

# Department of Religious Studies

## Fall 2017 Graduate Courses

### RELS 5000-090: Queery Theory

Monday 6:30-9:15/Kent Brintnall

(Cross-Listed with ENGL 5050, MALS 6000, PHIL 5050 & WGST 5170)

An examination of the ways the social order shapes our sense of gender and sexual identity, and imposes norms regarding gender behavior and sexual desire. This course will also think about how gender and sexuality inform our experience of subjectivity and the political costs that relate to conforming to or deviating from social norms. It will give close and careful attention to works by central authors in the field—for example, Gayle Rubin, Michel Foucault, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Judith Butler, and Lee Edelman—as well as more contemporary works that examine race, class, disability, and trans\* identities.



### RELS 5000-001: Dharma and Same-Sex Love in India

TR 9:30-10:45/Dan White

Through classical and modern literature, film, and the words of other scholars this course will examine same sex relationships (male/male, female/female) in India and the pervasive notion of dharma in that cultural context. From the epics through dharma literature, poetry, modern fiction and film, the course will ask the question of relationships between two people in terms of what it means to be Hindu and to love someone

in a context that is not always clear about what is dharma (*right, proper, virtuous, etc.*). We shall also examine why the Victorian-era criminality of same-sex relationships still exists in India.

### RELS 5000-002: Contextualizing the Catholic Sex Abuse Crisis

Thursday 3:30-6:15/Kent Brintnall

(Cross-Listed with WGST 5050)

This course will examine the Catholic sex abuse crisis using several different angles of vision in an effort to understand its enormity and complexity. What do we notice, for example, when we look at the crisis in relation to a long history of American anti-Catholicism? What do we notice about its gendered character when we question our assumptions about the gender (and age and sexuality) of abusers and victims? What do we notice about its American character when we consider responses in Ireland or Latin America? What do we notice about its Catholic character when we consider sex abuse in other religious contexts or secular institutions? What do we notice when we place it alongside moral panics about daycare abuse, child pornography, and the sexual vulnerability of children? What do institutional homophobia in the Catholic Church, changing practices of seminary education, or the Church's commitment to clerical celibacy reveal about the crisis? Throughout the course and in their final research paper, students will engage primary resources from the digital archive amassed at [BishopAccountability.org](http://BishopAccountability.org).



### RELS 5000-003: Churches and Temples as Neuro-Performance Spaces

TR 12:30-1:45/Mark Pizzato

This course explores how the architecture, artworks, and performances in religious spaces reflect specific traditions—and the inner theatre of the visitor's brain.

### RELS 6101-001: Approaches to the Study of Religion

Tuesday 3:30-6:15/Sean McCloud

What is religion? How does it work in individual lives and social groups? How does one study religion from an academic—versus a devotee or debunker—point of view? This class serves as the introductory course for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies program. We survey a broad number of multidisciplinary theories and methods for use in the study of religion. The goal of the class is to develop your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills and to give you a good working knowledge of some methods and theories in and beyond religious studies. The format will entail seminar-style discussions with frequent written assignments and occasional presentations.

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#### Department Chair

Joanne Robinson

[Joanne.Robinson@uncc.edu](mailto:Joanne.Robinson@uncc.edu)

#### Director of Graduate Studies

Sean McCloud

[spmcclo@uncc.edu](mailto:spmcclo@uncc.edu)

For more information visit [www.religiousstudies.uncc.edu](http://www.religiousstudies.uncc.edu)