



FALL 2018

**REL/HMS 2-10 DEATH AND DYING: RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL LS
PERSPECTIVES (4)**

44228/44229

PROF. LLOYD STEFFEN

Introduces students to the study of religion, world religious traditions and ethics through an exploration of death and dying. Rituals, practices and texts focused on death provide the basis for comparative study of Asian and Western religious approaches to the meaning and mystery of death as it confronts individuals and communities. Attention will also be given to moral justification for deaths brought about by human actions (i.e., killings). Specific issues include suicide, war deaths, abortion, euthanasia and state-sponsored execution. (HU)

**REL 7-10 WHAT IS RELIGION? (4)
PROF. MONICA MILLER and
PROF. CHRISTOPHER DRISCOLL**

44867

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 world may be shifting in a modern, secular age. (HU)

**REL/JST 90-10 (MIS)REPRESENTING THE BIBLE IN AMERICA (4) BW
FRESHMAN SEMINAR]**

43342 43917

PROF. BENJAMIN WRIGHT

The Bible appears in many contemporary public contexts other than religious ones, film, literature, and politics being the most common. In this course, students will examine how the Bible is used (and abused) in the contemporary world (both in religious and secular contexts), focusing particularly on how the Bible is interpreted and how the Bible's ancient historical and cultural contexts illuminate these interpretations. Possible topics include the Bible and science, the Bible and human sexuality, the Museum of the Bible (Washington, DC). (HU)

**REL/GS 090-11 MUSLIMS AND MEDIA (4) BR
[FRESHMAN SEMINAR]**

44077 43787

PROF. ROBERT ROZEHNAL

Amid the global "war on terror," media coverage of Islam and Muslims dominates news headlines around the world. At the same time, studies show the vast majority of Americans know virtually nothing about

the basic facts of Islamic history, beliefs and practices—and the realities of everyday Muslim life around the world. Using webpages, social media and films, this course explores how Muslims are portrayed in popular media narratives. With attention to a variety of cross-cultural and transnational settings, we also examine how tech-savvy Muslims deploy media to give voice to their own experiences. Topics include: Islamophobia, Islamic law, political Islam and terrorism, gender debates, music and pop culture, artistic and literary expressions, and Sufism. (HU)

REL/HMS/PHIL 116-10 BIOETHICS (4) AY
43801 43800 43799 **PROF. PATRICK CONNOLLY**

Moral issues that arise in the context of health care and related biomedical fields in the United States today, examined in the light of the nature and foundation of moral rights and obligations. Topics include: confidentiality, informed consent, euthanasia, medical research and experimentation, genetics, and the distribution of health care. (HU)

REL/ASIA/GS 119-10 THE PODCAST AND THE LOTUS (4) AP
44218 44219 44220 **PROF. ANNABELLA PITKIN (Writing Intensive)**

Buddhism is increasingly a global phenomenon. Contemporary Buddhist teachers stay in touch with students via podcasts, WeChat, Twitter and Facebook. Buddhists from Singapore, Tibet, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan or Pennsylvania now meet via new technology. This class asks, how is Buddhism now a global religion? What effect has this had? How is Buddhism a “modern” religion? Students explore issues of conversion, modernity, globalization, new technology, migration and travel. Sources include autobiography, film, travel writing, political essays, interviews, social media, ethnography . (HU)

REL/JST/PHIL 129 JEWISH PHILOSOPHY (4) AZ
43561 43562 43576 **PROF. ROSYLN WEISS**

Consideration of how major Jewish thinkers from the first to 21st centuries confronted questions at the intersection of religion and philosophy: the existence and nature of God, free will, evil, divine providence, miracles, creation, revelation, and religious obligation. (HU)

REL/GS 143-10 RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (4) KH
44213 44214 **PROF. KHURRAM HUSSAIN**

Religion has become a renewed political force on the world stage in recent years. This course will focus on how religion has often provided both the Ideological language and the organizing principles for many modern nationalisms. Our exploration of this topic will take the form of case studies from various parts of the world, including but not limited to Pakistan, Israel, No. Ireland, India, Iran and USA. (HU/BUG)

REL 149-10 MODERN ISLAMIC ETHICS (4)
44217 **PROF. KHURRAM HUSSAIN**

This course will focus on developments in Islamic thinking and ethics that emerge from the modern encounter between Muslim societies and the West. We will discuss Islamic modernism and fundamentalism through short primary texts from a variety of modern Muslim thinkers. (HU)

REL/JST/HIST 154-10 THE HOLOCAUST: HISTORY AND MEANING (4) FF
43635 43643 43636 PROF. NITZAN LEBOVIC

The Nazi Holocaust in its historical, political and religious setting. Emphasis upon the moral, cultural and theological issues raised by the Holocaust. (HU, BUG)

REL/GS/JST 161-10 GLOBALIZATION IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN BE
44074 44076 44075 PROF. BENJAMIN WRIGHT

We often think of globalization as a modern phenomenon. Yet as early as the twelfth century BCE, transportation, trade, political and religious networks tied the Mediterranean basin together. This course will examine in three periods-the Late Bronze Age, the Hellenistic period, and the Roman period-how these networks were organized and how they affected a range of Mediterranean and Near Eastern peoples. We will use some modern approaches to globalization as analytical tools for understanding the ancient world. (HU)

REL/JST 174-10 MODERN THEOLOGY (4) MI
44225 44226 PROF. MICHAEL RAPOSA

Major 20th century movements within Christian and Jewish theology understood as responses to the problems of modern times. May be repeated for credit as the subject matter changes. (HU)

REL/JST/THTR 177-10 JEWS AND THE BROADWAY MUSICAL (4) EL
44209 44211 44212 PROF. JODI EICHLER-LEVINE

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. (HU)

REL 187-10 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE RELIGIOUS
44276 IMAGINATION (4) PROF. MICHAEL RAPOSA

Impact of the scientific and technological culture on the Western religious imagination. Roots of science and technology in religious ideas and images. Ways of knowing and concepts of experience in religion and science. (HU)

REL/HMS/PHIL 195-10/11 BIOETHICS AND THE LAW (4) DD
43545 43548 44095 PROF. DENA S. DAVIS

Students in this course will learn something about the foundations and (nontechnical) workings of the American system of justice, and will combine that understanding with a focus on various topics in bioethics, from the "right to die" to gene-patenting. A key point will be the understanding that, as science and medicine continually move forward, there are always new challenges to existing legal understanding. How should the law respond to new questions, e.g. inheritance rights of posthumously conceived children? (HU)

REL/ASIA/ES 254-10

BUDDHISM AND ECOLOGY

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44221 44222 44223

PROF. ANNABELLA PITKIN (*Writing Intensive*)

Buddhism's intellectual, ethical, and spiritual resources are reexamined in light of contemporary environmental problems. Is Buddhism the most green of the major world religions? What are the moral implications of actions that affect the environment? (HU)