

RELIGION

Department Website:

<https://www.haverford.edu/religion>

A central mission of the Religion Department is to enable students to become critically informed, independent, and creative interpreters of some of the religious movements, sacred texts, ideas, and practices that have decisively shaped human experience. In their coursework, students develop skills in the critical analysis of the sacred texts, images, beliefs, and performances of various religions, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism. The department's programs are designed to help students understand how religions develop and change and how religious texts, symbols, and rituals help constitute communities and cultures. Thus, the major in religion seeks to help students develop a coherent set of academic skills in the study of religion, while at the same time encouraging interdisciplinary work in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

Learning Goals

The Haverford religion major is unique in that it provides students with a comprehensive curriculum that includes carefully designed areas of concentrations, specialized coursework, supervised research, a lengthy written research product, and a departmental oral conversation with the entire department as the minimum requirements for fulfilling the major. Through coursework, senior thesis research, and the Senior Colloquium with the Swarthmore Religion Department, the department seeks to fulfill the following learning goals:

- Expose students to the central ideas, debates, scholars, methods, historiography, and approaches to the academic study of religion.
- Analyze key terms and categories in the study of religion, and utilize the diverse vocabularies deployed among a range of scholars in religion and related fields.
- Develop critical thinking, analytical writing, and sustained engagement in theory and method, together with the critical competence to engage sacred texts, images, ideas and practices.
- Cultivate the learning environment as an integrative and collaborative process.
- Expand intellectual opportunities for students to broaden and critically assess their worldviews.
- Encourage students to supplement their work in religion with elective languages (Arabic, Chinese, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi/Urdu, Japanese, Latin, Sanskrit, Yoruba).
- Foster interdisciplinary methods and perspectives in the study of religion, while continuing to model this through the curriculum.
- Prepare students for professional careers, for graduate studies in religion or related fields, and for leadership roles as reflective, critically-aware human beings.

Like other liberal arts majors, the religion major is meant to prepare students for a broad array of vocational possibilities. Religion majors typically find careers in law, public service (including both religious and secular organizations), medicine, business, ministry, and education. Religion majors have also pursued advanced graduate degrees in anthropology, history, political science, biology, Near Eastern studies, and religious studies.

Haverford's Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President's website, at <http://hav.to/learninggoals>.

Major Requirements

The major in religion is designed to help students develop a coherent set of academic skills and expertise in the study of religion, while at the same time encouraging interdisciplinary work in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. The major consists of 11 courses with the following requirements:

- Five courses within an area of concentration: each major is expected to fashion a coherent major program focused around work in one of three designated areas of concentration:
 - **Religious Traditions in Cultural Context.** The study of religious traditions and the textual, historical, sociological and cultural contexts in which they develop. Critical analysis of formative texts and issues that advance our notions of religious identities, origins, and ideas.
 - **Religion, Literature, and Representation.** The study of religion in relation to literary expressions and other forms of representation, such as performance, music, film, and the plastic arts.
 - **Religion, Ethics, and Society.** The exploration of larger social issues such as race, gender, and identity as they relate to religion and religious traditions. Examines how moral principles, cultural values, and ethical conduct help to shape human societies. The five courses within the area of concentration must include at least one department seminar at the 300 level. Where appropriate and relevant to the major's program, up to two courses for the major may

- be drawn from outside the field of religion, subject to departmental approval.
- RELG H299 (Theoretical Perspectives in the Study of Religion).
- RELG H398A and RELG H399B, a two-semester senior seminar and thesis program.
- Three additional half-year courses drawn from outside the major's area of concentration.
- Junior Colloquium: an informal required gathering of the junior majors once each semester. Students should complete the Religion Major Worksheet in advance in consultation with their major advisor and bring copies of the completed worksheet to the meeting.

At least six of each major's 11 courses must be taken in the Haverford Religion Department. In some rare cases, students may petition the department for exceptions to the major requirements. Such petitions must be presented to the department for approval in advance.

Final evaluation of the major program will consist of written work, including a thesis, and an oral conversation completed in the context of the Senior Seminar (RELG H398A and 399B).

Advising for the major takes place in individual meetings between majors and faculty advisors and in a departmental Junior Colloquium held once each semester. At this colloquium, junior majors will present their proposed programs of study with particular attention to their work in the area of concentration. All majors should fill out and bring the Religion Major Worksheet, which can be found on the Religion Department website, to the colloquium.

Senior Project

The senior thesis research project in the Department of Religion serves as a capstone experience for our majors. The work of RELG H398A and RELG H399B, the required courses related to the senior research project in religion, consists of five stages: the formulation of a thesis proposal; presentation of the proposal; presentation of a portion of work in progress; the writing and submission of first and final drafts; oral discussion with department faculty.

Senior Project Learning Goals

The goals of the senior thesis process are to:

- further develop research skills and obtain a mastery of academic citation practices.

- provide students with an opportunity to pursue original research questions and to sharpen scholarly interests as one masters a particular field/argument.
- enhance written and verbal analysis through participation in the yearlong senior seminar with department faculty and students, weekly meetings with individual advisors, and the final oral presentation of the thesis to the department.
- nurture group cohesion as a department, through collaborative participation with fellow majors during the course of RELG H398A and RELG H399B, concretely expressed by way of critical feedback to shared writing.
- build student confidence in the ability to see to fruition a rigorous project requiring prolonged periods of thought, writing, revising, and research.

Senior Project Assessment

You will receive a regular course grade for RELG H399B, which will appear on your transcript. This overall grade is comprised of three separate grades that evaluate:

- Your participation in the seminar process outlined above.
 - Participation in the seminar means: punctual attendance at all seminar events; careful preparation, especially the reading of your colleagues' work in progress; and regular meetings with your advisor and submission of writing, according to the schedule mutually agreed upon.
- The quality of your thesis.
- Your thesis will be read by all members of the department, who will mutually agree upon a grade for the written thesis. This grade will be factored into your final grade for the seminar.
- The effectiveness of your oral exam.
 - The effectiveness of your oral discussion will be factored into the final grade for the thesis and for the seminar as a whole. All members of the department will participate in your oral discussion, but your advisor will not participate in the process of the final evaluation and grading of your work.

Requirements for Honors

The department awards honors and high honors in religion on the basis of the quality of work in the major and on the completed thesis.

Minor Requirements

The minor in religion, like the major, is designed to help students develop a coherent set of academic skills and expertise in the study of religion, while at the same time encouraging interdisciplinary work

in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. The minor consists of six courses with the following requirements:

- Five courses within an area of concentration, with at least one at the 300 level:
 - **Religious Traditions in Cultural Context.** The study of religious traditions and the textual, historical, sociological and cultural contexts in which they develop. Critical analysis of formative texts and issues that advance our notions of religious identities, origins, and ideas.
 - **Religion, Literature, and Representation.** The study of religion in relation to literary expressions and other forms of representation, such as performance, music, film, and the plastic arts.
 - **Religion, Ethics, and Society.** The exploration of larger social issues such as race, gender, and identity as they relate to religion and religious traditions. Examines how moral principles, cultural values, and ethical conduct help to shape human societies.
- RELG H299 (Theoretical Perspectives in the Study of Religion).
- Junior Colloquium: an informal required gathering of the junior majors once each semester. Students should complete the Religion Minor Worksheet, available on the Religion Department website, in advance in consultation with their major advisor and bring copies of the completed worksheet to the meeting.

All six courses must be taken in the Haverford Religion Department. In some rare cases, students may petition the department for exceptions to the minor requirements. Such petitions must be presented to the department for approval in advance.

Study Abroad

Students planning to study abroad must construct their programs in advance with the department. Students seeking religion credit for abroad courses must write a formal petition to the department upon their return and submit all relevant course materials. We advise students to petition courses that are within the designated area of concentration.

Faculty

Molly Farneth

Assistant Professor of Religion

Pika Ghosh

Visiting Associate Professor of Religion

Guangtian Ha

Assistant Professor of Religion

Naomi Koltun-Fromm

Professor of Religion

Ken Koltun-Fromm

Robert and Constance MacCrate Professor of Social Responsibility and Professor of Religion; Director of HCAH

Anne McGuire

The Kies Family Professor of Humanities; Associate Professor and Chair of Religion

Terrance Wiley

Assistant Professor of Religion and Coordinator of African and Africana Studies

Affiliated Faculty

Anna-Alexandra Fodde-Reguer

Visiting Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures

Brie Gettleson

Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Hank Glassman

The Janet and Henry Richotte 1985 Professor of Asian Studies; Associate Professor and Chair of East Asian Languages and Cultures

David Harrington Watt

Douglas & Dorothy Steere Professor of Quaker Studies

Maud McInerney

The Laurie Ann Levin Professor of Comparative Literature; Professor of English; Chair of Comparative Literature

Zolani Ngwane

Associate Professor and Chair of Anthropology

Hannah Silverblank

Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics

Courses

RELG H105 FOOD & RELIGION (1.0 Credit)

Ken Koltun-Fromm, Molly Farneth

Division: Humanities

An exploration of the role of food in religious beliefs and practices. Topics include the role of food in religious rituals, the connection between religious foodways and religious identities, and the ethics of food production and consumption.

(Offered: Fall 2020)

RELG H106 THE SENSE AND SENSES OF ISLAM (1.0 Credit)*Guangtian Ha***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course introduces students to the debates about the senses in Islam. What is the relationship between sound and the sacred, between the sensorium and the meanings of Islam? Course readings will include Sufi texts, works by Islamic scholars, ethnographies of Muslim musical practices, as well as philosophical works.

RELG H110 SACRED TEXTS AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS (1.0 Credit)*Anne McGuire***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

An introduction to Religion through the close reading of selected sacred texts of various religious traditions in their historical, literary, philosophical, and religious contexts.

(Offered: Fall 2020)**RELG H112 MYTH, FOLKLORE, AND LEGEND IN JAPAN (1.0 Credit)***Hank Glassman***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

An introduction to stories of the weird and supernatural in Japan and a reflection on genre and the scholarly enterprise of taxonomy-making. Readings from Buddhist miracle plays, early modern puppet drama, etc., supplemented by scholarly secondary sources.

(Offered: Spring 2021)**RELG H114 THE HISTORY OF DAOISM IN CHINA: RELIGIONS, MAGIC, MEDICINE (1.0 Credit)***Anna-Alexandra Fodde-Reguer***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

General introduction to the history and development of Daoism in China, including: philosophical beginnings, religious transformations, and the relationship to magic and medicine.

RELG H118 HEBREW BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETERS (1.0 Credit)**Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

The Hebrew Bible, or "Old Testament," is, arguably, the most influential text in the West. Religions,

governments, movements, artists, thinkers, and common people have all drawn inspiration, wisdom, and foolishness from its texts. In this course we will sample a variety of ways in which readers have wrestled with, been influenced by, appreciated, depreciated, analyzed, criticized, and popularized the Bible. We will turn to a variety of sources—philosophical, academic, cultural, theological, and popular—for insights, examples, and samples. We will also pay special attention to interpretations of the Bible on themes such as race and nation, gender and law, war and peace.

RELG H122 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT (1.0 Credit)*Anne McGuire***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An introduction to the New Testament and early Christian literature. Special attention will be given to the Jewish origins of the Jesus movement, the development of traditions about Jesus in the earliest Christian communities, and the social contexts and functions of various texts. Readings will include non-canonical writings, in addition to the writings of the New Testament canon.

(Offered: Spring 2021)**RELG H150 SOUTH ASIAN RELIGIOUS CULTURES (1.0 Credit)***Pika Ghosh***Division:** Humanities**Domain(s):** B: Analysis of the Social World

An introductory course covering the variegated expressions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, and Sikhism in South Asia.

(Offered: Spring 2021)**RELG H155 THEMES IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION: RITUAL (1.0 Credit)***Zolani Ngwane***Division:** Social Science**Domain(s):** B: Analysis of the Social World

What is it that rituals actually do? Are they enactments (affirmations) of collective ideals or are they arguments about these? Are they media for political action or are they expressions of teleological phenomena? The course is a comparative study of ritual and its place in religious practice and political argumentation. Concrete case studies will include an initiation ritual in South Africa, the Communion Sacrament in Christianity, a Holocaust commemorative site in Auschwitz, and the cult of spirit-possession in Niger. Cross-listed: Anthropology, Religion

(Offered: Spring 2021)

RELG H186 REINVENTING QUAKERISM: HAVERFORD COLLEGE, RUFUS JONES, AND THE INVENTION OF LIBERAL QUAKERISM (1.0 Credit)

David Harrington Watt

Division: First Year Writing

Quakerism isn't stable. It varies from place to place and from generation to generation. There is a real sense in which Orthodox Quakerism (the form of Quakerism that is most closely connected to Haverford College) was reinvented in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Students in this course will examine some of the changes that Orthodox Quakerism underwent between the 1860s and the 1940s by analyzing the life and thought of Rufus Jones (1863-1948). Jones is the most famous Quaker ever to teach at Haverford and one of most influential scholars ever produced by the Religious Society of Friends. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing. (**Offered:** Spring 2021)

RELG H201 INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM (1.0 Credit)

Hank Glassman

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

Focusing on the East Asian Buddhist tradition, the course examines Buddhist philosophy, doctrine and practice as textual traditions and as lived religion. Crosslisted: East Asian Languages & Cultures, Religion

RELG H202 THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT (1.0 Credit)

Naomi Koltun-Fromm

Division: Humanities

Why are people always predicting the coming endtime? This course will explore the genre of apocalypse, looking for common themes that characterize this form of literature. Our primary source readings will be drawn from the Bible and non-canonical documents from the early Jewish and Christian traditions. We will use an analytical perspective to explore the social functions of apocalyptic, and ask why this form has been so persistent and influential. (**Offered:** Spring 2021)

RELG H203 THE HEBREW BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETATIONS (1.0 Credit)

Naomi Koltun-Fromm

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
This course will critically study select Hebrew Biblical passages (in translation) as well as Jewish and Christian Biblical commentaries in order to better

understand how Hebrew Biblical texts have been read, interpreted and explained by ancient and modern readers alike. Students will also learn to read the texts critically and begin to form their own understandings of them. We will also study how ancient biblical narratives can be reworked in modern film.

RELG H208 POETICS OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH ASIA (1.0 Credit)

Pika Ghosh

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

An examination of the aesthetics of epic poetry, drama, song, dance, architecture, sculpture, landscape and painting from South Asian religious traditions. Topics may include how such practices inscribe religious experience, provide parameters for social organization, and offer religious critique.

RELG H209 CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY (1.0 Credit)

Hannah Silverblank

Division: Humanities

An introduction to the primary characters and stories of Greek and Roman mythology including cosmic creation, Olympian and other deities, and heroes both as they appear in Greek and Roman literature and art and as they are later represented in modern art, music, and film. Crosslisted: Classical Studies, Comparative Literature, Religion (**Offered:** Spring 2021)

RELG H221 WOMEN AND GENDER IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY (1.0 Credit)

Anne McGuire

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An examination of the representations of women and gender in early Christian texts and their significance for contemporary Christianity. Topics include interpretations of Genesis 1-3, images of women and sexuality in early Christian literature, and the roles of women in various Christian communities.

RELG H222 GNOSTICISM (1.0 Credit)

Anne McGuire

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

The phenomenon of Gnosticism examined through close reading of primary sources, including the recently discovered texts of Nag Hammadi. Topics include the relation of Gnosticism to Greek, Jewish, and Christian thought; the variety of Gnostic schools and sects; gender imagery, mythology and other issues in the interpretation of Gnostic texts.

RELG H224 INDIGENIZING ISLAM TRANSNATIONALLY: RACE, GENDER, ETHNICITY (1.0 Credit)

Guangtian Ha

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

This course introduces students to the myriad arguments and controversies surrounding the “indigenization” of Islam in different non-Muslim societies around the world. The main areas of focus will be Europe (primarily the UK and France), the US, and China.

RELG H230 RELIGION AND BLACK FREEDOM STRUGGLE (1.0 Credit)

Terrance Wiley

Division: Humanities

This course will examine the background for and the key events, figures, philosophies, tactics, and consequences of the modern black freedom struggle in United States. The period from 1955-1965 will receive special attention, but the roots of the freedom struggle and the effect on recent American political, social, and cultural history will also be considered.

RELG H236 RACE AND JUDAISM (1.0 Credit)

Staff

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts) Charlottesville, 2017. White supremacists chanted “Jews will not replace us!”—but what did they mean? Are European Jews white? Is Zionism racism? Is Judaism just a religion? Regarded as the “other” of European history and politics, the perpetrators of discrimination in Israel/Palestine, and advocates of racial justice in America, Jews play a significant role in contemporary racial discourses. This course is a survey of Jewish history and politics through the lens of race. We will examine primary documents, works of history, fiction, film, comedy, ethnography, and theory in order to make sense of present problems in Israel, Europe, and America.

RELG H242 TOPICS IN RELIGION AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY: THE RELIGIOUS WRITINGS OF JAMES BALDWIN (1.0 Credit)

Terrance Wiley

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

An investigation of various traditions of the black religious experience from slavery to the present. Religious traditions examined within the course may include slave religion, black Christianity, Gullah religion, Santeria and Islam. The relationship of these religious traditions to American social history as well

as how they adapted over space and time will also be explored.

(Offered: Fall 2020)

RELG H247 DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE IN EAST ASIA (1.0 Credit)

Hank Glassman

Division: Humanities

This course engages the rich textual and visual traditions of China, Korea, and Japan to illuminate funerary and memorial practices and explore the terrain of the next world. Students will learn about the culturally constructed nature of religious belief and come to see the complexity and diversity of the influences on understandings of life and death. The course is not a chronological survey, but rather alternates between modern and ancient narratives and practices to draw a picture of the relationship between the living and the dead as conceived in East Asian religions.

(Offered: Spring 2021)

RELG H254 RAP AND RELIGION: RHYMES ABOUT GOD AND THE GOOD (1.0 Credit)

Terrance Wiley

Division: Humanities

We will explore the origins, existential, and ethical dimensions of Rhythm and Poetry (RAP) music. Giving attention to RAP songs written and produced by African American artists, including Tupac, Nas, Jay-Z, The Roots, Lauryn Hill, and Kanye West, we will analyze their work with an interest in understanding a) the conceptions of God and the good reflected in them, b) how these conceptions connect to and reflect African American social and cultural practices, and c) how the conceptions under consideration change over time.

(Offered: Spring 2021)

RELG H256 ZEN THOUGHT, ZEN CULTURE, ZEN HISTORY (1.0 Credit)

Hank Glassman

Division: Humanities

What are we talking about when we talk about Zen? This course is an introduction to the intellectual and cultural history of the style of Buddhism known as Zen in Japanese. We will examine the development and expression of this religious movement in China, Korea, Japan and Vietnam. Crosslisted: East Asian Languages & Cultures, History, Religion

(Offered: Fall 2020)

RELG H257 YOGA: ART, TEXT AND PRACTICE (1.0 Credit)

Pika Ghosh

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): B: Analysis of the Social World

This course investigates the range of meanings attributed to the term yoga over two thousand years and across multiple geographical and cultural communities. These include exploring relationship between texts, images, and the practice of yoga in Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain communities, as well as modern manifestations associated with nationalist developments of the nineteenth century and global cosmopolitanisms and contemporary politics as part of ongoing transformations.

RELG H259 GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN ISLAMIC TEXTS AND PRACTICES (1.0 Credit)

Guangtian Ha

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course introduces students to the different views of gender and sexuality in Islamic thought, and situates these views within Muslim histories and societies. We will draw on primary sources, historiographical work, ethnographies of Muslim societies, fiction, poetry, and play. One major focus will be on homosexuality in Islam and Muslim societies. In the course of this examination we will also have a chance to question what "homosexuality" is and whether this term can be applied cross-culturally and cross-religiously. To think critically about homosexuality in Islam will thus compel us to reconsider homosexuality and Islam at once.

(Offered: Fall 2020)

RELG H268 ANARCHISM: RELIGION, ETHICS, POLITICAL OBLIGATION (1.0 Credit)

Terrance Wiley

Division: Humanities

Anarchism emerged in the nineteenth century as an important transnational sociopolitical philosophy and religious movement. Course participants will analyze anarchism as a political philosophy and as a social movement, from the nineteenth century labor movement to the ongoing global justice movement.

(Offered: Fall 2020)

RELG H272 AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course will investigate the historically shifting roles of religion in American society and the increasing prevalence of religious diversity throughout the country. The class will consider the functions of religion within settler colonialism, slavery, and immigration, and explore how religion has shaped popular culture, the legal system, and American identity. The class will also examine the

role of religion within changing notions of gender, sexuality, and race.

RELG H276 RELIGION AND U.S. POLITICS: SEXUALITY, RACE, GENDER, AND THE REGULATION OF AMERICAN BODIES (1.0 Credit)

Staff

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course examines why religion is commonly invoked in political debates about sexuality and gender even though the United States promotes itself as a secular democracy. The class will question if the United States has a secular government, explore what the separation of church and state means, and analyze if American citizens have religious freedom. The class will also explore the role religion has played in political movements centered on race, gender, and sexuality, and question why women's reproductive rights and LGBTQ issues have been a common focus for government regulations and religious lobbying.

RELG H286 RELIGION AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE (1.0 Credit)

Molly Farneth

Division: Humanities

What is religious freedom? How have debates about the role of religion in public life shaped American politics? And how have anxieties about race, gender, and sexuality determined the limits and possibilities of religious freedom? Grounding contemporary political debates in their historical context, students analyze speeches, court cases, visual and popular culture, and political theory and philosophy to explore the complex relationship between religion and politics in the U.S.

RELG H295 QUAKERS, WAR, AND SLAVERY, 1646-1723 (1.0 Credit)

David Harrington Watt

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

A seminar on Early Friends' views on war and slavery. Students will analyze primary sources and secondary works to explore how and why Early Friends came to see both war and slavery as immoral. Crosslisted: Independent College Programs; Peace, Justice and Human Rights; Religion
Prerequisite(s): First Year Writing

RELG H299 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION (1.0 Credit)

Molly Farneth

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An introduction to theories of the nature and function of religion from theological, philosophical, psychological, anthropological, and sociological perspectives. Readings may include: Schleiermacher, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, Tylor, Durkheim, Weber, James, Otto, Benjamin, Eliade, Geertz, Foucault, Douglas, Smith, Berger, Haraway.

(Offered: Fall 2020)

RELG H303 RELIGION, LITERATURE AND REPRESENTATION: IMAGES OF KRISHNA (1.0 Credit)

Pika Ghosh

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course approaches the Hindu god Krishna through varied expressions in architecture, sculpture, paintings, textiles, landscape design, poetry, music, dance, and drama. We will ask how these practices were employed to visualize the divine, to nurture faith and passion, and to gain proximity to the transcendent deity. Class work will include field trips to local temples and museums.

(Offered: Fall 2020)

RELG H305 SEMINAR IN RELIGION, ETHICS, AND SOCIETY: GOOD AND EVIL (1.0 Credit)

Staff

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

How good can one be in a globalized world? Has the nature of evil changed? This course is a theoretical and practical investigation into the limits of modern disaster and despair, heroism and hope. In this course we will explore traditional religious responses to evil, catastrophe, and suffering, the meaning of natural and man-made disasters. We will also examine attempts to create perfect societies and secular saints, meditate on the nature of goodness, and consider various religious practices intended to cultivate virtue and just societies. Special attention will be paid to religious reactions to colonialism, racism, and war.

RELG H312 RITUAL AND THE BODY (1.0 Credit)

Molly Farneth

Division: Humanities

An exploration of the meaning and function of ritual, and of the ways that rituals shape bodies, habits, and identities. Special attention will be given to the relationship between ritual and gender. Readings include Durkheim, Mauss, Bourdieu, Butler, and Mahmood. Prerequisite(s): at least one 200 level in the department, or instructor consent

(Offered: Spring 2021)

RELG H313 POLITICS AND POWER IN MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course will explore how Jewish thinkers from the enlightenment to the present wrestled with the question of how Jews might achieve freedom and secure survival in the modern world. We'll examine the challenge that the democratic and scientific revolutions of the 17th and 18th century posed to Jewish life and thought, before delving into the various responses that Jews embraced to meet those challenges. Topics will include Orthodoxy, separatism, Jewish liberalism in Europe and the US, diaspora nationalism, Zionism, anti-Zionism, Bundism and Socialism, post-Holocaust politics and theology, and race and gender in Jewish thought.

RELG H316 HEGEL'S SOCIAL ETHICS (1.0 Credit)

Molly Farneth

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An examination of religion, ethics, and politics in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (in translation). As we work through Hegel's monumental text, we will consider its influence over modern and contemporary discussions of gender, domination, ethical conflict and religious pluralism. Prerequisite(s): At least one 200-level course in philosophy, political theory, or religious thought, or permission of the instructor.

RELG H317 RELIGION, SOCIETY, AND THE ETHNOGRAPHIC METHOD (1.0 Credit)

Guangtian Ha

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This seminar examines the development and varied use of the ethnographic method in the study of religion as a broadly defined social phenomenon. We will read ethnographies that have so far defined the anthropological study of religion. Crosslisted: Religion, Anthropology Prerequisite(s): at least one 100-level course on Religion or Anthropology, preferably a 200-level course in either field

(Offered: Fall 2020)

RELG H319 BLACK QUEER SAINTS: SEX, GENDER, RACE, CLASS AND THE QUEST FOR LIBERATION (1.0 Credit)

Terrance Wiley

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

Drawing on fiction, biography, critical theory, film, essays, and memoirs, participants will explore how certain African American artists, activists, and religionists have resisted, represented, and reinterpreted sex, sexuality, and gender norms in the context of capitalist, white supremacist, male supremacist, and heteronormative cultures. Crosslisted: Africana Studies, Religion Prerequisite(s): 200-level Humanities course, or instructor consent

RELG H329 HAMDANI: CO-SPIRATION OF THE SACRED AND THE SATIRICAL (1.0 Credit)

Guangtian Ha

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course builds on a fourteenth-century Uyghur text titled *The Contest of the Fruits* – a rap battle-style put-down between different fruits – to explore the role of humour and satire in helping us think through notions of the sacred. Cross Listed: Anthropology; Comparative Literature Prerequisite(s): At least two 200-level courses in any of the following areas: religion, anthropology, sociology, classics, linguistics, literature (regardless of language), and philosophy. Students with previous engagements with the Hurford Center or with a strong interest in arts, religion, and philosophy are especially encouraged to enroll. In addition, it is highly desirable that students who enroll in this course have significant knowledge of a non-English language so they can draw from other traditions of humour. For this reason, it is recommended that students whose primary language is English have at least two years of continuous study of a non-English language or its equivalent; native [and heritage] speakers of a non-English language may be assumed to meet this recommendation. Those students unsure of their qualification should email Prof. Ha (gha@haverford.edu) for a consultation session. (**Offered:** Spring 2021)

RELG H398A SENIOR THESIS SEMINAR PART 1 (1.0 Credit)

Naomi Koltun-Fromm

Division: Humanities

A practical methodology course which prepares senior Religion majors to write their senior theses. (**Offered:** Fall 2020)

RELG H399B SENIOR SEMINAR AND THESIS (1.0 Credit)

Guangtian Ha, Molly Farneth

Division: Humanities

Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Senior Thesis

(**Offered:** Spring 2021)

RELG H460 TEACHING ASSISTANT (1.0 Credit)

Ken Koltun-Fromm, Molly Farneth

Division: Humanities

Teaching Assistant

(**Offered:** Fall 2020)

RELG H480 INDEPENDENT STUDY (1.0 Credit)

Division: Humanities

Independent Study