**Fall Quarter 2021**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RLST  Course No. | Course Title | Instructor | Requirement Fulfilled | Course Description | Crosslisting |
| RLST 11004 | Introduction to the Hebrew Bible | Chavel, Simeon | Gateway course;  (A)  Historical Studies | Critical introduction to the genres, ideas, styles, and formation of the Hebrew Bible (the ancient Jewish treasury of literature from Israel, Judea, and Babylonia), framed by ancient comparative material and modern literary theory. | BIBL 31000 (parent), HIJD 31004, JWSC 20120, NEHC 20504/30504 |
| RLST 22010 | Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period | Yonatan Shemesh (01); David Barak-Gorodetsky (02); Divinity Teaching Fellow (03*)* | Civilizations; (A) Historical Studies | 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). | JWSC 12000 (parent), MDVL 12000, NEHC 22010 |
| RLST 22100 | Introduction to Zen Buddhism | Ziporyn,  Brook | Gateway course;  (A)  Historical Studies | This course will consist of the close reading and discussion of primary texts (in translation) of the Chan Buddhism of China and Zen Buddhism of Japan (禪宗--more commonly known in Engish by the Japanese name, Zen), supplemented by secondary readings on Zen institutions and cultural influences. As our foundation, we will be begin with an overview of basic Buddhist tenets, and then work through key Mahāyāna ideas and sūtra passages, focusing on the ideas of Emptiness, Buddha-nature, and Mind-only. Then we will turn to the unique syntheses of these ideas in the early Chan movement in medieval China and their various deployments in the contending interpretations and methodologies of later Chan and Zen, including the Platform Sutra of Huineng, the kōan (Ch: gong-an) literature of the Song dynasty, and the essays of Dōgen. This will be done both with an eye to the historical development of these schools of thought and practice within the context of East Asian Buddhism in general, and for whatever transhistorical philosophical and religious valences we care to derive from the texts. All readings will be in English. | HREL 32100, DVPR 32100, EALC 22100, EALC 32100 |
| RLST 24114 | Justice in History | Schweiker, William | (B) Constructive Studies | This course explores various theories of justice, especially in the modern West, with an eye to the challenge of achieving justice in history. |  |
| RLST 24802 | Foucault and the Christians: On Ethics, Desire, and *The History of Sexuality* | Kelly, Maureen | (B) Constructive Studies | In this course, we will examine the importance of early Christianity in Foucault’s History of Sexuality project, with attention to the grounds on which he contrasts sexual ethics in Greco-Roman Antiquity and early Christianity. The course will proceed through close readings of passages of Foucault’s late work, in conversation with his interlocutors, and key texts by Plato, Seneca, Marcus Aurelius, Tertullian, Cassian, and Augustine. Over the course of the readings, we will understand the question Foucault poses on sexual ethics in Antiquity, the nature of the shift in early Christianity, and the stakes of these distinctions for the genealogy of the modern subject. In our philosophical and historical investigation, we will address themes of body, sexuality, and desire; history, tradition, and religion; and the relationship between politics, ethics, and truth. | GNSE 24802, HIST 21011, CLCV 24821 |
| RLST 25301 | History, Religion, and Politics in Augustine’s City of God | Otten, Willemien and Allen, Michael I. | (B) Constructive Studies | Augustine’s City of God is a major work of history, politics, and religion. Written after Rome was sacked by the Visigoths in 410, the work begins an apology (justification) of the Empire’s turn to Christianity and expands to offer a sweeping and deeply theological account of human history and society in terms of earth-bound versus heaven-centered community. Augustine’s citizenship and politics entails living out membership in either fellowship while commingled on earth with the other. Augustine analyzes Roman history and politics as well as the new religion first encouraged and eventually imposed in the wake of Constantine’s conversion.  We shall read the entire work in translation, attending to historical observations, political stances, and religious views. Augustine made arguments of his own but saved huge swaths of Varro and other otherwise lost sources to fashion his historical critique of Rome, social analysis, and many ultimately fresh views on matters like human sexuality in paradise and in heaven. The class will meet once a week. A supplementary Latin reading group will also convene once a week for close reading of important and demanding selections in the original. There will be some invited international guest speakers. Course Notes: There will be a weekly Latin reading group (F. afternoon, 90 minutes) for classics and other students who want to tackle Augustine's Latin. | HIST 22116, FNDL 25304, THEO 35301, LATN 26421, BIBL 35301, CLCV 26421, HIST 32116, CLAS 36421, HCHR 35301, RETH 35301, LATN 36421 |
| RLST 26013 | Drinking with God: An Introduction to Sufism | Chubb-Confer, Francesca | (C)  Cultural Studies | 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 circle in Chicago. | SALC 26013 |
| **RLST**  **26101** | **Buddhism** | Wedemeyer, Christian | Gateway course;  (C)  Cultural Studies | This course will survey central features of the Buddhist traditions in South, Central, and East Asia, over its roughly 2500-year history. Attention will be paid to the variety of disciplinary orientations (historical, philological, anthropological, sociological, economic, archaeological, philosophical) that may be taken to illuminate various aspects of the traditions. Consideration will also be given to the globalization of Buddhism since the late nineteenth century, and the concurrent rise of distinctive Buddhist responses to modernity and the modern/academic study of Buddhism. | SALC 26102, EALC 26101 |
| RLST 28991 | The Prophet Q | Harrison, Marielle | (C)  Cultural Studies | In the wake of the January 6th 2021 storming of the United States Capitol, the QAnon phenomenon has received sustained global attention as news and government agencies scramble to understand this online movement’s role in the attack, the threat it continues to pose, and why it is that one out of every six Americans believes that former President Trump is secretly battling an elite group of politicians, media moguls, and academics who are deeply involved in child sex trafficking and satanic sacrifice.  This course will investigate the phenomenon of QAnon through the lens of New Religious Movements (NRMs)—seeking to understand the complex interplay of factors that incites people to become immersed in these groups. Using examples from American New Religious Movements of the 20th century such as Scientology, the Rajneesh movement, and Jonestown, we will delve into the history of these groups in order to examine the motivations that drive individuals into these “fringe” religious movements. In the process, we will interrogate the usefulness of such labels as “religion” and “cult” and ultimately hope to better understand how power, race, gender, and practices of dissimulation play active roles in both these new religious movements and within QAnon | SOCI 20540, AMER 28991, ANTH 24711 |
| RLST 29000 | The American Culture Wars | Schultz, Will | (C)  Cultural Studies | Should we rename institutions named for people who advocated--or accepted--white supremacy? Should the religious views of judges be subject to public scrutiny? Should religious institutions be exempt from certain public health regulations? These questions are only the latest battlefields in the “culture wars,” the long-running conversation—or, more often, shouting match—about what the United States ought to stand for and how Americans ought to live. This course will explore how Americans have wrestled with questions of morality and national identity since the country’s founding. It will put contemporary struggles in context by examining past cultural conflicts. Potential topics include: the establishment and disestablishment of religion in the early United States; debates over how many and what kind of immigrants to allow into the country; conflicts over the regulation of sexuality; and campaigns to control or prohibit dangerous substances, especially alcohol. | CRES 27000, AMER 29000, GNSE 29000, HIST 27715 |
| RLST 29800 | BA Paper Seminar I | Matthews, Alex |  | The two-quarter senior sequence will assist students in the Research Track with the preparation of the required BA paper. During May of their third year, students will work with the preceptor to choose a faculty adviser and a topic for research, and to plan a course of study for the following year. These must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students will take part in the BA Paper Seminar convened by a preceptor during Autumn and Winter Quarters. This seminar will allow students to prepare their bibliographies, hone their writing, and present their research. |  |

Cross-Listed Courses in RLST – for Course Descriptions, please see the [College Catalog](http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/religiousstudies/) or [Divinity’s Website](https://divinity.uchicago.edu/academics/courses):

* RLST 15100 – Introductory Qur’anic Arabic I (*Izzet Coban*)
* RLST 20111 – History of Death (*Katie Hickerson*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20201 – Islamicate Civilization I: 600-950 (*Ahmed El Shamsy*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20400 – The History of Sunnism (*Ahmed El Shamsy*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20401 – Islamic Thought and Literature I (*Erin Atwell (1), Mohammad Sagha (2); Tynan Kelly (3)*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20441 – Theravada Buddhism: History and Philosophy (*Yu Xue*) Fulfills (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20506 – Martin Buber’s Conception of Religion and Judaism (*Michael Fishbane*) Fulfills (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 21410 – American Religion Since 1865 (*Will Schultz*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 21505 – The Apostolic Fathers (*David Martinez*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 22302 – The Book of Judges (*Simeon Chavel*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 23112 – Deconstruction and Religion (*Ryan Coyne*) Fulfills: (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 24592 – Jewish and Islamic Ethics in Al-Andalus (*Jim Robinson and Yousef Casewit*) Fulfills (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 25501 – Saints and Other Exemplars (*Kevin Hector*) Fulfills (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 25678 – Narratives of the End of Faith (*Mat Messerschmidt*) Fulfills: (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 26102 – Ecstasy (*Kris Trujillo*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 26265 – Comparative Study of Humanistic Buddhism and Engaged Buddhism (*Yu Xue*) Fulfills (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 26250 – Buddhist Poetry in India (*Matthew Kapstein*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 26630 – Religious Violence (*Callie Maidhof* ) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 27001 – History of Criticism: Plato to Dante (*Richard Rosengarten*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 27517 – Writing Christian Poetry (*Rachel F. Brown*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 28613 – God of Manga: Osamu Tezuka's "Phoenix," Buddhism, and Post-WWII Manga and Anime (*Ada Palmer*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies

**Winter Quarter 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RLST  Course No. | Course Title | Instructor | Requirement Fulfilled | Course Description | Crosslisting |
| RLST  10100 | Introduction to Religious Studies | Crews, Emily D. | Gateway course;  (A)  Historical Studies | What is religion? Is it truth or an illusion? Is it an opiate or an effervescent? Is it the origin of civilization or the end of it? Is it some of these things, or none, or all? The task of defining religion has bedeviled scholars for centuries and remains a perennial concern in the academic field of Religious Studies. In this course we will explore some of the definitions of religion offered by scholars like Marx, Freud, Durkheim, James, Hurston, Long, de Beauvoir, DuBois, and Mahmood, as well as the methods, motivations, and historical contexts that made those definitions possible. Along the way we will survey some fundamental themes and issues in the field of Religious Studies. We will then apply what we learn to data outside the field, analyzing how religion is defined and deployed in films, novels, music, TikToks, Instagram reels, and our own brains. Ultimately the tools we acquire in the course will enable us to think through how we as humans organize and make sense of our world and our place in it. | SOCI 20541 |
| RLST  11030 | Introduction to the Qur'an | Casewit, Yousef A. | Gateway course;  (A)  Historical Studies | The Qur'an's historical setting, thematic and literary features, major biblical figures, and foundational narratives of the Quran. Explorations of medieval exegetical literature on the Quran and its reception in the early (8th-10th century CE) and medieval periods (11th - 15th century CE) will feature heavily in this course. Readings consist primarily of English translations of the Quran alongside a running commentary, as well as secondary articles. | ISLM 30030 (parent), NEHC 30030, MDVL 10030 |
| RLST  12000 | Introduction to the New Testament: Texts and Contexts | Mitchell, Margaret M. | Gateway course;  (A)  Historical Studies | 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. | BIBL 32500 (parent), FNDL 28202 |
| RLST  20505 | Pagans and Christians: Greek Background to Early Christianity | Martinez, David G. | (A)  Historical Studies | 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. | MDVL 20505, CLCV 26216 |
| RLST  22011 | Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century | Kenneth Moss (01); Jessica Kirzane (02); Divinity Teaching Fellow (03) | (A)  Historical Studies | 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). | JWSC 12001 (parent), NEHC 22011 |
| RLST 27213 | Partings, Encounters, and Entangled Histories: The Formation of Judaism and Christianity | Walsh, Erin Galgay | (C) Cultural Studies | When did the fault lines between Judaism and Christianity emerge? This course explores this question by examining the formation of Judaism and Christianity within the world of the Ancient Mediterranean. What religious views, texts, and practices did Jews and Christians hold in common? How did early writers construct communal boundaries and project "ideal" belief and practice? What role did the changing political tides of the Roman and Persian empires play? We will explore continuities and growing distinctions between Jews and Christians in the areas of scriptural interpretation, ritual practices, and structures of authority. Special attention will be paid to debates around gender and sexuality, healing, and views of government and economics. We will approach these issues through material evidence and close readings of early literature in light of contemporary scholarship. Students interested in modern histories of Judaism and Christianity will gain a firm foundation in the pivotal debates, texts, and events that set the trajectories for later centuries. | HCHR 37213, CLCV 24021, CLAS 34021, HIJD 37213, NEHC 27213, JWSC 27213, BIBL 37213, NEHC 37213 |
| RLST  23823 | Melancholy: Readings in Medieval Christian Literature | Vanderpoel, M. S. | (B)  Constructive Studies | The idea of melancholy, a persistent affective orientation toward sadness and/or despair, is ubiquitous in Christian writings from the Middle Ages. This course considers the nature and function of melancholy and possible remedies in Christian discourses, and in so doing it provides a survey of medieval Christian literature. Readings may be drawn from authors such as Boethius, Alan of Lille, Jean de Meun, Marguerite Porete, Dante, and Christine de Pizan. Special attention will be given to the role of literary form in Christian writing, competing accounts of despair and hope, and the relationship of Christianity to non-Christian discourses. There are no language prerequisites, though reading groups may be formed if sufficient students possess relevant language skills. | CMLT 23823, MDVL 23823 |
| RLST  23880 | Villains: Evil in Philosophy, Religion, and Film | Johnson, Russell P. | (B)  Constructive Studies | “You don’t really understand an antagonist,” screenwriter John Rogers writes, “until you understand why he’s a protagonist in his own version of the world.”  This principle holds true of movie villains, but also raises important questions about disagreement, dehumanization, and the diabolical in the real world. Are our enemies truly malicious, or just misunderstood? How does a person become a monster, and how does a person avoid it? Why are some villains so compelling, and what does this say about the good life? Do Hollywood movies enrich or distort how we imagine and respond to real-world evil? Did Thanos do anything wrong?  This course combines readings from philosophical classics and religious traditions with comparative analyses of villains in films from 101 Dalmatians (1956) and Jaws (1975) to The Dark Knight (2008) and Black Panther (2018). Students will discuss antagonists’ motivations, evaluate the visions of morality filmmakers are presupposing, and develop more nuanced understandings of ethics and moral psychology. No prior experience in religious studies or film criticism is required. |  |
| RLST  23905 | Is Buddhism a Religion? | Arnold, Daniel A. | (B)  Constructive Studies | One often hears it said that Buddhism is not a *religion*, it is (e.g.) a “mind science,” or perhaps a therapy, or a philosophical way of life, etc. What would it mean, though, to say either that Buddhism is or is not a “religion”? Why does the answer matter, and (more significantly) to whom does it matter? And why is the question familiarly asked only of Buddhism? The latter question turns out to involve a great many historical developments involving colonialism and empire, power and representation, science and religion, tradition and conversion, and the life of a 2,500-year-old tradition in the modern and postmodern worlds. Engaging something of this history, this course will explore the origins and function of the “Buddhism isn’t a religion” meme, in light of the more general questions of what “religion” is anyway, and of the difference it makes who says so. | SALC 23905 |
| RLST  24110 | The Ethics of War: Reading Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust Wars* | Sianghio, John M. | (B)  Constructive Studies | 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. | FNDL 24500 |
| RLST  24402 | Religion, Writing, Revolution | Kelly, Maureen A. | (B)  Constructive Studies | In this course, we will attend to the role of religion in founding texts of self-government in early modern and Enlightenment philosophy. Starting with Hobbes and Locke, we will examine the relationship between the picture of religion and the grounding of government from philosophical, historical, and literary perspectives, following the logic of their relation, the historical context in which it takes shape, and the formal and rhetorical strategies of each text. In the middle of the course, we will pursue these questions as we read texts by Rousseau and his exchange with Christophe de Beaumont, the Archbishop of Paris. We will consider the mode of exchange that takes shape and its relation to the negotiations of religion and government, with attention to themes of the public, authority, and genre. In the final turn, we will read texts by Hume, Jefferson, and Kant to examine the legacies of these texts for notions of revolution, the new ways we can trace the role of religion in public discourse, and the political stakes of these questions today. | HIST 22314 |
| RLST  25806 | The Political Theologies of Zionism | Barak-Gorodetsky, David | (B)  Constructive Studies | 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 complex 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. | HIJD 35806, THEO 35806, JWSC 27940, NEHC 25806 |
| RLST  26302 | Religion, Medicine, and the Experience of Illness | Lambert, Mark M. | (C)  Cultural Studies | This course introduces students to both the dynamic relationship between religion and medicine and the role of religion as it relates to the experience of illness. Through a survey of a broad selection of religious traditions, textual genres, and case studies, students will evaluate how religion offers a pliable explanatory system (through myths, symbols, rituals, etc.) to address questions of causation, coping, and curing vis-à-vis illness. The historical relationship between religions and medical systems has been fascinatingly complex. We will encounter examples where religion and medicine work in tandem as complementary explanatory systems, e.g., with devotion to holy figures such as Saint Jude. We will also discuss what happens when religion usurps the explanatory role of medicine, e.g., when the activity of spirits becomes the diagnostic explanation for a medical condition such as epilepsy. Drawing upon literature from art history, medical anthropology, sociology, history, and theology, this course surveys the impressive variety of responses to illness both across religious traditions and within those traditions. Prior knowledge of religious studies and/or medical history is not required for the course. | HIST 24923, CCTS 21012, HLTH 26302, SOCI 20542, HIPS 26312 |
| RLST  26670 | Religious Autobiographies | Rosengarten, Richard A. | (C)  Cultural Studies | The decision of a person to present in written form the story of her or his life - and through that, what they take to be their selfhood - has spawned a literary tradition with an abiding and distinctive presence in religion. This course explores the phenomena of specifically religious autobiography as variations on the form of "confession," tracing its roots in early Christianity (Paul and Augustine), and juxtaposing these expressions with readings in a range of authors who adapt the classic articulations of "confession" to their specific selves and contexts: examples will include Teresa of Avila’s "mystical" confession, the "confession" of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Frederick Douglass' "(anti) slave religion," Mahatma Gandhi's "non-violent resistance," and Maggie Nelson's "transition". The course will conclude by studying the adoption of the confessional mode in the graphic novel, which introduces explicitly visual representations of selfhood and carries forward the genre’s general spirit of exceptionalism and overt non-conformity. | SIGN 26067, CMLT 26670 |
| RLST  27075 | The Latinx Religious Experience in the US | Zegarra, Raul E. | (C)  Cultural Studies | This course examines the diverse nature of Latinx religion, from its roots to present day forms, within the social and political context of the United States. The main goal of this class is to understand the distinctiveness of Latinx culture, its challenges, and possibilities, and to discern the role religion has in the Latinx experience. In order to do so, this course is structured around three central themes: 1) What Is the Latinx Experience? 2) Latinx Religion as Lived Experience, and 3) Latinx Theology, Ethics, and Politics. The first section gives us the lay of the land, relying on biographical narratives and historical sources to understand what the Latinx experience is all about. The second section turns to sociological and ethnographic material to study the diversity of Latinx religion and the multiple functions of faith and devotion in the Latinx community. The third section turns to the constructive work of scholars who study the distinct contributions of the Latinx experience to theological reflection, ethical discernment, and political action. | AMER 27075, ANTH 23326, CRES 27075, LACS 27075, SOCI 20539 |
| RLST  27391 | Pirates, Saints, and Rebels: Religions of the Indian Ocean | Chubb-Confer, Francesca N. | (C)  Cultural Studies | In this course we will set sail with pirates, saints, slaves, merchants, rebels, missionaries, and deities of the wind and water to explore the transnational religious networks of the Indian Ocean. Orienting ourselves around moments of encounter, translation, circulation, and exchange between Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and indigenous traditions will allow us to reassess how traveling religious texts, objects, ideas, and the people who carried them interact between geographical areas typically considered in isolation. Beginning with late antiquity and the medieval period, we will investigate how religious networks were formed and mobilized between the coastal regions of South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern and Southern Africa, continuing through the age of exploration and imperial expansion to the present day. We will analyze the relationship between religion and colonial power, and examine how colonial technologies of travel and communication both enabled the expansion of empire and provided the tools for grassroots resistance. | GLST 27391, SALC 27391 |
| RLST  27721 | Race and Religion: Theorizing Blackness and Jewishness | Collins, Kirsten J. | (C)  Cultural Studies | Founded on ideals of universalism, pluralism and secularism, France and the United States are fraught with contradictions when it comes to race and religion. Which religions are accepted? Which religions are suspect? Is it minority that defines the difference—or only particular kinds of minority, such as race? To untangle the intersections of race and religion, we will examine Blackness and Jewishness as they are represented in political polemic, fiction, memoir and philosophy from the 1960s to the present. This course introduces students to the foundational concepts for the critical study of race and religion through exploring the constructions of Black and Jewish identity. We will examine the contradictions of secular politics and culture in France and the United States, and discuss how religion, race, and intersecting categories such as gender and sexuality, can become tools of critique. Readings include works by thinkers such as Césaire, Fanon, Memmi, Levinas and Foucault, along with literary classics by Nella Larsen and Sarah Kofman, and contemporary critical essays by Judith Butler, Christina Sharpe and Talal Asad. Throughout this course, we will examine how the concepts of race and religion are key components of the political, philosophical and ethical projects of these authors. No prerequisite knowledge of critical theory, or this historical period, is expected. | JWSC 27721, GNSE 27721, CMLT 27721, FREN 27721, ANTH 23916, GLST 27721, CRES 27721 |
| RLST  28308 | Introduction to Byzantine Art | Krause, Karin | (C)  Cultural Studies | 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. Course Note: For nonmajors, this course meets the arts, music, drama general education requirements. | ARTH 14006 (parent), MDVL 14006 |
| RLST  28447 | It's the End of the World as We Know It: Apocalyptic Literature and Millenarian Movements | Cunningham, Marshall A. | (C)  Cultural Studies | The “end of the world” has been a matter of fascination for human beings for thousands of years. This course takes a cross-cultural approach to the study of texts and movements concerned with the end times, traditionally called “apocalyptic” and “Millenarian.” We will focus on three major aspects of these movements: the historical and cultural circumstances in which they arose, the institutions and traditions that served as their foundations, and finally their theological and political principles, including how they dealt with failed expectations. We will cover a wide range of contexts, including Roman-occupied Judea during the first century CE, the Xhosaland of southern Africa in the mid 19thcentury, and the rise of QAnon in the 21st century United States. No prerequisite knowledge of the historical periods or religious traditions examined required. | JWSC 28447, HIST 25219, CMLT 28447, GLST 28447 |
| RLST  28992 | Arguing on the Internet: Persuasion and Polarization | Johnson, Russell P. | (C)  Cultural Studies | Everyone knows it’s a bad idea to argue about religion and politics on the internet. But is this actually true, and if so, why? What is it about religion and politics that makes it so difficult to convince people to change their views? And what effects do social media platforms have upon these arguments? In this class, we will discuss philosophical and psychological theories to help make sense of the challenges facing anyone who seeks to challenge others’ deeply held convictions. We will compare classic texts about faith and reason with recent studies on political polarization, rhetoric, and new media. By analyzing actual disagreements from different corners of the internet, we will collaboratively develop our own guide to online argumentation which will be published online as a resource for people courageous enough to post in a comments section. |  |
| RLST  29900 | BA Paper Seminar II | Matthews, Alex |  | The two-quarter senior sequence will assist students in the Research Track with the preparation of the required BA paper. During May of their third year, students will work with the preceptor to choose a faculty adviser and a topic for research, and to plan a course of study for the following year. These must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students will take part in the BA Paper Seminar convened by a preceptor during Autumn and Winter Quarters. This seminar will allow students to prepare their bibliographies, hone their writing, and present their research. |  |

Cross-Listed Courses in RLST – for Course Descriptions, please see the [College Catalog](http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/religiousstudies/) or [Divinity’s Website](https://divinity.uchicago.edu/academics/courses):

* RLST 15200 – Introductory Qur’anic Arabic II (*Izzet Coban*)
* RLST 20202 – Islamicate Civilization II: 950-1750 *(Franklin Lewis)* Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20402 – Islamic Thought and Literature II (*Franklin Lewis*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20811 – Ritual, Cult, and Magic in the Hebrew Bible (*Jeffrey Stackert*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 21430 – Religion and American Capitalism (*Will Schultz*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 22304 – Words of the Wise: Proverbs and Qohelet (*Simeon Chavel*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 22418 – The Scopes Trial in Historical Context (*Curtis Evans*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 22667 – The Christian Right (*Will Schultz*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 22780 – Readings: Sufism in Morocco (*Yousef Casewit*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 25821 – Psychology of Conflict: Lessons from Jerusalem (*Boaz Keysar*) Fulfills: (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 25915 – The Jewish Question in the 21st Century (*Sarah Hammerschlag*) Fulfills: (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 26521 – Three Greek Philosophical Texts (*Elizabeth Asmis*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 27290 – Blake’s Theopoetics (*Richard Rosengarten*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 28219 – Understanding Buddhism through Meditation (*Yu Xue*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies

**Spring Quarter 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RLST  Course No. | Course Title | Instructor | Requirement Fulfilled | Course Description | Crosslisting |
| RLST  20230 | Jerusalem: The "Holy" City | Cunningham, Marshall A. | (A)  Historical Studies | What makes a city “holy”? How is religious space created and contested? How can one city be claimed by three faiths? This course will attempt to answer these questions and many others by tracing the religious history of Jerusalem — a religious center for Jews, Christians, and Muslims – from its founding under King David to the modern Israeli/Palestinian conflict. For roughly three thousand years, Jerusalem has served as a site of creation, interaction, and conflict for these traditions and millions of their adherents. Using primary and secondary materials, along with theoretical works, we will analyze Jerusalem as an object of study in relation to common themes of Religious Studies like sacred space, pilgrimage, and myth. | HIST 26007, JWSC 21230, NEHC 20230 |
| RLST  22040 | Religion in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peacemaking | Barak-Gorodetsky, David | (A)  Historical Studies | The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is arguably the most intractable political conflict at present. The conflict has been subjected to various historiographies and narrative explorations, offering often-competing explanations in an attempt to understand its origin and evolvement, and also the failure of its resolution.  This course explores the role of religion in the historical development of the conflict and in its contemporary manifestation, while at the same time probing the potential role of religion in the resolution of the conflict and outlining the history of attempts for religious peace-making in Israel/Palestine. Combining concrete historical analysis and intellectual history, the course will focus on the Jewish, Muslim and Christian views of the conflict and its potential resolution, relating to such themes as covenant, messianism, political theology, the sanctity of the land and the role of Jerusalem. These concepts and others will be explored against the backdrop of the concrete history of the conflict, focusing initially on the formative period of 1897-1948, pivoting to the 1967 war and its aftermath and concluding with the religionization of politics in recent decades and its far-reaching consequences. | JWSC 27715 |
| RLST  22812 | Introduction to Classical Hinduism | Pierce Taylor, Sarah | Gateway course;  (A)  Historical Studies | What is Hinduism? Variously described as a world religion, a way of life, the basis of a national culture, and more, this course will critically consider and interrogate the historical multiplicity of traditions that comprise what we might today call “Classical Hinduism.” Beginning with the Vedic period in the first-millennium B.C.E and moving to the early modern, we will track the development of classical religious tenants, literatures, and practices. In so doing, students will become familiar with central beliefs (including dharma, artha, kāma, and mokṣa), sectarian traditions such as Vaiṣṇavism, Śavism, and Śaktism, and religious literatures ranging from epic to devotional poetry. As we will see, while Hinduism is a flexible and elastic term that brings together shifting religious identities and communities, the concept of the classical names the solidification of both a real and imagined religious past. | SALC 22812 |
| RLST  23111 | Black Theology: Hopkins Versus Cone | Hopkins, Dwight | (B)  Constructive Studies | Black Theology of Liberation, an indigenous USA discipline and movement, began on July 31, 1966 and spread nationally and internationally when James H. Cone published his first book in March 1969. Since that time, a second generation has emerged. In this course, we will create a debate between the second generation (represented by Dwight N. Hopkins) and the first generation (represented by James H. Cone). We will look at the political, economic, cultural, gender, and sexual orientation parts of this debate. | CRES 23111, GLST 23111, FNDL 25308, AMER 23111 |
| RLST  24103 | Bioethics | Zoloth, Laurie | Theories and Methods course for RLST majors and minors;  (B)  Constructive Studies | 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. | RETH 30600, SIGN 26069, HLTH 24103, BIOS 29216, LAWS 97112, HIPS 24103 |
| RLST  25563 | Does American Democracy Need Religion? | Buyan, Derek | (B)  Constructive Studies | In the United States, we find ourselves living as part of a democracy. But that simple fact doesn’t necessarily make us fans of democracy by default. In fact, it leaves many questions unanswered: Is democracy a good thing? If so, why and on what grounds? Why should you or I value democracy and its ideals (e.g., equality, liberty, fraternity)? If we do, what (if anything) grounds our devotion to this shared political tradition? And does, can, or should religion have a role to play?  In this course, we will explore American democracy as a normative tradition and its relationship to various religious traditions in American society. Through examining key interpreters of American democracy such as Danielle Allen, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Cornel West, Joshua Abraham Heschel, and Amanda Gorman, we will approach the question of how religion and democracy relate to one another. We’ll investigate the relative independence of democracy and religion, focusing on philosophers and poets who emphasize American democracy as tradition in its own right. We will also consider “Civil Religion in America,” through the work of sociologists and historians who suggest the dependence of the democratic on religion or something like it. Finally, we'll question the relative interdependence of American democracy and religious traditions by turning to claims of influential religious and political leaders and activists. *No prerequisite knowledge of religious studies or the material discussed required.* | CRES 25563, AMER 25563, PBPL 25563 |
| RLST  25704 | Environmental Justice in Chicago | Fredericks, Sarah E. | (B)  Constructive Studies | This course will examine the development of environmental justice theory and practice through social scientific and ethical literature about the subject as well as primary source accounts of environmental injustices. 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. Throughout the course we will explore how normative commitments are expressed in different types of literature as well as the basis for normative judgments and the types of authorities authors utilize and claim as they consider environmental justice. | ENST 25704, PBPL 25704, KNOW 25704, CHST 25704, AMER 25704 |
| RLST  25705 | The Bible and Ecology | Trotter, Christine R. | (B)  Constructive Studies | In 2010, HarperCollins published The Green Bible, which claims to help readers “understand the Bible’s powerful message for the earth.” What precisely is the Bible’s “message for the earth”? Does the Bible even contain one unified message about the relationship between God, human beings, and the natural world? For many, the question of “what the Bible says” about the environment has become urgent in the midst of the intersecting environmental crises of our day, from global warming to the sixth mass extinction. And yet, there does not seem to be an easy answer to this question; the Bible has been used both to support ethics of conservation and to justify exploitation of the earth’s resources. In this course, we will analyze key passages employed in contemporary discourse about the Bible and the environment from a historical-critical perspective. At the same time, we will investigate how these texts are being invoked today in support of various agendas. Along the way, we will discover and interrogate the profound influence of biblical cosmologies, anthropologies, and eschatologies in shaping attitudes towards the earth and its nonhuman inhabitants. No prior knowledge of biblical literature is expected. | ENST 25715 |
| RLST  25809 | Islamic and Jewish Political Philosophy | Shemesh, Yonatan T. | (B)  Constructive Studies | In this course we will study the history of political philosophy in the medieval Islamic world. We begin by discussing the transmission of Greek philosophy into Arabic-Islamic culture, the debates that ensued over the value of philosophy versus prophecy, and the issue of esoteric writing. These preliminary topics provide necessary background and context for studying the tradition of political philosophy that developed under Islam and Judaism during the Middle Ages. Then, for the rest of the semester, students analyze key works by Muslim and Jewish thinkers who navigated the relationships between religion, politics, and philosophy. Along the way we discuss a number of major themes and topics, including (but not limited to) approaches to divine law, the figure of the philosopher-prophet, logic and language, scriptural interpretation, the place of the philosopher in society, and the nature of human perfection. | JWSC 28809, MDVL 25809 |
| RLST  27305 | Haj to Utopia: Race, Religion, and Revolution in South Asian America | Venkatkrishnan, Anand | (C)  Cultural Studies | With the election of Kamala Harris to the office of Vice President in the 2020 election, it would appear that Americans of South Asian descent find themselves nearer than ever to the center of U.S. political power. But what if one narrated the history of South Asian Americans not according to their inevitable embrace of imperialist politics, economic and cultural capital, but as fraught subjects of a settler colonial regime? What are the alternative futures, of life, love, and liberation, imagined by transnational revolutionaries? How does the politics of immigrant identity operate at the nexus of race and caste? How does religion index race in the eyes of the surveillance state? How do South Asian histories of migration prefigure the mass displacements, border enforcements, and unequal labor conditions that have defined the politics of globalization in the 21st century? | GLST 27305, CRES 27305, SALC 27305, AMER 27305, HIST 26813 |
| RLST  27713 | Israel and American Jewry: Peoplehood, Religion, and Politics | Barak-Gorodetsky, David | (C)  Cultural Studies | Israel and North America currently constitute the two leading centers of Jewish demography, identity and existence. Broadly speaking, they represent the two major Jewish responses to modernity – Zionism as a form of modern nationalism on the one hand, and integration into a liberal western society and body politic on the other. Their relations respond to this initial divide, while at the same time trying to coalesce a collective notion of Jewish peoplehood, based on culture, identity and a sense of a shared history and fate. The aim of this course is to learn more about the emergence of these two centers, and then explore the past, present and future of their relations. In recent years, the issue of religion has emerged as a crucial factor in Israel-Diaspora relations, especially in relation to the Jewish center in North America. The historical development of progressive Jewish strands in the United States, together with the fundamental changes in the religious makeup of Jewish society and the perception of the political role of religion in the state of Israel, have led to tension and strife regarding such issues as religious praxis, social identity and the public sphere. Religion with therefore be the main theme through which the relations will be explored, both historically and in relation to current affairs and issues. | JWSC 26713, GLST 27713, AMER 27713, SOCI 20545 |
| RLST  28005 | Illicit Religion: Contesting Religious Freedom under the Law in Modern America | Chatterley, Gregory W. | (C)  Cultural Studies | The “freedom of religion” is one of the United States’ most enduring and celebrated national ideals. And yet, rights of religious belief and practice have been contested consistently throughout the history of the nation, transforming both cultural practices and legal definitions of religion. Can American religion be radically free \*and\* fundamentally subject to the legal definitions and executive constraints of the state? Or is religious freedom under the law impossible, as some scholars have it? In this course, we will examine historical events, legal principles and academic debates over the meaning of religion’s “free exercise” in the United States. Three case studies will ground our investigations: the Pueblo Indian dance controversy of the 1920s, the organization of the Church of Scientology in the 1950s and, finally, conflict over property and political rights at Oregon’s Rajneeshpuram in the 1980s. Historical and cultural study will be augmented with theory and legal analysis by scholars of American religion and law. The term will end with student presentations on controversial developments in the exercise of religion since 1993’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), including its enforcement of religious boundaries around drug use, gay marriage and women’s reproductive health. No prerequisite knowledge of religious tradition, historical period or legal principle is necessary. | AMER 28005, HIST 27120, HMRT 28005 |
| RLST  28009 | God-Given Whites: Christianity and White Supremacy in the United States from Colonization to Trump | Chatterley, Gregory W. | (C)  Cultural Studies | In this course, we will survey the enduring history of Christianity and white supremacy in regions that became the United States after three centuries of transatlantic colonialism. Starting in the colonial era, we will review successive episodes of white racial formation under Christian social orders, including among others: Catholic and Protestant missions to indigenous tribes, the Christianization of Afro-American enslavement, the Protestant popularization of the Ku Klux Klan, the southern evangelical defense of segregation, urban Catholicism’s flee to the white suburbs and more recent cultural and political projects of conservative white evangelicalism. In each episode, we will identify historical and religious nuances of disparate racial regimes while aiming more generally to cultivate analytical frameworks for the study of religion and white supremacy in American culture over time. How do religions shape racial orders, and vice versa? No prerequisite knowledge of course subjects necessary. | AMER 28009, HIST 28709, CRES 28009, SSAD 28009 |
| RLST  28013 | Love, Desire, and Sexuality in Islamic Texts and Contexts | Kanner-Botan, Allison L. | (C)  Cultural Studies | What separates love from lust? How do our erotic desires and sexual practices intersect with our beliefs? This interdisciplinary class explores these questions in conversation with foundational thinkers from the Islamic tradition alongside insights from feminist and queer theory. We will delve into questions on the relationship between romantic, familial, and divine love; gender, sexuality, and the body; and Orientalism and the politics of reading desire cross-culturally.  Exploring a diverse set of primary sources that range from the Qur’ān to Rūmī’s *Masnāvī* to contemporary Bollywood, we will encounter different representations of love, desire, and sexuality in religious and philosophical discourses, literary representations, and visual media. We will examine not only how these representations reflect different historical norms, but also how and to what extent texts and images can inform or impact the norms of their contexts as well. No prerequisite knowledge of the topics or time periods discussed is needed, and students will have the opportunity over the course of the class to develop a project that relates our content to their own interests. Course Note: This course counts as a Concepts course for GNSE majors. | GNSE 23135, CMLT 28013, MDVL 28013, SALC 28013 |
| RLST  28307 | Transfiguration: Changing Bodies and Gender in Premodern Christianity | Vanderpoel, M. S. | (C)  Cultural Studies | This course surveys ancient and medieval Christian views on the body and gender with a particular interest in ideas of transformation, supplemented by contemporary readings in trans studies. The course explores a number of themes diachronically: the creation of human bodies, debates about matter, doctrines of the resurrection, eunuchs, possession, gender (non)conformity, and various modes of gender crossing. Thus, it provides both an introduction to major figures in the history of Christianity and a primer in religious-studies and historical methods in light of trans and queer studies. Potential primary readings include Gospel of Judas, The Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine of Hippo, Alan of Lille, Julian of Norwich, Joan of Arc, Heinrich Kramer, and others. | GNSE 28307, MDVL 28307 |
| RLST  29050 | Religion, Race, and Gender in the (Un)Making of American Mass Incarceration | Crews, Emily D. | (C)  Cultural Studies | The United States has the largest population of incarcerated people in the world; it imprisons a greater percentage of its citizens than any other country. Scholars, activists, and lawmakers have offered a number of explanations for the situation of mass incarceration, from theories about the war on drugs, the prison industrial complex, and “the new Jim Crow.” What the majority of these theories have in common is the significance given to race and gender in the long process of criminalization and incarceration. What most of them fail to take into account is the significance of religion, which has since the nation’s origins played an important role in shaping that process, and the growing resistance to it amongst activists, scholars, and currently and formerly incarcerated people themselves. This course will help us to interrogate the prevailing theories about mass incarceration by exploring the importance of not just race and gender, but also religion. Together we will trace the ways in which these factors are intertwined with the billion-dollar correctional industry in the United States, beginning with the Christian and racist origins of the American legal system and the underlying assumptions about our central categories in criminology and policing protocols. We will then proceed through sentencing, the experience of incarceration, and post-release rehabilitation and parole. Along the way we will consider, inter alia, the criminalization of blackness; the school to prison pipeline; discourses on mercy and penitence in judge and jury decisions; how prison policies on acceptable religious officiants and types of “scripture” produce local definitions of religion; the gendered divisions of prison labor; the gendering and sexualizing of inmates’ bodies; the role of faith-based prisons and prison ministries in rehabilitation programs and narratives; and the religious nature of radical Black feminist abolition activism. We will ultimately discover that mass incarceration has indelibly shaped and been shaped by the ways that gender, race, and religion are defined, performed, and contested in the United States. | AMER 29050, GNSE 29050, ANTH 25219, HMRT 29051, CRES 29050, SSAD 29050, HIST 28005, SOCI 20543 |

Cross-Listed Courses in RLST – for Course Descriptions, please see the [College Catalog](http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/religiousstudies/) or [Divinity’s Website](https://divinity.uchicago.edu/academics/courses):

* RLST 15300 – Introductory Qur’anic Arabic III (*Izzet Coban*)
* RLST 20203 – Islamicate Civilization III: 1750-Present (*Holly Shissler*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20403 – Islamic Thought and Literature III (*Holly Shissler*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 20840 – Radical Islamic Pieties, 1200 to 1600 (*Cornell Fleischer*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 22012 – Jewish Civilization III: Language, Creation, and Translation in Jewish Thought and Literature (*Na’ama Rokem*) Fulfills: (A) Historical Studies
* RLST 23750 – New Cartesian Questions (*Jean-Luc Marion*) Fulfills: (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 25004 – Theological, Phenomenological, and Ethical Aspects of Prayer (*Claudia Welz*) Fulfills: (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 25800 – Black Ownership of Wealth: A Theological Consideration (*Dwight Hopkins*) Fulfills: (B) Constructive Studies
* RLST 26311 – Islam and Biomedicine (*Elham Mireshghi*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 26333 – Comparative Trinitarianisms (*Brook Ziporyn*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 27490 – Art as Buddhism in Ancient India: Explorations in the Stupa of Amaravati and Other Monuments (*Jaś Elsner*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 27652 – Ethnography Before Modernity (*James Redfield*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 27714 – Israeli Society Through Media: The Four Tribes of Israel (*Ehud Har Even*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 27723 – Health, Healing, and Religion in East Asia (*H.S. Sum Cheuk Shing*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies
* RLST 28704 – The Veneration of Icons in Byzantium: History, Theory, and Practice (*Karin Krause*) Fulfills: (C) Cultural Studies