Living and working in a globalizing 21st century requires an understanding of diverse religious and cultural identities. In this course, students will be introduced to the history, ideas, and practices from a wide variety of the world’s religious traditions.

In its vast scope, power, various forms of consumer products, and enormous intellectual property holdings (including Star Wars and the Marvel Cinematic Universe, as well as its recent acquisition of 20th Century Fox), the Walt Disney Company has tremendous influence over modern American—and global—society. This course uses the rubric of "religion" to investigate both the fan culture surrounding Disney and its many properties, and the company’s corporate aspirations, structure and ethos.

In this course we will explore the relationship between religious ideology with acts of violence. By examining a wide range of different instances of religious violence among Christians, Jews and Muslims, along with their accompanying ideologies, we will consider the relationship between religious affiliation, communally shared modes of discourse, and violent conflict.

This class is driven by student interest. Each week, students vote on which bioethics-related news stories they want to pursue. There are short writing assignments, but class participation is crucial. Topics in previous years have included vaccination refusal, "smart" toilets, "Body Worlds", and therapeutic memory erasure.

From reproduction to dying, this course will focus on how ethical issues in science and medicine highlight the role of the family. Issues include assisted reproduction and the role of gamete donors; genetic testing and the problem of misattributed paternity; the locus of decision making when patients are terminal or in pvs. Should our individual-orientated medical culture move toward a more family-oriented perspective?