

# Department of Religious Studies

## 2nd Summer Undergraduate Courses

### RELS 1200-080 & RELS 1200-081: World Religions

Online/Ashley Bryan



A study of the historical origins, central teachings, and devotional practices of the major religious traditions alongside those of smaller and newer religious movements.

- Cultural or Historical Analysis

### RELS 2000-080: Death and the Afterlife in Asian Religions

Online/Janna Shedd

This course is an introduction to religious concepts of death and death-related practices in South and East Asian religions. Students will explore Asia's wide variety of funerary practices; beliefs in heaven-realms, underworlds, in-between realms, and paths of rebirths; ghost stories and festivals; near-death experiences; and the gods and goddesses of death. Course "readings" will be assigned bi-weekly and will include a variety of materials including films, images, myths, textbook chapters, and instructor-produced introductions and explanations of topics.



- Cultural or Textual Analysis

### RELS 3000-080: Women and Gender in Islam

Online/Hadia Mubarak

(Cross-Listed with WGST 3050)

This course will explore a cross-section of religious texts, interpretations, and normative practices on women in Islam. First, we will examine the construction of gender in Islam's primary religious texts, surveying themes such as human creation, female characters in the Qur'an, sexuality, marriage, divorce, veiling and adultery. In addition to examining gender through the lens of religious texts, we will explore gender themes in Islam's 'interpretive' tradition, primarily Islamic law, Qur'anic exegesis and legal edicts (fatwas). Third, we will trace the development of normative attitudes and practices towards women in Muslim societies, spanning a historical range from early Islamic history (7th century C.E.) to the modern period. We will pay particular attention to the rise of secular and religious feminism(s) and women's movements to reform patriarchal practices in contemporary Muslim societies.

- Cultural Analysis

NOTE: The courses below are fully online. Online courses require students to be independent learners. Students need to be strongly motivated to

independently work through online materials and meet weekly assignment deadlines. Students will need reliable Internet access to complete work through the course Canvas site.

### RELS 4000/5000-080: Beast-People Onstage, Onscreen, and in Your Brain

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 2:00-4:30/Mark Pizzato

(Cross-Listed with THEA 4001)

Why are planet of the apes, vampire, werewolf, and lab-creature movies (and TV shows) popular? What insights do they offer about our animal-human "nature" and our supernatural desires or fears? This course will explore such films through the lenses of theatre and neuroscience. We will investigate how our "reptilian" instincts, mammalian emotions, primate egos, and higher-order aspirations have been projected as supernatural, animal-human figures on various stages and screens, in tragedy, tragicomedy, sci-fi, and horror, reflecting also the cultural contexts when those works emerged.

- Cultural Analysis

**Liberal Studies Courses:** Religious Studies faculty teach the following courses for the General Education Program:

### LBST 2101-R81: Racist Religions: Racism and Religion in America

Online/Julia Robinson Moore

Racist Religions is designed to introduce students to the historical connections between racism and religion in American society. Specifically, this course explores how religious traditions have often laid the foundation for antisemitism, anti-black racism, and racial profiling in America. Key components of this course require students to critically analyze films and religious narratives that expose issues of racism.

### LBST 2101-R82: Western Cultural and Historical Awareness

Online/Celia Sinclair

Liberal Studies 2101 (Second Summer Session 2017) is an inquiry based online class. Together we will explore a question that has occupied the minds of Western thinkers over the millennia. This General Education offering is an interdisciplinary course that asks you to examine some aspect of Western Historical and Cultural Awareness from a variety of perspectives. Quizzes, discussion forums, and formal papers will be required.

### LBST 2102-R81: Indigenous Lifeways

Online/Tina Katsanos

This section of LBST 2102 will focus on the impact of globalization on indigenous religions during the colonial and post-colonial eras. Through a series of case studies we will examine indigenous cultures/religions of the Americas, Africa, and Oceania. Special emphasis is placed on the following topics: categories of religion, New World discovery and images, colonialism, ecology, revitalization movements, and religious innovation.