



FALL 2022

**REL 007-010
45377**

**What is Religion (4)
Prof. Benjamin Wright & Prof. Michael Raposa**

HU

The word "religion" is fairly recent in origin, its linguistic roots unclear, and the phenomena that it has been used to designate both vast and amorphous. This course explores some of the most prominent attempts to define "religion," definitions produced both by religious thinkers and by critics of religion. We will examine some of the methods used by scholars to study religion. Finally, we will ask how the meaning of the word may be shifting in a modern, secular age.

**REL/ ASIA/ GS 077
45381/45383/45394**

**The Islamic Tradition (4)
Prof. Khurram Hussain**

HU

A thematic introduction to Islamic history, doctrine and practice. Topics include: Qur'an; prophecy and sacred history; ritual practices; community life; legal interpretation; art and aesthetics; mysticism; politics and polemics.

**REL 090-014
43400**

**Buddhism, Psychology, Medicine (4)
Prof. Annabella Pitkin
*First Year Seminar***

HU

How have neuroscientists, Buddhists, and medical practitioners described what meditation does to the brain, mind and emotions? How have Buddhists described what enlightenment does to the mind and body? What are the historical relationships between Buddhism, medical practice, and psychology, in the US and in Asia? Students in this course explore these questions, by examining Buddhist philosophy, psychology, memoir, and art, together with recent research on how meditation and other practices affect brain function, emotional response, and other mental and physical processes. This course is interdisciplinary and is recommended for students with interest in Asian Studies, Health, Medicine, and Society (HMS) and Religion Studies. It may be used for credit in the Religion, HMS or Asian Studies programs.

**REL 090-016
45393**

**Love (4)
Prof. Lloyd Steffen
First Year Seminar**

HU

Love is sometimes thought to be the most important value in life, all that is needed for happiness. Love is identified with beauty, healing, completeness and is for many the highest of human aspirations, even defining, for some, God. But love is also associated with false hopes, illusions and self-deception, as well as with such unromantic material processes as neurological excitations, instincts and adrenaline rushes. This first-year seminar will investigate the many sides of love, examining the ways philosophers, religious thinkers and all manner of students of the human condition have thought about love and the various forms of love, including affection, friendship, erotic love and democratized, impersonal divine love (agape). Seminar participants will ask why love stories fail in so many cases to have happy endings, and why the greatest love stories seem to end in death. They will ask, 'What is this thing called love?' Is it a biological drive, an emotion, a passion? Is it a cognitive-perception process whereby objects (persons) are singled out for special attention, so that love is not so much a feeling as a way of reasoning? Of special interest in the seminar will be issues pertaining to the ethics of love, such as the relation of love to happiness, and whether love is something passive one falls into or whether it is, rather, a way of valuing and choosing. No field work will be assigned.

**REL/ JST/ 111-010
45374/45376**

**Jewish Scriptures/Old Testament (4)
Prof. Benjamin Wright**

HU

The religious expression of the Hebrews, Israelites, and Jews as found in the Jewish Scriptures (TANAK/Christian Old Testament). Near Eastern context of Hebrew religion, the Patriarchs, the Exodus, the monarchy, prophecy, Exile and Return. Emphasis on historical, literary, critical problems, and newer socio-historical methods.

**REL/ GS 140
45301/45306**

**Globalization and Religion (4)
Prof. Robert Rozehnal**

HU, BUG, WRIT

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/HMS/JST/PHIL 151
45398/45400/45402/45403**

**Judaism, Medicine, and Bioethics (4)
Prof. Hartley Lachter & Prof. Dena Davis**

HU

This class traces the relationship between Jews and medicine from 1100 to 2020. How does Jewish religion and culture cultivate an affinity for the healing arts? How does Jewish law, ethics, and culture inform contemporary bioethics?

REL/ ASIA 169
45372/45373

**Enlightening Lives: Buddhist Auto/Biography
in Asia and the US (4)**
Prof. Annabella Pitkin

HU, BUG, 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/ PHIL 197
45618/45617

The Ethics of Attention: Simone Weil & Iris Murdoch (4)
Prof. Michael Raposa

HU

This course explores the philosophical and religious thought of Simone Weil and Iris Murdoch, with a special emphasis on how they understood the role of attention in shaping human thought and behavior. Selected writings produced by each thinker will be examined with the goal of evaluating not only their roots in earlier philosophical perspectives (e.g., Platonism), but also their enduring significance for contemporary theological and ethical inquiry. Since we are living in a high information society dominated by technologies of distraction, the latter objective will be approached with special urgency.