

RELIGION (RLGN)

Courses

RLGN 4000 Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion (4 Credits)

This course begins with a brief overview of the history of the study of religion in the west, from antiquity to the modern period. When we reach the modern period, the course shifts to considering 'representative' theories of religion, broken down roughly along ideological and/or disciplinary lines.

RLGN 4101 Ph.D. Colloquium in Biblical Interpretation (2 Credits)

Discussion of selected topics in the field of biblical studies, e.g., northwest Semitic inscriptions, Hebrew poetry, Judges, Acts of Andrew, literature of rabbinic Judaism, American biblical studies.

RLGN 4102 Hebrew Bible Seminar: Language and Text (4 Credits)

This seminar focuses on the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia; Hebrew grammar and syntax; and text critical methodology.

RLGN 4103 New Testament Seminar: Language and Text (2-4 Credits)

This seminar focuses on advanced Greek grammar, reading and vocabulary building; textual criticism; and reference tools.

RLGN 4104 Hebrew Bible Environments (4 Credits)

An exploration of the Hebrew Bible in its historical contexts.

RLGN 4105 Empire and the Rise of Christianity (4 Credits)

This course covers approximately the first five centuries of Christian history with a view toward understanding the role empire played in the rise of Christianity, both in terms of the confluence between Christianity and the Roman Empire as well as its role in the development of Christian beliefs, practices, production of discourse, institutions, and strategies of social control.

RLGN 4106 Second Century Life & Thought (4 Credits)

An attempt to understand Christian life and thought in the Roman Empire in the Second-century by analyzing primary sources.

RLGN 4107 Women in Early Christianity (4 Credits)

An exploration of the role women played in early Christianity, with attention given to the social and literary constructions of women in Greco-Roman antiquity.

RLGN 4108 Jewish and Christian Non-Canonical Literature (4 Credits)

This seminar examines Jewish and Hellenistic backgrounds; the social scientific study of early Christianity; and the New Testament in its literary environment.

RLGN 4109 Formation of the Bible (4 Credits)

This course focuses on the development of the Christian Bible. Some attention, however, will be given to the emergence of the Jewish canon, primarily as it relates to and impacts the Christian canon. The chronological expanse of the course ranges from the Hellenistic through the late Roman period. The approach of the course is necessarily literary and historical, but theoretical issues about what constitutes scripture and canon will also be given attention.

RLGN 4110 Hebrew Reading (2 Credits)

Advanced work in biblical languages or a selected issue in a language study.

RLGN 4111 Greek Reading (2 Credits)

Selected readings from the New Testament and other early Christian literature. Greek I, II and Exegesis are prerequisites Offered each year. May be repeated for credit.

RLGN 4112 Language Seminar (2-4 Credits)

Advanced work in biblical languages or a selected issue in a language study.

RLGN 4113 The Bible and Its Afterlives: Jonah (4 Credits)

This course invites students to place the biblical book of Jonah in conversation with works of literature, art, and theology that interpret Jonah or explore themes in the book, including the nature of God, prophecy, election, death, and transformation. The course will introduce students to the history of interpretation (or reception history) by considering Jonah's afterlives in a variety of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic texts, artistic programs, and manuscript illuminations.

RLGN 4115 Hebrew Bible Literature: Genesis (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4116 Hebrew Bible Literature: Exodus (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4117 Hebrew Bible Literature: Leviticus (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4118 Hebrew Bible Literature: Numbers (4 Credits)

RLGN 4119 Hebrew Bible Literature: Deuteronomy (4 Credits)

The book of Deuteronomy for centuries has been viewed as laying out a political view of Israel's life together. Josephus, for example, described Deuteronomy as Israel's politeia or "form of government." Government certainly is an issue in the book, particularly as it involves the conduct of self and others. More recently, Deuteronomy is understood to play a foundational role in the books of the Former Prophets within the theory of the Deuteronomistic History. This course examines these and other critical issues in the study of Deuteronomy.

RLGN 4125 Hebrew Bible Lit-Job (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4128 Hebrew Bible Literature: Jeremiah (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4129 Hebrew Bible Literature: Jonah (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4130 Hebrew Bible Literature: Prophetic Literature (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4131 Hebrew Bible Literature: Wisdom Literature (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4135 Poetry in the Hebrew Bible (4 Credits)

In this course, we will analyze poems primarily from the books of Job, Lamentations, Psalms, 2 Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Class sessions will be divided between studying some aspect of Hebrew prosody (e.g., metaphor, parallelism, lineation) and looking at the ways in which various poets use these particular devices. We will be particularly interested in identifying how poets bring their messages to life, engage their audiences, challenge (or uphold) the status quo, and revitalize the community's imagination and, in turn, its faith in YHWH. Each week, we will read about a particular aspect of poetry and prepare specific poems with the readings in mind; the readings will provide us with a language that we might discuss specifically how the poets impart and encode their messages.

RLGN 4141 New Testament Literature: Mark (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4142 New Testament Literature: Luke (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4143 New Testament Literature: John (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4144 New Testament Literature: Acts of the Apostles (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4145 New Testament Literature: Romans (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4146 New Testament Literature: Corinthians (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4147 New Testament Literature: Galatians (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4148 New Testament Literature: Hebrews (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4150 New Testament Literature: Revelation (4 Credits)

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year.

RLGN 4151 Studies in Early Christianity (4 Credits)

A critical study of themes and selected movements within early Christianity and other religions of the Greco-Roman world. May be repeated for credit.

RLGN 4152 Identity in the Hebrew Bible (4 Credits)

This course explores diverse constructions of selfhood in the Hebrew Bible in conversation with theories of identity and the self from a range of disciplines, including anthropology, philosophy, sociology, and psychology. In this class, we will consider how the biblical texts present different models of selfhood through discourse, practice, and ritual. Each class session will focus on a different aspect of identity: gender, social class, ethnicity, nationality, colonialism, the body, and kinship and family. Throughout the course, we will discuss the implications of these constructs of identity for ethics, agency, and theology.

RLGN 4153 War, Politics, & Society in the Hebrew Bible (4 Credits)

This course examines the interrelationship between war, politics, and society in the Hebrew Bible and their interplay both in the texts and in larger historical, social, and cultural contexts.

RLGN 4154 Migration and the Bible (4 Credits)

Migration and people on the move pervades the Bible, from Adam and Eve to Jesus. This course examines migration in the Bible and the resources it offers for responding to the current realities of migration, immigration, exile, deportation, and other aspects of migration in the world today. A range of perspectives on migration and the Bible are considered, including denominational resources, international aid agencies, and theoretical viewpoints.

RLGN 4160 Teaching the Bible (4 Credits)

Designed to integrate faith development theory, biblical interpretation and confluent education. Education instructional models for the purpose of assisting students to develop professional self-understanding and functional skills as interpreters and teachers; experience in teaching adults in a local setting.

RLGN 4201 Seminar on Pastoral Psychology (1-4 Credits)**RLGN 4202 Theological Themes in Pastoral Care (4 Credits)**

Theological bases of pastoral care. Contributions of contemporary pastoral care to doctrinal theology.

RLGN 4203 Theodicy and Tragedy (4 Credits)

Study of tragic and theological literature for pastoral care in tragic circumstances.

RLGN 4204 Multi-Cultural Pastoral Care & Counseling (4 Credits)

Examines multicultural issues in pastoral care and counseling and explores the dynamics and complexities of culture, race and other socializing factors in pastoral care conversations.

RLGN 4205 Process Theology and Pastoral Care (4 Credits)

This course creates a conversation between process theology and spiritual care. Utilizing an aesthetic approach, we develop a constructive framework of care from themes found in process theology.

RLGN 4206 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Pastoral Psychological and Theological Responses (4 Credits)

Students are paired with veterans and provide time-limited supervised spiritual care over the course of 8 weeks. Using a case study format, students review and reflect upon the spiritual care they are providing using theological and psychological perspectives.

RLGN 4207 Moral Stress, Resilience & Spiritual Integration (4 Credits)

Moral stress arises from shame/guilt/fear of causing harm involving conflicts in values. Moral injury arises from traumatic stress that is more shame than fear based, and has been researched extensively among military personnel. Spiritual integration of moral stress and injury uses spiritual practices and theological meaning-making to compassionately identify life-limiting embedded shame-based values, beliefs, and ways of coping with moral stress and injury (lived theologies) in order to compassionately understand the origins of moral stress and injury. Relational resilience is the outcome of spiritual integration based on spiritual practices fostering compassion and more complex theological ways of understanding moral conflicts, stress and injury.

RLGN 4208 Erik Erikson: Resource for Pastoral Care (4 Credits)

This course explores Erik H. Erikson's life cycle theory as a resource for the pastoral care of children, adolescents, young adults, adults, and older adults. Attention is given to Erikson's psychoanalytic orientation and the development of his life cycle theory over the course of his career. The course encourages the use of developmental theory to deepen the student's introspective reflection and vocational orientation. By focusing on the work of a single author, this course is meant to illustrate how a pastoral theology student may use the work of a prominent psychologist in the development of a dissertation topic.

RLGN 4209 Spiritual Care in Pluralistic Contexts (4 Credits)

This course helps students learn emergent pastoral theologies of spiritual care in a pluralistic context and use them to reflect on case studies written by experienced practitioners. In this course, students will identify their personal values, attitudes, and beliefs and examine their own social identities to better understand how these dimensions of self can guide and challenge them in reflecting on spiritual care with those who are different from them.

RLGN 4301 Colloquium in Comparative Study of Religion (0-4 Credits)

Critical analysis of the literature concerning (a) methods, (b) primary problems and (c) perspectives in the comparative study of religions. Examination of historical, anthropological, psychological and phenomenological approaches to the study of religions.

RLGN 4302 Buddhist Philosophy (4 Credits)

An introduction to the Buddhist philosophical tradition that covers both the different philosophical movements within Buddhism as schools of thoughts and major philosophical issues, such as the theory of karma and determinism, the nature of mind, proofs for past and future lives, theories of knowledge, ethics, the doctrine of emptiness and the nature of enlightenment.

RLGN 4303 Sacred Space and Place in Comparative Perspective (4 Credits)

This course examines sacred spaces and sacred places from a comparative perspective. Through close reading and discussion of primary and secondary sources, students are challenged to think critically and theoretically about sacred spaces and places.

RLGN 4304 Material Divinity (4 Credits)

This course explores how religion happens in material culture- broadly defined as images, devotional and liturgical objects, architecture and sacred space, works of art, and mass-produced artifacts.

RLGN 4305 Pilgrimage in Comparative Perspective (4 Credits)

This is a comparative course that examines the dynamics of pilgrimage from a number of different angles - theoretical, doctrinal, ritual, social - and which utilizes a variety of sources - including classical, ethnographic studies of actual pilgrimages, and focused studies of particular pilgrimage places - with the goal of gaining a thorough understanding of the phenomena of pilgrimage in all of its complexity.

RLGN 4320 Sufism (4 Credits)

This course examines the assortment of attitudes, rituals, and orientations that fall under the umbrella of tasawwuf known in the West as "Sufism." Special attention will be placed on pilgrimage (ziyarat) and its mediation between believer, saint, and Allah.

RLGN 4321 Islam, Gender, and Sexuality (4 Credits)

This course examines issues surrounding gender and sexuality in Islam. Through a close reading of religious texts, critiques of patriarchy, and historical studies, students are challenged to think critically about the construction of gender roles and the regulation of sexual practices in Islam. By the conclusion of the class, students gain insight and understanding regarding the ways modernity has radically altered norms surrounding gender and sexual preference in Muslim-majority societies.

RLGN 4401 Race, Gender, Class: Historical & Social Analysis of Racism in the Modern World (4 Credits)

An historical survey of the role of racism, sexism and classism in shaping the oppressive institutional structures of the existing world order and of how sociological analysis of these structures can help justice and peace activists direct effective action toward the elimination of race, gender and class oppression.

RLGN 4402 American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions (4 Credits)

A survey of the worldviews of Native American people, as these pertain to both inter-tribal beliefs and Native American ceremonial life, with an attempt to show how Native American practice proceeds from their worldview.

RLGN 4403 Sects, Cults & New Religions (4 Credits)

An exploration of non-mainstream religious groups. Topics include innovation and recruitment; "cult" controversies; sectarian Christianity, gender and sexuality; UFO religions; and religion and marginalized racial projects.

RLGN 4404 Race and Religion in the United States (4 Credits)

An exploration of the different ways in which race is understood religiously in the United States and how race impacts both white and racial minority religious institutions. Specific topics include the black church, the Nation of Islam, Native American theology, the Christian far right, Asian American religions, Latino/a religions, and multiracial congregations.

RLGN 4405 Social Construction & Selfhood (4 Credits)

This course invites us into a collection of investigations into the intersections of social structures and individual identity or selfhood. While reading in a variety of disciplines and genres, we are drawn together around the questions of how one understands the possibilities for individual or communal agency in light of the formative, systemic power of social structures and institutions. Beyond conceptual understanding of this relationship, we ask questions of how to encourage coherent religious, educational, and other forms of practice in light of the realities of social construction. These reflections are particularly important for persons who are interested in social change and the very real barriers to its generation.

RLGN 4406 Education and Social Change (4 Credits)

This course investigates the role of education in maintaining and transforming social structures, identity, and commitments. We examine how educational practices can contribute towards social change in both religious and public settings.

RLGN 4407 Ritual Studies (4 Credits)

By reading some of the most important "classic" and recent theorists of ritual, and by learning to observe and understand ritual behavior, this class will examine the important role of ritual in defining religious groups, creating religious identity, forming religious beliefs, and structuring how we view the world. Prerequisite: Masters students need permission of instructor.

RLGN 4408 Science & the Christian Right (4 Credits)

An examination of the American Christian Right's challenges to mainstream scientific theories and practices. Specific topics include Intelligent Design movement, reparative therapy of homosexuality, denial of human-driven climate change, and opposition to stem cell research.

RLGN 4409 Social Movements from Liberationist Perspectives (4 Credits)

Liberationist thought has greatly impacted how social movements, and the theological and ethical perspective which inform them, has been implemented to bring about social and political change since the mid-twentieth century. But with the state of the new millennium, many have proclaimed the death of liberation theology, dismissing its significance as a passing fad. The purpose of this course is to explore the roots, development, and history of liberationist thought as it first manifested itself within a Latin American context then expanding to other continents and faith traditions, and how that thought has been utilized to inform social movements.

RLGN 4410 American Christianity and Indian Genocide (4 Credits)

A collaborative research seminar exploring different aspects of the history of the relationship between American Christianity and genocidal campaigns against native peoples, including the colonial period through the 20th century. Students will research particular personalities and historical events related to this topic, including the campaigns of the military on the 18th century Western frontier, sites of massacres including Sand Creek in Colorado, and other events normally obscured by accounts of US history. Students will learn the relationships of ideology and worldview to the narration of history, as well as skills in identifying and working with primary historical sources.

RLGN 4411 Contemporary Sociology of Religion (4 Credits)

This course examines contemporary theoretical and empirical issues in the sociological study of religion. Principal topics include secularization and religious revival, rational choice, politics, ethnography, and religion and racial/ethnic diversity in the United States.

RLGN 4412 Health & Healing, Death & Dying: Technologies of Inspiration and Expiration (4 Credits)

Through this course, students will encounter a variety of perspectives on the nature, morality, justices, and injustices of health, healing, and dying.

RLGN 4413 Theology and the Construction of Race (4 Credits)

Several important books have recently been published making the case that religion, and more specifically, Christian theology, have played a constitutive role in creating the ideas of race and racial hierarchies. This course is an extended argument (with which students are free to agree or disagree in part or in whole—in any case they will become familiar with the relevant literature and concepts) that 1. In significant ways religion and race are modern, not universal or permanent, constructions; that 2. Religion and race are two of the very few fundamental conceptual building blocks of the modern world, such that, no matter what one thinks of religion and race, one is unable to think or operate in the modern world without them; and that 3. Religion and race are mutually imbricated in such a way that, even when race is not explicitly a topic of discussion or observation, modern religion is always already racialized.

RLGN 4414 Atheists, Secularists & Nones (4 Credits)

An examination of non-religious and/or non-affiliated populations, with a primary focus on the United States. We will explore: 1) the variety of beliefs among those not affiliated with religious institutions; 2) different social expressions of atheism; 3) the implications of recent religious trends for debates about secularization in the modern West.

RLGN 4501 Holy Spirit: History and Traditions (4 Credits)

What have Christians believed and written about the Holy Spirit through the centuries? Why does Pentecost show up in such different ways across the pages of Christian theology and literature? In the midst of the European Enlightenment, why did John Wesley hold such special reverence for the role of experience in Christian thought and education? Why has the Pentecostal legacy functioned simultaneously as a subversive trope for critiquing dominant church paradigms while also sparking creative, re-interpretations of Christian tradition among so many reformers? These are just a few of the questions explored in this class as we discuss historical and theological works by contemporary scholars in pneumatology and church history.

RLGN 4502 Historiography (4 Credits)

This course surveys the various theories and methods developed by historians since the emergence of the historical profession from the roots of historicism and philosophy of history in the mid-1800s; and examine the relationship of history to theology, cultural theory and literary studies.

RLGN 4503 Women in Medieval Europe (4 Credits)

This class focuses on the role of medieval women, who struggled to find a voice in the political, religious, social and literary arenas of medieval Europe from about 1100 to 1600. Through primary and secondary source readings we look at everyday women's lives in this period. The class also includes the lives and careers of some of the most famous women writers and leaders of the period, such as Hildegard of Bingen, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Marie de France, Margery Kempe, Julian of Norwich, Queen Isabel of Castile, Teresa of Ávila, and Queen Elizabeth I of England.

RLGN 4504 Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain (4 Credits)

An exploration of the "Golden Age" of cross-cultural encounters that occurred in Medieval Spain from the Muslim conquest in 711 to the fall of Granada and the expulsion of Jews in 1492. This course offers an overview of the historical and ecumenical dimensions of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic coexistence, known as "La Convivencia," and critical reflection on the relevant lessons this era still holds in the post 9/11 period.

RLGN 4505 Spanish Mystics and Reformers (4 Credits)

Early modern Spain witnessed the emergence of Catholic and Protestant individuals whose timeless works and popular appeal in subsequent centuries rested largely upon the practice of "contemplation in action." This course examines the historical context and works of such mystics and reformers as Teresa of Ávila, John of the Cross, Ignatius of Loyola, Juan de Valdés, Constantino Ponce de la Fuente Cipriano de Valera, Casiodoro de Reina, Antonio del Corro, and others, and others. It also explores the influence of Islam and Judaism on these sixteenth century religious movements, as well as modern Spain's subsequent rejection of this pluralistic legacy as it sought to define the young nation-state sought to define its new national identity and consolidate power across Europe and its vast colonial territories in the Western Hemisphere.

RLGN 4506 The Pursuit of Happiness: A History (4 Credits)

This course provides a historical examination of key concepts, major questions, and practices about humanity's search for happiness from the Hellenistic-Roman period of Antiquity through the Early Christian and Medieval periods. The content centers on the role of Classical moral philosophy and Christian theology in the formulation of eudemonic theories about the problem of happiness in relation to metaphysical and religious influences as well as to socio-cultural, political, and institutional norms and practices that shaped Christian notions of human purpose and potential. The legacies of these ancient ideas on the development of modern assumptions about happiness and human flourishing are also discussed towards the end of the course.

RLGN 4507 Violence & Tolerance in Medieval Europe (4 Credits)

This course examines a wide range of texts and events from the 11th to the 16th centuries dealing with various forms of violence across the medieval European world and contrasts these with medieval European notions of toleration in theological, literary, and political discourse. Among the topics to be covered will be the Peace of God and the Truce of God, feudal warfare and its legacy, the Crusades and their impact upon the Latin West as well as the on Arab East, anti-Semitism in the Latin West, the Inquisition, persecution of heretics and witches, Church and State struggles, and the various dialogues of mutual, theocentric edification among Islamic, Jewish, and Christian authors.

RLGN 4508 Judaism, Gender, and Religion (4 Credits)

Germans refer to the period of roughly 1770-1850 as the Sattelzeit, or "Saddle Era"—the time between the end of the early modern world and Europe and the modern world. During this era basic assumptions that we continue to make about what religion is and what gender is are constructed. This is also the era when what we think of a Judaism is re-shaped in major ways. Through a close reading of primary texts by Jewish women we will examine the intersection of gender, Judaism, and religion and examine the modern construction of these categories.

RLGN 4509 Jewish Christian Relations 50-500 C.E. (4 Credits)

This course considers the “parting of the ways” between Judaism and Christianity, beginning with the tumultuous first century (the Jewish War and the beginnings of the Jesus tradition) and continuing through the synthesis of Christianity and Empire in late antiquity. Along the way, we will consider how Christianity and Judaism emerged from a common matrix, influenced and co-created each other, and Othered each other in their processes of self-definition. We will attend especially to the problems with the “World Religions” model, ancient identity formation, the origins of Christian anti-Semitism, the effects of empire and diaspora, and modern attempts to explain the “parting.”.

RLGN 4520 Religion and Film (4 Credits)

Can film elicit the holy? Does the story of Jacob and Esau look different when told by a North African filmmaker? How does a Buddhist sensibility shape the form of Japanese films? Can we ask theological questions about secular films? In this course films are the primary texts, supplemented by readings, lecture and discussion. Students develop the film literacy and theological and theoretical acumen to explore these and other interactions between religion and film in cultural context. While there is no explicit prerequisite, background in film or literary criticism and/or theological or religious studies is helpful.

RLGN 4521 Theories of Religion and Media (4 Credits)

This course asks whether the changes in religion’s location, the nature of religious identity and community, and the nature of religious authority that are developing in the digital age are something new in the history of religion? Or, has religion always been rooted in its mediations and have religion and media changed and adapted in relationship to each other? We will explore the discourses at the interface of communications, cultural and religious studies on the mediation of religion in contemporary digital culture and in the history of religion, and carry out independent research.

RLGN 4601 Theology and Human Sexuality (4 Credits)

A critical survey of both historical and prevailing concepts of human sexualities in various religious, cultural, and theological traditions. An examination of the phenomenology of sexuality in relation to issues of power, identity, as well as in relation to the politics of sexual difference.

RLGN 4602 Systematic Theology I (4 Credits)

Systematics focuses on the importance of system in Christian theology, and on the development of students’ own systematic theology, through a reading of three prominent systematicians, classical, modern, and contemporary. Quarter 1 - method, doctrine of God, sin, and Christology. Quarter 2 - the work of Christ, faith, eschatology, ecclesiology, and sacraments. Either quarter may be taken independently.

RLGN 4603 Systematic Theology II (4 Credits)

Systematics focuses on the importance of system in Christian theology, and on the development of students’ own systematic theology, through a reading of three prominent systematicians, classical, modern, and contemporary. Quarter 1 - method, doctrine of God, sin, and Christology. Quarter 2 - the work of Christ, faith, eschatology,.

RLGN 4604 Religion in the Public Square (4 Credits)

What is the proper role of religion in the public debates necessary to healthy democracy? Some argue that religion in the public square threatens the fundamental democratic right the freedom of conscience; others that only religion can insulate the communal values that make democracy possible. This course examines the best and most prominent arguments in this contemporary debate.

RLGN 4605 Feminist Theology (4 Credits)

Analysis of feminist theology with attention to methodological issues, the relation of contemporary feminist visions to historical material, the ideas of God/Goddess and the question of what it means to be female. Prerequisite: At least one introductory level theology course.

RLGN 4606 Theology and Culture (4 Credits)**RLGN 4607 Liberating Sex (4 Credits)**

The purpose of the course is to search the Christian Scriptures, in spite of its accusations of being patriarchal, to find biblically-based guidelines for developing an ethical sexual lifestyle that is aware of how racism, classism, and specifically sexism influences the current conversation on sexual ethics. This course focuses on developing healthy models that foster intimacy and vulnerability for a disjointed and at times oppressive community.

RLGN 4608 Hispanic Ethics and Theology (4 Credits)

The primary sources of Latino/a theological and ethical thought are read to discover its foundational tenets. The course explores this contextual approach to religion to discover how it could serve to liberate the Latino/a community from prevalent oppressive social structures. Comparisons are made with Eurocentric ethics and theology.

RLGN 4609 Queer Theory, Theoethics & Activism (4 Credits)

Queer theory has transformed religious thought in extraordinary ways especially over the course of the past four decades. This course explores the nature of queer theory as a discipline within and outside of the religious academy. This course also invites students to explore the ways that queer theory intersects with theories of race and praxes of activism.

RLGN 4610 Ethics of Neoliberalism and Globalization (4 Credits)

People of faith have responded to the triumph of the free market economy around the world in a variety of ways. To some, “neoliberalism” seems to hold the key to sustained economic growth worldwide and, eventually, to nothing less than the eradication of poverty itself. To others, it represents the unleashing of corporate greed on a scale previously unknown, with momentous and often disastrous consequences for the working poor, the economically marginalized, and the environment. Does the new global economy signify the lifting of all boats or the race to the bottom? Does it further Christian ethical values, or subvert them?.

RLGN 4611 Theology and the Challenge of Postmodernism (4 Credits)

An examination of representative postmodern thinkers, how they have changed the context for theology, and how theology has responded to them.

RLGN 4612 African Theology and Post-Colonial Discourse (4 Credits)

This course attempts to examine the relationship between the emergence of African Theology and the historical conditions which characterize Africa's encounter with the European/American will to power. The initial hypothesis to be tested is the claim that the will to power provides the locus classicus for formulating the identity of African theological reflection. This makes the latter a part of a much larger discourse on Africanity. The course takes the student through a close reading of basic texts produced by African theologians themselves. All the major issues characteristic of the discourse of African Theology is dealt with.

RLGN 4613 Augustine and His Influence: 400 C.E. to 1000 C.E. (4 Credits)

Theological contribution of the great North African Bishop; his major writings, such as Confessions, City of God and The Trinity; and his anti-Pelagian, anti-Donatist, and anti-Manichaean writings.

RLGN 4614 Liberation Theologies (4 Credits)

Consideration of contemporary liberation movements with focus on feminist, black and Third World theologies. Special concern is with what the various perspectives of sex, race and class analysis suggest for one another and for theology and social ethics generally.

RLGN 4615 Being Human in the Modern World (4 Credits)

What does it mean to be human? After a brief survey of traditional Christian answers to this question, we focus on the theological anthropology that has become the de facto theory of human nature since the emergence of the modern western world in the early 19th century. Theological anthropology can be the driver of other doctrines in a systematic theology; it also underpins work not necessarily seen as theological, such as ethics, development, and human rights. A rich understanding of this anthropology is necessary for theological reflection in our current context.

RLGN 4616 Sin and Evil (0-4 Credits)

This course is a critical and interdisciplinary exploration of the ideas of sin and evil. Most religious traditions have some account of human brokenness, pain and suffering. Christians have traditionally used the language of sin and evil to describe these phenomena. These ideas implicate a wide range of issues such as human nature, God, the environment, ethics, the law, and society itself. In this course we examine the historical, theological, and philosophical content of the ideas of sin and evil within various strands of Christianity, and in relation to other religious traditions. The course will also critically engage secular descriptions of and reactions to sin and evil.

RLGN 4617 Forgiveness (4 Credits)

In the histories of philosophy and religions, 'forgiveness' emerges as a grounding concept for thinking about God, self, and community. This course examines core texts and contexts within a range of religious, philosophical, and theological discourses on forgiveness, 'loving the enemy', and reconciliation. The course explores a variety of spaces of forgiveness as well as the possibility that the 'impossibility of forgiveness' must be allowed to emerge as a valued theological, ethical, and civic principle of personal and communal identity.

RLGN 4619 Christian Theology and Disability (4 Credits)

Using the category of "disability" as a starting point, this seminar examines constructive theologies in which attention to human vulnerability, limitation, and interdependence is fundamental to religious thought and practice. It presents "ableism" as a form of social injustice, emphasizing its intersections with other forms of oppression. It names Christianity's past and present complicity in ableism, while also highlighting the tradition's resources for effective opposition. Consideration expands beyond persons with disabilities to include common phases of life like infancy and frail old age. The course's primary aim is to equip students to articulate theologies that affirm that which ableism devalues.

RLGN 4620 Fanon, Foucault and Friends (4 Credits)

This course reads the primary sources of post colonialists (mainly Fanon) and postmodernists (mainly Foucault) to explore creating ethical approaches to globalized manifestations of race, class, and gender oppression. Special attention is given to the use of Christianity as a liberationist response to global structures of oppression in spite of its historic use in causing much of said oppression.

RLGN 4621 Kierkegaard and Existential Theology (4 Credits)

Kierkegaard and the origins of existentialism; twentieth-century forms of existentialism and recent developments; the decline of neo-orthodoxy and resurgence of phenomenology.

RLGN 4622 Schleiermacher as Resource (4 Credits)

Consideration of the theology of Friedrich Schleiermacher. Analysis of the philosophical and theological predecessors of Schleiermacher as well as the tradition of theological liberalism that followed him.

RLGN 4623 Theology of Paul Tillich (4 Credits)

This course provides an introduction to the systematic theology of Paul Johannes Tillich (1886-1965). It explores the content and form of Tillich's theological method and his unique contribution as a Christian existentialist. Key considerations of Tillich throughout the course include 1) his personal theological formation 2) the content and form of Tillich's theology and method as shaped within the historical, religious, and cultural context of Nazi Germany to the McCarthyism, and 3) the relevance of Tillich as a conversation partner for thinking theologically about the contemporary intersections of theology and culture.

RLGN 4640 Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins (4 Credits)

Many of us have been taught religion through the eyes of white, middle-class males. How then do we do ethics from the perspective of the disenfranchised? The aim of this course is to enable students to: construct ethical responses to case studies from the perspectives of those suffering from race, class and gender oppression; to investigate Biblical protest narratives as to the resistance and struggle against race, class and gender domination and oppression; and to examine various liberationist ethical interpretations as a source for overcoming dominant religious power structures.

RLGN 4641 Formative Figures in Christian Ethics: The 20th Century White Male Canon (4 Credits)

This course on formative white male figures in Christian Ethics examines the ethical canon from a historical perspective. Special attention is given to texts and traditions as living changing heritages.

RLGN 4642 Theology and the Rise of the Historical Consciousness (4 Credits)

Theological work today is done in the context of the rise of the historical consciousness, a phenomenon with its roots in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. We inherit a fundamentally different worldview from the worldviews of the ancient and medieval worlds that gave rise to many of the classical Christian practices and beliefs, and different from contemporary non-western worldviews. The historical consciousness leads to a particular set of assumptions about Biblical authority, identity and subjectivity, epistemology, the relationship of individuals to communities, etc. This class examines important texts in the development of the historical consciousness, analyzes issues raised for Christian theology, and points to some of the theological resources developed in its wake.

RLGN 4643 Women and Christian Theologies from the Global South: A Postcolonial Feminist Approach (4 Credits)

This course is a critical study of the challenges and contributions of Christian feminist theologies from the global south to theological studies in North America, particularly, Christian feminist theologies. Framed in postcolonial discourses, this course will study works of representative figures in Christian feminist theologies from Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Topics will include the impact of globalization, postcolonial discourse, religion and culture, sexuality and spirituality, and ecological concerns.

RLGN 4644 Environmental Ethics and Global Hunger (4 Credits)

The course seeks to develop a constructive conversation on the causes of global hunger by examining significant issues surrounding the present-day distribution of food and its negative impact on the environment. Furthermore, the course will examine what type of praxis can be employed to bring about social and political change.

RLGN 4701 Topics in the Study of Religion (0-4 Credits)**RLGN 4702 Topics in Biblical Studies (0-4 Credits)****RLGN 4703 Topics in Theological Studies (0-4 Credits)****RLGN 4761 Social Ethical Issues (4 Credits)**

Examination of the scope of Christian social ethics and the relationship of the analytic and diagnostic task to normative and prescriptive endeavor. May be repeated.

RLGN 4762 Justice & Peace Struggles (2,4 Credits)

Regular offerings include "Columbusday and the History of Christian Denial," "Justice in Native America," and "Church and the Colonial Residual: Pine Ridge, the Black Hills, Missionaries and Indian Justice.

RLGN 4991 Independent Study (1-4 Credits)**RLGN 5000 Pedagogy and the Teaching of Religion (4 Credits)**

This course looks at pedagogical methods as they relate to the teaching of religion. Students design syllabi and materials appropriate for the teaching of religion in at least two different contexts. In addition, the course covers theoretical issues related to the teaching and learning process.

RLGN 5010 Lived Religion Colloquium (4 Credits)

This weekly colloquium functions as a collaborative space in which students and faculty of the JDP come together to discuss an interdisciplinary body of scholarship focused on religion as it is lived by persons and communities. The specific theme of the colloquium changes each time it is taught.

RLGN 5020 Conceptual Approaches to Religion Colloquium (4 Credits)

This weekly colloquium functions as a collaborative space in which students and faculty of the JDP come together to discuss an interdisciplinary body of scholarship focused on conceptual approaches to the study of Religion. The literature may focus on specific issues, concepts, and/or social and cultural phenomena. The specific theme of the colloquium changes each time it is taught.

RLGN 5030 Religion in Text, Image, and Artifact Colloquium (4 Credits)

This weekly colloquium functions as a collaborative space in which students and faculty of the JDP come together to discuss an interdisciplinary body of scholarship focused on texts, images, and/or artifacts through which religion, culture and worldview can be studied. The specific theme of the colloquium changes each time it is taught.

RLGN 5101 Methods for Interpreting Biblical Texts (4 Credits)

This seminar addresses critical study of biblical texts, the history of interpretations and hermeneutics.

RLGN 5102 Religious Identity in Antiquity (4 Credits)

An exploration of the way individuals and communities understood their religious beliefs and behaviors during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The focus is on varieties of Jews and Christians (including how they formed their identities in relation to each other), but consideration is also given to the Greco-Roman religious context.

RLGN 5103 Coptic I (2 Credits)

The course is dedicated to introducing students to Coptic, the last phase of the Ancient Egyptian language and the only one to be recorded in an alphabetic script showing vowels. This portion of the process is designed to introduce the most frequent vocabulary as well as the acquisition of key skills for the understanding of the Coptic language and for the interpretation and understanding of Coptic texts.

RLGN 5104 Coptic II (2 Credits)

The course is dedicated to introducing students to Coptic, the last phase of the Ancient Egyptian language and the only one to be recorded in an alphabetic script showing vowels. This part of the module is designed to promote the acquisition of key skills for the understanding of the Coptic language and for the interpretation and understanding of Coptic texts. The last half of the class requires the student to demonstrate proficiency at reading Coptic.

RLGN 5105 Coptic Readings (2 Credits)

Selected readings from Coptic texts drawn from ancient canonical and noncanonical sources, including discoveries at Nag Hammadi. It includes advanced vocabulary building and advanced grammatical and syntactical constructions. May be repeated for credit.

RLGN 5201 Ph.D. Colloquium in Religion and Psychological Studies (1-4 Credits)

A review of contemporary developments in psychology and theology offered during the winter quarter each year for doctoral students in the religion and psychological studies concentration.

RLGN 5401 Colloquium: Post-Colonial Discourse and Other Myths: A Theological Critique of Dominance (4 Credits)

Selected topics in religion and social change, approached from the disciplines and perspectives of history, ethics, sociology, international studies and social transformation. Offered annually.

RLGN 5402 Religion and Social Change Colloquium: Selected Topics (1-4 Credits)

This is a topics course for the Religion and Social Change concentration colloquia.

RLGN 5750 Professional Development (0 Credits)

This course provides the "nuts and bolts" on not only surviving, but also thriving within the academy. Assuming that the student's goal is an eventual tenure-track position, the course demystifies the PhD route so that the student, through a working knowledge of the academy, can better position her/himself to succeed. Besides providing professional development, the course attempts to raise the level of involvement of PhD candidates in the profession, from presenting papers to publishing articles.

RLGN 5751 Experiential Learning (0 Credits)

This 0-credit course enables international students to acquire valuable teaching experience as teaching assistants or instructors of record, on or off campus. It will normally only be taken after completing RLGN 5000 Pedagogy & Teaching Religion. Students should consult the Office of Internationalization about their visa status and requirements. Students should work with the JDP Program Manager at least one quarter before they plan to register in order to get this course in the class schedule when it will be needed.

RLGN 5991 Independent Study (1-10 Credits)**RLGN 5992 Directed Study (1-5 Credits)****RLGN 6000 Dissertation Proposal Seminar (4 Credits)**

This seminar focuses upon the range of research topics and methods in religious and theological studies by examining dissertations and dissertation proposals related to the Joint Ph.D. Program at Iliff and the University of Denver. Bibliographic and research methods and matters of style and format receives particular emphasis. Students present their own dissertation proposals for discussion.

RLGN 6010 Comprehensive Review I: Perspectives in the Study of Religion (4 Credits)

Students meet weekly for review and discussion of the bibliography for theories and methods in the study of religion. The bibliography is available on line and students are encouraged to read in advance of the course. The final exam is the comprehensive exam in theories and methods in the study of religion. This course is taken in the fall quarter of the student's third year.

RLGN 6020 Comprehensive Review II: Area Theories and Methods (4 Credits)

Students meet weekly for review and discussion of the bibliography for theories and methods in one of the current areas of JDP program strength: 1) Bible, ancient Judaism and early Christianity 2) Religion, Race and Ethnicity 3) Media, Art and Religion 4) Religion and its Publics 5) Religion and Human Experience or 6) Theories of Religion. Bibliographies are available on line and students are encouraged to read in advance of the course. The final exam is the comprehensive exam in the area. This review course and exam is taken in the fall quarter of the student's third year.

RLGN 6030 Comprehensive Review III: Knowledge in a Professional Field (4 Credits)

Students work individually or in small groups with their dissertation advisor and committee members or other faculty in the students' chosen field of specialization. The purpose is to synthesize coursework, fill in gaps, and expand knowledge needed as a professional in the specific field. The final exam is the comprehensive exam in the major field. This review course and exam is taken in the winter quarter of the student's third year. It must be coordinated with Comp Review IV, and between these two reviews the student must have at least 3 different faculty examiners.

RLGN 6040 Comprehensive Review IV: Knowledge in Minor Areas or Subfields (4 Credits)

Students work individually or in small groups with faculty in the students' chosen subfield or minor area of study, or with the dissertation advisor on a deeper area of specialization within the professional field. The final exam is the comprehensive exam in the subfield or minor area. This review course and exam is taken in the winter quarter of the student's third year. It must be coordinated with Comp Review III and between these two reviews the student must have at least 3 different faculty examiners.

RLGN 6991 Independent Study (1-10 Credits)

RLGN 6992 Directed Study (1-5 Credits)

RLGN 6995 Dissertation Research (0-10 Credits)

Joint Doctoral Program students use these credits as they work on their dissertations, beginning upon completion of comprehensive exams. Normally 8 credits are completed by each student.