RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Fall 2015 Courses

religiousstudies.richmond.edu

Body/Sex in World Religious Literature • The Hebrew Prophets

Buddhism in India and Tibet • Native American Religions

Religion and the Arts • Ethics/Religion and the Environment

Introduction to Islam • Rewriting the Bible

The Bible As Literature
**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
Fall 2015 Curriculum – religiousstudies.richmond.edu

**RELG 201-01  THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE**  
FSLT  TR 3:00 – 4:15 PM  
Frank Eakin  
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. Within Biblical exegesis, primary emphasis is given to literary and historical criticism.

**RELG 253-01/02  BODY/SEX IN WORLD RELIGIOUS LITERATURE**  
FSLT  MW 10:30 – 11:45 AM/01; MW 12:00 - 1:15 PM/02  
Jane Geaney  
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 257-01/02  NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIONS**  
FSHT  MW 3:00 – 4:15 PM/01; MW 4:30 – 5:45 PM/02  
Douglas Winiarski  
Historical survey of selected Native American religious traditions from prehistory to the present. Course topics may include: Mississippian cultures; rituals of trade, agriculture and war; impact of European missionaries and revitalization movements; Black Elk and Lakota Catholicism; and religious freedom issues in contemporary Indian communities.

**RELG 263-01/02  RELIGION AND THE ARTS**  
FSVP  TR 10:30 – 11:45 AM/01; TR 1:30 – 2:45 PM/02  
Miranda Shaw  
This course explores the interactions of religious belief with material culture including the forms, traditions, and historical contexts of a variety of arts across selected cultures including: African, Shinto/Buddhism, Christianity, Islam.

**RELG 269-01/02  ETHICS, RELIGION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
MWF 10:30 – 11:20 AM/01; MWF 12:00 – 12:50 PM/02  
Scott Davis  
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 281-01/02  INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM**  
FSHT  TR 10:30 – 11:45 AM/01; TR 12:00 – 1:15 PM/02  
Mimi Hanaoka  
This is an introductory course on Islam that examines its development as a religious and social movement from its inception to the contemporary period. The course traces the intellectual history, institutional evolution, and theological developments of Islam, placing these phenomena in their appropriate historical contexts. The approach in this course is both chronological and topical. This course meets the General Education Field of Study Historical Studies requirements.

**RELG 331  THE HEBREW PROPHETS**  
TR 12:00 – 1:15 PM  
Frank Eakin  
This course is a study of prophecy that sets this phenomenon within its ancient Near Eastern context. We focus upon the nature of prophecy and the individual prophets of pre-exilic, exilic, and post-exilic derivation, giving emphasis to the distinctive message of each era. We give careful attention to an exegesis of the Book of Amos, both to clarify Amos as a prophet and to indicate a possible exegetical approach to each of the prophets.

**RELG 352  BUDDHISM IN INDIA AND TIBET**  
MW 1:30 – 2:45 PM  
Miranda Shaw  
Major Buddhist teachings, practices, and ideals as they developed in India and continued to evolve in Tibetan Buddhism. Topics include meditation, cultivation of compassion, emptiness philosophy, Tantra, Tibetan Book of the Dead, and the Dalai Lamas. Our main approach is to read, discuss, and analyze primary sources, such as scriptures, life stories, and writings of contemporary Buddhist leaders.

**FYS 100  REWRITING THE BIBLE**  
TR 12:00  FYS 100 sec. 33  
Stephanie Cobb  
“Rewriting the Bible” examines the ways biblical stories are appropriated in various times and places to address differing social and theological needs and agendas. It explores the ways ancient and modern rewritings of biblical narratives expand stories, change points of view, and fill in narrative gaps, creating new stories filled with new meanings.