

SUMMER 2023

Intro to Religion

Michelle Molina

REL 170-26

Asynchronous

ONLINE

Three Weeks

6/20/23 to 7/9/23



Religion: we think we recognize it when we see it, and yet it is always changing. How does one study a moving target? Is religion best understood as a social practice or an individual experience? Drawing upon history, we see how the notion that “religion” could be studied objectively grew out of early modern European sectarian violence and colonial overseas expansion. We then turn to study some thinkers from the 19th and 20th centuries who argue about whether the comparison should entail the study of cultures or the study of individuals, testing their new ideas about anthropology, sociology, and psychology on case studies about religion.

SUMMER 2023

Intro to Judaism

Barry Wimpfheimer

REL 230-26

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.

Asynchronous

ONLINE

Three Weeks

6/20/23 to 7/9/23



SUMMER 2023

Liberation Theology

Ashley King

REL 349-26

Liberation theology is a theological and political praxis situated in the lives of the oppressed, which emphasizes the need for social, political, and economic liberation on earth. It originated within Latin American Catholicism in the 1960s and quickly spread around the world. This course examines the origins and development of liberation theology from a global perspective, focusing on its historical and political contexts, methods, and challenges to traditional Christian theology. We will also examine common critiques of liberation theology to assess its continued relevance in the twenty-first century. Readings will consist of foundational texts by Latin American, African American, Indigenous, Palestinian, postcolonial, feminist, womanist, queer, and trans theologians including Gustavo Gutiérrez, James H. Cone, Letty M. Russell, Naim Ateek, Tink Tinker, Musa W. Dube, Kwok Pui Lan, and Marcella Althaus-Reid. *This is a hybrid course, meaning that students can attend discussions in-person, online, or a mixture of both.



HYBRID

Five weeks

6/20/23 - 7/23/23

MWF 2-4 pm

SUMMER 2023

The Black Atlantic -- A Religious Interpretation

Marlon Millner

REL 360-26

Asynchronous

ONLINE

Five Weeks

(7/24/23 to 8/27/23)



What is the relationship between Black Diaspora and Religion? The categories of religion and race emerge within the encounter between Europeans and Africans in New World conquest and enslavement. This suggests geography, conflict, and the entanglement and or emergence of cultures offer a story of religion in spatial, relational and temporal ways. This course will trace religion as a mapping of space, a motion of time and a making sense of encounter of Black movement. Black Diaspora, a religious interpretation will therefore examine key words, or themes, such as: SOUL, SPIRIT, AFRICA, ABOLITION, BLACK, MUSIC and more in a multi-sensory exploration of sound, sight, texts, tastes, ritual, resistance and more. This course will use readings, music, visual art and videos.