Religious Studies Course Offerings
Fall 2020

American Gods
Buddhist Philosophy
Ethics, Religion & War
Healing & Medicine in China
Race & War
Sacred Arts of India

Satan
Symbol, Myth & Ritual
Tolkien & the Medieval Imagination
Whores, Dragons & the Anti-Christ

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RELG 200  Symbol, Myth & Ritual  Scott Davis  MW 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.  (FSSA)
Introduction to study of religion including, but not limited to, social scientific approaches, focusing on symbols, myths, and rituals as constitutive features of individual and communal religious thought and practice.

RELG 210-01  Healing & Medicine in China – Then & Now  Jane Geaney  TR 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.  (FSHT)
RELG 210-02  Healing & Medicine in China – Then & Now  Jane Geaney  TR 1:30-2:45 p.m.  (FSHT)
Chinese medicine may seem timeless, but it has a history. This course will explore two key moments in the two millennia-long history of Chinese medicine: its beginning and current state. The course starts with Daoist approaches to longevity, popular early Chinese healing practices, and the emergence of a medical canon in a text purporting to be a record of conversations between the mythical Yellow Emperor and his advisors (c. 2nd to 1st century B.C.E.). The second part of the course focuses on modern Chinese Medicine in the Chinese cultural sphere and in the form of global medicine.

RELG 251-01  Sacred Arts of India  Miranda Shaw  MW 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.  (FSVP)
RELG 251-02  Sacred Arts of India  Miranda Shaw  MW 3:00-4:15 p.m.  (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 268-01  Satan  L. Stephanie Cobb  TR 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.  (FSLT)
RELG 268-02  Satan  L. Stephanie Cobb  TR 1:30-2:45 p.m.  (FSLT)
This course investigates the origins, development, and significance of personified evil—Satan—in Judaism and Christianity. Through studying some of the most important literary developments of this figure, we will shed light not only on how ancient authors thought of him, but also on the ways that Satan came to play an important role in popular culture in the modern era.

RELG 342  Whores, Dragons, and the Anti-Christ: Revelation and the Apocalyptic Imagination  L. Stephanie Cobb  TR 3:00-4:15 p.m.
This course introduces students to early Jewish and Christian apocalypses, a fascinating but complex genre of religious literature. It examines the literary genre, its social origins and potential meanings, and invites students to explore the varied ways people—from medieval mystics to 21st century radio broadcasters—have read and used these texts. Although the course does not attempt to answer how apocalypses ought to be read, it does reveal the power behind (and consequences of) various interpretive approaches.

RELG 366  Buddhist Philosophy  Miranda Shaw  T 7:00 – 9:40 p.m.
A survey of Buddhist intellectual history, early through contemporary, focusing on how Buddhists have sought to chart a "middle course" between objectivist and nihilistic absolutisms. Topics include the Buddha's teachings, early metaphysical debates, schools of Mahayana thought, Chinese Ch'An, and Zen in Japan.

RELG 369  Ethics, Religion and War  Scott Davis  MW 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
This seminar studies the moral analysis of the use of force in a variety of contexts and religious communities. Topics include just war and jihad, humanitarian intervention, terrorism, and the moral and legal status of torture.

FYS 100-21  Tolkien & the Medieval  Imagination  Scott Davis  MW 10:30-11:45 a.m.
FYS 100-28  Race and War  Kathleen Skerrett  MW 10:30-11:45 a.m.
FYS 100-54  American Gods  Douglas Winiarski  MW 3:00-4:15 p.m.
FYS 100-55  American Gods  Douglas Winiarski  MW 1:30-2:45 p.m.