



SPRING 2019

REL/GS 11-10 **INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS (4)** **EP**
17723 17724 **PROF. EICHLER-LEVINE**
 PROF. ANNABELLA PITKIN

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. (HU, BUG)

REL 14-10 **“VIRTUAL” RELIGION (4)**
18857 **PROF. KHURRAM HUSSAIN**

The contemporary world is replete with social phenomena that resemble religious thought and practice – sports fandom, trekkies, nationalistic rituals, online gaming, military camaraderie and codes, environmental activism, etc. In this course we will explore and discuss many of these “virtually” religious phenomena through the lens of the study of religion. (HU)

REL/JST 81-10 **JEWISH MYSTICISM (4)** **HL**
19115 19117 **PROF. HARTLEY LACHTER**

This course will examine both the history and the central texts and ideas of the Jewish mystical tradition. We will read a broad range of texts, including the ancient Sefer Yetzirah or Book of Creation, the Zohar, the works of Isaac Luria and his disciples, and the writings of some of the 18th and 19th century Hasidic rabbis. We will also explore the contemporary emergence of Kabbalah and the activities of the Kabbalah Center in contemporary America. (HU)

REL 96-10 **ENGINEERING THE IMPOSSIBLE (4)**
17440 **PROF. CHRISTOPHER DRISCOLL**

In modernity and postmodernity, our good intentions have not always led to good results, and even “good” results come with costs. Engineering the Impossible turns to religious studies to think through the most amazing technological successes and the social, ecological, and economic costs associated with scientifically and technologically engineering the impossible. Using a case study model covering topics including ecology, biomedical research, urban planning/policing, the technological singularity, internet privacy, contemporary eugenics, and cutting-edge military research and development, this course is for anyone who might ever have to ask the question: “Sure, we can make that happen, but should we?”. (HU)

REL 97-10**RELIGION AND THE PARANORMAL (4)**

17784

PROF. CHRISTOPHER DRISCOLL

Government Conspiracies. UFOs. Bigfoot. Ghosts. Cattle Mutilations. Free Energy. Life after Death. Angels and Demonic possession. Psychics, Seances, 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, focused attention on what today we call the paranormal. It turns out, debates about the paranormal offer a wonderful window into the study of religion, and the question of how we understand and study human experience. Are our experiences shared? And if not, are they credible? Following weekly case-studies, students will leave the class with the ability to critically compare various beliefs, and with awareness of the relationship between experience, belief, and what we know about the world. 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. (HU)

REL/HMS/PHIL 116-10**BIOETHICS (4)****BI**

18861 18862 18863

PROF. DENA DAVIS

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/HMS/PHIL 116-10**BIOETHICS (4)****GF**

19467 19468 19466

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/JST 121-10**SOURCES FOR THE LIFE OF JESUS: THE JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN CONTEXT (4)****BW**

18885 18886

PROF. BENJAMIN WRIGHT

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. (HU)

REL/PHIL 124-10**PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (4)****ZB**

17518 17548

PROF. ROSYLN WEISS

A critical look, from a philosophical perspective, at some fundamental problems of religion: the nature of religious experience and belief, reason and revelation, the existence and nature of God, the problem of evil and religious truth. (HU)

REL 125-10**COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS ETHICS (4)**

18887

PROF. KHURRAM HUSSAIN

How have thinkers within the three major Abrahamic traditions handled ethical questions and dilemmas throughout history? This course will focus on many issues including but not limited to violence and pacifism, debates concerning revelation versus reason, the different accounts of

justice and peace, the nature of scripture and the divine. We will look comparatively both within and across these traditions. (HU)

REL/GS 140-10 GLOBALIZATION AND RELIGION (4) BO
18888 18889 **PROF. ROBERT ROZEHNAL (Writing Intensive)**

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. (HU/BUG)

REL/ASIA/GS 145-10 ISLAM AND THE MODERN WORLD (4) BR
17743 17745 17852 **PROF. ROBERT ROZEHNAL (Writing Intensive)**

Examines how numerous Muslim thinkers-religious scholars, modernists, and Islamists-have responded to the changes and challenges of the colonial and post-colonial eras. Special emphasis is placed on the public debates over Islamic authority and authenticity in contemporary South Asia. (HU, BUG)

REL/ASIA/WGSS 173-10 SEX, CELIBACY AND SAINTHOOD: GENDER AND RELIGION IN EAST ASIA (4) AP
18892 18893 18894 **PROF. ANNABELLA PITKIN (Writing Intensive)**

This course explores themes of sexuality, celibacy, gender, and sainthood in East Asian religions. We will pay special attention to the experiences of religious women from many walks of life and time periods, from traditions including Buddhism, Daoism, and shamanism. Through film, poetry, autobiography, philosophical writing, visual art, and descriptions of visionary experience, students will encounter Buddhist and Daoist nuns, lay women, mothers, shamanic healers, oracles, activists, and royalty, from Tibet, Korea, Japan, China, and the U.S.. (HU)

REL/ASIA/MLL 197-10 MONKEY BUSINESS (4) CE
19137 17441 17436 **PROF. CONSTANCE COOK**

Read and discuss in English the premodern Chinese enlightenment odyssey, the Journey to the West, featuring the famous mischievous and magical martial arts master, the Monkey King. Familiarize yourself with a cultural icon that has entertained and inspired since the 16th century and continues to inspire spin-off dramas, comics, acrobatic and TV shows, movies, and video games. (HU, BUG)

REL/HMS 226-10 FROM BLACK DEATH TO AIDS: PLAGUE, PANDEMIC, ETHICS AND RELIGION (4) LS
18896 18897 **PROF. LLOYD STEFFEN**

An investigation into the way religion and morality shape interpretations of plague and pandemics. Three specific pandemics are examined: the bubonic plague of the 14th century, the 1918 influenza pandemic, and the current global AIDS crisis. Moral issues provoked by institutional, political and social responses to pandemic disease are also considered. (HU)

**REL/POLS 350-10/POLS 450-10 RELIGION AND POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE
17990 17951 17952 PERSPECTIVE (4) PH
PROF. NANDINI DEO**

This research seminar attempts to identify the conditions under which religious parties arise and become influential, how religion influences popular understandings of secular politics and the extent to which religion is a necessary feature of modern public discourse. These topics are explored through country specific cases from around the world. (SS)

**REL 374-10 SEMINAR FOR MAJORS (4)
17194 PROF. BENJAMIN WRIGHT**

A capstone seminar for departmental majors. Considers the methodologies of religious studies and assesses current issues in the field. Offers opportunities for in-depth work on a particular tradition under the guidance of a faculty member. Offered in spring semester. (HU)