

REL 101-6-20

MW 2:00-3:20pm

> Prof. McClish

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR: 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 101-6-21 TTH 9:30-10:50am Prof. Traina

RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2018





FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR: AMERICAN UTOPIANS



Through reading utopian and dystopian fiction, viewing utopian and dystopian films, and learning about actual utopian communities (which may feel very dystopian to you), we'll try to describe the line between utopianism and dystopianism and learn about the role religion has played in both



REL 200

MW 9:30-10:50am

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.



REL 264

TTH 11:00-12:20pm

Prof. Orsi

US RELIGIOUS HISTORY I

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.



REL 270

MW 11:00-12:20pm

> Prof. Helmer

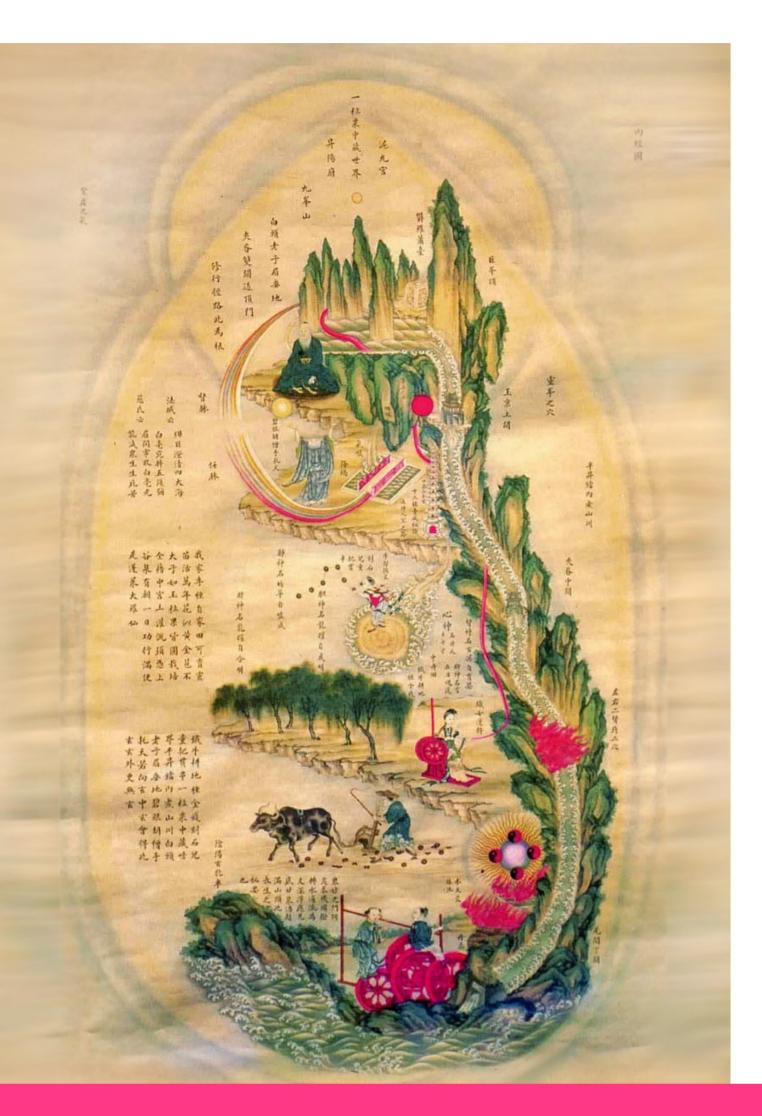
INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY

Theology is one of the oldest academic disciplines in the university, and possibly its most misunderstood. In this course we get to know theology's unique way of making sense of human existence on the planet. Or more precisely, we learn how to ask theological questions that have preoccupied humans for centuries: What does it mean to be human? Why does evil exist? What does God do with the world? We will address these questions by considering theologians from past, such as Martin Luther, and present, namely Black theologian James Cone and feminist theologian Elizabeth Johnson.

REL 318 (ASIAN_LC 390-20) MW 12:30-1:50pm

> Prof. Buckelew

RELIGION AND THE BODY IN CHINA



This seminar explores the place of the body in a variety of Chinese religious traditions, from the ancient period to the present day. We open with a question that animates the entire course: what is "the body," and how do we know? In the first two weeks, we grapple with the dramatically different ways ancient Chinese and Greek medical traditions (respectively) viewed, touched, and diagnosed the body, seeking to understand how the body has been differently "constructed" as an object of knowledge in different parts of the world. Then we broaden our purview to examine how, over the course of Chinese history, the body was closely bound up with ethics; the aspiration to immortality; governance and cosmology; and human interactions with gods and demons (while also looping back to medicine several times). We conclude with two case studies of religion and the body in contemporary China.

REL 349 M 2:00-4:50pm

Prof. Helmer

RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2018



WHY COLLEGE?



Back by popular demand, Professor Helmer's seminar "Why College?" invites students to think about their college experience in light of new research about the "crisis" in higher education today. le grand Euceques.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2018

REL 351-20 (MENA 390-3, HUM 370-5) MW 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. This course offers, first, an overview of the origins and evolution of Islamic law from the life of Muhammad to end of the classical era. We then seek, secondly, to understand how colonialism and the modern nation-state affected the conceptualization and implementation of Islamic law in the modern period. To these ends, we look in-depth at two specific areas of law – marriage and divorce, and criminal law – in two specific regions: the Ottoman empire and contemporary Iran.

Prerequisite: REL 250 or consent of instructor

REL 359-20 POLI_SCI 390-24

RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL 2018

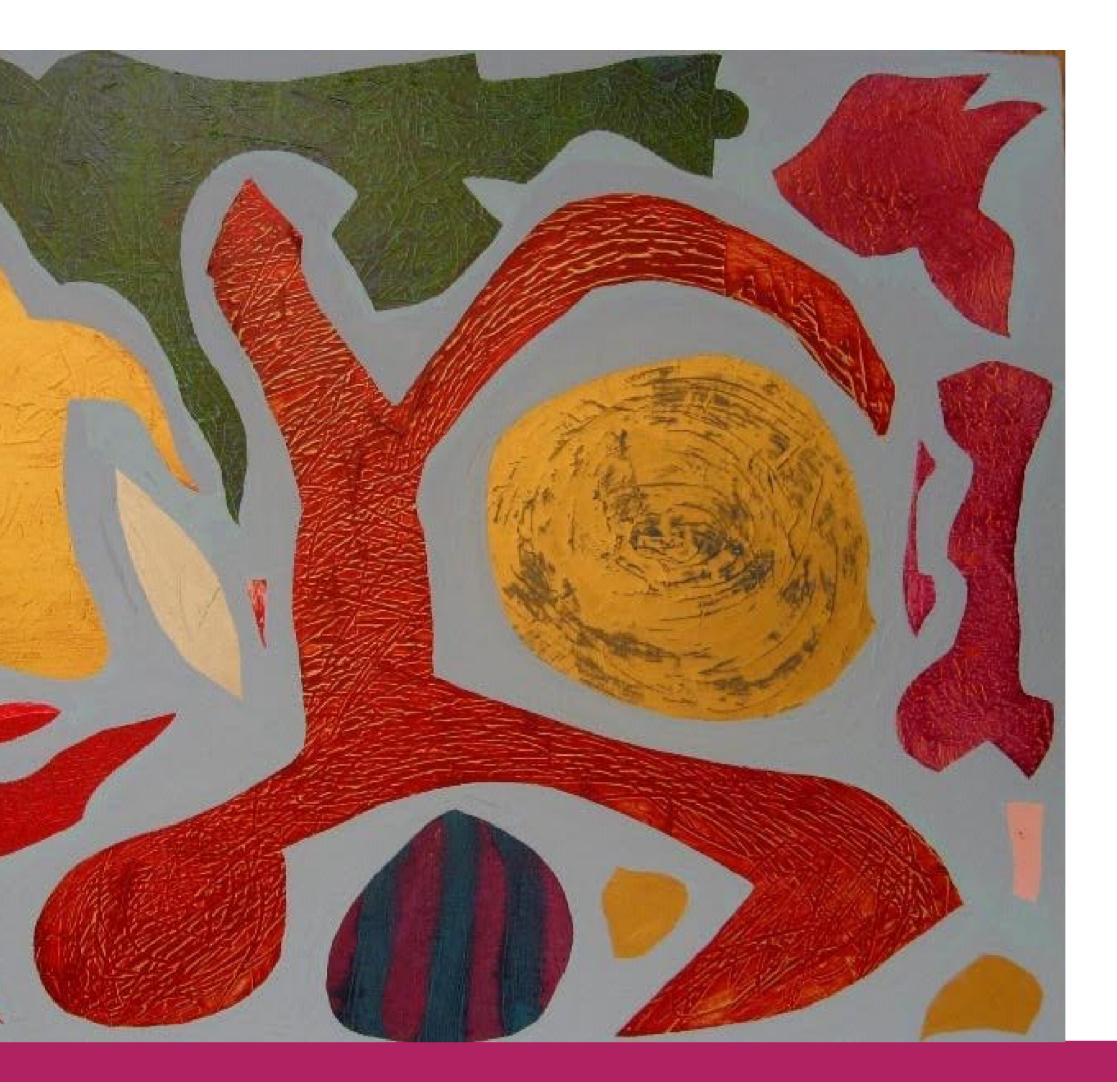
TTH 2:00-3:20pm

Prof. Ingram and Prof. Hurd



REPORTING ISLAM

This course examines the politics and practices of reporting on Islam and Muslims in the United States and in US foreign policy. Students will learn to recognize the pitfalls of how Islam and Muslims are represented in the media, and develop new ways of writing that do not reproduce Islamophobic or Islamophilic tropes. The course includes a 'master class' on reporting religion led by by Manya Brachear, religion reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*. This course is part of the "Talking 'Religion': Publics, Politics and the Media" project.



REL 379-20 POLI-SCI 382-20

TTH 11:00-12:20pm

Prof. Hurd

POLITICS OF

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

This course examines the entanglements of religion with human life, law, politics, and public culture in the US, U.S. foreign policy, and beyond. Beginning with legal controversies over yoga, the public display of crèches in the United States, and the religious history of the United States, we then turn to the question of who is a Jew legally in the United Kingdom, before moving further afield to reflect on a series of dilemmas involving the intersections of law, religion, and politics around the world. The course traverses disciplinary, geographic, and secular-religious boundaries, drawing on readings from politics, socio-legal studies, religious studies, indigenous studies, anthropology, history, and popular culture. Students also will consider their own experiences of living with religious diversity, as we explore tools and strategies to think in new ways about the place of religion in the contemporary world.

RELIGION, RACE, AND CLASS IN 20TH CENTURY US HISTORY

HOFGOD

RELIGIOUS **STUDIES** FALL 2018

REL 462 (HIST 492-26)

Tuesday 3:00-5:50pm

Prof. Orsi

The intersection of race, religion, and class—as a generative convergence, as well as tragedy and outrage—is at once everywhere and nowhere in US religious history. Historians of American industrial cities, for example, have largely managed to overlook the role of religion in shaping urban topography, soundscapes, and political movements; the fact that the religions of the Great Migration, such as Pentecostalism, the Nation of Islam, and Black Catholicism, were all working-class creations exists just below the surface of historical consciousness. This course considers the strange fate of this convergence through a careful consideration of recent work that aims to recover particular

pieces its history. Topics to include Jews and Catholics in the urban crisis in Detroit; the Christian contribution to the making and unmaking of the New Deal; the prosperity gospel and millennial capitalism; the religious origins of the hard right; Black gospel music; and conservative evangelicalism and the service economy.