101 C  Introduction to Religion  [Sapp & Boesenberg/LC-120]
MWF 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.
A survey of the major world religions and their perspectives concerning ultimate reality, humankind, and the world; contrasts between Asian and Abrahamic religions.

102 P  Problem of God  [Maldonado/MPC-101]
TR 11:00 -12:15 p.m.
The course introduces students to contemporary religious issues related to the concept of God. Foundational to this course is an examination of the religious dimension of human experience and consciousness in relation to a number of historical and contemporary problems and challenges. This course approaches “the problem of God” from the angle of human experience, focusing the various historical, social, and existential determinants of belief. Our discussions will cover a variety of topics, including, but not limited to: globalized religion, the challenge of atheism and humanism, evil and suffering, and an exploration of the historical, social, and theological images of creation and the divine.

121 D  Introduction to the New Testament  [Boesenberg/LC-120]
MWF 11:15 – 12:05 p.m.
An introduction to the history and literature of the early Christian movement. The course will focus on the writings contained in the New Testament. We will read these texts in light of their genre and context and consider both historical and theological issues.

151 H1  Religion and Moral Choices  [Swanson/Ashe 523]
MW 3:35 – 4:50 p.m.
An introduction to major themes and important figures in religious and philosophical ethics. We will read, discuss, and write about ethical issues ranging from abortion to war, including topics such as the death penalty, environmentalism, and stem cell research.

281 P  Introduction to Buddhism  [Ritzinger/LC170]
TR 11:00 – 12:15 p.m.
This highly selective survey will consider the Buddhist traditions from a variety of angles and in several cultural contexts. We will attend to the metaphysics and meditation for which Buddhism is famous, but also to the rituals, relics, and lived religiosity which are too often overlooked. We will situate Buddhist practitioners in their social contexts at certain key historical moments and give attention throughout to the issue of our own perspective and what it means to think across the porous borders of culture in an interrelated world.

300 5H  Religion and Science Fiction  [Newell/MM-119]
W: Wednesdays 3:35 – 6:05 p.m.
This seminar will be an examination of issues surrounding “dystopia” and religion. We will study modern sustainability movements, authentic vs. synthetic nature, bioethics, technology, and their effects on modern spirituality and the future of religion. The objectives of this course are to give students a fuller understanding of the way in which science fiction—particularly what will we define as dystopic literature—is often representative not only of society’s fears about the near future, but also its hopes.

302 O  The Hellenistic World  [Graf/MM-211]
TR 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
After Alexander the Great’s Campaign, the vast territory that he conquered disintegrated into a number of Macedonian dynasties. The examination of the complex world—that stretched from the Aegean to Afghanistan—will emphasize the diffusion and resistance of Hellenic culture among the native peoples of the Near East. Current issues and problems in interpreting the documentary and archaeological evidence will also be a focus. The course is designed to cover the total Hellenistic World and its major aspects.

311 1J  Prophecy and Prophetic Literature in the Hebrew Bible  [Callender/MM-201]
Mondays 5:00 – 7:40 p.m.
The focus will be on prophecy in ancient Israel and Judah and the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible in relation to its ancient near-eastern historical, religious, and social context.
322 F  St. Paul: His Letters and Controversies  
W: [Boesenberg/MM-102]  
MWF 1:25 – 2:15 p.m.  
The heritage, writings, and legacy of the apostle Paul, 
with emphasis given to Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, 
Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon, 
and to the radically different interpretations of Paul in 
both ancient and modern thought.

330 Y2  Caribbean Religion [Maldonado]  
Online  
This course will explore Indigenous, African, and 
Spanish culture and religiosity in the Americas. 
Issues of race, identity, politics, and culture will be 
featured prominently throughout the course.

334 1U  The American Jewish Experience: Hollywood 
and Popular Culture [H. Green/TBA]  
Tuesdays 6:25-9:05 p.m.  
An analysis and interpretation of the 
characterization of the image of the Jew and the 
Jewish experience in American cinema. A 
selection of genres (dramas, comedies, epics, 
biographies) will be examined.

354 4J  Religion and the Problem of Evil  
W: [Swanson/AA-523]  
Wednesdays 5:00 – 7:40 p.m.  
How can religion be good if innocent people suffer 
and there is evil in the world? What do we say in the 
faced of tragedy? Everyone will eventually deal with 
these questions. For thousands of years various 
religions have engaged these enduring issues. Come 
find out what they have learned.

384 R  Karma [Ritzinger/LC-190]  
TR 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Karma lies at the heart of Buddhist thought, serving 
as the linchpin for everything from salvation to 
cosmology. It informs everyday experience and 
inspires the imagination. While many doctrines, such 
as nirvana, have tended to be the concern of the elite 
few, karma has been important for great intellectuals 
and ordinary adherents alike. But what is karma? 
How does it work? And how does one live in a 
karmic universe? Students will engage with karma at 
a doctrinal level, exploring its philosophical 
complexities, but will also encounter it as a socially 
and culturally situated discourse that has developed 
over time. Through a broad consideration of this 
single, simple idea, students will gain an 
understanding of the complexity of historical 
transformation and the multivalency of human 
culture.

403 04  Supervised Reading in Religious Issues or 
403 11  Problems [Callender]

404 1P  Special Topics in Religious Literature or 
Texts: Dying for God [Boesenberg/AA-511]  
TR 11:00 -12:15 p.m.  
The word martyr in Greek means “witness,” but in the 
early Christian communities which experienced 
persecution, the word took on a more precise meaning: 
one who chooses to suffer and die rather than to 
renounce his or her faith. This class will focus on the 
role of martyrdom in Christian identity formation. We 
will explore how martyrdom accounts positioned 
Christians in relation to the Roman Empire, redefined 
dominance and submission, and utilized gender 
imagery in order to present death as victory. Some attention 
will be given to Jewish and Muslim martyrdom as well as to 
martyrdom in the contemporary context.

405 49  Special Topics in Religious or Historical 
Traditions [W. Green/PRC-136]  
Mondays 5:25-8:05

406 S  Special Topics in Religious Issues or 
Problems: Religion and Nature in America  
[Newell/MM-314]  
TR 3:30-4:45 p.m.  
In this course we will look at the way in which 
popular perceptions of American wilderness have 
both influenced, and been influenced by, religion. 
We will begin by looking at how Biblical notions of 
paradise and wilderness shaped the experiences of 
early European settlers in North America; explore the 
way in which the Western frontier first became a 
sight of exploitation, then of sacredness; and examine 
the way concepts such as the science of ecology, 
stewardship, and nature have evolved. We will trace 
the history of the science of ecology in America, 
discuss how the study and preservation of wilderness 
in America has alternately been a religion and a 
science, and explore modern movements that seek to 
unite the two.

409 1E  Special Projects in Religious Issues or 
Problems: Holocaust Survivors Service 
Internship  
Mondays 12:20 – 2:15 p.m. [Rothman/Merrick 119]

409 1Q  Students enrolled in this program provide valuable 
services to Jewish survivors of Nazi atrocities while 
developing their leadership abilities and giving them
an appreciation for the historical significance of the Holocaust. Student participants are matched with local survivors, whom they visit 4 to 5 times each semester over a period of two semesters. Students also participate in academic enrichment meetings several times during the semester for background information, training and problem solving. Students receive academic credit for their participation and are eligible for funds towards travel expenses up to $250 per semester and for a Sue Miller Fellowship at the end of two semesters.

409 49 Special Projects in Religious Issues or Problems: Human Rights and Refugees from the Islamic Lands
W: Mondays 2:00-4:40 p.m. [H. Green/AA-511]
The course’s theme is to address those who have been displaced from North Africa and the Middle East post the colonial period (World War Two). Students will be engaged in collecting the testimonies and stories of these refugees via field internship opportunities. As part of the course, students will learn how to take oral histories. The course is part of an international pilot project, Sephardic Voices, that replicates Spielberg’s Holocaust/Shoah Project but with a focus on Jews, Christians and Moslems from Islamic lands.

451 0 Ethics and Genetics [Sapp & Glaser/AA-523]
H/W: TR 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Foremost among a number of pressing social, ethical, and legal issues that challenge our nation today are questions raised by our rapidly increasing knowledge of genetics and the applications of this knowledge that are already available or are being proposed. This course will look at three such issues—stem cell research, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and genetically engineered food sources—examining the relationship and interaction between scientific/technological progress and religious/ethical values with regard to these three topics. Through lecture, film, guest speakers, and discussion we will explore the scientific background of advances in genetics, religious responses, and ethical values in our culture, and we will consider the close but sometimes puzzling and problematic relationship among religion, science, and ethics in our nation’s public life and the lives of individual citizens.

492 01 Sr. Honors Thesis II [Sapp]

505 4H Seminar in Ancient Studies: Age of Augustus [Graf/LC-182]
Wednesdays 3:35-6:05 p.m.
When Julius Caesar adopted Gaius Octavius, he eventually brought about the transition from Republic to Empire in Rome, and the Augustan Principate. The Age of Augustus saw revolutionary changes that transformed Rome, Romanized the provinces, and witnessed an unequalled era of peace and prosperity across the Mediterranean world. This course will track these developments between 27 BCE and 68 CE, from Augustus to Nero, by analysis of the major sources, films, and a survey of the archaeological remains of the early empire.

INTERSESSION January 2-11

236 88 Cults and New Religious Movements in America [Kling/LC-182]
MTWRF 6:00-10:15 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
This course focuses on modern religious groups in America, so-called “cults” or new religious movements (NRMs), located on the periphery of “mainstream” religion. We will examine the origins, beliefs, attraction, and interactions of the NRMs from a variety of disciplinary perspectives (historical, sociological, and psychological) as well as from a variety of thematic perspectives (potential for violence, “brainwashing,” involvement of women, and charismatic leadership). Our goal is to increase our understanding of certain aspects of contemporary religious activity and the general societal response to them, and hence, of religion in general. Our task is not to commend or condemn particular religious groups, but rather to attempt to reach some understanding of them, first on their terms, then on ours in the appropriate disciplinary contexts.
About the Program

The University of Miami’s new URome program is unique in that it combines the breadth of the American University of Rome’s course offerings with two core courses taught by faculty members from the University of Miami. UM students pay regular UM tuition to participate in the program, plus the URome program fee, which covers housing. All financial aid, including scholarships and loans, is applicable as though students were studying in Coral Gables.

UM faculty will offer two three-credit courses in Rome. Students who participate in the URome program must take one of these courses and may take both. The courses are “All Roads Lead to Rome: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Religion and Rome” (REL 349) and “The Sanctity of Life: Selected Themes from the Ancient World to the Present” (REL 362). Each course carries three Religious Studies credits and is team-taught by faculty members from UM’s Department of Religious Studies and other UM departments.

In addition to taking one or both of the REL courses, UM students may take up to four courses from the curriculum offered by AUR, which emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach by drawing links among various fields of study. Students in International Relations, for instance, engage in the study of history, political theory, government, economics, law, and public administration as they focus on the regions of Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. The Business Studies program has an international focus with opportunities for students to explore the social and cultural ramifications of operating in a global economy. Archeology, Art History, Business Studies, and Italian Studies collaborate to offer programs in The Business of Art, Cultural Heritage Management, and The Italian Business Environment. As these examples illustrate, AUR has a holistic perspective that serves to integrate its course offerings and thus to afford students the opportunity to examine the same subject matter from a number of related perspectives.

Classes at AUR are held Monday-Thursday, giving students a three-day weekend to study, explore the city of Rome, and travel throughout Italy.

AUR Courses: Spring 2014

A complete list of AUR courses that are scheduled for the spring semester of 2014 will be found on the AUR website in the fall of 2013. The list may be viewed or downloaded in a pdf format and the AUR course database searched.


349 01 All Roads Lead to Rome: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Religion and Rome

Rome has long been an axial city, inextricably linked to the rest of the world in multiple ways. Not only has Rome imported the religions of the world but it has also transformed and exported them, along with its own indigenous religions. This course examines Rome’s role as importer, exporter, cultivator, and transformer of religion and the religious life, giving attention to both the past and the present. By the end of the semester students will have increased their awareness of the important elements of the major religions discussed in class—their myths, symbols, rituals, doctrines, moral codes, and artistic expressions—and the ways in which Rome has influenced them.

362 01 The Sanctity of Life: Selected Themes from the Ancient World to the Present

This course examines the religious foundation of the idea that human life is “sacred” and considers a wide range of historical and ethical issues associated with this central concept of Western thought. We will explore the meaning of the multi-faceted phrase “sanctity of life,” including its implications for such ethical and legal concerns as conception, birth, and termination of life; human dignity and human rights; the quality of life; and social justice. Some of the issues considered will include bigotry and prejudice; economic and social injustice; euthanasia, infanticide, and suicide; genocide, holy war, jihad, terrorism, and violence; health care and health costs; human trafficking and slavery; martyrdom and self-martyrdom; social-stratification; aging, death, disposal of the body; and the afterlife, especially in Dante's Inferno. We will consider how “life” is defined and described in different cultures at different times in history, and how religions have influenced these matters.
NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR OR MINOR
IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

To ensure that students who major or minor in Religious Studies gain a well-rounded appreciation of the field of study, the Department requires that they take a specified number of credits in different subject areas. A major in Religious Studies leading toward the B.A. degree requires 24 credits in Religious Studies, passed with a grade of "C-" or higher. At least 12 credits must be earned in courses numbered 300 or above, and at least three credits must be taken in each of the three following subject areas: 1) Religious Texts; 2) Historical Traditions; 3) Contemporary Issues. A major must earn writing credit (W) in at least one course in the department and must take REL 499, Method and Theory in the Study of Religion. An undergraduate minor requires 12 credits, passed with a grade of "C-" or higher. At least six credits must be earned in courses numbered 300 or above, and at least three credits must be taken in each of the three subject areas. Religious Studies 101 or 102 or 103 is required of all majors and minors.

Transfer students who major in Religious Studies must complete at least 12 credits in departmental courses numbered 300 or above in residence at the Coral Gables Campus. Transfers who wish to minor in the department must complete at least 6 credits in the same manner.

COURSES

Religious Studies courses are grouped within the following areas: (1) Religious Literatures or Texts; (2) Religious Traditions or Historical Traditions; (3) Religious Issues and Problems. In some cases, courses may count in more than one area. Such courses are so indicated with the area number following the listed course.

1) RELIGIOUS LITERATURE OR TEXTS

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520          SEMINAR IN NEW TESTAMENT

2) RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OR HISTORICAL TRADITIONS

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502 SUPERVISED READING IN RELIGIOUS OR HISTORICAL TRADITIONS
505 SEMINAR IN ANCIENT STUDIES
530 SEMINAR IN RELIGIOUS OR HISTORICAL TRADITIONS

3) RELIGIOUS ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

102 THE PROBLEM OF GOD (2)
151 RELIGION AND MORAL CHOICES
252 RELIGION AND HUMAN SEXUALITY
334 THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE: HOLLYWOOD & POPULAR CULTURE (2)
338 LATIN AMERICAN LATINO/A RELIGION (2)
343 CATHOLIC LIFE AND THOUGHT (2)
345 RELIGION AND GENDER (2)
347 EXPERIENCING RELIGION: CONVERSION
350 CURRENT ISSUES IN RELIGION
351 RELIGIOUS ISSUES IN DEATH AND DYING
352 RELIGION AND SCIENCE
353 RELIGION AND AMERICAN POLITICS (2)
354 RELIGION AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL
355 RELIGION AND ITS INTERPRETERS (2)
356 MYTH AND RELIGION (2)
357 SEX, GENDER, AND POLITICS (2)
358 RACE AND RELIGION
360 RELIGION AND BIOETHICS
361 RELIGION AND YOUTH IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICA (2)
362 THE SANCTITY OF LIFE
370 ISLAM IN MODERN TIMES (2)
371 ISLAM AND GENDER (2)
375 RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY IN ISRAEL (2)
376 SHI’ISM: RELIGION, CULTURE, AND HISTORY
377 SUFISM: ISLAMIC MYSTICISM (2)
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409 SPECIAL PROJECTS IN RELIGIOUS ISSUES OR PROBLEMS
450 PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION
451 ETHICS AND GENETICS
503 SUPERVISED READING IN RELIGIOUS ISSUES OR PROBLEMS
550 SEMINAR IN RELIGIOUS ETHICS
560 SEMINAR IN CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS ISSUES

GENERAL AREA COURSES:

101 INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION
102 THE PROBLEM OF GOD

RELEVANT COURSES:

103 ONE GOD: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM
491 SENIOR HONORS THESIS I (1, 2, or 3)
492 SENIOR HONORS THESIS II (1, 2, or 3)
499 METHOD AND THEORY IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION

RELIGION AND HEALTH CARE TRACK COURSES:

151 RELIGION AND MORAL CHOICES
1XX RELIGION AND HEALTH CARE
252 RELIGION AND HUMAN SEXUALITY
351 RELIGIOUS ISSUES IN DEATH AND DYING
352 RELIGION AND SCIENCE
354 RELIGION AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL
360 RELIGION AND BIOETHICS
451 ETHICS AND GENETICS
CLA233 ANCIENT MEDICINE

* These courses address specific topics or projects (appearing as a sub-titles) offered by different faculty.

PLEASE NOTE: Only one course co-listed under the rubric of another department may count towards the Religious Studies major or minor.
HONORS OPPORTUNITIES AND AWARDS
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Honors Courses and General Honors

The Department of Religious Studies participates in the University of Miami’s Honors Program and each semester offers at least one course for Honors credit. These Honors courses, which may be taken by all students who are enrolled in the Honors Program, count toward the fulfillment of the requirements for graduation with “General Honors.” With the permission of departmental faculty, Honors students may also transform a regular course (at the 300-level or above) into an Honors course by doing specified additional work. This additional work is detailed on a so-called “pink sheet” that must be signed by the faculty member and submitted to the Honors Program Office by the student before the indicated deadline. For more precise information on the requirements for graduating with “General Honors” and on the regulations regarding “pink sheets,” please contact the Honors Program Office.

Religious Studies majors and minors may enroll in any course offered by the Department of Religious Studies, including Honors courses, provided that they have the necessary prerequisites or permission of the instructor.

Departmental Honors in Religious Studies

The Department of Religious Studies encourages its majors and minors to intensify and deepen their knowledge of religious texts, traditions, and issues through its Departmental Honors Program. The program is designed to give our students the opportunity to explore various topics and problems in religion that are of particular interest to them, to work more closely with faculty in the department, to develop skills in research and thesis preparation, and in some cases to prepare for graduate work in religious studies.

Minimal requirements for the program are as follows: 1) a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.30; 2) a cumulative grade point average in religious studies of at least 3.50; and 3) a thesis that is approved by departmental faculty.

For the determination of honors, cumulative grade point average means either the average of all grades earned at the University of Miami or the combined average of all graded work taken at the University of Miami and elsewhere (whether or not the transfer work is accepted toward a degree at the University of Miami), whichever is lower.

Students have three options for writing the thesis. First, they may take six credit hours of senior thesis (REL 492). Third, in exceptional circumstances, a student’s thesis may be written as part of the requirements for earning six credits in religious studies courses at the 300-level or above.

In all three cases, the thesis must be a single, coherent work of scholarship through which the student earns six credit hours in religious studies.

In addition to completing the written thesis, students must orally present the results of their work to faculty and students at a special honors colloquium to be held during the reading days at the end of the semester.

Graduation Honors: Magna cum Laude and Summa cum Laude

Please check the Honors website: http://www6.miami.edu/UMH/CDA/UMH_Main/0,1770,2619-1;2659-2,00.html#Summa_Magna_Cum_Laude

Awards for Graduating Seniors

Because every significant field of study intersects at crucial points with aspects of religion, the discipline of religious studies is extremely broad. The Department of Religious Studies attempts to offer course work in as many areas as its faculty have expertise. To facilitate the goal of majors acquiring both breadth and depth in their knowledge of religion, the Department divides its courses into three areas: Religious Texts, Historical Traditions, and Current Issues.

Each spring semester the Department of Religious Studies bestows up to five awards on graduating seniors. The two highest awards are presented at both the Honors Convocation and the TAK induction ceremony. The first is the Theta Alpha Kappa Award, typically given to the student who has excelled in all three areas of study offered by the Department. The second is the Honors Day Award, bestowed on the outstanding Religious Studies major, who usually will have excelled in at least two of the three areas of study.

Three additional awards are typically presented at the Theta Alpha Kappa induction ceremony that recognizes excellence in each of the three areas of study offered by the Department.
Since 1995 the Department of Religious Studies has been proud to house the Alpha Beta Upsilon chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK), the national honor society for religious studies and theology. Each spring the chapter inducts eligible faculty, students, and members of the community who have distinguished themselves in the academic study of religion. The chapter presents all student inductees with an honors cord that they may wear at the University’s Honors Convocation and Commencement.

To be eligible for induction into TAK as an undergraduate, students must have a cumulative grade point average in all academic subjects of at least 3.30 and earn an overall grade point average of 3.50 or higher in at least 12 academic credits in Religious Studies. Graduating seniors who are in the process of fulfilling the requisite 12 academic credits in Religious Studies will be considered for induction into the Society, provided that they meet the other criteria. Eligible students are reviewed by the faculty each spring. Those who are approved by the faculty are offered induction into TAK, which is one of the highest honors that the faculty can bestow on majors and minors.

TAK publishes the *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*, which each year features undergraduate papers in all fields of religious studies and theology. The best undergraduate paper is awarded a prize worth $200. For additional information on TAK and the paper competition, please contact Dr. David Kling.

Majors and minors who have achieved academic excellence and have completed 90 credits (12 credits in Religious Studies) are eligible to join TAK. Each spring the chapter inducts eligible faculty, students, and members of the community who have distinguished themselves in the academic study of religion. The chapter presents all student inductees with an honors cord that they may wear at the University’s Honors Convocation and Commencement.

http://thetaalphakappa.net/
**Professor Dulcinea Boesenberg** is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Miami. A native Hoosier, she has degrees from two Indiana schools. After completing her bachelor’s degree at Hanover College, she worked as the Assistant Director of Hanover’s Lilly Vocation Grant. She completed her graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame in Biblical Studies (M.T.S.) and Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity (Ph.D.); her dissertation is entitled “Moses in Luke-Acts.” Her research focuses on the New Testament and Second Temple Judaism; she is particularly interested in the interpretation of Scripture in early Judaism and early Christianity as well as in the ways in which Jewish and Christian communities in antiquity defined themselves.

**Professor Dexter Callender** holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern languages from Harvard University, where he studied Hebrew Bible, ancient Near Eastern history and literature, and myth and myth theory. Professor Callender is the recipient of the 2000 Provost’s Excellence in Teaching Award and was the 2001 Panhellenic Association Professor of the Year. He is the author of *Adam in Myth and History: Ancient Israelite Perspectives on the Primal Human* (Harvard Semitic Museum/Eisenbrauns, 2000). The courses he teaches include “Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament),” “Prophecy and Prophetic Literature,” “Myth and Religion,” and “Religion and Culture in the Ancient Near East.”

**Professor Amanullah De Sondy** earned his Ph.D. in theology and religious studies at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, with a focus on Islamic Studies. His dissertation was on “Constructions of Masculinities in India and Pakistan between the 18th and 21st Centuries.” While he was at Glasgow, he was the lead researcher on a project on “Philanthropy for Social Justice in the British Muslim Societies” that was funded by the Ford Foundation ($160,000). He has been active in interfaith dialogue events and has twice served as an umpire at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. His interest in presenting Islam and Muslims in the media has led to him making regular contributions to BBC Radio Scotland and to writing a blog on “Progressive Scottish Muslims.”

**Professor David Graf** received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He is an ancient historian and archeologist specializing of the Greco-Roman world in the Levant and Arabia, Co-editor of the multi-volume *Anchor Bible Dictionary* (1992), he is the author of *Rome and Its Arabian Frontier from the Nabataeans to the Saracens* (1997) and more than 100 scholarly articles. He is currently directing excavations in the ancient Nabataean-Roman city center of Petra in Jordan and leading a consortium of universities is the first joint American-Saudi project at Jurash (Khamis Mushayt) in the SW 'Asir province of Saudi Arabia. His current projects include the preparation of over 300 new Greek and Aramaic funerary texts from Umm al-Jimal (in Roman Arabia), a new edition of some Greek historians for *Brill's New Jacoby*, the study of the aromatics trade in South Arabia, and the Silk Route between Syria and China. He is a Member of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton and a recent recipient of the Provost's Award for Scholarly Activity.

**Professor Henry A. Green** received his Ph.D. from St. Andrews University (Britain) after postgraduate work at the Sorbonne (France) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel). He is the author of four books, including *Research in Action* (education of at-risk populations in Israel); *The Economic and Social Origins of Gnosticism*; *Mosaic: Jewish Life in Florida*; and *Gesher Vakesher, Bridges and Bonds: The Life of Leon Kronish* (The Israelization of American Jewry and the story of Jewish Miami). Professor Green is the former Director of the Judaic Studies Program (1984-2001). He has served as a Visiting Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Oxford University, and the University of Toronto. Among his awards are the Canada Council, the Israel Fellowship, and the Skirball Fellowship (England). Professor Green recently served as the national chair of a literacy and school readiness program (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, HIPPY) and conducts social policy research in the areas of education and health. His research interests and courses include modern Israel, American Jewry, and spirituality and education.
**Professor William S. Green** received his Ph.D. in religion from Brown University. He is a historian of religion with interests in ancient Judaism, biblical studies, and the theory of religion. He edited the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* for a decade and also is associate editor of the *HarperCollins Dictionary of Religion* (Harper San Francisco, 1995), editor of *The Dictionary of Judaism in the Biblical Period* (MacMillan, 1996), and co-editor of *The Encyclopedia of Judaism* (E.J. Brill, 2005). He has written widely on ancient Judaism, the study of religion, and higher education, and he has served as educational director for archaeological excavations at multiple sites in Israel and Italy. He is currently UM’s Senior Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education.

**Professor David W. Kling** is currently chair of the department. He received his Ph.D. in the history of Christianity from the University of Chicago. He is the author of the award-winning *A Field of Divine Wonders: Village Revivals and the New Divinity in Northwestern Connecticut, 1792-1822* and co-editor of *Jonathan Edwards at Home and Abroad: Historical Memories, Cultural Movements, Global Horizons*. His latest book, *The Bible in History: How the Texts Have Shaped the Times*, was selected as the “Editor’s Pick” for History Book Club. He is an area editor for *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, 30 vols. (de Gruyter, 2009—), and is currently writing a book on the history of Christian conversion for Oxford University Press. He teaches “Religion in American Life,” “Cults and New Religious Movements in America,” “History of Christianity,” “Fundamentalisms in the Modern World,” and “American Religion in Modern Film.”

**Professor Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado** earned her Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Her teaching and research interests include Latin American, Latino/a, African-American religiosity, feminist theology, and theological anthropology. She is the author of *Sor Juana: Beauty and Justice in the Americas* (Orbis Books, 2003); *Afro-Cuban Theology: Religion, Race, Culture, and Identity* (University Press of Florida, 2006); *Created in God's Image: An Introduction to Feminist Theological Anthropology* (Orbis Books, 2007); and *Shopping* (Fortress, 2010). The courses she teaches include “Religion and Gender,” “Catholic Life and Thought,” “Latino and Latin American Religion,” “Current Issues in Religion,” “Caribbean Religion,” and “Religion and the Problem of Evil.”

**Professor Catherine Newell** earned both her M.A. and Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her M.A. thesis was on “Infinite Space and the Popular Imagination,” which examined the process by which a scientific or religious concept can be assimilated into popular culture through science fiction. In her Ph.D. dissertation on “The Wheels of Titan: Faith, the Future, and the American Frontier,” Dr. Newell examined the process by which the myth of the American frontier shaped Cold War religion and culture, and how “the American Way of Life” influenced both the science and the spirit of space boosterism throughout the 1950s. At UC Santa Barbara she helped teach “Origins: A Dialogue between Scientists and Humanists,” and at UM she will be offering “Religion and Science” (REL 352) this fall semester.

**Professor James Nickoloff** earned his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, and taught at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA (1996-2009) before moving to South Florida in 2009. His areas of research and expertise include human sexuality, liberation theology, and Roman Catholic life and thought. He is the editor of *Gustavo Gutiérrez: Essential Writings* (1996), *An Introductory Dictionary of Theology and Religious Studies* (2007), and *In, Out and About on the Hill: Lesbian and Gay Alums Reflect on Life at Holy Cross* (2010). This fall semester he will be teaching “Latin American and U.S. Latino/a Religion” (REL 338), with a focus on liberation theology and the “underside” of history.
Professor Daniel Pals is Senior Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, having previously served as Interim Dean. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and a joint appointment in the Department of History. His main interests are modern intellectual history, modern religion and society, and theories of religion. He is the author of *The Victorian “Lives” of Jesus* and *Eight Theories of Religion*, and he is the editor of *Introducing Religion: Readings from the Classic Theorists*. He has also written journal articles on approaches to explaining religion. He teaches “Introduction to Religion,” “Religion and Science,” and “Senior Seminar.” He has also taught “Human Beliefs and Values,” a course that compares such belief systems as Marxism, Humanism, and Fascism with more traditional religious philosophies. Dr. Pals has received the Apple Polishing and the Interfraternity Council Professor of the Year Awards.

Professor Justin Ritzinger earned his Ph.D. at Harvard with a focus on Chinese Buddhism. His research explores the reimagining of values and ethics in modern Chinese Buddhism inspired by engagement with new ideas and ideologies, especially from the West. He is currently working on a manuscript, entitled “Anarchy in the Pure Land: Tradition, Modernity and the Reinvention of the Cult of Maitreya in Twentieth-Century China,” that investigates the incorporation of novel values derived from Western radicalism into Chinese Buddhist moral frameworks. Over the last few years, he has also written on a cluster of related issues in modern Chinese Buddhism, including eschatology and views of time, conceptions of social contingency, and responses to Darwinism. Professor Ritzinger teaches on a range of topics in Asian religions, including modernity, social engagement, narrative, ethics, and religious texts.

Professor Stephen Sapp received his Ph.D. in religious ethics from Duke University. He teaches “Religion and Human Sexuality,” “Religious Issues in Death and Dying,” “Religion and Bioethics,” and “Ethics and Genetics.” Dr. Sapp has received several teaching awards, including Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor twice, a University Freshman Teaching Award, and the University Excellence in Teaching Award. He is the author of *Sexuality, the Bible, and Science; Full of Years: Aging and the Elderly in the Bible and Today*; and *Light on a Gray Area: American Public Policy on Aging*; and numerous articles and book chapters. He is former chairperson of the Bioethics Committee at Miami Children’s Hospital (1990-2007) and of the University of Miami Social and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research (2002-2006). He also chaired the Faculty Senate at UM from 2006 to 2009 and the Department of Religious Studies from 1997 to 2010.

Professor Jonathan Swanson was an economics major in college and worked as a fiscal analyst at the Federal Reserve before earning his Ph.D. in theological ethics at Baylor University. Combining his skills as an ethicist and economist, he wrote his dissertation on “The Future of Medicare.” He will be teaching “Religion and Moral Choices” (REL 151) this fall semester.