Religious Studies
Spring 2024 Courses

Symbol, Myth, and Ritual (FSSA)
Body/Sex in World Religious Literature (FSLT, WGSS)
Satan (FSLT)
Sex and the Hebrew Bible (FSLT, WGSS)
Heretics, Liars, and Deviants (FSHT)
Varieties of Christian Ethics (FSSA)
Women, Gender, Sexuality, and Islam (WGSS)
Hebrew Prophets
Ethics, Religion, & War
Psychology of Religion: Love, Shame, & Hate
Dreams & Islam (FYS)

www.religiousstudies@richmond.edu
Religious Studies Seminars

Women, Gender, Sexuality, and Islam (RELG 303, GSCP, WGSS)
MW 12:00-1:15
Mimi Hanaoka
This course explores Islam and Muslim traditions through the prisms of women, gender, and sexuality, exploring how authority and power interact with these phenomena. We will ask these types of questions: How is authority gendered in Islam in its social, religious, and domestic dimensions? Where do the utopian ideals of equality create dissonance with the lived reality of gendered societies and communities? Are these issues of women, gender, sexuality, and authority unique to Islam, or do they manifest across a variety of religions and communities across time and place?

Hebrew Prophets (RELG 331)
R 1:30-4:00
Rhianne Graybill
The prophet Jeremiah described prophecy as “like a fire in my bones.” What does it mean to be a prophet in the Hebrew Bible? Why do the prophets consistently fail at prophecy? Is the prophetic tradition a resource for social justice, a collection of beautiful poetry, or a peculiar artifact of an ancient world very different from our own? This class will explore these and other questions in the context of biblical prophecy. Our topics include prophecy in the ancient Near East, prophecy as a mode of performance, the relationship between prophetic speech and actions, gender and prophecy, questions of social justice, and contemporary re-imaginings of biblical prophecy.

Ethics, Religion, & War (RELG 369)
MW 1:30-2:45
Scott Davis
This course introduces the central issues and arguments surrounding war and peace in the 21st Century, focusing on Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. The goal is to foster systematic critical thought about justice, religion and war in a global perspective. Topics will include just war criteria, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and martyrdom.

Psychology of Religion: Shame, Love, & Hate (RELG 393)
M 3:00-5:40
Jane Geaney
Curious about the dynamics of shame, love, and hate? In this introduction to the psychology of religion, we explore the many roles these feelings play in religious behavior and emotional growth. Drawing from a diverse array of texts from Early China, the Abrahamic traditions, and Greco-Roman antiquity, we apply classical theories from Psychology and Religious Studies to illuminate the many facets and felt-experiences of shame, love, and hate. Throughout the course, we also consider questions about the value of comparison itself. No prerequisites.

Courses for First Year Students

Dreams & Islam (FYS)
Mimi Hanaoka
MW 9:30-10:15 (01); 10:30-11:45 (02)
This course explores how Islam makes sense of dreams and waking visions. We consider how dreams and visions relate to God, prophecy, truth, the future, the afterlife, and the end of time. We examine what roles visions and dreams play in the political, social, and devotional dimensions of Islamic societies.