

A large crowd of people is gathered for a protest on a city street. Many individuals are holding American flags. In the foreground, a man in a dark t-shirt and a woman in a red shirt are prominent. They are holding a large white sign with the word "SHARIA" written in red, dripping paint. To their right, another sign reads "911 NEVER FORGET!!". In the background, other signs with the word "SHARIA" are visible. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, and the atmosphere appears to be one of active demonstration.

TTH

Prof.

Brannon Ingram

This course examines the history, politics, culture and economy of how Islam and Muslims have been represented in the north Atlantic world (the 'West'). It begins with a brief overview of Western representations of Muslims during the early modern period, then explores how colonialism shaped the modern history and politics of contemporary Islamophobia. The bulk of the course will focus in depth on the politics, culture and economy of Islamophobia in the United States, aiming to empower students to understand and navigate the contemporary context. The course gives particular attention to ways that Muslims have sought to challenge, complicate and subvert how they are represented.

A color photograph of an elderly man with white hair, smiling and smoking a pipe. He is wearing a dark coat and a scarf. The background is a blurred green landscape.

**Prof.
Mark McClish**

MYTH AND LEGEND IN TOLKIEN

In developing Middle-earth, Tolkien intentionally sought to create a mythology. In this course, we will read *The Silmarillion*, *The Hobbit*, and *The Lord of the Rings* as mythology. We will analyze theories of myth, examine how Tolkien's scholarship and understanding of mythology shaped his tales, and explore the mythic themes in these works. We will also consider the enduring appeal of these stories as modern myth.

REL 170

TTH 2:00-3:20pm

Prof. Mira Balberg

**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
FALL 2017



INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION

Why do we say “bless you” when someone sneezes? How did the design of Starbucks’ holiday-themed cups lead to a consumer boycott? Why did the University of Ottawa cancel its yoga classes? And are celebrities the new gods? This course sets out to develop a deeper and broader understanding of religion as a human phenomenon, by focusing on three interrelated questions: What is religion, How to study religion, and Why study religion.

**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
FALL 2017

REL 200

**MW
12:30-1:50pm**

**Prof.
Mark McClish**



INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

One of the largest and most ancient of all religions, 'Hinduism' is actually a family of related traditions. Over the last 4000 years or more, the Hindu traditions of South Asia have developed an astonishing diversity of rituals, beliefs, and spiritual practices and a pantheon of hundreds of gods and goddesses, from the elephant-headed Ganeśa to the fierce goddess Kālī. This course will examine the breadth of the Hindu traditions as they developed over time, highlighting the shared features that make them a family, such as ritual sacrifice, world renunciation, law, spiritual discipline, devotion, worship, and theology.

This course provides an introduction to key aspects of the Buddhist religious traditions of multiple Asian countries and the United States. Through careful examination of a variety of literature produced by these traditions, we will consider the ways in which Buddhists have understood human suffering, life after death, karma, merit, the nature of the world and human's place within it, and the path to enlightenment. Our emphasis will be on attempting to understand the moral values, philosophical insights, ritual practices, and social concerns that have shaped Buddhism over centuries of dynamic change in diverse cultural contexts.

**Prof.
Robert Orsi**

| Age Group | Percentage |
|-----------|------------|
| 18-24 | 10% |
| 25-34 | 15% |
| 35-44 | 20% |
| 45-54 | 25% |
| 55-64 | 30% |
| 65-74 | 35% |
| 75-84 | 40% |
| 85+ | 45% |

This course examines major developments, movements, controversies, and figures in American religious history from the end of the Civil War, as the nation struggled to make sense of the carnage of war and to apportion responsibility, to the 1930s, when economic crisis strained social bonds and intimate relations and challenged Americans to rethink the nature of public responsibility. Topics include urban religion; religion and changing technologies; African American religion; religion and politics; and the religious practices of immigrants and migrants.

MW
11:00-12:20pm

**Prof.
Barry
Wimpfheimer**

JEWS AND THE TRANSGENDER MOMENT

MW

Prof.

SAINTHOOD

The phenomenon of sainthood opens a range of issues: a saint is an exemplar of heroic virtue, and ideas of sainthood reflect the ethical norms of a particular Christian society; a saint is the focus of veneration, and the ways people behave toward saints (going on pilgrimage to venerate their relics, showing reverence to their images, etc.) tells a great deal about official and unofficial Christian piety; a saint is a figurehead for some interest group such as a religious order or a city, and in churches that have a process of canonization this becomes a mirror of ecclesiastical politics.



**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
FALL 2017

REL 374

**TTH
2:00-3:20pm**

**Prof.
Claire Sufrin**

GOD AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

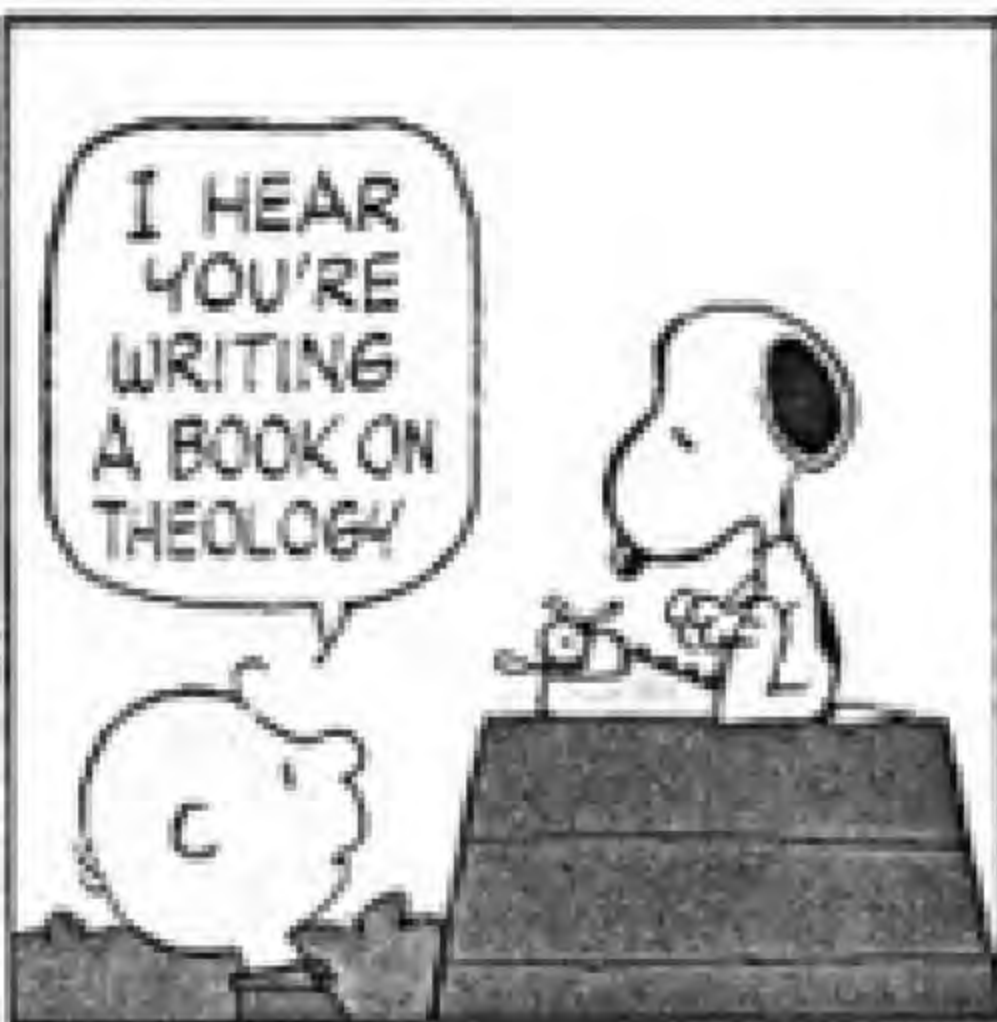
Throughout the history of the Jewish religion, times of crisis and collective suffering have given rise to theological innovation and creative shifts in religious expression as Jews sought to understand their tradition in light of their experiences. In the wake of the Holocaust, Jews and others faced a similar need for religious rethinking. In theological terms, they asked: where was God and should we expect God to act in human history? What does this event indicate about God's existence? In human terms, they asked: how do we live as Jews today? How do we live as human beings?

RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2017

REL 375

MWF
10:00-10:50am

**Prof.
Kieckhefer**



FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

This course will examine the central issues in premodern Christian thought. We will begin with two works that show Christian thinkers struggling with theological issues that arise largely from their own experience: St. Augustine's *Confessions* and Julian of Norwich's *Showings*. Then we will examine the teachings on God and Christ, as set forth by writers in the Eastern and Western Churches.

A close-up photograph of a white marble sculpture of a reclining figure, likely a woman, wearing a flowing, draped garment. The figure's head is tilted back, and her eyes are closed. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a backdrop.

Tuesday
2:00-4:50pm

CATHOLICISM & MODERN SEXUALITIES

Roman Catholicism was one of—if not the—major force in shaping modern sexualities, as irritant, fantasy, boundary, and more. From whatever perspective—aesthetics, theology and ritual, penitential practice and disciplines, of the control of bodies and desires, the construction of sexual identities over time, missionaries and the extension of Catholic sexuality beyond Europe and North America—the Catholic imaginary is central to the history of modern sexuality. In the era after the Council of Trent in 1545, when the history of modern Catholicism begins, there was a determined effort within the Church to discipline Catholics around the world into obedience and submission to Roman rules and rubrics.

A wide-angle photograph of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet. The palace is a massive, multi-tiered structure built into a hillside. The lower sections are white with many windows, while the upper sections are red with golden roofs. A wide, white staircase leads up the hillside from the foreground. The foreground is a flat, grassy area with some small trees and shrubs. The sky is clear and blue.

Prof.
Sarah Jacoby

TIBETAN BUDDHIST STUDIES

This course will survey the state of the field of Tibetan Buddhist Studies by examining a selection of recent monographs in the field covering a broad array of topics including tantra, medicine, ritual, literature, history, and art history. The focus will be on analyzing how authors of recent monographs in Tibetan studies constructed these works including their main methodological influences and primary sources with an eye towards preparing graduate students for their own writing projects.

A black and white photograph showing a large group of men, likely religious leaders and officials, seated on a stage. They are dressed in formal attire, including suits and traditional robes. Behind them is a large, light-colored statue of a standing figure. In the foreground, a large audience of men is seated, facing the stage. The setting appears to be a formal assembly or conference.

**Prof.
Cristina Traina**

CLASSICAL THEORIES AND METHODS