

Religious Studies

Home

The Major

(as of October 31, 2006)

Courses

Spring 2014

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: 301 CAMPBELL HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Fall 2013

BERKELEY, CA 94720

Summer 2013

510-642-2363

Past Courses

All courses are 4 units unless otherwise noted

Spring 2013

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 90A: Introductory Topics in Religious Studies

Fall 2012

Topic: Saints' Lives and Other Lives in Late-Antique and Medieval Christianity

Summer 2012

** Archived*

This course will discuss how the phenomenon and the shape of individual human lives--that is, both the span of finite, mortal life and the "life-story"--are conceptualized in the earlier centuries of western Christianity, and how they are given formal expression in biographical writing (chiefly saints' lives) and in autobiography. We will be studying both incontestably great works (like Augustine's **Confessions** and Eadmer's **Life** of St. Anselm) and odder, more minor ones, written mostly between the third century and the thirteenth. From the vantage of these works and the questions they raise (about selfhood, belief and choice, the coherence and interpretability of lives, foundations of authority, and other matters), we will get some sense of the developments in both theological thinking and literary technique through these centuries of Christian thought. Instructor: Steven Justice, TuTh 12:30-2, 4 units

People

Resources

Events

Undergraduate
Student
Learning
Initiative

-GSI-
Job Listing &
Recruitment

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C118: Western Mysticism: Religion, Art, and Literature

Also cross-listed as German C113

The course will focus on examples of mystical thought from the traditions of Christian and Jewish mysticism since the Middle Ages. In addition to the introduction of the students to basic texts and concepts we will discuss the effects of mystical thought on art and literature from the Middle Ages up to today.

Instructor: Niklaus Largier, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

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, MWF 1-2, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C166: Hindu Mythology: India's Great Epics: The Mahabharata and the Ramayana

Also cross-listed as South Asian C142. Literary and religious aspects of Hindu myths. Reading of selected mythological texts in translation.

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

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C182: Sociology of Religion

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. Will include a general theory of the nature of religious experience, religious symbolism, and the basis of religious community.

Instructor: Dawne Moon, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 1: 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, Kierkegaard, Tillich, Talal Asad, Pascal, Milbank, Simone Weil and others.

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

Instructor: Luca D'Isanto, TuTh 3:30-5: 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 2: Introduction to Islamic Thought and Civilization

This is an introductory course on Islamic thought and civilization, which assumes that the students have little or no knowledge of the subject material. The course goals are to introduce the students to the ideas that shaped Islamic history from the earliest periods to the present and to train students on methods of inquiry in the rich Islamic tradition. To accomplish our academic goals the course will trace the early pre-Islamic period in Arabia and the condition prevalent at the time of the inception of Islam. The life of Prophet Muhammad (PBBU) will be explored in depth and various sources of historical record will be examined. In addition, the course will cover the basic belief system, rituals, mystical traditions and Islamic societal interaction will be examined with ample references from the Qur'an and prophetic statements. The early development of the main schools of law in both the Sunni and Shia communities, their interpretations and differing approaches to addressing theological questions. While this course is not intended to be a discussion of contemporary issues in the world, however at times it would be the more correct academic approach to begin our investigation through an immediate response to the headlines. Instructor: Hatem Bazian, MW 4-5:30 , 4 units

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

German C113: Western Mysticism: Religion, Art, and Literature

Also cross-listed as Religious Studies C118.

Instructor: Niklaus Largier, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

Religious Studies 190, sec. 1: Atheism and the Justification of Religious Belief

Instructor: Luca D'Isanto, TuTh 3:30-5, 4 units

Religious Studies 190, sec. 2: Introduction to Islamic Thought and Civilization

Instructor: Hatem Bazian, MW 4-5:30 , 4 units

Sociology C112: Sociology of Religion

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C182.

Instructor: Dawne Moon, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

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

Religious Studies 190, sec. 1: Atheism and the Justification of Religious Belief

Instructor: Luca D'Isanto, TuTh 3:30-5, 4 units

Religious Studies 190, sec. 2: Introduction to Islamic Thought and Civilization

Instructor: Hatem Bazian, MW 4-5:30 , 4 units

South Asian C142, India's Great Epics: The Mahabharata and the Ramayana

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C166.

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

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

History of Art 136C: The Art of India: 1350 A.D.to Present

Instructor: Joanna Williams, TuTh 12:30-2, 4 units

South Asian C142: Hindu Mythology: India's Great Epics: The Mahabharata and the Ramayana

Also cross-listed as Religious Studies C166.

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

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

Buddhism 114: Tibetan Buddhism

Instructor: Bogin, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

L&S 160D: Thinking about Not Thinking: Approaches to Buddhist Meditation

Instructor: Robert Sharf, TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

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

Hebrew 106B: Elementary Biblical Hebrew

Instructor: TBA, TuTh 9:30-11, 3 units

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

Anthropology 188: Chinese Muslims: Religious History and Ethnography

Instructor: Reylia Dawuti, MWF 1-2,4 units

Near Eastern Studies 142: Shi'ite Islam

Instructor: Hamid Algar, TuTh 12:30-2, 3 units

Near Eastern Studies 160: Religions of Ancient Iran

Instructor: Martin Schwartz, TuTh 12:30-2, 3 units

Religious Studies 190, sec. 2: Introduction to Islamic Thought and Civilization

Instructor: Hatem Bazian, MW 4-5:30 , 4 units

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

Celtic Studies 170, sec. 1: Celtic Christianity

Instructor: Kathryn Klar, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

English C107: The English Bible as Literature

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C119.

Instructor: Steven Goldsmith, MWF 1-2, 4 units

History 185B: History of Christianity: 1250 to Present

Instructor: Thomas Dandeleit, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

OTHER RELATED COURSES:

Anthropology 162: Topics in Folklore

Instructor: TBA, MWF 12-1, 4 units

Legal Studies 121, Law in the Bible

Instructor: M. Smith, MWF 10-11, 4 units

L&S 160B: Effective Personal Ethics for the 21st Century

Instructor: Jack Phillips, MW 4-5:30, 3 units

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

Instructor: Nick Veldhuis, TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

Near Eastern Studies 160: Religions of Ancient Iran

Instructor: Martin Schwartz, MW 4-5:30, 3 units

Peace and Conflict Studies 100: Peace Theory: Approaches and Analyses

Instructor: Jerry Sanders, TuTh 2-3:30, 3 units

Philosophy 104: Ethical Theories

Instructor: Kolodn, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units`

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 28: The Classic Myths

Instructor: Anthony Bulloch, MWF 3-4, 4 units

Near Eastern Studies 15: Introduction to Near Eastern Art and Archeology

Instructor: Marian Feldman, MWF 11-12, 4 units

Philosophy 6: Existentialism in Literature and Film

Instructor: Hubert Dreyfus, TuTh 3:30-5:00, 4 units

Website: dmurray@berkeley.edu

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