RELS 5000-090  
Annihilation of the Self: The Literature of Sufi Islam  
*Tuesday 6:30-9:15/Will Sherman*  
This course examines persistent questions found in the literature of mystical, Sufi Islam: what is the self? What is its relationship to language? And must it be annihilated through “unsaying” in order to know God? By reading a range of Sufi texts in translation, this course explores how “annihilation” is an important theme throughout the history of the Islamic world, including in the contemporary period. In the cryptic musings of early Baghdadi Sufis, the love-struck poems of Rumi, and the miraculous stories of saints, this course traces the methods and paradoxes by which Sufi Muslims have attempted to use language to mold—and unmake—the self.

RELS 5000-001  
The Archaeology of Earliest Christianity  
*TR 3:30-4:45/James Tabor*  
What is the material/archaeological evidence that sheds light on our understanding of the origins and emergence of earliest Christianity? This will include an examination of, newly discovered texts and inscriptions, artifacts, and ancient sites related to both 1st and 2nd century Judaism and early Christianity. Special emphasis on the emerging new consensus on the material culture of 1st century Galilee as it relates to Jesus and his movement.

RELS 5000-002  
Religion in the Contemporary United States  
*Thursday 3:30-6:15/Sean McCloud*  
(Cross-Listed with MALS 6000)  
What can one say about contemporary American religious cultures? Has American religion changed in the last 70 years? Can one discuss “American religion” as if it were an undifferentiated whole? And can we easily pick out some social formation we call “religion” that can be separately examined as a field apart from “culture,” “politics,” “economics,” or other categories we might construe? There are multiple ways—complementary and contradictory—in which one might describe contemporary American culture and its religious imaginaries. Our class will focus on three characterizations: the consumerist, the haunted, and the therapeutic.

RELS 6102-001  
Teaching in Religious Studies and the Humanities  
*Tuesday 2:00-4:45/Joanne Robinson*  
This course will approach teaching and learning in religious studies and the humanities more broadly through the lens of pedagogical challenges and rewards. We will explore the history of teaching and learning in the liberal arts and survey the recent scholarship of teaching and learning to discover a range of pedagogical philosophies and approaches. Students will have opportunities to articulate their own philosophies of teaching; to develop teaching portfolios, syllabi, and meaningful assignments; and to practice teaching.

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