

# Department of Religious Studies

## Summer and Fall 2008 Schedule of Classes

Note: 900 sections are for distance education versions of REL courses; seats are limited and enrollment costs are slightly higher

### FALL 2008

#### REL 100.001 40722

##### Introduction to Religious Studies

Ramey, TR 12:30-1:45 ten Hour 30

#### REL 100.002 40723

##### Introduction to Religious Studies

Simmons, TR 2:00-3:15 ten Hour 30

#### REL 100.003 47260

##### Introduction to Religious Studies

Simmons, MWF 12:00-12:50 MA 207

#### REL 100.900 45183

##### Introduction to Religious Studies

McCormick, Distance Education

Examines the function of religion in culture; as a Core Humanities course, the goal is for all students to learn to define, describe, and compare in a non-evaluative manner so as to discover similarities and differences in various forms of human behavior considered to be religious.

#### REL 105.001 40725

##### Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

Simmons, M 3:00-5:30 MA 207

#### REL 105.002

##### Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

Jacobs, TR 9:30-10:45 MA 207

As the honors introduction to the academic study of religion, REL 105 examines in greater detail than REL 100 theories of the historic origin and contemporary social function of religion in relation to wider sets of human beliefs, social practices, institutions, and culture in general. Minimum 3.3 GPA required to register. Carries the Core Humanities designation.

#### REL 110.901 41029

McCormick, Distance Education

This course is an introduction to the books of the Hebrew Bible in their historical settings, with emphasis on textual analysis, literary forms, and their function and use in the past and present. Carries the Core Humanities designation.

#### REL 112.001 48116

##### Introduction to New Testament

Trost, TR 11:00-12:15 MA 308

#### REL 112.901 41030

McCormick, Distance Education

This course is an introduction to the ancient Hellenistic world as the matrix in which Christianity appeared. The course examines the traditions about Jesus that were variously framed and organized in the Gospels, and the writings of Paul. Carries the Core Humanities designation.

#### REL 226.001 47251

##### African Diaspora Religions

Marouan, MWF 11:00-11:50 MA 207

An examination of the spread of religious life in the Americas, emphasizing present institutions and practices, its African roots, its shape and function during slavery, and its development from the period of Emancipation to the present.

#### REL 228.900 45184

##### History of Christian Thought

McCormick, Distance Education

This course examines the major symbolic and theological orientations that have shaped the expression of Christianity in various social and historical contexts.

#### REL 236.001 47253

##### Islam

Ramey, TR 9:30-10:45 MA 308

This course comprises an introduction to the traditions of Islam, including their history, texts, intellectual debates, and contemporary practices.

#### REL 240.001 47254

##### Portraits of the Apocalypse in Contemporary Film

Trost, W 3:00-5:30 MA 207

The question of the end times has long fascinated people; this course examines its contemporary portrait in such films as *Blade Runner*, *The Matrix*, and *The Left Behind*. While these films constitute our basic "texts," conversations will be supplemented with careful readings from the biblical *Book of Revelation* and other scholarship.

#### REL 370.001 45286

##### Advanced Studies in Religion in Culture: Modern Atheism

Murphy, TR 2:00-3:15 MA 210

Starting in 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe, the educated classes began to be openly atheistic, attacking the ruling class and the alliance between religion/state. This course examines the intellectual history of this movement through the texts of its most famous advocates, e.g., Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud, as well as other lesser known but important figures.

#### REL 372.001 47255

##### Advanced Studies in Mid-East & European Religion: Religion & Politics of the Middle East

Jacobs, TR 12:30-1:45 MA 210

The reassertion of religious values for political ends in the Middle East and beyond suggests a need for reconsideration of the process of social change. This course will examine the stories of Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria,

**Majors and Minors: Seats are set aside for you in the 300 and 400 level classes.  
See Ms. Dickey for a permit.**

Iraq, Iran, and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as the concepts of Middle East, Islam, Arab nationalism, Judaism and Zionism as well as the supposed "clash of civilizations" to develop a clearer understanding of a little known but important part of the world and the birthplaces of the world's three dominant monotheistic religious traditions.

**REL 373.001 48118**

**Advanced Studies in Asian Religions: The Invention of Religion?**

McCutcheon, TR 11:00-12:15 MA 210

Using as an example recent controversies in which scholars have been critiqued for their portrait of Hinduism and Indian history, this course examines the wider issues involved in representing others by reading examples of scholarly works that have prompted outrage, and the responses that have been offered by south Asian scholars and members of the south Asian diaspora community.

**REL 440.001 47993**

**Theories of Religion**

Murphy, W 3:00-5:30 MA 210

What is religion? How does it function? What causes it? What does it mean for those who practice it? How is it related to other areas of life, such as politics, ideology, economics, or culture? What are the best methods for studying it? This course will survey classic and contemporary theories of religion which attempt to answer such questions as these. Specific themes and texts may vary with each offering.

**REL 480.001 45287**

**Seminar in Religion in Culture: Fiction of the African/Americas**

Marouan, M 3:00-5:30 MA 210

This course explores religious expressions in literature of the spread of African culture (its "diaspora") by examining literary texts from Africa, the Caribbean, Latin American, and the U.S. The course uses fiction to draw links between these cultures, their shared histories, their beliefs, values and worldviews.

**SUMMER 2008**

See previous course descriptions

**Interim**

**REL 100.001 30548**

**Introduction to Religious Studies**

Murphy, MTWR 12:30-4:30 MA 207

**Session I**

**REL 100.002 33792**

**Introduction to Religious Studies**

McCutcheon, MTWR 10:00-11:45 MA 210

**REL 100.003 33793**

**Introduction to Religious Studies**

McCutcheon, MTWR 2:00-3:45 MA 210

**Full Summer**

**REL 100.900 33133**

**Introduction to Religious Studies**

McCormick, Distance Education

**REL 110.901 32640**

**Introduction to Hebrew Bible**

McCormick, Distance Education

**REL 112.901 32642**

**Introduction to New Testament**

McCormick, Distance Education

**REL 220.901 33898**

**Survey of Asian Religions**

Ramey, Distance Education

**REL 228.900 33135**

**History of Christian Thought**

McCormick, Distance Education



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