

REL 097 **Dave Chappelle's Blues: Faith, Manhood, and the Healing Power of Comedy (4)** **HU, HE, CC**
Prof. Chris Driscoll
(MW, 12:10-1:25pm)

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 098 **Happiness and the Good Life in Religion and Philosophy (4)** **HU, HE, CC, W**
Prof. Candace Jordan
(MW, 1:35-2:50pm)

What is happiness? Where and how does one find it? What would it take for our lives to be meaningful? What role should morality play in a life well lived? How is happiness connected to virtue and ethics? To beliefs about the afterlife? To belonging, freedom, or fame? This course explores the question of living a meaningful life by considering the wisdom of philosophers and religious thinkers, past and present. In exploring different conceptions of human flourishing, we will also consider what psychologists, anthropologists, neuroscientists, and artists have to say about happiness and living well.

REL/POLS 126 **Religion, Law and Constitution (4)** **HU, SW, CC**
Prof. Lloyd Steffen
(TR, 12:10-1:25pm)

An examination of the relationship of religion to American law and the United States Constitution. Course will focus on Supreme Court decisions involving the "establishment" and "free exercise" clauses of the First Amendment. Attention will also be given to the intellectual, historical, religious and theological background behind the American experiment in "church-state" separation, including the thought of Roger Williams, the Founders (Washington, Jefferson, Madison), and contemporary analysts (e.g., M. Nussbaum).

REL/GS 140 **Globalization and Religion (4)** **HU, HE, W, WRIT, CC**
Prof. Rob Rozehnal
(TR, 3:00-4:15pm)

This course examines the complexity of globalization and its multi-layered impact on religious identity and piety. Though comparative in methodology and historical framework, the class will give special attention to Islam and Hinduism in South Asia. Topics include: European colonialism; Orientalism and its legacy; religious nationalism; Islamophobia; and the Internet and mass media.

REL/GS 164 **Religion in Global Contexts (4)** **HU, HE, CC**
Prof. Minjung Noh
(TR, 3:00-4:15pm)

This course introduces students to the academic study of religion through influential theories and diverse global examples. We examine how religion shapes and reflects societies across time and place—from the earliest ancestral practices in Africa and Australia to East Asian traditions and the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. By engaging novels, films, and scholarly works, students explore how human imagination and cultural expression reveal the enduring power of religion in shaping meaning, identity, and community in a globalized world.

REL/ASIA 169

**Enlightening Lives:
Buddhist Auto/Biography in Asia and the US (4)
Prof. Annabella Pitkin
(TR, 1:35-2:50pm)**

**HU, HE, CC, W
WRIT**

How do Buddhists imagine a "good life"? Buddhist biographies, autobiographies, poems, paintings, and films from Asia and the US reveal how Buddhists describe an ideal human life, addressing love, art, war, religious awakening.

REL/THTR 177

**Jews and the Broadway Musical (4)
Prof. Jodi Eichler-Levine
(TR, 9:20-10:35am)**

HU, HE, W

The history of American musical theater is deeply interwoven with the history of American Jews. This course examines how Jews have taken part in musical theater on multiple levels-as composers, lyricists, producers, and performers, among other roles. It also examines how Jews are depicted in Broadway musicals, with particular attention to gender and ethnicity.

REL 198

**Anger: Human and Divine (4)
Prof. Candace Jordan
(MW, 10:45am-12pm)**

HU, HE, W

This course examines anger as a topic of philosophical analysis. Surveying a range of ancient and modern discourses, we will think together about the following questions: What is anger? What arouses anger? What motivates the release of anger? Does God get angry? If so, toward what? Does God's anger countenance human anger? We will encounter diverse views on these questions, beginning by exploring how anger was conceived among ancient Greek and Roman philosophers and their influence on modern Christian theologians. Bringing together moral theology, ethics, and moral psychology discourses, this foundation will give us the tools to consider anger's role in contemporary movements for just social change.