The first treatise in the collection well represents the whole. It tells
how the god Poimandres manifests to his follower a vision, revealing the origin of the kosmos and humanity, and how archetypal man descends to his fallen state and may be redeemed. We will begin with the Poimandres and then read other sections of this strange but absorbing body of material.

PQ: At least 2 years of Greek.

Ident. GREK 37100

**BIBL 54500 The Apocryphas Acts of the Apostles**
Klauck, Hans-Josef
M 1:00-3:50 S403

The “Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles” read like historical novels; they are more comparable to the gospels than to Luke’s Acts in the New Testament. The “big five” that are the oldest ones among them were produced between 150-230 C.E., which is pretty early and invites comparison with the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature. The “big five” just mentioned are: Acts of John, Acts of Paul, Acts of Peter, Acts of Andrew, Acts of Thomas. Some of them are transmitted in a very fragmentary state, but even then they contain important information and make fascinating reading. Alternating between the Greek text and the English translation, we will read selected portions of at least three of them: Ac John, Act Paul (and Thecla, not to forget!), Act Thom. We will see if there is time to do more.

PQ: Knowledge of Greek

**BIBL 54700 Critical Methods in the Study of the Hebrew Bible**
Stackert, Jeffrey
F 12:00-2:50 S200

This course will consider the development and application of the various critical methods employed for biblical studies (textual criticism, source criticism, form criticism, tradition history, redaction criticism, new literary criticism, etc.). Each student's study will culminate in a commentary-style treatment of a text chosen from the book of Exodus.

PQ: BIBL 31000; good knowledge of biblical Hebrew.

**CHRM 30500 Introduction to Ministry Studies: Colloquium**
Lindner, Cynthia
W 1:30-2:50 S400

This year-long integration seminar grounds first year M.Div. students in habits and perspectives essential to the practice of ministry. Students will cultivate the discipline of attention--learning to read closely, to listen deeply, to interrogate their experience, and to participate in rigorous critical conversation. During the first quarter, students will explore the relationship of narrative and theology; the second quarter will engage students in a close encounter with urban ministry; during the third quarter, students will integrate tradition, reason, and experience as they articulate definitions of ministry.
PQ: First year M.DIV. students only. Course meets all year, register in Autumn quarter only.

CHRM 35100 Arts of Ministry: Worship and Preaching
Lindner, Cynthia/Otten, Willemien
F 9:00-11:50 S400

This course is the first of a three-quarter sequence introducing students to essential aspects of religious leadership; the sequence is required for second-year M.Div. students and complements their field education experience. During this quarter students study, observe, and engage the practices that are unique to and constitutive of religious communities—corporate ritual and public speech. Through study of the literature of liturgics and homiletics, field trips, and worship/preaching labs, students will become familiar with a variety of worship practices, identify and articulate those which are essential to their own religious traditions, and cultivate their distinctive voices as worship leaders and preachers.

PQ: Second year M.DIV. students only, others by permission of instructor.

CHRM 40600 Practice of Ministry I
Staff
F 1:30-3:30 S400

DVPR 32702 Theological Sources in Philosophical Reflection
Coyne, Ryan
M/W 9:00-10:20 S106
Ident. THEO 32702

DVPR 50004 Nietzsche: Nihilism and Faith
Coyne, Ryan
M 1:00-3:50 S200
PQ: Reading knowledge of German is a plus

DVPR 50008 Michel Foucault: Self, Government, and Regimes of Truth
Davidson, Arnold
ARR

A close reading of Michel Foucault’s 1979-80 course at the Collège de France, Du gouvernement des vivants. Foucault’s most extensive course on early Christianity, these lectures examine the relations between the government of the self and regimes of truth through a detailed analysis of Christian penitential practices, with special attention to the practices of exomolog?sis and exagoreusis. We will read this course both taking into account Foucault’s sustained interest in ancient thought and with a focus on the more general historical and theoretical conclusions that can be drawn from his analyses. (I) Autumn. A. Davidson.

PQ: Limited Enrollment. Students interested in taking for credit should attend first seminar before registering. Reading knowledge of French required. Consent only.

Ident. PHIL 50008
DVPR 50201 Seminar: Contemporary Critical Theory
Meltzer, Francoise
W 1:30-4:20  CL 113
Ident. CMLT 50201

HCHR 42203 Kings, Culture, and the Three Religions of Medieval Spain
Nirenberg, David
M 1:30-4:20  F305
This course will approach the artistic, scientific, literary, political and religious projects of the Christian monarchs Alfonso X “the Wise” (King of Castile from 1252-1284) and James “the Conqueror” (King of Aragon from 1213-1276). It will focus on the inter-religious context of these projects, and ask how their cultural dynamics were shaped by the interaction of the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities living under their rule.
Ident. HIST. 42203

HCHR 42901 Christianity and Slavery in America, 1619-1865
Evans, Curtis
T/TH 9:00-10:20  S201
This course examines the history of Christian thought and practice in relation to slavery’s development in what became the United States. Topics covered include Christian missions to slaves, slave acceptance of and resistance to Christianity, debates over abolition, developing racial theories, Christian proslavery defenses, and the practice and evolution of slave religion.
Ident. RAME 42901

HCHR 43200 Colloquium: Ancient Christianity
Mitchell, Margaret
W 6:00-9:00  S200
A critical reading of influential narratives--both ancient and modern--of “the rise of Christianity” in the first four centuries, in interaction with selected primary sources from antiquity 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) and events. On-going reflection on the nature of historiography itself.
Prerequisites: Greek and Latin not required, but reading groups will be organized for those who have these skills.

HCHR 43301 Religion in Modern America, 1865-1920
Evans, Curtis
T/TH 1:30-2:50  S201
This course is a general history of religion in the United States from the Civil War to the 1920s. Special emphases include religious practice, interreligious encounters and conflicts, race, confrontation with modernity, and the changing social and public dimensions of religion in the US.

Ident. RAME 43301

HCHR 50405 Colloquium: Peter Lombards’ Sentences
Fulton, Rachel
W 1:30-4:20 ARR

For centuries, Peter Lombard's twelfth-century collection of patristic interpretations of Scripture or "sentences" served as the foundation for the formal study of Christian theology. All university masters in theology were required to lecture on the Sentences, and many of the greatest works of late medieval theology began as commentaries on the Sentences. Covering in order the mystery of the Trinity (book 1), creation (book 2), the incarnation of the Word (book 3), and the doctrine of sins (book 4), Lombard's summa provided at once a structure for inquiry and a limit on the kinds of questions theologians were expected to ask. In this course, we will follow the medieval practice of reading and commenting on the four books of the Sentences both in the order to learn how medieval Christians thought about God, creation, salvation, virtue, the sacraments, and the last things, and in order to practice making such theological arguments ourselves. The Sentences themselves are newly available in English translation, but students will be encouraged insofar as they are able to work with them in the original Latin.

Ident. HIST 60405

HCHR 55300 Aquinas ‘Summa Theologiae: Its Structure and Pedagogy
Otten, Willemien/McGinn, Bernard
T/TH 10:30-11:50 S208
Ident. THEO 55300

HIJD 30704 Jewish Liturgical Poetry
Fishbane, Michael
Tu 3:00-5:50 S200

An introduction to Piyyut (liturgical poetry) in Jewish antiquity. The course will emphasize the great liturgist and poet Yannai, who flourished in the early Byzantine period. Emphasis will be on the stylistic forms and position of the prayer-poems; transformations of Scripture and Midrash; modes of textuality and intertextuality; and types of theology and pedagogy. Overall, the emergent sense of Tradition will be explored. At the end, attention will be given to the Greek hymns of Romanos and the Syriac hymns of Ephrem.

PQ: Knowledge of Hebrew desired but not required (translations will be provided).

Ident. RLIT 30704/THEO 30704
HIJD 42201 The Study of Modern Jewish Thought: Theory and Method
Mendes-Flohr, Paul
TH 3:00-5:50 S200

This survey course will proceed according to two thematic vectors: methodological and historical. Our review of some of the more salient methodological and theoretical issues in the study of ideas, in general, and religion, in particular, will be exemplified by an examination of the principal problems in modern Jewish religious thought (viz., revelation, mitzvot, election, feminism, and Messianism).

HIJD 46100 Franz Rosenzweig’s Star of Redemption Part I
Mendes-Flohr, Paul
W 6:00-8:50 S208

The course will be given in two consecutive quarters. The fall quarter will be devoted to Book One of Rosenzweig’s principal work of philosophical theological (a term he rejected), The Star of Redemption. Our reading of Part One will be supplemented by several shorter essays and works by Rosenzweig, e.g., “Atheistic Theology,” the so-called “Urzelle,” “The New Thinking,” Understanding the Sick and Healthy, and select correspondence.

HIJD 47901 Job and Theology: Between Biblical Hermeneutics and Philosophical Theology
Fishbane, Michael
W 8:30-11:20 S200

A close study of the theology of the book of Job, with an emphasis on religious phenomenology; tradition and the crisis of tradition; the idea of the question; and theological (re)constructions. The Hebrew text will be referred to and examined, but English translations used; knowledge of Hebrew not a prerequisite.

Ident. BIBL 47901/THEO 47901

HREL 32900 Classical Theories of Religion
Wedemeyer, Christian
T/TH 10:30-11:50 S106

This course will survey the development of theoretical perspectives on religion and religions in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Thinkers to be studied include: Kant, Hume, Schleiermacher, Feuerbach, Marx, Müller, Tiele, Tylor, Robertson Smith, Frazer, Durkheim, Weber, Freud, James, Otto, van der Leeuw, Wachg, and Eliade.

Ident. AASR 32900/ANTH 35005

HREL 47001 Pahlavi Language and Literature
Lincoln, Bruce
ARR

This reading course is offered each quarter during the academic year.
This course examines the movement of editing and printing classical Islamic texts that swept across the Muslim world in the early 20th century and established what we now consider the classical canon of Islamic thought. By reading editors’ introductions, biographies, and newspaper and journal articles, we investigate who the editors were, why they chose to edit specific texts, and what they perceived as the goals of their work. Through an analysis of the agendas pursued by different groups of editors, we explore early modern debates among Muslim scholars regarding reform, revival, Orientalism, and the classical Islamic heritage.

Prerequisites: 2 years of Arabic or the equivalent

This course examines the Blood-Libel from the thirteenth-century to the present, with special focus upon the Damascus Affair of 1840 and its repercussions in the modern Middle Eastern and European contexts and in polemics today among Muslims, Christians and Jews. We will review cases and especially upon literary and artistic representations of ritual murder and sacrificial consumption alleged to have been carried out by Waldensians, Fraticelli, witches, and Jews, with special attention to the forms of redemptive, demonic, and symbolic logic that developed over the course of the centuries and culminated in the wake of the Damascus Affair. Each participant will be asked to translate and annotate a sample primary text, ideally one that has not yet been translated into English, and to use that work as well in connection with a final paper. PQ: Willingness to work on a text from one of the following languages—Latin, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Hungarian, Russian, Arabic, Modern Greek, or Turkish—at whatever level of proficiency one has attained.
RAME 42901 Christianity and Slavery in America, 1619-1865
Evans, Curtis
T/TH 10:00-11:20 S200

This course examines the history of Christian thought and practice in relation to slavery’s development in what became the United States. Topics covered include Christian missions to slaves, slave acceptance of and resistance to Christianity, debates over abolition, developing racial theories, Christian proslavery defenses, and the practice and evolution of slave religion.

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Evans, Curtis
T/TH 1:30-2:50 S201

This course is a general history of religion in the United States from the Civil War to the 1920s. Special emphases include religious practice, interreligious encounters and conflicts, race, confrontation with modernity, and the changing social and public dimensions of religion in the US.

Ident. HCHR 43301

RETH 44000 Methods and Theories in Comparative Religious Ethics
Schweiker, William
T/TH 1:30-2:50 S208

This graduate level course engages important works in the developing field of comparative religious ethics. The main concern will be with texts that tackle the difficult problem of the “method” of comparison and also develop theories for comparative ethics. Attention will also be given to the actual comparison of the moral thought of various traditions. The main purpose of the course is familiarity with the main options and lines of debate in comparative religious ethics.

RETH 46900 Reinhold Niebuhr: Theology and Ethics
Gamwell, Franklin
T/TH 9:00-10:20 S208

A sustained discussion of Reinhold Niebuhr’s systematic thought, attending principally to The Nature and Destiny of Man
Ident. THEO 46900

RETH 50250 Seminar: Greek Tragedy and Philosophy
Nussbaum, Martha
T 3:00-5:30 S201

Ancient Greek tragedy has been of continuous interest to philosophers, whether they love it or hate it. But they do not agree about what it is and does, or about what insights it offers. This seminar will study the tragic festivals and a select number of tragedies, also consulting some modern studies of ancient tragedy. Then we shall turn to philosophical
accounts of the tragic genre, including Plato, Aristotle, the Greek and Roman Stoics, Seneca, Lessing, Schlegel, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Iris Murdoch, and Bernard Williams. If we have time we will include some study of ancient Greek comedy and its philosophical significance. Admission by permission of the instructor. Permission must be sought in writing by September 15.

Prerequisite: An undergraduate major in philosophy or some equivalent solid philosophy preparation, OR a solid grounding in Classics, including language training. In other words, those who qualify on the basis of philosophical background do not have to know ancient Greek, but someone without such preparation may be admitted on the basis of knowledge of Greek and other Classics training of the sort typical of our Ph.D. students in Classics. An extra section will be held for those who can read some of the materials in Greek.

Ident. LAWS 96303/PHIL 50250

RLIT 30704 Jewish Liturgical Poetry
Fishbane, Michael
Tu 3:00-5:50 S200

An introduction to Piyyut (liturgical poetry) in Jewish antiquity. The course will emphasize the great liturgist and poet Yannai, who flourished in the early Byzantine period. Emphasis will be on the stylistic forms and position of the prayer-poems; transformations of Scripture and Midrash; modes of textuality and intertextuality; and types of theology and pedagogy. Overall, the emergent sense of Tradition will be explored. At the end, attention will be given to the Greek hymns of Romanos and the Syriac hymns of Ephrem.

PQ: Knowledge of Hebrew desired by not required (translations will be provided)

Ident. HIJD 30704

RLIT 40201 Levinas and Derrida on Religion and Literature
Hammerschlag, Sarah
W/F 1:30-2:50 S201

This course will examine Emmanuel Levinas and Jacques Derrida’s respective treatments of literature with attention to the connections between their conceptions of literature and their early studies of Husserlian phenomenology. It will consider the ways in which their readings of literature relate to their positions on religious discourse and philosophical discourse, considering in particular the role of Judaism for each. Its broader task will be to analyze literature’s role in the translation of religious concepts into philosophical discourse more generally.

PQ: Reading knowledge of French is recommended.
**RLIT 41810 Irony**  
Rosengarten, Richard/Hammerschlag, Sarah  
TH 1:30-4:20 S208

In the classic formulation, irony is a figure of speech in which the actual meaning is expressed in words that designate its opposite. Its history is protean, spanning from Socrates to Stephen Colbert. This course will focus on texts in which irony seems to be a staple element of representation, toward asking a series of questions about the extent to which irony is intrinsic to representation. Readings to be determined, but may include works by Plato, Shakespeare, Swift, Hume, Kierkegaard, Melville, Nietzsche, Derrida, and David Foster Wallace.

**THEO 30704 Jewish Liturgical Poetry**  
Fishbane, Michael  
Tu 3:00-5:50 S200

An introduction to Piyyut (liturgical poetry) in Jewish antiquity. The course will emphasize the great liturgist and poet Yannai, who flourished in the early Byzantine period. Emphasis will be on the stylistic forms and position of the prayer-poems; transformations of Scripture and Midrash; modes of textuality and intertextuality; and types of theology and pedagogy. Overall, the emergent sense of Tradition will be explored. At the end, attention will be given to the Greek hymns of Romanos and the Syriac hymns of Ephrem.

**PQ:** Knowledge of Hebrew desired but not required (translations will be provided).

IDENT. HIJD 30704/RLIT 30704

**THEO 32702 Theological Sources in Philosophical Reflection**  
Coyne, Ryan  
M/W 9:00-10:20 S106  
Idem. DVPR 32702

**THEO 46900 Reinhold Niebuhr: Theology and Ethics**  
Gamwell, Franklin  
T/TH 9:00-10:20 S208

A sustained discussion of Reinhold Niebuhr’s systematic thought, attending principally to The Nature and Destiny of Man  
Ident. RETH 46900
THEO 47901 Job and Theology: Between Biblical Hermeneutics and Philosophical Theology
Fishbane, Michael
W 8:30-11:20 S200

A close study of the theology of the book of Job, with an emphasis on religious phenomenology; tradition and the crisis of tradition; the idea of the question; and theological (re)constructions. The Hebrew text will be referred to and examined, but English translations used; knowledge of Hebrew not a prerequisite.

Ident. BIBL 47901/HIJD 47901

THEO 55300 Aquinas 'Summa Theologiae: Its Structure and Pedagogy
Otten, Willemien/McGinn, Bernard
T/TH 10:30-11:50 S208
Ident. HCHR 55300
Related Links
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