

Islamophobia

REL 101-6-20

Tuesday/Thursday

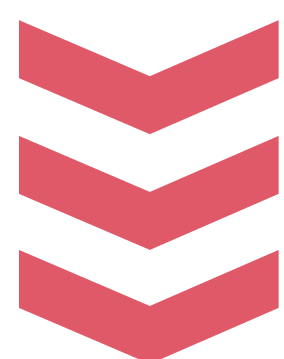
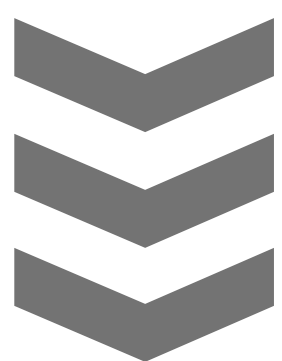
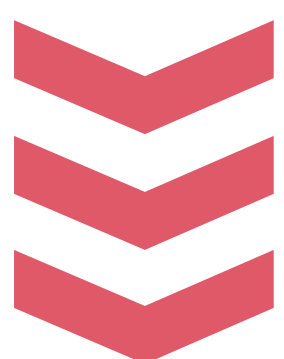
11:00-12:20 pm

Brannon Ingram



This course examines the history, politics, culture and economy of how Islam and Muslims have been represented in the north Atlantic world (the 'West'). It begins with a brief overview of Western representations of Muslims during the early modern period, then explores how colonialism shaped the modern history and politics of contemporary Islamophobia. The bulk of the course will focus in depth on the politics, culture and economy of Islamophobia in the United States, aiming to empower students to understand and navigate the contemporary context. The course gives particular attention to ways that Muslims have sought to challenge, complicate and subvert how they are represented.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020



Introduction to Hinduism

REL 200-20

Tuesday/Thursday
11:00-12:20 pm
Mark McClish



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 Ganesha to the fierce goddess Kali. 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.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020

Introduction to the New Testament

REL 221-20

**Monday/Wednesday
12:30-1:50 pm
Laura Dingeldein**



Today, the New Testament is widely known and accepted as Christians' authoritative and sacred collection of texts. But roughly two thousand years ago, there were no Christians, and there was no New Testament. Rather, there existed in the eastern part of the Roman Empire a small group of people who had begun worshiping a 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 a small Jewish movement into the religion now known as Christianity, using as our main evidence the letters and stories of the New Testament.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020



Introduction to Judaism

REL 230-20

Mon/Wed/Friday

9:00-9:50 am

Barry Wimpfheimer



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.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020



American Religious History from WWII to Present

**REL 265-20/
HIS 200-24**

**Monday/Wednesday
11:00-12:20 pm
Larry Perry**



Religion and the making of contemporary America, including Cold War religion, the “Black Gods” of the Great Migration, the rise of the Christian Right, and modern American Catholicism and Judaism.

Counts toward RLP.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020



Hindu Epics: Mahābhārata

**REL 301-20/
ASIAN_LG 360-21**

**Monday
2:00-4:50 pm
Mark McClish**



The Mahābhārata is an epic of ancient India that tells the story of a cataclysmic war between two sets of cousins, a war that eventually came to involve all the peoples of earth and gods in heaven. Interwoven among the main narrative are myriad shorter tales and religious teachings, so that the Mahābhārata represents a kind of encyclopedia of classical Hinduism. For over two thousand years, the Mahābhārata has continued to entertain and edify audiences as one of the best-known and most-beloved of Hindu sacred texts. As a class we will read an abridged version of the text in translation. Graduate students may elect to read portions in the original Sanskrit. Our engagement with the text will focus on immersing ourselves in its story-world and thinking about narrative as a form of scripture.

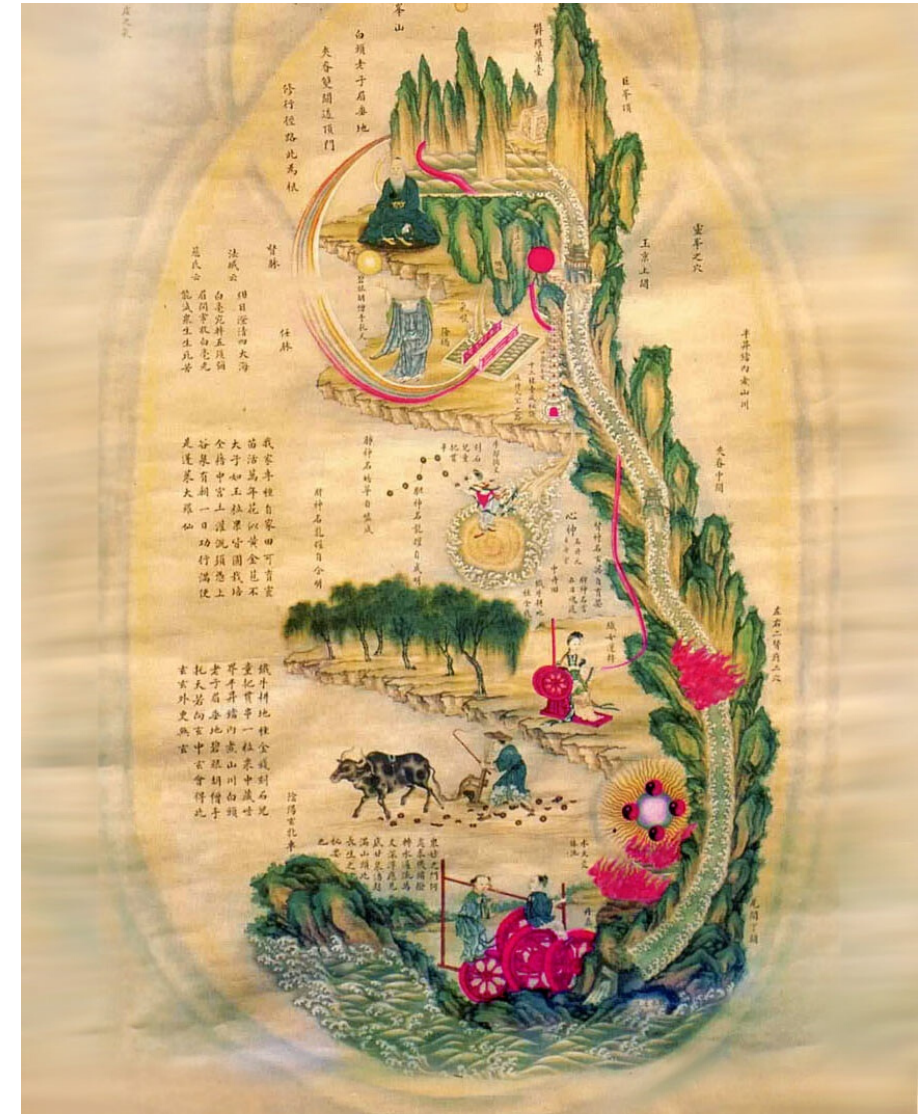
RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020



Religion and Body in China

**REL 316-20/
ASIAN_LG 300-20**

**Tuesday/Thursday
2:00-3:20 pm
Kevin Buckelew**



This seminar explores the place of the body in Chinese religion, from the ancient period to the present day. In the course of this exploration, we seek to challenge our presuppositions about a seemingly simple question: what is “the body,” and how do we know? We open by considering themes of dying and the afterlife, food and drink, health and medicine, gender and family. We then turn to Daoist traditions of visual culture. We read ghost stories and analyze the complex history of footbinding. Finally, we conclude with two case studies of religion and the body in contemporary China, one situated on the southwestern periphery, the other in the capital city of Beijing. Throughout the quarter, we investigate how the body has mediated relationships between Buddhist, Daoist, and popular religious traditions. Counts toward RHM, RSG.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020



American Judaism

**REL 339-21/
AMER_ST 310-3**

**Tuesday/Thursday
9:30-10:50 am
Clare Sufrin**



As a nation of immigrants committed by the Bill of Rights to freedom of religion, the United States of America offered Jews both a unique setting in which to live and work and a unique setting in which to worship and understand their God and observe the customs of their religion. In this course, we will examine the evolution of American Judaism from the colonial period through to the present day. Using a variety of perspectives, we will trace shifts in the situation of Jews in America and corresponding changes in the way(s) Jews have practiced and understood their religious traditions. Emphasis will be placed on critical understanding of theology and cultural materials such as short stories, films and music as well as other primary documents.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020



Black Religious Thought

**REL 369-24/
AF_AM_ST
380-O-22**

**Monday/Wednesday
3:30-4:50 pm
Larry Perry**



The aim of the African American Religious Thought course is to offer students a chance to delve deeply into the ways in which black intellectuals from Frederick Douglass to Delores Williams have thought about religion and race in America. Here, students get a grasp of both the primary and secondary sources of African American Intellectual-Religious history, engaging monographs on the subject and major figures in historical moments. Students will leave with an understanding of how African American Intellectuals engaged religious and political matters during chattel slavery, the reconstruction, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power Era, and the Black Lives Matter Movement.

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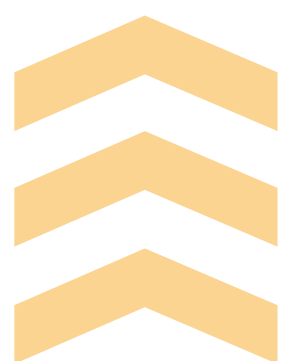
Embodiment/Materiality/Affect

**REL 471-20/
HIST 405-30/
GNDR_ST 490-22**

**Friday
11:00-1:30 pm
Michelle Molina**

This seminar explores theoretical approaches to the problems of embodiment/materiality/affect. One aim of the course is to examine various methodological approaches to embodiment, materiality and affect, making use of sociology and philosophy (Pierre Bourdieu, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Spinoza, Massumi). The second and closely related aim is to situate bodies in time and place, that is, in history. Here we look to the particular circumstances that shaped the manner in which historical actors experienced their bodies in the Christian west (Peter Brown, Caroline Bynum, Mary Carruthers, Michel de Certeau, Michel Foucault). Ultimately, we will be examining theoretical tools while we put them to work. The goal: how to use these thinkers to write more dynamic, creative, interesting scholarship?

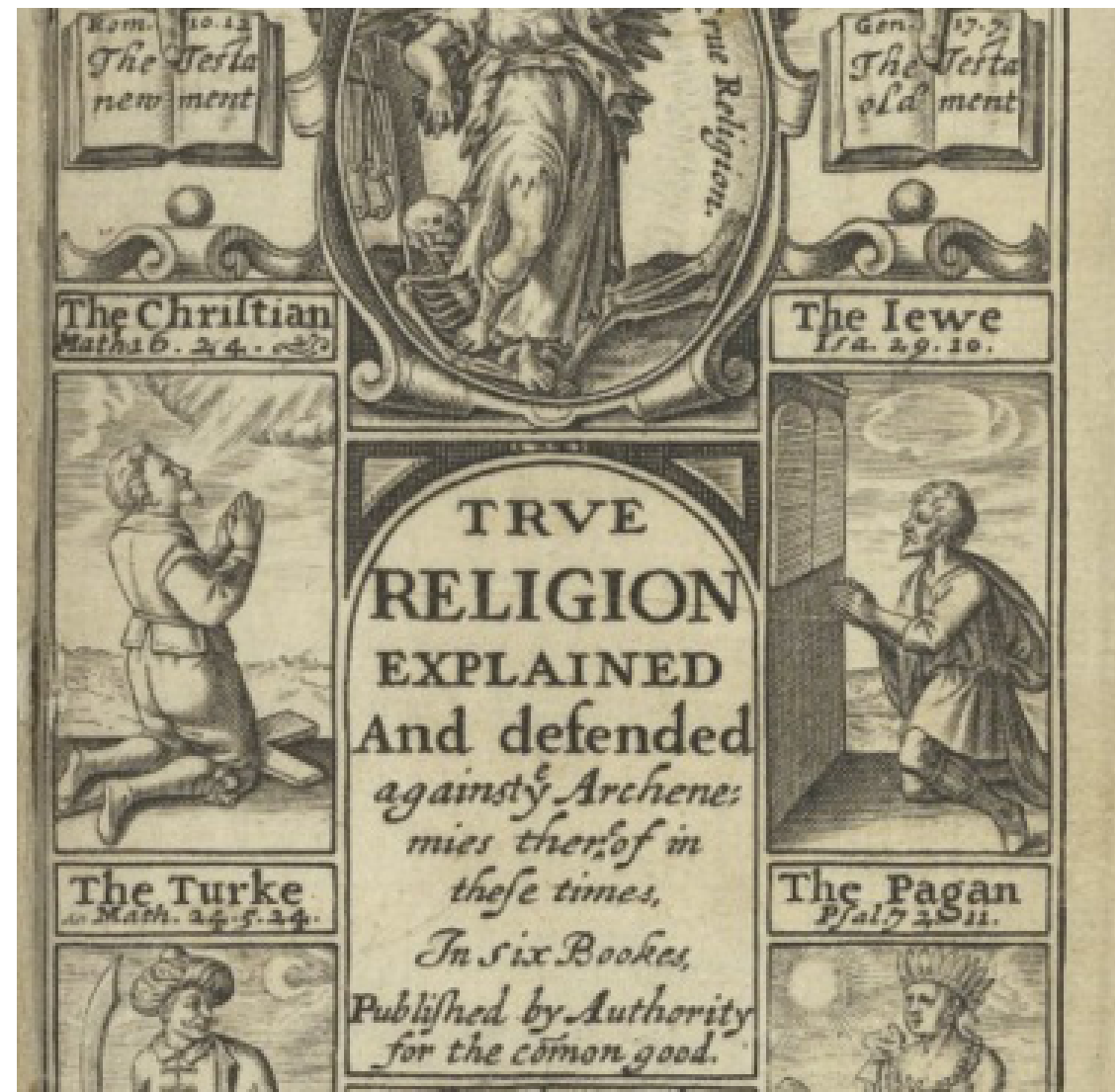
RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020



Histories of 'Religion'

REL 481-2-20

**Wednesday
10:00-1:00 pm
Brannon Ingram**



Histories of 'Religion': Focusing on recent monographs in the field, this course aims to provide a genealogy of the category of religion itself as it was constituted within Euro-American intellectual and social history. It gives particular attention to ways that the category migrated within, and was mediated by, colonial and imperial networks (with a particular focus on Asia). It ends with an overview of recent debates about secularity as a discourse that attempts to draw boundaries between 'religion' and not-religion ('culture', 'politics', 'superstition', and so on), and of ways that the category of religion was/remains imbricated in notions of race.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES | Winter 2020

