

# Religious Studies

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The Major

Courses

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(as of August 30th, 2006)

All courses are 4 units unless otherwise noted

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES C90B: Introductory Topics in Religious Studies**

Topic: Religious Movements in Modern India

Also cross listed as South and Southeast Asian Studies C51.

This course introduces students to the history of religious movements in modern India, examining how sacred texts and religious practices have been disseminated, reinterpreted, and enlisted in various political and cultural projects during the colonial and post-colonial period. Beginning with a brief discussion of religion in medieval India, we go on to examine religious reform movements and cross-cultural debates during the colonial period, religious conversions (to Buddhism and Christianity), transformations in the roles women, and how the concept of a secular state in post-Independence India shapes religious policy and practice.

Readings will include theological writings, doctrinal tracts, novels, anthropological and sociological analyses, poetry, autobiography, and historical overviews.

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

Instructor: Vasudha Dalmia, TuTh 3:30-5, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77603

## **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 2-3:30, 3 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77630

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES C108: Scandinavian Myth and Religion**

Also cross-listed as Scandinavian C160.

The course is intended to present a survey of the religious beliefs of Scandinavia from prehistory through the conversion to Christianity (eleventh century), as illustrated in narrative and, to a lesser extent, archaeological materials. The approach will be primarily source-critical, with some use of comparative Germanic and Indo-European data. By the end of the course, students should know the sources well, have an understanding of the major problems involved in this study, and be aware of the more important scholarly trends in the field.

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

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77633

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES C109: Celtic Mythology and Oral Tradition**

Also cross-listed as Celtic Studies C168.

The course will examine the mythology of the Celts-their gods, goddesses, festivals, and belief systems-as it is reflected in medieval Irish and Welsh texts. Following a short presentation of introductory material regarding the history and civilization of the early Celts, the course will begin with the early Irish tale known as The

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Second Battle of Maige Tuired, a core mythological tale that best exemplifies the pattern of mythological deities and belief systems that pertain to varying degrees in other Celtic tales. These tales will include in Irish, the Destruction of Da Derga,s Hostel, the Tale of Macc Da Thó,s Pig, Bricriu,s Feast, the Wooing of Etain, the Dream of Oengus, the Wasting Sickness of CúChulaind, the Cattle Raid of Fróech, and the Táin, and in Welsh, the Four Branches of the Mabinogi, Culhwch and Olwen, Lludd and Llefelys, the Tale of Gwion Bach and the Tale of Taliesin, and the poem, „The Spoils of the Otherworld.% All the readings are in English translation.

Instructor: Annalee Rejhon, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77636

### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES C135: Jewish Civilization: Modern Period**

Also cross-listed as History C175B and UGIS C155.

This is the fourth course in a four-course sequence in the history of Jewish culture and civilization. It explores the major themes in Jewish history from 1750 to the present, with special attention paid to the transformation of Jewish communal and individual identity in the modern world. Topics to be treated include the breakdown of traditional society, enlightenment and emancipation, assimilation, Hasidism, racial anti-Semitism, colonialism, Zionism, and contemporary Jewish life in Europe, North America, and Israel. The multicultural nature of Jewish history will be highlighted throughout the course through the treatment of non-European Jewish narratives alongside the more familiar Ashkenazi perspective.

Instructor: John Efron, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

### **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: TBA, MWF 11-12, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77645

### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies**

Section 1: The Monastic Tradition in Late Antique and Medieval Christianity

This course focuses on the origins and development of monasticism as one of the central institutions of medieval Europe. We will explore some of the essential moments in the monastic tradition and the changing meaning of monastic ideals through close readings of a series of primary sources. Problems to be addressed include the appeal of sexual renunciation and other ascetic practices in late antique society, the role of prayer in monastic life, debates about the possibility of earthly perfection, and the economic, cultural, and political impact of Benedictine monasticism on the development of western Europe. We will also examine the progressive reforms and shifting ideas of reform of the institution from the desert fathers of Syria and Egypt in the third century to Francis of Assisi and his followers in the thirteenth. Although not a course in comparative history, students of the monastic and ascetic practices of other religions may find much to interest them.

Instructor: Kathleen Stewart,TuTh3:30-5, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77651

### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies**

Section 2: Belief and the Passions

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 9:30-11, 4 units

COURSE CONTROL NUMBER: 77654

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

Classics 121: Greek and Roman Religion, MWF 2-3 + sec, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 1: The Monastic Tradition in Late Antique and Medieval Christianity

Instructor: Kathleen Stewart, TuTh 3:30-5, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 2: Belief and the Emotions

Instructor: Luca D'Isanto, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

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

Anthro C160: Forms of Folklore, TuTh 12:30-2, 4 units

(Also cross listed with ISF C160.)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 1: The Monastic Tradition in Late Antique and Medieval Christianity

Instructor: Kathleen Stewart, TuTh 3:30-5, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 2: Belief and the Emotions

Instructor: Luca D'Isanto, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

South Asian C140: Hindu Mythology, MWF 11-12, 4 units

(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, 4 units

(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C165.)

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

Buddhism 115: Japanese Buddhism, TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

Buddhism C128: Buddhism in Contemporary Society, MWF 10-11, 4 units

(Also cross listed as South and Southeast Asian Studies C145 .)

Chinese 120: Ancient Chinese Prose, TuTh, 3:30-5, 4 units

South Asian C140: Hindu Mythology, MWF 11-12, 4 units

(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C165.)

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

Hebrew 107A: Biblical Hebrew Texts, Wed. 2-5, 3 units

History C175B: Jewish Civilization: Modern Period

(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C 135 and UGIS C155.)

Tu Th 9:30-11, 4 units

History 178: History of the Holocaust, TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

Near Eastern Studies 136: History & Historiography: Hebrew Bible, TuTh 11-12:30, 3 units

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

Anthropology 181, Middle East & Islam, TuTh 12:30-2, 4 units

Near Eastern Studies 175: History & Culture of Afghanistan, TuTh 11-12:30, 3 units

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

History 155B: Medieval Europe: From the Investiture Conflict to the Fifteenth Century, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

Italian 109: Dante's Commedia (in Italian), TuTh 9:30-11

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 1: The Monastic Tradition in Late Antique and Medieval Christianity

Instructor: Kathleen Stewart, MWF 3-4, 4 units

**OTHER RELATED COURSES:**

African American Studies 135: Caribbean Cultural History, Tu 2-5, 3 units

Anthropology 189A, section 2: Religion and Politics in Europe and North America, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

Energy and Resources 190, Section 1: Religion, Science and the Ecological Crisis in Postmodern America

Instructor: Richard Norgaard, TuTh 3:30-5, 4 units

Celtic Studies C168: Celtic Mythology and Oral Tradition, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units  
(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C109.)

Near Eastern Studies C103: Religion of Ancient Egypt, TuTh 2-3:30, 3 units  
(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C103.)

Philosophy 104: Ethical Theories, TuTh 2-3:30 + sec, 4 units

Scandinavian C160: Scandinavian Myth and Religion, MWF 10-11, 4 units  
(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C108.)

**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 Traditional Asian Cultures, MW 4-5:30 +sec, 4 units

Near Eastern Studies 10: Intro. to the Near East, MWF 9-10 +sec, 4 units

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