

# Religious Studies Course Offerings

## Interterm and Spring 2024

### Exciting Offerings Interterm 2024

Class	Title	Days	Time	Instructor	Attributes
REL 332	Japanese Religions through Anime	T/W/TH	9:00AM-12:50PM	Kirk Sandvig	GE Global Studies Inquiry, GE Social Inquiry
<p>This course provides an overview of Japanese religions through the medium of Japanese animation, otherwise known as Anime. It will address fundamental values and points of concern for Japanese religion and society, past and present, including life and death; cosmology; human relationships with nature and non-human animals; ritual and tradition; inter-religious cooperation; understandings of gender and sexuality; nostalgia for a past that probably never existed but serves legitimating functions for the religious and political ideologies of the present; and coming to grips with the apocalypse. Letter grade with Pass/No Pass option.</p>					
REL 329	Religion, Eugenics, and the Prison	M/T/W	1:00PM-4:50PM	Jason Sexton Visiting Griset Lecturer	GE Pending
<p>This course explores the relationship between the subjects of religion, eugenics, and the prison. Introducing the wider discourses on each of these subjects includes the interdisciplinary critical analysis of several different fields—theology and the social scientific study of religion; the history of science and recent developments in the computational and biological sciences; and law &amp; society, carceral studies, and political science. Along with features present in the complicated history of eugenics, this course considers its relationship to mass incarceration, along with more radical forms of spirituality that draw from more ancient and Indigenous traditions that carry new plausibility structures extending beyond the crisis of mass incarceration in the US today. <b>Don't miss this One Time Opportunity!</b></p>					

### Upper Division Courses Spring 2024

REL 324	Social and Economic Justice in the New Testament	MW	2:30-3:45PM	Scott Mackie	GE Social Inquiry, GE Values and Ethics Inquiry
<p>This offering of "Interpretation of the New Testament" will begin with an immersive account of the harsh socio-economic realities of the ancient Mediterranean world, including social stratification and economic subsistence, demographics and early death, diet and malnutrition, violence and vulnerability. The sacred texts of the early Church inhabit this same harsh world and offer in response a compelling counter-narrative, one in which righteousness flourishes and compassion triumphs. The New Testament is firmly committed to social and economic justice, with socio-economic realities prominent in Jesus' ministry. The Gospels are filled with his vehement warnings against exploitative economic practices, and these protests culminate in his Temple "cleansing." Equally important are his commitments to non-violence and socially inclusive praxis, which welcome "the lost, the least, and the left out" into the family of God. Jesus' inclusive ethic then finds its fulfillment in the racially diverse early Christian communities.</p>					
REL 350	Happiness: Exploring Its Spiritual and Rational Foundations	TTH	10-11:15AM	Kirk Sandvig	GE Values and Ethics Inquiry
<p>This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of happiness as an underlying orientation to life, with attention to religious conceptions and spiritual paths to attaining it from the world's religions and contemporary research findings from surveys to neuroscience.</p>					
REL 353	Religion and Medicine	TTH	11:30AM-12:45PM	Ilana Maymind	GE Global Studies Inquiry, GE Social Inquiry, GE Values and Ethics Inquiry
<p>This interdisciplinary course focuses on the intellectual history of medicine, tracing the development of concepts of health, illness and healing across a range of religious, philosophical and cultural traditions, including Greek, Indian, Chinese, Jewish, Christian, Islamic, African and/or Native American sources.</p>					
REL 366	Blood, Passion, and the Spirit: The Latin American and Latinx Religious Experience	THURS	4-6:50PM	Rafael Luevano	GE Artistic Inquiry, GE Social Inquiry, GE Values and Ethics Inquiry
<p>This course surveys the Latin American as well as U.S. Latino/a religious experience as seen in a variety of creative forms, from its historical roots to contemporary artistic expressions. Key considerations include missionary evangelization, Liberation Theology, Pentecostalism, Evangelicalism, and such popular religious expressions as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Día de los Muertos, and narco-cults.</p>					

## Lower Division Courses Spring 2024

Class	Title	Days	Time	Instructor	Attributes
REL 115-01 REL 115-02	Living Religions of the World	MWF MWF	9-9:50AM 10-10:50AM	Mihwa Choi	GE Global Studies Inquiry, GE Social Inquiry, GE Values and Ethics Inquiry <b>Major/Minor Core Requirement</b>
A survey of religious traditions of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: basic beliefs and practices, and their relevance to human problems today.					
REL 120-01 REL 120-02	Global Ethics & Religion	MWF MWF	11-11:50AM 12-12:50PM	Lorin Geitner	GE Global Studies Inquiry, GE Social Inquiry, GE Values and Ethics Inquiry
An introduction to ethical issues from the perspective of the world religions: What is the relationship between religion and ethics? Why do people suffer? How do the religions differ on ethics? Are there universal religious ethical values?					
REL 130	The Study of Religion	TTH	11:30AM-12:45PM	Kirk Sandvig	GE Social Inquiry <b>Major/Minor Core Requirement</b>
The focus of the course is not on the study of any particular mode of religious expression, but on the shape and development of the discipline of comparative religion as a field of inquiry. The major issues covered in this course concentrate on the nature of religion and the methods used to study religious phenomena. Some of the methodologies introduced are cultural, historical, sociological, psychological, artistic, phenomenological, theological and feminist theories. Readings include primary texts from the major theorists on the nature of religion, manifestations of the sacred or holy, religious symbolism, myths, ritual, religious language, sacred texts, religious communities, concepts of fate, afterlife, destiny and gender relations in religion and society. Through case studies in several world religions students analyze the religion's history of interpretations and how these interpretations have impacted societal, cultural, and theological ideologies in a global context.					
REL 204	Deities, Demons, and Monsters: Mesopotamian Myth and Ritual	MW	1-2:15PM	Julye Bidmead	GE Social Inquiry
This class journeys through ancient Mesopotamia through its myths and ritual texts, exploring themes such as creation, death, afterlife, birth, witchcraft, performance of magical rituals, incantations, and methods of predicting the future. Through examining famous ancient myths (Gilgamesh, Enuma Elish, Atrahasis) students learn about the various gods, goddesses, demons, monsters, heroes, and legendary rulers. Analyzing these written texts in context with archaeological remains allows an understanding of the culture and religion of Mesopotamia. A special emphasis will be placed on examining the significance of gender and sexuality in ancient society.					
REL 213	Introduction to Judaism	TTH	10-11:15AM	Ilana Maymind	GE Social Inquiry, GE Values and Ethics Inquiry
This course traces the history, beliefs, literature, and practices of Judaism from its beginnings in the biblical period to modernity.					
REL 214	Introduction to Christianity	TTH	1-2:15PM	Rafael Luevano	GE Values and Ethics Inquiry
This course introduces the origins of Christianity and provides a general understanding of its doctrines and history, including the divides among Western Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant traditions.					