Spring 2019 Religious Studies Cornerstone Course Descriptions

40375REL 100-A, COR: Pilgrimage and Passage: Religion as "Sacred" Journey3 credits40739REL 100-O, COR: Pilgrimage and Passage: Religion as "Sacred" Journey3 credits

Prof. S. Wilbricht, CSC

CRN#

The course begins with the premise that all religions are at their best when they are "betwixt and between," living in the threshold, open to new and unexpected horizons. After a close reading of the Book of Exodus, which will provide the opportunity to identify various themes associated with ritual passage, we will concentrate primarily on the study of the three chief monotheistic religions of Semitic origin: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course will end with a brief exploration of Hinduism and Buddhism. Through comparative analysis of these religions, we will strive to determine similarities and differences in particular approaches to God, worship, institution, and moral conduct.

Only open to students that have not completed the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.

40376 REL 100-B, COR: Gods, Myths, and Rituals in the Ancient Mediterranean 3 credits Prof. N. DesRosiers

This class investigates the diverse religions of the ancient Mediterranean world (ca. 600 BCE-400CE), including Greek and Roman religions, formative Judaism, and the earliest Christianity. The course explores the history and development of these traditions by examining topics related to issues of ritual, myth, sacred space, gender, and concepts of divinity within each group. Focus is placed on the ways in which these groups influenced one another and reshaped cultural and religious landscapes through competitive interaction. Through a critical analysis of the sources students will begin to understand the practices, beliefs, and experiences of the Greco-Roman world and the communities that produced them.

3 credits

3 credits

Only open to students that have not completed the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.

40377 REL 100-C, COR: Abrahamic Faith

40378 REL 100-D, COR: Abrahamic Faith

Prof. D. Ullucci

This course is an investigation of the religious dimension of human experience, especially as it has been lived, understood and cherished among the three Abrahamic traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Its guiding focus is the centrality of "faith" as a relational response to God who, in line with Abraham's foundational claim, is experienced as living. The course considers significant questions in conversation with some of the most important writings in the tradition of Western religious thought, as well as some of the basic questions that arise in the academic investigation of religion: What is the nature of religious experience? How does religion provide motivation and direction for the life of individuals and communities? How does religion nurture or inhibit human development and well-being? Only open to students that have not completed the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.

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40379	REL 100-E, COR: Pilgrimage into Nature	3 credits
40380	REL 100-F, COR: Pilgrimage into Nature	3 credits

Prof. C. Ives

Stories in scriptures and the experiences of pilgrims remind us that religious life does not always take place indoors. Much of human religious experience occurs outside, in nature. We will explore this dimension of human religiosity through examination of Christian, Islamic, and Buddhist pilgrimages to such places as Lourdes, Mecca, and northern India, as well as the broader themes of nature symbolism and nature mysticism.

Only open to students that have not completed the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.

40381	REL 100-G, COR: Deviance and the Devine	3 credits
40382	REL 100-H, COR: Deviance and the Devine	3 credits

Prof. S. Lowin

This course will use the concept of deviance as the lens through which we will study the three major monotheistic traditions of the world - Islam, Judaism and Christianity. What are the major tenets and beliefs of each? What do they share and where are the conflicts? What does each consider normative and why? When does a belief or practice cross the line in deviance? Ultimately, are they all simply deviants of one another? In our investigation, we will also look to some lesser known religious traditions as foils, such as Scientology, Raelianism, the Nation of Islam, Jews for Jesus, Mormonism, and Christian Science.

Only open to students that have not completed the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.

40383 REL 100-I, COR: Religion as Pharmakon: Poison or Cure 40384 REL 100-J, COR: Religion as Pharmakon: Poison or Cure

Prof. G. Shaw

For the ancient Greeks *pharmakon* meant both cure and poison depending on the context. Religion functions in the same way: it can heal us but can also poison us. We will explore the ambiguity and the power-both healing and destructive-of religious traditions.

Only open to students that have not completed the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.

40385	REL 100-K, COR: From Cloister to CrossFit: Religion in Medieval and Modern Worlds	3 credits
40737	REL 100-M, COR: From Cloister to CrossFit: Religion in Medieval and Modern Worlds	3 credits

40738 REL 100-N, COR: From Cloister to CrossFit: Religion in Medieval and Modern Worlds 3 credits Prof. C. Tichelkamp

What makes a medieval monastery different from a modern-day brewery or gym? What is religion? What is secularism? This course covers medieval and modern religions through critical reading of texts, films, and artwork drawn primarily from Christianity, but also neighboring traditions (Judaism, indigenous religions) and modern movements (science, nation-building).

40374 REL 112-A, FYS: Saints and Sinners in Church History Prof. R. Gribble, CSC

4 credits (First-Year Seminar)

3 credits

3 credits

Saints and sinners, much like victors and vanquished in war, are often determined by those who triumph in Church conflicts. This course will address several Church controversies throughout the 2000 years of its history, review the issues and debates that arose through the reading of primary and secondary sources, and who in the end were considered victors, saints, and the vanquished, sinners, in Church history.

Only open to students that have not completed the First-Year Seminar and Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.