PHILOSOPHY & WORLD RELIGIONS COURSE LOOK BOOK

There's a class for that.

Fall 2024
Summer 2024
RELS 1020--Religions of the World--UNIFI
Living religions with emphasis on texts, beliefs, tradition, values, and practices.
th 2:00-3:15 & 3:30-4:45 Graziano
online via eLearning Steed

RELS 1040: The Power of Myth: Creation w/ Prof. Burnight on mwf @ 1:00-1:50 & 2:00-2:50 (honors)—UNIFI
How did the world come to exist. How did we get here? Why are we here? Exploration of creation myths from around the world.

RELS 1040: Power of Myth: Heroes & Tricksters w/ Prof. Hill, tth @ 12:30-1:45—UNIFI
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?

RELS 1060: American Religious Diversity w/ Prof. Burnidge, mwf @ 10 & 11—UNIFI, FYO
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.

RELS 2100: Hinduism & Buddhism w/ Prof. Steed on tth @ 9:30-10:45 on Zoom
Examination of Hinduism and Buddhism in detail.

RELS 2570: Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality w/ Prof. Earle tth @ 3:30-4:45
This course introduces students to a range of ethical perspectives (religious and non-) on what constitutes good sex, morally speaking. It then brings these perspectives to bear on a number of issues in the realm of sexual ethics including: homosexuality, casual sex, sex for sale, and abortion.

RELS 2600: Religion & the Public Schools w/ Prof. Graziano on tth @ 11:00-12:15
This course is a study of the relationship between religion, law and public education in the United States. Through this course, students will understand how and why the role of religion in public education has been lived, legislated, and adjudicated in complicated (and sometimes contradictory) ways. This interdisciplinary course draws from studies of education, law, political science, history, and religion.

RELS 3159: Sacred Texts: Liberation & Oppression w/ Prof. Burnight on mwf @ 10:00-10:50
This course will explore the twin themes of liberation and oppression in a number of ancient religious texts, including those of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. We will examine these sacred scriptures through the lens of a variety of moral and ethical theories, paying particular attention to how they have challenged—and sometimes reinforced—the status quo of the various cultures and time periods in which they emerged.

RELS 3500: Religion & Ethics w/ Prof. Degnin on tth @ 2:00-3:15—UNIFI
Examination of key issues having to do with religion and ethics, including the moral function of religion, religious pluralism, war and peace, freedom and responsibility, religion and politics, religion and gender, and social justice.

PHIL/RELS 3510: Bio-Medical Ethics w/ Prof. Degnin on w @ 5:00-7:50 p.m.—UNIFI
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.

RELS 4490: Professional Development Seminar w/ Prof. Burnidge on mw @ 2:00-3:15
Through reflection, integration, and professional discernment, majors in the study of religion will bring their work in the major to critical integration, clarifying what they have done and linking their achievements with life goals.
Prereq: Junior standing or consent of instructor.
Summer 2024
UNIFI COURSES

MAY TERM 2024
PHIL 1040: JUSTICE AND THE GOOD LIFE
w/ Professor Lahroodi Online ARR
(UNIFI-Responsibility)

PHIL 1560: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & ETHICS
w/ Professor Earle Online ARR
(UNIFI-Responsibility)

RELS 1020 RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD
w/ Professor Hill Online ARR
(UNIFI-Human Condition: Global)

JUNE-JULY 8-WEEK
PHIL 3110/RELS 3110
PERSPECTIVES ON DEATH & DYING
w/ Professor Degnin
TTH, 6:00-7:50 p.m. on Zoom + ARR
(UNIFI-Human Condition: Global)
RELS 1020 w/ Prof. Graziano on tth @2:00–3:15 & 3:30–4:45 and 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.
How did the world come to exist? How did we get here? Why are we here?

Such questions reflect what seems to be a universal human impulse to understand our origins and purpose. This course will examine and compare a selection of creation myths from a number of ancient sources, from many different traditions, including biblical creation, Hinduism, stories from Greece and Rome, Norse, African, Native American religions and more. We will finish with a brief survey of some modern scientific ideas about the nature of the cosmos.

By examining how various cultures have addressed the issue of our beginnings, we might better understand the foundational assumptions underlying our own notions of identity and what it means to be “human.”

There's a class for that.
“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.
American Religious Diversity

There's a class for that.

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. 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. As a UNIFI course, this class contributes to the American Studies and DEI certificates.
This course will explore the twin themes of liberation and oppression in a number of ancient religious texts, including those of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. We will examine these sacred scriptures through the lens of a variety of moral and ethical theories, paying particular attention to how they have challenged—and sometimes reinforced—the status quo of the various cultures and time periods in which they emerged.
This course examines the fundamentals of these two religious traditions as well as delving into some more advanced aspects of them as time and interest permit. The semester will be divided roughly into halves, with the first half devoted to exploring Hinduism and the second half to Buddhism.

Material covered during class time will overlap with the reading, but not repeat it. For the Hinduism component of the class, topics covered will include Vedic religion, Upanisadic religion, Bhakti, Yoga in its several forms, Advaita Vedanta, epic literature, Hindu martialism, and developments in modern Hinduism. The Buddhism component of the class will focus on Siddhartha Gautama, Early Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism and several of its forms including Madhyamika, Yogacara, Chan/Zen, Pure Land, and Nichiren, as well as Vajrayana Buddhism, especially in its Tibetan manifestations. A mixture of readings, lectures, discussions, films, and music will be used to explore these traditions in their variety.

What is a sadhu? Who is Kwan Yin? There's a class for that.
RELIGION & THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This course is a study of the relationship between religion, law, and public education in the United States. Through this course, students will understand how and why the role of religion in public education has been lived, legislated, and adjudicated in complicated (and sometimes contradictory) ways. This interdisciplinary course draws from studies of education, law, political science, history, and religion.

Can we read the Bible in school? There's a class for that.
RELS 3500 w/Professor Degnin on tth @ 2:00-3:15

RELIGION & ETHICS

Why are we here?

What should I do with my life?

How do we decide what's right and wrong?

What role should religions take in politics?

Where does religious freedom end and religious oppression begin?

How can we best answer tough questions like this?

There's a class for that.
Majoring or minoring in the Study of Religion can point students in several different directions. It opens doors and creates new opportunities, but it can be difficult to navigate the next step.

This course exists to help students navigate their path forward, and prepare for life after graduation. In a seminar format, students will synthesize their learning in the major and discern their path from college to career. Discussion, self-reflection, job portfolios, and a team-based collaborative project will be the methods of assessment in this course.

What am I going to do after I graduate? There's a class for that.