Religious Studies

The study of religion, in all of its many cultural and historical manifestations, entails a study of the most fundamental values, as well as some of the most deep-seated conflicts found in individuals and in larger communities, societies and cultures. The study of religion and religions offers students an opportunity to explore, in an informed, critical and empathetic manner, many of the most pressing questions about the human condition. Given the multicultural and interdisciplinary nature of religious studies as a field, it also offers students a means to greatly expand their cultural and intellectual horizons and to acquire a deeper understanding of the reality of global human diversity.

Religious Studies at Washington University is a program that brings together faculty and courses from various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences to engage in the academic study of major religious traditions of the world. The religious studies program offers a wide range of courses from introductory surveys to advanced seminars. Some of these courses are devoted to the historical development of one or more of the major religious traditions of the world, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and East Asian religions. Others focus on particular texts such as the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the Qur'an or Buddhist scriptures. Still others are more comparative in nature, tackling broader issues such as religion and science; religion and literature; or religion, sexuality and gender. Students are encouraged and indeed required to gain an exposure to more than one religious tradition.

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The topic of this seminar varies from year to year. Recent topics include: Saints and Society; Religion and the Secular: Struggles over Modernity; and Pilgrimage and Sacred Space in Antiquity.

Elective courses: (21 units; 18 must be 300-level or above): All majors must take at least seven courses chosen from among the offerings in Religious Studies. Those courses will be selected to achieve both breadth and depth of knowledge in the field.

To foster BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE, the electives must include one course in four different Religious Traditions/areas such as: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Asian religions, and religions of the ancient Mediterranean world.

To foster DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE, the electives must include a concentration of three courses in one religious tradition or a set of closely related traditions (see list above) and a secondary concentration of two courses in another tradition or set of traditions. As an alternative, students may petition to create a thematic concentration, which must be approved by their adviser and the program director. Examples of such thematic concentrations include (but are not limited to) “Religion and the Arts,” “Religion and Politics,” and “Gender and Religion.”

Note: Any one course can count toward both the depth and breadth requirements.

For models illustrating some possible combinations of depth and breadth, visit the Religious Studies website.

Additional Information

Senior Honors: Qualified majors are encouraged to apply for Senior Honors. Applications are available online and are due prior to the end of the junior year. Students wishing to pursue this option need to meet the minimum honors requirements stated in this Bulletin and satisfactorily complete, during the senior year, Re St 498 Independent Work for Senior Honors I (fall) and Re St 499 Independent Work for Senior Honors II (spring), to be taken in addition to all other departmental requirements.

Transfer Credit: A maximum of 6 units of course work completed at another university, whether in the United States or abroad, may be applied toward the major. Credit will be awarded only to those courses that have been approved by the Religious Studies program.

The Minor in Religious Studies

Units required: 18 units, 12 of which must be at the 300-level or above.

Required courses: (6 units)

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>Re St 104</td>
<td>Thinking About Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re St 368</td>
<td>Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total units: 6
Elective courses (12 units): All the remaining courses may be chosen according to individual interest. Students are reminded, however, that at least three of the four elective courses must be at the 300-level or above.

Additional Information

Transfer Credit: A maximum of 3 units of course work completed at another university, whether in the United States or abroad, may be applied toward the minor. Credit will be awarded only to those courses that have been approved by the Religious Studies program.

L23 Re St 104 Thinking About Religion

Everyone agrees that religion is vitally important, but people rarely agree about what religion is. This course introduces students to the questions posed about religion, and the methods by which they are answered. Beginning with the central question — What is religion? — we ask: How has religion served political power? How does the experience of religion create or change perceptions of reality? How does religious practice maintain or subvert gender roles? How does commemoration of the past shape communities in the present? How are religious identities formed, and how do they change? What is religious art? How does something become sacred? We explore these and other questions using case studies drawn from a range of sources that represent different regions, traditions and scholarly approaches. This course is required for Religious Studies majors and minors.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 180 Freshman Seminar in Religious Studies

This course is for freshmen only. Topics vary from semester to semester. Recent topics include Miracles and The Self in Chinese Thought.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH FA: SSP

L23 Re St 2010 Religion and American Society

This course explores religious life in the United States. We focus our study on groups and movements that highlight distinctive ways of being both “religious” and “American,” including the Americanization of global religions in the U.S. context. Major themes include religious encounter and conflict; secularization, resurgent traditionalism and new religious establishments; experimentalism, eclecticism and so-called “spiritual” countercultures; the relationship between religious change and broader social and political currents (including clashes over race, class, gender and sexuality); and the challenges of religious multiplicity in the United States. Students: (1) acquire knowledge of the disparate religions practiced in North America during the 20th century and beyond; (2) examine some of the chief conflicts as well as alliances between religion and the American social order in a global context; and (3) develop interpretive tools for understanding religion’s present and enduring role in the U.S. and the world.

Same as RelPol 201

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 208F History, Text and Identity: Introduction to Jewish Civilization

Same as JINE 208F

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH, IS EN: H FA: SSP

L23 Re St 210C Introduction to Islamic Civilization

A historical survey of Islamic civilization in global perspective. Chronological coverage of social, political, economic and cultural history are balanced with focused attention to special topics, which include: aspects of Islam as religion; science, medicine and technology in Islamic societies; art and architecture; philosophy and theology; interaction between Islamdom and Christendom; Islamic history in the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Central Asia as well as Africa; European colonialism; globalization of Islam and contemporary Islam.

Same as JINE 210C

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH, IS EN: H FA: SSP

L23 Re St 225 Religion and Politics in American History

Same as RelPol 225

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM

L23 Re St 234 Introduction to Asian Religions

A general introduction to the fundamental beliefs, values and practices of the major non-monotheistic religious traditions of Asia, with particular emphasis on Hinduism and Buddhism.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH, IS EN: H

L23 Re St 2590 Freshman Seminar: From the “City on a Hill” to 9/11: Religion and Social Justice in America

From the Puritans’ search to build the “city on a hill,” to the growing conflation of Islam with terrorism, Americans have long nurtured a self-identity as “God’s chosen people,” an idea that has helped them justify and normalize a theology of both conquest and suffering. This course analyzes how religion served to both buttress and contest notions of social domination, punishment, reform and revolution in the United States from the colonial era to the present. Attention is paid to the voices of established religious leaders for whom the Church was their home, as well as religious dissidents who were often outcast as lunatics. Topics include the American Jeremiad, abolitionism, slave rebellions, Native American Catholicism, Fundamentalism, the Catholic Worker Movement, Pacifism, the Black Freedom Struggle, the Moral Majority and Post-9/11 military and gender interventions with the Islamic world.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH, IS EN: H
Same as History 2590
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, SD EN: H

L23 Re St 2600 Religion in the African-American Experience: A Historical Survey
This course introduces students to important themes in the history of African-American, and thus in American, religious history, among them slavery, emancipation, urbanization, migration, consumer culture, sexuality, politics and media technologies. Primary attention is given to Afro-Protestantism in North America and the cultural, social, and religious practices and traditions of these black communities. However, students also are introduced to specific expressions of religious diversity and varying religious traditions and practices in African-American communities.
Same as RelPol 260
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH, HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 300 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
A survey of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) examined in the historical and cultural context of the ancient Near East. Traditional Jewish and Christian interpretation of the Bible is discussed. No knowledge of Hebrew required; no prerequisites.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH, HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3011 Intermediate Greek: The New Testament
Same as Greek 301
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM

L23 Re St 3012 Biblical Law and the Origins of Western Justice
Same as JINE 3012
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 3025 Religion and Politics in 20th-Century U.S. History
This course provides both a chronological and thematic overview of the history of religion, political culture, and society in 20th-century America. While moving sequentially through key transformations running from the beginning to end of the century, we also pause each week to examine particular episodes and themes that illuminate substantive and symbolic societal turns. Specifically, this course encourages us to think more deeply about the ways religious ideas, institutions, and individuals intersect with and weave through broad political developments like populism and progressivism; corporate and labor activism; the rise and decline of New Deal liberalism; war and American empire building; the power shift to the Sunbelt; urban and suburban power struggles; social movements of the Left and the Right; the politics of family, education, and community; civil rights and ethnic identity; conservatism and globalization. The overarching goal of this course is to place religion at the center of political development in the 20th century, and at the center of our understanding of this recent past. Here religion is not (as is often done by political historians) cordoned off as an agent of change worthy of consideration only under exceptional circumstances and in rare moments, but rather is considered as a consistent, powerful player that always brings competing passions and interests, drama and controversy to the political realm. This primary agenda is accompanied by a couple of others. In addition to absorbing the historical “facts and figures” of religion and politics in the 20th century (on which students are tested), students also are encouraged to encounter and critique different styles of historical writing, from biographies and autobiographies to traditional monographs, articles and essays to editorials. What makes “good writing”? “Good history writing”? What are the challenges inherent to writing effective religious and political history? This set of issues is important for us to consider, because they lead to yet a final set of questions: how does one actually go about researching history? Writing it? In addition to taking time for extensive reading in this subject area, students also are expected to complete a major term paper based on both primary and secondary sources. Students begin this project early in the semester and, while in consultation with members of their peer group and instructor, see it through to its conclusion by the last week of class.
Same as RelPol 302
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 303 The Taoist Tradition
This course offers an introduction to the ethical aspects of the Taoist tradition through the study of a select number of literary and philosophical texts ranging from ca. 300 bce through the present day. We explore questions regarding the relationship between nature and culture, conceptions of the self, and ideas about the good life.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 3031 Christianity in the Modern World
Survey of Christianity since the Reformation. Focus on the divisions in Christianity, its responses to modern science, the rise of capitalism, and European expansion into Africa, Asia and the Americas. Attention to ecumenism and the contemporary status of Christianity in the world. Use of original documents.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 3032 Islam, Culture and Society in West Africa
This course explores the introduction of Islam into West Africa beginning in the 10th Century and explore its expansion and development in the region, placing emphasis on the 19th century to present day. It focuses on the development of West African Muslim cultural, social, religious and political life, to understand
not only how the religion affected societies, but also how West African local societies shaped Islam. The course also aims to introduce students to a critical understanding of Islamic writing in West Africa. It also examines the organization of Muslim Sufi orders in West Africa through time and space. The course is organized around a series of lectures, readings, as well as print and visual media.

Same as AFAS 3062
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD A&S: IQ, SSC, LCD AR: SSP EN: S FA: SSP

L23 Re St 307F Introduction to the New Testament
What can be known — from a historical perspective — about the life and teachings of Jesus and his earliest followers? How did Jesus see himself and how did his followers see him? How did the lives, teachings and deaths of Jesus and his followers come to form the heart of a new movement? If Jesus and the apostles were all Jews, how did Christianity emerge as a distinct “religion”? This course investigates these questions through a focus on the earliest sources for Jesus and his first followers, including and extending beyond the canonical books of the Christian New Testament. Our approach in this course is historical and literary, rather than theological or confessional: we ask what Jesus, his first followers, and their Jewish and “pagan” contemporaries did and believed, and we try to catch glimpses of the worlds in which they lived and the cultures that they took for granted.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3070 City on a Hill: The Concept and Culture of American Exceptionalism
Same as AMCS 3081
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM

L23 Re St 3082 From the Temple to the Talmud: The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism
This course offers a survey of the historical, literary, social and conceptual development of Rabbinic Judaism from its emergence in late antiquity to the early Middle Ages. The goal of the course is to study Rabbinic Judaism as a dynamic phenomenon — as a constantly developing religious system. Among the topics explored are: How did Judaism evolve from a sacrificial cult to a text-based religion? How did the “Rabbis” emerge as a movement after the destruction of the Second Temple and how could they replace the old priestly elite? How did Rabbinic Judaism develop in its two centers of origin, Palestine (the Land of Israel) and Babylonia (Iraq), to become the dominant form of Judaism under the rule of Islam? How did Jewish ritual and liturgy develop under Rabbinic influence? How were the Rabbis organized and was there diversity within the group? What was the Rabbis’ view of women? How did they perceive non-Rabbinic Jews and non-Jews? As Rabbinic Literature is used as the main source to answer these questions, the course provides an introduction to the Mishnah, the Palestinian and Babylonian Talmuds, and the Midrash collections — a literature that defines the character of Judaism down to our own times. All texts are read in translation.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3090 Chinese Thought
This course offers an introduction to Chinese thought through a study of thinkers from arguably one of the most vibrant periods of religious-philosophical discourse in China. We examine early classical texts from the Daoist, Confucian, Mohist and Legalist traditions, and follow arguments where the thinkers expand upon, dispute and respond to each other in regard to questions that are still important to us today. We explore issues such as notions of the self, conceptions of the greater cosmos, the role of rituals, ideas about human nature, and the subjects of freedom and duty. Motivating the course is the underlying question: What is the good life?
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 3092 Confucian Thought: The Sage and Society: Writing-Intensive Seminar
This course offers an introduction to the ethical dimensions of Confucianism through a study of a select number of religious-philosophical texts ranging from ca. 500 BCE through the present day. We begin with a study of Confucianism as a commentarial tradition on the classical text of the Analects. We then turn to the theme of self-cultivation and examine three contrasting ideas put forth on the subject: self-cultivation through learning the classics, through mystical intuition, and through a study of history. In the third part, we explore the role of Confucianism in addressing contemporary ethical issues such as ones regarding government, abortion, the environment, human rights, feminism and intellectual property.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, WI EN: H
Same as RelPol 310
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 3101 The Problem of Evil
The question of how God can allow evil to occur to the righteous or innocent people has been a perennial dilemma in religion and philosophy. We study the classic statement of the problem in the biblical book of Job, the ancient Near Eastern literature on which Job is based, and traditional Jewish and Christian interpretation of Job. We study the major approaches to the problem of evil in Western philosophical and religious thought.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 3105 American Holidays, Rituals and Celebrations
Same as AMCS 3105

L23 Re St 311 Buddhist Traditions
This course examines the historical development of Buddhism from its origins in South Asia in the 6th to 5th century BCE, through the transmission of the teachings and practices to East Asia, Southeast Asia and Tibet, to contemporary transformations of the tradition in the modern West. In the first third of the course, we focus on the biographical and ritual expressions of the historical Buddha’s life story, the foundational teachings attributed to the Buddha, and the formation and development of the Buddhist community. In the second third, we examine the rise of the Mahayana, the development of the Mahayana pantheon and rituals, and the spread of Mahayana in East Asia. In the final third, we explore the Theravada tradition in Sri Lanka and Thailand, then Tantric Buddhism in India, Tibet and East Asia. We close the course with an overview of Buddhism in the modern West.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 312 South Asian Religious Traditions
In this course, we take a considered look at the diverse religious traditions that have shaped and enriched life on the Indian subcontinent and beyond. India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are home to Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist, Jain, Christian and Sikh traditions of learning and practice, among others. This course provides an in-depth survey of the traditions of South Asia, while attending to the borrowings and contestations that have blurred and defined the boundaries between traditions over time. We explore the central teachings, practices and debates of these traditions as we explore mythology, poetry and narrative; ritual and performance; social relations and political life at selected moments in the history of South Asia.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 313C Islamic History 622–1200
Same as History 313C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: IS FA: SSP

L23 Re St 314C Islamic History 1200–1800
Same as History 314C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: IS FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3192 Modern South Asia
This course covers the history of the Indian subcontinent in the 19th and 20th centuries. We look closely at a number of issues including colonialism in India; anticolonial movements; the experiences of women; the interplay between religion and national identity; and popular culture in modern India. Political and social history are emphasized equally.
Same as History 3192
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: HUM, IS FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3250 Food Fights: The Politics of American Jewish Consumption, 1890–2014
This course explores the politics of religion, food, and eating among Jews in the United States from the late 19th century through the present day. The subject is not Jewish food per se but instead American Jewish foodways — the cultural, social, historical, political and economic practices relating to the production and consumption of food. The course is organized chronologically but also by themes that loom large in American Jewish history: the great wave of Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe from 1890 to 1924; contention over kashrut, including its increasing industrialization and commercialization; iconic American Jewish foods; and the present-day “new Jewish food movement,” which aims to align Jewish foodways with sustainability and the slow foods movement. The course focuses attention not only on narratives of American Jewish foodways but on core issues of American Jewish identity politics: where are the sources of power and who is recognized as an authority? What is at stake in delineating between Judaism (the religion) and Jewishness (the culture)? How do American Jews present themselves to non-Jewish Americans and how do they respond to Jews who are different from them? How have the politics of place affected the distribution and reception of Jewish food and how have these politics changed over time?
Same as RelPol 325
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 3262 The Early Medieval World 300–1000
A principal theme of this course is the Christianization of Europe. From the emergence of the Christian church in the Roman Empire and the conversion of the emperor Constantine in 312
through the turbulent adoptions of Christianity by different cultures in the Early Middle Ages; the rise of Islam in the 7th century; the Arab conquests of north Africa and southern Europe; and the Byzantine empire, especially in Constantinople. Same as History 3262

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: IS EN: H FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3263 The High Middle Ages: 1000–1500

This course begins with the first millennium in the West and ends with the arrival of Europeans in the Americas. We explore issues such as the relationship of popes to kings, of cities to villages, of Jews to Christians, of vernacular literature to Latin, of knights to peasants, of the sacred to the profane.

Same as History 3263

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: IS EN: H FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3266 “East” and “West” in Jewish Imagination and Politics

How have Jews, as a paradigmatic diasporic people, understood their place between “East” and “West,” and their relationships with other Jews and non-Jews within, across, and beyond the vast territorial expanse of Eurasia? What has it meant to identify, to be identified, and to live as Jews in Eurasia and beyond — both before and after the State of Israel? We begin with the origin of world Jewry, follow the various and interrelated experiences of Jews under Christendom and Islam, and, through carefully chosen vignettes, trace how the modern concepts of “East” and “West” have shaped the course of Jewish history, politics and imagination for millennia.

Same as IAS 3266

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, SD EN: H

L23 Re St 3277 Philosophy of Religion

Same as Phil 327

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 3293 Religion and Society

We take a broad and practice-oriented view of “religion,” including uttering spells, sacrificing to a god, healing through spirit possession, as well as praying and reciting scripture. We consider religious practices in small-scale societies as well as those characteristic of forms of Judaism, Islam, Christianity and other broadly based religions. We give special attention to the ways religions shape politics, law, war, as well as everyday life in modern societies.

Same as Anthro 3293

Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: ETH EN: S FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3313 Women and Islam

An anthropological study of the position of women in the contemporary Muslim world, with examples drawn primarily from the Middle East but also from Asia, Africa, Europe and the United States. Students examine ethnographic, historical and literary works, including those written by Muslim women. Topics having a major impact on the construction of gender include Islamic belief and ritual, modest dress (veiling), notions of marriage and the family, modernization, nationalism and the nation-state, politics and protest, legal reform, formal education, work and Westernization. The course includes a visit to a St. Louis mosque, discussions with Muslim women, and films.

Same as Anthro 3313

Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD A&S: IQ, SSC, LCD BU: BA FA: SSP

L23 Re St 334C Crusade, Disputation and Coexistence: Jews in Christian Europe

This course investigates some of the major themes in the history of the Jews in Europe, from the High Middle Ages to the eve of the French Revolution. Jews constituted a classic, nearly continuous minority in the premodern Christian world — a world that was not known for tolerating dissent. Or was it? One of the main purposes of the course is to investigate the phenomenon of majority/minority relations, to examine the ways in which the Jewish community interacted with and experienced European societies, cultures and politics. We look at the dynamics of boundary formation and cultural distinctiveness; the limits of religious and social tolerance; the nature and contexts of persecution; and the prospects for Jewish integration to Europe during the course of the Enlightenment era. Our course also highlights the particular historical experiences, cultural and religious developments, and communal patterns of the Jews during this time.

Same as History 334C

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH, HUM, IS FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3350 Out of the Shtetl: Jews in Central and Eastern Europe Between Empire, State and Nation

Same as History 3350

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 335C Becoming “Modern”: Emancipation, Anti-Semitism and Nationalism in Modern Jewish History

Same as History 335C

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH, HUM FA: SSP
L23 Re St 336C History of Jews in Islamic Lands
This course is a survey of Jewish communities in the Islamic world, their social, cultural and intellectual life from the rise of Islam to the Imperial Age. Topics include: Muhammad, the Qur’an and the Jews; the legal status of Jews under Islam; the spread of Rabbinic Judaism in the Abbasid empire; the development of new Jewish identities under Islam (Karaites); Jewish traders and scholars in Fatimid Egypt; the flourishing of Jewish civilization in Muslim Spain (al-Andalus); and Sephardi (Spanish) Jews in the Ottoman empire. On this background, we look closely at some of the major Jewish philosophical and poetical works originating in Islamic lands. Another important source we study are documents from the Cairo Genizah, reflecting social history, the status of women and other aspects of daily life. Primary and secondary readings (in translation) are supplemented by audiovisual materials.
Same as History 336C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: HUM FA: SSP
Same as Art-Arch 3422

L23 Re St 343C Europe in the Age of the Reformation
How should people act toward each other, toward political authorities and toward their God? Who decided what was the “right” faith: the individual? the family? the state? Could a community survive religious division? What should states do about individuals or communities who refused to conform in matters of religion? With Martin Luther’s challenge to the Roman Catholic Church, the debates over these questions transformed European theology, society and politics. In this class we examine the development of Protestant and Radical theology, the Reformers’ relations with established political authorities, the response of the Catholic Church, the development of new social and cultural expectations, the control of marginalized religious groups such as Jews, Muslims and Anabaptists, and the experiment of the New World.
Same as History 343C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: BA, HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 346 Topics in East Asian Religions
This course explores one of the various topics in East Asian Religion.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 3466 Visualizing Buddhism: Art, Religion and Philosophy
One of the most powerful ways that a religion can realize its central beliefs and practices is through art and material culture. Rather than focusing on the historical development of Buddhist artwork itself, this course is organized around conceptual themes concerning the evolution of key philosophies and rituals. By the end of the course, students have a good understanding of the basic religious ideas and history of Himalayan Buddhism, as well as the ways in which artworks can express philosophical ideas, epitomize esoteric practices, aid in the transmission/propagation of religion, and in short be one of the most meaningful ways to explore and understand another culture. The course involves works of art from the past 2000 years of history in regions of South Asia including northern India, Nepal and Tibet.
Same as Art-Arch 3466
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LS EN: H
L23 Re St 348 Hindu Traditions
What exactly is Hinduism? Many have remarked on the overwhelming variety of Hindu traditions: the plethora of gods, the richness and range of mythological traditions, the great variety of festivals. In this course, we examine the diversity of Hindu traditions from a number of perspectives. We reflect on what this diversity means — How can we define Hinduism? Who is a Hindu? What have people understood Hinduism to be? We familiarize ourselves with key concepts, ceremonies and narratives (from the Vedas to the Ramayana, from sacrifice to marriage) through the eyes of men and women, upper and lower castes, on the Indian subcontinent and around the world. We also learn how issues of social and gender equality have been debated in the language of Hindu traditions, thereby building a foundation for understanding the gender struggles, class conflict and sectarian strife in modern India.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 3500 Faith and Politics in America’s Cold War
Same as ReI Pol 350
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC

L23 Re St 3513 Muhammad in History and Literature
This course intends to examine the life and representations of the Prophet Muhammad from the perspective of multiple spiritual sensibilities as articulated in various literary genres from medieval to modern periods. The course is divided roughly into two parts. One part deals with the history of Muhammad and the related historiographical questions. The second part deals with the representations of Muhammad in juristic, theological, Sufi, etc., literature. Because of the availability of primary sources in English translation, there is a healthy dose of primary source reading and analysis throughout the semester. Those students with advanced Arabic (and Persian and Turkish) skills are encouraged to engage sources in their original language.
Same as JINE 351
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 354 An Introduction to Korean Religion
Korea developed many of its distinctive religious traditions through interaction with non-indigenous traditions from China (Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism) as well as Western religions such as Catholicism (imported via China) and Protestantism, which came to Korea directly from the West. Korea in turn actively contributed to the formation of pan-Asian religious traditions such as Hwaom (Huayan/ Kegon) Buddhism. In this course we explore the histories and the development of the doctrines, rituals and practices of the major Korean religious traditions (including shamanism) both within Korea itself and in the broader East Asian context.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LS BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 3513 Muhammad in History and Literature
This course intends to examine the life and representations of the Prophet Muhammad from the perspective of multiple spiritual sensibilities as articulated in various literary genres from medieval to modern periods. The course is divided roughly into two parts. One part deals with the history of Muhammad and the related historiographical questions. The second part deals with the representations of Muhammad in juristic, theological, Sufi, etc., literature. Because of the availability of primary sources in English translation, there is a healthy dose of primary source reading and analysis throughout the semester. Those students with advanced Arabic (and Persian and Turkish) skills are encouraged to engage sources in their original language.
Same as JINE 351
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 354 An Introduction to Korean Religion
Korea developed many of its distinctive religious traditions through interaction with non-indigenous traditions from China (Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism) as well as Western religions such as Catholicism (imported via China) and Protestantism, which came to Korea directly from the West. Korea in turn actively contributed to the formation of pan-Asian religious traditions such as Hwaom (Huayan/ Kegon) Buddhism. In this course we explore the histories and the development of the doctrines, rituals and practices of the major Korean religious traditions (including shamanism) both within Korea itself and in the broader East Asian context.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LS BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 3622 Topics in Islam
Selected themes in the study of Islam and Islamic culture in social, historical and political context. The specific areas of emphasis are determined by the instructor.
Same as JINE 3622
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 365 The Bible as Literature
Same as E Lit 365
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 366 Approaches to the Qur’an
The place of the Qur’an in Islamic religion and society. Equal emphasis on text — the Qur’an’s history, contents and literary features — and context — the place of the Qur’an in everyday life, its oral recitation, artistic uses and scholarly interpretation. Knowledge of Arabic not required.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH

L23 Re St 3670 Gurus, Saints and Scientists: Religion in Modern South Asia
Many longstanding South Asian traditions have been subject to radical reinterpretation, and many new religious movements have arisen as South Asians have grappled with how to accommodate their traditions of learning and practice to what they have perceived to be the conditions of modern life. In this course we consider some of the factors that have contributed to religious change in South Asia, including British colonialism, sedentarization and globalization, and new discourses of democracy and equality. We consider how new religious organizations were part and parcel with movements for social equality and political recognition; examine the intellectual contributions of major thinkers such as Swami Vivekananda, Sayyid Ahmad Khan and Mohandas Gandhi; and explore how Hindu, Islamic and other South Asian traditions were recast in the molds of natural science, social science and world religion.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 368 Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion
What is religion? In this course, we explore how religious ritual may help to clarify the nature and function of religion. We first consider some “classic” theories of religion and ritual, such as those of James Frazer, Sigmund Freud, Emile Durkheim, Mircea Eliade, Max Weber, E.E. Evans-Pritchard and Clifford Geertz. We also consider some more recent theories of ritual and its relationship to religion (such as those of Victor Turner and Maurice Bloch). Alongside and in light of these theoretical writings, we look at specific instances of ritual practice from various cultures and periods. Note: This course is required for Religious Studies majors and minors. It is recommended that this
course be taken after completion of Re St 204 Thinking About Religion.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L23 Re St 370C Islamic Movements: Reform, Revival, Revolt
As a religion and a social/intellectual and political movement, Islam has undergone constant reassessment since its inception 14 centuries ago; thus modern fundamentalist movements are the latest manifestation of long-term trends. An overview of this historical process, concentrating on contemporary Islamic movements and works by seminal thinkers.
Same as JINE 370C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: IS

L23 Re St 374C Kings, Priests, Prophets and Rabbis: The Jews in the Ancient World
Same as JINE 301C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: BA, HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3750 In the Beginning: Creation Myths of the Biblical World
This course studies myths and epic literature from the Bible, ancient Egypt, the ancient Near East and ancient Greece about the birth of the gods, the creation of the world and of humanity, and the establishment of societies. These masterpieces of ancient literature recount the deeds of gods and heroes and humanity's eternal struggle to come to terms with the world, supernatural powers, love, lust and death. This course examines how each culture borrows traditions and recasts them in a distinct idiom. The course further examines different approaches to mythology and to the study of ancient cultures and the Bible.
Same as JINE 3751
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 380 Topics in Religious Studies
The topic for this course varies.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3800 Politics of Representation in American Religion: Media, Technology and Display
The role of media in both politics and religion is often presumed to be one of broadcasting information to the public. And yet forms of communication are seldom detached entirely from the processes of creating the information that is conveyed. The entanglement of religion, public identities, and media began well before the introduction of cable television and Twitter. This course is designed to draw students' attention to modes of mediating public identities in American history by focusing on ways in which religion and religiously have been represented through visual and material artifacts. Students become familiarized with visual and material culture methods and modes of analysis in historical research as well as learn to identify and analyze relationships between religion, representation and public identities in multiple periods of American history and through a variety of technologies.
Same as RelPol 380
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 382 Topics in Christianity
The topic covered in this course varies.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH FA: SSP

L23 Re St 3831 Magicians, Healers and Holy Men
Same as Classics 3831
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 385D Topics in Biblical Hebrew Texts
Prerequisite: HBRW 384 or permission of the instructor.
Same as HBRW 385D
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 386 Topics in Jewish Studies
Same as JINE 3582
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 38C8 Religion and Politics in South Asia: Writing-Intensive Seminar
Same as History 38C8
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 3900 Mormonism and the American Experience
The focus of this seminar is Mormonism, meaning, primarily, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (or LDS Church), which is the largest Mormon body. Mormons in the United States have gone from being one of the most intensely persecuted religious groups in the country's history to the fourth largest religious body in the U.S. (by one count), with a reputation for patriotism and conservative family values. In addition to introducing who the Mormons are, their beliefs and religious practices, this seminar explores issues raised by Mormonism's move toward the religious mainstream alongside its continuing distinctiveness. These issues include: What is the religious “mainstream” in the U.S.? How did conflicts over Mormonism during the 19th century, especially the conflict over polygamy, help define the limits of religious tolerance in this country? How have LDS teachings about gender and race, or controversies about whether or not Mormons are Christian, positioned and repositioned Mormons within U.S. society?
Same as RelPol 390
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H
L23 Re St 393 Medieval Christianity
This course surveys the historical development of Christian doctrine, ecclesiastical organization and religious practice between the 5th century and the 15th, with an emphasis on the interaction of religion, culture, politics and society. Topics covered include the Christianization of Europe, monasticism, the liturgy, sacramental theology and practice, the Gregorian reform, religious architecture, the mendicant orders and the attack on heresy, lay devotions, the papal monarchy, schism and conciliarism, and the reform movements of the 15th century.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 3977 The Making of the Modern Catholic Church
This course examines the work of three church councils that put their stamp on the Catholic Church at key moments in its history, making it what it is today. The first section is dedicated to the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), which defined the high medieval church as an all-embracing papal monarchy with broad powers over the lives of all Europeans, Christian and non-Christian alike. In the second section we turn our attention to the Council of Trent (1545–1563), which responded to the threat posed by the Protestant Reformation by reforming the Catholic church, tightening ecclesiastical discipline, improving clerical education, and defining and defending Catholic doctrine. We conclude with a consideration of the largest church council ever, Vatican II (1962–1965), which reformed the liturgy and redefined the church to meet the challenges of the modern, multicultural, postcolonial world.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: BA EN: H

L23 Re St 4002 JINES Capstone Seminar
Same as JINE 4001
Credit 3 units.

L23 Re St 403 Topics in East Asian Religion and Thought
Topics in East Asian Religions is a course for advanced undergraduate and graduate students on specific themes and methodological issues in East Asian religions.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 4041 Islam and Politics
Blending history and ethnography, this course covers politics in the Islamic world in historical and contemporary times. Topics include history of Islam, uniformity and diversity in belief and practice (global patterns, local realities), revolution and social change, women and veiling, and the international dimensions of resurgent Islam. Geographical focus extends from Morocco to Indonesia; discussion of other Muslim communities is included (Bosnia, Chechnya, sub-Saharan Africa, U.S.).
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, SD EN: H

L23 Re St 4060 Convivencia or Reconquista? Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Iberia
Same as JINE 4060
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 4065 Natural Law
In Christian theology and philosophy, a claim that there is a “natural law” has typically meant that all human beings share certain moral impulses, principles or judgments because they were all created by God. The claim has many source versions, but it was formulated most influentially by Thomas Aquinas. Through Thomas, natural law became a fundamental notion in Catholic moral theology, but also in philosophical ethics and international law. It entered Protestant traditions at many points, notably in Anglicanism with Thomas Hooker. In the last decades, it has been retrieved for application to public debates on any number of controversial issues, from artificial contraception to torture and nuclear war. This seminar takes up representative parts of this long tradition — first in Thomas Aquinas, then in some of his early modern interpreters, and finally in contemporary controversies.
Same as ReiPol 406
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 408 Nuns
Nuns — women vowed to a shared life of poverty, chastity and obedience in a cloistered community — were central figures in medieval and early modern religion and society. This course explores life in the convent, with the distinctive culture that developed among communities of women, and the complex relations between the world of the cloister and the world outside the cloister. We look at how female celibacy served social and political as well as religious interests. We read works by nuns, both willing and unwilling, and works about nuns: nuns behaving well, and nuns behaving scandalously badly; nuns embracing their heavenly spouse, and nuns putting on plays; nuns possessed by the devil, and nuns managing their possessions; nuns as enraptured visionaries, and nuns grappling with the mundane realities of life in a cloistered community.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, SD EN: H

L23 Re St 4102 Topics in Resistance Studies: Rastafari, Reggae and Resistance
Same as AFAS 4102
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H
L23 Re St 411 Topics in Christianity  
Topics in Christianity is a course for advanced undergraduate and graduate students on specific themes in Christianity.  
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 412 Islamic Theology  
This course explores major themes of early Islamic theology as developed by the Mutazilite, Ash'arite and Maturidi schools. Some attention also is paid to defunct theological systems, the traces of which have remained in the heresiographical literature. Most readings are in primary sources in English translation, though the students also are introduced to some secondary literature on various themes. Some comparative theology with reference to the Judeo-Christian tradition is a regular feature of class discussion. Topics include (but are not limited to) debates over the createdness of the Qur'an; predestination and foreknowledge; God's attributes; the nature of language; the nature of the human soul; and creation and afterlife.  
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H FA: SSP

L23 Re St 413 Topics in Islam  
Saintly mediators between God and man play a central role in Islamic piety. A focus on major aspects of saintly mediation such as the emergence and spread of the cult of saints, its place within Islamic religiosity in comparison with prophecy, and the institutional framework within which such mediation occurs. Related issues such as conversion to Islam and Islamization of originally non-Islamic beliefs and practices addressed.  
Prerequisite: JINE 210C or permission of instructor.  
Same as JINE 445  
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: IS EN: H FA: SSP

L23 Re St 414 Topics in Judaism  
Same as JINE 415  
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH

L23 Re St 418 Gender and Sexuality in East Asian Religions  
In this course we explore some of the primary gender ideals and realities, images and self-representations in the religions of China, Japan and Korea, with a discussion of Confucianism but primary emphasis on East Asian Buddhism (esp. Zen and Pure Land), Daoism, Shinto and popular religious traditions such as Shamanism. Selected reading and discussion materials include scriptural texts; poetry, fiction and drama (in English translation); painting and archeological evidence; films and videos; and secondary scholarly and ethnographic studies.  
Prerequisite: at least one introductory course in East Asian religions or civilizations (Chinese, Japanese or Korean) is recommended.  
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 419 Topics in Ancient Studies: Architecture and Ritual in Greek Sanctuaries  
Study of one or more themes recurring in the traditions of Greek and Roman literature, history and culture. Topic varies each semester.  
Same as Classics 4361  
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 4213 Sufism and Islamic Brotherhoods in Africa  
Muslim societies are prevalent in Africa — from the Horn, the North, the East to the West, with smaller conclaves in Central and South Africa. Islam has played an influential role in these diverse societies, particularly through its Sufi form.  
Even though Sufism originated in the Arabian Peninsula, it has fit well with African beliefs and cultures. This course aims to explore Sufi beliefs, values and practices in Africa.  
It reconsiders the academic constructions of “African Islam” by exploring education, intellectual life, economics, gender roles, social inequalities and politics. The goal is to show that Africa is a dynamic part of the Muslim world and not a peripheral one, as it is most often portrayed by the international media or historically, through travelers and colonial accounts. African Muslim brotherhoods have served as political mediators between countries and people (i.e. the role of the Tijaniyya in the diplomatic rivalry between Morocco and Algeria, or its role in reconciliation of clanic rivalries in Sudan). In addition, the course pays attention to hierarchy in particular tariqa. Finally, the course examines how African Sufi orders have shaped their teachings to fit transnational demands over the 20th and 21st century. We explore these issues through readings, current media, lectures and special guest speakers.  
Same as AFAS 4213  
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 425 Zen Buddhism  
This course is designed as an exploration of the history, teachings, practices and literature of Zen Buddhism in China (Chan), Korea (Sôn), Japan (Zen) and the United States. We discuss how Zen’s conception of its history is related to its identity as a special tradition within Mahayana Buddhism, as well as its basic teachings on the primacy of enlightenment, the role of practice, the nature of the mind, and the limitations of language. We also look at Zen Buddhism and its relation to the arts, including poetry and painting, especially in East Asia. Finally, we briefly explore the response of Zen teachers and practitioners to questions of war, the environment and other contemporary issues. Open to seniors and graduate students.  
Prerequisite: Re St 311 Buddhist Traditions or instructor’s permission.  
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H
### L23 Re St 4380 Islam, Transnationalism, and the African Diaspora
This course is designed for students who are interested in religion among African immigrants and African diaspora communities living mostly, but not exclusively, in Europe and North America, especially during waves of migration to the Americas. We begin in the days of the transatlantic slave trade, where we examine how interactions, bricolage, and influences of Christianity, Judaism, African indigenous religions, and Islam have impacted the African Diaspora living in the Americas. We equally examine how Islam served as a means of resistance to slavery and provided a spiritual connection with the motherland. Same as AFAS 438
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD; A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD; EN: H

### L23 Re St 4401 Topics in Rabbinic Texts
The course aims to introduce students to independent reading of selected rabbinic texts in the original language. We focus on a number of topics representing the range of rabbinic discussion, including legal, narrative and ethical issues. At the same time, we study the necessary linguistic tools for understanding rabbinic texts. Prerequisites: HBRW 385D or HBRW 4010 or instructor’s permission.
Same as HBRW 440
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH; A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD; EN: H

### L23 Re St 444 The Mystical Tradition in Judaism
What is Jewish “mysticism”? What is its relationship to the category of “religion”? Is Jewish mysticism just one form of a general phenomenon common to a variety of religious traditions or is it a specific interpretation of biblical, rabbinic and other Jewish traditions? Taking the above questions as a starting point, this course aims at a systematic and historically contextualized analysis of a broad range of Jewish texts that are commonly classified as “mystical.” (All primary texts are read in translation.) At the same time, we explore such overarching themes as: the interplay of esoteric exegesis of the Bible and visionary experiences; the place of traditional Jewish law (halakhash) within mystical thought and practice; the role of gender, sexuality and the body in Jewish mystical speculation and prayer; the relationship between mysticism and messianism; Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions and their mutual impact on Jewish mysticism; the absence of women from Jewish mystical movements; esoteric traditions of an elite vs. mysticism as a communal endeavor; and the tension between innovation and (the claim to) tradition in the history of Jewish mysticism.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD; A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD; BU: ETH, IS

### L23 Re St 4491 American Unbelief from the Enlightenment to the New Atheism
This seminar examines American freethinkers, secularists, humanists and atheists from Tom Paine and Ernestine Rose through Madalyn Murray O’Hair and Sam Harris. Topics emphasized include: church-state relations, social radicalism and women’s rights, secular versus Christian imaginings of the nation, and the recent flourishing of the new atheists and religious “Nones.”
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH; A&S: IQ, HUM; EN: H

### L23 Re St 471 Topics in Religious Studies
The topic for this course varies.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH

### L23 Re St 4711 Topics in Religious Studies: Gender and Religion in China
In this course, we explore the images, roles and experience of women in Chinese religions: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and so-called “popular” religion. Topics discussed include: gender concepts and norms in each religious tradition; notions of femininity and attitudes toward the female body; biographies of women in Confucian, Daoist and Buddhist literature; female goddesses and deities; and the place of the Buddhist and Daoist nun and laywoman in Chinese society. All readings are in English or in English translation. Prerequisite: senior/graduate standing. Students with no previous background in Chinese religion, literature or culture need instructor’s permission before enrolling.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH; A&S: IQ, HUM; FA: SSP

### L23 Re St 479 Senior Seminar in Religious Studies
The topic for this seminar differs every year. Previous topics have included Pilgrimage and Sacred Space in Antiquity; Religion in a Global Context; and Engendering Religion. The seminar is offered every spring semester and is required of all Religious Studies majors, with the exception of those writing Honor’s thesis. The class also is open, with the permission of the instructor, to other advanced undergraduates with previous course work in Religious Studies.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH; SD; A&S: IQ, HUM, SD; EN: H

### L23 Re St 4790 Advanced Seminar: Empire and Messianism in the Middle East
Senior Seminar: This course looks at imperial politics in its relations to monotheistic messianic movements and ideologies in the Islamic Mediterranean from the late antiquity to the 16th century. Messianic beliefs offered political hope, rallied opposition against the existing rule, defined and ordered lived reality for imperial subjects, presented a political leitmotiv for rulers, and advocated a just sociopolitical order to be realized in the immediate or indefinite future. Thus, this course attempts to see how politics became messianic by its very ability to
promise a better future. Despite the chronological scope of the course, we examine only specific ideas, practices and movements as case studies to study in depth various facets of messianic movements and thought in their geographic and historical context. We use primary sources, which are the main methodological focus of the course, and secondary literature. We aim to develop skills in identifying, reading, analyzing and dealing with primary sources in their variety and critically engaging modern scholarship on the political role of Messianism. Students write a term paper and several reports on preassigned readings, and make regular class presentations. Admission preference is given to graduating seniors in JINELC, but the course is open to all advanced students provided that they consult the instructor prior to enrolling. Knowledge of a relevant primary source language is highly desired but not required.

Same as JINE 4970
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 480 Topics in Buddhist Traditions
The topic for this course varies.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 4811 Reading Seminar in Religion and Chinese Literature
Same as Chinese 481
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM LCD FA: Lit

L23 Re St 486 Europe’s “Jewish Question”: Emancipation, Anti-Semitism and Jewish-Christian Confrontation
Same as History 4942
Credit 4 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 490 Topics in Islamic Thought
The topic covered varies.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM

L23 Re St 4900 Religion and the Politics of Place in Modern America
The history of U.S. religion in the long 20th century (1890s forward) is flourishing as of late, in part because of scholars’ efforts to ground their story in the gritty and messy realities of “secular” spaces, realms outside the pulpit, pew, and seminary classroom once deemed tangential by traditional church historians. Though respectful of developments within overtly sacred spheres, new religious historians have worked to broaden and enrich their renderings of this country’s religious past by applying new methodologies of “lived religion,” pursuing new types of primary source bases (from bottom-up accounts of labor activism to top-down records of corporate power), and applying fresh lines of questioning that dovetail with fresh thinking in other areas of American history. The results of this effort are striking and sure to be long lasting, not just for the study of religion in U.S. history but also for historical treatment of politics and popular culture, diplomacy, capitalism, race, gender, and myriad impulses that have worked (and continue to work) in and on American history through time. This course provides both a chronological and thematic overview of religion and the politics of place in modern America. While moving sequentially through time, pausing to assess transfoative moments in U.S. religion and its broader political contexts, the course focuses on particular locations — physical, social, ideological — in which this pattern of development unfolds. Students are, in this sense, asked to read, digest and assess recently published and highly influential books that place religion at the center of dramatic and contested, but also quiet and subtle, social spaces in which the meanings of faith and its role in society are challenged or altered by the encounter, and from which religion emerges with renewed urgency, vigor and determination to revolutionize or reform its surroundings.

Same as RelPol 490
Credit 4 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 495 Religion and the State: Global Mission, Global Empire
Same as RelPol 495
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 498 Independent Work for Senior Honors I
Investigation of a topic, chosen in conjunction with a faculty adviser, on which the student prepares a paper and is examined. Students take Re St 498 in the fall semester and Re St 499 in the spring semester. Prerequisites: admission to the Honors program.
Credit 3 units.

L23 Re St 499 Independent Work for Senior Honors II
Investigation of a topic, chosen in conjunction with a faculty adviser, on which the student prepares a paper and is examined. Students take Re St 498 in the fall semester and Re St 499 in the spring semester. Prerequisite: admission to the Honors program.
Credit 3 units. FA: SSP

L23 Re St 4993 Advanced Seminar in History: Women and Religion in Medieval Europe
This course explores the religious experience of women in medieval Europe and attempts a gendered analysis of the Christian Middle Ages. In it, we examine the religious experience of women in a variety of settings — from household to convent. In particular, we try to understand how and why women came to assume public roles of unprecedented prominence in European religious culture between the 12th century and the 16th, even though the institutional church barred them from the priesthood
and religious precepts remained a principal source of the ideology of female inferiority.

Same as History 4993

Credit 4 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L23 Re St 4994 Advanced Seminar in History: The Inquisition in Europe, Asia and Latin America, 1200–1700

This seminar studies the history of the Inquisition from its beginnings in southern France in the first half of the 13th century up to the investigations undertaken by Dominicans and Franciscans in 17th-century Mexico and Peru. Along the way the seminar focuses upon other inquisitions in Europe (especially those made in Italy, Spain and Germany), and the hunt for heresy in Goa and the Philippines. This seminar reads inquisitional manuals (books on how to conduct an inquisition) and original inquisitional documents (the records of the trials and interrogations). Consequently, the history of heresy and witchcraft, as understood by people in the past and historians in the present, is discussed.

Same as History 4941

Credit 4 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM FA: SSP

L23 Re St 49CA Advanced Seminar in History: Religion and the Secular: Critical Perspectives from South Asia

A generation ago, scholars and observers around the world felt assured that modernization would bring the quiet retreat of religion from public life. But the theory of secularization now stands debunked by world events, and a host of questions has been reopened. This course provides students with a forum to think through these issues as they prepare research papers on topics of their own choosing.

Same as History 49CA

Credit 4 units. A&S: TH CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L23 Re St 49JK Advance Seminar in History: Blood and Sacred Bodies: Ritual Murder and Host Desecration Accusations

This seminar follows the history of the ritual murder and Host desecration accusations from the origins in 12th- and 13th-century Europe to the 20th century. It pays close attention to the social and political functions of the narratives; their symbolic importance in Christianity’s salvific drama; attacks on such beliefs from both within and outside the community of the faithful; the suppression and decline of the ritual murder accusation; the integration of Jews into European societies in the 19th century; and the reappearance of the blood libel in the aftermath of emancipation.

Same as History 49JK

Credit 4 units. A&S: TH CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H