

**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES
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

MW

11:00-12:20pm

Prof. Wimpfheimer

**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES
SPRING 2019**



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.



**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
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.

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.

**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
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.

