



**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
WINTER 2019

REL 221-20

**MW
11:00-12:20pm**

**Prof.
Laura Dingeldein**

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

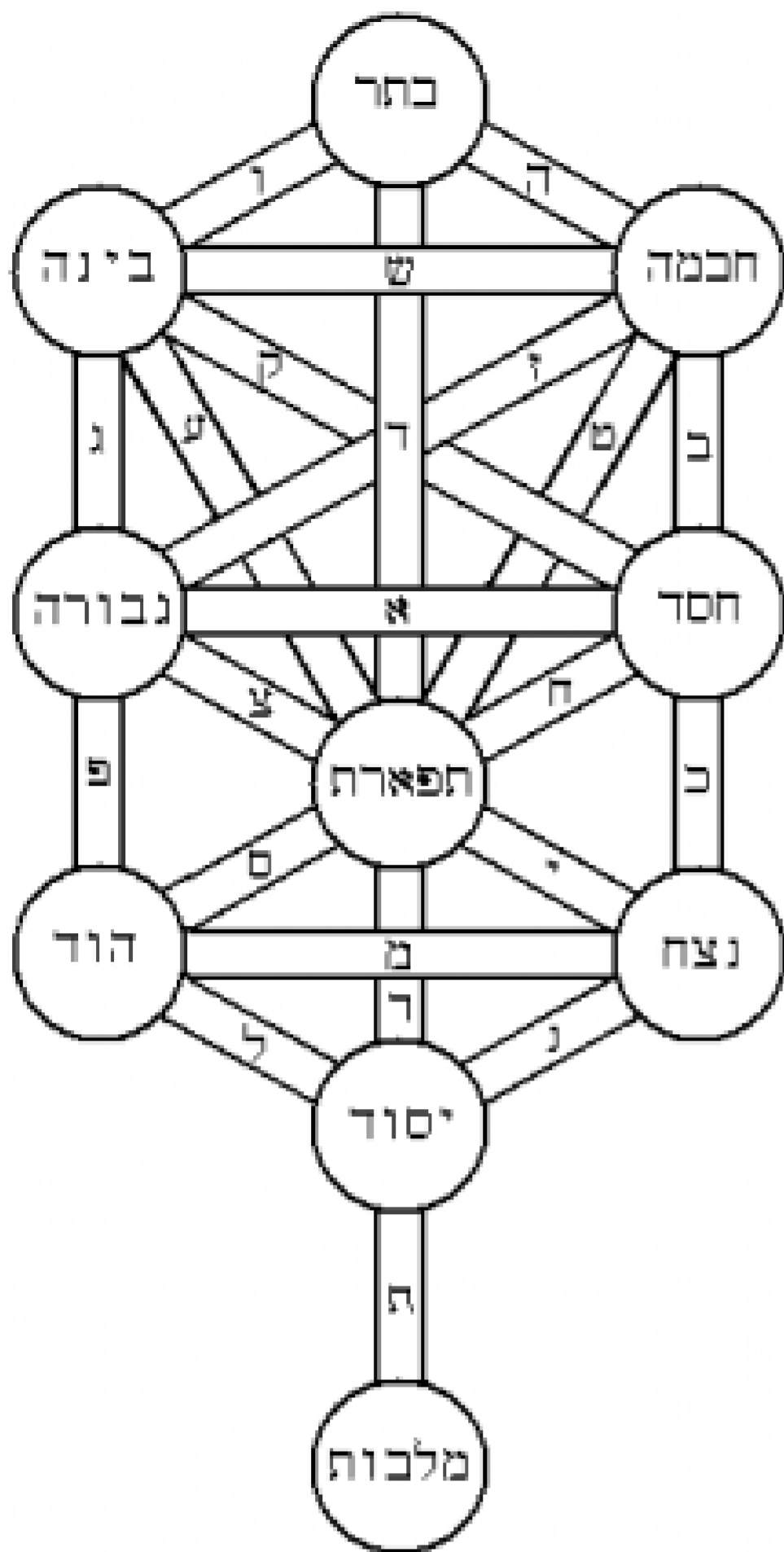
Today, the New Testament is widely known and accepted as Christians' authoritative and sacred collection of texts. But roughly 2,000 years ago, there were no Christians, and there was no New Testament—there was only a small group of people who had begun to worship a deceased Jewish healer and teacher 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.

RELIGIOUS
STUDIES
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.

**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
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)

**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
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.



**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**
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.