

Religious Studies

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES 90A: Introductory Topics in Religious Studies

Topic: Spiritual Violence and Resistance in Colonial Mexico

The conquest of Mexico was not a mere military exploit; it also sought the colonization of the mind and soul of the indigenous population. At first, the missionaries attempted to burn all the books and to destroy all traces of material culture that conveyed and promoted spiritual beliefs. Missionaries often expressed their frustration in trying to eradicate beliefs when they realized that the whole of everyday life participated of the supernatural even after the destruction of books and temples. To compensate for the loss of knowledge, missionaries wrote ethnographic studies that recorded information about the pre-colonial gods, conceptions of the soul and the body, feasts, divinatory calendar, sacred hymns, cosmogonies, and rituals. (Some scholars trace the origins of Religious Studies to this early writing on Native religions.) These ethnographies are indispensable for the study of both colonial and pre-colonial codices (native books that use pictographic script). The missionaries also recorded the resistance to the evangelization and destruction of native culture. Resistance to this colonization continues today in the face of globalization processes that seek to destroy indigenous languages and cultures; in modernization projects, there is no room--except to promote tourism--for indigenous peoples. We will study pre-colonial and colonial codices, the appropriation of indigenous languages for the production of catechisms, confessionals, sermons, and the indianization of Christianity. Readings from Postcolonial Theory and Indian Theology (a branch of Liberation Theology that promotes the respect of native beliefs) will inform our approach to these early texts. All readings will be in English.

Students who have completed, or are currently enrolled in, Religious Studies 90A or 90B are eligible to declare the Religious Studies major.

Instructor:: José Rabasa, TuTh 9:30-11, 2060 Valley LSB, 4 units.

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77606

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C103: Religion of Ancient Egypt

Also cross-listed as Near Eastern Studies C103.

A survey of the religious beliefs of the ancient Egyptians, based primarily upon the written sources.

Instructor: Cathleen Keller, TuTh, 11-12:30, 136 Barrows, 3 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77633

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C108: Scandinavian Myth and Religion

Also cross-listed as Scandinavian 160.

Religious beliefs and practices during the Viking Age in Scandinavia and their manifestations in later recordings.

Instructor: John Lindow, MWF 10-11, 213 Wheeler, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77636

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C109: Celtic Mythology and Oral Tradition

Also cross-listed as Celtic Studies C168.

The course will introduce students to the pre-Christian beliefs of the Celtic and Indo-European worlds, to the historical narratives in which such beliefs are embedded, and to the methodology of investigating ancient and medieval belief systems.

Instructor: Daniel Melia, TuTh 12:30-2, 170 Barrows, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77639

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C119: The English Bible as Literature

Also cross-listed as English C107

Introduction to the English Bible treated as a literary work.

Instructor: Steven Goldsmith, TuTh 3:30-5, 120 Lewis, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77642

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C124: The Renaissance and the Reformation

THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Also cross listed as History C157.

Instructor: TBA, MWF 2-3,, 102 Moffitt, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77648

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C161: Religion in Early India

THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Also cross-listed as South Asian C127.

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77651

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C165: Hindu Mythology

Also cross listed as South Asian C 140.

Literary and religious aspects of Hindu myths. Reading of selected mythological texts in translation.

Instructor: Robert Goldman, MWF 11-12, 160 Kroeber, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77654

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 1: Philosophy of Religion

ATHEISM AND THE JUSTIFICATION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF

This course will explore classical and contemporary challenges to the status of religious belief, and different accounts of the moral life. It will raise questions about the rationality, legitimacy, and intelligibility of religious discourse, belief and practice. Among the questions explored will be: Is Nietzsche's Zarathustra right in proclaiming that the God of metaphysics (the God of philosophy that served as the foundation of knowledge and morality) is dead? What is involved in the gospel tone of Nietzsche's message? Does the recognition that the God of metaphysics is dead leave open a space for faith, for a different experience of religiosity? Is Freud right in reducing religion to the neurosis of the mind and God to the need of a loving father figure? Does it make sense to believe in a God of love in a world dominated by evil and suffering? But if one follows the atheistic critiques of religion, then what happens to morality once the God of philosophy is dead? Are we warranted in embracing other Gods, or substitutes for the Gods? In other words, is religion the only guarantor of morality, justice, and peace?

Another set of questions preoccupying us during the second half of the semester will center around the perilous proximity of religion to violent action. This proximity has been seen by some authors as revealing the paradoxical nature of some religious messages (where the message of peace sometimes legitimates the violence of war, the conflict of identity, of race, of class, of gender, and so on). Is such a vision simply the heritage of the protestant West, one we should abandon in favor of a less compromised form of postmodern religion?

Readings will include the works of Hume, Nietzsche, Freud, Jung, Kierkegaard, Schleiermacher, Tillich, Bonhoeffer, Pascal, Milbank, de Certeau, Simone Weil and others.

Course requirements include completion of class readings, participation in class, and two take-home exams.

Instructor: Luca D'Isanto, TuTh 2-3:30, 70 Evans,, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77657

Courses approved for the METHODOLOGICAL REQUIREMENT of the Religious Studies Major:**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190:** Topics in Religious Studies

Section 1: Philosophy of Religion

Instructor: Luca D'Isanto, TuTh 2-3:30, 70 Evans., 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77657

English C107: The English Bible as Literature

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C119.

Instructor: Steven Goldsmith, TuTh 3:30-5, 120 Lewis, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 28745

Near Eastern Studies 113: Gilgamesh: King, Hero, and God

Instructor: Nicholaas Veldhuis, TuTh 12:30-2, 144 Barrows, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 61487

Sociology 156: Thought Reform, Influence and Social Control

Instructor: Richard Ofshe, TuTh 8-9:30, A1 Hearst Annex, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 81837

South Asian C127: Religion in Early India

THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C161.

Instructor: Alexander Von Rospatt, TuTh 11-12:30, 87 Dwinelle, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 84018

Courses approved for the THEMATIC REQUIREMENT of the Religious Studies Major:

Anthropology C160: Forms of Folklore

Also cross-listed with ISF C160.

Instructor: Alan Dundes, TuTh 12:30-2, Wheeler, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 02750

Classics 121: Greek and Roman Religion

Instructor: Anthony Bulloch, TuTh 12:30-2, 126 Barrows, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 14763

Comparative Literature 120: The Biblical Tradition in Western Literature

Instructor: Robert Alter, TuTh 11-12:30, 246 Dwinelle, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 17299

History 156A: History of Christian Thought, 200-600 A.D.

Instructor: Gerard Caspary, MWF 3-4, 160 Dwinelle, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 39352

South Asian C140: Hindu Mythology

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C165.

Instructor: Robert Goldman, MWF 11-12, 160 Kroeber, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 84021

Courses approved for the HINDUISM EMPHASIS of the Religious Studies Major:

South Asian C127: Religion in Early India

THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C161.

Instructor: Alexander Von Rospatt, TuTh 11-12:30, 87 Dwinelle, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 84018

South Asian C140: Hindu Mythology

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C165.

Instructor: Robert Goldman, MWF 11-12, 160 Kroeber, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 84021

Courses approved for the BUDDHIST EMPHASIS of the Religious Studies Major:

Music 139; Buddhist Music in Japan

Instructor: Steven Nelson, TuTh 9:30-11, 125 Morrison, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 60639

Psychology 107: Buddhist Psychology

Instructor: Eleanor Rosch, MW 2-3, 100 GPB, 3 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 74568

South Asian C127: Religion in Early India

THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C161.

Instructor: Alexander Von Rospatt, TuTh 11-12:30, 87 Dwinelle, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 84018

South Asian C140: Hindu Mythology

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C165.

Instructor: Robert Goldman, MWF 11-12, 160 Kroeber, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 84021

Courses approved for the JUDAISM EMPHASIS of the Religious Studies Major:

Hebrew 102A: Postbiblical Hebrew Texts

Instructor: TBA, MW 4-5:30, 192 Barrows, 3 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 62615

History 178: History of the Holocaust

Instructor: John Efron, TuTh 12:30-2, 126 Barrows, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 39384

Courses approved for the ISLAM EMPHASIS of the RELIGIOUS STUDIES Major:

Near Eastern Studies 146A: Islam

Instructor: Hamid Algar, TuTh 11-12:30, TBA, 3 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 61496

South Asian C127: Religion in Early India

THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C161.

Instructor: Alexander Von Rospatt, TuTh 11-12:30, 87 Dwinelle, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 84018

Courses approved for the CHRISTIANITY EMPHASIS of the Religious Studies Major:

English C107: The English Bible as Literature
Also cross listed as Religious Studies C119.
Instructor: Steven Goldsmith, TuTh 3:30-5, 120 Lewis, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 28745

History 155B: Medieval Europe: From the Investiture Conflict to the Fifteenth Century
Instructor: Geoffrey Koziol, TuTh 9:30-11, 60 Evans, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 39349

History 156A: History of Christian Thought, 200-600 A.D.
Instructor: Gerard Caspary, MWF 3-4, 160 Dwinelle, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 39352

History C157: The Renaissance and the Reformation
THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED
Also cross listed as Religious Studies C124.
Instructor: The Staff, MWF 2-3, 102 Moffitt, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 39355

OTHER RELATED COURSES:

Anthropology C160: Forms of Folklore
Also cross-listed with ISF C160.
Instructor: Alan Dundes, TuTh 12:30-2, Wheeler, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 02750

Celtic Studies C168: Celtic Mythology and Oral Tradition
Also cross listed as Religious Studies C109.
Instructor: Daniel Melia, TuTh 12:30-2, 170 Barrows, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 10224

Chicano Studies 180, sect. 3: Religious and Cultural Erotics
Instructor: Luis Leon, Th., 3-6, 156 Dwinelle, 3 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 13173

Classics 121: Greek and Roman Religion
Instructor: Anthony Bulloch, TuTh 12:30-2, 126 Barrows, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 14763

Comparative Literature 120: The Biblical Tradition in Western Literature
Instructor: Robert Alter, TuTh 11-12:30, 246 Dwinelle, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 17299

English 166, sect. 1: Special Topics: Is It Useless to Revolt?
Instructor: Steven Goldsmith, TuTh 12:30-2, 102 Wurster, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 28922

Near Eastern Studies 113: Gilgamesh: King, Hero, and God
Instructor: Nicholaas Veldhuis, TuTh 12:30-2, 144 Barrows, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 61487

Near Eastern Studies C103: Religion of Ancient Egypt
Also cross listed as Religious Studies C103.

Instructor: Cathleen Keller, TuTh 11-12:30, 136 Barrows, 3 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 61484

Philosophy 109: Moral Psychology
Instructor: R. Jay Wallace, MWF 1-2, 126 Barrows, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 67232

Scandinavian C160: Scandinavian Myth and Religion
Also cross listed as Religious Studies C108.
Instructor: John Lindow, MWF 10-11, 213 Wheeler, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 78793

Sociology 156: Thought Reform, Influence and Social Control
Instructor: Richard Ofshe, TuTh 8-9:30, A1 Hearst Annex, 4 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 81837

**THE FOLLOWING LOWER DIVISION COURSES MAY BE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO
RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJORS:
(THEY WILL NOT COUNT AS UNITS THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES
MAJOR OR MINOR.)**

Classics 24: The World of Odysseus
Instructor: Anthony Bulloch,, 3-4, 54 Barrows, 1 unit
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 14727

Letters and Science R44: Western Civilization
Instructors: Caroline Humfress and Trevor Murphy, MW 10-12, 390 Hearst Mining, 5 units
COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 51245

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