



FALL 2019

REL 5-10

44397

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS (4)

PROF. MICHAEL RAPOSA AND ROBERT ROZEHNAL

Explores a variety of religious disciplines developed in various traditions, ranging from the practice of yoga and the martial arts to various forms of prayer, meditation, and asceticism. (HU)

REL/GS 11-10

44435 44436

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS (4)

HK

PROF. KHURRAM HUSSAIN

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/GS 62-10

44433 44434

EXPLORATIONS IN DIALOGUE (4)

LS

PROF. LLOYD STEFFEN

Course critically investigates inter-religious dialogue, an important issue in the contemporary academic study of religion. Focus will be on the problem of inter-religious encounter; religion and globalization; different models of dialogue; and the questions of power and identity. At least two traditions will be put into conversation for any proposed offering (e.g., Christian-Buddhist, Jewish-Muslim, Jewish-Christian). (HU)

REL 75-10

44444

THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION (4)

PROF. BENJAMIN WRIGHT

Introduction to the Christian tradition from its early variety and subsequent classical definition in the church councils up to the enlightenment. Special emphasis will be placed on the multifarious interpretations of the Christian message. (HU)

REL/AMST 90-10

42842 44432

AMERICAN GODS AND MONSTERS (4)

JE

FRESHMAN SEMINAR]

PROF. JODI EICHLER-LEVINE

What do we revere as gods in America, and what do we fear as monsters? From Mickey Mouse to vampire lore, we will look in unlikely places to expand our notions of religiosity. (HU)

REL 090-11**BOREDOM AND THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION (4)****[FRESHMAN SEMINAR]****PROF. MICHAEL RAPOSA**

43327

Many people in our modern Western culture appear to have little or no interest in religious matters. Even some people who would identify themselves as “religious” are nonetheless bored with their religion; in general, their religious lives lack any real intellectual or emotional intensity. In the light of these observations, a number of questions can be raised: Is boredom the spiritual crisis of our culture? Is it symptomatic of some culturally induced blindness to the religious significance of things? What is the religious significance of boredom? Indeed, what is boredom, what are its causes, nature, and effects?

Students in this seminar will test some answers to such questions. In the process they will examine some of the social scientific literature about boredom, the reflections of philosophers such as Kierkegaard and William James, medieval theologians on acedia or the sin of sloth, the French poetry of ennui, and Walker Percy’s fictive meditations on the problem of everydayness. (HU)

REL/ETH/HMS/PHIL 90-13**BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS (4)****DD****[FRESHMAN SEMINAR]****PROF. DENA DAVIS**

44446 44465 44452 44464

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. (HU)

REL/ASIA/ETH/HMS 90-14**BUDDHISM, PSYCHOLOGY AND MEDICINE (4)****AP****[FRESHMAN SEMINAR]****PROF. ANNABELLA PITKIN**

44445 44578 44580 44579

How have neuroscientists, Buddhists, and medical practitioners described what meditation does to our brain, mind, and emotions? How have Buddhists described what enlightenment does to the mind and body? What historical relationships link Buddhism, medical practice, and psychology, in the US and in Asia? Do Buddhist ethics and medical ethics complement or contradict each other? Students in this course explore these questions, by examining Buddhist philosophy, psychology, medicine, memoir, and art, together with recent research on how meditation and other practices affect brain function, and other mental and physical processes. (HU)

REL/PHIL 95-10/11 IS GOD DEAD? PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE (4)**CD****PROF. CHRISTOPHER DRISCOLL**

44449 44450

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?-the course is for anyone interested in the idea of god past, present and future. (HU)

REL/ASIA/GS 96-10

**MUSLIM ASIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY: RELIGION,
CULTURE, POLITICS (4)**

KH

44437 44438 44439

PROF. KHURRAM HUSSAIN

Despite an overwhelming focus on Islam in the Middle East, most Muslims in the world now live in South and Southeast Asia. In this course, we will explore the ongoing evolution of these societies as they deal with the novel opportunities and challenges of globalization in the 21st century. We will also investigate how modern Muslim identities emerge from a complex interplay between religion, culture, and politics. (HU)

REL/JST 111-10

JEWISH SCRIPTURES/OLD TESTAMENT (4)

BW

44447 44448

PROF. BENJAMIN WRIGHT

The religious expression of the Hebrews, Israelites, and Jews as found in the Jewish Scriptures (TANAK/Christian Old Testament). Near Eastern context of Hebrew religion, the Patriarchs, the Exodus, the monarchy, prophecy, Exile and Return. Emphasis on historical, literary, critical problems, and newer socio-historical methods. (HU)

REL/HMS/PHIL/ETH 116-10

BIOETHICS (4)

PN

43108 43107 43106 44716

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 195-10

ATHEISM: GETTING RID OF GOD (4)

42959

PROF. CHRISTOPHER DRISCOLL

From Aeschylus to contemporary thinkers like Richard Dawkins, for thousands of years many have tried to kill the idea of god. But can an idea ever really die. This course examines atheistic formations, the rise of secularism, and voices throughout the ages up to the contemporary "New" Atheist movement. Using social theory and the discourses of religion, philosophy, humanism, and popular culture this course will explore questions such as why does the idea of god persist; why is the questioning or abandoning of god so controversial and political; and what social interests lie on both sides of the atheistic/theistic debate and divide? This course explores the social, cultural, and psychological impact of the western world's most enduring idea. (HU)

REL/ASIA/GS 247-10

ISLAMIC MYSTICISM (4)

RR

44441 44442 44443

[WRITING INTENSIVE]

PROF. ROBERT ROZEHNAL

Sufism, the inner or 'mystical' dimension of Islam, has deep historical roots and diverse expressions throughout the Muslim world. Students examine Sufi doctrine and ritual, the master-disciple relationship, and the tradition's impact on art and music, poetry and prose. (HU)

REL/ASIA/ES/ETH 254-10 BUDDHISM AND ECOLOGY

AN

43460 43461 43462 44721

PROF. ANNABELLA PITKIN

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)

REL/ANTH 335-10 RELIGION, WITCHCRAFT, AND SHAMANISM (4)

GE

PROF. STANFORD ZENT

Addresses broad questions about supernatural beliefs as systems of meaning and as practical and moral guides, with a focus on theoretical explanations for supernatural beliefs and the function of religious specialists in the social organization of cultures. (SS, BUD)