NEW **Religion 112. Dreams and the Dreaming**  
**Instructor:** Kimberly C. Patton  
**Course Description:** This course will consider the religious role of the dream as initiatory experience, metaphor for aboriginal time, gateway to the other world, venue for the divine guide, healing event, “royal road” to the unconscious, occasion for quest or journey, epistemological paradox, and prophetic harbinger of the personal or collective future. Theories of dreams, the history of dream interpretation, and the relationship of dreams to both myth and ritual will be examined cross-culturally, including the theological and spiritual dimensions of human dreaming. Focus during the first semester is on ancient Greece, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; other traditions will be touched on, including recent research on American dreams.

NEW **History of Science 192. The Empire Strikes Back: Science Fiction, Religion, and Society**  
**Instructor:** Ahmed Ragab  
**Offered jointly as HDS 2195**  
**Course Description:** From the seventeenth century to today, science fiction has reflected the aspirations of scientific innovation and anticipated new discoveries. It has reflected rhetorical practices by which science melds present contexts with futurism, extrapolation, and promissory logics. Authors have engaged with ethical problems, fears about innovations gone awry, and pessimism about the prospects of technological development, all while critiquing views on gender, race, and sexuality, and subverting colonial ambitions while engaging postcolonial aspirations. At the same time, science fiction has engaged religious and spiritual views, both interacting with religious imaginaries and engaging with the role of religion in society and in relation to science. In this course, we trace science fiction through history. We analyze how it has understood science and technology, war and colonialism, sex, race and gender, health and disease. We investigate how it has interacted with religion and influenced social and cultural attitudes. We will read major works in science fiction and understand how they live with and within us. Topics include: time travel, utopias and dystopias, race, gender, and sexuality, religion and culture, embodiment and disembodiment, posthumanism. In addition to novels and short stories, lectures will incorporate film, television, graphic novels, music videos, and other science fictional subgenres.

**History of Science 209. Science and Religion: Debates, Methods and Controversies**  
**Instructor:** Ahmed Ragab  
**Course Description:** Critical examination of different methods and theories in history and philosophy of science and STS (Science, Technology and Society studies) along with discussions of a number of tools in the study and history of culture and religion and how they can be utilized in the study of science and religion; away from the conflict/reconciliation paradigms and towards examining the perceived relations and exchanges of science and religion through analyzing paradigms, discourses, traditions and authorities. The course can serve as a methodological introduction to history and philosophy of science and STS. The course is a research workshop with a focus on training and professionalization and an emphasis on methods tools in academic writing and research. Students work on specific projects throughout the semester from topic selection, question formation, to research and writing to produce a piece of academic writing such as research papers, conference papers, articles, book reviews, prospectus, syllabi, etc.
**Ancient Near East/Israelite**

**GEN ED! Culture and Belief 39. The Hebrew Bible**  
**Instructor:** Shaye J.D. Cohen  
**Course Description:** This course is a survey of the major books and ideas of the Hebrew Bible (commonly called the Old Testament). The course will also treat the historical contexts in which the Bible emerged, and the Bible's role as canonical scripture in Judaism and Christianity.

**Buddhist**

**NEW Religion 74. Introduction to Buddhism**  
**Instructor:** David Eckel  
**Course Description:** A study of the major themes of Buddhist thought and practice, beginning with the origins of the tradition in India and exploring the transmission and development of the tradition in Southeast Asia, Tibet, East Asia, and the modern West. Important themes include the concepts of reincarnation, karma, and nirvana; the legend of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama; the nature of the self; the education of the emotions; and the possibility of liberation. The course will focus on scriptural, literary, and philosophical classics of Buddhist tradition, but it will also consider the tradition of Buddhist art and the formative rituals in Buddhist life, such as meditation, pilgrimage, and monastic discipline. Throughout the course we will consider the relevance of this material to our own views of the world and how we should lead our lives. Note that the course has additional section hour to be arranged.

**Freshman Seminar 32X. Topics in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism**  
**Instructor:** Leonard W. J. van der Kuijp  
**Course Description:** Through the study of Tibetan Buddhism, students will consider important issues of cultural contact by investigating a series of interrelated topics that have played a significant role in Tibetan history and that are connected to Tibet's acculturation to Buddhism in the eighth and ninth centuries. After developing a sense of the historic role of Buddhism in Tibetan life, students will consider the role of Buddhism and the Dalai Lama in contemporary Tibetan culture and society.

**Philosophy 192. Buddhist Philosophy: Proseminar**  
**Instructor:** Parimal Patil  
**Course Description:** Selected topics in Buddhist epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of action, and philosophy of mind. Special attention will be given to arguments that Buddhist philosophers used to defend their views and respond to their critics. In addition to understanding these arguments in their historical contexts, we will ask what we can learn from them today and, when relevant, investigate how they are being used in contemporary philosophy.

**Christian**

**NEW Religion 49. From Gospel to Allegory: Christian Narratives for Living**  
**Instructor:** Mark Jordan  
**Course Description:** The original form for teaching Christians how to live is not law but biography. Indeed, the most revered Christian texts are four versions of a teaching life—the canonical Gospels. Following the authors of the Gospels, many other Christians have offered their most important teachings in related forms. They have told holy lives as examples or wicked lives as warnings. They have described supernatural actions in their own lives. They have imagined lives in allegory and tried to reshape them by inventing new communities. These courses will read a series of primary Christian Texts that are in conversation with each other and the main sources of Christian doctrine.
NEW Religion 58. The Body in Christian Thought
Instructor: Mayra Rivera Rivera
Course Description: The course offers an introduction to Christian ideas about the body, by considering central teachings and areas of debate—including understandings of creation, incarnation, healing, and resurrection. Texts include early Christian literatures, Patristic and medieval texts, Reformation theologies, as well as modern and contemporary authors. The course will help students understand the distinctiveness and diversity of Christian positions on these topics.

NEW Religion 441. Ancient Christian Martyrdom and Its Modern Legacy
Instructor: Karen King
Course Description: The varied ways in which ancient Christians represented persecution in the Roman empire has left a rich and sometimes troubling legacy for the modern world. Their struggles are documented in stories of torture and public execution, revelations from God, treatise exhorting believers to confess, and polemics against fellow Christians who thought otherwise. Some advocated suffering and demonized their opponents, others ascetic withdrawal, pacifism, silent endurance, or even living well as the best witness to God. In the aftermath, they agonized over how to heal traumatized communities. This course will examine this literature and its legacy for contemporary issues such as religious (in)tolerance, torture, and what it means to be fully human.

GEN ED! Aesthetic and Interpretative Understanding 37. Introduction to the Bible in the Humanities and Arts
Instructor: Gordon Tesky
Course Description: A course on the structure of the Bible, which William Blake called "the great code of art." Major themes include the invention of God, the invention history, and the invention of the city (or rather, of two cities, that of the devil and that of God). About two-thirds of the Authorized Version (King James) of 1611 will be read.

NEW Freshman Seminar 32C. The Christian Bible Then and Now: Formations and Debates
Instructor: Laura Nasrallah
Course Description: Politicians, writers, religious leaders, and others today make arguments using the Bible, whether leading with the clause “The Bible says...” or through allusions to or quotations of the Bible. Together in this seminar we’ll learn and practice the analytical tools for addressing such claims. The seminar explores ancient and modern formations and uses of the Christian Bible, including ancient processes of canonization. It also explores how the Bible has been mobilized recently in the U.S. to address issues of sex and sexuality, economics, ecology, race, and slavery.

Freshman Seminar 31N. Beauty and Christianity
Instructor: Robert Kiely
Course Description: Jesus has inspired great works of art, literature, and music, but Christians have not always agreed on the function of beauty. This seminar will consider Christian aesthetics, art (Italian Renaissance), and music (Bach, Messiaen, and spirituals), but the focus will be on literary works of St. Francis, Dante, Herbert, Donne, Hopkins, Hawthorne, Melville, C.S. Lewis, and O'Connor. The abiding question will be: In what ways does aesthetic form—beauty—enhance, qualify, complicate, or obscure the gospel?
**EAST ASIAN**

**GEN ED! Culture and Belief 57: Animated Spirituality: Japanese Religion in Anime, Manga and Film**  
**Instructor:** Helen Hardacre  
**Course Description:** This course addresses the representation of religion in Japanese popular culture, with emphasis on anime, manga, and film. The course examines depictions of religious figures, themes, and human dilemmas in contemporary popular culture as a gateway to understanding the significance of religion in Japanese society and history.

**GEN ED! Culture and Belief 33, East Asian Religions: Traditions and Transformations**  
**Instructor:** James Robson  
**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to the study of East Asian religions. It covers the development of Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism and Shinto. It is not a comprehensive survey, but is designed around major conceptual themes, such as ritual, image veneration, mysticism, meditation, death, and category formation in the study of religion. The emphasis throughout the course is on the hermeneutic difficulties attendant upon the study of religion in general, and East Asian religions in particular.

**East Asian Studies 140. Major Religious Texts of East Asia**  
**Instructor:** Ryuichi Abe  
**Course Description:** This course aims at enabling students to read and analyze in depth major religious texts of East Asia, representing diverse traditions and genres. The course encourages students to take up their reading of texts not only as ways to acquire knowledge on Asian religious traditions, but as practice, labor, and play in which their ordinary way of understanding/experiencing the world and themselves will be challenged, reaffirmed, and renewed.

**HINDU**

**GEN ED! Culture and Belief 28, Hindu Worlds of Art and Culture**  
**Instructor:** Diana L. Eck  
**Course Description:** An exploration of the narratives and arts of the Hindu tradition of South Asia focusing on the great gods_Vishnu, Krishna, Shiva, and Devi_the images through which the gods are envisioned, the temples and pilgrimage places where they are worshipped, and the ways in which they give expression to a profound vision of the world. Readings include the Ramayana, the Bhagavad Gita, the Gita Govinda, the Shiva Purana, and the Devi Mahatmya.

**ISLAMIC**

**GEN ED! Societies of the World 54, Islam and Politics in the Modern Middle East**  
**Instructor:** Malika Zeghal  
**Course Description:** This course examines the origins, ideologies, and political strategies of twentieth and twenty-first century Islamist movements in the Middle East and beyond. We will pay particular attention to the evolution of these movements in the larger historical and political context, up to and including the Arab Spring. We will use primary sources in translation and in Arabic (for those with reading proficiency). There are no language or other prerequisites for this class.
NEW **Freshman Seminar 41H. Islam in Black America**  
Instructor: Marla Frederick  
Much of the study of black religion in the United States has focused on its Christian roots. And, while the predominant impulse of black religious expression in the American context came from Christian worshippers, Muslim adherents were among those first brought to America’s shores under the force and violence of slavery. This course explores the history of Islam among African Americans from the ante-bellum period through the present. It looks at significant moments in the development and transformation of Islam in the US through what Sherman Jackson calls its three “resurrections.”

**Freshman Seminar 37y. Muslim Voices in Contemporary World Literatures**  
Instructor: Ali Asani  
Course Description: What do Muslims think of acts of terrorism committed in the name of Islam, the mixing of religion with politics, the status and rights of women, the hegemony of the "West”? This seminar investigates the viewpoints of prominent Muslim writers on these and other "hot button" issues as reflected in novels, short stories and poetry from different parts of the world. Explores a range of issues facing Muslim communities in various parts of the world by examining the impact of colonialism, nationalism, globalization and politicization of Islam on the search for a modern Islamic identity. Readings of Muslim authors from the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Europe and America.

**Modern Western/Religion of the Americas**

NEW **Freshman Seminar 41H. Islam in Black America**  
Instructor: Marla Frederick  
Course Description: Much of the study of black religion in the United States has focused on its Christian roots. And, while the predominant impulse of black religious expression in the American context came from Christian worshippers, Muslim adherents were among those first brought to America’s shores under the force and violence of slavery. This course explores the history of Islam among African Americans from the ante-bellum period through the present. It looks at significant moments in the development and transformation of Islam in the US through what Sherman Jackson calls its three “resurrections.”

NEW **Freshman Seminar 34c. The Problem of Evil and the Nature of Human Freedom**  
Instructor: Courtney Bickel Lamberth  
From the genocides of the 20th century to the homicides that fill our daily news, evil seems to be part of our ordinary language. But what do we really mean when we use the word "evil" to describe a person, an action, or an event? Why does the word pack an emotional punch that other terms-immoral, wicked, cruel, bad, sinful, unjust-do not? The term evil seems to capture an incomprehensible quality, marking the limits of our understanding, and evading our control. Theologians, philosophers, and creative writers have explored these limits, drawing on their imaginative powers in writing about the meaning of evil. This seminar considers the work of several authors whose writings have shaped the understanding of evil in the modern west: Augustine, Arendt, Dostoevsky, Camus and Flannery O'Connor. Open to Freshmen only.

**GEN ED! Societies of the World 30. Moctezuma's Mexico: Then and Now**  
Instructor: David L. Carrasco and William L. Fash  
Course Description: Explorations of the mythical and social origins, glory days and political collapse of the Aztec Empire and Maya civilizations followed by study of the sexual, religious and racial interactions of the "Great Encounter" between Mesoamerica and Europe. Focus on the archaeology, cosmovision, human sacrifice, divine kingship, the mystery of 2012 and rebellion in Mesoamerican cities and in colonialism. Hands-on work with objects at the Peabody Museum aid in examining new concepts of race, nation and the persistence of Moctezuma's Mexico in Latino identities in the Mexico-US Borderlands.
**African and African American Studies 180x. Race, Class, and the Making of American Religion**  
Instructor: Marla F. Frederick  
**Course Description:** This class explores the ways in which both race and class are implicated in the development and practice of religion in the U.S. Through historical, anthropological and sociological works we explore the theoretical underpinnings of race and class and ponder their influence upon varying expressions of Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

**NEW Religion 51. Religious Liberty: Contested American Stories**  
Instructor: David Holland  
**Course Description:** This course considers the long history of the United States’ engagement with the ideal of religious liberty. From the Puritans’ conception of liberty as the freedom to hold correct beliefs, through Native American efforts to preserve sacred practices, to the current debates over the philosophical impossibility of true religious equality, the course will move across the full sweep of American history on the topic. It examines both the structural relationship of church and state—at federal and local levels—as well as more diffuse cultural attitudes. It combines scholarly literature and primary sources.

**NEW Religion 111. Cultures of Health & Healing: Religion, Medicine & Global Health**  
Instructor: Mara Block  
**Course Description:** What does it mean to “be healthy” and “to heal” in different contexts? What sorts of medical, ritual, or religious expertise authorizes different sorts of healers and forms of healing? What conceptions of human bodies and their capabilities are assumed? These questions probe entanglements of religion and medicine in everyday life. This course focuses on ways in which these issues might inform, challenge, and enrich thinking about global health. We will examine moral and religious histories of the global health movement alongside pressing contemporary questions such as, how do disease epidemics shape religious practice? How does religious belief shape the reception of biomedical technologies? We will consider examples from a range of contexts and traditions. Topics include colonialism, medical missionaries, social gospel and public health, human rights, bioethics, and liberation theology. Throughout the course, we will discuss the relevance of socio-economics, race, gender, and sexuality.

**SOUTH ASIAN**

**GEN ED! Culture and Belief 28. Hindu Worlds of Art and Culture**  
Instructor: Diana L. Eck  
**Course Descriptions:** An exploration of the narratives and arts of the Hindu tradition of South Asia focusing on the great gods Vishnu, Krishna, Shiva, and Devi—the images through which the gods are envisioned, the temples and pilgrimage places where they are worshipped, and the ways in which they give expression to a profound vision of the world. Readings include the Ramayana, the Bhagavad Gita, the Gita Govinda, the Shiva Purana, and the Devi Mahatmya.

**Freshman Seminar 33f: Mind, Matter, Me: Map your way into Philosophy**  
Instructor: Parimal Patil, Alison Simmons  
**Course Description:** Humans clearly have minds; we just as clearly have bodies. This raises many puzzles: Are mind and body two things or one? How are they related to each other and the person called me? In this course, we’ll look at a range of arguments about how to understand mind-body-self relations. Deeply engaging these arguments requires the skills of close reading and argument analysis. To develop these skills, this course will teach Argument Mapping, a practice of identifying and visually conveying an argument’s essential structure. This practice improves precision in thinking both across disciplines and beyond the classroom.
Philosophy 192. Buddhist Philosophy: Proseminar
Instructor: Parimal Patil
Course Description: Selected topics in Buddhist epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of action, and philosophy of mind. Special attention will be given to arguments that Buddhist philosophers used to defend their views and respond to their critics. In addition to understanding these arguments in their historical contexts, we will ask what we can learn from then today and, when relevant, investigate how they are being used in contemporary philosophy.