

Department of Religious Studies

Fall 2019 Graduate Courses

RELS 5000-001

Mary and Forgotten Women in Early Christianity

TR 2:30-3:45/James Tabor

(Cross-listed with RELS 4000-001)

A quest for the historical Mary, mother of Jesus and other marginalized or forgotten women of earliest Christianity such as, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha of Bethany, Mary wife of Clopas, Joanna, Susanna, Priscilla, and Lydia.

RELS 5000-002

Ketuvim: Feminine Books of the Bible.

TR 11:30-12:45/Barbara Thiede

(Cross lists with WGST 4050-005,

RELS 4000-002, WGST 5050-004 and MALS 6000-001).

The Book of Ruth, the Book of Esther, Song of Songs and the Book of Lamentations present the reader with powerful female characters and archetypes.

We'll explore the historical context, literary themes, and theological assumptions of these texts while interrogating their representation of female characters.



RELS 5000-003

Postcolonial African Religiosity

R 2:30-5:15/Letha Victor

(Cross lists with RELS 4000-003, AFRS 4050-001, ANTH 4020-003 and ANTH 5090-003).

This seminar course offers a historically and ethnographically-situated overview of contemporary issues in African religiosity. Topics will include missionization; religion in pan-African nationalism and decolonization movements; debates over monotheism and Traditional African Religion; the shifting parameters of Christianity and Islam; sorcery, witchcraft, conspiracy; divination and mediumship; human encounters with ghosts and spirits; medicine and healing; and more.



RELS 5000-004

Sensory Cultures of Religion

T 2:30-5:15/Alex Kaloyanides

(Cross-Listed with RELS 4000-004)

This seminar explores the roles that sensory experiences play in religious lives and in the study of religion. Together we will think about religious sounds, sights, tastes, touches, and smells. We will ask: How do religious communities produce particular sensory experiences? How do sensations produce forms of religion?

RELS 5000-005

Advanced Biblical Hebrew I

TR 1:00-2:15/John Reeves

(Cross-Listed with RELS 4000-005)

This course engages in a critical reading and translation of biblical, non-biblical, and postbiblical Hebrew prose and poetic texts. For the fall semester, we will concentrate on narrative and oracular passages culled from biblical prophetic literature.



RELS 6101-090

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Studying Humanities and Religion

W 5:30-8:15

(Cross-listed with MALS 6101)

How do social formations such as religion, or demographic variables such as race, class, and gender, work in individual lives and social groups? This course, which serves as the MA theory and methods course for Religious Studies and MALS, examines sociological, historical, anthropological, textual, and psychological approaches to humanities and social sciences subjects such as religion and provides the kind of interdisciplinary study that teach you to critically read across disciplines and to understand the research methods covered in humanities and social sciences generally.