

Religious Studies

Course Offerings – Spring 2009

- RELI 1000 Introduction to Religion - C1/G1, CH/G** Keller, Garrett, Fall
Online (3 sections) Religion is central in shaping culture. While cultural differences stem from religion, many similarities find their expression in religion. Learn about several world religions and the way each understands the world and influences its adherents.
- RELI 2110-01 Introduction to the Old Testament - C1/G1, CH** Garrett
TR 9:35-10:50 Introduces students to the books of the Old Testament and people whose way of life they describe. Pays particular attention to religion of the Israelites, their history and culture. Focuses on different historical circumstances in which the books were written.
- RELI 2150 New Testament Survey** Wood
Online Introduces academic study of the New Testament. Focuses on questions of history, religious and cultural context, occasion and purpose for writing the different books and theological development of early Christianity.
- RELI 2200-01 Contemporary American Religion – C1, D** Newell
TR 9:35-10:50 The U.S. is home to more world religions and to more versions of those religions than any other nation on the planet. Examine how the U.S. has shaped these religions and the impact these religions have had on U.S. society and culture.
- RELI 2450 Traditional African Religion** Keller
Online Just as Africa is a continent of many peoples, it is also a continent of many religions. These religions divide as well as unite the peoples. Focus on the traditional religions that originate in Africa while studying the importation and exploitation of outside religions-especially Christianity and Islam.
- RELI 2500-01 Introduction to Qur'an & Islamic Texts** Ward
TR 1:20-2:35 An understanding of the Qur'an is essential for comprehending so much of the news in our contemporary world. This course surveys the Qur'an and what it has to say about human life and goals, the status of women, relations with non-Muslims, ritual and ethics, Biblical prophets, and much more, and places Islam's Holy Book within the context of both modern scholarship, and of traditional Islamic law, commentary, and Prophetic traditions.
- RELI 3400-01 Religion in the American West** Newell
TR 1:20-2:35 People have conceived of the American West as exile and Promised Land, as New Babylon and New Jerusalem. This course examines the religious history of the complicated place that has been not only the west, but also the north (to Hispanics coming from New Spain and then Mexico); the south (to Russians moving down the coast from Alaska), the east (to Asian immigrants crossing the Pacific), and, of course, the center (to Native Americans who had lived in the region for centuries).
- RELI 4150-01 Iberian Religions** Larsen
T 6:30-9:00 This course focuses on how, from the Middle Ages to the 21st century, these three religions and peoples have interacted with and influenced each other and Iberian culture in general, while spreading their spheres of influence throughout the Old World and into the New. Readings in English from El Cid to Eça de Queirós, from ibn Gabirol to Galdós, from Maimonides to Miró, along with numerous films, as well as units on music and painting.
- RELI 4500-01 Topic: Milton** Nye
MWF 12:00-12:50 No writer has a better claim than John Milton to be master of the English epic, and this course will trace the evolution of his complex poetic genius. We will study the various influences, literary, biblical, political, ecclesiastical, classical, aesthetic, and academic that contribute to that genius, surveying the literature before and after Milton that derives much of its significance from his achievement. But we will concentrate mostly on a careful close reading of his English poetry and prose. His thought and language can be thoroughly exhilarating for a modern reader.
- RELI 4500-02 Topic: Modern Middle East** Ward
TR 11:00-12:15 Surveys the Middle East from 1700 to the present. Emphasizes the demise of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of domination by European colonial powers, transformations in political, social, religious and cultural life, the rise of nationalist movements, the influence of oil, the growth of Islamist political groups and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- RELI 4500 Topic: Modern Middle East** Ward
Online See description for 4500-02
- RELI 4500-03 Death, Dying, & the Ethics of Life** Palmer
M 6:00-8:45 In a death-denying culture, religion & psychology are partners in understanding the stages of dying as well as offering a deeper way to accept the reality of loss. This course charts the way to see death as "natural," & then to look beyond it to religious & non-religious views of passing to a different realm. It ends by exploring the ethics of preserving Life, both for humans & for the whole of a created world. Ethics for Life will be an on-going discussion throughout the semester. No Prerequisites.

