



# RELIGION STUDIES

## SPRING 2024

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**REL 040** **Is God Dead? (REMOTE ONLY)** **HU**  
**Prof. Chris Driscoll (MW, 10:45AM-12:00PM)**

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?

**REL 066** **Religion and the Paranormal (4) (REMOTE ONLY)** **HU**  
**Prof. Chris Driscoll (MW 3:00-4:15pm)**

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 095** **Love (4)** **HU**  
**Prof. Lloyd Steffen (TR, 3:00-4:15PM)**

This course will investigate the many sides of love, examining the ways philosophers, psychologists, creative writers, religious thinkers, and all manner of students of the human condition have thought about love, myths about love, and the various forms of love, including affection, friendship, erotic love, self-love and impersonal divine love (agape). Attention will be given to love as an emotion, the role of feelings, its relation to compassion and sympathy. To be examined are the ways love is associated with beauty, healing, completeness, even defining, for some, God while also playing a dynamic role in false hopes, illusions, self-deception, and human tragedy.

**REL/JST 121** **Sources for the Life of Jesus:** **HU**  
**The Jewish and Christian Context (4)**  
**Prof. Ben Wright (TR, 10:45AM-12:00PM)**

Ancient sources that claim to provide information about Jesus of Nazareth. Approaches taken to Jesus' life and career; early Christian interpretations of the significance of Jesus; methodology in assessing evidence for the historical Jesus and his message.



