

DIVINITY COURSE CATALOG 2020-2021

This is a reference document only. All courses are organized by their parent identity. Similarly, just because a course is in the RLST category does not mean it is not open to graduate students as well, and vice versa. This catalog does not include crosslist idents outside of the Divinity School. For dates and times, please refer to the Registrar's website at the top of week 6 each quarter, or visit our website for a preliminary schedule.

AUTUMN 2020

Special Courses in Divinity

DVSC 30400 - Introduction to the Study of Religion

This course will use the concept of the fetish as a lens to treat the history of the study of religion. It will consider the emergence of the term out of the history of colonisation, track its function in the philosophy of religion through Hume, Kant and Hegel, follow its migration into critical theory as well as its history in Anthropology and close with recent reclamations of the term that are post-colonial, feminist and materialist. Note: All MA and AMRS students are required to take this course. MDiv students are required to take this course or Classical Theories of Religion (HREL 32900). This class is one of the Divinity School's courses that requires a quality grade. Students must earn a B- or above to fulfill the requirement. Discussion sections will be held. *Sarah Hammerschlag*

DVSC 51000 - Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion

This course is required for all first-year doctoral students in the Divinity School. It is meant to introduce basic issues in theory and method in the contemporary study of religion in the academy, with special focus on the range of approaches and disciplines represented in the field. Note: This course is limited to 1st-year Divinity PhD students only. It is a required course for all 1st-year Divinity PhD students. *Richard Rosengarten*

Anthropology and Sociology of Religion

AASR 40700 - Religion and Economy

The two main concepts driving our seminar are "religion" and "economy." What is religious about work, consumption, profit and philanthropy? What are the economic aspects of conversion, charisma, political theology and religious freedom? This course is anthropological in orientation. With a focus on the contemporary world, we will think comparatively about religion and economy across traditions and geographic contexts. *Angie Heo*

AASR 43500 - Islamic Jurisprudence, Reason, and the State

This course will examine anthropological approaches to the study of Islamic jurisprudence and its transformations in the modern context. This may be of interest to students interested in both Sunni and Shi'i jurisprudence, though the emphasis will be on Twelver Shi'i legal reasoning. Prerequisite: Students should be familiar with Anthropological approaches to the study of both Islam and the state. Note: This course is open to undergrads by petition. *Elham Mireshghi*
Equivalent Div Course(s): ISLM 43500

AASR 49000 - Secularism

This seminar explores theories and ethnographies of secularism with an emphasis on the global reach of secular ideals and their various historical materializations. We will engage a wide range of topics such as tolerance and religious difference, the legal regulation of customs and traditions, relations between liberalism and socialism, the politics of art and architecture, and technological cultures of life and death. *Angie Heo*

Biblical Studies

BIBL 31000 - Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

The course will survey the contents of the Hebrew Bible, and introduce critical questions regarding its figures and ideas, its literary qualities and anomalies, the history of its composition and transmission, its relation to other artifacts from the biblical period, its place in the history and society of ancient Israel and Judea, and its relation to the larger culture of the ancient Near East. Note: This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors. *Simeon Chavel*
Equivalent Div Course(s): HIJD 31104, RLST 11004

BIBL 33900 - Introductory Biblical Hebrew I

This course is the first of a two-quarter sequence designed to introduce students to the language of biblical Hebrew, with special emphasis on the fundamentals of its morphology, syntax, and vocabulary. The course follows a standard textbook supplemented by lectures, exercises, and oral drills aimed at refining the student's grasp of grammatically sound interpretation and translation. At the conclusion of the

two-quarter sequence students will be prepared to take a biblical Hebrew reading course in the spring quarter. *David B. Ridge*

BIBL 35100 - Introductory Koine Greek I

In this two-course sequence, students will learn the basic mechanics of Koine Greek and begin reading texts from the Greek New Testament and Septuagint. The autumn course and the first three-fourths or so of the winter course will introduce the vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and style of the Greek New Testament, and to a limited degree those of the Septuagint, after which point we will focus on reading and interpreting a New Testament document in Greek at length. Upon the conclusion of the sequence, students will be able to read and comprehend entire passages of Koine Greek text with the aid of a dictionary. This sequence aims to prepare students to successfully participate in a Greek exegesis course. *Instructor TBD*

BIBL 36500 - The Radiant Pearl: Introduction to Syriac Literature and its Historical Contexts

After Greek and Latin, Syriac literature represents the third largest corpus of writings from the formative centuries of Christianity. This course offers students a comprehensive overview of the dominant genres and history of Syriac-speaking Christians from the early centuries through the modern day. Moving beyond traditional historiography that focuses exclusively on early Christianity within the Roman Empire, this class examines Christian traditions that took root in the Persian and later Islamic Empires as well. Through studying the history and literature of Syriac-speaking Christians, the global reach of early Christianity and its diversity comes to the fore. Syriac-speaking Christians preached the Gospel message from the Arabian Peninsula to early modern China and India. Syriac writers also raised female biblical figures and holy women to prominent roles within their works. Students will broaden their understanding of the development of Christian thought as they gain greater familiarity with understudied voices and visions for Christian living found within Syriac literature. Special attention will be paid to biblical translation, asceticism, poetry, differences between ecclesial communities as well as the changing political fortunes of Syriac-speaking populations. No previous knowledge or study expected. *Erin Galgay Walsh*

Equivalent Div Course(s): HCHR 36500, RLST 16500

BIBL 40360 - Debating Christians and Other Adversaries: Greek and Syriac Dialogues in Late Antiquity

This course will examine the composition and significance of dialogues for Christian polemic and identity formation. The quarter will begin with an overview of dialogues from Classical Antiquity before examining the new directions Christian writers followed as they staged debates with pagans, Jews, Manichaeans, and alleged “heretical” Christians. Reading these works in light of modern scholarship and with an eye to late antique rhetoric, students will gain insights into the ways theological development took place in the crucible of debate. *Erin Galgay Walsh*

Equivalent Div Course(s): HCHR 40360, RLST 20360

BIBL 42906 - The Book of Ezekiel

This text-course will read a representative set of excerpts from The Book of Ezekiel, a unique retrospective account of a prophet's speeches and mimes in the sixth century BCE, around the destruction of Judea and exile of its population. We will treat aspects such as its historical setting, literary frame, real and implied audiences, and mode and mood of prophecy. Prerequisite: 1 year biblical Hebrew + 1 course in Hebrew Bible. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Simeon Chavel*
Equivalent Div Course(s): HIJD 42906

Philosophy of Religion

DVPR 39416 - Freud

This course will involve reading Freud's major texts, including, e.g., parts of The Interpretation of Dreams, "Beyond the Pleasure Principle," and his later work on feminine sexuality. We will consider Freud's views on bisexuality as well. We will also read case studies and consider theoretical responses to Freud's work, by Derrida, Lacan, and other important theorists. Course requirements will be one in-class presentation, based on the reading(s) for that day, and one final paper. *Francoise Meltzer*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 29416

DVPR 40440 - Pure Land Buddhism

This course will explore the motif of the "Pure Land" in Mahāyāna Buddhism, and its attendant applications to Buddhist practice, faith, devotional, and doctrine. We will examine the textual sources on the bodhisattva vows and specific entailments of various pure lands in Indic Mahāyāna scripture, and then the development of Pure Land thought and practice in China and Japan, including its expression in Tiantai and Jodo Shinshu traditions. *Brook Ziporyn*
Equivalent Div Course(s): HREL 40440, RLST 20440

DVPR 41025 - Otherwise than God: Creatorless Religiosity East and West

This course will workshop an in-progress manuscript in the philosophy of religions entitled Otherwise Than God, which explores alternatives to monotheism in the philosophy of religion, mainly in Europe, India and China, centered around the alternative consequences of the assumption of a purposeless or a purposeful cosmos. The main touchpoints in both the course and the book are (on the European side) Spinoza, Schopenhauer, early Schelling and Hegel, Nietzsche and Bataille, with sideswipes at Socrates, Plato and Aristotle as the villains of the piece, various Buddhist texts and thinkers on the Indian side, and classical Confucianism and Daoism philosophy in China. Some familiarity with Tiantai Buddhist thought would be helpful but is not required. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Brook Ziporyn*

DVPR 45505 - Heidegger: Religion, Politics, Writing

Religion, Politics, Writing: three concepts that are relatively marginal in Martin Heidegger's philosophy, but which converge in strange and unexpected ways to play a central role during the most controversial period of his career, from the early 1930s until the late 1940s. In this course we will explore this

convergence in key texts during this period, paying particular attention to the Black Notebooks. We will consider Heidegger's interpretations of figures such as Plato, Nietzsche, and Hölderlin. And while exploring crucial themes during this period – e.g. Being as Event, the critique of technology, the flight of the gods – we will also consider the effect that various writing practices (e.g. notebook entries, esoteric treatises, seminar and lecture protocols, dialogues, published essays, poetry) have on their meaning. *Ryan Coyne*

Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 45505, RLST 25505

History of Christianity

HCHR 30200 - History of Christian Thought II

This second class in the History of Christian Thought sequence deals with the period from Late Antiquity until the end of the Early Middle Ages, stretching roughly from 450 through 1350. The following authors and themes will be analyzed and discussed:

1. The transition from Roman antiquity to the medieval period: Boethius and Cassiodorus
2. The rise of asceticism in the West: the Rule of St. Benedict and Gregory the Great;
3. Connecting East and West: Dionysius the Areopagite and John Scottus Eriugena
4. Monastic and Scholastic paragons: Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Abelard
5. High-medieval monastic developments: Cistercians (Bernard of Clairvaux) and Victorines (Hugh and Richard of St. Victor), beguines (Hadewijch) and mendicants (Bonaventure).
6. Scholastic synthesis and spiritual alternatives: Thomas Aquinas, Marguerite Porete and Eckhart.

Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Willemien Otten*

Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 30200

HCHR 30900 - History of Christian Thought V: Modern Religious Thought

This course will consider key figures in 'modern' religious thought, including Kant, Hegel, Schleiermacher, Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Troeltsch, and Barth, paying particular attention to two issues: the possibility of freedom in the face of law-like necessities, and the possibility of thinking for oneself.

Kevin Hector

Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 30700, RLST 13500

HCHR 39200 - Latin American Religions, New and Old

This course will consider select pre-twentieth-century issues, such as the transformations of Christianity in colonial society and the Catholic Church as a state institution. It will emphasize twentieth-century developments: religious rebellions; conversion to evangelical Protestant churches; Afro-diasporan religions; reformist and revolutionary Catholicism; new and New Age religions. Assignments: class participation, weekly short memos (250 words) responding to questions about the required reading, and a short (8–10 pages) problem paper. There will be two short midterm exams, but no final exam. *Dain Borges*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 21401

HCHR 39522 - Europe's Intellectual Transformations, Renaissance Through Enlightenment

This course will consider the foundational transformations of Western thought from the end of the Middle Ages to the threshold of modernity. It will provide an overview of the three self-conscious and interlinked intellectual revolutions which reshaped early modern Europe: the Renaissance revival of antiquity, the "new philosophy" of the seventeenth century, and the light and dark faces of the Enlightenment. It will treat scholasticism, humanism, the scientific revolution, Bacon, Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Voltaire, Diderot, and Sade. Prerequisites: Students taking FREN 29322/39322 must read French texts in French. Notes: First-year students and non-History majors welcome. *Ada Palmer*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 22605

HCHR 50000 - Theological Criticism: Creation and Gender

The seminar on theological criticism aims to explore the problem of how constructive theology can best make use of historical sources and do so in responsible fashion. While simply adhering to one's confessional tradition yields uncritical positions, an eclectic attitude towards historical sources may not be a wise alternative. Without forcing theologians to become historians, this seminar deals with the larger issue of how to select and use one's source material in such a way that the historical work is methodologically sound and the theological end product accessible and informative, while remaining properly constructive. The seminar starts with the use of premodern sources but other, later sources will also be brought to the discussion. As the seminar is in large part student-driven, students are invited to bring in sources of their choice to the table as well. This year's theological critical focus will be on gender and creation and is loosely structured around Otten's *Thinking Nature and the Nature of Thinking*.
Willemien Otten
Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 50000

History of Judaism

HIJD 45400 - Readings in Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed

A careful study of select passages in Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed, focusing on the method of the work and its major philosophical-theological themes, including: divine attributes, creation vs. eternity, prophecy, the problem of evil and divine providence, law and ethics, and the final aim of human existence. *Jim Robinson*
Equivalent Div Course(s): ISLM 45400, RLVC 45400, HREL 45401, RLST 21107

History of Religions

HREL 32900 - Classical Theories of Religion

This course attempts to historicize the modern academic study of religion by studying systems of classification from many different regions, times, and traditions. Beginning with premodern forms of knowledge, the first half of the course seeks to understand the genres of polemic, doxography, ethnology, and comparativism. Special attention is given to the entwining of race and religion under early modern imperial regimes. The latter half of the course looks at how concepts of religion feature in modern social theory from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. *Anand Venkatkrishnan*
Equivalent Div Course(s): AASR 32900

HREL 36260 - Buddhism in Early Theravada Literature

A critical examination of important canonical (Buddhavacana--attributed to the Buddha) and non-canonical Pali literature central to the religious "imaginaire" of Theravada Buddhists in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia. Literary texts include Vinayapitaka (Book of Monastic Discipline), Dhammapada (didactic verses attributed to the Buddha), Mahaparinibbana Sutta (sermon recounting the final 3 months of the Buddha's career), Vessantara Jataka (epic narrative of the Buddha's next-to-last rebirth as a king), the Edicts of Asoka (proclamations of the 3rd c. BCE Indian emperor), Anagatavamsa Desana (prophecy of the future Buddha Metteyya), Mahavamsa (the monastic "Great Chronicle" recounting the history of Buddhism) and royal inscriptions and paintings from the late-medieval period. *John Holt*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 26260

HREL 40020 - Contemporary Topics in the Study of South Asian Religion: Imagining South Asian Islam

This course is a continuation of the annual seminar on contemporary topics in the Study of South Asian Religion, which takes up theoretical problems in religious studies, issues specific to the study of South Asia, and the intersections between the two. The focus for this year is "Imagining South Asian Islam." We will read classic debates about the expansion of Islam into the subcontinent, its geographical distribution, and cultural and religious syncretism (while, at the same time, problematizing the syncretic model). We will also take up more recent scholarship that turns to broader conceptual questions about how to describe, name, and understand different moments in the history of South Asian Islam from the "Persianate Cosmopolis" to "Islamic" versus "Islamicate." The readings assigned in the course bring together diverse scholarship on history, art history, material culture, and literary analysis. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the longue duree arc of the history of Islam in South Asia as well as the variety of different scholarly approaches that have sought to understand and interpret the specificity of Islam in the context of the subcontinent. PQ: By permission only. Please email Professor Pierce Taylor with a description of your background and relevant interests in this course. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Sarah Pierce Taylor*
Equivalent Div Course(s): ISLM 40020, RLVC 40025

Islamic Studies

ISLM 30100 - Introductory Qur'anic Arabic I

This course is the first in a 3-quarter sequence “Introduction to Qur’anic Arabic” (IQA), which aims to provide students with foundational philological and reading skills by covering the essentials of Qur’anic/Classical Arabic grammar. The 3 quarters of IQA are sequential, and students are strongly encouraged to join in the first quarter. Exceptions can be made on a case by case basis.

Prerequisites: Graduate and undergraduate students from any department are welcome to register. The absolute minimum prerequisite for IQA I is knowledge of the Arabic script. Training equivalent to at least a quarter of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is highly desirable. The IQA sequence is also open to students who may have had more exposure to Arabic (modern or classical) but wish to acquire a solid foundation in Arabic grammar, and/or students who feel they are not yet ready for third-year Arabic courses. *Mehmet Emin Gulecyuz*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 15100

ISLM 30201 – Islamic Civilization I: 600-950

This course covers the rise and spread of Islam, the Islamic empire under the Umayyad and early Abbasid caliphs, and the emergence of regional Islamic states from Afghanistan and eastern Iran to North Africa and Spain. The main focus will be on political, economic and social history. *Ahmed El-Shamsy*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 20201

ISLM 30852 - The Ottoman World in the Age of Suleyman the Magnificent

This seminar/colloquium focuses on the transformation of the Muslim Ottoman principality into an imperial entity--after the conquest of Constantinople in 1453--that laid claim to inheritance of Alexandrine, Roman/Byzantine, Mongol/Chinggisid, and Islamic models of Old World Empire at the dawn of the early modern era. Usually taught as a two-quarter research seminar, this year only the first quarter is offered, with a 15-20 paper due at the end. Special attention is paid to the transformation of Ottoman imperialism in the reign of Sultan Süleyman the Lawgiver (1520-1566), who appeared to give the Empire its "classical" form. Topics include: the Mongol legacy; the reformulation of the relationship between political and religious institutions; mysticism and the creation of divine kingship; Muslim-Christian competition (with special reference to Spain and Italy) and the formation of early modernity; the articulation of bureaucratized hierarchy; and comparison of Muslim Ottoman, Iranian Safavid, and Christian European imperialisms. The quarter-long colloquium comprises a chronological overview of major themes in Ottoman history, 1300-1600. In addition to papers, students will be required to give an oral presentation on a designated primary or secondary source in the course of the seminar.

Cornell Fleischer

ISLM 53360 - Islamic Law: Foundations and Contemporary Issues

Since its inception, Islamic Law has grown from a set of rules governing life in 6th century Arabia to a global body of law developed across time and place with application to religious, civil, criminal, constitutional, commercial, and international law. The primary objective of the seminar will be to give students a basic understanding of Islamic Law and the issues faced in applying Islamic Law in the modern context. The seminar will cover the origins and historical development of Islamic Law, Islamic legal

theory, scope and application of Islamic Law, and selected current issues such as Islamic Finance. Modern constitutional law issues regarding sources of law, religious freedom, public interest, and related issues in Muslim majority countries will be reviewed as well as the debates around the application of Islamic Law for Muslim minorities living in secular states. Special attention will be paid to comparative law aspects of Western legal theory and Islamic legal theory in light of the historical introduction of Western legal systems to the Muslim world through Colonial and post-Colonial experiences. Current political debates around Shari'ah law and the concept of a Caliphate will be assessed against Islamic legal theory and constitutional law, specifically in light of the Arab Spring revolutions and the phenomenon of violent extremism. As such, in addition to a theoretical understanding of Islamic Law in the modern context, students will also develop an understanding of the practical impact of legal theory on political, social, and economic realities in the Muslim world and beyond.

This is a one semester seminar for 2L and 3L students. There are no pre-requisite courses required in Islam. Weekly readings will be assigned in English language source materials. The seminar will draw on the lecturer's extensive personal experience with the subject matter and knowledge of the legal systems of Muslim majority states such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, Pakistan, Egypt, Malaysia, and elsewhere. Professor Kamran Bajwa studied classical Islamic Law and Islamic Theology at the Al-Azhar seminary in Cairo, Egypt prior to attending the University of Michigan Law School where he also took advanced courses in Islamic Law. After graduating from law school, Professor Bajwa trained as a corporate transactional lawyer at the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis and then moved to the Middle East and practiced law in that region for 8 years. During his time working in the Middle East, Professor Bajwa continued his studies in Islamic Law and served as an advisor to major Islamic scholars and political leaders throughout the Muslim world involved in legal reform and intellectual projects. Professor Bajwa currently heads the Middle East regional practice for Kirkland & Ellis and travels regularly to the region. Grading will be based on student participation and a collaborative student presentation on a sub-topic of the student's choice. Non-law students who seek to enroll in this class should email Professor Bajwa at:

Kamran.bajwa@kirkland.com. *Kamran Bajwa*

Religions in the Americas

Religious Leadership and Practice (M.Div. Courses)

RELP 30500 - Colloquium: Introduction to Religious Leadership and Practice

This year-long integration seminar grounds first year M.Div. students in habits and perspectives essential to the practice of religious life and leadership. 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, across religious traditions. During the first quarter, students will explore the relationship of language, narrative; and belief: 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. First year MDiv students only. *Cynthia Lindner*

RELP 35150 - Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice: Ritual and Speaking

This is the first of a three-course sequence in the arts of religious leadership that spans the entire year in the second year MDiv curriculum. In this course students will explore the world-making power of ritual--religious and secular, personal and corporat-- and practice the craft of speaking as meaning-making. Open to second year MDivs; others by permission of instructor. *Cynthia Lindner*

RELP 40600 - Field Work Practicum I

The course provides a forum for practical theological reflection through ongoing discussion with classmates of both field experience and general issues of ministerial practice. Practicum complements the field placement experience of MDiv students as a source of accountability for student, site, and university, as well as provides space for critical reflection on the experience. Open to Second Year M.Div students only. Must have completed RELP 30500. *Erika Dornfeld*

RELP 42800 - Senior MDiv Thesis Seminar

The seminar meets once a month all year as students craft thesis proposals, short public essays and an original thesis, and offer public presentations of their work in the spring quarter. Third or Fourth year M.Div. students only. Required seminar for M.Div. students in the year in which they are writing and presenting their theses. *Cynthia Lindner*

Religious Ethics

RETH 30702 - Introduction to Environmental Ethics

This course will examine answers to four questions that have been foundational to environmental ethics: Are religious traditions responsible for environmental crises? To what degree can religions address environmental crises? Does the natural world have intrinsic value in addition to instrumental value to humans, and does the type of value the world has imply anything about human responsibility? What point of view (anthropocentrism, biocentrism, theocentrism) should ground an environmental ethic? Since all four of the above questions are highly contested questions, we will examine a constellation of responses to each question. During the quarter we will read texts from a wide variety of religious and philosophical perspectives, though I note that the questions we are studying arose out of the western response to environmental crises and so often use that language. Some emphasis will be given to particularly influential texts, thinkers, and points of view in the scholarship of environmental ethics. As the questions above indicate, the course prioritizes theoretical issues in environmental ethics that can relate to many different applied subjects (e.g. energy, water, animals, climate change) rather than emphasizing these applied issues themselves. Taking this focus will give you the background necessary to work on such issues. *Sarah Fredericks*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 24106

RETH 30802 - Contemporary Religious Ethics I: History and Method

This is the first quarter of a three-quarter sequence surveying the rise and development of contemporary religious ethics. We will examine pioneering work that established a new style of scholarship and ethical argumentation during the “quiet revolution” when the study of religion gained an institutional footing in many North American colleges and universities in the 1950s and 60s. This quarter’s readings developed in the wake of that revolution and address moral controversies that arose within the cultural and intellectual ferment of the 1970s and 80s. The course is reading intensive, and it will focus on attempts to craft a method for doing religious ethics in the 1970s that aimed to situate the study of ethics within the academic study of religion and the humanities more generally. These efforts were soon challenged by theories about the importance of history, interpretation, and power in the humanities and social sciences in the 1980s. Hence the title of this cycle: *Method and History (1970-1990)*. Readings include works by Gene Outka, Sumner Twiss and David Little, John P. Reeder, Jr., Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Taylor, Michel Foucault, Michael Walzer, and Stephen Toulmin and Albert Jonsen. The course aims to introduce students to styles, genres, and patterns of moral reasoning and to innovative work in religious ethics as a foundation for future scholarship in the field. Enrollment in other courses in this sequence is not required to enroll in this course. The course is open to graduate and undergraduate students. *Richard Miller*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 21406

RETH 50250 - Greek Tragedy and Philosophy

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 Greek tragedy. Then we shall turn to philosophical accounts of the tragic genre, including those of Plato, Aristotle, the Greek and Roman Stoics (especially Seneca), Lessing, Schlegel, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Iris Murdoch, Sartre, and Bernard Williams. If we have time we will include some study of ancient Greek comedy and its philosophical significance. Prerequisites: Admission by permission of the instructor. Permission must be sought in writing by September 15. An undergraduate major in philosophy or some equivalent solid philosophy preparation, plus my permission. This is a 500 level course. Ph.D. students in Philosophy, Classics, and Political Theory may enroll without permission. Law students with ample philosophical background are welcome to enroll but should ask me first. Undergraduates may not enroll. *Martha Nussbaum*

RETH 54321 - Contagion: Plague, Power, and Epidemics

Plagues always take place within social orders, and human communities, causing havoc and chaos and reordering ideas about power and fate, befallenness, and desert. Plagues play a special role in Biblical traditions and text and in contemporary literature. This seminar will explore how epidemic illness is presented and managed within theological and philosophical literature. *Laurie Zoloth*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 24321

Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture

RLVC 30659 – The Task of the Self Translator

Walter Benjamin famously wrote that a translation issues from the “afterlife” of the original: “For a translation comes later than the original, and since the important works of world literature never find their chosen translators at the time of their origins, their translation marks their stage of continued life.” This graduate seminar focuses on the case of multilingual writers and their self-translations to raise questions concerning the temporality, directionality, and “afterlife” of translated works. The figure of the self-translator challenges models of translation and cross-cultural circulation that assume various cultural and historical gaps between the source and its translation. For one, self-translation calls into question the notions of originality or “the original” and of “fidelity,” and requires us to consider the overlap between translation and rewriting. What brought writers to produce the same texts in different languages, at times for similar audiences of multilingual readers? What theories of translation or world literature might be helpful when approaching the case of Jewish self-translation in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? We will discuss these issues also in the context of comparative Jewish studies, considering the difference between internal, Hebrew-Yiddish, self-translation, and the translation between Hebrew or Yiddish and a third “non-Jewish” language, whether European or Middle-Eastern. *Na'ama Rokem*

RLVC 32104 – Hymns

The course will track hymns from the early modern period through the late eighteenth century. We'll examine the evolution of the hymn as a literary form, focusing on obsolescence and adaptation in literary transmission. We'll start with the Psalms of the Hebrew Bible, and analyze psalters (such as the one produced by Mary Herbert, Countess of Pembroke, and her brother, Sir Philip Sidney) and the metrical psalms of Sternhold and Hopkins that were used in Anglican services. We'll then take up the development of congregational hymns, hymns sung by everyone in a congregation, to track the way that literary adaptation among Dissenters became both common and controversial. We'll look at Isaac Watts's multiple hymns for each of the Psalms, his later Hymns and Spiritual Songs, and his Divine Songs for children to get at the importance he and other Dissenters (such as Anna Letitia Barbauld) attached to supplying words to all who could sing or say them. We'll end with a discussion of “Amazing Grace” and its use in the British abolition movement, and with a discussion of the movement of the literary hymn away from religion altogether in literary hymns, Shelley's and Keats's odes. *Frances Ferguson*

RLVC 32400 - Theory of Literature: The Twentieth Century

This course will cover the major movements in Twentieth Century Criticism from New Criticism to Psychoanalytic theory, New Historicism, Structuralism and Post-structuralism, as well as the various features of the literary text and interpretive dynamics which have played prominent roles in debates surrounding meaning, modes of expression and theories of reception in the last century. The course will not proceed as a survey of these movements, however. Rather it will take up the Nietzschean question of how illusion relates to truth and how literary representation complicates the relation. It will create a series of debates between schools of thought and will consider the social and political ramifications of the question as well as its strictly theoretical consequences. *Sarah Hammerschlag*

RLVC 38775 – Racial Melancholia

This course provides students with an opportunity to think race within a psychoanalytic framework. In particular, we will interrogate how psychoanalytic theories of mourning and melancholia have developed over the past century, especially in relationship to the theories of racial melancholia that emerged at the turn of the twenty-first century. Thus, we will approach Asian America, African American, and Latinx archives, especially as they intersect with psychoanalytic formulations of race, gender, and sexuality. Throughout we will ask: How do literatures of loss enable us to understand the relationship between histories of racial trauma, injury, and grief, on the one hand, and the formation of racial identity, on the other? What might it mean to imagine literary histories of race as grounded fundamentally in the experience of loss? What forms of reparations, redress, and resistance are called for by such literatures of racial grief, mourning, and melancholia? And, finally, how can psychoanalysis retain theoretical currency, and how might the temporalities of grief, loss, and mourning even *require* a sustained tarrying with psychoanalytic theories of melancholia? *Kris Trujillo*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 28775

Theology

THEO 45590 - Memory, Identity, and Religion

This course will consider recent scientific and philosophical work on memory and its relation to personal identity, and then use this work to think about religious approaches to memory and identity-construction (and vice-versa). *Kevin Hector*

Equivalent Div Course(s): DVPR 45590, RLST 25590

Religious Studies (Undergraduate)

RLST 10101 - Religion, Reason, and Critique

This course is part of a two-quarter sequence in Religious Studies (along with “Religion, Reason, and the State”) exploring the work of key theorists and thinkers on the role of religion in the formation of modernity. Central questions in this course include: how do religious belief and practice influence and inform modern accounts of reason? What is critique, and how does religion emerge in modernity as the object of critique par excellence? Note: Students may enroll in either one of the courses in this sequence independently of the other course. This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors. *Ryan Coyne*

RLST 20401 – Islamic Thought and Literature I

This sequence explores the thought and literature of the Islamic world from the coming of Islam in the seventh century C.E. through the development and spread of its civilization in the medieval period and

into the modern world. Including historical framework to establish chronology and geography, the course focuses on key aspects of Islamic intellectual history: scripture, law, theology, philosophy, literature, mysticism, political thought, historical writing, and archaeology. In addition to lectures and secondary background readings, students read and discuss samples of key primary texts, with a view to exploring Islamic civilization in the direct voices of the people who participated in creating it. All readings are in English translation. No prior background in the subject is required. This course sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. *Ahmed El Shamsy*

RLST 21004 - The Bible and 21st Century American Politics

Since the founding of the United States (and even before), the bible has served an unparalleled role as a source of wisdom and authority for American politicians and jurists at all levels of government. In this course, we will examine ways in which contemporary politicians have appealed to the literature of the Hebrew Bible and New Testaments in support of a variety of arguments concerning how the United States should operate. Beginning with a short introduction to the role of the bible as a foundational and authoritative document in America, we will spend subsequent weeks focusing on particular topics relevant to American politics (the environment, immigration, race, abortion, the Second Amendment) and the biblical materials that are frequently mustered in arguments over these issues. We will endeavor to make sense of the relevant passages in their original historical and cultural contexts as well as their use in contemporary political discourses. *Marshall Cunningham*

RLST 21010 - God and the Good

Do we need God to know right from wrong? Or should morality shape and limit (or forbid) religious belief? Should we worry more about uncertainty and ignorance or overconfidence and fanaticism? This course focuses on the religious quest for certainty about how we should live. We will explore a variety of perspectives on the possibilities and problems involved in efforts to connect belief in God to moral knowledge and behavior. Readings include the Hebrew and Christian Bibles, the Quran, Plato, Kant, Kierkegaard, and Feuerbach, as well as more recent voices like Martin Luther King and contemporary critics of religion. *David Barr*

RLST 21330 - Despair and Consolation: Emotion and Affect in Late-Medieval and Reformation Christianity

The course surveys major texts in Christian thought and culture from the fourteenth through the sixteenth centuries, and it focuses on how these authors understood despair—a central theme in the writings of many women and men, secular and religious—and how, if at all, despair may be remedied. We will think alongside these late-medieval and early-modern figures about the phenomenon of emotion, the relations between of feeling and knowing, possible responses to (especially negative) affects, and how religious belief, practice, and experience shape and are shaped by emotional life. Major historical figures to be read include: Catherine of Siena, Jean Gerson, Christine de Pisan, Julian of Norwich, Heinrich Kramer, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Teresa of Ávila, and Michel de Montaigne. We will also read selected contemporary

voices in affect theory and disability studies to hone our critical and analytical resources for interpreting the primary texts. *M. Vanderpoel*

RLST 22010 - Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period

Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The autumn course will deal with antiquity through the Middle Ages. Its readings will include material from the Bible and writings from the second temple, Hellenistic, rabbinic, and medieval periods. All sections of this course will share a common core of readings; individual instructors will supplement with other materials. It is recommended, though not required, that students take the three Jewish Civilization courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the winter segment. In the Spring Quarter students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X). *Jim Robinson; David Barak-Gorodetsky*

RLST 23906 - Ethics, Nature, Dao

Some worldviews assert that human beings exist somehow apart from the natural world. Humans are to have dominion over it, for example, or to transcend it. In many works of traditional Chinese religion, philosophy, and art, however, we find something quite different, a picture in which the human being is seamlessly of the world. The cosmos is at play within her, Daoist traditions teach; Chinese landscape paintings famously depict a world in which humans appear to have the same status as trees and rivers; the great Song Dynasty poet Su Shi, in a line beloved of later Chan and Zen writers, wrote that “the sounds of valleys are [the Buddha’s] long broad tongue.” These worldviews are not ecological, precisely—ecology is a modern science, not a traditional ethos—but works of Chinese philosophy and art that evince them offer profound resources for thinking in the mode known now as the environmental humanities. We will explore our works as resources for thinking in our age of climate crisis—at least in part. We will also read them, and stay true to them, as works of traditional Chinese art and thought. *Paul Copp*

RLST 24110 - The Ethics of War: Reading Michael Walzer's Just and Unjust Wars

Questions about war, the taking of human life, the obligations of citizenship, the role of state power, and international justice are among the most pressing topics in ethics and political life. This class will examine these matters through a close reading of Michael Walzer’s *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*, first published in 1977 and now in its 5th edition. Widely considered a classic in the ethics of war, JUW develops a theory for evaluating whether to enter war as well as decisions within war—what are known as the *jus ad bellum* and the *jus in bello*. Walzer applies his theory to a number of actual cases, ranging from military interventions to reprisals to terrorism to insurgencies to nuclear policy, all informed by the history of warfare and arguments in the history of Western thought. We will critically examine Walzer’s theory, his use of cases, and the conclusions to which his arguments lead. Along the

way, we'll examine core ideas in political morality, e.g., human rights; state sovereignty; morality, necessity, and extremity; liability and punishment, nonviolence, and killing and murder. Note: Grad students may take the course with instructor's permission. *Richard Miller*

RLST 24788 - Guilt, Atonement, and Forgiveness After WWII

By what parameters should we assess guilt? What is required to atone for wrong done unto another? Under what circumstances should we forgive harm done to us? This course examines both foundational ethical models and arguments that emerged following the end of WWII concerning issues that arose in the war's wake. We begin the course by reading significant theological and philosophical accounts of ethics, including Genesis, Aristotle, Mill and Kant, and consider what constitutes "guilt" in each. We then draw on these models as we examine significant questions of guilt and atonement that arose in the wake of the Second World War, and explore the particular concerns involved in wrestling with questions of national guilt, collaboration, and assignation of punishment post-war. We will conclude the course by reading arguments that wrestle with the ethics of forgiveness, exploring arguments by a range of theologians, philosophers and other thinkers both for and against forgiving those who have perpetrated harm. *Bevin Blaber*

RLST 25321- Time and its Discontents: Thinking and Experiencing Time in South Asia through the Ages

While we usually think of time and its relentless march as an immutable, universal and abstract category, this course will explore competing and contested notions of time and history and their periodization. This interdisciplinary seminar aims to introduce students to the sociocultural worlds of South Asia through the prism of Time. Instead of looking at the cultural, religious and scientific realms of ancient, medieval and colonial South Asia changing through time, we will explore the changes that time itself, as a concept but also as a lived reality has undergone throughout the convoluted history of South Asia. We will revisit key concepts and ideas pertaining to the cosmology of Ancient and Medieval South Asia, such as the eras of the world according to old scientific and religious treatises, and how these ideas shaped the understanding of the place of mankind in history and the world. We will also study the intellectual challenges that these notions of time posed to the first Europeans that encountered them, and how our modern notion of time and its periodization was forged in this encounter. Rather than thinking of Time and temporalities in South Asia as part of an outdated and disproved world-view, this course will strive to present South Asia and the non-European world not only as subjects to Western temporalities, but as important places where theoretical propositions were made about time-space and its divisions. Notes: While the course relies heavily in South Asian world-views, a previous acquaintance with the histories and mythologies stemming from this part of the world is not necessary. This course will be of interest to students of different backgrounds. The approach is interdisciplinary, ranging from history, anthropology, religious studies, etc. *Eduardo Acosta*

RLST 25704 - Environmental Justice in Chicago

This course will examine the development of environmental justice theory and practice through social scientific and ethical literature about the subject. We will focus on environmental justice issues in

Chicago including, but not limited to waste disposal, toxic air and water, the Chicago heat wave, and climate change. Particular attention will be paid to environmental racism and the often understudied role of religion in environmental justice theory and practice. *Sarah Fredericks*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RETH 35704

RLST 27651 - Anthropology of Revolution: Orientalism, Islam, and the Middle East in Global Perspective

The rise of political Islam in the Middle East as a revolutionary force has provoked concern among commentators fearing that without separation between “church and state,” the region is doomed to religious conflict. But what’s Islamic about political Islam, or religious about religious conflict? What does it mean to frame secularism as a solution to this “problem”? How do Orientalist narratives complicate our understanding of political movements? In this class, we deploy anthropological methods to interrogate how religion and secularism are defined by exploring Islam as a lived religion and political practice in the contemporary Middle East. Reading ethnographic texts from Iran, Lebanon, and Egypt, we explore how political activists have framed challenges and their responses. Are “political Islam” and “secularism” useful analytics for examining Middle Eastern revolutions and uprisings? What makes a government “secular”? And what roles have Western powers played in shaping contemporary conflicts and how they are framed? Course discussion is driven by both texts and popular films. Drawing on an interdisciplinary body of works from anthropology, history, and sociology, in addition to primary sources, we ask what answers ethnographic methods can provide. We critically engage with films from the region as well as popular Western media representations and news articles. *Alex Shams*

RLST 27802 - Technology and the Human

Technology is ubiquitous in contemporary life. Yet technological developments continue to infatuate and inspire in us feelings of excitement, hope and fear. How are we to understand the uncanny relationship between the human and technology? What does this relationship disclose about human agency and creativity? If human life is unimaginable without tools, artifacts, memory supports, and machines, how might we gain the critical distance necessary to properly assess the human-technical relation? In this course we will open up an inquiry into the question of technology by considering the ways in which technical objects, processes, and systems interrupt, challenge, and constitute human subjectivity. Readings will include texts by Martin Heidegger, Friedrich Kittler, Bernard Stiegler, Gilbert Simondon, Katherine Hayles and others. *Sara-Jo Swiatek*

RLST 29080 - Modernity and Its Discontents from Dawn to Decline

One need look neither too long nor too hard before recognizing that the project of modernity seems to be under considerable strain: the stability and perhaps even the desirability of secularism, mass democracy, individualism, cosmopolitanism, and technological and bureaucratic rationalism have all been increasingly challenged by worldwide political events and processes as well as by postmodern, radical, conservative, and religious intellectuals. In this course we will read some classical statements of the project as a means of best understanding modernity and its features. We will then move on to a

consideration of classical and more contemporary critiques of modernity with an eye toward both identifying the limits of the modern project and possible avenues for the retrieval and reconstitution at least some features of modernity. *David Lyons*

WINTER 2021

Special Courses in Divinity

Anthropology and Sociology of Religion

AASR 43310 - Feminism and Islamic Studies

The goals of this course are three-fold: 1- To examine the (geo)politics of feminism as a Euro-American emancipatory project as it pertains to Muslim-majority societies; 2- to probe the conceptual work made possible by the categories of “woman” and “gender” as pioneered by feminist scholars specifically in relation to the history and anthropology of Islam; and 3- to study and evaluate self-consciously reformist projects engaging with the Islamic tradition in the modern period and the complexities of their relationship with Euro-American feminism. Rather than treating these goals in a strictly chronological manner, we will keep them in tension throughout the course. Course Notes: By permission only. Students should write a one-paragraph statement about why they would like to take this course and what kind of prior preparation they have. *Alireza Doostdar*

Equivalent Div Course(s): ISLM 43310, RLST 23310

Biblical Studies

BIBL 32500 - Introduction to the New Testament: Texts and Contexts

An immersion in the texts of the New Testament with the following goals: 1. through careful reading to come to know well some representative pieces of this literature; 2. to gain useful knowledge of the historical, geographical, social, religious, cultural and political contexts of these texts and the events they relate; 3. to learn the major literary genres represented in the canon (“gospels,” “acts,” “letters,” and “apocalypses”) and strategies for reading them; 4. to comprehend the various theological visions and cultural worldviews to which these texts give expression; 5. to situate oneself and one's prevailing questions about this material in the history of research, and to reflect on the goals and methods of interpretation; 6. to become intelligent and critical “consumers” of biblical scholarship as it appears in academic and popular media; 7. to raise questions for further study. PQ: Interest in this literature, and willingness to enter into conversation with like-minded and non-like-minded others on the texts and the

issues involved in their interpretation. Note: This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors. *Margaret Mitchell*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 12000

BIBL 32700 - Law in Biblical Literature

The collaborative course will focus on the lawgiving and the laws in Exodus 19–24, examining its narrative framework, values, poetics, comparanda, argument, and historical moment in ancient Israel-Judea. Prerequisite: 1 year biblical Hebrew + 1 course in Hebrew Bible. *Simeon Chavel*
Equivalent Div Course(s): HIJD 32700, RLST 22700

BIBL 33520 - Pity: What's the Good of It?

Andromache famously appealed to her husband Hector to take pity on herself and her infant son, and not go out to fight the Greeks; Hector took pity, but said no. What happened to pity since Homer? Aristotle recognized it as an essential feature of tragedy, along with fear. Surprisingly, however, it did not enter Greco-Roman political theory except for one short, little-noticed mention: Lucretius placed pity for the weak at the foundation of the Epicurean view of justice. This course will delve into the notion of pity from antiquity to Schopenhauer, with attention to Greeks, Romans, Christians, the period of the Enlightenment, and the Romantics. We will ask: can pity serve as the foundation of morality, as Schopenhauer proposed; or is it shameful, or self-serving? *Elizabeth Asmis*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 23520

BIBL 34000 - Introductory Biblical Hebrew II

This course is the second of a two-quarter sequence designed to introduce students to the language of biblical Hebrew, with special emphasis on the fundamentals of its morphology, syntax, and vocabulary. The course follows a standard textbook supplemented by lectures, exercises, and oral drills aimed at refining the student's grasp of grammatically sound interpretation and translation. At the conclusion of the two-quarter sequence students will be prepared to take a biblical Hebrew reading course in the spring quarter. Prerequisites: BIBL 33900 in Autumn Quarter. *David B. Ridge*

BIBL 35300 - Introductory Koine Greek II

In this two-course sequence, students will learn the basic mechanics of Koine Greek and begin reading texts from the Greek New Testament and Septuagint. The autumn course and the first three-fourths or so of the winter course will introduce the vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and style of the Greek New Testament, and to a limited degree those of the Septuagint, after which point we will focus on reading and interpreting a New Testament document in Greek at length. Upon the conclusion of the sequence, students will be able to read and comprehend entire passages of Koine Greek text with the aid of a dictionary. This sequence aims to prepare students to successfully participate in a Greek exegesis course in Spring quarter or thereafter. Prerequisites: Must have taken BIBL 35100 in Autumn quarter. *Instructor TBD*

BIBL 46804 - The Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of Barnabas

Tertullian was the first to attribute the authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews to Barnabas, and that ascription found favor with no less an ancient figure as Jerome, and even with notable scholars of the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries, such as Albrecht Ritschl and Friedrich Blass. Although no one can know who wrote it, there are fruitful literary and thematic parallels between the Epistle that bears the name Barnabas and the canonical Hebrews, including their critique of Judaism and their interpretatio Christiana of the Hebrew Bible, with particular regard to Levitical institutions and the temple. We will read thoroughly the Greek text of each treatise with focus on the language and style of the two texts, their relation to Hellenistic Judaism, and their respective treatments of Hebrew Bible/Septuagintal themes. PreRec: at least two years of Greek. *David Martinez*

Philosophy of Religion

DVPR 30201 - Indian Philosophy I: Origins and Orientations

This course introduces some of the early themes and textual traditions that set much of the agenda for the later development of Indian philosophy. Particular attention will be paid to the rivalry that was perhaps most generative throughout the history of Indian philosophy: that between the Hindu schools of thought rooted in the Vedas, and the Buddhists who so powerfully challenged them. *Dan Arnold*
Equivalent Div Course(s): HREL 30200, RLST 24201

DVPR 38614 - Gerard Manley Hopkins: Literary and Theological Backgrounds

The seminar will mainly read the poetry of Hopkins, but will also include theological and literary influences on him, such as Duns Scotus, Walter Pater, John Ruskin, and John Henry Newman. Requirements for the seminar include one oral presentation and a seminar length final paper. Course Notes: Graduate students interested in this course should email the department administrator, Ingrid Sagor (isagor@uchicago.edu) by Thursday, November 12th 5pm with a brief note of interest, program year, and student number and will be notified of their admittance to the course by Monday, November 16th. Course requires consent after add/drop begins; contact the administrator for a spot in the class or on the waiting list. *Francoise Meltzer*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 28614

DVPR 50201 - Seminar on Contemporary Critical Theory

This course will examine some of the salient texts of postmodernism. Part of the question of the course will be the status and meaning of “post”-modern, post-structuralist. The course requires active and informed participation. This course fulfills the winter core requirement for first-year Ph.D. students in Comparative Literature. *Francoise Meltzer*

DVPR 53601 – The Problem of Evil and Philosophical Commentaries on the Book of Job in Medieval Philosophy: Saadia, Maimonides, Aquinas

This seminar will examine medieval philosophers' discussions of evil and suffering, natural, bodily, and mental, in their philosophical treatises and in their commentaries of the Book of Job. We will be concerned both with standard topics such as theodicies or justifications for evil, providence and natural evils, and what exactly 'the' problem of evil is as well as with the question whether and how the genre in which one pursues these questions makes a difference. In particular, did the commentary form, especially on a book like Job with its enigmatic literary form, enable medieval thinkers to articulate philosophical issues they could not in their philosophical treatises using discursive argumentation? PQ: Knowledge of Arabic, Hebrew, and Latin is not required, but it can't hurt. *Josef Stern*

History of Christianity

History of Judaism

HIJD 31100 - A Medieval Menagerie: Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages

In contemporary philosophy, ethics, and literature, a subject attracting more and more attention is animals – human animals, non-human animals, and the complex relation between these paradigmatic others. The aim of this course is to consider many of the same problems and questions raised in modern discourse from the perspective of ancient and medieval sources. Drawing from a diverse corpus of texts – Aristotelian, Neoplatonic, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Muslim – the course will explore the richness of the medieval traditions of animal symbolism, and the complexity of medieval human beings' understanding of themselves in relationship to their familiar and immanently present confreres in the world of nature.

Jim Robinson

Equivalent Div Course(s): HREL 41101, ISLM 41100, RLVC 41100, RLST 22406

HIJD 35200 - Maimonides on Hume and Religion

This course will study in alternation chapters from Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed and David Hume's Dialogues concerning Natural Religion, two major philosophical works whose literary forms are at least as important as their contents. Topics will include human knowledge of the existence and nature of God, anthropomorphism and idolatry, religious language, and the problem of evil. Time permitting, we shall also read other short works by these two authors on related themes. *Josef Stern*

HIJD 53361 - The Philosophy of Modern Orthodox Judaism: Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik and Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein

The thought of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik is the philosophical foundation of Modern Orthodox Judaism. In this course, we will examine R. Soloveitchik's conception of halakhic method, his elaboration

of the notion of masorah (tradition), and his idea of halakhic morality. The most significant subsequent development of the philosophy of Modern Orthodox Judaism can be found in the writings of Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein. Among other topics, we may consider R. Lichtenstein's views on the relation between religion and morality, his discussion of character refinement, his conception of serving God and his analysis of the meaning of "mitzvah" as well his response to critiques of Modern Orthodox Judaism. The course will aim to provide a detailed philosophical and theological characterization of Modern Orthodox Judaism, and we will draw some contrasts with both Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) and Reform Judaism. PQ: All students interested in enrolling in this course should send an application to jbarbaro@uchicago.edu by 12/11/2020. Applications should be no longer than one page and should include name, email address, phone number, and department or committee. Applicants should briefly describe their background and explain their interest in, and their reasons for applying to, this course. Advanced undergraduates may also apply. *Arnold Davidson*
Equivalent Div Course(s): DVPR 53361

History of Religions

HREL 35811 - Foundations of Chinese Buddhism

An introduction to the Buddhism of premodern China, examined through lenses of philosophy, texts, and art. We will examine important sources for the major currents of Chinese Buddhist thought and practice stretching from the earliest days of the religion in China through around the 13th century (with some attention to modern connections), giving special consideration to major textual and artistic monuments, such as translated scriptures, Chan literature, and the cave-shrines of Dunhuang. *Paul Copp*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 22501

HREL 37440 - Buddha Then and Now: Transformations from Amaravati to Anuradhapura

The Buddhist sculptures in Amaravati are arguably the earliest to influence the early Buddhist art of the other parts of the sub-continent as well as south and southeast Asia. The course begins with the discussion of the context in which the Buddha images were made in Amaravati and the factors including Buddhist doctrinal developments that contributed to the spread of these images to various parts of Sri Lanka. Then it traces the course and function of Buddhist iconography in Sri Lanka until into the 21st century to assess the role of geopolitical factors. The positionality and portrayals of the images of Buddha are also considered and analyzed. The course traces the trajectories that transformed the image of the Buddha from a symbol of peace to jingoist assertiveness. Through the study of the images of the Buddha, the aim is to comprehend the ways Buddhism has changed over centuries from an inclusive posture which helped it sustain and spread to different parts of the world only later to become exclusionary. *Sree Padma Holt*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLVC 37440, RLST 27440

HREL 38202 - New Directions in the Study of Japanese Religion

The course will explore diverse topics in the study of Japanese religion, including recent cutting-edge research. We will cover the most prominent religious traditions in Japan, including but not limited to

Buddhism, Shinto, Folk Religion, and Confucianism. Each week we will read a recent monograph and analyze the main arguments and its methodological contribution to the field of religious studies. Students are expected to write a research paper by the end of the course. *Or Porath*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 28202

HREL 50105 – Buddhism and Comparative Constitutional Law

This one-credit seminar will explore the relationship between Buddhism and constitutional law in contemporary Asia. It will begin with a review of precolonial Asia and an exploration of the traditions of monastic law. It will then examine current Buddhist practices and constitutionalism in a variety of Asian countries, including those of the Theravada tradition (Thailand, Myanmar and Sri Lanka) and those in the Mahayana (Northeast Asia) as well the Himalayas. The emphasis is on how legal and religious institutions have mutually informed and transformed each other throughout different periods in history. This comparative study is especially significant as Buddhist actors are playing increasingly important roles in the design, interpretation, and reformation of Asian constitutional law. In addition, while existing literature explores legal practices in secular, Islamic, and Christian contexts, few studies provide such comparative analysis in a Buddhist context.

The format of the seminar will include discussions led by the professors as well as several guest presentations of papers by other participants in a joint research project, with backgrounds in history, politics, law, religion, and anthropology. Students will prepare a series of reaction papers to these presentations, due a week before the respective session. Grading will be on the basis of these papers and class participation. The course is open to interested students from throughout the university. Note: This course will follow the Law School's alternate winter quarter schedule, from January 4th to March 5th. Enrollment questions can be sent to Jeanna Driggers (jdriggers@uchicago.edu). *Tom Ginsburg and Ben Schonthal*

Islamic Studies

ISLM 30200 - Introductory Qur'anic Arabic II

This course is the second in a 3-quarter sequence "Introduction to Qur'anic Arabic" (IQA), which aims to provide students with foundational philological and reading skills by covering the essentials of Qur'anic/Classical Arabic grammar. This course also features readings of select passages from the Qur'an, Ḥadīth and Tafsīr. The 3 quarters of IQA are sequential, and students are strongly encouraged to join in the first quarter. Exceptions can be made on a case by case basis. Prerequisites: Successful completion of Introductory Qur'anic Arabic I. *Mehmet Emin Gulecyuz*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 15200

ISLM 30202 – Islamicate Civilization II: 950-1750

This course, a continuation of Islamicate Civilization I, surveys intellectual, cultural, religious and political developments in the Islamic world from Andalusia to the South Asian sub-continent during the

periods from ca. 950 to 1750. We trace the arrival and incorporation of the Steppe Peoples (Turks and Mongols) into the central Islamic lands; the splintering of the Abbasid Caliphate and the impact on political theory; the flowering of literature of Arabic, Turkic and Persian expression; the evolution of religious and legal scholarship and devotional life; transformations in the intellectual and philosophical traditions; the emergence of Shi`i states (Buyids and Fatimids); the Crusades and Mongol conquests; the Mamluks and Timurids, and the "gunpowder empires" of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Moghuls; the dynamics of gender and class relations; etc. This class partially fulfills the requirement for MA students in CMES, as well as for NELC majors and PhD students. *Franklin Lewis*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 20202

ISLM 30605 - Colloquium: Sources for the Study of Islamic History

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the basic problems and concepts as well as the sources and methodology for the study of premodern Islamic history. Sources will be read in English translation and the tools acquired will be applied to specific research projects to be submitted as term papers. *John Woods*

ISLM 31120 - The History of Muslim Histories

This course surveys Muslim history-writing in Arabic from its beginnings to the nineteenth century. Through reading the work of historians such as al-Baladhuri, al-Tabari, Miskawayh, Ibn 'Asakir, Ibn Khaldun, and al-Jabarti, we investigate different genres of historical writing and examine the various methodologies employed by Muslim historians. PQ: 3 years of Arabic or the equivalent. *Ahmed El Shamsy*

ISLM 40010 - Introduction to Arabic and Islamic Studies

This course is designed for graduate students who wish to learn about the tools, primary and secondary sources, references, journals, distinct subfields, and electronic resources available to researchers in Arabic and Islamic Studies. We will acquire first-hand knowledge and practice of basic skills that will help professionalize students in the field, and will discuss methodological and historiographical issues related to the study of Islamicate civilization in various historical, cultural, political, and religious frameworks. Prerequisites: 2 years of Arabic. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Yousef Casewit*

ISLM 42900 - Readings in Islamic Theology

Advanced Arabic Reading seminar on Ibn al-Mar'a's (d. 1214) commentary on Juwayni's Kitab al-Irshad based on available manuscripts. Prerequisites: 3 years of Arabic. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Yousef Casewit*

ISLM 50600 - Readings in Philosophical Sufism

Advanced Arabic reading seminar. We'll focus on the writings of Afif al-Din al-Tilimsani (a disciple of Ibn Arabi and Qunawi), in particular his commentary on the Fusus al-Hikam, the Fatiha, and the Divine Names. Prerequisites: 3 years of Arabic. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Yousef Casewit*

Religions in the Americas

Religious Leadership and Practice (M.Div. Courses)

REL 32500 - Theology in the Public Square

This course explores the transformative role of religion in public life, primarily by examining “canonical” mid-twentieth century figures whose thought and leadership remain essential reference points in American public life today, such as Dorothy Day, Thich Nhat Hanh, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Reinhold Niebuhr. These figures are placed in conversation with each other and as engaged as potential resources for contemporary public life. This is a required course for first year MDivs; open to MA students in the Divinity School only with consent of instructor. *Kristine Culp*

REL 35202 - Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice: Spiritual Care and Counseling

This course is the second 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 work in field education. In this course, students explore and practice the requisite skills for spiritual care and counseling in congregations, hospitals, university chaplaincies and other settings. Participants will interrogate human experience through several lenses, including theological and philosophical anthropologies, family systems theory, and relational and self-psychologies, with special attention to theories of race, ethnicity and gender. Practice labs will help students hone listening skills and narrative therapies, diagnosis and referrals, and healing rituals. *Cynthia Lindner*

REL 40700 - Field Work Practicum II

The course provides a forum for practical theological reflection through ongoing discussion with classmates of both field experience and general issues of ministerial practice. *Erika Dornfeld*

Religious Ethics

RETH 30803 - Contemporary Religious Ethics II: Identity and Difference

This is the second of my three-quarter sequence of courses examining the rise and development of contemporary religious ethics. It will continue examining pioneering work that established a new style of

scholarship and ethical argumentation during the “quiet revolution” when the study of religion gained an institutional footing in North American colleges and universities. Readings will examine theories of subject formation; cultural norms and human agency; relationships between human and non-human animals; religion and global conflict; race, gender, and politics; and challenges and opportunities that encountering the Other poses for ethical responsibility and coexistence in political life. Hence the title of this cycle: Identity and Difference (1990-2010). Authors include William F. May, William LaFleur, Cornel West, Charles Taylor, Judith Butler, Avishai Margalit, Lisa Sideris, Saba Mahmood, Aaron Stalnaker, John Kelsay, and Jeffrey Stout. Over the arc of the quarter we will examine how normative inquiry moves across overlapping domains of religion, culture, politics, and science. This course will be followed by Contemporary Religious Ethics III: Peril and Responsibility (2010-2020), next year. Enrollment in other courses in this sequence is not required to enroll in this course. The course is open to graduate and undergraduate students. *Richard Miller*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 21407

RETH 32800 - Religion, Ethics, and the Sciences

Basic concepts in the philosophy and history of science are critical to understanding debates in bioethics, environmental ethics, information technology ethics, and other related fields. This class will examine how scientific authority, methods, and information may relate to ethics, particularly religious ethics. We will also study objectivity, subjectivity, and values in the sciences; the development of scientific knowledge; risk, precaution, and accidents; and the development and use codes of ethics for scientists and engineers. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Sarah Fredericks*

RETH 37000 - Moral Theory and Philosophical Ethics

Asking the basic ethical question, “how shall we live?,” this course explores answers to that question in selected major historical writings in Western moral theory and philosophical ethics. Its purpose is to explain the elements and tasks of moral theory and also to explore the work of seminal philosophical ethical thinkers. One thread through the course will be the question of the relation between ethics, or moral philosophy, and religion. In this way, we are also exploring fundamental questions in religious ethics, including questions about human “nature” and action, the relation between the human good and God, and how to validate moral judgments. Note: Undergraduates should contact professor about enrollment. *William Schweiker*
Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 37000, RLST 24770

RETH 44000 - Methods and Theories in Comparative Religious Ethics

This course explores the major theories and methods for doing comparative religious ethics and also looks at key contemporary works comparing religions ethically. Undergraduates must contact professor in order to enroll. *William Schweiker*
Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 44000

RETH 44802 - Contemporary Political and Social Ethics

In 1971 John Rawls set new terms for political and social ethics with the publication of his landmark work, *A Theory of Justice*. This seminar will focus on the work of Rawls along with critical engagements with his ideas in the 1980s and 1990s by Michael Sandel, Michael Walzer, Susan Moller Okin, Richard Rorty, Seyla Benhabib, and Will Kymlicka. In order to provide an understanding of the evolving nature of this engagement, the seminar's readings are arranged roughly in chronological order. One aim is to make plain the nature of public philosophy regarding social justice as it was carried out from 1971-1996, and to identify how and where Rawls adjusted his ideas in response to his critics during this time. Another aim is to correct for the ongoing misrepresentation of liberal democratic theory in the academy and in public culture more generally. Topics include theories of distributive justice, gender equality, cultural rights, religion and politics, toleration, identity and difference, and, more generally, the relation between the right and the good in political thought. Prerequisite: All students--Please petition Prof. Miller to enroll in this class by describing your background and relevant interests in this course. This course is open to undergrads by petition. *Richard Miller*

RETH 52555 - Narration and Law: Levinas's Talmudic Readings and the Imperative of Ethics

This is a seminar that will closely read the Jewish writings of Emmanuel Levinas, in particular, the talmudic exegesis that he undertook for the French Jewish Community in the 1990s. Levinas explicates his ethical theories via the recovery of a series of texts from the Babylonian Talmud, the classic text of Jewish law, literature, and theo-philosophic interpretation. *Laurie Zoloth*

Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture

RLVC 35900 - Feeling Religious or Emotions as a Variety of Religious Experience

This course takes up the methodological tension between Donovan O. Schaefer's *Religious Affects: Animality, Evolution, and Power* and William James' *Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study in Human Nature* and as a starting point to think religion and emotion. We will then follow the boom of recent scholarship on this topic to think about the variety of ways that scholars have theorized and understood emotion or affect as central to the study of religion. The course also asks: Why emotion? Why right now? In asking these questions, the students will become familiar with this strand of scholarship within religious studies, but also how it fits in with the larger theoretical turn in the humanities. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Sarah Pierce Taylor*
Equivalent Div Course(s): HREL 35900

RLVC 30104 – Queer of Color Critique and Theology

This course provides an introduction to queer theology by examining, most broadly, the relationship between theology, theory, literature, and art. We will explore the foundations of queer theology in queer theory, especially queer of color critique, in order to identify and analyze some of the controversies that have arisen in queer theology and queer religions. In particular, we will pursue a sustained interrogation

of the intersection of race, capitalism, and cultural production and encounter theological and literary texts, including but not limited to speculative fiction, poetry, film, and photography, so as to imagine the theological potential of literary and artistic production. Course Notes: Graduate Students interested in this course should email Prof. Kris Trujillo (kjtrujillo@uchicago.edu) copying the department administrator, Ingrid Sagor (isagor@uchicago.edu) by Thursday, November 12th 5pm with a brief note of interest, program year, and student number and will be notified of their admittance to the course by Monday, November 16th. Course requires consent after add/drop begins; contact the instructor & administrator for a spot in the class or on the waiting list. *Kris Trujillo*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 26104

RLVC 38446 – Apocalypse Now: Scripts of Eschatological Imagination

Apocalyptic fantasies are alive and well today. In beach reads and blue chip fiction; in comic books and YA novels; in streaming TV shows, Hollywood blockbusters, and ironic arthouse cinema. Wherever you look, small groups of beleaguered survivors are banding together to outsmart zombies or crazed survivalists, and generally doing their best to get by on a planet ravaged by disease, pollution, consumerism, and reckless resource extraction. These apocalyptic fantasies follow well-established scripts that often date back millenia. Apocalypse scripts allow their users to make sense of the current crisis and prepare for an uncertain future. The course will be divided into two parts. The first half will be devoted to texts, art, and movies that dwell on the expectation of the end and narratively measure out the time that remains. We will begin with examining the biblical ur-scripts of an apocalyptic imaginary, the Book of Daniel in the Old and the Book of Revelation in the New Testament, as well as Saint Paul's messianism in the Letter to the Romans; and then move on to medieval apocalyptic fantasies of the Joachim of Fiore and others; and end with the apocalypticism underlying the religious reforms of Girolamo Savonarola and Martin Luther. The discussion of Lars von Trier's *Melancholia* will serve as a pivot to modern post-apocalypticism. The second half will focus on life after the apocalypse — the new freedoms, and new forms of political life and sociality that the apocalyptic event affords its survivors. Readings will include the political theory of marronage, capabilities, and neoprimitivism; literary theory of speculative fiction; and the post-apocalyptic narratives by Octavia Butler, Jean Hegland, Richard Jefferies, Cormac McCarthy, and Colson Whitehead. Readings and discussions in English. *Mark Payne and Christopher Wild*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 28446

RLVC 38500 - Mythologies of America: 19th Century Novels

Hawthorne, Melville, Stowe, Alcott, and Twain wrote fiction that, in individual novels and also read comparatively, offers a civic template of mythologies of America: its genesis, its composition, its deities, its ritual life. The course considers this writing as both distinctively American, and as engaging central themes of modern novels, e.g. time, history, and memory, the relation of private to civic life, and the shifting role of religious authority. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Richard Rosengarten*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 28510

Theology

THEO 43501 - Contemporary Models of Theology

This class compares and contrasts various systems and methods in contemporary theology. By contemporary, we mean theological developments in the USA from the late 1960s to the present. Specifically, we reflect critically on the following models: progressive liberal, post liberal, black theology, feminist theology, and womanist theology. As we engage these systems of thought, we want to examine the contexts and logic of their theologies and the sources used to construct theology. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Dwight Hopkins*

Religious Studies (Undergraduate)

RLST 10100 - Introduction to Religious Studies

What are we talking about when we talk about religion? There are a multitude of answers to that question, and this course provides students with an entryway into a longstanding conversation-involving insiders, outsiders, and those in between-around the meanings of a word that indexes ideas of god and the gods, of origins and ends, and of the proper places of humans (and everything else, including animals) above, in, and below the globe. Talk about religion today is, in fact, cheap: this course will aim to promote a grammatical currency (morphology, vocabulary, syntax) to enhance the value of such talk. Note: This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors. *Ryan Coyne*

RLST 10102 - Religion, Reason, and the State

The second quarter of this sequence explores the work of key theorists on the role of religion in modern society, politics, and the state. Central questions include: How has state power transformed religious institutions, knowledge, and practice? How can we account for the persistence of religious commitments in the face of secularization? What role has religion played in revolutionary movements and in resistance against state power? Note: Students may enroll in either one of the courses in this sequence independently of the other course. This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors. *Alireza Doostdar*

RLST 20235 - The Hebrew Bible and the Shoah

This course will explore the uses of biblical literature in Holocaust and post-Holocaust works. The first part will be devoted to the work of religious thinkers from across the religious spectrum, from the Warsaw ghetto sermons of the orthodox rabbi Kalonymos Shapira to the unique interpretation of the “suffering servant” by Reform rabbi Ignaz Maybaum. We will see that the question of God’s whereabouts during the massacre produced an explosion of biblically-inspired theologies, stemming from Buber, Heschel, and Berkovits’ different conceptions of a “divine eclipse” (hester panim) to Melissa Raphael’s audacious affirmation of the presence of the female divine face in Auschwitz. The traditional approach to

the Hebrew Bible itself was radically questioned: Fackenheim argued that biblical exegesis had to be thoroughly revised, and André Neher sketched a hermeneutics of biblical silence. In the second part of the course we will look at the decisive influence that the Hebrew Bible had on the works of more literarily-oriented writers and how they reflected on the Shoah. In genres as distinct as poetry and testimony, in authors as different as Chava Rosenfarb and Primo Levi, one sees biblical characters, stories, motifs, and literary forms surfacing with unprecedented ambivalence and poignancy. This is true whether the biblical reference is deployed in ironic denunciations of the divine (Simche Shayevitsh, Kadia Modolowski), in subtle appeals to a newfound hope (Elie Wiesel, S. Y. Agnon), or in psalmodic hymns to the senselessness of it all (Nelly Sachs, Paul Celan). *Aslan Mizrahi Cohen*

RLST 20402 - Islamic Thought and Literature II

What are the major developments in thinking and in literature in the Islamic world of the “middle periods” (c. 950-1800 C.E.). How did noteworthy Muslims at various points and places think through questions of life and death, man and God, faith and belief, the sacred and the profane, law and ethics, tradition vs. innovation, power and politics, class and gender, self and other? How did they wage war; make love; shape the built environment; eat and drink; tell stories; educate their youth; preserve the past; imagine the future; perform piety, devotion, and spirituality; construe the virtuous life and righteous community, etc.? How did these ideas change over time? What are some of the famous, funny, naughty, and nice books read in the pre-modern Muslim world? We will survey a broad geographic area stretching from Morocco and Iberia to the Maldives and India--even into the New World--through lectures, secondary readings, and discussion. We will engage with a variety of primary texts in English translation, as well as various visual, aural, and material artifacts. Notes: Taking these courses in sequence is recommended but not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. *Franklin Lewis*

RLST 21275 - Theologies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America

What were the life factors and specific contexts that amazingly gave rise to religious thinking in the 1960s Third World theologies? And what are the relationships among gender, culture, politics, and economics in these global theologies? This class compares and contrasts various systems and methods in contemporary theologies, male and female, in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. As a backdrop for this critical inter-conversational engagement, we will use the recent theological dialogues taking place in the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT). As we engage these systems of thought, we want to examine the logic of their theologies and the sources used to construct theology – particularly the relation between the materiality of context and the imagination of theology. *Dwight Hopkins*

RLST 22011 - Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century

Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical,

historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Winter course will begin with the early modern period and continue to the present. It will include discussions of mysticism, the works of Spinoza and Mendelssohn, the nineteenth-century reform, the Holocaust and its reflection in writers such as Primo Levi and Paul Celan, and literary pieces from postwar American Jewish and Israeli authors. All sections of this course will share a common core of readings; individual instructors will supplement with other materials. It is recommended, though not required, that students take the three Jewish Civilization courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the winter segment. In the Spring Quarter students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X). *Sarah Hammerschlag*

RLST 22313 - The Lord's Business: Evangelical Christianity and Corporate Capitalism in Modern America

Throughout the history of the United States, Christianity and capitalism have been inseparable forces for the social and cultural development of the American nation, for better or worse. That is not to say, however, that the relationship between "faith" and "finance" has been stable over time. As economic and religious practices met in fluid social worlds, Christians often debated the boundaries of moral behavior under disparate capitalist regimes. At the end of the nineteenth century, mainline Protestants struggled to reconcile the generous patronage of industrialist benefactors with the social ravages of industrial capitalism. As theologically liberal Protestants moved towards a critique of capitalism under the "Social Gospel," theologically conservative Protestants came to embrace new forms of capital and their assumed spiritual effects. This course will investigate the history of fundamentalist and evangelical Protestant support for and appropriation of "corporate capitalism" across the twentieth century. We will engage a series of historical inquiries: On what grounds did early-century conservative Protestants defend capitalist society? How did these groups engage capitalism, its ideals and its markets? Moreover, how did capitalism and capitalists, religious or otherwise, respond to this newfound support? What influences, if any, has conservative Protestantism had on economic practice itself? Finally, how can the legacy of corporate, evangelical capitalism shape our understandings of recent and contemporary religious, economic and political issues? *Greg Chatterley*

RLST 24160 - Whom Am I To Judge? Relativism and Religious Difference

How do we evaluate people who are different from us? What grounds our evaluation of human behaviors or beliefs? At the end of the 20th century, comparative analyses of religious beliefs and ethics were heavily criticized for their ethnocentric tendencies; researchers were blamed for importing their own values on the "other". More recently, however, the pendulum seems to have swung in the other direction. Comparative religious ethicists often adopt a brand of liberal moral relativism. "To each their own" is their preferred mantra. This dramatic swing within the field of comparative religious ethics opens up questions for future study: Under what conditions can we praise or blame those who are different than us? What virtues of scholarship are necessary for quality comparative work?

In this course we will learn about the field of comparative religious ethics and the perils and possibilities that accompany its intellectual projects. In addition to several theoretical texts, we will read two ethnographies (Fernando 2014 and Pandian 2009) that weave in and out of comparative religious ethics. These texts focus on themes of nationalism, post-colonialism, immigration, the production and regulation of religious subjects, and the limits of our judgments on the other. *Caroline Anglim*

RLST 24200 - Philosophy and Literature in India

SIGN 26073

Is philosophy literature? Is literature philosophy? What constitutes either of these seemingly disparate enterprises, formally and thematically, and what kinds of conjunctions can we imagine between them (philosophy in/of/as literature)? Can one translate these terms across cultures? Are they the sole prerogative of leisured elites, or can they harbor and cultivate voices of dissent? Above all, what does it mean to reflect on these categories outside the parochial context of the Western world? This course explores these questions by introducing some of the literary cultures, philosophical traditions, religious poetry, and aesthetic theories of the South Asian subcontinent. Students will encounter a variety of genres including scriptural commentary, drama and courtly poetry, and the autobiography. Readings, all in translation, will range from Sanskrit literature to Sufi romances and more. *Anand Venkatkrishnan*

RLST 25125 - Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

This course explores the Western philosophical tradition of reasoned reflection on religious belief. Our questions will include: what are the most important arguments for, and against, belief in God? How does religious belief relate to the deliverances of the sciences, in particular to evolutionary theory? How can we reconcile religious belief with the existence of evil? What is the relationship between religion and morality? In attempting to answer these questions we will read work by Plato, Augustine, Anselm, Nietzsche, and Freud, as well as some recent texts. *Benjamin Callard*

RLST 25806 - The Political Theologies of Zionism

The relationship between nationalism and religion has throughout history been a stormy one, often characterized by antagonisms and antipathy. In this course we will examine from various aspects the complex nexus of these two sources of repeated ideological and political dispute within Judaism, and more specifically within Zionism as its political manifestation. Zionism has mostly been considered a secular project, yet recently, Zionist theory is scrutinized to identify and unearth its supposedly hidden theological origins. In nowadays Israel, a rise in religious identification alongside an increasing religionization of the political discourse calls for the consideration of new theopolitical models of Zionism applicable in a post-secular environment.

The aim of this course is to explore this intertwining of politics and religion in Israel from both historical and contemporary perspectives. The first part of the course will outline the theoretical foundation of post-secular and political-theological discourses. The second part will address the explicit and implicit political theologies of Zionism. The third part will outline contemporary aspects of political-theological thought in Israel, and their actual appearance in the political sphere. *David Barak-Gorodetsky*

RLST 26013 - Drinking with God: An Introduction to Sufism

Who is the 13th-century Muslim mystic Jalaluddin Rumi - and why is he so popular on Instagram? Can inebriation lead to divine revelation? Who are the friends of God, and how did they develop fantastic superpowers? How have mystical practices sought to both abandon the world and radically transform it? In this class, we will explore these questions through the study of Sufism - a diverse set of Islamic mystical traditions - from its formative period in the early decades of Islam to the present day. Through poetry, philosophy, music, esoteric sciences, politics, and devotional practices, we will analyze Sufism as a global phenomenon that, while demonstrating remarkable adaptation to local cultural contexts, firmly locates itself within the Islamic tradition. This course will also include a visit to a local Sufi center in Chicago. *Francesca Chubb-Confer*

RLST 26116 - Meaning and the Body

This course examines recent (20th- and 21st-century) retrievals of the body to understand “meaning.” We will analyze varying construals of nature, materiality, matter, emotion, and thought. Readings will therefore be multidisciplinary, including selections from philosophy, sociolinguistics, anthropology, and religious studies. More specifically, we will examine the relationship between meaning and embodiment by way of the following: modern philosophies of the subject; analytic philosophies of language; deconstruction and the historicization of the body; feminist theories of discourse; new materialist conceptions of matter; new animist conceptions of the subject. *Lisa Landoe Hedrick*

RLST 27250 - The Trials of Religion

The rhetoric and practice of "trial" -- as testing and as adjudication -- is central to religious thought and religious practice. This course will examine the idea and the act of "trial" comparatively, via the classics of the religious literatures of Judaism and of Christianity (Genesis 22, Job, the Gospel of Mark, "The Pilgrim's Progress," Kafka), and also cinema (Dreyer's "Joan of Arc," R. & S. Elkabetz's "Gett"). *Richard Rosengarten*

RLST 27516 – Religious Poetry from Donne to Eliot

This course will study some of the greatest religious poems in our language, focusing on major poets in the 17th century (Donne & Herbert), in the 19th century (Dickinson & Hopkins), and in the 20th century, where we will study T. S. Eliot’s Four Quartets in its entirety. Mid-term exercise and final paper required. *Richard Strier*

RLST 28308 – Introduction to Byzantine Art

In this course we will explore works of art and architecture as primary sources on the civilization of Byzantium. Through the close investigation of artifacts of different media and techniques, students will gain insight into the artistic production of the Byzantine Empire from its beginnings in the fourth century C.E. to the Ottoman conquest in 1453. We will employ different methodological approaches and scholarly

resources that are relevant for the fruitful investigation of artifacts in their respective cultural setting. In order to fully assess the pivotal importance of the visual arts in Byzantine culture, we will address a wide array of topics, including art and ritual, patronage, the interrelation of art and text, the classical heritage, art and theology, Iconoclasm, etc. *Karin Krause*

RLST 28705 - Christian Iconography

In Christian culture, visual images have for many centuries played a pivotal role in ritual, devotion, intellectual thought, and religious instruction. The most important aims of this course are that students understand images convey meaning in very unique ways and learn how to decode their visual messages. The study of iconography encompasses a variety of methods used to identify the subject matter of a pictorial image, describe its contents, and analyze its discursive strategies in view of its original cultural context. We will cover some of the most important themes visualized in the arts of Christianity by analyzing imagery spanning different periods, geographical regions, pictorial media, and artistic techniques.

While special emphasis is placed on the intersections of art and literature, we will also examine pictorial themes that are independent of a specific textual basis. Alongside the study of Christian iconography, this course will address broader issues of visual inquiry, such as patronage, viewer response, emotions, and gender roles. In this course, students will acquire a 'visual literacy' that will enable them to explore all kinds of works of art fruitfully as primary sources in their own right. *Karin Krause*

RLST 29060 - Freedom of Religion

This course will consider the place of religious freedom in the modern pluralistic liberal order and introduce students to some of the interpretive issues and legal doctrines associated with the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Readings will come from a mixture of classical writings from Hobbes to Tocqueville on the relationship between religion and civil government, more recent scholarly works on the place of religious commitments and religious diversity in the liberal political order, scholarly works on the Religion Clauses, and U.S. case law on the freedom of religion. *David Lyons*

RLST 29300 - My Body, My Self: Asceticism and Subjectivity

SIGN 26074

In recent decades scholars of the pre-modern period have turned to the body as a site of renewed historical inquiry. Within the study of religion, this shift has reanimated discussions around asceticism as a particularly potent techné for self-fashioning. Nevertheless, scholars have struggled to theorize asceticism across religious traditions. The proposed signature course brings together two scholars of religion working in distinct geographical locations and cultures: Eastern Christianity and medieval Indian religious literature. Despite our disparate areas, together we are interested in bringing critical gender theory to bear on asceticism as a discursive and embodied practice. We envision this course as an opportunity for students to engage asceticism as a series of techniques that envision the sexed and gendered human body as the horizon of corporeal expression and personal imagination. Asceticism serves as a neat conceptual device, allowing us to toggle between the mind and body while tackling questions

that fall within the liminal space between them, including debates around gender, sexuality, sovereignty, and biopower. Students along with the instructors will contend with the challenges and opportunities of transnational and transhistorical feminist and queer inquiry as we traverse across the boundaries of tradition, language, and culture. While drawing on rich historical and religious archives, we will anchor our discussions around the interplay of two principal authors: Giorgio Agamben and Michel Foucault.

Sarah Pierce Taylor and Erin Galgay Walsh

Equivalent Div Course(s): BIBL 39300, HCHR 39300, HREL 39300, RLVC 39300

SPRING 2021

Anthropology and Sociology of Religion

AASR 54000 - Ethnographic Methods

This is a writing-intensive seminar for students wishing to explore ethnography as a method and genre of social-cultural analysis. Over the course of the quarter, students will work individually and in groups to develop their ethnographic projects. The final writing assignment is an ethnographic essay that will grow out of a range of research and writing exercises. Course Notes: By permission only. First preference will be given to PhD students. *Alireza Doostdar*

Biblical Studies

BIBL 36020 - The Gospel of John

As a foundational text for Christian theological reflection and spirituality, the Gospel of John poses key questions for students working in every period. The fourth gospel reflects a historical context in which the emerging “Jesus Movement” was taking shape. This Greek exegesis course will introduce students to modern historical, textual, and rhetorical-critical approaches in conversation with the history of interpretation. The class will focus on the shape of the narrative and its relationship to the Synoptic Gospels as well as the text’s consequential characterization of the *ioudaioi* as opposed to those confessing Christ. Students will engage in close readings of the Greek text, examining its composition, structure, and theology. Through lectures and assignments, students will gain familiarity with the major interpretative trajectories of this gospel within the history of Christian thought. At the beginning of the quarter every student will choose an interpreter or interpretative approach – ancient, medieval, modern, or post-modern – to represent in class discussions. Prerequisite: One year of Koine Greek, or equivalent (BIBL 35100, 35300). Various levels can be accommodated; please feel free to consult with instructor. Note: This is the introductory Koine Greek exegesis course. *Erin Galgay Walsh*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 22020

BIBL 41203 - Illuminating the Bible in Byzantium

The main focus of this seminar will be the study of illustrated manuscripts of the Bible viewed within the larger framework of Byzantine book culture. More generally, students will gain insight into the history, methods and techniques of interdisciplinary research involving Greek (illuminated) manuscripts. We will investigate famous and less well-known examples to identify both the principles guiding Biblical illumination in Byzantium and topics in need of further research. In addition to printed facsimiles, we will take advantage of digitized material from various Greek manuscript collections. In order to appreciate the auratic qualities of original manuscripts and for a close-up investigation of their codicological features, we will view material preserved in the Goodspeed Manuscript Collection. *Karin Krause*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLVC 41203

BIBL 43300 - Introduction to Papyrology

This course will concentrate on the methods and perspectives of the discipline of papyrology, including the "hands on" experience of working with photographed and scanned texts of various collections. No previous knowledge of the field is assumed; we will begin from the ground up. Approximately the first six weeks of the course will be devoted to an introduction to the study of papyri, in which our concerns will include the following:

1. transcription and analysis of different paleographic styles, including literary hands and documentary Ptolemaic scripts.
2. extensive reading of edited papyrus texts from the Pestman and Loeb editions and elsewhere;
3. careful attention to the linguistic phenomenon of koine Greek with regard to phonology, morphology, and syntax; how the koine differs from the classical language and the relationship of the idiom of the papyri to that of other koine documents, such as the New Testament; the importance of koine linguistics to textual criticism.
4. investigation of the contribution of papyrology to other areas of the study of antiquity such as literature, social history, linguistics, textual criticism, and religion.

Prerequisite: three years of Greek. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *David Martinez*

BIBL 44602 - The Song of Songs

In this text-course we will read the entire poetic composition, drawing on theory of literature in general and poetry in particular, tracing its unique forms of continuity, and analyzing its biblically distinctive forms of gender characterization. Prerequisite: 1 year biblical Hebrew/ BIBL 33900 and BIBL 34000.

Note: This is the Introductory Biblical Hebrew exegesis course. *Simeon Chavel*

Equivalent Div Course(s): HIJD 44602, RLST 24602

BIBL 46000 - Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible

In this course, students will learn the basic concepts, methods, theories, resources, and scholarly history of the textual criticism of the books making up the Hebrew Bible. They will practice comparing the Massoretic Text with relevant other manuscripts and text-traditions in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic; evaluating variants; and considering unattested emendations. Students will explore the overlap between

composition-history and manuscript-history. At the conclusion of this course, students will have the knowledge and tools to embark on their own text-critical examination of passages in the Hebrew Bible. PQ: Students need to have working knowledge of the languages listed above, especially Hebrew and Greek. *Instructor TBD*

Philosophy of Religion

DVPR 30302 - Indian Philosophy II: The Classical Traditions

This course follows the first module on Indian philosophy by exploring the debates between several classical "schools" or "viewpoints" (darśanas) of Indian philosophy. In addition to expanding upon the methods of systematized reasoning inaugurated by the Nyāya and Buddhist epistemological traditions, particular attention will be given to systems of scriptural hermeneutics -- Mīmāṃsā and Vedānta -- and their consequences for the philosophy of language, theories of cognitive error, and even poetics. *Anand Venkatkrishnan*

Equivalent Div Course(s): HREL 30300, RLST 24202

DVPR 33750 - New Cartesian Questions

The course shall be divided, in each class, in two moments. First moment: a close reading of Descartes' Meditations on first Philosophy to allow students to reach a direct knowledge of cartesian thought, by presenting text explanations. Second, in each class will be addressed one of the most debated issues in the past or today among the allegedly well-known cartesian doctrines. For instance: Was Descartes more a skeptic than a dogmatic philosopher? (b) How far Descartes has followed Montaigne more than he opposed him? (c) Is the ego in the cogito argument really a "subject" or a "substance"? (c) Why a finite mind can enjoy an infinite will, and why the successors (even the self-proclaimed followers) of Descartes have given up this claim? (d) Is phenomenology (from Husserl to Levinas) qualified to understand itself as "cartesian"? (e) Is there or not a cartesian metaphysics, and why the answer remains difficult today? (f) Which role, if any, play sensation and non-conceptual knowledge in Descartes doctrine of morals.

Jean-Luc Marion

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 23750

DVPR 34300 - Buddhist Poetry in India

The substantial Buddhist contribution to Indian poetry is of interest for what it teaches us of both Buddhism and the broad development of Indian literature. The present course will focus upon three phases in this history, with attention to what changes of language and literary genre tell us of the transformations of Indian religious culture from the last centuries B.C.E. to about the year 1000. Readings (all in translation) will include the Therīgāthā, a collection of verses written in Pali and the most ancient Indian example of womens' literature, selections from the work of the great Sanskrit poets Aśvaghōṣa, Āryaśūra, and Mātṛceta, and the mystical songs, in the Apabhraṃśa language, of the Buddhist tantric saints. Prerequisites: General knowledge of Buddhism is desirable. *Matthew Kapstein*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLVC 34300, HREL 34300, RLST 26250

DVPR 40450 - Polemic, Betrayal and Dung Beetles in the Pure Land: Zhili, Renyue and the Miaocongchao Controversies

The *Foshuo guanwuliangshoufojing shuji* 佛說觀無量壽佛經疏妙宗鈔 (known for short as the *Guanjingmiaocongchao* or *Miaocongchao*) was written by the great Tiantai thinker Siming Zhili 四明智禮 (960-1028) in 1021. For the previous 20 years, Zhili had been the main spokesman and theoretician of the Shanjia (“Home Mountain”) faction in the heated doctrinal debates with the Shanwai (“Off Mountain”) faction of the Tiantai school, and this work brought those controversies to a new fever pitch, making the most radical of the Shanjia doctrinal claims aggressively and provocatively clear. Among these positions, the Shanjia ideas of “the ultimate dung beetle” 究竟蝘蟻 and “all that exists is mind alone, but also matter alone” 唯心唯色 aroused perhaps the fiercest opposition, but the contentions concerning the nature and relations of the Three Bodies of the Buddha (*trikaya*) with respect to Amitabha Buddha in this subcommentary to a Pure Land sutra were also highly inflammatory, and a Shanwai attack soon followed. Zhili’s disciple Jingjue Renyue 淨覺仁岳 (992-1064), his ablest and most ferocious attack dog during much of the previous 20 years of debate, quickly wrote a closely argued defense. But soon thereafter, Renyue suddenly reversed his position, turning against many of the key Shanjia positions that he himself had so powerfully defended in years past, writing increasingly virulent polemics against his former teacher, thereby initiating the final phase of the Shanjia-Shanwai debate—now between Zhili and his former heir apparent. This class will be a close reading of the key texts in this debate: the *Miaocongchao* itself and Renyue’s defense and subsequent attack of that text. All readings will be in classical Chinese, reading proficiency in which is a prerequisite for this course. Some familiarity with Buddhist Chinese and theory is also highly recommended. Discussion will be in English. Prerequisite: Strong reading proficiency in Classical Chinese required. Previous knowledge of Buddhism and some experience with Buddhist Chinese is recommended. *Brook Ziporyn*

Equivalent Div Course(s): HREL 40450

DVPR 47902 - Readings: Advanced Sanskrit

An advanced Sanskrit reading course focusing on the development of skills in either classical belles lettres (*kāvya*) or scholastic, commentarial prose (*śāstra*). In the former, emphasis is on the ability to rearrange complex poetic forms into digestible prose word order. In the latter, students learn both the stylistic conventions of scholastic Sanskrit and the technical vocabulary of the relevant intellectual discipline. *Anand Venkatkrishnan*

DVPR 49630 - Madhyamaka in India and China

This seminar will consider exemplary texts from the Madhyamaka school(s) of Buddhist philosophy, particularly focusing on notable points of divergence and/or concord between the Indian schools with which the tradition originated, and the various Chinese schools that reflect China's distinctive appropriation of the tradition. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Brook Ziporyn and Dan Arnold*

DVPR 53330 - Revelation, Temporality, Being

Following up the previous seminars on the history of the concept of Revelation and its alternative models (metaphysical, phenomenological, biblical, a.s.o.), this class will be devoted to a reverse interrogation: provided first that the concept of Revelation, in a christian perspective, can only be understood from a trinitarian viewpoint (Barth and Balthasar, Basile of Cesarea and Augustine); provided then that the most crucial issues about Revelation should be addressed from this trinitarian viewpoint, one may try to understand not Trinity on the basis of the philosophical concepts of time and history (as Hegel and Schelling did) or of being (as Thomas Aquinas and Heidegger did), but on a contrary order, to consider being and time on the basis of Trinity and according to the logic of agapê. This means a reinterpretation of time as eschatology or krisis, and of being as givenness. *Jean-Luc Marion*

History of Christianity

HCHR 43200 - Colloquium: Ancient Christianity

A critical reading of influential narratives--both ancient and modern--of "the rise of Christianity" in the first four centuries, and the sources from which they are composed, asking the question: can such a narrative be told (if it can be told) in a way other than as a romance or a tragedy? Each week we shall analyze select primary sources (textual, artistic, architectural, on which students will give presentations) that illuminate crucial issues (e.g. demographics, conversion, race, persecution, martyrdom, asceticism, gender, ecclesiological and ritual structures, intellectual lineages, orthodoxy and heresy), personalities (e.g., Ignatius, Perpetua and Felicitas, Irenaeus, Antony, Eusebius, Constantine, Desert Fathers and Mothers, Macrina, Augustine) and events. On-going reflection on the nature of historiography as a science and an art, involving both discovery and invention. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Margaret Mitchell*

Equivalent Div Course(s): BIBL 43200

HCHR 43959 - Varieties of Dominican Mysticism: Albert the Great, Meister Eckhart, and Catherine of Siena

This seminar will focus on three major Dominican mystical theologians: Albert the Great, Meister Eckhart and Catherine of Siena and, through a study of their thought, map out developments in late medieval mysticism and intellectual history. The focus will be on the mystical path towards union with God, with a sub focus on the mediating role of nature and natural philosophy on the one hand and of the church and sacraments on the other. Prerequisites: Knowledge of Latin and/or German is recommended but not required. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Willemien Otten*

Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 43959

History of Judaism

HIJD 30405 - H. N. Bialik: Poetics of Light and Lament

This course will comprise a close reading of lyrics of light and lament in the poetry of H. N. Bialik. Attention will be given to their content and interplay, through the prism of both the nostalgia for childhood illumination and the poet's progressive sense of despair and fragmentation. The poet's use of images drawn from Jewish mysticism and his links to Western romanticism will be considered. In addition, Bialik's writing on language will be studied, both in its own right and in relation to his poetry. Comparisons will be drawn to Rilke's lyric poetry and to Herder's treatise on the origins of language. Students will be expected to prepare primary and secondary readings, and produce several short prompt papers during the quarter. PQ: Knowledge of Hebrew preferred but English translation will be supplied.
Michael Fishbane

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLVC 30405, RLST 28105

HIJD 31215 - Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac in Multiple Perspectives

The story of Abraham's (near) sacrifice of his son, Isaac, found in Genesis 22:1-19, is one of the most influential and enduring stories in Western literature and art. It is part of the living tradition of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and its meaning and implications have been repeatedly explored in the communities defined by these religions, and has, in turn, helped to shape the self-perception of those communities. This course will consider the multiple perspectives from which this story has been viewed and the multiple interpretations which this story has generated, starting with its earliest incorporation into the Hebrew Bible, moving to its role in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and concluding with its influence on modern works. No knowledge of Hebrew is required. *Stuart Creason*
Equivalent Div Course(s): BIBL 31215, ISLM 31215, RLST 21215

HIJD 38880 - Modern Jewish Religious Thought: An Introductory Survey

In broad strokes we will trace the trajectory of modern Jewish religious thought from an apologetic accommodation to the regnant European philosophical and secular, that is, anthropocentric sensibilities – a tendency that characterized eighteenth and nineteenth century Jewish philosophy – to an affirmation of Jewish theological discourse as a mode of theocentric reflection that increasingly marks Jewish thought since the early twentieth century.

In our deliberations we will pursue a systematic historical review of the writings of the major figures of modern Jewish thought, from Barukh (Benedictus) Spinoza and Moses Mendelssohn to Hermann Cohen, Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig, and latter twentieth century thinkers, such as Arthur A. Cohen, Yeshajahu Leibowitz, Emil Fackenheim, Joseph Dov Soloveitchik and Emmanuel Levinas. As ambitious as this introductory survey is, we are cognizant of its many lacunae; to name but three topics: Reconstructionism, Religious Zionism, and Jewish Feminism are glaringly and shamefully omitted. Needless to say, thinkers and topics that are not covered in the lectures and assigned readings may be chosen as a theme of a seminar paper. Course Note: This course is open to undergraduates by permission.
Paul Mendes-Flohr

HIJD 40204 - A Proto-History of Race? Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Spain and North Africa (1200-1600)

This course focuses on phenomena of mass conversion and the emergence of ideologies of lineage and purity of blood in the western Mediterranean, more specifically, the Iberian Peninsula and the Maghreb. The rivalry between Islam and Christianity (with Judaism a frequent go-between) in this region produced many distinctive cultural formations. Among those formations were ideas about the limits of conversion that may be compared to modern concepts of race. The word “race” was itself first applied to humans in Iberia during this period, to designate Christians descended from Muslims or Jews, and similar concepts emerged in Islamic North Africa. We will explore these ideas in the Christian Iberian kingdoms, with frequent excursions into Almoravid, Almohad, Marinid and Nasrid Islamic polities. Our goal will be to produce a Mediterranean archaeology of some of the concepts with which Christian and Muslim colonizers encountered the New World and sub-Saharan Africa in the sixteenth century. Course Note: This course is open to undergraduates by petition. *David Nirenberg*
Equivalent Div Course(s): HCHR 40204, ISLM 40204

HIJD 47012 - Readings in Rabbinic Midrash: Theology and Homily in Pesiqta de-Rav Kahana

The Midrash Pesiqta de-Rav Kahana (4-5th cent. CE) is a classic collection of homilies on the Jewish holiday cycle, integrating earlier exegesis and sources. The course will examine several major homiletic units to understand the interplay of theology, homily, and hermeneutics. Opening classes will provide an introduction to Midrash; subsequent sessions will focus on learning how to read and interpret a classic rabbinic homiletical work. Prerequisite: Basic proficiency in Rabbinic Hebrew (translation will be supplemented). Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Michael Fishbane*
Equivalent Div Course(s): BIBL 47012, THEO 47012

History of Religions

HREL 34705 - Histories of Japanese Religion

An examination of select texts, moments, and problems to explore aspects of religion, religiosity, and religious institutions of Japan's history. *James Ketelaar*
Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 22505

HREL 47270 - Being Buddhist in Southeast Asia

A study of the various ways in which lay and monastic Buddhists practice and express their understanding of the Theravada religious path in Sri Lanka and SE Asia (Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia). Ethnographic and historical readings will focus on social (ritual) articulations of Buddhist practice and identity in contemporary cultural contexts. A term paper on topic in consultation with instructor is

required. Prerequisite: Previous familiarity with Buddhism in south or southeast Asia. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *John Holt*

HREL 52402 - Readings: Advanced Tibetan III and Introduction to Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit

Complementing the course on Buddhist Poetry in India, we will be reading a celebrated verse scripture, the Prajñā-pāramitā-ratnagūṇa-saṅcaya-gāthā (“Verses Gathering the Jewel-like Qualities of the Perfection of Wisdom”) in both its Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit original and its Tibetan translation.

(Students are required to have had at least two years of either Sanskrit or Tibetan – it will not be necessary to do both.) Those wishing to take the course for Sanskrit credit should enroll in SALC.

Prerequisites

Students must have had two years of Tibetan OR Sanskrit. Note: This course is open to undergrads ONLY by petition. *Matthew Kapstein*

Islamic Studies

ISLM 30203 – Islamic Civilization III: 1750-Present

This course covers the period from ca. 1750 to the present, focusing on Western military, economic, and ideological encroachment; the impact of such ideas as nationalism and liberalism; efforts at reform in the Islamic states; the emergence of the "modern" Middle East after World War I; the struggle for liberation from Western colonial and imperial control; the Middle Eastern states in the cold war era; and local and regional conflicts. *Ada Holly Shissler*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 20203

ISLM 30300 - Introductory Qur'anic Arabic III

This course is the third in a 3-quarter sequence "Introduction to Qur'anic Arabic" (IQA), which aims to provide students with foundational philological and reading skills by covering the essentials of Qur'anic/Classical Arabic grammar. This course also features readings of select passages from the Qur'an, Ḥadīth and Tafṣīr. The 3 quarters of IQA are sequential, and students are strongly encouraged to join in the first quarter. Exceptions can be made on a case by case basis.

Prerequisites: Graduate and undergraduate students from any department are welcome to register. The minimum prerequisite for IQA III is the successful completion of IQA II or equivalent training. The IQA sequence is also open to students who may have had more exposure to Arabic (modern or classical) but wish to acquire a solid foundation in Arabic grammar, and/or students who feel they are not yet ready for third-year Arabic courses. *Mehmet Emin Gulecyuz*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 15300

ISLM 31123 - Islamic Doxography

This course explores the Islamic tradition of doxography—the study of sectarian differences. We read works by al-Balkhi, (pseudo?)al-Jubba'i, al-Ash'ari, al-Nawbakhti, al-Shahrastani, and Ibn Hazm to understand what the genre of doxography consisted of, which methods its authors deployed, and how they envisioned the Muslim community and sectarian identities within it. PQ: 3 years of Arabic or the equivalent. *Ahmed El Shamsy*

Religions in the Americas

Religious Leadership and Practice (MDiv Courses)

RELP 35300 - Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice: Community, Leadership, and Change

This course is the third 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. In this final quarter of the year-long sequence, students study varieties of communities that form the ecologies of public life, and their facilitators and leaders as responsible agents of change. Through research projects and case studies, students practice the skills of analysis, decision-making, negotiation and visioning that are essential to organizational vitality and constructive community engagement. This course is the third 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. In this final quarter of the year-long sequence, students study varieties of communities that form the ecologies of public life, and their facilitators and leaders as responsible agents of change. Through research projects and case studies, students practice the skills of analysis, decision-making, negotiation and visioning that are essential to organizational vitality and constructive community engagement. *Cynthia Lindner*

RELP 40800 - Field Work Practicum III

The Practicum sequence complements the MDiv Congregational Placement and offers opportunities for students to engage in critical reflection of their respective practical experiences of ministry leadership. In addition to this element of personal and practical reflections, students will engage a range of readings, written exercises, and classroom conversations to assist in articulating and refining their own practice of ministry. *Erika Dornfeld*

RELP 50403 - Advanced Seminar

A workshop on contemporary issues in preaching. Topic TBA. Prerequisite: open to MDiv students who have taken "Ritual and Speaking" or have equivalent experience. *Cynthia Lindner*

Religious Ethics

RETH 50800 - God and Morality

Currently the world's religions are having profound impact on social, cultural, and political realities around the world. From questions in genetics to global conflict, sexuality to the reality of death, the religious have global moral significance. This seminar addresses a basic question within this current reality, namely, what is and ought to be the connection between religious beliefs about the divine and the domain of moral value and right. The seminar addresses a range of contemporary answers to this question mindful of the history of the question, reaching the West at least back to Socrates, and also different religious and philosophical traditions. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *William Schweiker*

Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 50800

Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture

RLVC 39001 - Painting and Description in the Roman World: Philostratus' *Imagines* – Religion, Education, Sexuality

This course explores Roman art, especially painting, through the single most thoughtful, playful and creative text on naturalistic painting written in antiquity. Arguably, it is the most interesting examination of the brilliance and the problems of naturalism ever written in the Western tradition, creating a non-historicist, fictive and rhetorically-inflected model for thinking about art. Philostratus took the rhetorical trope of Ekphrasis to new heights, in an extraordinary intermedial investigation of textuality through the prism of visuality and of visual art through the descriptive prism of fictional prose. The course will involve close readings of Philostratus' descriptions of paintings alongside exploration of the Greek and Roman art of the imperial period from Pompeian paintings via floor Mosaics to sarcophagi. A reading knowledge of Greek could not be described as a disadvantage (!) but is not a requirement. The course will be taught over 5 weeks in the Spring Quarter on an intensive schedule. =Before the course begins, read the *Imagines* of the Elder Philostratus in the Loeb Classical Library translation (by Arthur Fairbanks, 1931, Harvard U.P., much reprinted). This book is not exorbitantly expensive and is worth buying, as we will all need a copy throughout. *Jaś Elsner*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RLST 29001

RLVC 41750 - The Sacred Gaze: Beholding as a Spiritual Exercise in the European Artistic Tradition

This course spans the history of Western Art from the ancient Greeks to the Early Modern Period. It explores the sacred gaze, construed as a series of technologies for constructing the relationship between images and their viewers and as a key piece of social equipment for the ethopoiesis of the human subject. It asks how vision became the object of a moral discourse in Greco-Roman antiquity in both sacred and 'philosophical' contexts, and what happened to this problematic in the historical emergence and development of Christianity. We will do some comparative work on similar processes in relation to Buddhism. Drawing on ideas in the philosophical work of Michel Foucault, Pierre Hadot and Arnold

Davidson, our hypothesis is that these issues precipitate in encounters with visual representations, such that the beholding of inter alia statues and paintings became a topic of concern, with the implication that a suitably attentive and informed study of those images will be informative for prehistorians of the aesthetic subject. Although the course will give weight to description and theological/philosophical investigation, the principal focus will be on objects themselves and their own material/visual articulation of the conditions of seeing. *Jaś Elsner and Richard Neer*

RLVC 45200 - The Holy Land in the Middle Ages

This course will examine written and visual material that testifies to the medieval encounters of the Abrahamic religions in a sacred landscape where the histories of Jews, Christians, and Muslims overlap. While bearing witness to the cultural wealth and religious pluralism that characterize the Holy Land during the Middle Ages, texts and visual artifacts likewise testify to religious competition, conflict, loss, and exclusion. Among the primary textual sources we will read (in English translation) are accounts by pilgrims and other travelers to the Holy Land, extracts from medieval chronicles, and eye-witness accounts from the period of the Crusades. In addition to the textual material, we will study art and architecture created for different religious communities (e.g., synagogues and their richly decorated mosaic floors, sites and souvenirs of Christian pilgrimage, major works of Islamic art and architecture). We will also investigate phenomena of the reception of the Holy Land's sacred sites and dynamic history in medieval Europe (e.g., replicas and evocations of the Holy Sepulchre, narratives of the "Holy Grail" and associated artifacts). *Karin Krause*

Equivalent Div Course(s): HCHR 45200

RLVC 47200 - History of Criticism

The second of a two-course sequence that offers a survey of major historical moments in the theory of interpretation. The course will pursue the thesis that the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries are dominated by three cardinal moments in the sociology of modern knowledge: the emergence of the figure of "the critic"; the articulation of "aesthetics" as an independent mode of thought; and the establishment of historical-critical methodology as prerequisite to understanding, and in turn properly interpreting, the Bible. Required of Ph.D. students taking the RLVC 1 exam. *Richard Rosengarten*

Theology

THEO 31600 - Introduction to Theology

This course will look at a few paradigmatic instances of theology-as-practical-wisdom--theology, that is, that looks to religious traditions as a resource for thinking about how best to handle important life-circumstances. Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Kevin Hector*

THEO 40600 - Black Theology: Second Generation

Contemporary black theology, with its beginnings on July 31, 1966, was created by African American clergy who offered one interpretation of the new black consciousness movement of the 1960s. This marked the 1st generation of black theologians. Already, we see that, perhaps, black theology might be the only theological discipline in the USA that did not originate in the academy. Instead, it was birthed out of people's everyday lives searching for human dignity and a better community on earth. This course examines the 2nd generation of black theologians, starting in 1979. We will explore the responses and critiques internal to the 2nd generation of black theologians. How did they surpass the thinking of the 1st generation and what new theological avenues did they construct? Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Dwight Hopkins*

THEO 41101 - Being Human

What does it mean to be a human being – a person who fulfills individual capabilities and contributes to a community's well-being? Furthermore, what connects the individual and community to an ultimate vision or spirituality? These questions and investigations can be described as an examination of and argument for constructing a theological anthropology. When one thinks intentionally about the being of a human and his or her ties to some concern or force greater than the limited self, then transcendence and materiality involve themselves in a complex dynamic. What is the relation between being in the world and the visions emerging out of that world? Note: This course is open to undergrads by Petition. *Dwight Hopkins*

Religious Studies (Undergraduate)

RLST 20240 – Women's Movements in the Modern Middle East

If asked about women's movements in the United States, one could expect responses of "Susan B. Anthony," "first wave versus second wave," "pussy hats" and so-on. But what about women's movements in the Middle East? Can you name a famous Middle Eastern feminist?

This course will expose you to the rich and diverse history of women's movements in the Modern Middle East. Beginning in the late nineteenth century when concepts of love and marriage changed popularly and legally, we will move into the twentieth century exploring Middle Eastern women's involvement at major international women's congresses, the assimilation of feminism groups by the state in numerous nations, and into the twenty-first century looking at LGBTQ activism. In this course, we will assess the different varieties of feminism and women's movements, as these concepts are intersectional and not monolithic. You will interrogate the role of the press, education, colonialism/anticolonialism, religion, and popular culture. Alongside secondary sources, you will examine primary sources produced by these movements – pamphlets, posters, memoirs, and even YouTube videos. We will develop close reading skills and you will have the quarter long project of researching, writing, and producing a podcast episode for a class series. Some prior knowledge of Middle Eastern history is helpful, but certainly not required, and all materials will be available in translation. *Kara Peruccio*

RLST 20403 – Islamic Thought and Literature III

This course covers the period from ca. 1700 to the present. It explores Muslim intellectuals' engagement with tradition and modernity in the realms of religion, politics, literature, and law. We discuss debates concerning the role of religion in a modern society, perceptions of Europe and European influence, the challenges of maintaining religious and cultural authenticity, and Muslim views of nation-states and nationalism in the Middle East. We also give consideration to the modern developments of transnational jihadism and the Arab Spring. This course sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. *Orit Bashkin*

RLST 20505 - Pagans and Christians: Greek Background to Early Christianity

This course will examine some of the ancient Greek roots of early Christianity. We will focus on affinities between Christianity and the classical tradition as well as ways in which the Christian faith may be considered radically different from it. Some of the more important issues that we will analyze are: "The spell of Homer." How the Homeric poems exerted immeasurable influence on the religious attitudes and practices of the Greeks. The theme of creation in Greek and Roman authors such as Hesiod and Ovid. The Orphic account of human origins. The early Christian theme of Christ as Creator/Savior. Greek, specifically Homeric conceptions of the afterlife. The response to the Homeric orientation in the form of the great mystery cults of Demeter, Dionysus, and Orpheus. The views of the philosophers (esp. Plato) of the immortality of the soul compared with the New Testament conception of resurrection of the body. Ancient Greek conceptions of sacrifice and the crucifixion of Christ as archetypal sacrifice. The attempted synthesis of Jewish and Greek philosophic thought by Philo of Alexandria and its importance for early Christianity. *David Martinez*

RLST 21020 - Is Humanity Doomed?

This class explores the possibilities and perils of continued human existence on Earth. Taking climate change as a launching point, the class investigates the features of collective human life that make its prolonged existence a perennial challenge. The texts include those on challenges unique to the environment, like Stephen Gardiner's *A Perfect Moral Storm* and Jared Diamond's *Collapse*, as well as philosophical and religious theories of progress and their skeptics, centering class discussions on sources of hope and reasons for doubt about the human future. A central question of the course is whether climate change is unique or whether there are characteristics of human beings and human society (freedom, sin, tragedy) that make threats like it inevitable. *David Barr*

RLST 22012 - Jewish Civilization III: Language, Creation, and Translation in Jewish Thought and Literature

Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The

Spring course in 2021 will start with two stories from Genesis—the creation story and the story of the Tower of Babel in chapter 11—and consider the intertwined dynamics of language, creation, and translation in Jewish thought and literature. In addition to commentaries on both of these key texts, we will read philosophical and literary texts that illuminate the workings of language as a creative force and the dynamics of multilingualism and translation in the creation of Jewish culture. Through this lens, we will consider topics such as gender and sexuality, Jewish national identity, Zionism, the revival of the Hebrew language, Jewish responses to the Holocaust, and contemporary American Jewish culture.

Na'ama Rokem

RLST 22132 - Science/Fiction/Theory

Science fiction has enjoyed an extraordinary and still growing resurgence in popularity over the last two decades - through literature, film, video games, and even universities, where it is the subject of ever more courses being taught. Why has science fiction become so popular? Does it express the anxieties of a way of life that can't be sustained, is in decline, and might soon end, in the face of intractable war, lurching financial crises, recurrent pandemics and unchecked climate change? Does it speak to the senses of radical hope and irreparable despair about the future that seem to characterize our time? If so, then science fiction today is grappling with traditionally theological themes: fate and finitude, immortality and the nature of divinity, the place of the human within a cosmic scale, and the possibilities for redemption and messianic rupture. This course will explore these themes by pairing sci-fi literature and film with readings in philosophy and social theory. Throughout, we will ask how science fiction's propensity toward the theological allows it to grapple with the unique forms of hope and despair in our time, and in times past. *Alireza Doostdar and Hussein Ali Agrama*

RLST 23706 - Calvin: Piety, Politics, and the Theater of God's Glory

This seminar will engage a close reading of John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1559) in English translation, examining how the masterwork moves and instructs its readers toward correlative knowledge of God and of self. We will attend to Calvin's elaboration of true religion or "piety"—especially to his picture of the repair and reorientation of the sensing, feeling, willing, and knowing self before God—and to his depiction of rightly ordered individual, corporate, and civic life over against the bondage of the will and tyrannous powers. The course will further a reading of the work as a rhetorical and pedagogical whole. Note: Open to graduate students by permission of instructor. *Kristine Culp*

Equivalent Div Course(s): THEO 33706

RLST 23820 - Shame

This course will consider the nature of shame, its potential harms and benefits, and possible of redeeming/being redeemed from it. *Kevin Hector*

RLST 23599 - Christian and Anti-Christian: Kierkegaard and Nietzsche on Religion and Morality

This course explores two radically different assessments of religion and morality, one by the Protestant thinker Søren Kierkegaard, and the other by an arch-critic of religion and morality, Friedrich Nietzsche. The course will focus on their assessments of Christian faith and its relation to morality and the human good. Both thinkers wrote in complex and confusing styles: Kierkegaard used pseudonyms; Nietzsche wrote in aphorisms. In order to explore their styles of writing and their critiques of religion and morality we will read Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling* as well as Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morals*. The general aim of the course, then, is to explore two seminal minds in the development of Western thought with the question in mind of their possible contribution to current theological and ethical thinking.

William Schweiker

Equivalent Div Course(s): RETH 33599, THEO 33599

RLST 24103 - Bioethics

SIGN 26069

This is a lecture and discussion class that will explore how a variety of philosophic and religious thinkers approach the issues and problems of modern dilemmas in medicine and science in a field called bioethics. We will consider a general argument for your consideration: that the arguments and the practices from faith traditions and from philosophy offer significant contributions that underlie policies and practices in bioethics. / We will use a case-based method to study how different traditions describe and defend differences in moral choices in contemporary bioethics. This class is based on the understanding that case narratives serve as another core text for the discipline of bioethics and that complex ethical issues are best considered by a careful examination of the competing theories as work themselves out in specific cases. We will examine both classic cases that have shaped our understanding of the field of bioethics and cases that are newly emerging, including the case of research done at our University. Through these cases, we will ask how religious traditions both collide and cohere over such topics as embryo research, health care reform, terminal illness, issues in epidemics and public health, and our central research question, synthetic biology research. / This class will also explore how the discipline of bioethics has emerged to reflect upon such dilemmas, with particular attention to the role that theology and philosophy have played in such reflection. We will look at both how the practice of theologians and philosophers has historically shaped the field of bioethics and at how these claims, methodology, and praxis have continued to shape and inflect bioethics. We will examine the issue of epistemic stance, of truth claims, and of how normative policies are created amid serious controversy. We will explore the nature of the relationship between religion and public policy and study how religious traditions and moral philosophy shape our view of issues as "bioethics controversies" in the first place. *Laurie Zoloth*

Equivalent Div Course(s): RETH 30600

RLST 25323 - Tolerance and Intolerance in South Asia

Few places in the world are as embroiled in the problem of diversity as South Asia, where sectarian violence—fought mainly along religious lines, but also along caste, gender, and linguistic lines—is at the center of political maneuvering. South Asia offers important lessons in how people manage to live together despite histories of mutual strife and conflict about communities and castes.

Focusing on the period of British colonial rule, this class explores different instances and ideologies of toleration and conflict. How were South Asian discourses of toleration by such leaders as Gandhi and

Nehru different from their European counterparts (e.g., John Locke and John Rawls)? How did their ideologies differ from those articulated by their minority peers such as Ambedkar, Azad, and Madani? We will analyze constitutive precepts, namely secularism, syncretism, toleration. Our attention here will be on the universal connotations of these ideas and their South Asian expression. Fifth week onward, we will turn our attention to select thinkers: Gandhi, Ambedkar, Azad, Madani. Our focus here will be on the ways that each intellectual negotiated the thorny issues of toleration, difference, ethnicity, and belonging. All the thinkers covered in this class had an active presence in nationalist era politics. Finally, we will read historical accounts of some of the most frequent causes of intolerance, namely cow slaughter, music played before the mosque, and desecration of sacred objects. Notes: All reading materials will be available in English. No prior knowledge of South Asian history or South Asian languages is required.

Taimur Reza

RLST 26012 - Introduction to Islam

This course will introduce students to major themes and topics in Islam through encounters with textual, media, film, and digital sources from across the Islamic world. We will critically engage with the diverse ways in which Muslims have lived and defined themselves and the tradition from 7th-century Arabia to South Asia to Harlem. We will explore Islamic belief and practice as a lived tradition, one that is constantly interpreted and contested in modes of expression ranging from scripture, song, and scholarship to poetry and politics to tweets and talismans. In so doing, we will examine the processes by which Islamic traditions have transformed in response to historical factors, influences, and cultural exchange, and how these traditions continue to adapt in dialogue with contemporary contexts. *Francesca*

Chubb-Confer

RLST 26309 - Justice, Solidarity, and Global Health

Global health, it is said, is “one of the great moral movements of our time.” Health inequalities around the world are staggering, as is their toll on human suffering. What does a just response entail? What moves us to be just, and why do we so often fail? What do our failures of response tell us about the moral complexities involved, and importantly, about ourselves? In this course, we will consider these questions critically in terms of a basic problem of solidarity. Solidarity rests on our capacity for other-regard—for sympathy toward another—but how do we do that for distant others who are worlds apart? Is it possible, and what are the moral dangers of assuming that we can or cannot? We will test the importance of such questions for a just global health by examining some key theories of health justice, the insights of cultural and religious studies, and the question of what moves us to be just. *Daniel Kim*

RLST 26310 - Intersectionality in American Medical Ethics

In this course, we will investigate the history of medical ethics and how the field has been framed around universal principles and rooted in secular philosophies. We will give a hearing to the voices most often silenced through the processes and procedures of medical ethics decision-making and evaluate the social and political impacts of this silencing on particular individuals and minority groups. We will discuss issues of gender, race, and religion and investigate how those identities intersect with one another to

impact discrimination, power, and privilege in modern medical ethics. We will conclude the class with an evaluation of the field as a discourse, discipline, practice, or social reform movement, thinking about issues of authority and legitimacy in the public sphere. *Caroline Anglim*

RLST 26501 - Renaissance Demonology

In this course we analyze the complex concept of demonology according to early modern European culture from a theological, historical, philosophical, and literary point of view. The term 'demon' in the Renaissance encompasses a vast variety of meanings. Demons are hybrids. They are both the Christian devils, but also synonyms for classical deities, and Neo-platonic spiritual beings. As far as Christian theology is concerned, we read selections from Augustine's and Thomas Aquinas's treatises, some complex exorcisms written in Italy, and a recent translation of the infamous "Malleus maleficarum," the most important treatise on witch-hunt. We pay close attention to the historical evolution of the so-called witch-craze in Europe through a selection of the best secondary literature on this subject, with special emphasis on Michel de Certeau's "The Possession at Loudun." We also study how major Italian and Spanish women mystics, such as Maria Maddalena de' Pazzi and Teresa of Avila, approach the issue of demonic temptation and possession. As far as Renaissance Neoplatonic philosophy is concerned, we read selections from Marsilio Ficino's "Platonic Theology" and Girolamo Cardano's mesmerizing autobiography. We also investigate the connection between demonology and melancholy through a close reading of the initial section of Robert Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy" and Cervantes's short story "The Glass Graduate" ("El licenciado Vidriera"). Course Note: Course taught in English. *Armando Maggi*

RLST 26630 – Religious Violence

Are there "proper" or "improper" practices of religion? Is it at best a matter of private belief, to be kept separate from or protected by the state? Or is it something that at times requires the state's intervention? Does religion represent the last vestiges of the premodern world, or is it something that is integral to modern life? To answer these questions, we will call on anthropologists and other social scientists and theorists to understand, first, what is "religion," and then what is, can be, or should be its relationship to gender, the nation, and the modern state in various historical and geographical locations, with particular attention to the Middle East and South Asia. *Callie Maidhof*

RLST 27020 - Christianity and Islam in the Western Mediterranean World during the Late Middle Ages

El curso analizará los contactos mantenidos entre mundo cristiano y mundo islámico en el Mediterráneo bajomedieval, tomando la Corona de Aragón y sus ricas fuentes documentales como observatorio privilegiado. Las particularidades de la Corona de Aragón se compararán con las de otros estados cristianos del Occidente mediterráneo que mantuvieron relaciones sostenidas con los musulmanes. Tras la definición de la naturaleza y de las especificidades de los contactos político-diplomáticos, mercantiles y pirático-corsarios entre Cristiandad e Islam, las clases se focalizarán en la identificación y caracterización de colectivos y personas que actuaron como mediadores lingüísticos y culturales entre ambas realidades. Se determinarán las circunstancias y motivos que permitieron que agentes diplomáticos, mercaderes, mercenarios, piratas–corsarios o cautivos–esclavos vehicularan los contactos. Y se analizarán y

compararán las distintas tipologías documentales que son plasmación de todos esos intercambios y contactos culturales y humanos. Note: Taught in Spanish. *R. Salicrú i Lluch*

RLST 27656 - Pilgrimage, Voyage, Journey

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." "Adventure is worthwhile in itself." "To travel is to live." In "Pilgrimage, Voyage, Journey," we interrogate and complicate these kinds of platitudes, examining claims about the nature and possibilities of travel in its many iterations. Throughout the quarter, we ask why people travel, what might be gained or lost by traveling, what is unique to the experience of travel, and, ultimately, whether or not we should travel. We draw from memoir, fiction, film, and contemporary journalism as we consider claims about the effects of travel on travelers, non-travelers, local communities, and the world at large. We think about links between conceptions of travel and broader historical and social structures, considering the histories of class-exclusive travel, ways that colonialism has shaped travel, and the ethics of travel with respect to its impact on both local communities and the environment. Central to our inquiry is an examination of claims about both the religious value or potential of travel – including those found in accounts of pilgrimages and monastic journeys – and the ways that travel can often become linked to ideas of the "spiritual." *Bevin Blaber*

RLST 27712 - Contemporary Religion in Israel

The complex relationship between religion and state is at the core of current social, cultural and political tensions in Israel. In this course we will explore the manifestation of these relations by focusing on selected ethnographies of religious performance and phenomena in modern Israel, including amongst others a "Women of the Wall" first day of the month prayer, a LGBTQ community's reading of the book of Esther in Tel-Aviv, and a messianic group's attempt to reestablish the Passover sacrifice at the Temple Mount. By exploring these detailed ethnographies against the backdrop of contemporary theory, including secularization and post-secularization, lived religion, fundamentalism and social orthodoxy, this course aims to portray the variety and complexity of religious experience in Israel today. *David Barak-Gorodetsky*

RLST 27720 - Race and Religion in Chicago

This course is a chronological and thematic overview of a number of key themes and theoretical concerns in the study of race and religion in the U.S. from 1865 to the present. Taking Chicago as a case study, the course will introduce students to key topics in the study of race and religion in the U.S. Most of the course will focus on black-white racialization in Chicago during this period—interrogating the construction of and contestation over whiteness among Catholics, Protestants, Jews, and new religious movements from the late nineteenth century and through much of the twentieth century, as well as tracing the "spiritual afterlife of slavery" in Chicago's churches, synagogues, mosques, and other places of worship, and also in the everyday lives of Chicago's religious citizens. The readings and class discussions will also open out to consider other religio-racial issues and projects in Chicago (e.g., Latinx, Indian American, and Indigenous religious communities). Topics for class readings and discussions will be ordered by the week and will alternate between broader theoretical and historiographical issues pertaining to race and religion in the

U.S. (first meeting of the week) and closer examinations of the same themes/questions in the context of the religious life of Chicago (second meeting of the week). In this way, Chicago provides a “laboratory” for observing, testing, and refining historical and theoretical claims about race and religion in the United States. *Joel Brown*

RLST 27803- The Subject and the Social

What is it to be a subject? What is the boundary between private and public experience? Are social constructions real? Are facts subjective? What does it mean to “have a belief”? What is an experience? Is all knowledge socially constituted? This course will address these questions with selected readings from contemporary analytic philosophy of language, religious studies, anthropology, and science studies. *Lisa Landoe Hedrick*

RLST 28508 - Sacred Mushrooms & Spirit Molecules: Uses and Abuses of Religion Under the Influence of Psychedelics

In 2006, a psychopharmacologist at Johns Hopkins’ School of Medicine helped to revitalize the scientific study of psychedelic drugs not by appeal to studied therapeutic application, but rather by quantifying psychedelics’ ability to produce “mystical-type experiences” with “spiritual significance” in “healthy normals.” Since 2006, psychedelics have experienced a renaissance, reaching heights of licit and illicit experimentation not seen since the 1950s and -60s. As in earlier decades, public awareness of psychedelic use and research has been advanced in scientific journals and popular media, including Michael Pollan’s 2018 work, *How to Change Your Mind*. As Pollan notes, in both historical moments—the present and half a century ago—the use of psychedelics has sparked significant reflection on the meaning of religion and the social or psychological uses of so-called “religious experience.” In fact, psychedelics have long played a role in human culture, many practices of which we now identify as religion. With Pollan’s pop-intellectual reflection as a “trip” guide, this course will investigate the long history of psychedelics and religion, the popular culture of psychedelic religiosity and the scientific appropriation of religious nomenclature to advance the study and social influence of psychedelics. Key theories of religion, alongside religious studies of mysticism and spiritual experience, will ground course analyses. *Greg Chatterley*

RLST 28511 - Star Wars and Religion

This course puts religious texts into conversation with George Lucas's popular Star Wars film franchise with an eye toward understanding the power of myth in human life. In interviews, Lucas said he took bits and pieces from a variety of religious traditions to create the mythology of Star Wars. Through close readings of the films and primary texts, students will analyze these influences and evaluate how well the films hold these religious elements together. This course is not an in-depth study of any one religious tradition, but draws elements from different traditions to shed light on the portrayal of religion within Star Wars (i.e., the Force) and the metaphysical and moral themes found in the Star Wars films. *Russell Johnson*

RLST 28901 - Religion, Science, and Naturalism: Is There a Problem?

SIGN 26072

The idea that “religion” and “science” are often fundamentally at odds is familiar, indeed perhaps among the orienting ideas of modernity. Attending to some historically important approaches to the endlessly vexed question of how best to think about religion and science in light of one another, this class will consider such questions as whether the problems seem different if we ask not about religion and *science*, but rather about religion and *nature*. *Dan Arnold*

RLST 29104 - Antisemitism and Islamophobia, Historically and Today

How are antisemitism and Islamophobia linked together? Are they two different modes of oppression and discrimination or are they part of a similar phenomenon? Moreover, are they religious, racial, or ethnic forms of discrimination? Throughout this course, we will complicate the media narrative that sees Jews and Arabs as perpetual enemies through a historical and philosophical exploration into the origins and development of Orientalism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism. Students will think historically about the construction of race, ethnicity, and religion, and the discriminatory modes by which these are employed; and they will use that knowledge to think critically about current depictions of anti-Jewish and anti-Islamic violence.

In the first part of the course, we will consider the historical and conceptual underpinnings of antisemitism and Islamophobia. We will look to 14th and 15th century Spain in order to better understand how and where they originated; we will then track their development through modernity, paying close attention to how these discourses changed and evolved over time; finally, we will look at the impact of the Holocaust and the rise of the State of Israel and consider current iterations of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Europe and America today. *Mendel Kranz*