

5C Intercollegiate Religious Studies Program - Religious Studies Faculty

CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

Claremont McKenna

Esther Chung-Kim (World Christianity, European Reformation, History of Poverty and Medicine)

Gastón Espinosa (U.S. Religions, Religion & Civil Rights, Religion & Film, Religion & Politics)

Jauhara Ferguson (African American Religions, Islam in America, Sociology of Religion)

Gary Gilbert (Jewish Civilization, Early Christianity, Jewish-Christian Relations)

Daniel Michon (Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Archaeology, Theory), Chair

Jamel Velji (Islamic Apocalypticism & Eschatology, Islam Intellectual History, Shiism)

Chloe Martinez (Sikhism, Religion and Poetry)

HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE

Harvey Mudd

Erika Dyson (Religion & Science, Religion & Law, Gender)

PITZER COLLEGE

Pitzer

Carina Johnson (Religion in the Early Modern World, Medieval Christianity, Gender), Coordinator

Ahmed Alwishah (Islamic Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Islamic Theology)

POMONA COLLEGE

Pomona

Oona Eisenstadt (Jewish Studies, Philosophy, Literature), Chair

Zhiru Ng (Buddhism, East Asian religions, India-China Cultural Exchanges, Buddhist Art)

Erin Runions (Hebrew Bible, Gender & Sexuality, Religion & Prisons)

Darryl Smith (Philosophy of Religion, Black Religions)

Daniel Watling (Islamic Studies; Islamic Philosophy and Theology; Intellectual History)

SCRIPPS COLLEGE

Scripps

Luis Josué Salés (Early, Medieval, Pre-modern Christianity, Postcolonial/Queer Theory), Chair

5C RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS & DESCRIPTIONS

Course Location & Sponsor

CM = Claremont McKenna

HM = Harvey Mudd

PO = Pomona

PZ = Pitzer

SC = Scripps

For CMC students, non-RLST courses do not count toward RLST GE or major credit, unless pre-approved by the department chair

PHIL052 PZ-01 – Philosophy of Religion (Alwishah, Ahmed) M 7:00-9:50 PM

The philosophy of religion is concerned with philosophical reflection on a broad range of questions concerning religious belief. The nature of religious belief is quite varied across cultures. In Western theism belief in God and a belief in personal immortality are two central religious beliefs. So philosophy of religion in the West is largely concerned with explicating and clarifying the concept of God and life after death, as well as considering the alleged reasons for supposing God exists or that there is life after death. However, in other traditions belief in reincarnation and karma are central beliefs and so questions regarding the nature, meaning and justification of the concepts of reincarnation and karma are important for an Eastern philosophy of religion. In this course, we will examine similar philosophical questions from Western and Eastern religious traditions as well as African, Native American and a variety of other world religions.

RLST037 CM-01 - History of World Christianity (Chung-Kim, Esther) MW 1:15-2:30 PM

Explores the history of Christianity from Jesus to the present in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Focus on key debates and conflicts over the canon of Scripture, orthodoxy versus heresy, the papacy, church-state conflicts, the crusades, Christian-Muslim-Jewish debates, the Protestant Reformation, feminism, liberalism, fundamentalism, evangelicalism and Pentecostalism, liberation theology, and key struggles over missions, colonialism, and indigenization.

RLST038 CM-01 - Christianity and Medicine (Chung-Kim, Esther) MW 11:00-12:15 PM

This course will analyze major topics and questions surrounding Christianity's relationship with medical care from the origins of Christianity to the present. Topics will include the origin of hospitals, the relationship between early Christianity and Greco-Roman medicine, early modern responses to disease, epidemic, and plague, and the Christian understanding and exploration of the human life cycle.

RLST055 CM-01 – Jewish Art & Identity (Gilbert, Gary) TR 1:15-2:30 PM

The course examines Jewish history and constructions of identity through the art work produced by Jews from antiquity to the present. Jews have used a variety of visual artistic media (e.g., mosaics, paintings, architecture) to express their central beliefs, create spaces of holiness, articulate notions of Jewish identity, and formulate collective memories, an important process in the creation and maintenance of Jewish identity. Some of the topics covered are ancient synagogue art, Medieval illuminated manuscripts, Holocaust art, and modern European, American, and Israeli art, including the work of Oppenheim, Chagall, Shahn, Soyer, Rothko, Lilien, Rubin, Zaritsky, Ardon, and Nes.

RLST061 SC-01 – New Testament Christian Origins (Sales, Luis) MW 9:35-10:50 AM

Students will examine the New Testament and other Christian literature of the first and second centuries in the context of the history, culture, religion, and politics of the late ancient Mediterranean. The course will emphasize analytical reading, the varieties of early Christian expression and experience, and key scholarly and theoretical issues.

RLST082 CM-01 – African-American Religions (Ferguson, Jauhara) TR 11:00-12:15 PM

This course offers an introduction to African American religions. The course moves chronologically, examining African religions in the Americas, cultural continuities between African and African American religions, slave religion, and the development of independent African American churches. We will examine the rise of African-American new religious movements such as Father Divine and the Nation of Islam, and the religious dimensions of the Civil Rights Movement. Moving through African-American religious history, we will consider topics such as slave resistance, gender and race, and emigration to Africa.

RLST093 CM-01 – Religion & Politics in Israel (Gilbert, Gary) TR 2:45-4:00 PM

Israel defines itself as a Jewish and democratic state. This course will examine how these two contrasting and sometimes competing understandings, the religiously particular and the secularly universal, have helped to shape Israeli history and society. The first unit of the course will survey the historical and religious connections between the people of Israel and the land of Israel, Jewish political theory, and how modern Zionist thinkers appropriated, modified, and rejected these understandings in developing their rationales for the creation of a Jewish state. The second unit will examine how religion influenced some of the founding policies and institutions of the state, including the Status Quo agreement, Law of Return, and the rabbinate. The final unit will examine the connection between religion and politics in contemporary Israel, and explore the complex and sometimes contested ways in which this connection manifests itself in family law, military service, the administration of holy places, the governing of territories and conflict with Palestinians.

RLST102 CM-01 – Hinduism & South Asian Culture (Michon, Dan) TR 8:10-9:25 AM

Explores the main ideas, practices, and cultural facets of Hinduism and Indian culture. Emphasis on the historical development of the major strands of Hinduism, from the Vedas to the modern era.

RLST102 CM-02 – Hinduism & South Asian Culture (Michon, Dan) TR 1:15-2:30 PM

Explores the main ideas, practices, and cultural facets of Hinduism and Indian culture. Emphasis on the historical development of the major strands of Hinduism, from the Vedas to the modern era.

RLST110 PO-01 – Death, Dying & the Afterlife (Ng, Zhiru) MW 11:00-12:15 PM

This course will explore various ways East Asian religious traditions deal with death and the dead. We will examine how the Daoist, Buddhist, and folk traditions of East Asia historically and currently address the question of "What happens when we die?" We will look at different ritual practices surrounding death, dying and the dead in their ongoing relationships with the living. We will also explore various descriptions of the terrain of the afterlife or postmortem world by critically engaging a variety of textual and visual records of China, Korea and Japan. Some of the topics that will be discussed in the course include the nature of the self, the function of funerary rites, the geography of the afterlife, communication with the dead and religious notions of salvation/liberation. By exploring a variety of narratives and practices regarding death and the afterlife, students will develop a rich and detailed picture of the relationship between the living and the dead in the East Asian religious landscape. (PO Intensive Speaking)

RLST112 HM-01 – Engaging Religion (Dyson, Erika) MW 9:35-10:50 AM

This advanced-level seminar uses case studies to explore what counts as religion in a variety of contexts: media, law, academia, economics, politics, etc. How do people recognize religion? What consequences are there for recognizing or denying the legitimacy of religious practices or beliefs? How is that legitimacy judged? How is it narrated? By approaching a few case studies from multiple perspectives, students gain insight into how the lenses used to assess religion can enable, deepen or limit understanding. HSA Writing Intensive: Yes

RLST116 PO-01 – The Lotus Sutra in East Asia (Ng, Zhiru) MW 2:45-4:00 PM

The Lotus Sutra in East Asia. The Lotus Sutra is undoubtedly the most popular Buddhist scripture in East Asia. Following the text's trajectory from its emergence in India to its broad dissemination across East Asia, up to the present day, we will critically analyse its many (re)imaginings in doctrinal schools, popular literature, ritual practices, art and architecture and, in modern times, even social activities. Letter grade only.

RLST126 CM-01 – Islam and the End of Time (Velji, Jamel) R 6:00-9:00 PM

The history of Islam is often told through a linear timeline recounting the rise and fall of various dynasties. This narrative, however, frequently obscures the dynamism, subtlety, and complexities of Islamic religious traditions. This course uses the prism of the end of time to re-examine central questions regarding the constituent components of Islamic apocalyptic religion. We will first look at some major themes of Islamic eschatological literature. We will then discuss the ways in which various apocalyptic prophecies were deployed and reinterpreted. The bulk of this course will be devoted to studying multiple mahdist movements, movements centered around those who claimed to be the awaited savior figure. We will then reflect more broadly on how our study of Islamic eschatological traditions can inform and reshape dominant narratives in the study of Islam. Prerequisite: RSLT058 CM or RSLT128 (at Pomona or CMC) or instructor permission.

RLST142 AF-01 – Problems of Evil: African-American Engagements (Smith, Darryl) F 1:15-4:00 PM

Thematically explores the many ways African-Americans have encountered and responded to evils (pain, wickedness and undeserved suffering) both as a part of and apart from the broader Western tradition. We will examine how such encounters trouble the distinction made between natural and moral evil and how they highlight the tensions between theodicies and further ethical concerns. (CWS, PRT)

RLST144 PO-01 – Minorities in the Muslim World (Watling, Dan) TR 1:15-2:30 PM

Although Islam now boasts 1.9 billion adherents and is the majority religion in countries across Africa, Europe, and Asia, significant contributions to Islamic culture were made by Muslims minorities in religiously diverse societies. Moreover, the Islamic world has always been home to other religious communities, some of which have made a lasting impact on what it means to be Muslim. This course looks at the history and culture of religious minorities in the Muslim world, from the Middle East and Africa to East Asia and California, with special emphasis on identity, race/ethnicity, and the social realities of religious minorities.

RLST148 PO-01 – Sufism (Watling, Dan) MW 11:00-12:15 PM

Sufism. What is the Muslim mystics' view of reality? How is the soul conceptualized in relation to the divine being? What philosophical notions did they draw upon to articulate their visions of the cosmos? How did Muslim mystics organize themselves to form communities? What practices did they consider essential in realizing human perfection? Spring 2009. (PRT)

RLST150 AF-01 – Eye of God: Race and Empire (Smith, Darryl) F 7:00-9:50 PM

In mythic cycles from the "Western Tradition," there has been a sustained intrigue over the relationship between the human eye and the heavenly sun. From the Cyclops of Homer's *Odyssey* to its refiguring in D.W. Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation," the powers of the eye are equated with those of its celestial counterpart. This intrigue has been reshaped--but not lost--with the advent of modern visual surveillance techniques. In this course, we will examine a range of manifestations of the solar eye, paying particular attention to the relationship(s) it bears to reality and the ways in which the solar eye operates in schemes both great and small

of confidence and illusion. We will consider works by Plato, Foucault, Ellison and Morrison; documents in government policy; and movies like "The Fly," "Cube," "9" and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. (PRT). Letter grade only.

RLST157 PO-01 – Philosophical Responses to the Holocaust (Eisenstadt, Oona) TR 9:35-10:50 AM

After the Holocaust and similar contemporary horrors must theology and philosophy change in order to speak responsibly? Thinkers taken up include Arendt, Fackenheim, Browning, Bauman, and Levinas. (PRT)

RLST172 SC-01 – Christianity, Fantasy & Fiction (Sales, Luis) MW 1:15-2:30 PM

An advanced, reading- and writing-intensive seminar informed by literary theory and religious studies that examines an array of English-language works of fantasy and fiction associated with Christian authors from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This course includes selections from the works of George MacDonald, Hope Mirrlees, Lord Dunsany, J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Frank Herbert, Ursula K. LeGuin, and others. Course meets Letters general education requirement.

RLST179G HM-01 – Religious Views: Ecology & Climate Change/Special Topic in Religious Studies (Dyson, Erika) W 2:45-5:30 PM

As the realities of climate change become more apparent and anxieties about the future of humanity rise, many religious leaders and laypeople have taken clear positions on how (or whether) people of faith should respond. They have offered interpretations of scripture or doctrines from within their own traditions hoping to ease people's worries or inspire action. This course looks at how religious individuals draw on the teachings of their faith to understand what nature is, how humans can affect it (or not), and what their responsibilities are to the earth. It also looks at those who believe their religion discourages intervention into natural systems or combatting climate change.

RLST181 PO-01 – Prison, Punishment Redemption (CP) (Runions, Erin) T 6:00-8:45 PM, plus travel time (leaving 4:30pm, arriving back 9:45pm)

This course will explore ideologies of punishment and redemption in relation to the prison industrial complex. We will critique and redefine themes of redemption, correction, debt, virtue, shame, guilt, purity, atonement, damnation, hell and conversion as they influence, infuse and complicate popular understanding of prison, policy development and lived experience of prison. We will be analyzing religious teaching, literature, media, pop culture, policy, political discourse and art. The approach taken will be interdisciplinary with intersectional analysis that includes race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, age, mobility, literacy, education, nationality. This course is an Inside/Out class and will take place in a carceral institution. Letter grade only. Previously offered as GWS 181 PO.

RLST190 PO-01 Senior Seminar (Eisenstadt, Oona) TR 1:15-2:30 PM

Required for all senior majors. Advanced readings, discussion, and seminar presentations on selected areas and topics in the study of religion.

Cross-listed with RLST

ANTH087 SC-01 – Contemporary Issues: Gender & Islam (Deeb, Lara) TR 1:15-2:30 PM

This course explains a variety of issues significant to the study of gender and Islam in different contexts, which may include the Middle East, South Asia, Africa and the U.S. Various Islamic constructions and interpretations of gender, masculinity and femininity, sexuality, and human nature will be critically examined.

ASAM142 PO-01 - South Asian American Studies (Nasir, Mohammad Bilal) M 1:15-4:00 PM

This course examines issues relevant to the South Asian diaspora in the United States. With a special emphasis on race and empire, the course will consider historical and contemporary forms of marginalization targeting South Asian American communities. It will also explore the possibilities and limits of emergent Desi social movements forged in contexts of Anti-Immigrant Racism, Anti-Muslim Racism, Anti-Black Racism, Hindutva, and Trumpism. Letter grade only.

MUS110A SC-01 – Music in Western Civilization (Kang, YouYoung) MW 1:15-2:30 PM

In the first semester, this course will be a study of music from the Ancient World through the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. In the second semester, this course will be a study of music from the Classical, Romantic, and 20th-century periods. Interdisciplinary relationships to other arts will be examined in a historical context. Semesters may be taken in reverse order. This course satisfies the fine arts requirement. Prerequisite: Music reading ability (Music 3 or equivalent).