



# RELIGION STUDIES

## SPRING 2023

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**REL/ASIA/PHIL 010**                      **Introduction to Buddhism: Love, Death and Freedom (4)**                      **HU**  
**14285/14286/14287**                      **Prof. Annabella Pitkin (TR, 15:00-16:15)**

This course will introduce students to Buddhist practices, philosophical systems, and cultural forms, from Buddhism's Indian origins to its spread across Asia and globally. Students will explore how Buddhists have approached the problem of death, the possibility of freedom, and the forms of social and individual love and concern. Course materials include poetry, biographies, philosophical writings, art and film.

**REL 090**                                      **Freshman Seminar: Religion and the Paranormal (4)**                                      **HU**  
**14288**                                      **Prof. Christopher Driscoll (12:10-13:25)**

UFOs. Bigfoot. Ghosts. Cattle Mutilations. Life after Death. Angels and Demonic possession. Psychics, Telepathy, and other "Stuff They Don't Want You to Know." 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. Some of the most well-known religious leaders, and many scholars of religion, too, focus attention on what today we call the paranormal. Debates about the paranormal offer a wonderful window into the study of religion, and the issue of how we understand and study human experience. Are our experiences shared? And if not, are they credible? Are you a believer? And, if so, in what? "The truth is out there," so come join us as we search for it in Religion and the Paranormal.

**REL 040**                                      **Is God Dead?**                                      **HU**  
**14687**                                      **Prof. Christopher Driscoll (TR, 9:20-10:35)**

Is God Dead? Some people think so. Do you? Come decide for yourself. This course looks at the idea of god in Western philosophy and theology, with particular attention to death of god movement(s), and the changing shape of these movements in light of culture wars and identity politics. The course surveys key thinkers to ask questions about the origins, functions, and future of god and gods in the contemporary world. Posed as an ongoing question-Is god dead?



