Main Religious Studies Courses

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES C90B Introductory Topics in Religious Studies - Topic: Introduction to Hinduism**

- **This course is cross-listed with:** C51

  - **TTh 11-12:30**
  - **Layne Little**
  - **Units (4)**

This course is an introduction to Hindu religious culture, its mythology, sacred texts, rituals and philosophical systems. While emphasizing text and practice in it historical context it also uses specific case studies to help students explore the diversity of Hindu Belief in terms of both …

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES C119 The English Bible as Literature**

- **This course is cross-listed with:** C107

  - **TTh 9:30-11**
  - **Steve Goldsmith**
  - **Units (4)**

Introduction to the English Bible, treated as a literary work.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES C124 The Renaissance and the Reformation**

- **This course is cross-listed with:** History C157

  - **TTh 11-12:30**
  - **Thomas Dandelett**
  - **Units (4)**

This class will examine European history from the fourteenth to the middle of the seventeenth century. Political, social and economic developments during this transitional period will be examined together with the rise of Renaissance culture and the religious upheavals of the sixteenth century.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES C132 Jewish Civilization I: The Biblical Period**

- **This course is cross-listed with:** Near Eastern Studies C135

  - **TTh 3:30-5**
  - **D. Loepp**
  - **Units (4)**

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.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES C161 Religion in Early India**

- **This course is cross-listed with:** South Asian C127

  - **TTh 3:30-5**
  - **S. Baums**
  - **Units (4)**

This class is an introduction to the religions that have their origin on the
subcontinent - Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and tribal religions - as well as those that originated in other regions such as 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 of some of their commonalities in philosophy, theology and praxis.

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

- **TTh 3:30-5**
- Purushottama Bilimoria
- Units (4)

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.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 173AC Gandhi and the Civil Rights Movement in America**

- **TTh 3:30-5**
- Purushottama Bilimoria
- Units (4)

This class surveys the impact of Gandhi's theory and praxis of nonviolence on the African American Civil Rights movement in America. Gandhi and the Pan-African Congress challenged racial and ethnic stereotypes in dominant white cultures and this spread to America as well. The narrative is explored through historical and critical analyses drawing on literature and image media from 1893 to WEB Du Bois and key Black leaders culminating in Martin Luther King’s civil rights struggles.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190 Sacred Buddhist Biography in Japan**

- **TTh 2-3:30**
- Masaki Matsubara
- Units (4)

This course explores a particular narrative genre in the history of Japanese Buddhism: sacred biography. We will concentrate on the biographical and autobiographical writings of founders and reformers of major schools of Japanese Buddhism as well as other important figures in Japanese Buddhist …

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**Methodological Requirement**

*The following courses are approved for the Religious Studies major*

**Rhetoric 105T Rhetoric of Religious Discourse**

- **TTh 3:30-5**
- Units (4)

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 173AC Gandhi and the Civil Rights Movement in America**

- **TTh 3:30-5**
- Purushottama Bilimoria

This class surveys the impact of Gandhi’s theory and praxis of nonviolence on the African American Civil Rights movement in America. Gandhi and the Pan-African Congress challenged racial and ethnic stereotypes in dominant white cultures and this spread to America as well. The narrative is explored through historical and critical analyses drawing on literature and image media from 1893 to WEB Du Bois and key Black leaders culminating in Martin Luther King’s civil rights struggles.
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**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190 Sacred Buddhist Biography in Japan**

- TTh 2-3:30  
  - Masaki Matsubara  
  - Units (4)

This course explores a particular narrative genre in the history of Japanese Buddhism: sacred biography. We will concentrate on the biographical and autobiographical writings of founders and reformers of major schools of Japanese Buddhism as well as other important figures in Japanese Buddhist ...

**Thematic Requirement**
The following courses are approved for the Religious Studies major

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

- This course is cross-listed with Religious Studies C166  
  - MWF 11-12  Units (4)

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 173AC Gandhi and the Civil Rights Movement in America**

- TTh 3:30-5  
  - Purushottama Bilimoria  
  - Units (4)

This class surveys the impact of Gandhi’s theory and praxis of nonviolence on the African American Civil Rights movement in America. Gandhi and the Pan-African Congress challenged racial and ethnic stereotypes in dominant white cultures and this spread to America as well. The narrative is explored through historical and critical analyses drawing on literature and image media from 1893 to WEB Du Bois and key Black leaders culminating in Martin Luther King's civil rights struggles.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 190 Sacred Buddhist Biography in Japan**

- TTh 2-3:30  
  - Masaki Matsubara  
  - Units (4)

This course explores a particular narrative genre in the history of Japanese Buddhism: sacred biography. We will concentrate on the biographical and autobiographical writings of founders and reformers of major schools of Japanese Buddhism as well as other important figures in Japanese Buddhist ...

**Hinduism Emphasis**
The following courses are approved for the Religious Studies major

**South Asian C127 Religion in Early India**

- This course is cross-listed with Religious Studies C161  
  - TTh 3:30-5  Units (4)
South Asian C142 India's Great Epics: The Mahabharata and the Ramayana
- This course is cross-listed with Religious Studies C166
□ MWF 11-12 Units(4)

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Buddhist Emphasis
The following courses are approved for the Religious Studies major

Buddhism C114 Tibetan Buddhism
- This course is cross-listed with Tibetan C114 and South Asian C114
□ TTh 11-12:30 Units(4)

History of Art 134B Buddhist Icons in Japan
□ TTh 12:30-2

L&S 160D Thinking About Not Thinking: Approaches to Buddhist Meditation
□ TTh 2-3:30 Units(4)

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Christian Emphasis
The following courses are approved for the Religious Studies major

English C107 The English Bible as Literature
- This course is cross-listed with Religious Studies C119
□ TTh 9:30-11 Units(4)

History 185A History of Christianity to the Crusades
□ TTh 2:30-3:30 Units(4)

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Judaism Emphasis
The following courses are approved for the Religious Studies major

Near Eastern Studies C135 Jewish Civilization I: The Biblical Period
□ TTh 3:30-5 Units(4)

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Islam Emphasis

The following courses are approved for the Religious Studies major

**Arabic 108** Islamic Religious and Philosophical Texts in Arabic
- TTh 3:30-5  Units(3)

**Near Eastern Studies 140** Topics in Islamic Thought and Institutions
- TTh 12:30-2  Units(3)

**Gender and Women's Studies 142** Women in the Muslim and Arab Worlds
- TTh 12:30-2  Units(3)

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**Other Related Courses**

**Philosophy 7** Existentialism in Literature and Film
- TTh 3:30-5  Units(4)

**Classics 28** The Classic Myths
- MWF 3-4  Units(4)

**Philosophy 125** Metaphysics
- MWF 3-4  Units(4)

**Celtic Studies 129** Aspects of Modern Celtic Cultures and Folklore
- MWF 10-11  Units(4)

**L&S 160B** Effective Personal Ethics for the 21st Century: Awakening at the Center of an Evolving Universe
- MW 4-5:30  Units(3)

**Anthropology 162** Topics in Folklore
- TTh 3:30-5  Units(4)

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