

**PHILOSOPHY &
WORLD
RELIGIONS
COURSE LOOK
BOOK**

Spring 2024

There's a class for that.

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All About Religion

Religion Courses Spring 2024

RELS 1020: Religions of the World

Living religions with emphasis on texts, beliefs, tradition, values, and practices.

UNIFI--HUMAN CONDITION-GLOBAL

mwf 9:00-9:50 w/ Prof. Burnight honors students only

mwf 10:00-10:50 w/ Prof. Burnight

tth 12:30-1:45 w/ Prof. Graziano

tth 2:00-3:15 w/ Prof. Graziano

online via eLearning w/ Prof. Steed

RELS 1040: Power of Myth: Heroes & Tricksters w/ Prof. Hill on tth @ 11-12:15

Considers the meaning and importance of myth through the idea of the hero and the trickster. Reading myths from many different cultures, what do heroes and tricksters tell us about the world around us? what do they reveal about the sacred? What do they tell us about what it means to be human? **UNIFI--HUMAN EXPRESSION**

RELS 1060: AMERICAN RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY w/ Prof. Burnidge, mwf 11-11:50

This course considers instances of religious intolerance experienced by minority communities in the United States and how religious minorities have contributed to American ideas about religious freedom and other aspects of American democracy. **UNIFI--HUMAN CONDITION-DOMESTIC**

RELS 2002: New Testament w/ Prof. Burnight on mwf @ 12:00-12:50

Introduction to history and ideas of New Testament and early Christian writings.

RELS 2130: Great Living Religions: Christianity w/ Prof. Burnidge, mw @ 2-3:15

Introductory survey of development, beliefs, practices, and varieties of Christianity.

PHIL/RELS 2220: Faith & Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages

w/ Prof. Lahroodi, mwf @11:00-11:50

Traces the historical development of philosophical thought on the interrelation of religious faith & reason, from late Roman times through the Middle Ages, in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic philosophical traditions.

RELS 3159: Religious Literacy in Professional Life

w/ Prof. Graziano, tth 9:30-10:45

A study of religious literacy and its associated methods and skills. Students will develop and apply religiously literate solutions to a range of professional challenges, including case studies in law, healthcare, national security, education, business, and politics.

PHIL/RELS 3510: Bio-Medical Ethics w/ Prof. Degrin on tth @ 3:30-4:45

Application of principles and analytic methods of ethical theory to contemporary issues in medical practice and research. Topics include fundamental concepts of health and disease, life and death; rights and obligations of medical practitioners and their patients; informed consent and confidentiality; abortion and euthanasia; reproductive and transplantation technologies; and health policy and the provision and rationing of health care.

UNIFI-RESPONSIBILITY

Philosophize!

Philosophy Courses, Spring 2024

PHIL 1030: Elementary Logic w/ Prof. Boedeker on mwf @ 12:00-12:50

Critical thinking, using both formal and informal methods, including proof techniques and recognizing logical fallacies. Enhances reading, writing, and thinking in any area of study, and in preparing for grad school exams (e.g. LSAT, GMAT, & GRE).

UNIFI-QUANTITATIVE REASONING

PHIL 1040: JUSTICE & THE GOOD LIFE

What makes a society just or unjust? What does it mean to lead a good life? The course will provide philosophical perspectives on these questions, including investigations of the principles and virtues that should guide how we interact with others in our communities and lead meaningful lives. **UNIFI-RESPONSIBILITY**

9:30-10:45 & 11:00-12:15 tth w/ Prof. Preston

10:00-10:50 mwf w/ Prof. Lahroodi

11:00-11:50 mwf w/ Prof. Lahroodi

1:00-1:50 mwf w/ Prof. Boedeker

PHIL 1560: Science, Technology & Ethics

Interdisciplinary survey of ethical issues raised by recent developments in science and technology. Sample topics may include, but are not limited to, artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, big data, privacy, energy, medicine, and science itself. **UNIFI-RESPONSIBILITY**

12:30-1:45 tth w/ Prof. Hesse

3:30-4:45 tth w/ Prof. Hesse

online via eLearning with Prof. Earle

PHIL/RELS 2220: Faith & Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages

w/ Prof. Lahroodi on mwf @1:00-1:50

Traces the historical development of philosophical thought on the interrelation of religious faith & reason, from late Roman times through the Middle Ages, in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic philosophical traditions.

PHIL 2500: Ethics w/ Prof. Earle on mwf @ 10:00-10:50

Study of the major schools of ethical theory through reading major thinkers and their contemporary commentators. Examination of selected theoretical and practical problems in contemporary ethics.

PHIL 3320: Political Philosophy w/ Prof. Preston on tth @ 2:00-3:15

Philosophical and historical exploration, analysis, and critique of canonically western views of political power and the relations between citizens and their government. Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.

PHIL/RELS 3510: Bio-Medical Ethics w/ Prof. Degnin on tth @ 3:30-4:45

Application of principles and analytic methods of ethical theory to contemporary issues in medical practice and research. Topics include fundamental concepts of health and disease, life and death; rights and obligations of medical practitioners and their patients; informed consent and confidentiality; abortion and euthanasia; reproductive and transplantation technologies; and health policy and the provision and rationing of health care. **UNIFI-RESPONSIBILITY**

PHIL 3620: Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein w/ Prof. Boedeker on tth @ 12:30-1:45

Examination of Wittgenstein, sometimes called "the two most important philosophers" of the 20th century. Topics include language and formal logic, language as social practice, and ways in which classic philosophical problems arise from a misunderstanding of how we use common words.

MGMT 3974/5974 Business, Ethics and Society w/ Prof. Earle on mwf @ 12:00-12:50 pm

Can count as PHIL 1540: Ethics in Business upon student request.

Application of ethical principles and analytic methods to contemporary issues in business, including how ethical considerations factor into your prospective profession.



December/January Courses

RELS 1020: RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

asynchronous online on eLearning w/ Prof. Burnidge

Living religions with emphasis on texts, beliefs, tradition, values, and practices.

UNIFI Human Condition: Global Category

PHIL 1560: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ETHICS

asynchronous online on eLearning with Prof. Earle

Interdisciplinary survey of ethical issues raised by recent developments in science and technology. Sample topics may include, but are not limited to, artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, big data, privacy, energy, medicine, and science itself.

UNIFI Responsibility Category

The Study of Religion Club

The Study of Religion Club (STORC) is a student organization that is aimed towards creating a welcoming and open environment for discussion of religion as it relates to popular culture, current events, and society in an academic setting. We meet primarily on Monday evenings periodically throughout the year, hosting a variety of events ranging from game nights to lectures. For more information you can find us on Facebook @STORC.UNI, Instagram @uni.storc, or email us at uni.storc@gmail.com to be added to our email list!

Get Involved in our Department Clubs!

Philosophy Club

Philosophy Club works to create a space in which students of any background can come together, make friends, and build their community by collaboratively exploring questions and ideas found in philosophy through student-led discussions, activities, guest appearances from professors, and much more!

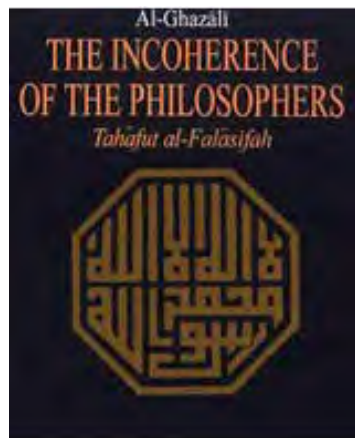


**Courses Cross-listed in
Philosophy and Religion**

FAITH & REASON: PHILOSOPHY IN THE MIDDLE AGES



Medieval philosophy began with the people of the Abrahamic faiths turning to Greek pagan philosophy to understand and defend their religious beliefs. An early figure was Philo, a Hellenized Jew writing in the early decades of the Christian era, who drew on Plato to interpret and defend the Hebrew Bible. Another important thinker, Anselm, in the 11th century, assigned an expansive role to philosophical reasoning in his project of "faith seeking understanding." A century later Averroes wrote the *Decisive Treatise* to argue that the Quran urges those who can to study philosophy in order to understand God's creation. The medieval philosophers would all have been bewildered by the idea, widespread in our culture, that faith and reason are fundamentally at odds.



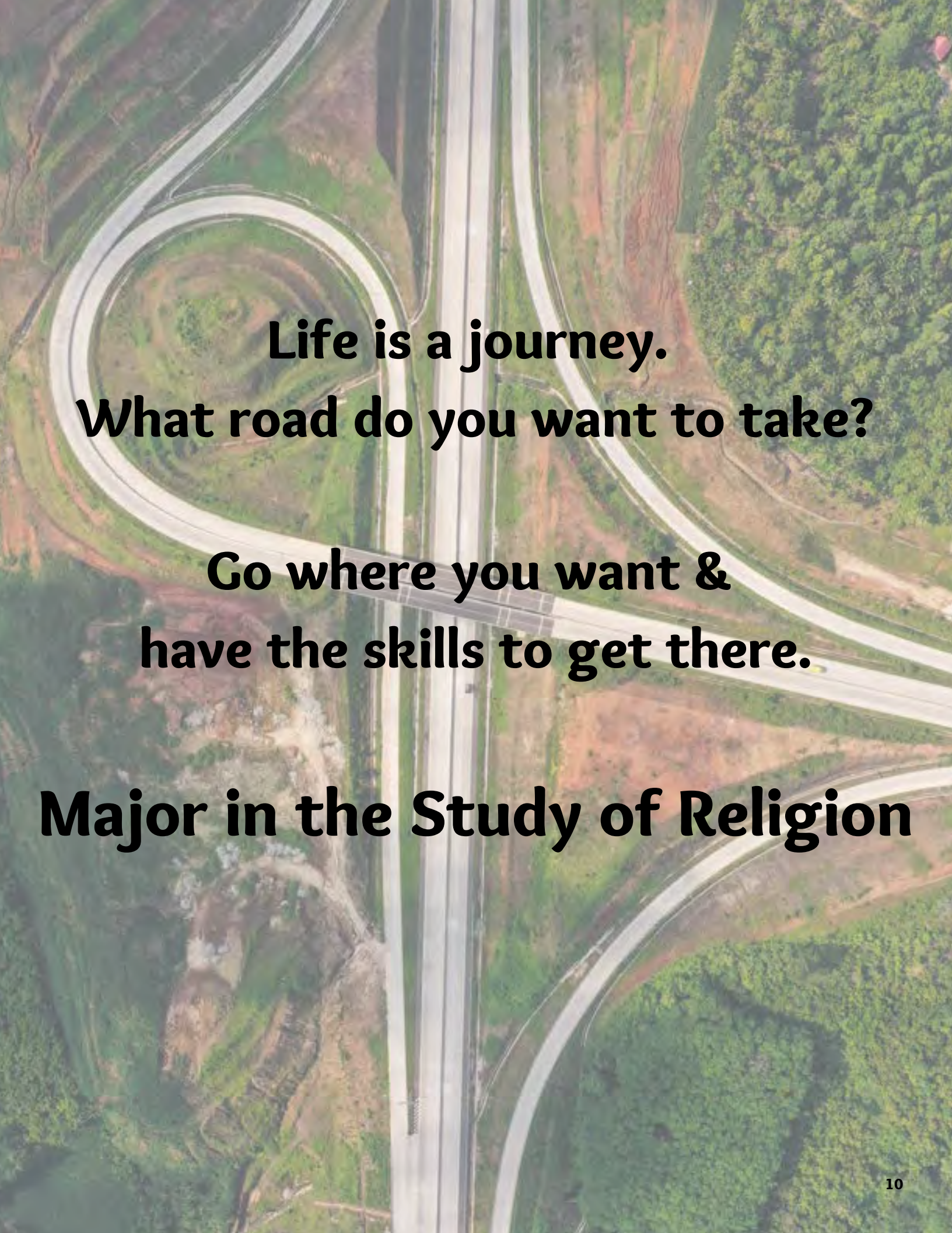
In this course, we will study how the medieval conversation between religious faith and philosophical reasoning was transformed over the centuries. We will begin the semester with Augustine's *On Free Choice of the Will* and end it with *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan (Alive, Son of Awake)*, a philosophical tale by the Andalusian philosopher, Ibn Tufayl.

What is the relationship between faith and reason?

There's a class for that.



Courses in Religion



**Life is a journey.
What road do you want to take?**

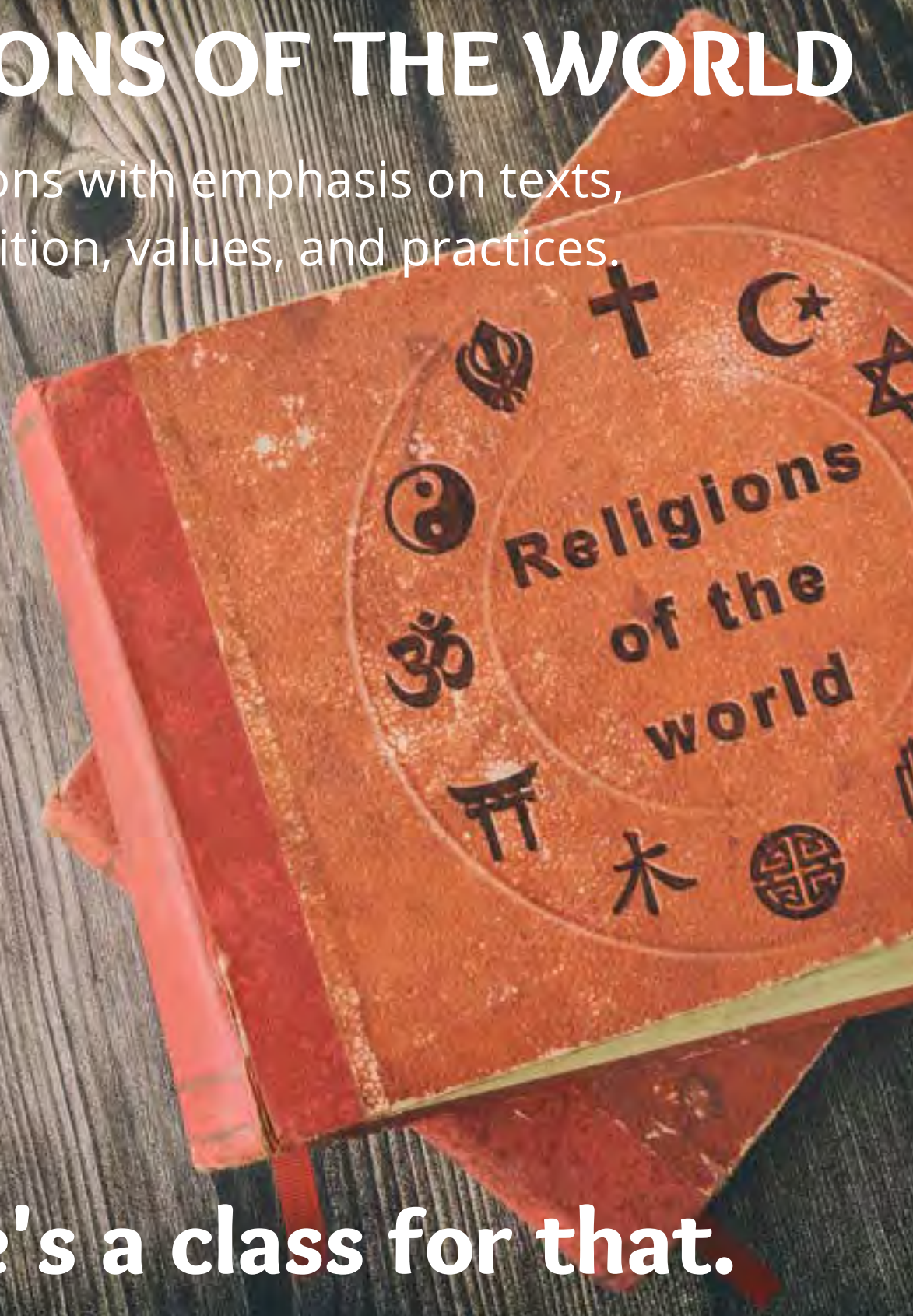
**Go where you want &
have the skills to get there.**

Major in the Study of Religion

RELS 1020 w/ Prof. Graziano on tth @12:30-1:45 & 2:00-3:15
w/ Prof Burnight on mwf @9-9:50 (Honors) & 10-10:50, & w/
Prof. Steed online

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

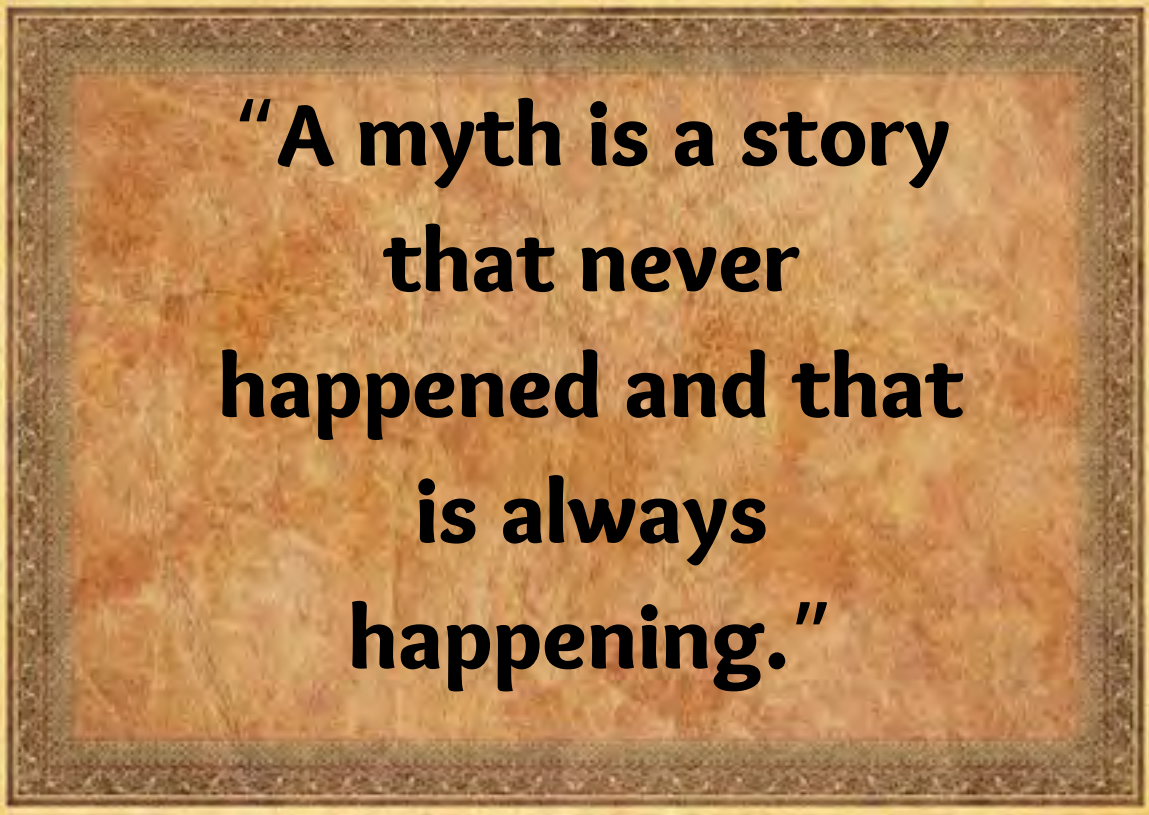
Living religions with emphasis on texts,
beliefs, tradition, values, and practices.



There's a class for that.

RELS 1040 w/ Prof. Hill on tth @ 11:00-12:15

Power of Myth: Heroes & Tricksters



**"A myth is a story
that never
happened and that
is always
happening."**

Come explore the idea of the hero and the trickster by reading myths from many different cultures and looking at heroes and tricksters in today's culture, especially in film. We'll consider what these figures tell us about the world around us, what they reveal about the sacred and about humanity. And, we'll consider the meaning and importance of myth, how scholars understand its role in culture and in religion, and become mythmakers ourselves, as we imagine our own stories of heroes and tricksters.

Heroes and tricksters?

There's a class for that.

RELS 1060 w/ Prof. Burnidge on mwf 11:00-11:50

American Religious Diversity

Over 60% of Americans identify as Christian. What do you know about the other 40%? American Religious Diversity explores religious ideas, figures, practices, and communities beyond mainstream Christianity in the United States. As a UNIFI course, this class contributes to the United States Studies and DEI certificates.

**There's
a class for
that.**

New Testament



How did a first-century Jewish peasant, executed by the Romans as a criminal in his early 30s, come to be viewed by his followers --and by over $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population today--as the literal Son of God, savior of the world?

There's a class for that.

GREAT LIVING RELIGIONS: CHRISTIANITY



Kelly Latimore, "Mama," 2020

This course introduces students to a global, cultural history of Christianity.

A focus of the course is understanding how Christianity has developed as a cross-cultural religion overtime through Christians' lived, religious experience.

How has Christianity has changed from place to place and among different people and cultures?

There's a class for that.

RELS 3159 w/ Prof. Graziano on tth @ 9:30-10:45

Religious Literacy in Professional Life: From Theory to Practice



When you enter this class's title into AI image generators, here's what you might get. What's going on here, and what does it have to do with being a religiously literate professional?

This course is a study of religious literacy and its associated methods and skills. Students will develop and apply religiously literate solutions to a range of professional challenges, including case studies in law, healthcare, national security, education, business, and politics. New technologies and tools accelerate changes in religious ideas and institutions, even as they increase the potential for misunderstanding and conflict. This course prepares students to address these challenges by becoming astute interpreters of religion's impact on society, enhancing their capacity to engage thoughtfully with diverse religious dynamics in the professional world.

How can I become a religiously literate professional?

There's a class for that.



Courses in Philosophy



Thinking about a major?

Be Bold.

Be a Philosophy Major.

PHIL 1030 w/Prof. Boedeker on mwf @ 12-12:50

ELEMENTARY LOGIC



Sharpen your critical thinking skills! In this course, we use formal and informal methods to detect and avoid common errors in reasoning.

Need Logic?

There's a class for that.

**PHIL 1040 w/ Prof. Boedeker on mwf @ 1:00-1:50
w/ Prof. Lahroodi on mwf @ 10-10:50 & 11-11:50
w/ Prof. Preston on tth @ 9:30-10:45 & 11:00-12:15**

JUSTICE & THE GOOD LIFE

What makes a society just or unjust?

What does it mean to lead a happy and satisfying life?

What principles and virtues should guide how to do good in our communities and lead meaningful lives?

There's a class for that.

ETHICS



Lost Highway, 1997 Film (David Lynch). Photo credit: FilmGrab.com, fair use.

Marta (they/them) has just learned that their Aunt Beth has passed away unexpectedly. Marta, a sophomore at the University of Northern Iowa, is in a car with their Uncle Denny near Wrigley Field following a Chicago Cubs game when they get the news.

Denny, who is driving, has a heart condition and has been counseled to avoid becoming alarmed. Marta's family members are advising them not to tell Denny the news during their drive back to Denny and Beth's home, where Denny's soothing sister, Jenna, can break the news in the best possible way.

Would it be morally appropriate for Marta to withhold the truth from Denny as their family suggests?

This semester, students will draw from competing ethical theories (e.g. deontology, utilitarianism, virtue ethics, care ethics) to address this scenario.

What should you do?
There's a class for that.

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY



LISTEN, STRANGE WOMEN LYING IN PONDS
DISTRIBUTING SWORDS, IS NO BASIS FOR A
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

PENGUIN CLASSICS

JOHN LOCKE

Two Treatises of Government

Plato writing in *The Republic* that the highest class of man consists of Philosophers and that the ideal city state would be ruled by a Philosopher King

**There's
a class
for that.**



Who should be in charge?

What should we do if we disagree with our leader?

Are magic swords a legitimate source of executive power?

Join Dr. Preston on his quest to round up all of the interesting answers to the question, "Who should be in charge, and why?" and explore, analyze, and critique the works of Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rawls, and more!

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE: WITTGENSTEIN



"Ludwig Wittgenstein was one of the most important and influential philosophers in the past 100 years, and whose thought is very much alive today."

What is it for our words to mean something?

Must we understand a language in order to think?

Do the languages we speak shape our view of the world?

Could there be a language that's completely private

- as many philosophers have believed?

Are there some things that can't be expressed in language?

There's a class for that.

Minor in Ethics

Ethics concerns us all.

The perfect minor for any major:

15 credits to enhance your resume, your work, and your life.

The Ethics minor is intended to provide students of diverse major fields of study a way to focus and develop their interest in ethics both by offering them a core of courses essential to an understanding of the field of ethics and by advising them in the selection of courses that enable them to develop depth and detail in theoretical, professional, and applied ethics.



Courses in Applied Ethics

BIO-MEDICAL ETHICS



**What makes a being a “person?”
Is it ever ok to “pull the plug?”**

Is it ever ok to lie to a patient?

**How much do we “defer” to
parent’s religious beliefs,
particularly if it
means that their child may die?**

**Is it
ethical for a provider (doctor,
pharmacist...)
to refuse an otherwise legal
treatment on
the basis of that provider’s moral
beliefs?**



There's a class for that.

MGMT 3974 w/ Prof. Earle on mwf 12:00-12:50

Can count as PHIL 1540 Ethics in Business upon request.

BUSINESS, ETHICS & SOCIETY



Top Left: America.gov (credit: ShareAmerica, "Exposed Wrongdoings," no copyright). Top Right: Fossbytes.com (credit: "Google Drops 'Don't be evil,'" no copyright). Bottom Right: Insider Trading: "Why we Can't Help Ourselves" (credit: Christophe Varlet, no copyright). Bottom Left: Billy Madison (1995 film, credit: "I Choose Business Ethics," fair use). Center: Istockphoto.com (credit: "Cartoon Silhouette Character with Angel and Devil," fair use)

Where is the line between loyalty to one's company and obligations to report wrongdoing? Can corporations have goals beyond profit maximization? Do we have obligations to be charitable with our money and time? Is capitalism compatible with environmental sustainability? Do we "vote with our wallets" when we make purchases? What principles justify various rights: collective bargaining, intellectual property, equal opportunity?

These are among the most pressing questions of our time, affect each of our lives, and will be the focus of our course.

How do ethical considerations factor into your prospective profession?

There's a class for that.