

Religious Studies

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES: 301 CAMPBELL HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY, CA 94720
510-642-2363

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 90B: Introductory Topics in Religious Studies

Topic: Introduction to Hinduism

This course is an introduction to Hindu religious culture, its mythology, sacred texts, rituals and philosophical systems. While emphasizing text and practice in its historical context it also uses specific case studies to help students explore the diversity of Hindu belief in terms of both institutional constructions and how religion is lived in the lives of individuals. This course is intended to introduce beginning students to key concepts and methodologies in the study of religion, while cultivating a well-rounded knowledge of Hindu customs, society, literature and art.

Instructor:Layne Little, TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

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: CL Ausec TuTh 2-3:30, 3 units

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 9:30-11, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C132: Jewish Civilization I: The Biblical Period

Also cross listed as Near Eastern Studies C135 and UGIS C152.

This is the first course in a four-course sequence in the history of Jewish culture and civilization. It covers the biblical period and the period up to the destruction of the second temple. This course will explore the current state of our knowledge, including the legacy of ancient Near Eastern myth and religion, the history of Israelite religion, the literary features of biblical narrative, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Instructor: D E Loepp, TuTh 3:30-5, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C161: Religion in Early India

Also cross listed as South Asian C127.

Designed as a two-semester sequence, these courses are an introduction to the religions that have their origin on the Indian subcontinent--Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and tribal religions--as well as those that originated in other regions such as Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism. Organizing this material

chronologically rather than teaching it by separate religious traditions facilitates comparisons and promotes an understanding not only of the differences among these religions but also some of their commonalities in philosophy, theology, and praxis.

Instructor: X Agostini, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

Religious Studies C166: India's Great Epics: The Mahabharata and the Ramayana

Also cross listed as South Asian C142.

The course entails substantial selected readings from the great Sanskrit epic poems--the Mahabharata and the Ramayana in translation, selected readings from the corpus of secondary literature on Indian epic studies as well as lectures on salient issues in both. Discussion will focus on a variety of historical and theoretical approaches to the study of the poems and their extraordinary influence on Indian culture. Readings will be supplemented with selected showings of popular cinematic and television versions of the epics.

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

RELIGIOUS STUDIES C182: Sociology of Religion

Also cross listed as Sociology C 112.

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: Paula Nesbit, TuTh 5-6:30, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 1: Homer's Gods and Images of War

The course will focus on Homer's Iliad and the manner in which the author relates war-fare to the divine - but also how he describes the effects of war on all involved: animals, humans, gods. Homer's key texts (both of them) will be required reading.

Course-requirements will include a paper and in-class presentations. Knowledge of Greek history and the Greek Gods is useful, but not an essential requirement.

Instructor: Susanna Elm, TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies

Section 2: The Messiah Before Jesus

In this course we will be studying Jewish texts from before and about the same time as the Gospels, exploring how the early ideas about the Christ were part and parcel of Jewish theology at the time. Close study of the rhetoric of some Gospel texts will be undertaken as well, investigating how these texts indicate that Jesus was understood as filling a role already construed as Messianic (including such doctrines as divine-human nature) before Jesus came on the scene. This course has no implications one way or another for Christian or Jewish beliefs but it may change our understanding of how the two are related historically. All texts will be read in English translation.

Instructor: Daniel Boyarin, Tue, 4-7, 4 units

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

Anthropology 158: Anthropology of Religion, TuTh 2-3:30:30, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies, sec. 1: Homer's Gods and Images of War, TuTh 2-3:30

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies, sec 2: The Messiah Before Jesus, TuTh 9:30-11

Sociology C 112: Sociology of Religion, TuTh 5-6:30, 4 units

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C182.

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

Comparative Literature 165, Myth and Literature ("Comparative Mythology: Celtic, Norse, and

Greek"), TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies, sec 1: Homer's Gods and Images of War, TuTh 11-12:30

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190: Topics in Religious Studies, sec. 2: The Messiah Before Jesus, TuTh 9:30-11

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

South Asian C127: Religion in Early India, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C142.

South Asian C142: India's Great Epics: The Mahabharata and the Ramayana, MWF 11-12, 4 units

Also cross listed as Religious Studies C166.

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

Buddhism 114: Tibetan Buddhism, TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

(Also cross-listed as Tibetan 114 and South Asian 114.)

L&S 160D: Thinking about Not Thinking, TuTh 2-3:30, 4 units

South and Southeast Asian Studies 190, section 2: Ethics and Practice of Lay Buddhism, Wed 4-6, 3 units

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

Jewish Studies 101: The Cultural Legacies of the Jews, MW 10-11, 2 units

Near Eastern Studies C135: Jewish Civilization I: The Biblical Period, TuTh 3:30-5, 4 units

(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C132 and UGIS C152.)

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

Anthropology 181: Themes in the Anthropology of the Middle East and Islam, TuTh 12:30-2, 4 units

Arabic 108, Islamic Religious and Philosophical Texts in Arabic, TuTh 3:30-5, 3 units

Near Eastern Studies 140: Topics in Islamic Thought and Institutions, MWF 9-10, 3 units

Near Eastern Studies 143B: Islam in Iran, TuTh 11-12:30, 3 units

Near Eastern Studies 190D: Islamic Studies, W 2-5, 4 units

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

German C113: Western Mysticism: Religion, Art and Literature, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

(Also cross listed as Religious Studies C182.)

History 185A: History of Christianity to the Crusades, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

OTHER RELATED COURSES:

Celtic Studies 128: Medieval Celtic Culture, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

Chinese 186: Confucius and His Interpreters, TuTh 9:30-11, 4 units

Film 140, sect. 2: Religious Imagination in Cinema, TuTh 12:30-2:30, 4 units

Near Eastern Studies 190A, sec. 2: Topic: Ancient NE Religions, MWF 3-4, 4 units

Philosophy 125: Metaphysics, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

Scandinavian 125: Old Norse Literature, MWF 10-11, 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.)

Buddhist Studies C50: Introduction to Buddhism, TuTh 11-12:30, 4 units

Also cross listed as East Asian Languages C50 and South and Southeast Asian Studies C52.

Classics 28: The Classic Myths, MWF 3-4, 4 units

Classics 29: Introduction to Greco-Roman Magic, TuTh 3:30-5, 3 units

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