

COMPARATIVE RELIGION PROGRAM



photo: Ryan Hoover

SPRING 2019 COURSES

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Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies | UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

visit jsis.washington.edu/religion for more course information!

A Life Worth Living: Meaning, Morals & Money

RELIG 101

MTWTh 9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.

James Wellman

5 credits

What makes a life worth living? Using religious and humanistic traditions, each student will grapple with what makes life meaningful. We will study moral traditions that challenge us to bring forth the courage that it takes to be who we are and to live a life that matters. This course helps students to develop and find their calling. It challenges and inspires students to create a Master Life Plan and a strategy to make it happen.

Comparative Religion

RELIG 321 / ANTH 321

TTh 12:30 - 2:20 p.m.

Jessica Johnson

5 credits

Anthropological approaches to religious experience and belief with emphasis on conceptual issues such as ritual, symbolism, identity, ecstatic experience, and revitalization movements in the context of globalization. Also addresses the diversity of religious expression in American culture and how that compares with other societies.

Gender, Sex, & Religion

RELIG 334 / 534

MW 1:30 - 3:20 p.m.

Mika Ahuvia

5 credits

The interpreters of the Bible shaped the gendered categories and hierarchies that many readers take for granted today. In this class, students are invited to explore debates about these categories within ancient texts, within scholarship, and within society. To analyze biblical stories and their legacy in Judaism and Christianity, we will employ academic approaches from the fields of Bible and literary criticism, history, anthropology, sociology, archaeology as well as gender and feminist studies.

The Sages:

Foundations of Classical Judaism

RELIG 330 / 530 / JEW ST 330

TTh 1:30 - 3:20 p.m.

Mika Ahuvia

5 credits

Investigates the origins and foundation of classical Judaism by the Jewish sages (AKA the rabbis) in the context of the Bible's completion, the Romans' destruction of Jerusalem, and the emergence of Christianity. Discusses the rise of the rabbis, their stories and laws, and their Greco-Roman as well as Babylonian-Persian context.

Greek & Roman Religion

RELIG 445 / CLAS 445

MW 9:30 - 11:20 a.m.

Alexander Hollmann

5 credits

Religion in the social life of the Greeks and Romans, with emphasis placed on their public rituals and festivals. Attention is given to the priesthoods, personal piety, rituals of purification and healing, and the conflict of religions in the early Roman Empire. Many lectures illustrated by slides.

Creation Myths & Early Christianity

RELIG 412 (TEXTUAL CANON)

MW 9:30 - 11:20 a.m.

Michael Williams

5 credits

Study of alternative views, from early centuries of the Christian religion, regarding the origin of the cosmos and its implications for human behavior and ultimate values. Examination of documents often classified as 'gnostic' and their significance for the development of Christianity.

Religion & Globalization: A Comparative Perspective

RELIG 502 (GRADUATE)

W 2:30 - 4:20 p.m.

James Wellman

5 credits

Anthropological approaches to religious experience and belief with emphasis on conceptual issues such as ritual, symbolism, identity, ecstatic experience, and revitalization movements in the context of globalization. Also address This course is for advanced undergraduates and graduate students in religion, politics, international studies, sociology and other fields related to understanding the relation between religion and national identity. The mobilization of religious nationalism is a phenomenon that is sweeping the globe: from Turkey to India, from the United States to Myanmar, from Israel to Saudi Arabia, nations are using religion to mobilize identity and secure political strength. The course studies the theory and empirical reality of how religions are used to solidify and dominate national identity and political movements. Each student will choose their own country to research and write on related to the issue of religious nationalism. Uses the diversity of religious expression in American culture and how that compares with other societies.

Colloquium in Comparative Religion

RELIG 598 (GRADUATE)

W 5:20 - 7:20 p.m.

James Wellman

credit/no credit only

Required colloquium for graduate students in comparative religion program. Introduction to faculty research and to major methods and disciplines in the study of religion. Credit/no-credit only.

Asian 498 / Honors 212 B: Songs of the Saints of India



Heidi Pauwels
hpauwels@uw.edu

Spring 2019
MW
12:30pm - 2:20pm
SIG 227

SLN 10527
5 CREDITS
VLPA

This course provides a glimpse into India's wisdom via the study of the ever-popular songs of its holy men and women, the saints of the bhakti or devotional tradition. These songs are still sung from temples to village courtyards, from movie soundtracks to the classical concert stage. They are used not only in worship, but also in education, performing arts, and politics. Many of them carry a message protesting existing hierarchies of caste and gender, but others have been used to confirm the status quo.

We will look at songs dating from the middle of the first millennium CE through today, including South- as well as North-Indian ones, focusing on some of the most influential works of the Indian devotional tradition. We will study these texts in their cultural context, but with an eye to how they are interpreted and used in contemporary religion and politics. No prerequisites.