Comparative Religion Spring 2015 Courses
(all are 4 credit courses)

REL 101 Introduction to World Religions T/TH 10:50—12:05 Instructors: Taylor and Young
An introduction to the study of religion through an examination of the world religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students are introduced to the historical method of analyzing the making of each tradition over time, and to the comparative method of analyzing patterns across traditions towards creating a globally accurate definition of religion. The course investigates the variety of ways in which each tradition establishes beliefs and values, and its mobilization of them in experiences and practices. Through field trips to sacred spaces currently used for worship of each tradition in the U.S. context, the course explores religion’s connections with public space, community, and the arts. Offered spring semester. CLA-Breadth/Humanities, CLA-Diversity International, CLA-Diversity US

REL 213 Warfare and Ethics T 4:30-7:00 Instructor: Cole
Moral and religious issues in warfare, including classical and contemporary views. The course will cover but not be limited to the following: the western just war theory, moral realism and war, the rules of war, war crimes, guerrilla warfare, terrorism, nuclear weapons, spying and espionage, and war in Jewish and Islamic thought. Offered spring semester in even-numbered years. CLA-Breadth/Humanities, CLA-Diversity International

REL 214 Business Ethics T/TH 9:25-10:40 Instructor: Cole
A philosophical and theological study of those ethical, religious, and social issues that play an important role in thinking morally about economic and business practices. Attention is paid to practical ethical problems arising out of the functional areas of management and the wider areas of business and social responsibility in relation to the community, ecology, minorities, the role of multinationals and public safety. CLA-Breadth/Humanities

REL 219 Christian Fantasy Literature from King Arthur to Lord of the Rings M 4:30-7:00 Instructor: Cole
This course provides an analysis of Christian fantasy literature from its Medieval formation through the twentieth century. The course will draw upon the major works of fantasy literature with decidedly Christian themes of morality and religion. The major authors include: Thomas Malory, Oscar Wilde, George MacDonald, Charles Williams, C.S. Lewis, and J.R.R. Tolkien. The course will trace how these authors used the elements of the fantastic to explore moral and theological themes in a classical Christian context. Offering to be determined. CLA- Breadth: Humanities; CLA- Writing Intensive

REL 264 Topics in Asian Religion: Introduction to Buddhism T/TH 1:45-3:00 Instructor: Dr. Serinity Young
This interdisciplinary course will survey the development of Buddhism from its beginnings in India and its spread throughout Asia. Issues to be explored are monasticism, the cult of relics, gender, sexuality, society and community, and salvation. The emphasis will be on how individual participants in Buddhist religious life understand themselves, what constitutes their practice, and how it changed over time and in different cultures. An important part of the changing landscape of Buddhism will be shown through the changing images of the Buddha. While the course emphasizes various forms of Buddhist literature
(biographies, canonical texts, sutras, folklore, etc.) the evidence of material culture, especially archaeology and iconography, will complement and sometimes challenge the textual evidence. CLA-Breadth/Humanities, CLA-DIT Diversity International

**JWST/REL 320 Zionism and the Messianic Idea in Judaism M/W 12:15-1:30 Instructor: Nadler**

While the modern political movement known as Zionism emerged in late 19th century Europe in response to the rising, and lethal, tide of anti-Semitic attacks across the continent, the ceaseless, often messianic, faith of the Jews that a Jewish Commonwealth in the Land of Israel would ultimately be re-established began with the Hebrew prophets in the 6th century BCE. This course will focus on the modern, largely secularized and politicized renaissance of this ancient faith, i.e. Zionism, but it will begin with an overview of the ancient and medieval Messianic notions of the “ingathering of the Jewish exiles and the restoration of Jewish political autonomy in the ‘Holy Land.” The course's chronology will end with the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, and will not deal with the contemporary political conflicts between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

CLA-Breadth/Humanities

**REL 332 Reformation: Theology, Society, and Devotion W/F 10:40-12:05 Instructor: Hamilton**

This course examines the origins of the reformation in the history of Christianity and traces the questions that become central to the 15th- and 16th-century reformers. Topics will include: the study and translation of the Bible; papal power; devotional practices; and grace and free will. We examine the critiques of these practices and theologies by reformers such as Wycliffe, Hus, Erasmus, Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin. We shall also examine the Catholic reformation and the origins of Roman Catholicism. Other topics include the rise of the modern state, witchcraft, Inquisition, and women as reformers and objects of reform. Finally, we will focus on the English Reformation and work directly with Drew’s rare 16th- and 17th-century collection of English prayer books.

CLA-Breadth/Humanities; CLA-Diversity International

**ALSO OF INTEREST:**

**PSCI 341 Muslims and the West W 4:00-6:30 Instructor Dr. Sangay Mishra**

This course is a comparative analysis that draws upon Muslim immigrant experiences in the United States, Britain, and France. While situating Muslim experiences in the broader discussions on racial and religious minorities, the course engages with a dominant framework that puts forward the view that the West and Islam are irreconcilable. The social, cultural, religious, and political inclusion of Muslim immigrants has been contentious and these countries have adopted similar as well as divergent approaches to deal with it. The language of the global war on terror in the post-9/11 period has brought many of the lingering questions regarding Muslim inclusion to the fore. This course is aimed not only at understanding some of the salient issues faced by Muslim immigrant communities, but also looks at the ways in which a particular set of discourses on Islam has come to define the Muslim immigrant experiences in the West.

**JWST241/HIST241 Jewish History from Greco-Roman Times to the Enlightenment M/W 3:10-4:25 Instructor: Nadler**

A survey lecture course on the history of the Jewish People beginning with the conquest of Israel by Alexander the Great (333 BCE) and concluding with the French Revolution (1789). While social, economic and political aspects of Jewish history -- i.e. those determined largely by their rulers
throughout the diaspora -- will be considered, the focus of the course will be on the religious and intellectual history of the Jews, which they themselves fashioned. CLA-Breadth/Humanities