



FALL 2022 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REL 100: Introduction to World Religions [GPR, GL, MAC Global and Intercultural]

01: MWF 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM: Ashlee Andrews

02: MWF 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM: John Borchert

03: MWF 10:00 AM -10:50 AM: Alyssa Gabbay

04: MWF 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM: Gregory Grieve

05: MWF 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM: Dana Logan

06: MWF 3:00 PM -3:50 PM: Rohit Singh

This course introduces major religious traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will begin with a brief survey of theoretical approaches to the study of religion. Topics of study will include each tradition's historical origins, conceptions of the sacred, rituals and practices, and contemporary trends.

REL 101-01, 02: Introduction to Religious Studies [MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

ONLINE - ASYN

David McDuffie

This course inquires into religion through consideration of forms, patterns, categories, symbols, and practices which characterize various religious experiences.

REL 103-01: Sex, Death, and Spirituality [MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]

MWF 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM ONLINE-SYNC

Ellen Haskell

This semester, our course explores the themes of sex, death, and the body in Judaism and other religious traditions. Topics include sacred sexuality, embodied spirituality, mysticism, martyrdom, reincarnation, and more.

"In fact, if I went back to college today, I think I would probably major in comparative religion because that's how integrated [religion] is in everything that we are working on and deciding and thinking about in life today."

--John Kerry

FALL 2022 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REL 109-01: Religion and Contemporary Culture
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
ONLINE - ASYN
David McDuffie

This course will help students to understand religion as shaped by contemporary social institutions, the arts, politics, and philosophy.

REL 111-01: Introduction to Asian Religion
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
ONLINE - ASYN
Rohit Singh

Comparative study of Asian religions and their contributions to modern religious self-understanding, focusing critically and evaluatively on such patterns of expression as myth, ritual, and social forms.

REL 113: Supernatural Encounters
[MAC Foundations]

01: TR 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM & 02: TR 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

John Borchert

03: TR 11:00 AM -12:15 PM & 04: TR 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Rohit Singh

Concepts of the “supernatural ” have shaped religious imaginaries of cultures/societies throughout history. To gain insights into historical/cultural contexts of these concepts, this course surveys beliefs/practices associated with supernatural beings and forces. The scope of this survey will include, but not be limited to Eastern, Western, and Indigenous Religions.

FALL 2022 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REL 202-01: Hebrew Bible
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
ONLINE - ASYN
Ellen Haskell

This course offers an introduction to the Hebrew Bible and the religion of ancient Israel. Over the course of the semester, we will come to understand this complex text not only as a work of literature but also as the product of distinct cultural and historical environments. We will not read the entire Bible! Rather, we will explore a selection of readings that represent the Bible's main literary genres and themes. Central concerns of the course will be the relationship between history, theology, and ideology in this diverse text, as well as topics in biblical spirituality such as covenant, prayer, prophecy, doubt, and love.

REL 209-01,02: Elements of Christian Thought
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
ONLINE - ASYN
Eugene Rogers

Investigates the coherence of Christian accounts of such topics as the incarnation, trinity, creation, evil, sacraments, the body, and salvation.

REL 210-01: Christianity to the Reformation
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
MWF 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
David McDuffie

Study of classic Christian texts, symbols, rituals, and social movements to the dawn of the Reformation.

FALL 2022 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REL 225-01: Islam
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
MWF 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM
Alyssa Gabbay

The importance of Islam in the politico-religious life of the 21st century can scarcely be overestimated. Yet for many, the roots, practices and tenets of this nearly 1,400-year-old religion are shrouded in mystery. This course provides an introduction to the origins and history of Islam, including the genesis and development of its sacred scripture and monumental institutions of law, theology, and Sufism. It covers challenges posed by sectarianism, modernity and encounters with the West, as well as contemporary Muslim practice and the status of women in Islamic societies. Students will gain an appreciation for the rich diversity of thought and practice characterizing Islam as well as the shared rituals and history uniting its more than one billion adherents. (Counts toward the Islamic Studies Minor).

REL 231-01: Religion in America
[MAC Diversity and Equity]
TR 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Dana Logan

Diverse religious traditions and thinkers that have played a significant role in the history of the United States from Native American beginnings to the present.

REL 242-01: Jews, Bodies, Race
[MAC Diversity and Equity]
MW 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM ONLINE-SYNC
Ellen Haskell

This course explores historical and contemporary understandings about Jews and Jewish bodies. It will disclose global Jewish diversity, investigate historical Western literature that constructs Jewish bodies as different and deficient, and examine Jewish many understandings of the body's role in spirituality. Finally, it will examine the history of "Jew" and "Hebrew" as racial categories in the United States.

FALL 2022 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REL 255-01: Spirituality and the 12 Steps
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
T 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM
Ches Kennedy

This course will address Alcoholism and other substance use disorders on society and individuals. The course will critically examine the dynamics of substance use disorder with an emphasis on the history, spirituality, and practice of 12-step recovery as developed by Alcoholics Anonymous. Interfaith influences on the 12-steps will be considered.

REL 298-01: Thinking About Religion
[CIC College Writing]
TR 11:00 - 12:15
Ashlee Andrews

Critical reflection on the academic study of religion. Evaluation of theories of religion drawn from the social sciences, humanities, and religious traditions themselves through their application to case studies.

REL 324-01: Saints, Cyborgs, Monsters
[CIC College Writing]
R 4:00 PM - 6:50 PM
John Borchert

What can a body do? is a central question to religious thinking: What does it mean to be human? To be non-human? What is a human body? Where are its limits? This course will use fiction, film, and philosophy to look through historical, theological, anthropological, scientific, and literary lenses as it raises questions about human embodiment in relation to religious ideas and practices.

FALL 2022 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

371-01: Topics in Islam: Islamic Thought, Culture, and History
[CIC College Writing]
TR 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
Alyssa Gabbay

This course explores the coming of Islam to India, its growth over time, and the development of South Asian Muslims' cultural, social, religious, and political life from the early medieval period through the 21st century. Emphasis will be placed on the Hindu-Muslim encounter and the competing narratives of antagonism and conciliation that have characterized it for centuries. Why are Hindus and Muslims often at such odds today on the Subcontinent? What roles did temple destruction, cultural synthesis, and syncretism play – or not play – in these encounters? We will meet figures such as Amir Khusraw, a poet who created a central place for India in an Islamic context; Sultan Razia, the first and only woman to rule the Delhi Sultanate; and Emperor Akbar, who showed great tolerance toward Hindus and (according to his enemies) established his very own religion. (Counts toward the Islamic Studies Minor. REL 371 can be taken repeatedly if the topics of the course differ.)

REL 375-01: Religion and Popular Culture: Monsters!
[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]
T 3:00 PM – 5:50 PM
Gregory Grieve

This course examines the relationship between religion and popular culture. We will read foundational texts in the field of religious studies, explore academic writings on the intersections of religion and popular culture, and watch, listen, discuss, and critically analyze television, film, music, sports, celebrity, and other popular cultural movements.

REL 420-01: Internship in Religious Studies
[WI, MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]
M 3:00 PM - 5:50 PM
Dana Logan

Practical experience in a variety of professional settings. Includes 10 hours per week at the internship site, plus regular meetings with a faculty advisor.

MEET THE FACULTY



ASHLEE ANDREWS



JOHN BORCHERT



GREG GRIEVE



ELLEN HASKELL



DEREK KRUEGER



DANA LOGAN



ANDREW MBUVI



DAVID MCDUFFIE



ROHIT SINGH



ALYSSA GABBAY



CHES KENNEDY



EUGENE ROGERS