

WINTER 2019

REL 210-20

9:30-10:50am

Prof.
Sarah Jacoby

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

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.



WINTER 2019

REL 221-20

MW

11:00-12:20pm

Prof. Laura Dingeldein

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Today, the New Testament is widely known and accepted as Christians' authoritative and sacred collection of texts. But roughly 2,000 years ago, there were no Christians, and there was no New Testament—there was only a small group of people who had begun to worship a deceased Jewish healer and teacher as divine. It is this historical moment to which we turn in this course. We will study the people, events, and texts of the first and second centuries that shaped this small Jewish movement into the religion known as Christianity, using as our main evidence the letters and stories of the New Testament.

REL 230-20

MWF

1:00-1:50pm

Prof. Barry Wimpfheimer





INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

This course attempts to answer the questions "What is Judaism?" and "Who is a Jew?" by surveying the broad arc of Jewish history, reviewing the practices and beliefs that have defined and continue to define Judaism as a religion, sampling the vast treasure of Jewish literatures, and analyzing the unique social conditions that have made the cultural experience of Jewishness so significant. The class will employ a historical structure to trace the evolutions of Jewish literature, religion, and culture through the ages.



WINTER 2019

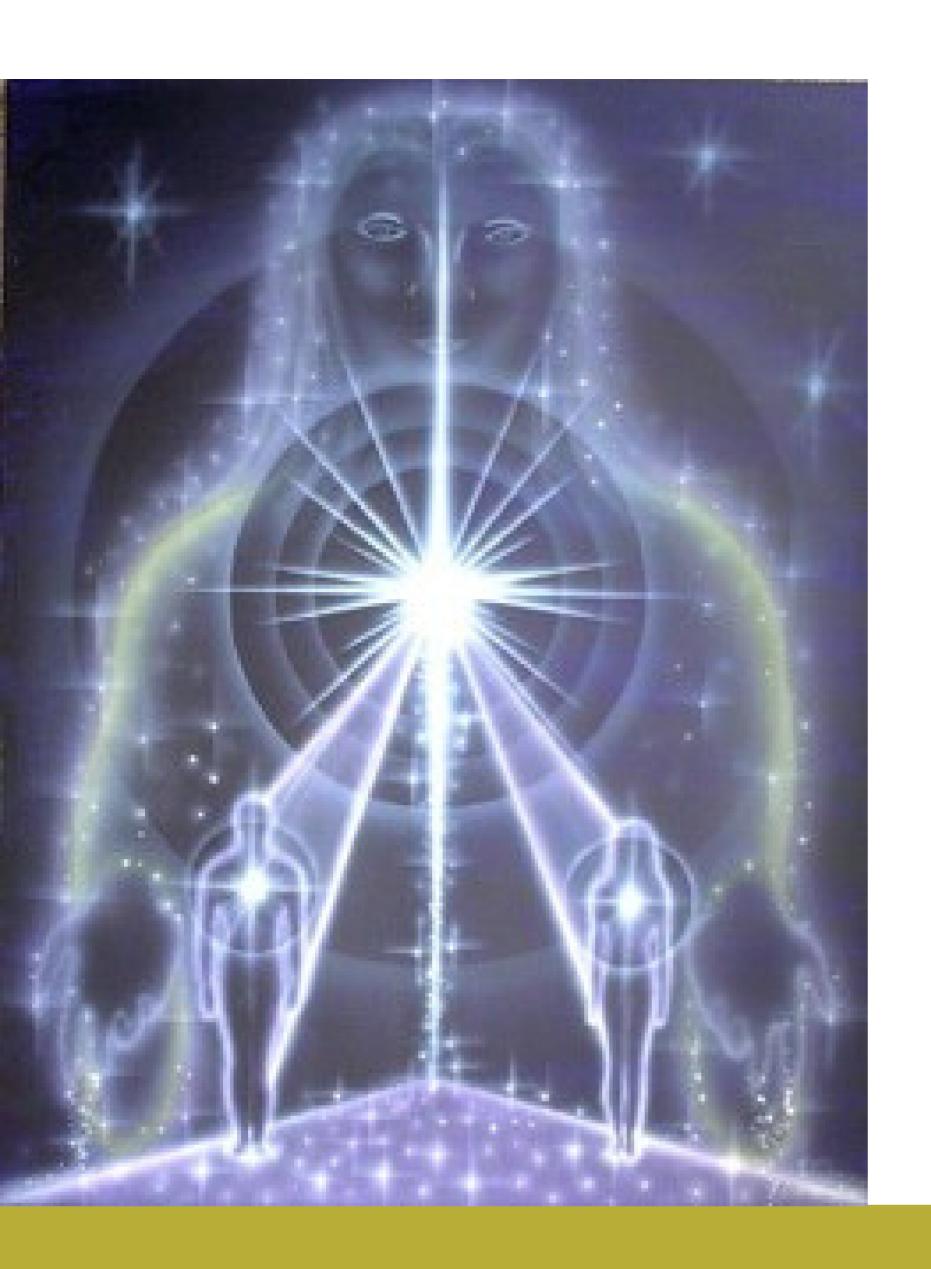
REL 265-20 (HISTORY 200-22)

> TTh 11:00-12:20am

> > Prof. Robert Orsi

AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY FROM WWII TO PRESENT

This course examines major developments, movements, controversies and figures in American religious history from the 1920s, the era of excess and disillusionment, to the 1980s, which saw the revival of conservative Christianity in a nation becoming increasingly religiously diverse. Topics include the liberalism/fundamentalism controversy of the 1920s; the rise of Christian realism in the wake ofthe carnage of World War I; the making of the "tri-faith nation" (Protestant/Catholic/Jew); the supernatural Cold War; the Civil Rights Movement; the revolution in American Catholicism following the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and the rise of Catholic political radicalism in the 1960s; religion and the post-1965 immigration act; the religious politics of abortion; and the realignment of American religion and politics in the 1970s and 1980s. (Counts toward RLP)



REL 275-20

MWF 10:00-10:50am

Prof.
Richard Kieckhefer

MYSTICISM AND SPIRITUALITY

Mysticism is often defined in terms of some specific type of mystical experience, or a mysticalrelationship with the divine, or a mystical form of prayer, or mystical consciousness, all of which may be grounded in specific religious traditions but often moves beyond the boundaries of those traditions. Spirituality is a less specific term; it often refers to a sense of spiritual presence or to spiritual practices, and it may be unconnected with any religious traditions. This course examines the ways both mysticism and spirituality relate on the one hand to experience, and on the other hand to traditions. It focuses also on the ways texts (the writings of the mystics and those claiming spiritual inspiration) can be read, and introduces ways of studying these matters not only across religious traditions but outside traditions. (Counts toward RHM)



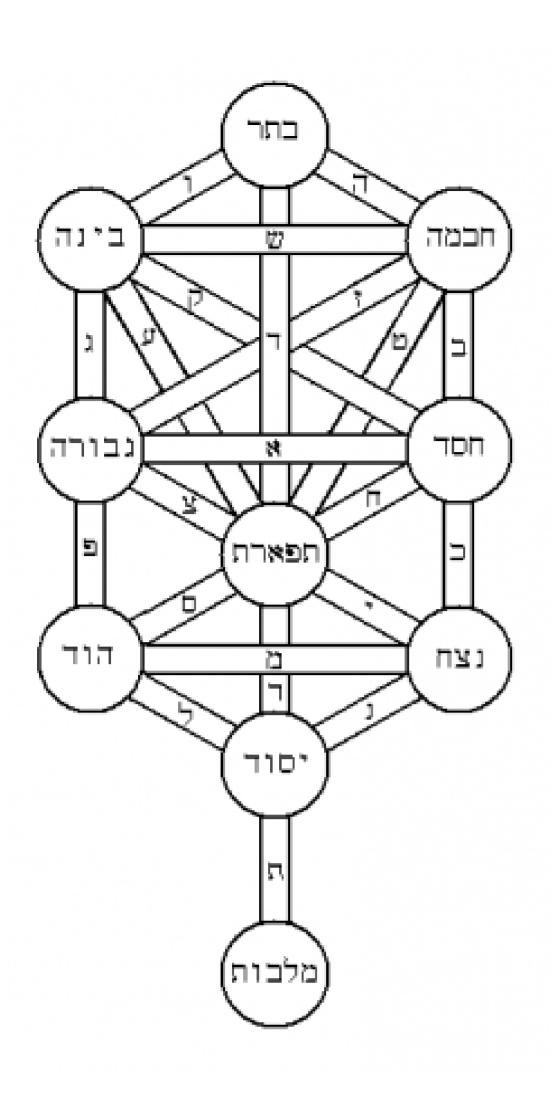
REL 319-20 (ASIAN_LC 390-22)

> MW 3:30-4:50pm

> > Prof. Buckelew

CHAN/SEON/ZEN BUDDHISM

The Chinese Chan (Japanese Zen, Korean Seon or Sŏn) tradition is one of the most famous branches of Buddhism in the world, but also one of the most widely misunderstood. This course explores the rich complexity of Chan/Seon/Zen Buddhism in East Asia by closely examining the tradition's history, literature, philosophy, visual culture, and monastic practices.



WINTER 2019

REL 339-20

MW 11:00-12:20pm

Prof.
Barry Wimpfheimer

KABBALAH

Kabbalah, or Jewish mysticism, is an esoteric (secret) tradition of deliberating about and experiencing the mysteries of those spaces that are inaccessible to the five senses. Though for much of its history Jewish mysticism has been the province of a select few devotees, at times Kabbalah has flourished as a popular religious movement. Recent years have seen a rise in the popularity of Kabbalah as various celebrities (including Madonna and Kanye West) have become affiliated with The Kabbalah Center. This course will introduce the discourse of Kabbalah, think about mysticism as both an experiential and an intellectual tradition and consider why Kabbalah has become so popular today.



WINTER 2019

REL 339-21

TTh 2:00-3:20pm

Prof.
Claire Sufrin

GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN JUDAISM

From its most traditional to its most liberal forms, contemporary Judaism has been deeply influenced by feminism and its call to pay attention to the way gender and sexuality shape and are shaped by religious experiences and ideas. In this course, we will use gender and sexuality as lenses for analyzing the sacred texts, rituals, and theology of Judaism. Along the way, we will also consider how attention to gender and sexuality sheds light on the lives of Jewish men and women of the past and present. (Counts towards RSG)



WINTER 2019

REL 369-20 (ASIAN_AM 350-1)

> MW 2:00-3:20pm

> > Prof.
> >
> > Justin Tse

ASIAN AMERICAN RELIGION

The Chinese Chan (Japanese Zen, Korean Seon or Sŏn) tradition is one of the most famous branches of Buddhism in the world, but also one of the most widely misunderstood. This course explores the rich complexity of Chan/Seon/Zen Buddhism in East Asia by closely examining the tradition's history, literature, philosophy, visual culture, and monastic practices.



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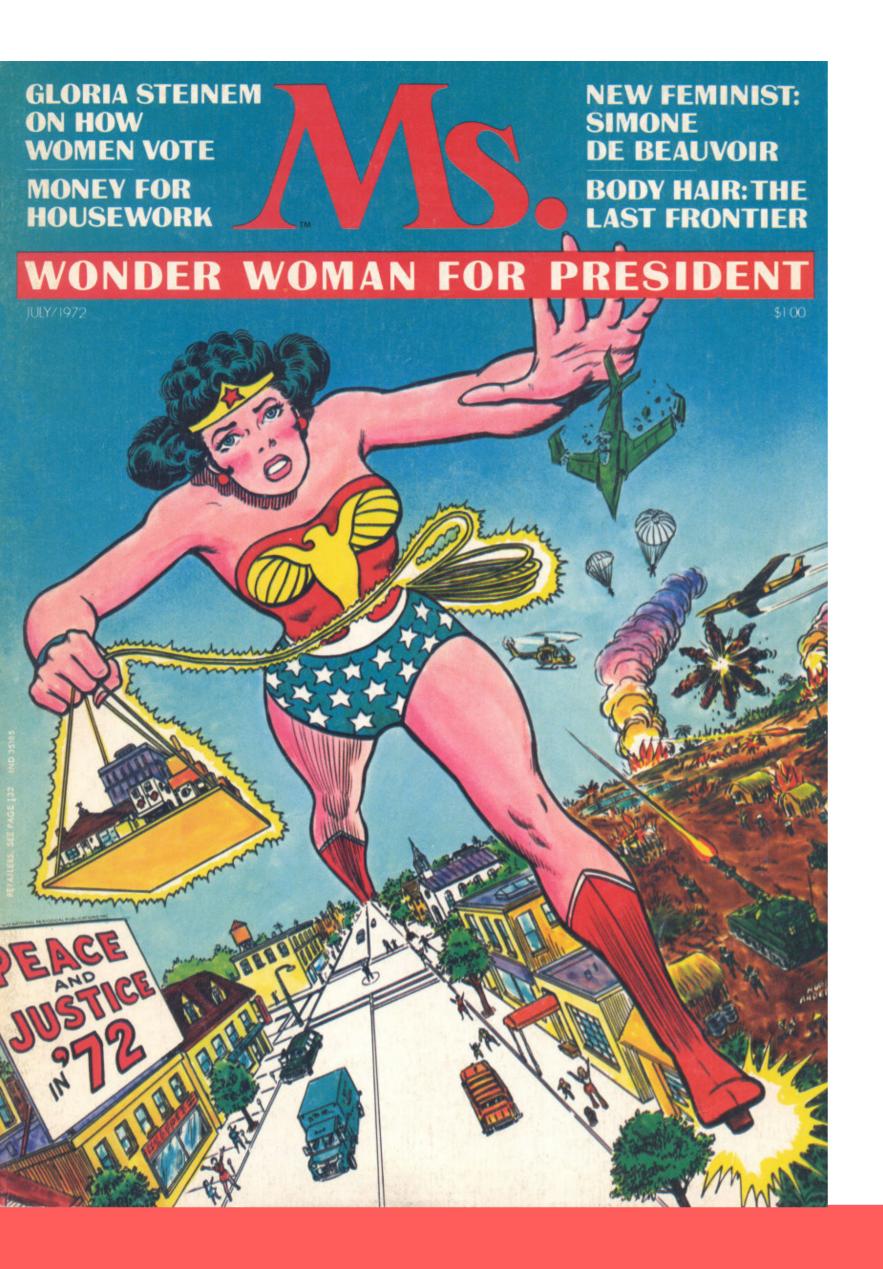
REL 371-20 (RTVF 398-23)

Wednesday 1:00-3:50pm

Prof.
Michelle Molina

EXISTENTIALISM 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?



REL 379-21 (ENGLISH 388-20)

> MW 12:30-1:50pm

Prof.
Ashley King

SCIENCE FICTION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

This course will examine major utopian and dystopian texts and films in relation to social justice issues in the twentieth century and beyond, while following the stories of artists, organizers, and communities that have used speculative world-building to imagine livable, sustainable futures. We will focus on how feminist, anarchist, LGBTQ, and Afrofuturist art and activism have contributed to a substantial critical discourse on the intersections of science, technology, ecology, war, race, gender, sexuality, health, and ability. (Counts towards RSG and RLP)



REL 379-24

TTh 3:30-4:50pm

Prof.
Michelle Molina

REFUGEES/MIGRATION/EXILE: A RESEARCH SEMINAR

This course will examine major utopian and dystopian texts and films in relation to social justice issues in the twentieth century and beyond, while following the stories of artists, organizers, and communities that have used speculative world-building to imagine livable, sustainable futures. We will focus on how feminist, anarchist, LGBTQ, and Afrofuturist art and activism have contributed to a substantial critical discourse on the intersections of science, technology, ecology, war, race, gender, sexuality, health, and ability. By Instructor permission. (Counts towards RLP)



WINTER 2019

REL 471-21

Wednesday 9:00-11:50am

Prof. Elizabeth Hurd

RELIGION, RACE AND POLITICS

This seminar is an experiment in studying the intersections of religion, race, and global politics. We discuss how particular understandings of 'religion' and 'race' have informed contemporary scholarship and also shaped national and international legal and governmental practice. These questions are examined in contexts ranging from anti-superstition laws in Haiti, to religious aspects of the colonial encounter in the Dutch East Indies, to the celebration of "moderate" religion at the US State Department, to the politics of secularism, magic and spirituality in India and China, and beyond. Cross-cutting themes include religion and the rise of the nation-state; the politics of religious establishment and religious freedom; the role of race in the formation of the disciplines of religious studies and international relations; the formation of modern vocabularies of religious and racial exclusion; the role of race and secularism in American history at home and abroad, and the international politics of religion and race in colonial and postcolonial contexts.