RELIGION 170-0-20: Religion in Human Experience
Richard Kieckhefer
MWF 1-1:50pm
Fisk Hall 217

This course will introduce basic questions about religion, focusing on five specific religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Among the questions we will examine are these: how traditions arise and define certain texts and ideas as authoritative; how differences of perception lead to alternative branches within a religious tradition; how religion is manifested in the lives of contemporary individuals and communities; how sacred narratives or myths function within religions; how ideas about sacrifice become transformed; how meditation and contemplation become represented as ways to intensify religious awareness and achieve sainthood; how monotheist traditions relate to other forms of religion; how fundamentalisms arise and function in various religions; how theorists have imagined the origins of religion; how people have argued for a common set of moral norms, or shared mystical experience, as a core that underlies all religion.

RELIGION 230-0-20: Introduction to Judaism
Barry Wimpfheimer
MWF 1-1:50pm
Harris Hall 107

This course attempts to answer the questions, "What is Judaism?" and "Who is a Jew?" by surveying the broad arc of Jewish history, reviewing the practices and beliefs that have defined and continue to define Judaism as a religion, sampling the vast treasure of Jewish literatures and analyzing the unique social conditions that have made the cultural experience of Jewishness so significant. The class will employ an historical structure to trace the evolutions of Jewish literature, religion and culture through the ages.
RELIGION 240-0-20: Introduction to Christianity
Cristina Traina
MWF 9-9:50
Fisk Hall 217

This course explores the history of Christian beliefs, institutions, and practices. It traces the religious practices of the three major branches of Christianity in connection with religious spaces. Finally, it investigates the ways in which American Christianity has been shaped by colonization, immigration, assimilation, and other forces. We will learn how historical traditions combine with contemporary pressures to produce the dynamism and tension in contemporary American Eastern Orthodoxy, Anabaptism, Roman Catholicism, and Black Protestantism. How do differences in belief, class, race, and cultural background correspond with styles of worship and architecture? How have communities adapted their beliefs and practices in new eras and cultural settings? This course involves daily reading assignments, a midterm examination, and a final examination; it also involves a short paper based on an observation of Christian worship conducted during the quarter. Occasional short quizzes will be given in lecture.

RELIGION 250-0-20: Introduction to Islam
Brannon Ingram
MW 12:30-1:50
Swift Hall 107

This course introduces Islam, one of the major monotheistic religious traditions of world history. We will develop a framework for understanding how Muslims in varying times and places have engaged with the prophetic message of the Prophet Muhammad through diverse sources: theological, philosophical, legal, political, mystical, literary and artistic. While we aim to grasp broad currents and narratives of Islamic history, we will especially concentrate on the origins and development of the religion in its formative period (the prophetic career of the Prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an, Islamic belief and ritual, Islamic law, and popular spirituality) and debates surrounding Islam in the contemporary world (the impact of European colonialism on the Muslim world, the rise of the modern Muslim state, and discourses on gender, politics and violence).
RELIGION 333-0-20: Judaism in the Modern World: The Jewish Encounter with America
Rachel Gordan
TTH 3:30-4:50
Kresge 4-310

In this course, we explore the ways in which exposure to American culture has provided Jews with new ways of understanding themselves as Jews. Rather than seeing American culture as something that saps Jews of their Jewishness, we look at how the two might strengthen each other, through the example of Jewish writers who created new ideas of Jewishness, in dialogue with American literature. These writers became some of the most vocal advocates of American literature and wrote works that shaped the American idiom of multiculturalism.

RELIGION 339-0-20: Topics in Judaism: Law as Literature: Interpreting Jewish Law
Barry Wimpfheimer
TTH 1-2:20
Kresge 2-370

Most of the world's legal cultures constitute their laws not only through an original foundational set of ideas, but through a continual process through which such ideas are augmented or altered, often through interpretation. This course will focus on the law as a matrix of texts and their interpretation. Drawing on readings in hermeneutics, literary theory and legal theory, this course will consider the law as a genre of literature and attempt to understand the variety of ways in which this literature produces meaning. Examples to illustrate these features of legal literature will be drawn from the corpus of Jewish law, a law that has functioned as a non-statist site of cultural meaning for most of its two millennia of operation.
RELIGION 369-0-20: Topics in American Religion
Sylvester Johnson
TTH 11-12:20
Parkes Hall 224

This course examines the cultural history of American religion and sex. Special attention is devoted to pivotal formations of the early American period and to recent shifts and developments in the American religious imaginary concerning sexuality, morality, and the "culture wars." Regarding the early American period, students will learn about Native American sexual ethics; sexual regulation in the European Christian settler colonies; the influence of slavery ideologies on American sexual practices; and the linkage between theological and social-scientific anxieties over American sex. Regarding more recent historical developments, students will study the significance of sex in religious restoration movements such as Promise Keepers; the role of sexuality in reshaping Catholic-Protestant relations; religious responses to same-sex rights; and the increasing influence of religion and sexuality American electoral politics. The course emphasizes readings in history and culture theory. Students also read primary texts in the form of missionary documents, theological tracts, and legal precedents from early and contemporary periods. Students write weekly response papers and take a midterm and final exam (essay format).

RELIGION 374-0-20: Contemporary Religious Thought
Joseph Moser
TTH 3:30-4:50
Parkes Hall 212

While religious institutions and organizations frequently pioneer and champion discussions of peace, those same institutions and organizations are also sometimes the perpetrators of violence. In this course, through the examples of Rwanda and the Catholic abuse scandal, we seek to understand what violence is, how it appears within religious organizations and individuals, how it affects relationships between individuals, and whether such relationships can be restored after violence has occurred. What does it mean when religious professionals imbued with special trust commit acts of violence? And how can one respond to priests who call for murder, or even commit that murder themselves? How does one address religious sites that have been transformed into places of terror?

This course begins with a consideration of violence itself and the effect it maintains upon human relationships in dialogue with contemporary scholarship in violence and ethics. It then examines the special nature of violence within religious organizations and as committed by individuals through several case studies, including the recent sexual abuse scandal within the Roman Catholic Church and the phenomena of priests-turned-killers within Rwandan Churches in 1994. It will conclude by evaluating the difficult question of how to respond to such violence, and will ask whether reconciliation and restoration of relationship is ever possible in the aftermath.
**RELIGION 384-0-20: Soundings in the Catholic Tradition: Catholic Bodies**

J Michelle Molina  
F 11-2PM  
Library 3670

**Catholic Bodies: Sexuality in History and Theory** The starting point for this course is Michel Foucault's History of Sexuality, Vol. I. Foucault's work situated the Catholic "confession of the flesh" as an important aspect of modern techniques that shaped selves and bodies. How have gendered understandings of the Catholic body been produced over time? The course takes up a history of thought about bodies from the Hellenistic world (Peter Brown's Body and Society), to medieval Europe (Caroline Bynum's Resurrection of the Body), to the bodies of those who participated in what is called "the scientific revolution" (Lawrence, Science Incarnate) to colonial and post-colonial Latin America (Lavrín's Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America; Rebecca Lester's Jesus in Our Wombs).

**RELIGION 396-1-20: Senior Seminar**

George Bond  
TU 3:30-5pm  
Library 3322

In this seminar we will learn and apply methods for scholarly research in religious studies. The goal of the seminar is to facilitate research for a senior thesis. Each student will spend the quarter in deep, critical analysis of one major primary source, capping off the quarter with a substantial paper that incorporates the term's work. This source need not be a written text; it may be a performance, a work of visual art, the student's own ethnographic data, etc. Students will learn the elements of a scholarly approach to religious texts, practices, and artifacts and to secondary texts, research tools, and methods in religious studies. Students who wish to write an honors thesis may continue with Religious Studies 396-2 in winter quarter.
RELIGION 462-0-20: Topics in American Religious History & Contemporary Practice: Storying American
Sarah Taylor
W 1-3:30
Parkes Hall 222

What is the art of "storying" and how does one do it well? This seminar explores examples of artful storying from a variety of perspectives while introducing students to major debates in American religious historiography and encouraging historiographic critique. Turning a critical eye toward author's standpoint, choices of inclusion and exclusion, prioritizing, narrative style, category development and implementation, students simultaneously solidify their knowledge of American religious history while preparing a long-form syllabus for their teaching portfolio and future use. The evaluative framework of this course is specifically designed to further learning in the aforementioned areas, while helping to professionalize graduate students by preparing them for eventual teaching and job talks.

RELIGION 481-1-20: Classical Theories of Religion
Cristina Traina
TH 2-5pm
Crowe Hall 4-138

Generally describe the class here. Include assignment and project information, if desired. This course covers the emergence of the field of religious studies by exploring its early theorists and their impact. Authors covered include but are not limited to Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, Emile Durkheim, William James, Rudolf Otto, Mircea Eliade, E.B. Tylor, and Ludwig Feuerbach. Students will give brief presentations on resources they have prepared for common use and will write a final paper.