



RELIGIOUS
STUDIES
PROGRAM

Spring 2021 Course Descriptions

RELG 1110 001: Introduction to World Religions

Offered: Remote Arranged/ Full term

Instructor: Daniel Wolne, dsw1@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 module 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 Face to Face + Remote Scheduled/ Full term

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/ 1st half

Instructor: Daniel Wolne, dsw1@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 module 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/ Full term

Instructor: Kelly Van Andel, kvanande@unm.edu

This course 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. By the end of the course, you will be able to describe the basic history, teachings, and practices of each religion covered. There are weekly quizzes, bi-weekly discussions, one short project/presentation, and two exams.

RELG 1110 006: Introduction to World Religions**Offered: Online/ Full term****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 1126 001: New Testament**Offered: TR 1400-1515 Face to Face + Remote Scheduled/ Full term****Instructor: Franklin Yates, fyates@unm.edu**

This course is an overview of the contents of the New Testament, the scriptures of the early Christian movement. We spend half of the course on the four Gospels and the remainder of the course on the letters written by various authors, primarily Paul. The goal is to familiarize the student with the background and the themes of all 27 documents in the New Testament

RELG 1550 001: Religion Health & Medicine**Offered: Online/ Full term****Instructor: Kelly Van Andel, kvanande@unm.edu**

Religion, Health, and Medicine introduces students to how people's religious beliefs and practices influence their perspectives on health and their approaches to medical care and treatment. In units arranged by religion or region (Native American religion, African religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religion, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), students will learn how religious beliefs and practices relate to rites of passage, sexuality, women's health, diet, mental health, trauma, and end of life issues. In addition to assessing students' knowledge of the relationship between religion and perspectives on health and medical care and treatment, course assignments will raise students' awareness of how people with different worldviews interact. Course requirements or activities also will teach them how to evaluate their own biases and how to assess the biases and credibility of various sources of information about religion, health, and medicine found on the Internet and elsewhere.

RELG 2110 001: Eastern Religions**Offered: TR 1230-1345 Remote Scheduled/ Full term****Instructor: Katherine Ulrich, kulrich@unm.edu**

(Eastern Religions) is a thematic introduction to the religious life of peoples of Asia (mainly in India, Southeast Asia, China, and Japan, with cameo appearances by 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 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? The religious traditions covered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Shamanism, and the folk, popular, or new religions of India, China, and Japan. Classes will be a combination of once-a-week Zoom discussions and 1-2 hours per week of asynchronous material (PowerPoint lectures, films, podcasts).

RELG 2110 002 & 003: Eastern Religions**Offered: Online/1st half****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 004 & 005: Eastern Religions**Offered: Online/2nd half****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 2120 001: Western Religions**Offered: Remote Arranged/Full term****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 will 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/ Full term****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.

Following an orientation and introduction, this course is divided into three units of five weeks each: one unit for each of the three religions we cover. There is an exam at the end of each unit. Each week you will have a variety of tasks to complete, including reading assignments, quizzes, written assignments, group discussions, slideshows, and videos that will develop your reading, comprehension, integration, and writing skills. At the conclusion of the course, we put all three religions together in a comparative way.

RELG 303 001: Black Liberation and Religion**Offered: Remote Arranged/ 2nd half****Instructor: Charles Becknell, cbeck@unm.edu**

Tracing what it has meant to be African American and religious within the context of the United States, this course: 1) offers a creative and unique approach to the history of African American religion, 2) explores a faith in God as the liberator in the Black experience, and 3) examines how a radical message of Christianity has served as a patent rejection of Western cultural hegemony.

RELG 312 001: Introduction to Islam**Offered: TR 0930-1045 Remote Scheduled/ Full term****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 320 001: Magic in Ancient Religion**Offered: Remote Arranged/ Full term****Instructor: Luke Gorton, lagorton@unm.edu**

This course will examine the reality and the imagination of magic in the ancient world, focusing primarily on the cultures of Greece and Rome but with reference to Jewish and early Christian thought as well. Ancient magic manifested itself in a variety of ritual acts which were described, explained, and caricatured in a fairly large number of texts written in antiquity, and it is by reading these texts that we will come to an understanding of magic in the ancient world. Two questions which will permeate the course are as follows: What is magic? How does ancient magic differ from ancient religion? To answer these questions, we will begin with a brief overview of ancient religion (again, primarily Greco-Roman but with reference to ancient Judaism and Christianity) before continuing on to a full discussion of ancient magic. The very term "magic" originated in ancient Greece, and so we will have occasion to discuss both the terminology and practice of magic in the ancient world.

RELG 327 001: History of Christianity, 1517 to Present**Offered: Online/ Full term****Instructor: Donna Ray, donnaray@unm.edu**

This course covers the development of Christianity from the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century to the modern day. Primary focus will be on the rich variety of forms—doctrinal, liturgical, artistic, intellectual, devotional, and institutional—that Christianity assumed throughout this period as it moved outward from Europe and became a world religion. Also, of concern will be the interaction of Christianity with society at large.

Following an orientation and introduction, this course is divided into three units of five weeks each. There is an exam at the end of each unit. Each week you will have a variety of tasks to complete, including reading assignments, lecture slideshows, videos, quizzes, and written assignments that will develop your reading, comprehension, integration, discussion, and writing skills

RELG 335 001: Goddesses and Gods of India**Offered: TR 1100-1215 Remote Scheduled/ Full term****Instructor: Katherine Ulrich, kulrich@unm.edu**

(Goddesses and 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 once-a-week Zoom discussions and 1-2 hours per week of asynchronous material (PowerPoint lectures, films, podcasts). Most of the semester will focus on Hinduism, but we also will briefly consider Indian Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Christian, and/or Islamic (Sufi) practices involving and views of the divine

RELG 347 004: T: Gender and the Bible**Offered: Online/ Full term****Instructor: Hilary Lipka, hlipka@unm.edu**

In this class we will explore the construction of gender in biblical texts. Some areas we will address are gender in Genesis 1-3, gender instability and subversion of gender performance, the gender of God in biblical texts, transgression of gender norms in biblical law, the use of gendered imagery in prophetic texts to denote the relationship between God and Israel, the gender performances of Jesus and Paul, and views on gender roles in the early Church. We will also consider the impact that the construction of gender in biblical texts has on some debates today over issues such as gender roles, gender identity, and the use of gender inclusive language in Bible translations.

RELG 347 010: T: Curanderismo Part 2**Offered: Online/ Full term****Instructor: Eliseo Torres, cheo@unm.edu**

Curanderismo Part 2: Global Perspectives of Traditional Healing will implement modules illustrating the powerful cultural influences that Curanderismo has ingrained into its techniques and modalities. Such modules include the “Sacred Tobacco of Peru”, “Afro-Latino Healing through Music and Dance”, “Mayan Acupuncture”, “Afro-Cuban Healing”, and “Afro-Puerto Rican Healing Modalities”, among others. It is a unique and innovative course that will explore the cultural connections in traditions within traditional medicine across the globe and will provide information on the simple, yet effective ways our ancestors utilized various methods to address different ailments. In all, this course will challenge you to compare and contrast different healing modalities and critically think about its impact on the community.

RELG 350 001: Religion and Literature**Offered: Online/ Full term**

Instructor: Kelly Van Andel, kvanande@unm.edu As its title suggests, “Religion and Literature” explores literature’s 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. It also examines how and why the definition of “myth” or “*mythos*” has changed over time and what

happens when we use *logos* or reason rather than *mythos* to answer questions related to our fears and the meaning of life. Finally, it considers how the content of religious literature and its readers/listeners/performers etc. exist in dialogue with the content of other texts, religions, histories, and cultures. 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. There are learning surveys, class discussions, a midterm and final exam, and a short presentation.

RELG 351 001: Catholicism in America

Offered: TR 1530-1800 Face to Face + Remote Scheduled/ Full term

Instructor: Franklin Yates, fyates@unm.edu

This course introduces students to Roman Catholicism in the United States, from a historical point of view. Catholics have lived in New Mexico and other places that make up the present-day United States since the sixteenth century. Beginning in the nineteenth century, the U.S. Catholic population increased, as territory belonging to Mexico was annexed by this country, and successive wave of immigrants arrived from Europe and, later, the rest of the world. Over time, American Catholics have developed special ways of living their religious lives. They have turned to their faith to help with the challenges of being an immigrant or a racialized or colonized subject. They have worked to find common ground between a religious identity often rooted in a local parish on one hand, and a global church with a far-off leader and transnational missionary and devotional circuits, on the other. They have struggled to balance loyalty to their Church, in its different forms, with loyalty to their nation. In doing so, they have faced suspicion from Americans provoked by the strangeness of Catholic ritual, and worried that Catholicism was not democratic enough for American soil. By the mid-twentieth century, as white American Catholics became more affluent, and gained social and political influence, the faith both shaped, and was shaped by, American culture in important ways, even as it continued (and continues) to challenge parts of that culture. Today Catholicism is the nation’s largest Christian denomination, even as the U.S. Catholic community faces new crises, both in the decline in church attendance and in ongoing revelations of clerical sexual abuse of minors. Students will gain knowledge of historical people, ideas and events-- factors that have made the U.S. Church what it is today. They will come away understanding how religious and national interests interact with one another, and how diverse factors, including race, colonialism, gender, 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. The class will cover the rise and development of American religious movements, from Native American traditions and European colonization to revivalism and revolution (Unit 1); nineteenth-century religious disestablishment and ferment, westward expansion, and the emergence of new religious groups (Unit 2); world war and ideological upheaval in the twentieth century; and modern challenges vis à vis religion in communities, schools, and public institutions (Unit 3).

Following an orientation and introduction, this course is divided into the three units above, at five weeks each. There is an exam at the end of each unit. Each week you will have a variety of tasks to complete, including reading assignments, lecture slideshows, videos, quizzes, and assignments that will develop your reading, comprehension, integration, discussion, and writing skills.

RELG 447 001: Sem: Evolution of Religiosity

Offered: TR 1100-1215 Remote Scheduled/Full term

Instructor Paul Watson, pwatson@unm.edu

The course offers a comprehensive, highly nuanced, scientific materialist, modern Darwinian analysis of all aspects and varieties of religious behavior and inner experience. We shall cover the multiple interacting evolutionary origins of human religiosity, as well as ways that natural selection may have favored its continued evolution, across cultures, during the course of human and proto-human evolution. Overall, we are looking into the adaptive significance of religiousness and the biological basis of our strong inclinations toward religiosity.

RELG 447 003: Sem: Mormonism

Offered: Remote Arranged/ Full term

Instructor: Randall Balmer, randall.balmer@dartmouth.edu

A survey of the history and theology of Mormonism, the largest and most successful religious tradition indigenous to America. We'll examine the origins of the movement, trace its history, and look at some of the cultural expressions of Mormonism. We'll chart, finally, Mormonism's remarkable transition from a persecuted minority religion in the nineteenth century, one synonymous with polygamy, to the embodiment of American ideals.

RELG 452 001: Theories of Religion

Offered: TR 0930-1045 Remote Scheduled/Full term

Instructor: Daniel Wolne, 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 super naturalist 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 RELG 1110 or equivalent) is essential for this course.