Spring 2020 Course Descriptions

RELG 1110 001: Introduction to World Religions
Offered: TR 1100-1215
Instructor: Daniel Wolne dswl@unm.edu
This course is designed to give an introduction to the basic beliefs, practices, and texts of some of the world’s major religions. The class will begin with an examination of Hinduism, and then move on to Buddhism, and then include a short section on Chinese religion & philosophy. After looking at these “Eastern” religions, we will examine the “Western” religious tradition, starting with a short section on Judaism, then looking at Christianity, and finally Islam.

RELG 1110 002: Introduction to World Religions
Offered: MWF 1100-1150
Instructor: Michael Candelaria mcandel@unm.edu
This course is an introduction to the academic study of religion, focusing on Hinduism, Buddhism, the Chinese Religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Attention will also be given to oral/indigenous religions and the theories of religion.

RELG 1110 003: Introduction to World Religions
Offered: Online
Instructor: Daniel Wolne dswl@unm.edu
This course is designed to give an introduction to the basic beliefs, practices, and texts of some of the world’s major religions. The class will begin with an examination of Hinduism, and then move on to Buddhism, and then include a short section on Chinese religion & philosophy. After looking at these “Eastern” religions, we will examine the “Western” religious tradition, starting with a short section on Judaism, then looking at Christianity, and finally Islam.

RELG 1110 (004 & 005): Introduction to World Religions
Offered: Online
Instructor: Kelly Van Andel kvanande@unm.edu
Intro to World Religions provides an introduction to some of the world's major religions. The class begins with a study of North American indigenous religions and then it explores the “Eastern” religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism. The second half of the course covers the “Western” or Abrahamic religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. There are weekly quizzes, bi-weekly discussions, one short project/presentation, and two exams.
REL 1120 001: Introduction to the Bible
Offered: Online
Instructor: Michael Candelaria  mcandel@unm.edu
In this course we will survey the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the New Testament. We will examine the historical, cultural, social, geographic, political, and religious backgrounds of each of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. We will examine how these backgrounds inform the books of the Bible. We will study the authorship, date, audience, context, and content of each book. We will trace the origins, the transmission, compilation, the editing, and final edition of each work. We will also explore methods of Biblical interpretation and discuss Biblical theologies.

REL 1123 001: Hebrew Bible
Offered: Online
Instructor: Judith Todd  jatodd@unm.edu
This course introduces the history of ancient Israel through the literature contained in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament. Israel is placed as a religion, a culture, and a nation into the context of the ancient Near East (ANE) and examined through the interactions with other cultures and through the comparative literature, sociology, and religions. Students should gain a familiarity with the range of literature contained in the Hebrew Scriptures up to the second temple period (450 BCE).

REL 1126 001: New Testament
Offered: TR 1400-1515
Instructor: Franklin Yates  fyates@unm.edu
This course is an introduction to the New Testament, the historical context for its writing, the many issues addressed by its different writers and the diverse theological convictions within the text. Special attention is paid to the Jewish context and the Roman Empire and how these two impacted the world of the New Testament. No previous background is required.

REL 2110 001: Eastern Religions
Offered: TR 0930-1045
Instructor: Katherine Ulrich  kulrich@unm.edu
Eastern Religions is a thematic introduction to the religious life of peoples of Asia (mainly in India, China, and Japan, with a brief mention of Southeast Asia, Korea, Tibet, Nepal, Mongolia, and Siberia). We examine the practices, beliefs, discourses, religious specialists, and subdivisions of the adherents of Asia's major indigenous religious traditions [Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Shamanism] while examining two broad themes. The first is death: we consider practices and beliefs involving bodies, (no) soul(s), and various options for the afterlife (or immortality, in the case of Daoism). The second broad theme for the course is that of pilgrimage, the environment, and sacred space. How do religious beliefs and practices shape people's understandings of, movement to and through, and interactions with the environment around them? Classes are mainly PowerPoint lectures, with occasional films, discussions, and group exercises.
RELG 2110 003: Eastern Religions
Offered: Online
Instructor: Lisa Gerber lgerber@unm.edu
This course is a survey of the Eastern religious traditions of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Daoism, Confucianism, and Shinto. We will be studying the main philosophical ideas of these religious traditions and pulling out the wisdom in these traditions. To do this, we will look at explanations of the religious traditions as well as primary texts, art, and culture. Pulling out the wisdom in each tradition allows us to understand and appreciate other religious traditions. Through this course, you will be able to develop a solid understanding of Eastern religious traditions.

RELG 2110 007: Eastern Religions
Offered: Online
Instructor: Vibha Shetiya vs2015@unm.edu
In this survey course, we will explore Eastern religious traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Shinto and Zoroastrianism to name a few. Although the course focuses on living religions, we will also briefly touch upon Charvaka - an ancient Indian religion which is no longer in practice – in order to offer a starkly oppositional view of Hinduism as we know it today. Various media such as textbook/s, primary texts, videos and power point will highlight not just the wisdom each tradition has to offer, but will also provide an overall picture of the art and culture in which a religion is situated. Moreover, the Experience Project at the end of the course will give students a first-hand knowledge of one of the Eastern religions covered in the course.

RELG 2120 001: Western Religions
Offered: MWF 1000-1050
Instructor: Hilary Lipka hlipka@unm.edu
In this class we will focus on the three major religions of the western world: Judaism, Christianity and Islam, tracing the development of each of these religions from their origins up through modern times, and familiarizing ourselves with the major texts, movements, practices, and essential beliefs of each. By the end of this class, students should have a firm grasp of the origins, development, fundamental ideas, beliefs, rituals and practices of these three religions, and develop a sense of what each of these religions mean for the people who practice them and live by them.

RELG 2120 003: Western Religions
Offered: Online
Instructor: Donna Ray donnaray@unm.edu
In this class we will study the three major religions of the Western world—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—tracing the development of these religions from their origins up through modern times, and familiarizing ourselves with the major texts, movements, beliefs, and practices of each. The goal of the class is not only to establish a firm base of knowledge about these traditions, but also to develop a sense of what they mean for the people who live by them.
RELG 312 001: Introduction to Islam  
Offered: TR 0930-1045  
Instructor: Mozafar Banihashemi mozafar@unm.edu  
This course will introduce students to the various elements that come together to form Islam as a world religion. The life and role of the Prophet Muhammad, the message of the Qur’an, and the formation of Islamic orthodoxy are among the specific topics to be explored. The course will also touch upon the theological, philosophical, and mystical dimensions of Islam. Furthermore, the major schism between Sunnism and Shi’ism in early Islam will be addressed. Lastly, development of Islam from the 17th century through the present time will be examined. In this respect, the course will focus on a number of Muslim thinkers and intellectuals, movements, and groups that have shaped the multiple visions and practices of Islam in the contemporary world.

RELG 314 001: Islamic Mysticism  
Offered: TR 1230-1345  
Instructor: Mozafar Banihashemi mozafar@unm.edu  
This course will introduce students to mystical dimensions of the Islamic religious tradition, commonly known as Sufism. The course will explore the nature, origins, and development of thoughts and practices of mystical Islam. In this connection, various themes such as Sufism vis-à-vis Islamic orthodoxy, mystical experience of Sufis, internal and external forms of knowledge, the literary heritage of Sufism with an emphasis on Sufi poetry among many others will be reviewed. The course will also examine Sufi organizations and social practices in the contemporary world.

RELG 322 001: Sexuality and the Bible  
Offered: T 1730-2000  
Instructor: Hilary Lipka hlipka@unm.edu  
In this class we will consider what both the Old Testament and the New Testament say regarding various aspects of sexual behavior and sexuality, taking into account the original context of these texts, and what they meant to their original audiences. We will also consider how these texts have been historically interpreted, the different ways they are interpreted today, and the impact these interpretations have had on contemporary debates on matters related to sexual behavior and sexuality, such as same-sex marriage, gender roles, and reproductive rights.

RELG 335 001: Goddesses and Gods of India  
Offered: TR 1100-1215  
Instructor: Katherine Ulrich kulrich@unm.edu  
Goddesses & Gods of India is a historical introduction to the major goddesses and gods of India and explores three questions: (1) Who are the goddesses and gods of India? (2) What are their relationships with each other, male and female human beings, and their social and religious contexts? and (3) How have ideas about and practices directed toward deities changed in India over the centuries?
In the course of exploring these questions, we will familiarize ourselves with the local, regional, and pan-Indian gods and goddesses, along with their history, mythology, religious practices (e.g., rituals), and art/iconography. Materials for this course are drawn from textual, historical, and ethnographic studies from the various regions and religions of India, from ca. 2500 BCE to the present; classes will be a combination of discussion, PowerPoint lectures, and films. Most of the semester will focus on Hinduism, but for 2-3 weeks we will look at Indian Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Christian, and/or Islamic (Sufi) views, depending on class interests.

**RELG 350 (001 & 002): Religion and Literature**
**Offered:** Online
**Instructor:** Kelly Van Andel kvanande@unm.edu
Religion and Literature explores literatures and more generally myth’s relationship to and role in religion. More specifically, in a sweeping survey that follows the structure of Karen Armstrong’s book *A Short History of Myth*, it studies the historical contexts, forms, authorship, voices, and themes of religious literature and literature about religion from the Paleolithic Period to the present. Course material includes excerpts from the *Enuma Elish*, the *Upanishads*, and the origin myth of the Navajos as well as the full texts of “Yellow Woman,” *Confessions of a Pagan Nun*, *The Crucible*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *Dawn*, among others. Assignments include learning surveys, class discussions, a midterm and final exam, and a short presentation.

**RELG 351 001: Catholicism in America**
**Offered:** TR 0930-1045
**Instructor:** Kathleen Holscher kholscher@unm.edu
This course introduces students to the historical development of Roman Catholicism in the United States, as well as issues facing Catholics and the Church today. We will pay special attention to how religious and national interests interact with one another, and to how diverse factors, including colonialism, race, migration, and citizenship, intersect with people’s religious lives.

**RELG 441 001: Religion in American History**
**Offered:** Online
**Instructor:** Donna Ray donnaray@unm.edu
The United States is the most religiously diverse nation in the world, and religion is an integral part of American social, cultural, and political discourse. In this course, we will look at the various ways Americans have understood and expressed this important aspect of their identity, how American culture as a whole has been shaped by religion, and how Americans have dealt with religious differences historically.

**RELG 447 003: Sem: Psychology of Religion**
**Offered:** TR 1530-1645
**Instructor:** Lynn Bridgers lbrider@unm.edu
The 1909 conference at Clark University, organized by G. Stanley Hall, brought together three pivotal figures in the psychology of religion -- Sigmund Freud, C. G. Jung and William James.
This course begins with an overview of Gustav Fechner's work, the experimental psychologist who influenced all three figures. It then explores the contributions of the seminal figures at the Clark conference - the psychology of religion as interpreted by Freud, Jung and James. Shifting to contemporary understandings of religious experience we will examine more biologically based views, including Jerome Kagan's temperament studies, Judith Lewis Herman's traumatic studies, Lawrence Calhoun and Richard Tedeschi's posttraumatic growth, Victor Frankl's logotherapy, and Andrew Newberg's research in neurotheology. It concludes with an exploration of the strengths and limitations that psychology brings to our understanding of religion and religious experience and the implications for clinical and pastoral practice.

**RELG 452 001: Theories of Religion**  
**Offered: TR 1400-1515**  
**Instructor:** Daniel Wolne [dsw1@unm.edu](mailto:dsw1@unm.edu)

This course is designed to provide an examination and critique of some of the most influential 19th, 20th, and 21st century scientific attempts to explain religion. We will begin by examining the difference between supernaturalist and scientific theories of religion. Then, we will investigate some of the major theoreticians in this subject, by reading primary sources with brief introductions by Daniel Pals. We will also look at some contemporary accounts, examining postmodernist and evolutionary psychology’s perspectives on religion. The goal of the class is to provide a forum where these ideas can be examined and critiqued, with an eye towards discovering how these theories might help shed some light upon (or obscure) the careful investigation of religious phenomena. Some background in comparative world religions (either REL 107 or equivalent) is essential for this course.