

# Department of Religious Studies

## Spring 2020 Graduate Courses

### RELS 5000-092 Queer Theory

Thursday 5:30-8:15/Kent Brintnall

(Cross lists with RELS 4000, WGST 4170 / 5170, PHIL 4990 / 5050, ENGL 4050 / 5050)

Born out of engagements with the AIDS crisis and struggles for LGBTQ equality in the 1980s and 1990s, queer theory uses the insights of feminism, critical race theory, trans theory, Foucault, and psychoanalysis to understand the operation of power, particularly the power of moralizing and normalization. Scholars associated with queer theory have generated some of the most incisive, trenchant, radical, and influential critiques of gender, sexual, racial, and national identity.



### RELS 5000-090

#### Religion and Social Change in Latin America

Tuesday 6:30-9:15/Eric Hoenes

(Cross lists with RELS 4000 LTAM 5000, ANTH 4622/ 5622).

This course examines the roles that religion has played in the changing social, political, and economic landscape of Latin America. By reading historical and ethnographic case studies we will look at the ways that religious institutions have sought to address material and spiritual development throughout the region in the wake of social and political instability.



### RELS 5000-091

#### Religion in the Contemporary United States

Monday 5:30-8:15/Sean McCloud

(Cross lists with RELS4150, AMST4050)

An examination of topics that includes religion and capitalism, religion and the paranormal, the rise of people who identify with no religion, the entangling of religion and media, the growth of Neopaganism and Pentecostalism, and the persistent influence of social locations such as class, race, and gender on modern American religious practices.

### RELS 5010-090 Seminar: Mark Jordan

Monday 5:30-8:15/Kent Brintnall

(Cross lists with RELS 4010, PHIL 5050, WGST 4050 / 5050)

This course will consider the work of Mark Jordan, a preeminent queer theologian, ethicist, and historian of Christianity whose work examines sexuality, gender, Catholicism, the writings of Michel Foucault, and gay male cultural production. Jordan will be the Department's Witherspoon lecturer during the spring semester and will attend at least one session of the seminar sharing yet-to-be-published work.



### RELS 5000-093

#### Religious Experience

Tuesday 5:30-8:15/Will Sherman

(Cross lists with RELS 4000, PHIL 4590/5050).

When a friend tells you of a dream—or describes a mystical feeling, a vision, or a drug trip that they had—what do you make of that? This course examines narratives of religious experience in order to practice how we may use these narratives to understand religion in society in critical and reflexive ways. We will consider a range of literary, historical, psychological, and phenomenological approaches and examine accounts of “religious experience” that range from medieval mystical poetry to contemporary narratives of UFOs.



### RELS 5000-003

#### Jewish Fantasy Literature

TR 1:00-2:15/John Reeves

(Cross lists with RELS 4000-003)

Rebel angels. A red-headed monster born from a rock. Wizards who fly through the air. A seductive succubus. Outwitting the Angel of Death. Protective talismans. Flesh-eating giants. The walking dead. A wonder-working shepherd's crook. Beasts whose tears pool into raging torrents of fire. Curing a flatulent princess. What connects these different fabulous characters, objects, and motifs? They all are part of the constructed dreamscape of Jewish imaginative literature emanating from late antiquity and the Middle Ages. This course studies a representative sampling of the tales and treatises that foreground the fantastic, the monstrous, and the uncanny in a variety of post-biblical Jewish texts. Attention will also be devoted to the methodological issues involved in learning to think with demons, monsters, and other weird and wonderful stuff. All the texts we study will be in English; special accommodations will be made for those who want to study the texts in their original language(s).

### RELS 6102-001

#### Teaching in the Humanities

Tuesday 2:00-4:45/Joanne Maguire

(Cross lists with MALS 6000, HIST 6000, ENGL 6070)

This course will approach teaching and learning in the humanities 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 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.