

Religious Studies

Course Offerings – Spring 2010

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| RELI 1000-40,41,42 | Introduction to Religion - C1/G1, CH/G | Keller/Fall/Garrett |
| Online | 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 2080-01 | Holocaust | Messenger |
| TR 9:35-10:50 am | Surveys the destruction of European Jewry and other targeted groups, 1933-1945. The details of the Holocaust, its origins and course and the daily lives of perpetrators, victims and bystanders will form the basis of the course. <i>Cross listed with HIST 2080.</i> | |
| RELI 2110-01 | Introduction to the Old Testament - C1/G1, CH | Flesher |
| TR 8:10-9:25 am | 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 2175-01 | Life & Teachings of Jesus | Neely |
| TR 1:20-2:35 pm | As the Christian Messiah, Jesus played an important role in western history. Nations and people took Jesus' teachings and applied them to their own situations. Go to the earliest evidence and investigate Jesus' life and thoughts; study how he expressed ideas; and how the earliest church recorded the stories. | |
| RELI 2250-01,02 | American Religion I (to 1865) – CH, D | Newell |
| Sec 01 TR, 9:35-10:50am Sec 02 TR, 11-12:15 pm | Traces the history of religion in America through the Civil War. We will pay particular attention to the intertwining of religion and colonialism; the tension between emerging Protestant hegemony and religious pluralism; and the roles religion has played in justifying oppression and pursuing liberty in American history. | |
| RELI 2320-01,40 | History of Islam –C1/G1, CH, and meets Non-Western for A&S | Ward |
| Sec 01 TR, 11-12:15 pm Sec 40 Online | The Media gives the impression of Islam as a religion of "angry young men" who hate. Learn how Islam is a religion of love of God and family, as well as respect for others. Learn how Islam has been practiced through time and what events shaped it. <i>Cross listed with HIST 2320.</i> | |
| RELI 2450-01 | 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. <i>Cross listed with AAST 2450.</i> | |
| RELI 4500-01 | Topic: Medieval Christian Contemplation | Utterback |
| TR 2:45-4:00 pm | Contemplation, in modern times often called mysticism, formed a strong strain in early and medieval Christianity, even though in later centuries it came to be considered a gift available only to a few especially devout monks and nuns. Students experience this important tradition through actual practice as well as learning its historical background. <i>Cross listed with HIST 4990.</i> | |
| RELI 4500-02 | Topic: Moses, Jesus, & Muhammad | Ward |
| TR 1:20-2:35 pm | As "founders" of the religious communities of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, these remarkable leaders left a broad mark on the history and philosophy of humankind. Examine each one's biography within historical context, in sacred literature and "sacred histories," in scholarly debate and popular culture. Explore several perspectives to illuminate how the narratives about each have shaped our world. | |
| RELI 4500-03 | Topic: 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. No Prerequisites. | |
| RELI 4500-04 | Topic: Religion and Gender in American History | Newell |
| TR 2:45-4:00 pm | How have religious beliefs and practices shaped and been shaped by ideas about gender throughout American history? How have people used gender and religion to express inter-group hostility? How have class, race, and ethnicity affected gender and the practice of religion? <i>Cross listed with WMST 4500.</i> | |
| RELI 4500-05 | Topic: Milton | Nye |
| MWF 11:00-11:50 | 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. <i>Cross listed with ENGL 4190.</i> | |

If you would like more information or want to pursue a Minor in Religious Studies, contact the Religious Studies Chair:
 Professor Paul Flesher, Hoyt Hall 309B, 766-2616. Check out the Religious Studies homepage at:
<http://www.uwo.edu/RelStd>

