

Religious Studies

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The Major

Courses

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(as of September 9, 2004)

All courses are 4 units unless otherwise noted

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 90A: Introductory Topics in Religious Studies

Topic: Introduction to Islam

This course will provide an introduction to Islam, the system of belief embraced by some 1.3 billion people around the world. The main tenets and practices of Islam will be examined, and will be elucidated throughout by comparison to the monotheisms of Christianity and Judaism. Discussion of the spiritual basis of Islam will be grounded in an examination of the historical evolution of the religion in medieval and modern times, including topics such as the origins of the religion and its later division into various sects and schools.

Students will become familiar with the main scriptural and scholarly discourses of the Islamic world, including, besides the Qur'an and its exegesis, hadith (the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad), and the main precepts of Islamic law. Islamic mysticism in the form of Sufi customs, beliefs and literature will be discussed. Finally, the diversity of Islam will be illustrated by an examination of how Islam has evolved in the United States, as compared to its various manifestations in other parts of the world.

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

Instructor: Margaret Larkin, TuTh 2-3:30, A1 Hearst , 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77603

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: Annalee Rejhon, MW 4-5:30, 219 Dwinelle, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77651

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 120A: Origins of Christianity

Instructor: Susanna Elm, TuTh 3:30-5, 110 Wheeler, 4 units

This class will examine the early Jesus movement in its social and historical setting. Particular attention to the transformations of various Jewish religious concepts; traditions about Jesus; political and religious eschatology; Paul and his interpreters.

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77653

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C124: The Renaissance and the Reformation

Also cross listed as History C157.

THIS CLASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Undergraduate
Student
Learning
Initiative

-GSI-
Job Listing &
Recruitment

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 C182: Sociology of Religions

Also cross listed as Sociology C112.

The course will locate the place of religious consciousness in human action and then survey comparatively and historically the role that religion has played in human society. It will include a general theory of the nature of religious experience, religious symbolism, and the basis of religious community.

Instructor: Paula Nesbit, TuTh 5-6:30, 160 Kroeber, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77660

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 1: Philosophy of Religion

The course will explore the relationship between religious and ethical beliefs and the emotions in classical as well as in contemporary debates. In particular, it will look at the ways in which the emotions are said to shape specific kinds of beliefs, thus producing religious or ethical, states of mind claiming ultimate validity. For example, classical philosophers tend to reduce the phenomenology of religious emotions to the more or less universal phenomenon of fear (of death, of nature, of destiny), thereby refuting the truth-claims of religion. In a similar vein, Freud argues that the sphere of religion emerges from infantile projections linked to insecurities about natural threats and the constraints of civilization for individuals and collectivities. Yet this experience is not unique to religion. Nietzsche shows that the realm of the ethical is shaped by the structure of guilt, which accounts for the fear of revenge of the creditor in the linguistic history of Western morals. Other philosophers we will study in this class (i.e. Spinoza, Vico, Schleiermacher, Scheler) attempt to rescue the religious and ethical emotions from such reductive reading, emphasizing instead the elements of shame, courage, joy, trust that arise out of the sense of belongingness (to the whole of Being, Nature, History). Another focus of the class will be the contemporary reevaluations of the cognitive capacity of the emotions, as in the theories of Martha Nussbaum, Richard Wollheim, Antonio Damasio, David Davidson, and others. In particular, it will explore the ways in which such reevaluations of the ethical or of religious emotions might reveal alternative histories of the map of the emotions as well as its rational aspects.

Instructor: Luca D'Isanto, TuTh 5-6:30, 20 Wheeler, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77663

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

Classics 121: Greek and Roman Religion TuTh 12:30-2 + sec

Religious Studies 190, Topics in Religious Studies TuTh 5-6:30

Sec. 1: Philosophy of Religion

Sociol C112: Sociology of Religion TuTh 5-6:30

(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C182.)

Sociol 156: Thought Reform, Influence & Social Control TuTh 8-9:30

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

Anthro C160: Forms of Folklore TuTh 12:30-2

(Also cross listed with ISF C160.)

History 156A: Hist. Christian Thought, 200-600 A.D. TuTh 12:30-2

Religious Studies 190, Topics in Religious Studies TuTh 5-6:30

Sec. 1: Philosophy of Religion

South Asian C140: Hindu Mythology MWF 11-12

(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C165.)

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

South Asian C140: Hindu Mythology MWF 11-12
 (Also cross listed as Religious Studies C165.)
 South Asian 141: Religion in South India TuTh 9:30-11

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

Buddhism 114: Tibetan Buddhism TuTh 11-12:30
 Chinese 120: Ancient Chinese Prose TuTh 12:30-2
 History of Art 190A: Budd. Art of China & Inner Asia TuTh 2-3:30 + sec
 South Asian C140: Hindu Mythology MWF 11-12
 (Also cross listed as Religious Studies C165.)

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

Hebrew 106A: Elemen. Biblical Hebrew (3 units) TuTh 2-3:30
 History 178: History of the Holocaust TuTh 11-12:30
 Near Eastern Studies 138: The Hero in the Bible & the Ancient Near East (3 units) TuTh 11-12:30

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

Anthropology 181, Middle East & Islam, TuTh 2-3:30
 Near Eastern Studies 138: The Hero in the Bible & the Ancient Near East (3 units) TuTh 11-12:30
 Near Eastern Studies 143A: Islam in Iran (3 units) TuTh 11-12:30

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

History 155A: Medieval Europe: From the Late Empire to the Investiture Conflict TuTh 9:30-11
 History 156A: Hist. Christian Thought, 200-600 A.D. TuTh 12:30-2
 History C157: The Renaissance and the Reformation MWF 1-2
 (Also cross listed as Religious Studies C124.) THIS COURSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
 Italian 130A: Dante's Inferno (in English) TuTh 9:30-11
 Near Eastern Studies 138: The Hero in the Bible & the Ancient Near East (3 units) TuTh 11-12:30
 Religious Studies 120A: Origins of Christianity TuTh 3:30-5

OTHER RELATED COURSES:

African Amer. Studies 135 (3 units), Caribbean Cult. Hist. Mon. 3-6
 Anthropology C160: Forms of Folklore TuTh 12:30-2 (Also cross listed as ISF C160.)
 Anthropology 161: Narrative Folklore TuTh 3:30-5
 Celtic Studies C168: Celtic Mythology and Oral Tradition MW 4-5:30 (Also cross listed as Religious Studies C109.)
 Peace and Conflict Studies 164A: Nonviolence (3 units) TuTh 11-12:30
 Philosophy 104: Ethical Theories MWF 10-11 + sec
 Scandinavian 170: Arctic Folklore and Mythology in Nordic Lands MWF 10-11

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.)

Asian Studies 10A: Intro. to Trad. Asian Culture TuTh 3:30-5 + sec
 Buddhism 50: Intro. to Buddhism MWF 1-2 + sec
 Near Eastern Studies 10: Intro. to the Near East MWF 9-10 + sec

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