

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018

**REL 210**

**MW**

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

**Prof.  
Bond**



# INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

Having begun in India some 2500 years ago, Buddhism now exists in almost all parts of the world. The Buddhist religion has shaped the thought and culture of Asia and has also influenced Western thought and culture in significant ways. To comprehend this diverse religion, this course approaches it from several perspectives: the historical, cultural, philosophical and religious. In the short time that we have in this quarter, our primary emphasis will be on investigating the philosophical and religious systems in the teachings of the Buddha in India as well as the thought of the later Buddhists in other parts of Asia. In looking at both the history and the philosophy, we see Buddhism as a religion that established a system of values, an interpretation of existence and a pattern of cultural practices and rituals that the Buddhists have interpreted in various ways to find meaning in life.



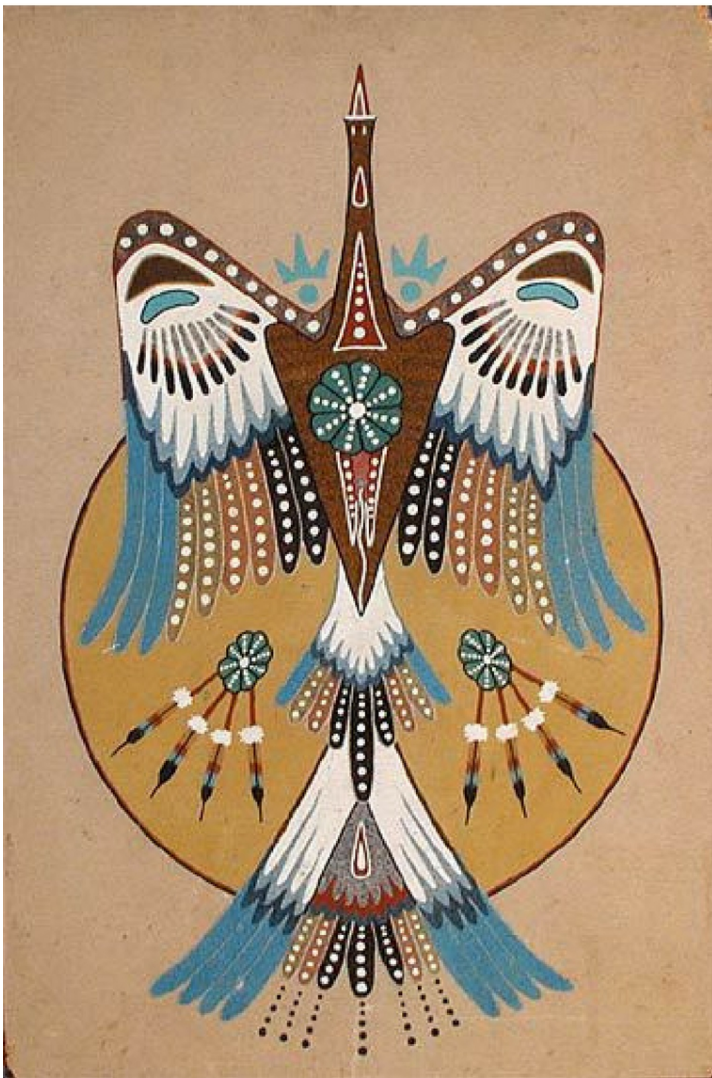


**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018

**REL 260**

**TTh  
3:30-4:50pm**

**Prof.  
Dees**



# INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGION

This course examines diverse Native American religious traditions in the shifting historical and contemporary contexts of Euro-American and Native American interaction and exchange. We will balance our examination of particular traditions—including those originating in the Northwest, Southwest, Great Plains, Midwest and Southeast—with a consideration of broader themes including identity, artistic expression, politics, and the environment. We will also consider ethical issues pertinent to the study of Native American religions, such as the debate about cultural appropriation, and discuss the impact of colonialism on Native American religious groups.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPRING 2018

REL 271

TTh

11:00-12:20pm

Prof.  
Kohli



## THEOLOGY OF LOVE

Love seems central to human existence: parents' sacrificial love for children, erotic love between romantic partners, the love of friendship. Love is also central to the intersection between Christian theology and Christian ethics. Christian theology studies concepts related to God and God's relation to persons. Ancient Christians described God's being as a relation of love between Father, Son, and Spirit. God's enduring presence with God's people, they then said, comes by way of a gift of love (i.e. the Holy Spirit) into the human heart. This way of understanding God and God's manner of being with people has circumscribed love into the core of the Christian tradition. The concept of love must be defined by identifying and describing its predicates in order to more fully understand the intersubjective reality that is God and the human person in relation.

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018

**REL 309-20  
(ASIAN\_LC 390-26)**

**TTh  
9:30-10:50am**

**Prof.  
McClish**



## **GODS AND KINGS IN THE GREAT WAR**

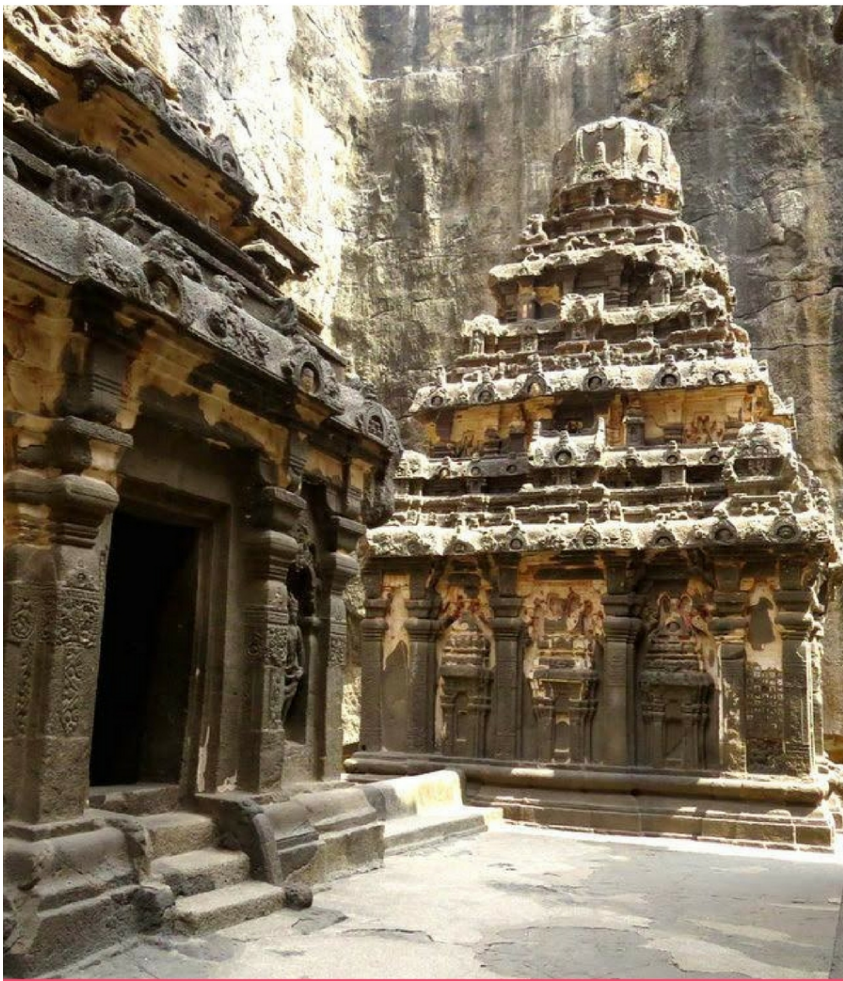
The Mahābhārata is an epic of ancient India that tells the story of a cataclysmic war between two sets of cousins, a war that eventually came to involve all the peoples of earth and gods in heaven. Interwoven among the main narrative are myriad shorter tales and religious teachings, so that the Mahābhārata represents a kind of encyclopedia of classical Hinduism. For over two thousand years, the Mahābhārata has continued to entertain and edify audiences as one of the best-known and most-beloved of Hindu sacred texts. In this course, we will study the Mahābhārata as a window into the religious culture and history of ancient India. We will also explore its enduring appeal over the centuries.

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018

**REL 309-21  
(ASIAN\_LC 390-24)**

**Tuesday  
2:00-4:30pm**

**Prof.  
McClish**



## RELIGION IN ANCIENT INDIA

This class is a survey of one of the most dynamic and important periods in world religious history, in which Buddhism, Jainism, and Classical Hinduism all were born. This course explores the religious history of South Asia from the Vedic period to the fall of the Gupta Empire, about 1500 BCE – 600 CE. We will cover the migration of the Indo-Aryan tribes into South Asia, Vedic Hinduism, the rise of city-states and empires, foreign invasions and the influences they brought, the emergence of Buddhism and Jainism, the reign of the Buddhist emperor Aśoka Maurya, the development of Mahāyāna Buddhism, the so-called 'Brāhmaṇical revival', the 'Sanskrit Cosmopolis', and the end of the classical period. We will explore this history through texts, archaeology, and art. One of our main goals will be to identify the contingencies that led to the development of Classical Hinduism in the early centuries of the Common Era.

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018

**REL 314-20**

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

**Prof.**  
**Jacoby**



# **BUDDHISM IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

Some say America is currently undergoing a process of “Buddhification,” meaning that aspects of Buddhism are cropping up everywhere—in tech companies, hospitals, restaurants, parks, and even public school playgrounds. How, and why, has Buddhism enter all of these different social locations? Why does Buddhism receive a pass more often than other religions by the “spiritual but not religious” crowd? Can Buddhism be secular? In what ways is Buddhism compatible with science, and can Buddhist practices be proven effective using scientific methods? Can paying better attention by means of Buddhist meditation practices liberate us from suffering caused by digital distraction? In what ways can Buddhist articulations of interdependence, no self, and compassion be resources for addressing racial and structural injustice, even as sexual abuse, racism, and trans/homophobia continue to traumatize members of some Buddhist communities?



**REL 329**

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**

**Tuesday**

**SPRING 2018**

**2:00-4:30pm**

**Prof. Senior**



# THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW: AT THE CROSSROADS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

In its portrayal of Jesus and his mission, the Gospel of Matthew draws deeply on the Jewish heritage of early Christianity while, at the same time, orienting the Christian community to further engage the wider Greco-Roman world. The success of this gospel made it the dominant gospel of Early Christianity. This course will engage in a thorough reading of this foundational first century document and the historical and religious context in which it was composed. The format is primarily lectures and class discussion.

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018

**REL 339-20**  
**(JWSH\_ST 280-5-1)**

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

**Prof.**  
**Ringel**



# THE SETTLEMENT MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL

This class discusses the Israeli “Settlement Movement” in the West Bank and its relationship to the “National Religious” (or “Religious Zionist”) Camp in Israel. We will explore the political, ideological, economic and social factors that affect both of these movements, and how these movements help shape Israeli policies. We will likewise explore religious and political life within actual settlements, which include both violence and attempts at peacemaking, as a means of showcasing the variety that exists within these communities.

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018



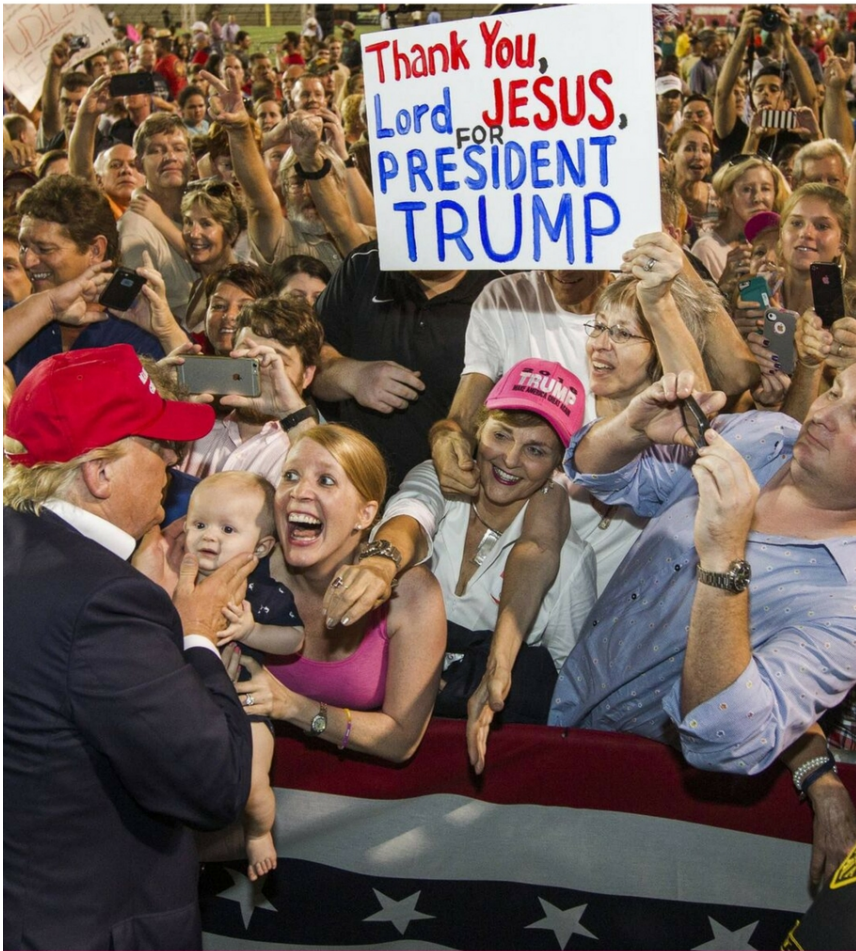
**REL 339-21**  
**(COMP\_LIT 313-21)**

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

**Prof.**  
**Wimpfheimer**

## THE ART OF RABBINIC NARRATIVE

Rabbinic literature contains a large corpus of stories. In this course we will explore different methods of reading such stories. These range from naïve historiography to sophisticated historiography, from reading these stories as fables with didactic morals to reading them as windows onto a class-stratified and gender-divided rabbinic culture. Our analysis of these methods of reading rabbinic stories will be conducted in conversation with different twentieth century literary theorists.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPRING 2018

**REL 349  
(GERMAN 326)**

**MW  
3:30-4:50pm**

**Prof.  
Kohli**

## POLITICAL THEOLOGY

The “separation of church and state” enshrined in the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution posits religion and politics as two clearly distinct spheres of public life. But are they? The German political theorist Carl Schmitt called this clean separation into question, arguing, “all modern theories of the state are secularized theological concepts.” This course examines the connections between religious and political ideas using an approach known as political theology. In Christian theology, political theology is a normative project. Theologians investigate what form politics ought to take based on knowledge God. By contrast, political theorists, particularly in the German tradition of political theology initiated by Schmitt, use political theology to probe claims of secularization. In this undergraduate seminar, we will read both historical and contemporary works on political theology from Christian theology, political science, and philosophy to examine how the boundaries between the religious (i.e. theological) and the political have been continually blurred in Western thought.

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018

**REL 351  
(MENA 301-3)**

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

**Prof.  
Ingram**



## ISLAMIC LAW

Islamic law, the sacred law of Islam grounded in the Qur'an, the practice of the Prophet Muhammad, and the writings of Muslim scholars and jurists, stretches back nearly 1400 years. After critically examining the concept of 'law', we will explore the emergence legal discourses in the Qur'an and prophetic model (sunna). We will trace the development of Islamic legal methodologies and schools in the classical era by way of key primary and secondary sources. We then examine case studies from both classical and contemporary angles, covering family, ritual purity, gender, jihad and just war, commerce, and criminal law. Finally, we seek to understand the dual impacts of colonialism and the attempt to implement Islamic law through the apparatus of the modern nation-state. We conclude with reflections on new trends in Islamic legal hermeneutics. Prerequisite: 250 or consent of instructor.





**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**  
SPRING 2018

**REL 371-20**  
**(RTVF 398-20)**

**Monday**  
**2:00-4:00pm**

**Prof.**  
**Molina**



## RELIGION AND FILM

In the aftermath of the World War I, many artists and filmmakers asked new questions about the relationship between realism and religion. Could one reconcile concrete reality (or realism) with faith in the other-worldly? Many of the artists under discussion in the course drew upon themes that had already been raised by Kierkegaard in the 19th century but were also inspired by the development of ideas about the human unconscious mind developed by Freud. Our discussions will be based off of the following questions: What dynamics drive the relationships between religion and modernity, faith and ethics, reality and the supernatural, observable phenomena and invisible causes? How does one make sense of death in a meaningless universe?