

SPRING 2019

**REL 210-21** 

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.

**REL 220-20** 

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

MW

11:00-12:20pm

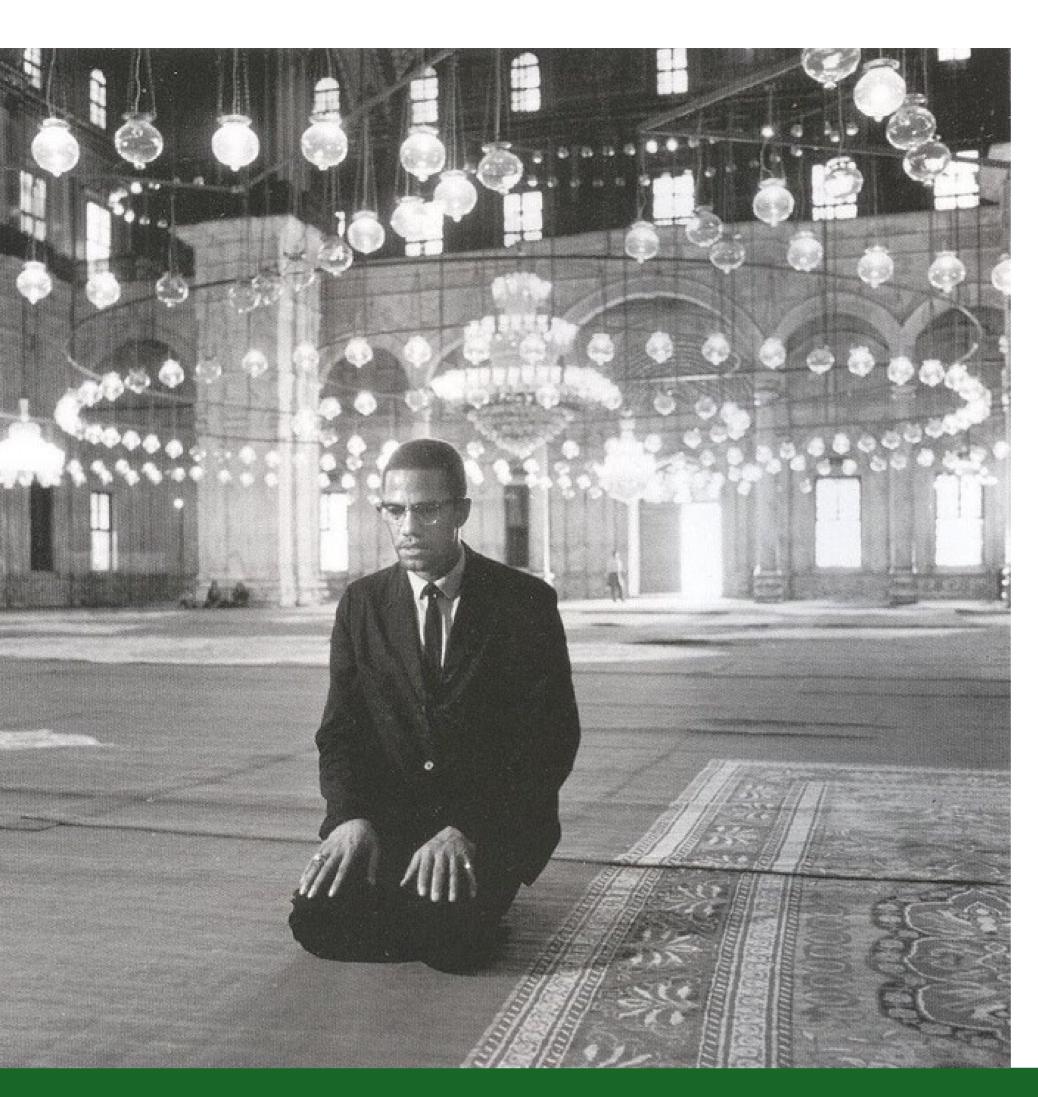
SPRING 2019

Prof. Wimpfheimer



### INTRO TO HEBREW BIBLE

There is no understating the significance of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in Western Culture. The Bible is a text that has been repeatedly turned to for spiritual guidance, for explanations of mankind's origins and as the basis of both classical art and contemporary cinema. English idiom is peppered with phrases that originate in the Hebrew Bible and many a modern political clash can be understood as a conflict over the Bible's messages and their implications. This course introduces students to the Hebrew Bible by reading sections of most of the Bible's books while discussing the various challenges that present themselves within the study of the Hebrew Bible and the varied approaches scholars take when reading the Hebrew Bible. This course is a critical introduction to the Hebrew Bible.



SPRING 2019

**REL 250-20** 

TuTh 11:00-12:20pm

> Prof. Ingram

## INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

This course introduces Islam, one of the major religious traditions of world histor, developing a framework for understanding how Muslims in varying times and places have engaged with Islamic scripture and the prophetic message of the Prophet Muhammad through diverse sources: theological, philosophical, legal, political, mystical, literary and artistic. While we aim to grasp broad currents and narratives of Islamic history, we will especially concentrate on the origins and development of the religion in its formative period (the prophetic career of the Prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an, Islamic belief and ritual, Islamic law, and popular spirituality) and debates surrounding Islam in the contemporary world (the impact of European colonialism on the Muslim world, the rise of the modern Muslim state, and discourses on gender, politics and violence).



SPRING 2019

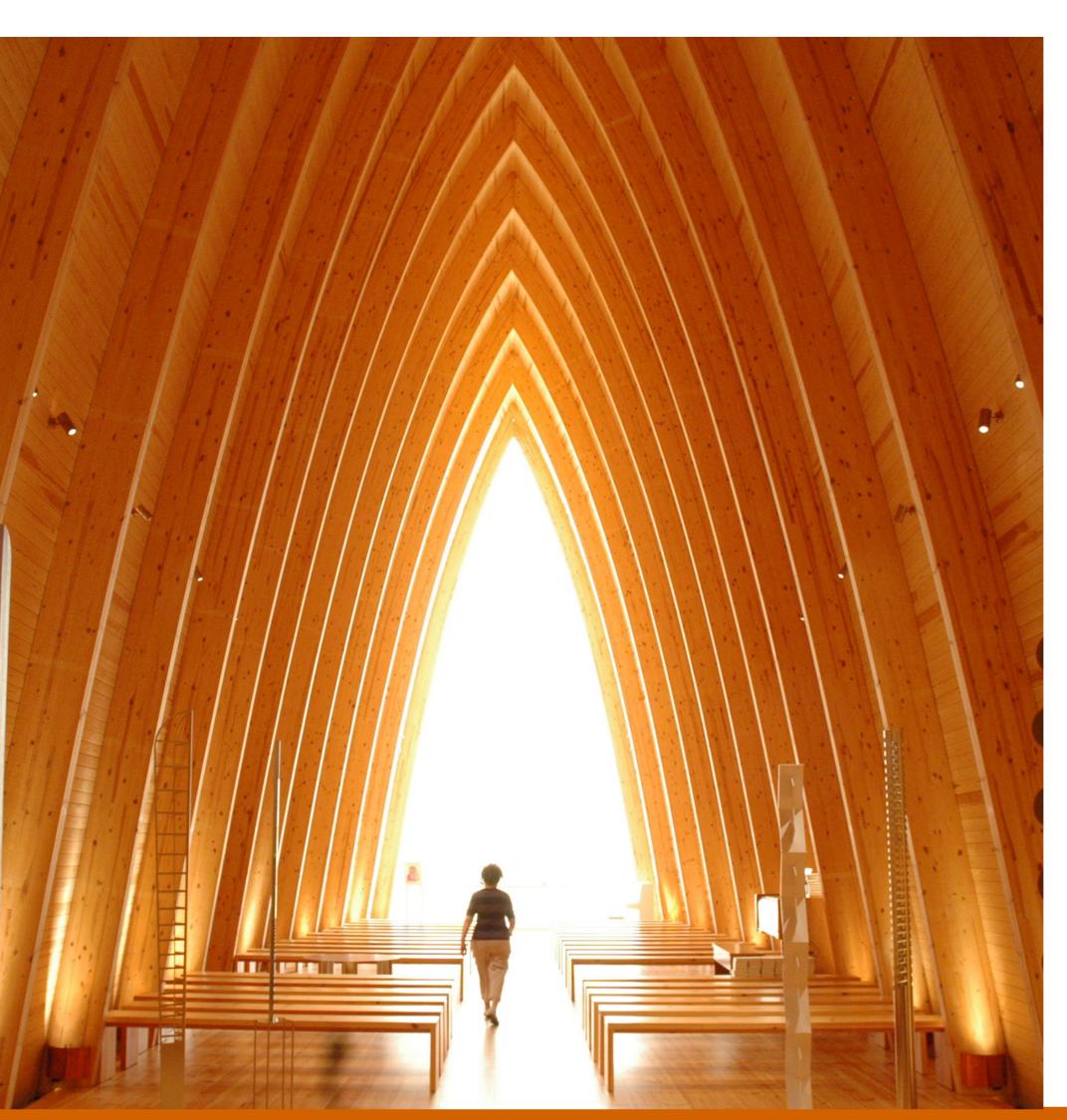
REL 314-20 (ASIAN\_LC 390-23)

> TuTh 9:30-10:50am

> > 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? \*Counts toward (RHM) Religion, Health & Medicine major concentration.



SPRING 2019

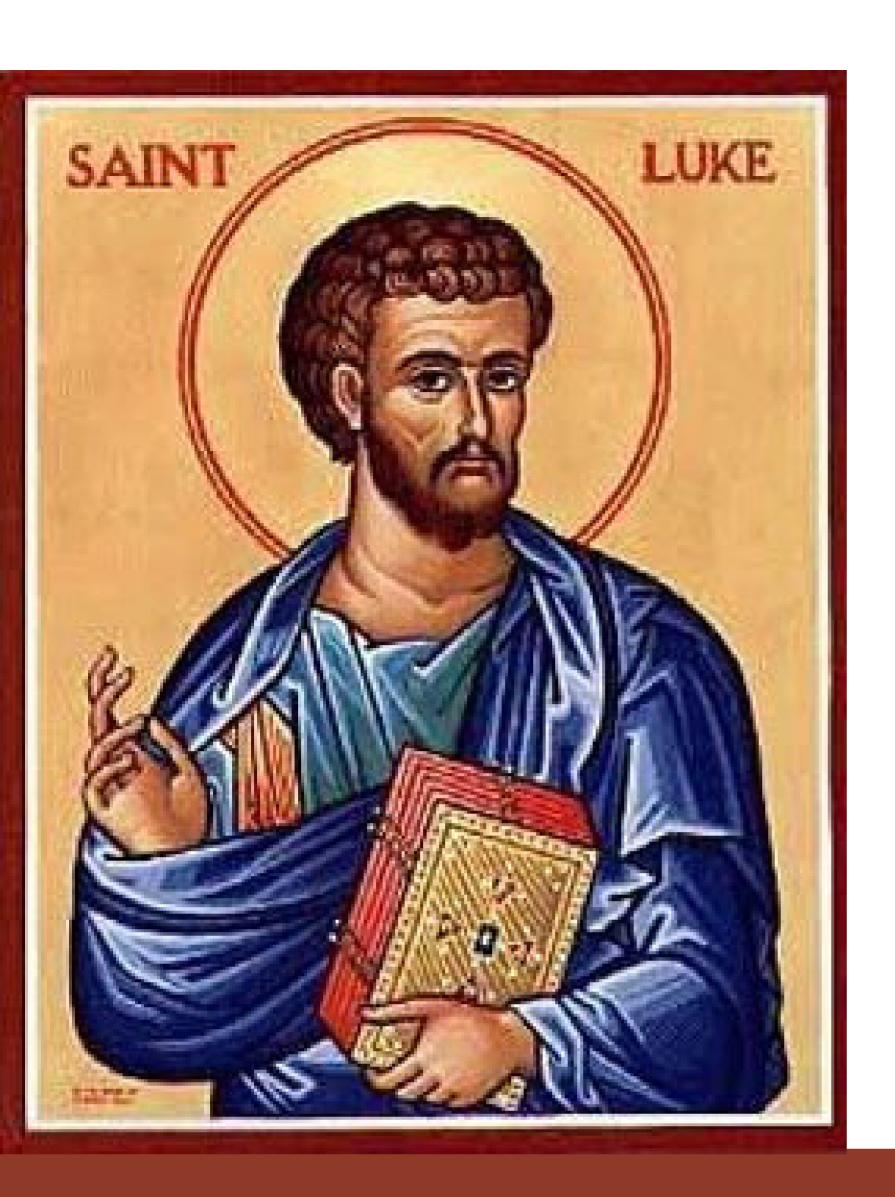
REL 346-20 (ART\_HIST 329)

> MWF 2:00-2:50pm

> > Prof. Kieckhefer

## CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

This class will examine church architecture, its theological significance, and its liturgical uses. We will be looking at representative examples of church architecture from the third century to the twenty-first, and we will be reading commentaries on church design that tell us what churches meant to the people who built them and worshiped in them.



SPRING 2019

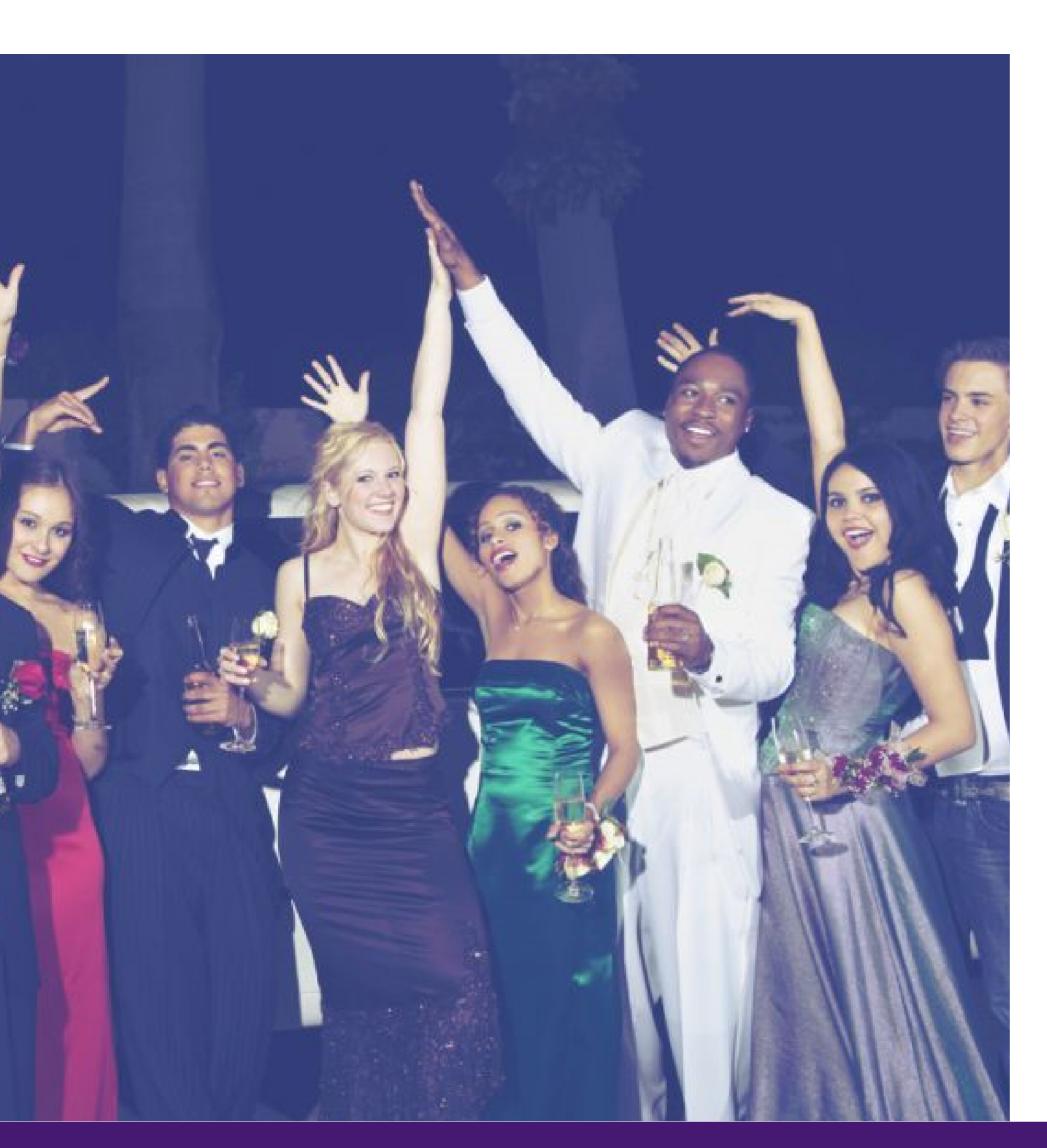
**REL 349-21** 

Tuesday 2:00-4:30pm

> Prof. Senior

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE AND THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

This course will be a close study of The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles which form a two-volume work attributed to the Evangelist Luke, Together they chart the origin of early Christianity in the mission of Jesus and the explosion of the Christian movement out into the wider Mediterranean world. These New Testament writings have had a profound impact on the character of early Christianity as it negotiated a profound religious and cultural transition from its matrix in Judaism into the Greco-Roman world.



SPRING 2019

REL 364-20 (AMER\_ST 310-2)

> Wednesday 2:00-4:30pm

> > Prof.
> > Taylor

### AMERICAN TEENAGE RITES OF PASSAGE

Drawing from anthropological and sociological case studies, we will examine various rites of passage experienced by teens in the U.S. In analyzing these rites, students will become conversant with theories of ritual, contemporary surveys of teen demographics and cultural trends, gender studies and cultural studies literature dealing with teen popular media and consumption, as well as historical literature on the rise and development of the American teenager as a cultural phenomenon.

\*Counts toward (RSG) Religion, Sexuality and Gender major concentration.



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPRING 2019

REL 369-21 (ENVR\_POL 390-22)

Friday 2:00-4:30pm

Prof.
Taylor

## MEDIA, EARTH, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The central question of this course is: What Makes a Difference? Analyzing a variety of works of media addressing environmental themes, including works drawn from advertising and marketing, we will consider different types of environmental messaging and attempts to mobilize public moral engagement.

### REL 373-20 (GL\_HEALTH 390-23)

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SPRING 2019

MW

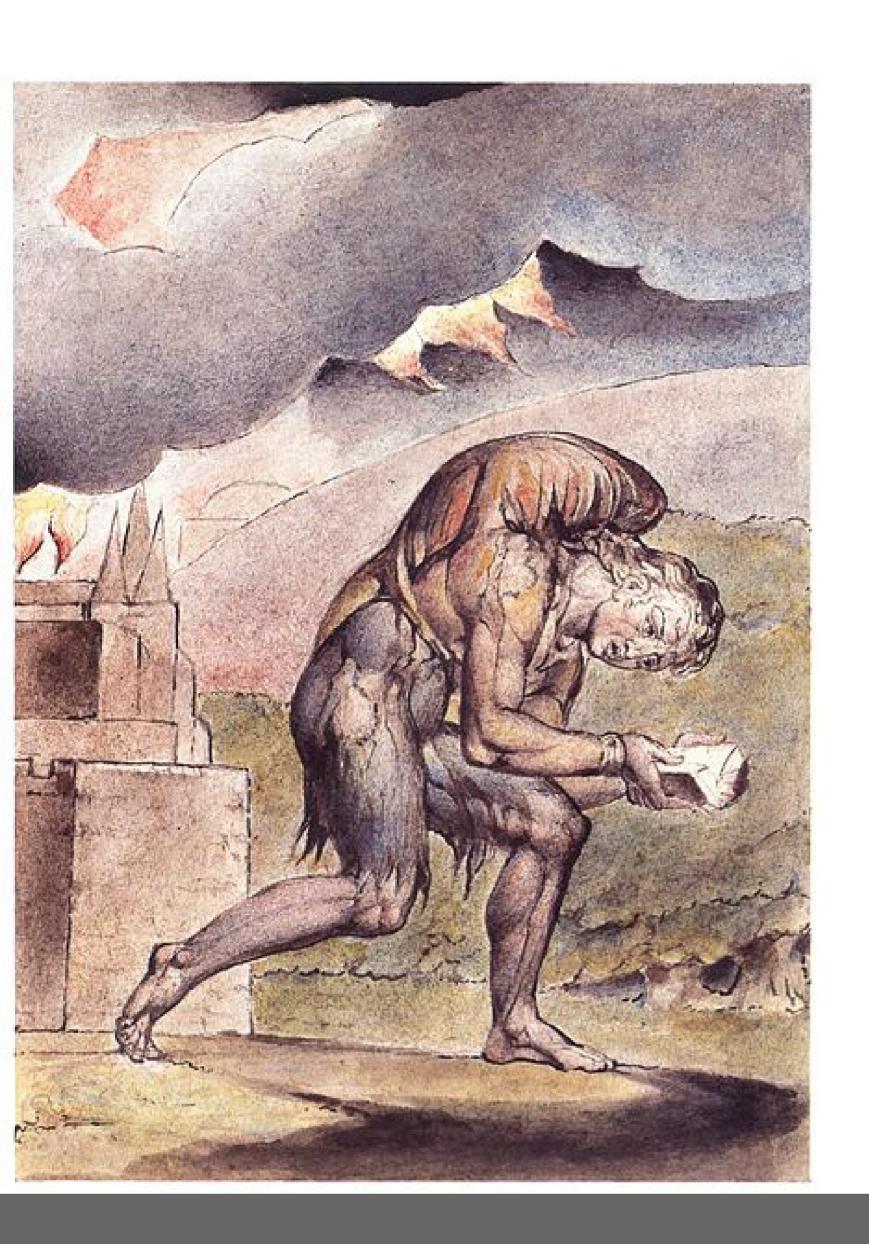
9:30-10:50am

Prof. Traina



### RELIGION AND BIOETHICS

Even in "secular" American society, religion intersects with medicine and bioethics where we least expect to find it. We will discuss the connection between religion and some central questions of bioethics like suffering and death; transplant; vaccination; the opioid crisis; ecology; gene editing; and others. We will also discuss religions' intersection with the practice and ethics of medicine: religions' influence on the goals of medicine and the fundamental principles of bioethics; religiously affiliated hospitals' ethical and religious directives; accommodating patients' and practitioners' diverse religious beliefs in a medical system that is not religiously neutral; the impact of religious convictions on global health initiatives; and religions' role in converting social crises to medical crises. \*Counts toward (RHM) Religion, Health & Medicine major concentration.



SPRING 2019

**REL 374-20** 

MW

9:30-10:50am

Prof. Sufrin

## RELIGION AND LITERATURE

This course addresses the intersection of religion and literature in Judaism and Christianity from several perspectives. We will begin with the biblical story of the Binding of Isaac (Genesis 22) and its role in the thinking of Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard. We will then read the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) and consider its treatment in the novel Home by Marilynne Robinson. Finally, the third part of the course examines the work of Cynthia Ozick, who uses fiction to address the question of idolatry in modern culture. These examinations will also allow us to interrogate other key terms in the study of religion such as faith, orthodoxy, heresy, martyrdom, and holiness.



SPRING 2019

**REL 379-22** 

TuTh 3:30-4:50pm

> Jeffrey Wheatley

### HISTORY OF THE DEVIL

Has the importance of the devil decreased over time? Or, do ideas of the devil and demonic power persist in shaping how people interpret and act in the modern world? In this course, we will utilize the academic perspectives of religious studies and history to understand how people have imagined the devil as a character, a lived presence, and a political-spiritual threat. Readings will focus primarily on the modern era in the Americas, and, in particular, the United States' distinctive emphasis on the demonic.

Together, we will ask how ideas about the devil, the demonic, and hell have shaped modern politics. A careful consideration of the devil as simultaneously a religious and a secular idea offers new ways to critically analyze the emergence of modern nationalism, forms of racial supremacy, and ideas about sexuality, masculinity, and femininity.

REL 379-23 (LEGAL ST 376-23) RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SPRING 2019

MW

12:30-1:50pm

Prof. Dees



Image: Terrance Guardipee (Blackfoot), "Healing Ceremony," 2012

### NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

This course examines Native American religious freedom in U.S. history. We will examine treaty rights, federal Indian policies, court cases, and acts meant to protect American Indian religions. The course will attend to the definitions of "religion" and "religious freedom" and consider historical and contemporary case studies related to the regulation of Indigenous cultures and ceremonies. \*Counts toward (RLP) Religion, Law, & Politics.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPRING 2019

**REL 460-20** 

Thursday 2:00-4:50pm

Prof. Newman Prof. Kieckhefer

## MEDIEVAL LITURGY: A MULTIMEDIA EXPERIENCE

This course aims to provide a concise but intensive introduction to liturgy, including the structure and a brief history of Mass and Office; immersion in some of the central Latin texts of each; the liturgical year; liturgical commentaries; and the theology and practice of the sacraments. More information about the course is available on CAESAR.