

Religion 57 Faith and Authenticity: Religion, Existentialism and the Human Condition [Gen Ed EthReas credit]

Courtney Bickel Lamberth, David Lamberth T Th 12:00pm-1:00pm

What is an authentic individual life? How does one find meaning in light of modern challenges to claims about the nature of God, revelation and the soul? Is religious faith compatible with an understanding of historicity and the threat of nihilism? This course introduces central questions in Western philosophy of religion through close reading of fundamental texts in existentialism with some attention to their Christian theological sources. Reading and participatory discussion of text by Plato, Paul, Luther, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus, Heidegger, Bultmann and Tillich.

Religion 97 Sophomore Tutorial [Comparative]

Anne Monius T 1:00pm to 4:00 pm

This course, primarily designed for sophomores and new concentrators in the Comparative Study of Religion, introduces students to theories and methods in the study of religion, focusing on major themes and arguments that continue to define the field. Students will explore the study of religion through several major texts that gave shape to the field as it first emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, then examine the continuing resonance of those early works in contemporary scholarship. Particular attention will be paid throughout to the inherently interdisciplinary nature of the study of religion. The course emphasizes the development of critical reading and interpretive skills, as well as thoughtful participation in discussion and the refinement of academic writing skills.

AESTHINT 36: Buddhism and Japanese Culture

Ryuichi Abe T Th 2:00 – 3:00 PM

This course is designed to enable students to analyze a wide range of Japanese cultural creations—including the traditional Noh theater, modern Japanese paintings, and contemporary anime—by illustrating the influence of Buddhism both on their forms and at their depths. The first part of the course is a study of major Buddhist philosophy and its impact on Japanese literature. The second part observes Buddhist ritual practices and their significance for Japanese performing arts. The last part traces the development of Japanese Buddhist art, and considers the influence of Buddhism on diverse contemporary popular Japanese art media.

CULTBLF 19: Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies

Ali S. Asani T Th 12:00pm – 1:00 pm

The course is an introduction to the fundamental concepts of Islam and the role that religious ideas and institutions play in Muslim communities around the world. Its main concern is to develop an understanding of the manner in which diverse notions of religious and political authority have

influenced Muslim societies politically, socially and culturally. Through specific case studies of countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, the course considers the role played by ideologies such as jihad, colonialism, nationalism, secularism, and globalization in shaping the ways in which Muslims interpret and practice their faith today. The course briefly considers the contemporary situation of Muslim minorities in Europe and the United States.

CULTBLF 23: From the Hebrew Bible to Judaism, From the Old Testament to Christianity

Shaye J.D. Cohen M W F 10:00 am – 11:00 am

The Hebrew Scriptures, what Christians call the "Old Testament" and Jews call the "Bible," are the basis of both Judaism and Christianity. In this course we shall survey how this work of literature, through interpretation and re-interpretation, spawned two different cultural systems. Topics to be surveyed include: canon and prophecy; exegesis and *Midrash*; Shabbat and Sunday; temple, synagogue, church; the Oral Torah and the Logos; sin and righteousness; messiah and redemption.

CULTBLF 33: East Asian Religions: Traditions and Transformations [Comparative]

James Robson T Th 10:00 am – 11:30 am

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. This course, when taken for a letter grade, meets the General Education requirement for Culture and Belief or Societies of the World, but not both.

CULTBLF 60: Religion in India: Texts and Traditions in a Complex Society

Diana Eck M W 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

An exploration of the classical texts, spiritual teachings, epic narratives, and religious movements that have shaped a complex civilization for some three thousand years, from the Indus Valley to today. Readings in primary sources - Vedas and Upanishads, Buddhist and Jain teachings, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavad Gita, Bhakti and Sufi poets, Sikh gurus and Muslim kings. Attention to the creation of a rich and composite civilization and the ways in which these sources continue to be of significance to the understanding of modern India.

ETHRSON 19: The Good Life in Classical India

Parimal G. Patil T Th 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

What is a good life? How does it relate to personal happiness, to being a good ruler, citizen, or lover? What is the relative value of justice, citizenship, loyalty, friendship, personal profit, and pleasure? Is the good life the same for everyone? This course is devoted to investigating how classical South Asian intellectuals approached such questions and to thinking critically about their responses. As we will

see, far from being mere artifacts from someone else's historical past, classical South Asian texts provide powerful frameworks for thinking about our own lives and the ways in which we reason about them.

ETHRSON 20: The Conduct of Life in Western and Eastern Philosophy

Michael J. Puett, Roberto Mangabeira Unger W 1:00pm - 3:00pm

How should we live our lives? A study and discussion of some of the answers that great Western and Eastern philosophers have given to this question. There are no prerequisites other than a willingness to consider a wide range of philosophical ideas and writings.

SOCWORLD 54: Islam & Politics in the Modern Middle East

Malika Zeghal M W 10:00 am – 11:00 am

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. This course fulfills the requirement that one of the eight General Education courses also engage substantially with Study of the Past.

Comp Lit 114 Mysticism and Literature

Luis Giron Negron Th 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Examines trends, issues and debates in the comparative study of mystical literature. Close readings of primary works by Jewish, Christian and Muslim authors from the Middle Ages through the 16th century. Topics include poetry and mysticism; allegory, symbolism and Scripture; body and gender; apophasis vs cataphasis; exemplarity and autobiographism; language and experience. Also examines creative engagement of pre-modern mystical literature in selected works by modern authors (Borges, T.S. Eliot) and literary theorists (DeCerteau).

COURSES OPEN TO UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATES

(INTRODUCTORY AND INTERMEDIATE LEVELS. PLEASE CONSULT THE DUS OR THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE COURSE FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT LEVEL)

Religion 1013 Poetry and Religion

Michael Jackson T 2:00pm-4:00pm

This course explores human experience at the limits of *logos* ('reason,' 'word,' or 'rational principle'), when normal habits of thought and rules of social location are lost or disrupted, when we confront sides of ourselves that ordinarily do not see the light of day, yet from which new modes of consciousness and expression may emerge - a penumbral zone that Wallace Stevens alluded to in his image of 'the palm at the end of the mind,' standing 'beyond thought', on 'the edge of space,' while a gold-feathered bird sings in the palm 'without human meaning, without human feeling, a foreign song.' Several (mainly modernist) poets and poems will be scheduled for discussion (including Wallace Stevens, Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, Elizabeth Bishop, Anna Akhmatova, Philip Larkin, Ted Hughes, Carol Ann Duffy, Sylvia Plath), but students are invited to work with poets of their own choosing.

Religion 1212B Judaism: The Liturgical Year

Jon D. Levenson T Th 11:30am-1:00pm

A continuation of 1212A: An introduction to the Jewish tradition through an examination of its liturgical calendar. To include the ancient Near Eastern affinities and biblical forms of the Jewish holidays; the observance of the holidays in rabbinic law; their characteristic themes as developed in rabbinic non-legal literature; their special biblical readings; the evolution of the holidays over the centuries; and contemporary theological reflection upon them. Emphasis will be placed upon classic texts, with a focus on theological and literary issues. No prerequisite.

Religion 1400 Introduction to the New Testament

G. Bazzana M W 11:00am-12:00pm

The course will offer a historical-critical introduction to the Greco-Roman and Jewish contexts in which the New Testament texts were composed with an additional reference to hermeneutical approaches for their interpretation and to their ideological stakes.

Religion 1437 History of Western Christianity 1100-1500

K. Madigan

M W 4:00pm-5:30pm

This course is designed to provide a historical overview of the Church and society in western Europe from the eleventh through the fifteenth centuries. Thus, this course will investigate high and late medieval Christianity in its social and its cultural context. Narrative and theological story lines to be pursued will include medieval monasticism and other new forms of religious life; heresy and its repression; scholasticism, the university and Gothic architecture; the bid for papal monarchy; means of Christianization; saints, relics, pilgrimage and other forms of popular devotion; the decline of the late-medieval papacy and conciliarism; late-medieval heresy; Christianity and other world religions (especially Judaism and Islam); and late-medieval attempts at reform. We will also be strengthening our skills as interpreters of primary sources. Some attention will be paid to major historiographical issues. No prerequisites.

Religion 1461 Gender, Religion and Scripture [Comparative]

E. Schüssler Fiorenza

M 4:00pm-6:00pm

This course is an introduction to the field of feminist biblical studies. We will discuss the intellectual history and institutional development of feminist biblical studies around the globe and explore different methods of analysis such as gender, queer, or intersectional kyriarchal analyses. We also will explore biblical women's stories such as Sarah, Hagar Mary of Magdala, Phoebe or Thecla as well as discuss the cultural and religious history of women in the 1st century. Lectures, group meetings, discussions, and presentations seek to foster participatory, collaborative and democratic styles of learning.

Religion 1472 The Ethical and Religious Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr.

P. Williams

M 4:00pm-6:00pm

A study of the life, thought, and actions of Martin Luther King, Jr. An ethical analysis of his primary concepts, ideas, and strategies based upon a reading and discussion of his writings and their sources.

Religion 1476 Theologies of the Body

M. Rivera Rivera

T Th 10:00am-11:30am

The body changed theology. How and for what purpose? What does the role of the body reveal about the aims of contemporary theology and its relationship to ethics? This lecture course introduces Christian theology focusing on these questions. We will study theologies written from the Second World War to the present—texts that respond to state violence, economic oppression, and ecological devastation; to wrestle with the significance of race, gender, sexuality, and disability. By turning to the body, these theologies do not merely add an item to the list of themes that theology treats. They transform the way of doing theology.

Religion 1494 Feminist Theory and Theology: Seminar

E. Schussler Fiorenza T 12:00pm-2:00pm

This seminar seeks to provide a space for exploring the intersections of feminist theory with feminist the*logy and Feminist Studies in Religion. We will focus on different feminist categories of analysis, discuss different feminist the*logical directions and explore how their theoretical frameworks, methods and visions are shaped by their different socio-cultural- religious locations and struggles. In so doing we will engage in a participatory democratic style of learning.

Religion 1496 Histories, Theologies and Practices of Christianity

McKanan M W 9:00am-10:00am

This course offers a historical, theological, and practice-based introduction to Christianity. We will explore key episodes in Christian history and central themes of Christian theology, highlighting the diversities of culture, ideology, gender, and practice that have characterized Christianity throughout its history. We will use integrative case studies as well as readings from the disciplines of church history, systematic theology, and practical theology to discover the many insights that emerge at the intersections of these disciplines.

Religion 1519 Religion in the United States, 1865-Present

C. Brekus T Th 10:00am-11:30am

This course is a survey of American religion from Reconstruction to the present. We will ask several related questions. How did religious communities shape social and political movements like women's suffrage, the anti-lynching campaign, the Civil Rights Movement, and second-wave feminism? How did religious communities respond to developments like urbanization, segregation, industrialization, the Great Depression, and the creation of new media? How did ordinary people practice their faith? We will discuss a wide variety of religious communities and movements, including the Social Gospel, Catholicism, Fundamentalism, Judaism, Pentecostalism, New Thought, and the Christian Right. We will also discuss the transformation of the American religious landscape after the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act. In addition to reading major scholarly accounts, we will consult a wide variety of primary sources, including memoirs, sermons, religious periodicals, speeches, and music.

Religion 1529 The Holocaust and the Churches, 1933-45

K. Madigan W 2:00pm-4:00pm

This seminar will approach the Nazi persecution of European Jewry from several disciplinary perspectives. Initially the seminar will explore the topic historically. In these weeks, the seminar will

use a variety of historical materials dealing with the history of European anti-semitism, German history from Bismarck to the accession of Hitler, the evolution of anti-Jewish persecution in the Third Reich, and the history of the Holocaust itself. Sources to be used will include primary sources produced by the German government 1933-1945, by Jewish victims-to-be or survivors, documentary films, and secondary interpretations. The aims of this part of the seminar will be to understand the basic background to and narrative of the Holocaust, to introduce students to the critical use of primary historical sources, and to familiarize them with some of the major historiographical debates. Then the members of the seminar will ponder religious and theological reactions to the Holocaust. The seminar will also consider the historical question of the role played by the Protestant and Catholic churches and theologies in the Holocaust. Throughout the seminar, participants will use various literary and cinematographic sources and test their limits in helping to understand and to represent the Holocaust.

Religion 1538 Liberal and Liberation Theologies in Dialogue

McKanan M W 10:00am-11:00am

This course will explore the possibilities for fruitful interchange between classic liberal theologies and contemporary theologies of liberation. We will begin with major texts of American liberal theology (Channing, Emerson, Bushnell, Rauschenbusch), then turn to the defining liberationist texts (Gutierrez, Cone, Daly), and conclude with several attempts to integrate the traditions.

Religion 1556 Religion and American Pragmatism

David Lamberth M W 10:30am-12:00pm

This course surveys the American pragmatic tradition, attending in particular to views of religion. The first part takes up the classical pragmatic period, reading Emerson, then Peirce, James, Dewey, Jane Addams and Alain Locke. Topics include belief, experience, truth, pluralism, Ethics, society, and the nature and role of religion. The latter half considers late 20th century neo-pragmatism, reading Rorty, Putnam, West, Chopp and Glaude.

Religion 1572 Sex, Gender & Sexuality

Hollywood T 2:00pm-4:00pm

The course will explore the theoretical articulation of sex, gender, and sexuality in twentieth-century theory, particularly in psychoanalysis, philosophy, and feminist and queer theory. Readings will include texts by Sigmund Freud, Simone de Beauvoir, Jacques Lacan, Michel Foucault, Gayle Rubin, Julia Kristeva, Monique Wittig, Judith Butler, Moira Gatens, and others.

Religion 1578 Doubt and Its Detractors: An American History

Holland T 12:00pm-2:00pm

From the flood of responses to Tom Paine's Age of Reason to the current spate of books devoted to the cause of helping the faithful keep their faith, the effort to answer the skeptics and bolster the believers has had a venerable tradition in American publishing. This course traces the American history of that campaign, charting its broad patterns of change and using it as a window onto the religious topography of the United States. Course readings largely consist of primary sources that stretch from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first. The list of works includes such materials as Joseph Butler 1736 essay Analogy of Religion, Natural and Revealed (written in England but eventually influential in the United States) and the popular 2014 film, God's Not Dead. Student work will include a series of book reviews and one longer culminating paper.

Religion 1588 War, Peace & Religion in the United States

Holland

Th 1:00pm-3:00pm

Religious ideas and religious institutions have had a fraught relationship with war in the United States. During the American Revolution, many Protestant preachers actively drummed up support for the war while Quaker meetings renewed their commitment to pacifism. During the Vietnam War, Catholic priests such as Phillip and Daniel Berrigan famously pushed for peace while the Catholic War Veterans association publically endorsed an expansion of the war into Cambodia. Beginning with Metacom's War, and concluding with the current "War on Terror," this course will examine the ways in which religious faith and military conflict have intertwined in the history of colonial North America and the United States. We will read a number of historians working on a broad range of conflicts, including Jill Lepore's writing on Metacom's War, Thomas Kidd's writing on the Revolution, Harry Stout's and Mark Noll's on the Civil War, Jonathan Ebel on the World Wars, David Settje's on the Cold and Vietnam Wars, and more.

Religion 1661 Yoga Sutras in a Comparative Perspective [Comparative]

Clooney

T 2:00pm-4:30pm

This seminar is for students interested in the study of primary Indian/Hindu texts, read in translation and in the context of a comparative dynamic of reading across the boundaries of traditions. The Yoga Sutras and their commentaries will be read along with excerpts from parallels in other South Asian and Western traditions, particularly with respect to their appropriation of yoga.

Religion 1709 Introduction to Buddhist Scriptural Anthologies and their Critical Interpretations

C. Hallisey

T Th 8:30am-10:00am

An introduction to basic issues in reading Buddhist Scriptural Anthologies, both historical and hermeneutic. Special emphasis will be given to issues of intertextuality that the formation of scriptural anthologies generates. Examples of Buddhist scriptural anthologies will be drawn from across the Buddhist world.

Religion 1816 Ismaili History and Thought

Ali Asani

W 1:00pm-3:00pm

This course explores the doctrines and practices of the Ismailis, adherents of a minority branch of Shia Islam that recognizes the continuation of religious authority after the Prophet Muhammad through a particular line of his descendants known as the *Imams*. Focusing on their historical evolution and manifestations in diverse political, cultural and social contexts, the course will consider three major communities: the Nizari Ismailis (in Syria, Iran, Central Asia, and South Asia); the Tayyibi (Daudi Bohra) Ismailis (in Yemen and South Asia) and the Druze (in Syria and Lebanon). Principal themes to be considered include conceptions of the *Imamah* and notions of authority, messianic doctrines, philosophy, ritual practice and devotional traditions. The course will also briefly consider the contemporary situation of these communities as minorities in North America and Europe.

Religion 1829 Readings in Islam and the History of Islam in the U.S. and Europe

L. Ahmed

F 12:00pm-3:00pm

We will read contemporary works in the history of Islam in the U.S. and Europe in the 20th and 21st centuries.

AFRAMER 192xReligion and Society in Nigeria [Comparative]

J. Olupona

Th 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

The seminar examines the historical development of religion in Nigeria and explores its intersection with ethnic identity, culture, and society in pre-colonial, colonial, and contemporary periods. The course provides an understanding of various cultural tradition, historical events, and social forces that have shaped Nigeria's religious express. Many topical issues will be explored such as indigenous religious culture, Christian and Muslim identities, civil religion, and civil society and democratization, as well as religion and politics in present-day Nigeria.