

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Fall 2017 Courses



Image courtesy of Guggenheim Artwork

Robert Motherwell Elegy to the Spanish Republic No. 110

Ethics, Religion, and the Environment

Occult America

Is Jewish and Christian Dialogue Possible?

**Ethics, Religion, and War in the
20th and 21st Centuries**

Anxiety and Ethics

Body/Sex in World Religious Literature

Sacred Arts of India

The Bible as Literature

www.religiousstudies.richmond.edu

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RELG 201 The Bible as Literature Frank Eakin

TR 3:00 – 4:15 PM (FSLT)

A non-confessional study of the diverse genres of Biblical literature, viewing passages in historical context to understand the multiple layers of the intended message: period about which written, the time of the writer, and the time of the recipient. Primary emphasis is given to literary and historical criticism.

RELG 210-01/02 Occult America Douglas Winiarski

MW 1:30 – 2:45 PM; MW 3:00 – 4:15 PM (FSHT) (AMST)

This course introduces students to historical methods through an investigation of selected “occult”—meaning “hidden” or “mysterious”—religious traditions in British North America during the long eighteenth century (1690–1815). Topical units explore outsider religious communities, such as the Ephrata Cloister and the United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Coming (the Shakers), and unusual religious phenomena ranging from witchcraft, hauntings, and spirit possession to dreams, trances, and visions.

RELG 251-01/02 Sacred Arts of India Miranda Shaw

TR 1:30 – 2:45 PM; TR 3:00 – 4:15 PM (FSVP)

Introduction to Indian religions focusing on artistic expressions, roles of yoga and meditation in creativity, and use of images to experience the divine.

RELG 253-01/02 Body/Sex in World Religious Literature Jane Geaney

TR 12:00 – 1:15 PM; TR 1:30 – 2:45 PM (FSLT) (ISAH) (WGSS)

This course explores theoretical ideas about sexuality. In the first third of the semester, we read theories of sexuality. In the remainder of the semester, in light of these theories, we examine primary sources like *The Kama Sutra* and early Chinese “sex manuals,” in which religion and sexuality intersect. The primary texts for this class are predominantly from non-Western cultures.

RELG 269 Ethics, Religion, and the Environment Scott Davis

MFW 1:30 – 2:20 PM

Moral and religious issues that attend our life in and interaction with the environment. Through the detailed analysis of text and argument the course seeks to provide an overview of on-going issues and to foster the ability to read and assess arguments from a variety of positions.

RELG 369 Ethics, Religion, and War in the 20th and 21st Centuries Scott Davis

MWF 10:30 – 11:20 AM

Reading will examine questions of justice, jihad, terrorism, and Christian discipleship.

FYS 100 Is Jewish and Christian Dialogue Possible? Frank Eakin

TR 12:00 – 1:15 PM

Anti-Judaism has been a reality for Jews since prior to the emergence of Christianity, but theological anti-Judaism emerged with Christianity. The holocaust and its aftermath convinced many Christians of an ecclesiastical complicity with what happened to the Jews during this horrendous period, and thus during the post-holocaust period many Christian bodies have sought to express in formal papers the relationship of the churches to Judaism. We will analyze Biblical and non-Biblical materials, written and artistic, and their impact upon Jewish-Christian dialogue.

FYS 100 Anxiety and Ethics Kathleen Skerrett

TR 1:30 – 2:45 PM

This first year seminar approaches anxiety as an existential or spiritual condition that is entwined with the practice of freedom. We will discuss late modern philosophers, theologians, and creative artists, who explore how ethical lives are intricately woven into the opportunities and challenges that anxiety presents.