REL 101: Introduction to Religion  
Dr. Dexter Callender  
T/R 12:30 pm–1:45 pm

This course is designed to introduce students to the major religions of the world from a non-sectarian, academic perspective. By the end of the course students will have increased their awareness of the important elements of the major religions—their myth, symbols, ritual, doctrine, moral codes, and artistic expression. The course will also help students a.) recognize the differences among the religious traditions as well as the similarities; b.) better understand the religious issues and conflicts in the modern world; and c.) gain a deepened appreciation of the student’s own religious background and that of the community in which the student lives.

Counts towards the following cognates:
- Christianity
- Islam
- Religion and Contemporary Identity

REL 101: Introduction to Religion  
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Online

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Counts towards the following cognates:
- Christianity
- Islam
- Religion and Contemporary Identity

REL 103: One God  
Dr. Amanullah De Sondy, Dr. William Green, and Dr. Michelle Maldonado  
TR 11 am-12:15 pm

Monotheism is one of the most important ideas in human history. This course examines how Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have lived it, understood it, and interpreted it. We will study
the basic structures of all three religions and explore their similarities, differences, and interactions on a set of critical issues, both contemporary and classical. The course will encourage students' conversation and active participation.

Counts towards the following cognates:
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Philosophy of Religion

**REL 109 / APY 109: Anthropology of Religion**  
Dr. Arthi Devarajan  
MWF 10:10 am-11 am

Would you like to study religion in living, contemporary communities, rather than through the avenues of ancient text or historical overviews? This course offers an introduction to select contemporary religious and cultural communities in North America, Asia, and Africa through the perspectives of anthropology. Students will explore themes in world religions such as gender, pilgrimage, embodiment and ritual through anthropological research and field methods. The course will entail lectures, as well as small-group exercises, discussion, and the viewing and analysis of anthropological film each week, so that students gain practical experience in conducting anthropological observation and analysis. No prior knowledge of Religious Studies or Anthropology is required – students will gain an introduction to both disciplines in this interactive course.

Counts towards the following cognates:
- Religious Issues in the Modern World
- Religion and Contemporary Identity

**REL 151: Religion and Moral Choices**  
Dr. Jonathan Swanson  
MW 3:35 pm-4:50 pm

What difference does religion make to ethics in our world today? What’s right and wrong according to the major religions of the world? What do they have in common? In a seminar format, come explore stories and major figures from Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, and how they influence our values. Students will be encouraged to discuss and actively participate as we learn together the power of narratives, living examples, and different perspectives.

Counts towards the following cognates:
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy,
- Politics
While “providing health care” as an occupation can mean many things because the work of physicians and health care providers has changed substantially over time, what has not changed in the history of medicine is the question, “What does it mean to be a good doctor?” Although the science of medicine has matured substantially over the centuries, what hasn’t changed is that many doctors express the sense that—not unlike feeling called to a religious vocation—they have been called to be a medical practitioner. Thus, we will not only explore the history of medical care, we will also explore the history of medicine as calling—a particular vocation with roots in both religion and science—as well as the changing professionalism of health care; the role of virtue ethics in the practice of medicine; the tensions between religion and medicine; the place of personal religious beliefs in health care; and the changing landscape of health, holism, healing, faith, and the science of medicine."

Counts towards the following cognate:
  - God and Science

REL 232: History of Christianity
Dr. David Kling
TR 9:30 am-10:45 am

How did Christianity grow from a tiny sect in the first century to become the world’s largest religion today, existing in every continent and nearly every major city? How did the leader of a small community in Rome become the pope, the worldwide leader of the Catholic Church? Why are there so many different Christian groups? This course provides an introduction to the history, themes, controversies, and global expansion of Christianity from its beginnings to the present. Attention is given to the theological (the formulation of beliefs), the biblical (the Bible’s influence throughout history), the social (the formation of Christian communities), the political (the interaction between political structures and the Christian church), and the biographical (the personal dimension of faith).

Counts towards the following cognate:
  - Christianity

REL 236: Cults and New Religious Movements in America
Dr. David Kling
January Intersession M-F 5:30 pm-10:15 pm, S 9 am-1:45 pm
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.

Counts towards the following cognates:
- Religion in the Americas
- Religious Issues in the Modern World

**REL 288: Chinese Religion**
Dr. Justin Ritzinger
TR 2 pm-3:15 pm

Over the last generation, China has largely thrown off communist ideology, becoming an economic powerhouse that will shape the 21st century. Alongside economic growth has come a rediscovery and revitalization of its religious heritage. But what is this religious heritage? What makes it unique? What does it offer? And how does this heritage shape China’s religious scene today? This course addresses these questions through a survey of Chinese religion focusing on the “Three Teachings”—Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism—as well as popular religion. We will examine their development and mutual interaction, attending to their thought and practice as well as their historical and social context. Students will gain not only a familiarity with the religious traditions of China, but also cultivate their ability to think historically and to balance sympathetic and critical understanding.

Counts towards the following cognates:
- Diversity in the World’s Cultures and Thought

**REL 300: Religion and Science Fiction**
Dr. Catherine Newell
W 3:35 pm-6:05 pm

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. In particular, we will explore the ways in which visions of the future of humanity, the future of the biosphere, and the future of life frequently depicts a catastrophic end—one in which institutional religion, personal spirituality, and ideas about the Divine become paramount. In order to discuss these topics, we
will examine the intersections between the cultural significance of various dystopic science fiction novels, short stories, television shows, and films with religion.

**REL 308: The Greco-Roman Context of Early Christianity**  
Dr. Robyn Walsh  
MWF 11:15 am-12:05 pm

This course will explore a range of first-century CE practices and texts that informed the lives of the people who we now call early Christians. From practices like animal sacrifice, to discourses on the role of the gods in human activity, we will consider what aspects of Greco-Roman religion Christianity adapted or rejected. We will also discuss how people conducted their daily lives, and how they understood larger issues such as how the body worked, the significance of gender, morality and philosophy.

Among our source material will be a variety of early Christian writings, including the New Testament, along with philosophical texts and selections from other literary sources like the ancient romances. We will also examine ancient entertainments and spectacle, such as amphitheater events, in order to understand how later Christians would conceptualize acts such as martyrdom.

Counts towards the following cognate:  
- Religion in the Ancient World

**REL 311: Prophecy and Prophetic Literature in the Hebrew Bible**  
Dr. Dexter Callender  
T 5:00 pm-7:40 pm

This course is primarily a study of the prophetic literature of ancient Israel. We will examine the phenomenon commonly called “prophecy,” particularly with regard to its ideas, practices, and literary manifestations. We will also give attention to manifestations of “prophecy” in other societies, ancient and modern. The subject will be approached through the survey and analysis of both primary texts and scholarly literature. By the end of the course you will be intimately familiar with the corpus of ancient Israelite biblical prophetic writings; the historical background in which they were produced; major scholarly theories concerning a) the origin and growth of the biblical prophetic books, b) the people responsible for producing and transmitting them, and c) the beliefs and behaviors which led to their production.

Counts toward the following cognates:  
- Judaism  
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation  
- The Bible

**REL 322: St. Paul: Letters and Controversies**
Other than Jesus, there is no other figurehead more important to Christianity than Paul. Responsible for communicating with the Gentile world about the risen Jewish Messiah, Paul took it upon himself to travel the Roman Empire, attempting to assemble groups of “participators in Christ” in preparation for a predicted end time. As a Pharisee, he used his knowledge of the Law to construct elaborate arguments explaining how a crucified Galilean peasant could be understood as a cosmic redeemer. He also used his grasp of popular philosophical traditions and physics to ensure that this message was palatable to his non-Jewish audience. Without his efforts, and the circulation of his letters, it is conceivable that Christianity may not have spread as quickly as it did in the ancient world. However, it is also the case that Paul often struggled a great deal to be heard or to coalesce the groups to whom he is writing.

This course will examine Paul’s letters and the controversies that they reveal about the early stages of the Jesus movement. From Paul’s letters we can reconstruct a landscape for these first century Christ followers in which people are competing for recognition as leaders, arguing over what constitutes early Christian practice and the groups to whom Paul is writing are struggling to remain cohesive as they wait for the end time. We will also examine how the Jesus movement compares to other “New Religious Movements” historically, and how Paul’s thought aligns with other kinds of Greco-Roman ideas and philosophies of the period.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Christianity
- The Bible

**REL 330: Caribbean Religion**
Dr. Michelle Maldonado
Online Course

This course will provide an understanding of the historical foundation of Caribbean religions. You will learn to think critically about popular representations of these religions and understand the role of these religions in the development of your individual selves, your community and/or your society. This course will allow you to critically engage the intersection of race, politics, identity, and religion within the Caribbean and in Diaspora communities in the United States.

Counts toward the following cognate:
- Religion in the Americas

**REL 334: The American Jewish Experience: Hollywood and Popular Culture**
Dr. Henry Green
T 6:25 pm-9:05 pm
Hollywood and Popular Culture is a course that uses the lens of films to interpret the American Jewish experience. Cinema began at the same time that the waves of Jews from Eastern Europe migrated to the USA (c. 1900). What has the Jewish presence brought to Hollywood and American popular culture and how has Hollywood shaped the Jewish American experience? A selection of genres (dramas, comedies, epics, and biographies) will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on how the experiences and attitudes of Americans, in general, and American Jewry, in particular, have been reflected on the screen from the early 20th century until the present. The course will situate the films within the context of Hollywood culture----a complex industry in which ownership, production, distribution, exhibition, marketing and sales are closely intertwined. The tensions between maintaining an ethnic identity and assimilating, affirming cultural pluralism and “melting”, and continuing religious traditions in the face of modernity are core features of the course.

Counts toward the following cognate:
- Judaism

**REL 335: American Religion in Modern Film**
Dr. David Kling
R 5 pm-7:40 pm

This course is a study of the role of religion (primarily Christianity) in popular culture and the way in which religion becomes the vehicle for aesthetic, social, political, and other cultural purposes. In particular, we explore contemporary American religious life with special attention given to groups and issues depicted through the medium of film. We focus on how film uses religion rather than on how religion uses film. That is, we analyze how mainstream movies (both directly religious and essentially secular) appropriate religious imagery and themes, rather than how religions use film to communicate their beliefs and practices. Special attention is given to the historical accuracy of films, that is, the extent that films accurately depict religious issues and groups.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion in the Americas
- Christianity

**REL 343: Catholic Life and Thought**
Dr. Anthony Bonta
M 5:00 pm-7:40 pm

With the election of Pope Francis I, and the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church is at an exciting era of inner renewal and relations with the world. This course will introduce students to key features and themes of Catholic Life and Thought in four key areas: 1) Sacred Scriptures; 2) a fundamental understanding of the history
and historical development of Christianity; 3) a basic understanding of key teachings of the Catholic Faith and Tradition, especially of the Second Vatican Council; and 4) an application of Catholic social justice principles. Students will utilize these four key areas and writings of key Catholic figures to examine issues, including, but not limited to, Religious Liberty, Domestic Violence, Sexual Orientation and Sexuality, Extremism and Fundamentalism, Ecumenical and Inter-religious Dialogue, Economic and Labor Justice, Intimacy, Marriage and Family Life, Racial Justice, and War and Peace. Students will be expected to master basic theological concepts and vocabulary, the historical-critical method, social justice criteria, and personal reflection skills with the goal to apply these skills in their personal lives, their professional fields and to contemporary issues. Students will be evaluated in various ways of assessment including, reading primary and secondary sources of Catholic Thought, movies, reflection papers, Midterm and Final Exams, quizzes, personal projects, and class discussions.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Christianity
- Religion in the Americas
- Religion, Law, and Civic Engagement

REL 360: Religion and Bioethics
Dr. Stephen Sapp
January Intersession M-S 8:30am-1:30pm

Recent advances in the biomedical sciences, along with various changes in the nature of American society, have forced physicians, other healthcare professionals, patients and their families, public policymakers, and society as a whole to face many difficult ethical questions unheard of not very long ago. What is life? What is death? What gives quality to life? What are the responsibilities of healthcare professionals, patients, and society to one another? How can we pay for the health care we demand, and who should pay for it, especially as our population grows older? Do old people have a “duty to die” to make way for younger generations? How should we use the new knowledge we are gaining in genetics and genomics? This course will explore ways of responding to these questions, especially from the point of view of major religious traditions. Special attention will be given to the factors that make for a “good doctor,” a “good patient,” and a healthy patient-physician relationship. The major focus of the course will be on the personal, social, and ethical dimensions of current issues in biomedicine.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- God and Science
- Religion and the Body
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics

REL 371: Islam and Gender
This course investigates the way Muslim religious discourse, norms, and practices create and sustain gender and hierarchy in religious, social, and familial life, exploring the historical and contemporary challenges posed to these structures. Gender, sexuality and the body are crucial to understanding the political, social, economic and intellectual life of Muslim communities from seventh-century Arabia to the present day. This course will cover significant moments in the religious and intellectual history of Muslim societies and explore several modern cases. Through each, we will be discussing key questions, including: How does gender structure authority within social, religious, and family domains? What are the current debates on such issues from a masculinities studies point of view? How does the tension between egalitarian and hierarchical ideals play out? What, if anything, is specifically “Islamic” about the situations under discussion? And how have scholars, both Western and non-Western, Muslim and non-Muslim, approached the study of these topics? Attitudes toward the body—involving sexuality, purity, fertility and seclusion—will be examined in a comparative context.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Islam
- Religion and Contemporary Identity
- Religion and the Body

**REL 388: Living Stories: Narrative in Asia Traditions**
Dr. Justin Ritzinger
TR 11 am-12:15 pm

In popular culture, Asian religions are referred to as “Eastern Philosophy.” Yet, philosophical doctrine is only one part of Asian religious traditions and for many not the most prominent. Oftentimes narrative, key stories or modes of storytelling, occupies a more central role. But what is that role? How do narratives transmit religious ideas and values and inform ritual life? How do they evolve over time? And how do religious individuals and communities drawn upon them to work in the world? This course will address these questions through a focus on a few narratives selected Asian religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. We will attend to these stories as living phenomena that evolve over time and play a vital role in their communities and also as something that those communities live with as they make their way through the world.

Counts toward the following cognate:

- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation

**REL 391 / HIS 313: Bollywood and Beyond: Religion, Gender, and Politics in South Asian Film**
Dr. Arthi Devarajan and Dr. Sumita Dutt
MWF 1:25 pm-2:15 pm
The word “Bollywood” refers to the booming popular film industry of India, now known throughout the world for its brilliant colors, musical and dance numbers, and dramatic cinematic plotlines. On average, Bollywood produces 50% more films than the Hollywood film industry each year, and sells 3.6 billion movie tickets as compared to Hollywood’s 2.6 billion. This course offers students a chance to learn about Indian society through its popular film industry - an enduring and popular outpost of Indian culture. Students will receive an introduction to the history, religions, and culture of India, then explore a series of themes such as social hierarchy, religious mythology, gender and sexuality, and globalization, as depicted in film. Each week will offer students a chance to see film clips from across Indian film history, and to learn from lectures and engaging readings while also participating in lively discussion and collaborative exercises to synthesize the course material. No prior knowledge of History, Religious Studies, India or Bollywood film is required.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion and Contemporary Identity
- Religion and the Body

**REL 405: Special Topics in Religious or Historical Traditions**
Dr. William Green
M 5:25 pm-8:05 pm

**REL 409: Special Projects in Religious Issues or Problems**
Dr. Henry Green
M 2:30 pm-5:10 pm

This course addresses refugees and displaced people from North Africa and the Middle East in the post-World War Two era and their transnational identity. Focusing on ethnic and religious minorities – Jews (Arab world), Coptic Egyptians, Maronite Christians (Lebanon), Mandaeans (Iraq), Kurds (Iraq/Iran), Yazidis (Iraq), Bahai (Iran) and Zoroastrians (Iran) — within the context of human rights and exile, students will choose one exiled group by country and explore the reasons for their exile. Once familiar with their selected minority group, interviews will be arranged for the students from members of this population. The course requires a commitment to conduct interviews and be trained in field interview techniques. The interview “data” will be housed in the Sephardi Voices archive and be recognized with your name.

“Sephardi Voices”, an audio-visual history project to record, collect and preserve the testimonies of Jews displaced from North Africa and the Middle East as a vehicle to preserve their history and legacy. (see [www.sephardivoices.org.uk](http://www.sephardivoices.org.uk)) In the wake of the Arab spring (winter), the migration of other minorities has accelerated. This course is one effort among many to encourage students to record and preserve the testimonies of those whose human rights have been violated.

Counts toward the following cognates:
• Religion, Law, and Civic Engagement