



UNC
GREENSBORO

Department of
Religious Studies

SPRING 2024
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



SPRING 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**REL 100-01, 81: Introduction to World Religions
[MAC Global and Intercultural]**

81: Dec 11, 2023 - Jan 18, 2024 ONLINE - ASYN

01: Feb 29, 2024 - Apr 29, 2024 ONLINE - ASYN

David McDuffie

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, 81: Introduction to Religious Studies
[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art]**

81: Dec 11, 2023 - Jan 18, 2024 ONLINE - ASYN

01: Jan 08, 2024 - Feb 28, 2024 ONLINE - ASYN

02: Feb 29, 2024 - Apr 29, 2024 ONLINE - ASYN

Gregory Grieve

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

**REL 105-81: Islam and Popular Culture: Ms. Marvel, Movies, and Hip-Hop Hijabis
[MAC Diversity and Equity]**

Dec 11, 2023 - Jan 18, 2024, ONLINE - ASYN

Rohit Singh

Explores how Muslim Americans express their religious identities through comic books, hip hop, movies, and other forms of popular culture.

"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

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REL 109-01: Religion and Contemporary Culture
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
TR 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
David McDuffie

Understandings of religion as shaped by contemporary social institutions, the arts, politics, and philosophy.

REL 112-01: Spirituality, Health, and Wellness
[MAC Health and Wellness]
Feb 29, 2024 - Apr 29, 2024, ONLINE - ASYN
Rohit Singh

This course examines the intersections of spirituality, health, and wellness across diverse cultures and religious traditions.

REL 113-01, 02: Supernatural Encounters
[MAC Foundations]
01: TR 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
02: TR 2:00 PM - 3:15PM
John Borchert

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.

REL 223-01: Hinduism
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
TR - 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Ashlee Andrews

Introduction to the Hindu religious tradition, its myths, rituals, music, social structure, and philosophical thought.

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REL 224-01: Yoga: Theory and Practice
[MAC Health and Wellness]
TR - 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Ashlee Andrews

This course will introduce the broad array of mental and bodily disciplines and philosophies that fall under the term “yoga”. Exploring foundational texts and contemporary yoga communities, we will identify and compare how various strands of yoga understand, define and pursue holistic wellness through bodily and mental disciplines.

REL 225-01: Islam
[MAC Global and Intercultural]
MWF - 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
Alyssa Gabbay

Introduction to origins of Islam and its development as a world religion focusing on doctrine, ritual practices, and community structures.

REL 226-01: Approaches to the Qur'an
[MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art, CIC College Writing]
TR - 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
Alyssa Gabbay

Study of significant themes and stories of the Qur'an, with an emphasis on diversity of interpretations.

REL 230-01: Introduction to the Cultural Study of Videogaming
TR - 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
John Borchert

This course analyzes video gaming and esports cultures and values, as well as how they interact with society in general. This course teaches students the history, methodology, and theoretical approaches to videogaming and esports from various fields and disciplines.

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REL 231-01: Religion in America

[MAC Diversity and Equity]

MWF - 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

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 249-01: Religion and Public Health

[MAC: Health and Wellness, CIC College Writing]

Feb 29, 2024 - Apr 29, 2024, ONLINE - ASYN

David McDuffie

This course examines both the compatibility and conflict between religious perspectives and the scientific foundations of public health. Emphasis will be focused on the cultural influence of religion on individual and community attitudes toward health care practices and how these influence achieving and maintaining public health goals.

REL 250-01: Religious Traditions and the Care of the Earth

[MAC Diversity and Equity]

Jan 08, 2024 - Feb 28, 2024, ONLINE - ASYN

David McDuffie

Examination of the thought, ethics, and practice of major religious traditions and worldviews with regards to the care of the earth. Emphasis on non-Western, indigenous, and ecofeminist traditions.

REL 334-01: American Cults

[CIC College Writing]

MWF 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Dana Logan

This course will explore the history of schismatic religious groups, anti-cult hysteria, and controlling religious authority in American history by focusing on Jonestown, Waco, and NXIVM. This course asks who gets to call a religion a cult, and whether the term is a useful category for cultural analysis.

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REL 368-01: Gender in Hindu Traditions

[CIC College Writing]

TR - 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Ashlee Andrews

This interdisciplinary course is centered around two primary questions: 1) How have Hindu traditions diversely evaluated and conceived of the human body, particularly as a sexed and gendered entity; and 2) How have these evaluations and conceptions shaped both normative Hindu masculinity and femininity, as well as the ways in which Hindu individuals have (sometimes subversively) performed and conceptualized embodied and gendered existence? To answer these questions, we will explore a collection of Hindu practices, cultures and philosophies from a range of historical periods and geographic contexts.

REL 371-01: Islamic Mysticism

[CIC College Writing]

MW- 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Alyssa Gabbay

Mystics try to connect with God during their lifetimes -- they don't want to wait until they die and go to Heaven! Many of the world's religions feature mystical strains, and Islam is no different. Sufism, or Islamic mysticism, is one of the most influential elements of Islamic piety. Sufis produced some of the greatest literature and music in the Islamic world; they also contributed to Islam's political and theological thought and drove much of its expansion. In this course, we will begin by examining the historical formation of Sufism as a movement of asceticism in the early years of Islam. We will then consider Islamic mysticism's medieval expression in its brotherhoods, devotional practices, theological writings, and musical and literary output. Finally, we will examine Sufism in a modern and post-modern context. Readings that include both primary and secondary sources will allow students to engage with Sufism as both a socio-cultural and a religious phenomenon. We will also try out some experiential exercises, like meditating and doing calligraphy. You do not need a background in Islamic Studies to take this course -- all are welcome!

MEET THE FACULTY



ASHLEE ANDREWS



JOHN BORCHERT



ALYSSA GABBAY



GREG GRIEVE



DANA LOGAN



DAVID MCDUFFIE



ROHIT SINGH



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