| Important Dates | RELS 1200-001: World Religions  
*MW 12:30-1:45/Ashley (Zulovitz) 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.  
*Historical or Cultural Analysis*  
| RELS 2000-001: Demons, Ghosts, and Jinn in Indian Religious Traditions  
*MW 2:00-3:15/Ashley (Zulovitz) Bryan*  
An introduction to supernatural entities found on the Indian subcontinent. Throughout this course students will discover that demons, ghosts, and jinn are not mere peripheral religious figures in India but instead are powerful forces that inform and confront dominant religious orthodoxies. Topics will include material from ancient texts to modern folklore and will cover a wide range of topics including the historical and religious development of ghosts and demons; conceptions of the body and popular beliefs about what transpires after death; ritual practices used to beckon or repulse these entities; and possessions, exorcisms, and communalism.  
*Textual or Cultural Analysis*  
| RELS 2000-002: Shinto  
*TR 12:30-1:45/Janna Shedd*  
The Japanese religion of the *kami*. This course is a historical and cultural exploration of Japanese religious ideas and practices in the Shinto tradition. A particular focus of the course will be on the relationships of Shinto-related mythology, art, popular practices, and interactions with the natural environment. We will also consider the influence and interactions between Shinto and other major cultural influences such as Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and politics.  
*Textual or Cultural Analysis*  
| RELS 2000-004: The “Lost Scriptures” of Early Christianity  
*TR 9:30-10:45/David Clausen*  
Burned! Buried! Banished! That’s what happened to many early Christian gospels, acts, letters, and apocalypses that did not meet the theological requirements of the orthodox Church when the 27 books of the New Testament were selected. Why were these other books condemned? Did they reflect alternate forms of Christianity that the orthodox fathers rejected as heretical? In many cases, yes. This course explores many of those documents, a number of them until recently lost, and the “Christianities” that they reflect.  
*Textual or Historical Analysis*  
| RELS 2000-005: Dead Sea Scrolls and Early Christianity  
*Online/Franklin Trammell*  
An introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the light they shed on the Jewish context out of which early Christianity emerges. Our reading of major texts from the Scrolls along with selected early Christian writings will include comparing notions of community, apocalyptic eschatology, messianism, angelology, pneumatology, and soteriology. The major focus will be on what we can know about the nature of early Christianity and its first century Jewish setting since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.  
*Textual or Historical Analysis*  
| RELS 2000-006: Life in the Middle Ages  
*TR 9:30-10:45/Hugh Goforth*  
(Cross-Listed with HIST 2230)  
What was life like in the Middle Ages? This course will consider major social institutes and cultural themes of Europe from late Antiquity through the Middle Ages to try to understand what life was like in Medieval Europe for the noble and not so noble. Starting with the history of its leaders, this course will use the scholarship of everyday life to deduce the experience of ordinary men, women, and children. Some of the major themes we will explore are mythologies and religious practices; warfare; knight-hood, chivalry, and courtly love; Feudalism and Manorial-ism; and life in the Medieval city.  
*Historical or Cultural Analysis*  

**Important Dates**  

- **January 11th** - 1st day of classes  
- **January 18th** - No Classes/University Closed  
- **January 21st** - Last day to register, add, drop with no grade  
- **January 29th** - Deadline to apply for May 2016 graduation  
- **March 7th** - Fall 2016 schedule available  
- **March 7th - March 11th** - No Classes  
- **March 21st** - Last day to withdraw from course  
- **March 25th** - No Classes  
- **March 28th** - Registration for Summer & Fall 2016 begins  
- **April 3rd** - Last day of classes  
- **April 4th** - Reading Day  
- **April 5th - 12th** - Final Examinations  
- **April 13th & 14th** - Commencement  

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RELS 2000-UOL: World Religions through Film
*Online*/Julie Hawks
This course is an introduction to world religions through film. Students will explore the material culture, practices, and sacred stories of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, as well as Yoruba, Native American, and Shinto traditions. This course deals with some of the essential differences and similarities which exist among each religious tradition and points to the uniqueness of each of them. – *Textual or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 2101-001: Introduction to Western Religions
*WF 2:00-3:15*/Tina Katsanos
This class is a historical-critical introduction to the different variations of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Special emphasis is placed on the historical relationships between the three religions and between their respective myths and rituals. Lastly, particular consideration is given to the position of each tradition in the modern/post-modern global context. – *Textual or Historical Analysis*

RELS 2102-001: Introduction to Asian Religions
*TR 2:00-3:15*/Janna Shedd
An introduction to Hinduism, Buddhism, and Daoism. Emphasis on the myths, stories, symbols, rituals, ideas, and ethical practices of these religions in their classical formulations and in their contemporary practices. – *Textual or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 2104-001: Hebrew Scripture/Old Testament
*MW 9:30-10:45*/Barbara Thiede
There is no such thing as "The Bible." But there is a fascinating story behind the creation of biblical literature. In this class, you will learn why you are visiting a library (rather than reading a book). We will look at the linguistic, historical, and archeological evidence that helps scholars understand who wrote biblical literature and why. We will learn about the Ancient Israelites to help us understand the texts they produced. This course will not be a survey of the Hebrew Bible, but it will teach students how to approach, analyze, and understand its texts in academic terms. – *Textual or Historical Analysis*

RELS 2104-UOL: Hebrew Scripture/Old Testament
*Online*/Barbara Thiede
There is no such thing as "The Bible." But there is a fascinating story behind the creation of biblical literature. In this class, you will learn why you are visiting a library (rather than reading a book). We will look at the linguistic, historical, and archeological evidence that helps scholars understand who wrote biblical literature and why. We will learn about the Ancient Israelites to help us understand the texts they produced. This course will not be a survey of the Hebrew Bible, but it will teach students how to approach, analyze, and understand its texts in academic terms. – *Textual or Historical Analysis*

*TR 12:30-1:45*/David Clausen
Why are the first three gospels so similar, even to the point of using the exact same wording in places? Where did the authors get their information about Jesus? Why do they differ from the Gospel of John regarding certain details such as whether Jesus baptized or the day of the Last Supper? What is the mysterious Q source? Did Paul actually write the thirteen letters attributed to him in the New Testament? We’ll explore these and many other questions regarding one of the world’s most seemingly well-known works: the New Testament. – *Textual or Historical Analysis*

RELS 2108-001: Religion in American Culture
*MW 12:30-1:45*/Sean McCloud
The role of religion in the shaping of American culture. – *Historical or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 2120-001: Christianity
*TR 11:00-12:15*/Eric Hoenes
What is a Christian? How has the idea of being Christian changed over time and across cultures? This course will survey the global development of the Christian tradition from antiquity to the present. Our goal will be to appreciate the diversity of Christian communities’ beliefs and practices, and to critically examine the intersection of religion, politics, and culture. – *Historical or Cultural Analysis*
RELS 2131-001: Islam
TR 9:30-10:45/Kathryn Johnson
(Cross-Listed with HIST 2215)
The development of the traditions in Islam with emphasis on Islamic culture, literature, and mysticism.
- Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 2216-001: The Modern Middle East
TR 12:30-1:45/Kathryn Johnson
(Cross-Listed with HIST 2216)
An introduction to the history of this important and dynamic region. The course focuses on the issues that have defined the Middle East in the recent past and provides students with the historical context needed to understand the region, its peoples, and its conflicts in greater depth. - Historical or Cultural Analysis

RELS 2600-001: Orientation to the Study of Religion
Wednesday 3:30-6:15/Eric Hoenes
Required for Majors
Examines basic concepts, theories, and approaches that are involved in the critical, academic study of religion. Attention given to basic research materials and to standard writing practices in the discipline.

RELS 3000-001: God and Sex in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
MW 12:30-1:45/Barbara Thiede
Discussion of sexual boundaries, narratives of sexual abuse and sexual violence, tales of an apparent erotic eden – it’s all to be found in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. This course will discuss sexuality and gender in biblical literature and culture. Our topics will include God’s own sexual relationships to prohibited, apparently prohibited, and permitted sexual relationships among humans. We’ll look at texts of terror and texts of amatory idylls. Our sources will include primary texts, midrashic discussions on the same, and academic commentaries. - Textual Analysis

RELS 3000-002: Where Abracadabra Comes From (Maybe): Magic in Judaism
MW 2:00-3:15/Barbara Thiede
We begin this class with a Gordian knot: What is, in fact, the difference between “religion” and “magic”? After exploring a scholarly lack of consensus on this question, we’ll study the textual traditions and practice of religion and magic among the ancient Israelites, moving on to look at the magic to be found in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Where do astrology, necromancy, adjuration, and incantation (among other things) fit in to the practice of Judaism(s) in history? In the end, what kinds of distinctions can possibly remain between the practice of religion and magic? - Historical Analysis

RELS 3000-003: Love and Sex in Indian Traditions
(Hybrid) Tuesday 9:30-10:45/Marcy Goldstein
This course will explore various expressions of love and sex in Indian traditions -- awakening one’s own heart, desiring another person, longing for God, and seeking Enlightenment. We will examine how the boundaries between these differently articulated experiences can collapse. To learn about the history of these traditions that thrive in our globalized world, we will read Hindu and Buddhist texts dating from 1500 B.C.E. to the 21st c. C.E., including poetry, prose, and graphic novels, and also enjoy other media such as images, music, and films. - Historical or Cultural Analysis

RELS 3000-004: Iran Since the Revolution
TR 3:30-4:45/Kathryn Johnson
(Cross-Listed with HIST 3000)
This class will investigate the creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the 1979 revolution and the IRIs growing regional influence. - Cultural Analysis

RELS 3000-005: The Qur’an and Its Interpreters
MW 11:00-12:15/Hadia Mubarak
This undergraduate course will introduce students to the Qur’anic scripture, its history, themes, characteristic styles, and the way in which it has functioned as an authority for Muslims throughout Islamic history. The course will explore two genres that have emerged from the direct study of the Qur’an, most specifically Qur’anic exegesis (tafsir) and the art of its recitation (tajwid). We will examine competing modes of interpretation and the most significant exegetes in the pre-modern and modern periods, paying specific attention to the role of modernity in creating new approaches to Qur’anic interpretation. Lastly, this course surveys a wide range of exegetical interpretations on 1) women and sexuality, 2) violence and jihād, and 3) religious pluralism. - Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 3000-006: Jerusalem
MW 9:30-10:45/Shimon Gibson
(Cross-Listed with ANTH 3090 & HIST 3002)

RELS 3000-007: Archeology
MW 3:30-4:45/Shimon Gibson
(Cross-Listed with ANTH 3090 & HIST 3002)
RELS 3090-001: Biblical Hebrew 1  
*WF* 12:30-1:45/John Reeves  
This course is the first half of an introduction to biblical Hebrew which normally encompasses multiple semesters of study. We will master the ‘aleph-bet,’ build vocabulary, and learn the rudiments of classical Hebrew grammar. During the final weeks of the semester, we will begin reading some simple narrative and verse selections drawn from the Bible itself. - *Textual Analysis*

RELS 3116-001: Paul  
*TR* 2:00-3:15/James Tabor  
A quest for the historical Paul. What do we know about Paul and how do we know it? An analysis of the message and mission of Paul, set in its Greco-Roman/Jewish contexts. We will carefully examine Paul’s seven authentic letters, surviving secondary sources, and a history of the interpretation of Paul, including two modern scholarly interpretations, in an effort to get at Paul in his own time and on his own terms. - *Textual Analysis*

RELS 3163-001: Religious Art & Architecture of India  
*MW* 9:30-10:45/Dan White  
The visual art of Hindus, Buddhists, Jainas, and Muslims in the architecture, paintings, and sculptures of India. - *Textual or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 3230-001: Race, Religion and Murder  
*TR* 11:00-12:15/Julia Robinson  
An introduction to the intersection of race, religion, and violence in American culture. Addresses how Judeo-Christian, Islamic, and Asian traditions have been used to justify and even condone acts of violence against women, children, and peoples of color. - *Historical or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 3232-001: Islam in the African American Experience  
*TR* 2:00-3:15/Julia Robinson  
An examination of the historical practices of Islam and its varied formations within African American culture. A key component of the course centers on the life and religion of Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam during the Modern Civil Rights Movement. Course discussions will investigate the tensions between the Christianity practiced within the African American Baptist tradition and the adaptations of Islamic practice within African American communities during the twentieth century. - *Historical or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 3242-001: Philosophy of Religion  
*MW* 2:00-3:15/Tina Talsma  
(Cross-Listed with PHIL 3530)  
This course will serve as an introduction to the main themes in Western analytic philosophy of religion. We will focus on arguments for and against the existence of God (focusing primarily on the God of the Abrahamic traditions) but will also explore topics concerning the divine nature, the relationship between faith and reason, and religious ethics.

RELS 4000-001: Jewish Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha  
*WF* 11:00-12:15/John Reeves  
This course concentrates on a close reading of Jewish apocrypha and pseudepigrapha, that vast penumbra of allegedly forged or ‘falsely ascribed’ literary texts darkening the margins around the ‘official’ scriptural canon. The works we will study are customarily dated within the Second Temple or Roman eras of Jewish history (roughly 515 BCE–636 CE). Some critical categories and taxonomies demanding consideration in such a course include those of the authentic, the genuine, and the original versus the spurious, the fake, and the counterfeit; ancient versus modern notions of authorship; cultural parameters surrounding the social construction of authority; and textual signatures (if any) of religious identity. Much time will be devoted to the close reading in English of a broadly representative sampling of this literature (e.g., 1 Enoch, Jubilees, Life of Adam and Eve, Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs, 4 Ezra, 2 Baruch, etc.) wherein issues pertinent to reconstructions of Jewish literary and religious history can be identified and evaluated. - *Textual Analysis*

RELS 4000-091: Queer Theory  
*Wednesday* 6:30-9:15/Kent Brintnall  
(Cross-Listed with ENGL 4050, PHIL 4990, SOCY 4090 & WGST 4170)  
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, Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, Leo Bersani, José Esteban Muñoz, Lee Edelman, Gayle Solomon and Dean Spade—as well as works that are important for understanding those central authors—for example, Sigmund Freud, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Sandy Stone. - *Textual or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 4600-001:  
*Wednesday* 3:30-6:15/Sean McCloud  
Required of majors in final year of studies.
**Liberal Studies Courses:** Religious Studies faculty teach the following courses for the General Education Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LBST 2101-335</td>
<td>Western History &amp; Culture&lt;br&gt;<code>MW 9:30-10:45/Francis Penkava</code></td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2101-337</td>
<td>Western History &amp; Culture: Transformations of Yoga in the West&lt;br&gt;(Hybrid) Tuesday 8:00-9:15/Marcy Goldstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2101-338</td>
<td>Western History &amp; Culture: A Good Life: What is it? How does one live it?&lt;br&gt;<code>Tuesday 12:30-3:15/Celia Sinclair</code></td>
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<td>Western History &amp; Culture: Black Mirror&lt;br&gt;<code>TR 12:30-1:45/Joshua Williams</code></td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2101-342</td>
<td>Western History &amp; Culture: Toleration &amp; Religious Pluralism&lt;br&gt;<code>Wednesday 3:30-6:15/Rob Young</code></td>
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<td>Rob Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-335</td>
<td>Global Connections: Globalizing Asian Religions&lt;br&gt;<code>MW 12:30-1:45/Janna Shedd</code></td>
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<td>12:30-1:45</td>
<td>Janna Shedd</td>
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<td>LBST 2102-336</td>
<td>Global Connections: Transformations of Yoga in the West&lt;br&gt;<code>MW 2:00-3:15/Janna Shedd</code></td>
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<td>LBST 2102-347</td>
<td>Global Connections: The Middle East in the 21st Century&lt;br&gt;<code>MW 12:30-1:45/Kathyrn Johnson</code></td>
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