Academics - Spring 2004 Course Descriptions

DVSC 622 30200
Introduction to Historical Studies in Religion
Klauck/Robinson
PQ: Open only to first-year A.M.R.S. and M.A. students.
Discussion groups will meet Fridays, 3:00-4:50, S106

BIBL 603 30800
Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
Menn
Ident. RLST 11003

BIBL 603 34100
Intermediate Biblical Hebrew
Staff
PQ: BIBL 34000 or equivalent.

BIBL 603 35400
Introductory Koine Greek 3
Blanton
PQ: BIBL 35300 or one year college-level Greek.
Ident NTEC 35400

BIBL 603 40800
Biblical Law
Frymer-Kensky
This is a lecture course in which we study the form and content of
Biblical law, studying the major documents of law (The Book of the
Covenant in Exodus, the laws of Leviticus and Deuteronomy) both for their
legal content and as literary compositions. Course requirements: There
will be a midterm and final based on the readings and on the lectures.
Class attendance is very important. In addition, each student will
prepare an abstract of two articles to distribute to the class.
PQ: None.
IDENT. JWSG 40800

BIBL 603 42000
The Gospel According to Mark
Mitchell
An investigation of the composition, genre, plot structure, theology,
purpose and impact of the earliest gospel. Particular emphasis will be
paid on the relationship between Mark and Paul, the place of the Gospel
according to Mark in the formation of early Christian literary culture,
and the relationship between Mark and media, particularly through an
investigation of its presentation and hermeneutical shaping in important
manuscript holdings in the Goodspeed Bible Collection (Regenstein Library
Special Collection).

PQ: BIBL 32500, Introduction to New Testament, or equivalent. Greek is
not required, though those who have skills in Greek will have abundant
opportunities to use them.
Ident. NTEC 42000
In this exegesis course, we will study the narratives of Exodus 1-21, 24 and 30-32. We will use an eclectic methodology, concentrating on close reading, literary composition and (where appropriate) comparative mythology and folklore. Course requirements: Students are expected to prepare the text with commentaries and participate in class with reading, translation, analysis and comment. In addition, students are expected to write a research paper on a relevant topic.
PQ: ability to read the Bible in Hebrew.

A close reading of selected texts from 1 Samuel in Hebrew. The course will focus on issues of methodology. In particular, we will compare the approaches of several modern commentaries (e.g., McCarter, Alter, Bar Efrat) and monographs (Polzin, Jobling), which both allow us to contrast literary and more classical critical models and also to understand vastly different models of what a literary approach can mean. Some attention will also be given to medieval rabbinic commentaries insofar as they illuminate contemporary critical concerns. Other issues addressed will include questions of the historicity of the texts, compositional models, and textual criticism.
PQ: At least one year of biblical Hebrew.

Plutarch of Chaironeia, who lived between c. 45 and 125 C.E., is not only a contemporary of the authors of the New Testament, but also one of our main sources for information on history, politics, religions, philosophy, literature, and social life of the 1st century C.E. He was a prolific writer and produced a vast number of books. Much of his writing is preserved in two series: the "Vita" and the "Moralia" (all available in the LCL, though we will prefer the Teubner edition for the Greek text). We will try to cover a representative selection of texts, alternating between close reading of certain passages in Greek and overviews based on translations. Among the titles we will deal with are: On Superstition, Life of Numa and Life of Alexander the Great, On Brotherly Love, the Oracles at Delphi, On Isis and Osiris. The identification of fruitful parallels to early Christian writings will be a common task for all participants.
PQ: Greek

BIBL 603 45401
Exodus
Frymer-Kensky

BIBL 603 50302
The Book of Samuel
Sommer

BIBL 603 53300
E.C.L. Seminar: Plutarch and Early Christian Literature
Klauck / Martinez

Ident. JWSG 40900

Ident. JWSG 40302.

Ident. NTEC 43300
THEO 604 35900
African Thought and Worldview
Hopkins
The course examines contrasting African scholar's philosophies. Of particular interest will be notions of self, community, and culture. The conditions for the rise of African philosophy are the external impositions of European contact and the internal development of traditional ways of perceiving the world.

THEO 604 40600
Black Theology: Second Generation
Hopkins
To put in conversation divergent theological disciplines and focused topics of these scholars, this course provides a close textual analysis of the rise of a second generation of black theologians from the 1980s. We read texts of thinkers who both affirm and critique black theology.

THEO 604 41001
H.R. Niebuhr and Sallie McFague
Culp

THEO 604 42100
The Post-Human and the Death of Nature: Problems in Theology and Ethics
Schweiker

Currently there is considerable discussion about the emergence of the "post-human" through the technological and genetics revolution as well as the so-called "end of nature" and the crisis of the environment. This course seeks to probe the connection between these two developments in understanding responsibility for finite life. In this respect, the course topics in ethics too often separated, namely, issues about human flourishing and ecological responsibility. Through the reading of a range of thinkers, from Peter Singer on "unsanctifying human life" to Donna Haraway on cyborg existence and also distinctive theological proposals and ideas about "creation," the course hopes to chart a range of options in contemporary moral theory. The course will proceed through lectures, discussions, and presentation. Students will write a paper on a specific practical problem within this range of issues. Previous work in theology, ethics, or philosophy is required.

THEO 604 44600
Renaissance and Reformation
Schreiner
Ident. HCHR 44600

THEO 604 47002
Sex, Gender, Sexuality and the Study of Religion II
Hollywood
The second in a two-course sequence, the class will focus on contemporary theories of sex, gender, and sexuality, working to distinguish the three terms and analyze their interrelationships. We will explore the role of religious language and categories within these theories, as well as their
ramifications for the study of religion. Readings will include texts by Gayle Rubin, Judith Butler, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Leo Bersani, Tim Dean, Stephen Moore, Caroyln Dinshaw, Richard Rambuss, and Michael Warner as well as some primary texts from medieval and early modern Christianity. Ident. HCHR 47002

THEO 604 47201
Tragedy: Conflict of Interpretation in Philosophy, Theology, Culture
Tracy
This course will consist in reading selected texts in Greek tragedy and in Shakespeare in realatnionship to the debate on the role of tragedy in philosophy (Hegel, Nietzsche, B. Williams, M. Nussbaum); in Christian theology (Kierkegaard, R. Niebuhr, von Balthasar) and culture (Freud, Lacan, Guattari/Deleuze, J. Butler, N. Loraux, L. Goldmann, T. Eagleton). Ident SCTR 42701

THEO 604 47301
The Hidden God: A study of Luther, Pascal, Kierkegaard, Simone Weil, King Lear, and Ingmar Bergman
Tracy and Schreiner
Ident. HCHR 47301

THEO 604 48501
Women Writers, Authorship, and Authority in Medieval and Early Modern Christianity
Hollywood
The course will explore the ways in which women writers gained the authority to write within a culture that routinely denied most women access to basic literacy and education. Looking at both men's and women's representations of women as authors, we will explore the ways in which, as literary critic Jennifer Summit argues, "the woman writer" became a figure around which issues of authorship and authority emerge in the later Middle Ages and early modern period. In addition, we will explore the "afterlives" of medieval women's texts in order to understand the changing nature of their claims to authority. Readings will include texts by Hildegard of Bingen, Heloise and Abelard, Hadewijch, Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete, Geoffrey Chaucer, Magaret Ebner, Christina de Pizan, and Margery Kempe. In addition, we will look at contemporary works of theory and criticism that explore issues of authorship, authority, and gender. Authors might include Barbara Newman, A.J. Minnis, Sarah Poor, Peter Dronke, Jennifer Summit, John Guillory, and Jonathan Goldberg.
Ident. HCHR 48501

DVPR 606 30302
Indian Philosophy II
Kapstein
Ident. HREL 30300

DVPR 604 39801
Heidegger, Sein Und Zeit: Care, Historicity and Being
Marion
Ident. PHIL 23611, 33811, SCTH 34511
Augustine's Confessions: Issues and Commentaries
Marion
Ident: Phil 54501, SCTH 49701

Perception
Kapstein
Which acts of consciousness are to be counted as perceptions? and under what descriptions? Is perception a means of knowledge? and, if so, knowledge of what? How are we to distinguish between perception and illusion? or are the two to be identified with one another? The reflections impelled by these and similar questions have a long and complex history not just in the Western philosophical traditions, but in Indian thought as well. The present seminar will examine primarily three aspects of the topic: the treatment of perception in recent Anglo-American philosophy; the use of Anglo-American work on perception in the investigation of classical Indian epistemologies; and recent work on perception in the philosophy of religion. Howard Robinson's Perception, B.K. Matilal's Perception: An Essay on Classical Indian Theories of Knowledge, and William Alston's Perceiving God will serve as the primary texts around which discussion will be organized.

Introduction to the Study of Ministry
Boden / Lindner

Arts of Ministry: Pastoral Care
Lindner
PQ: Second-year M.Div. students only

Advanced Seminar in Pastoral Care: Marriage/Family in Church and Culture
Lindner
PQ: Arts of Ministry: Pastoral Care, or consent of instructor.

The Practice of Ministry
Staff

Medieval Commentaries on Ecclesiastes
Robinson
A study of the medieval Jewish exegesis of Ecclesiastes. Focus will be on the commentary by Samuel Ibn Tibbon (c. 1160-1232), but his work will be considered in relation to earlier commentaries and to the tradition of philosophical exegesis that he inspired. Besides Ibn Tibbon, the commentaries by Isaac Ibn Ghiyath, Abraham Ibn Ezra, Abu-l-Barakat al-Baghdadi, Isaac Ibn Latif, Joseph Ibn Kaspi, and Gersonides will be discussed.
PQ: Knowledge of Hebrew
Ident. JWSG 45500
HIJD 625 51000
Proseminar In Midrash
Fishbane
Ident JWSG 51000

HCHR 626 40601
Religion, Law, and Culture
Sullivan
"Religion" and "Law" denote human cultural and social phenomena that are virtually universal. In this course, we will consider how to talk about these two and their intersection in, for example, the construction of individual and group identities, the development of ideas and institutions, the legitimation of power, and the regulation of the social order. We will examine materials from a range of modern and pre-modern societies and will engage different academic disciplines with a view to understanding and evaluating various approaches to the study of "law and religion."
Ident. HREL 40601, AASR 40600

HCHR 626 40700
Women and Religion in America, 1600-1865
Brekus
This course is a survey of women and religion from the colonial period to the Civil War. Course readings will center on major scholarly works in the field, but will also draw heavily on primary sources. Topics include Puritanism, witchcraft, female preaching, Catholicism, the "feminization" of American religion and the early women's rights movement. Requirements: two short papers (2-3 pages each) on the weekly readings, and a final 15 page review essay. All students are also required to lead class discussion once during the quarter.
Ident. HIST 64000

HCHR 626 41501
Metaphysical Poetry
Strier
This course would study the development and the usefulness of this category in approaching the work of the poets to whom it has traditionally been applied (Donne, Herbert, Vaughan, Crashaw, Marvell, Edward Taylor, Emily Dickinson).
Ident. ENGL 36510/ RLIT 41500

HCHR 626 43200
Colloquium: Ancient Christianity
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 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, Augustine) and events. On-going reflection on the nature of historiography itself.
Ident. NTEC 43200
HCHR 626 44600
Renaissance and Reformation
Schreiner
This class examines points of convergence and divergence during the era of the Renaissance and the Reformation spanning the time between Cusa and Bruno. The issues analyzed will go beyond strictly theological debates. We will examine views of reason and human nature, the revival of Platonism, the rise of historical thought, the study of law and philology, and the implications regarding the development of perspective on both thought and art. We will also examine the role of rhetoric, poetry, and moral philosophy, the rise of skepticism, the appeal to certitude, curriculum reform, and the reform of art as exemplified by Michelangelo.
Ident. THEO 44600

HCHR 626 47002
Sex, Gender, Sexuality and the Study of Religion II
Hollywood
The second in a two-course sequence, the class will focus on contemporary theories of sex, gender, and sexuality, working to distinguish the three terms and analyze their interrelationships. We will explore the role of religious language and categories within these theories, as well as their ramifications for the study of religion. Readings will include texts by Gayle Rubin, Judith Butler, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Leo Bersani, Tim Dean, Stephen Moore, Carolyn Dinshaw, Richard Rambuss, and Michael Warner as well as some primary texts from medieval and early modern Christianity.
Ident. THEO 47002

HCHR 604 47301
The Hidden God: A study of Luther, Pascal, Kierkegaard, Simone Weil, King Lear, and Ingmar Bergman
Tracy and Schreiner
Ident. THEO 47301

HCHR 626 48501
Women Writers, Authorship, and Authority in Medieval and Early Modern Christianity
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HCHR 626 50700
Research Seminar in American Religious History
Brekus / Gilpin
A research workshop in which each participant will prepare and discuss a major paper on a topic in American religious history.
PQ: Restricted to graduate students who have completed at least one course in the four-course sequence on American religious history.

HIST 62200

HREL 628 35200
Tibetan Buddhism
Wedemeyer
This course is designed to serve as an introductory survey of the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of Buddhism in Tibet from its origins in the mid-first-millennium through the end of the 20th century. Readings will be drawn both from primary sources (in translation) and secondary and tertiary scholarly research.
PQ: Preferably HREL 35100 or equivalent background in Buddhism.

HREL 628 40601
Religion, Law, and Culture
Sullivan
"Religion" and "Law" denote human cultural and social phenomena that are virtually universal. In this course, we will consider how to talk about these two and their intersection in, for example, the construction of individual and group identities, the development of ideas and institutions, the legitimation of power, and the regulation of the social order. We will examine materials from a range of modern and pre-modern societies and will engage different academic disciplines with a view to understanding and evaluating various approaches to the study of "law and religion."
PQ: HCHR 40601, AASR 40600

HREL 628 40900
Text, Context, Subtext
Lincoln

HREL 628 41400
The Theology of George W. Bush
Lincoln

HREL 628 44000
Tibetan Auto-Biography
Wedemeyer
In this course, we will explore the genres of biography and autobiography in Tibetan religious and literary culture, with special emphasis on the latter. Though often considered a genre characteristic of-and exclusive to-Western modernity, autobiography has had a long and rich history in Tibet, spanning at least a thousand years. We will begin the course by reading some theoretical studies of biography (including "hagiography") and autobiography. We will then consider some issues specific to Tibetan
auto/biography and its historical development. The remainder of the quarter will be spent in reading and analyzing representative examples of these genres, drawn from a variety of authors and periods.
PQ: Preferably some background in Tibetan or Buddhist studies.

RLIT 635 41400
History of Literary Theory: 16th-19th Centuries
Rosengarten
An investigation of this rich and essential period for ideas about the interpretation of texts via three crucial developments: the emergence of the figure of "the critic," the development in philosophy of the field of aesthetics, and the triumph of the historical-critical method in the study of scripture. While these are developments rather than novelties, i.e. there are of course literary critics, theories of beauty, and textual analyses of sacred texts prior to 1500, each of these achieves a formative developmental moment and a signal independence in these centuries. The course will study these respective achievements through detailed examination of major thinkers (Johnson for the critic, Kant for aesthetics, Spinoza for the historical-critical method), but will also provide a "map" of major formulations.

RLIT 635 41500
Metaphysical Poetry
Strier
This course would study the development and the usefulness of this category in approaching the work of the poets to whom it has traditionally been applied (Donne, Herbert, Vaughan, Crashaw, Marvell, Edward Taylor, Emily Dickinson).
Ident. ENGL 36510, HCHR 41501

RLIT 635 41600
1848 in France
Meltzer
This course will attempt to navigate between theoretical (contemporary) accounts of 1848 as a moment of crisis; and historical/literary descriptions produced around 1848 itself. The course will seek to understand the insistence, by contemporary theory, of 1848 as a privileged instance of rupture. Readings will include works by Hugo, Flaubert, Scott, Benjamin, Foucault, Barthes, Lukacs, and Marx. French works will be read in the original.
Ident. FREN 36300, CMLT 34600

RETH 638 41500
Decisionmaking: Principles and Foundations
Nussbaum / Baird
Individuals, particularly those in leadership positions, are often called upon to make decisions on behalf of others. Such decisions are made in both the public and private spheres and can have enormous influence both on individual lives and on public policy. Lawyers are often called on to either make important decisions themselves or to give counsel to people who make them. The way in which individuals are judged often turns on a handful of decisions they make over the course of their lives, and the way they make these decisions has been the focus of thinkers from Thucydides and Aristotle to Bentham and Kant. It has also been a
recurring theme in literature and much of modern economics. The course offers a rigorous study of how philosophers and others have examined these questions, and the tools they have used, including those from behavioral economics and game theory. Included will be discussion of moral dilemmas and some of the more common pathologies of decision-making: akrasia, self-deception, blind obedience to authority.

Ident. LAW

RETH 638 42100
The Post-Human and the Death of Nature: Problems in Theology and Ethics
Schweiker
Currently there is considerable discussion about the emergence of the "post-human" through the technological and genetics revolution as well as the so-called "end of nature" and the crisis of the environment. This course seeks to probe the connection between these two developments in understanding responsibility for finite life. In this respect, the course topics in ethics too often separated, namely, issues about human flourishing and ecological responsibility. Through the reading of a range of thinkers, from Peter Singer on "unsanctifying human life" to Donna Haraway on cyborg existence and also distinctive theological proposals and ideas about "creation," the course hopes to chart a range of options in contemporary moral theory. The course will proceed through lectures, discussions, and presentation. Students will write a paper on a specific practical problem within this range of issues. Previous work in theology, ethics, or philosophy is required.

Ident. THEO 42100

RETH 638 45700
Moral Psychology, Moral Education and Human Rights
van der Ven
In the course a critical-constructive investigation will be conducted into the relationship of Lawrence Kohlberg's psychological and educational theory of moral stages, especially stage 5 and 6, with modern thought on 'blue', 'red', and 'collective' human rights, especially with regard to religious human rights. In addition to that, empirical research findings on the relationship between religion and human rights among students of secondary schools will be discussed from the perspective of educational opportunities in terms of stage 5 and 6.

RETH 638 51303
Law-Philosophy Seminar: Sexuality and Family
Nussbaum / Sunstein
This is a seminar/workshop most of whose participants are faculty from seven area institutions. It admits approximately ten students by permission of the instructors. Its aim is to study, each year, a topic that arises in both philosophy and the law and to ask how bringing the two fields together may yield mutual illumination. There are ten to twelve meetings throughout the year, on Mondays (though not every Monday) from 4 to 6 pm. Half of the sessions are led by local faculty, half by visiting speakers. The leader assigns readings for the session (which may be by that person, by other contemporaries, or by major historical figures), and the session consists of a brief introduction by the leader, followed by structured questioning by the two faculty coordinators,
followed by general discussion. Students write either two 4-6 page papers per quarter, or a 20-25 page seminar paper at the end of the year. The course satisfies the Law School Writing Requirement. The schedule of meetings will be announced mid-September, and prospective students should submit their credentials to both instructors by September 20. Past themes have included: practical reason; equality; privacy; autonomy; global justice; pluralism and toleration; war. The theme for 2003-4 will be Sexuality and Family. Likely speakers to be invited include: Emily Buss, Mary Anne Case, William Eskridge, Martha Fineman, David Halperin, Andrew Koppelman, Martha Minow, David Novak, Susan Moller Okin, Fran Olsen, Kenji Yoshino.

Ident. LAW/PHIL/PLSC/HMRT 51303/ GNDR

RETH 638 52000
Augustine's City of God
Elshtain
A close reading of Augustine's great masterwork with a strong emphasis on his critical deconstruction of the politics, rhetoric, and civic religion of Rome and on the social, political, and cultural implications of his concept of a pilgrim people in their sojourn in The earthly city, a people whose lives are framed by the hope of membership in the eternal city of God.
PQ: Some background in political/social theory useful
Ident. PLSC 42000 / FNDL 26200 / RLST 25300

AASR 607 40600
Religion, Law, and Culture
Sullivan
"Religion" and "Law" denote human cultural and social phenomena that are virtually universal. In this course, we will consider how to talk about these two and their intersection in, for example, the construction of individual and group identities, the development of ideas and institutions, the legitimation of power, and the regulation of the social order. We will examine materials from a range of modern and pre-modern societies and will engage different academic disciplines with a view to understanding and evaluating various approaches to the study of "law and religion."
Ident. HCHR 40601, HREL 40600
Related Links
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