

# RELIGION STUDIES

## Fall 2025

REL 005	<b>Spiritual Exercises in Religion Tradition (4)</b> <b>Prof. Michael Raposa and Prof. Rob Rozehnal</b> <b>(TR, 3:00-4:15pm)</b>	HU, HE
Explores a variety of religious disciplines developed in various traditions, ranging from the practice of yoga and the martial arts to various forms of prayer, meditation, and asceticism.		
REL/JST 030	<b>Beyond Bagels: Jews and Food (4)</b> <b>Prof. Jodi Eichler-Levine (TR 9:20-10:35am)</b>	HU, HE, CC
What does Crisco have to do with Jewish history? What is eco-kashrut? And why do so many Jews eat Chinese food on Christmas? This course explores Jewish life through the diverse history of Jewish foods. From New York deli to matzah ball gumbo, we will dig into a rich stew of diverse Jewish practices, regions, genders, ethics, and rituals.		
REL 066	<b>Religion and the Paranormal (4)</b> <b>Prof. Chris Driscoll (TR 12:10-13:25)</b>	HE, HU
UFOs. Cattle Mutilations. Demonic Possession. Telepathy. Is any of this stuff real? What does real mean, anyway? Ask an "experiencer" and the answer is surely yes, but ask a skeptic and it is all make believe. Following weekly case-studies, students will leave the class with the ability to critically compare various beliefs, and with awareness of the relationship between experience, belief, and what we know about the world.		
REL/JST 070	<b>Antisemitism Past and Present (4)</b> <b>Prof. Hartley Lachter (MW, 1:35-2:50pm)</b>	HU, HE, CC
As a ubiquitously present minority in western Christian societies over time, Jews have served as a foil for western identities in ways that continue to resonate in the modern and contemporary contexts. This course will consider the role that anti-Judaism and antisemitism have played in western culture from the ancient period to the present day.		
REL/JST/COMM 090	<b>Big Questions Seminar:</b> <b>Why is Religion Always in the News? (4)</b> <b>Prof. Hartley Lachter (MW, 3:00-4:15pm)</b>	CC
You don't have to look hard to find religion in the news. Whether it be legacy media like the New York Times, or non-traditional media, every day there are stories that involve religion in some way. The "news," in whatever form it takes, loves to talk about religion and how it relates to current events. This course will explore why religion is such a prominent feature of things that are deemed to be newsworthy. You will also learn how to be a discerning reader of the news, and how sources from the academic study of religion can provide much-needed information for understanding the news of the day.		
REL 095	<b>Religion, Superstition, and Film (4)</b> <b>Prof. Minjung Noh (TR, 10:45am-12:00pm)</b>	HU, HE
What distinguishes the boundary between religion and superstition? Which concepts, bodily rituals, sensory representations, racial dynamics, gender roles, and emotional dimensions are linked to superstition, and conversely, to religion? Furthermore, how do mainstream media and films amplify, exploit, and contest established perceptions of religion and superstition? This course explores the modern boundary-making between religion and superstition through visual media. Open to all levels, the course will discuss concepts such as magic, paganism, New Age beliefs, the occult, spiritualism, shamanism, reiki, yoga, and many other popular spiritual practices.		
REL 096	<b>Muslim Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (4)</b> <b>Prof. Khurram Hussain (MW, 9:20-10:35am)</b>	HU, HE, CC
Despite an overwhelming focus on Islam in the Middle East, most Muslims in the World now live in South, Central and South-East Asia. In this course, we will explore the ongoing evolution of these societies as they deal with the novel opportunities and challenges of globalization in the 21st century. We will also investigate how modern Muslim identities emerge from a complex interplay between religion, culture, and politics.		
REL 097	<b>Dave Chappelle's Blues: Faith, Manhood, and the Healing Power of Comedy (4)</b> <b>Prof. Chris Driscoll (TR, 3:00-4:15pm)</b>	HU, HE, CC
This course examines how religion and humor shape Chappelle's status as both cultural lightning rod and moral compass. Engaging his comedy alongside scholarly texts, students explore religion, health and well-being, and how laughter may really be the best medicine. Assignments emphasize rigorous, courageous, public engagement, from multimedia reflections to mock press conferences, open debates, and more. By exploring Chappelle's body of work alongside scholarship in religion, culture, and society, students develop skills of resilience, adaptability, critical empathy, and thought leadership for diverse professional contexts.		
REL/PSYC 115	<b>Religion and Psychology (4)</b> <b>Prof. Michael Raposa (TR, 9:20-10:35am)</b>	HU, HE
A study of the origins, development and consequences of religion from a psychological perspective. Attention will be given to classic and contemporary sources, with a focus on major psychoanalytic theorists of religion (Freud, Jung, Erikson); psychological analyses of religious experience (e.g., Wm. James, Victor Frankl); and the diverse cultural and religious forms that structure the connection between religion and psychology (e.g., Buddhist psychology, Japanese Morita therapy).		
REL 191	<b>Critics of Modernity (4)</b> <b>Prof. Khurram Hussain (MW, 12:10-1:25pm)</b>	HU, HE, W, WRIT, CC
Many modern thinkers find modernity and its forms of social organization and politics to be deeply troubling. Including both religious and non-religious critiques, this course will explore the varying meanings of modernity and how these thinkers challenge such meanings. Critics including but not limited to Gandhi, Hannah Arendt, Reinhold Niebuhr, Sayyid Qutb, Alasdair MacIntyre and Ruhollah Khomeini.		
REL 198	<b>Religion in Global Contexts (3-4)</b> <b>Prof. Minjung Noh (TR, 1:35-2:50pm)</b>	HU, HE, CC
Serving primarily as an introduction to the academic study of religion, this course surveys some of the most influential theories in the field and employs them to analyze substantive examples of two of the most prevalent and enduring aspects of human culture: religion and society. A wide range of religious traditions, movements, experiences, and personalities will be carefully discussed. This exploration will not only teach us how religion is studied but also what it amounts to in its various forms, from the practices of our earliest ancestors in Africa and Australia to the rich East Asian traditions and the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. Recognizing the significance of human imagination and how fictional literature and film can sometimes convey a truer "sense" of religion than conventional scholarly work, we will draw examples from novels, feature films, historical, sociological, and anthropological articles on the subject		