Religion

**BIBLE, QUR'AN, & WESTERN CULTURE**
REL 2040-01 Heidi Wendt 10:10-11:05 MWF
REL 2040-02 Heidi Wendt 11:15-12:10 MWF
REL 2040-03 Mark Verman 12:30-1:50 T&Th

This course introduces students to the formative periods and scriptures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, while also acquainting them with methodologies and research questions that scholars working within a secular academic context pursue in their investigations of these writings. Together we will read selections from the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur’an with a view to the various historical contexts in which these writings took shape, were united in different scriptural canons, and influenced or otherwise came to share common material with one another. The course will also consider how these three traditions have shaped the development of western culture.

- Fulfills Arts & Humanities requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum (Area 4)
- Is required for new Religion majors and minors
- Multi-Cultural Competence
- Integrated Writing
- Middle Eastern Studies Minor

**NON-WESTERN RELIGIONS**
REL 2320-01 Carmine Anastasio 11:00-12:20 T&Th
REL 2320-02 Carmine Anastasio 12:30-1:50 T&Th
REL 2320-03 Judson Murray 2:00-3:20 T&Th

This course is a general introduction to various nonwestern religious traditions. Examples of religions typically covered include Buddhism, Hinduism, Shinto, Zen, Daoism, Confucianism, and/or Native American religions. The class explores how nonwestern religions have addressed, in diverse ways, fundamental religious questions and problems. For example, what is the world? What are human beings? How should we live, and what should we do? And what is the significance of life? There are no prerequisites for enrolling in this course, and no prior knowledge is assumed.

- Fulfills Global Studies requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum (Area 3)
- Is required for new Religion majors and minors
- Multi-Cultural Competence
- Integrated Writing

**INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM**
REL 3300/5300-01 Awad Halabi 4:40-7:20 Monday evening

The course is intended as an introduction to Islam, its practices and institutions. Topics that will be covered in class include the life of Muhammad, the development of the Islamic community, Islamic theology and law, the various branches of belief (Sunni and Shi‘i), Sufism, the themes of the Qur’an, gender issues, modern Islam and how Muslims have responded to the challenges of the modern era.

- Fulfills the Western Religions area requirement for the Religion major.

**JAPANESE RELIGIONS**
REL 3420/5420-01 Judson Murray 11:00-12:20 T&Th

This course will be a historical and contemporary survey of religious life in Japan. The purpose of the course is to provide students with an appreciation and overview of the varieties of Japanese religions and the theoretical issues raised by them for the study of religion. The course also seeks to demonstrate the vital role religious thought and
practice has played in Japanese history, culture, and society. We will survey Shinto, the varieties of Japanese Buddhism, and Japanese “New” religions, and we will examine topics including: religious doctrine, faith and devotion, self-cultivation and enlightenment, monasticism, and religion and the state.

- Fulfills the East Asia area requirement for the Religion major.

**HINDUISM**

**REL 3440/5440-01**

Valerie Stoker

12:20-1:15 MWF

With one billion adherents, Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world, after Christianity and Islam. It is also one of the most ancient, internally diverse, and interesting. Take this course to learn about various Hindu beliefs, practices, philosophical systems, gods, goddesses, mythic narratives, and pilgrimage places. Our approach will be historical and thematic and will combine the reading of Hindu texts with exposure to Hindu art, architecture, music, rituals and festivals.

- Fulfills the South Asia area requirement for the Religion major.

**GENESIS**

**REL 3730/5730-01, ENG 3010-01**

Mark Verman

2:00-3:20 T&Th

Genesis is not only the foundation of the Bible; its values and concerns form the bedrock of western civilization. Although many of its stories are well known, when have you ever had the opportunity to seriously probe and explore the subtle meanings of these marvelous tales? Robert Alter’s masterful translation and commentary enhance our appreciation for the nuances of the original Hebrew language of Genesis and Stephanie Dalley’s anthology of ancient Mesopotamian creation and flood myths sheds important light on the origins of these narratives.

- Fulfills the Biblical Studies area requirement for Religion majors & minors

**LETTERS OF PAUL**

**REL 3770/5770-01**

Heidi Wendt

1:25-2:20 MWF

Whether he is viewed as Christianity’s first convert or its most polarizing figure, one cannot deny that the apostle Paul played a vital role in the development and spread of Christian forms of religion. In the first part of the course we will read Paul’s letters alongside non-Christian sources for the period in order to situate his activities within their historical context. We will then trace the legacy of his thought through the next two centuries of Christian history, as the Pauline epistles were granted authority, but also interpreted in different ways, by rival Christian leaders. We will consider topics such as Paul’s influence on New Testament writings; letters written by others in his name; his popularity among so-called ‘gnostic’ circles in the second- and third-centuries; and later traditions about his life and death.

- Fulfills the Biblical Studies area requirement for Religion majors & minors
- Integrated Writing

**Philosophy**

**PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS**

**PHL 2050-01**  Erik Banks  11:15-12:10  MWF

**PHL 2050-02**  Keith Sims  10:10-11:05  MWF

**PHL 2050-03**  Donovan Miyasaki  2:00-3:20  T&Th

Like philosophers through the ages, students in this class will pursue the “big questions” of life. We will discuss such perennially fascinating topics as: Can you survive the death of your body, and if not, can it be bad for you to die? Is
there a God? Is it rational to be moral? Are there “right answers” to ethical questions, or is ethics just subjective? What is the meaning of life? We will examine these questions by reading selections from classic philosophical texts, and put our own beliefs about them under critical scrutiny. Our goal in these discussions will be to appreciate the complexities and difficulties such questions raise for our most fundamental and deeply held beliefs.

- Fulfills Arts & Humanities requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum (Area 4)
- Fulfills the Core Curriculum Area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors
- Integrated Writing

**PHILOSOPHY OF THE STATE & SOCIETY**

**PHL 2100-01**

1:25-2:20 MWF

Many people equate politics with the battle between MSNBC and Fox, between Democrats and Republicans, or between liberals and conservatives. Politics is far more than this, though. In Philosophy of State & Society, we will undertake a novel analysis of the political debates of our time by asking and attempting to answer a series of basic questions, including the following: What is fairness? What is poverty? What are rights? What is diversity? Do humans have a nature, and if so, what is it? What is happiness, and what is the best way to attain it? Which is more important, our motives for acting or the consequences of our actions? Students might not change their political views as a result of taking this course, but they will likely emerge far more knowledgeable about whatever views they hold.

- Fulfills either the Value Theory or the History of Philosophy area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors

**CRITICAL THINKING**

**PHL 3000-01**

Scott Wilson 11:15-12:10 MWF

This course will develop your reasoning skills: your ability to recognize the differences between facts and opinions, to distinguish relevant from irrelevant information, to identify unstated assumptions, to detect bias, to recognize fallacious reasoning, and to evaluate claims, definitions and arguments. It will help you cultivate clear, disciplined, and independent thinking that is readily applicable to your academic, social and personal pursuits.

**NOTE:** All CoLA Majors are required to take PHL 3000 Critical Thinking. If you took one of the following courses prior to Fall 2015, you have fulfilled the CoLA requirement and do not need to take PHL 3000: PHL 2150 Inductive Logic, PHL 2230 Symbolic Logic, PHL 4710 Philosophy of the Physical Sciences, or PHL 4720 Philosophy of the Social Sciences.

**MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY**

**PHL 3020/5020-01**

2:00-3:20 T&Th

Introduction to medieval philosophy through the exploration of the positions taken by key figures (e.g., Augustine, Abelard, Aquinas, Scotus, and Ockham) on central issues such as free will, divine foreknowledge, universals, sin, soul, and mystical experience.

- Fulfills the History of Philosophy area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors
**EXISTENTIALISM**

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<td>PHL 3090/5090-01</td>
<td>Donovan Miyasaki</td>
<td>11:00-12:20</td>
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This course is an introduction to the existential tradition, a philosophical, literary, and cultural movement of the 19th and 20th centuries. Although it has its roots in traditional philosophical questions about freedom and moral responsibility, existential philosophers departed dramatically from tradition by emphasizing concrete, passionate, personal experience over abstract reason, viewing individual and human identity as products of radically free acts of self-creation, affirming anxiety, uncertainty, and absurdity as inescapable elements of the human condition, and rejecting traditional moral codes and philosophical ethical systems. We’ll read many key philosophers in the tradition, including Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, and Beauvoir, as well as a literary works by Dostoyevsky, Kafka, and Camus.

- Fulfills either the History of Philosophy or the Value Theory area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors

**BIOETHICS**

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<td>PHL 3780/5780-01</td>
<td>Scott Wilson</td>
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This class will focus on some of the moral problems and controversies that arise in a medical setting. Possible problems we will discuss include: abortion, euthanasia, the question of the value of human life, the allocation of scarce medical resources, and the question of relation between our obligations to future generations and the moral status of eugenics.

- Fulfills the Value Theory area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors
- Integrated Writing

**ANCIENT SCIENCE**

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<td>PHL 3990/5990-01, CLS 3500/4100/5500-01, HST 4000/6000-01</td>
<td>Erik Banks &amp; Rebecca Edwards</td>
<td>2:30-3:25</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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Want to build a catapult, blow things up, and recreate the siege of Syracuse? Take Ancient Science, a new course offered jointly by the Classics and Philosophy Departments in Spring 2014. In this course, students will learn how science and technology developed in Classical civilization, from theories of the universe found in pre-Socratic philosophy to the advances in engineering necessary to keep the Roman Empire functioning smoothly. We will study ancient theories about the origins of the universe and the role played by the great scientist Archimedes, who invented the screw pump and several intriguing weapons of war, including a great claw known as the “ship-shaker.” We will use a hands-on approach to learning, studying ancient mathematical principles and physical theories by building the structures on which they depend, like arches and aqueducts. In the process, we will investigate how history, science, and philosophy intertwine and how historical change drives technological development. No prerequisite.

- Fulfills the History of Philosophy area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors.

**Classics**

**INTRODUCTION TO GREEK & ROMAN CULTURE**

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<td>CLS 1500-01</td>
<td>Greg Pellam</td>
<td>10:10-11:05</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1500-02</td>
<td>Aaron Wolpert</td>
<td>8:00-9:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1500-03</td>
<td>Greg Pellam</td>
<td>9:05-10:00</td>
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This course is an introductory survey of ancient Greece and Rome. We will focus primarily on political, social and military history but we will not ignore art, architecture and literature. By the end of the term you should have a good sense of how Greek and Roman political ideas and institutions developed and operated, the kinds of social problems each era and culture faced, as well as an understanding of broader cultural trends and ideas which originated in antiquity and are still with us today. The core values of these two cultures, along with their achievements and failings, have been and remain deeply influential on our own world.

- Fulfills the History requirement in the WSU core curriculum (Area 3)
- Required for all Classical Humanities minors

INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

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<td>CLS 1600-01</td>
<td>Aaron Wolpert</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1600-03</td>
<td>Jeannette Marchand</td>
<td>11:15-12:10</td>
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<td>CLS 1600-04</td>
<td>Rebecca Edwards</td>
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The stories that explain the world for a given society reveal far more than its members imagine; this is why we study myth. Much more than idle speculation on meteorological phenomena and the predilections of the gods, myth limns the boundaries of the socially possible, and therefore the scaffolding of culture itself. When the Greeks reveled in the inexorable tragedy of Oedipus, for example, they weren’t attempting to deal with a literal social problem. Incest as a theoretical possibility, rather, opened up space for a discussion of fate and will and self-knowledge, ever-unresolved tensions. In this course we’ll read the mythology of the ancient Mediterranean -- from Sumer to Rome -- as a fantasy index to real-world sociopolitical quandaries. We’ll encounter Sumerians puzzling through the origins of kingship, Egyptians pondering the eternity of the Nile, Greeks coming to grips with the cultural kaleidoscope of the Mediterranean, and Romans justifying imperial violence. In each case we’ll survey literature, visual expression, and religious practice for the on-the-ground experience of myth...never looking for some absolute original tale but chasing and appreciating the constant revision and reworking of stories that told communities who they were.

- Fulfills the Arts & Humanities requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum (Area 4).

GREEK TRAGEDY

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<td>CLS 3300-01/4100-02/5300-01</td>
<td>Jeannette Marchand</td>
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Tragedy reached its definitive form in the specific cultural milieu of fifth century Athens, and since this is a course offered through the Classics department, one of our main focuses in this course will be on investigating how Greek tragedies reflect the concerns and the mindset of the society in which and for which they were originally composed. However, as pure works of art, the plays encourage us to consider timeless sources of conflict, such as male vs. female and individual vs. community; by attempting to understand the ancient view on these conflicts and on enduring questions of human existence embedded in the source myths on which these plays were based, we as a class will also have an opportunity to discuss how ancient views and concerns differ from those of our current society. We will also attempt never to forget that tragedy was a performance art; in addition to discussing how each play might have been staged, we will further explore the conventions and constraints of tragic performance by giving our own performances in class. Classicist and poet Cedric Whitman once said, “Though the gods may surpass men in essential power and being, they are barred by their own deathlessness from the dignity of tragedy, or the greatness of self-mastery.” Come and find out what he meant.

- Integrated Writing

ANCIENT SCIENCE

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- Fulfills the History of Philosophy area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors.

### GR 1010-01
**BEGINNING GREEK**
Jeannette Marchand
9:05-10:00 MWF

Our focus will be on establishing a solid foundation in the basics of classical Attic Greek, with a view toward being able to read classical texts in their original and to explicate their grammar and syntax. In the process, we will review basic rules of English grammar and emphasize the importance of rigorous and consistent drilling and study. We will begin by learning the alphabet, rules of punctuation, and the basic grammar necessary for learning an inflected language; in addition to proficiency in translating basic sentences, we will also emphasize pronunciation practice and reading aloud, the use of correct terminology in parsing sentences and in explaining grammar, and to a lesser degree, composition.

### GR 2010/4530-01
**INTERMEDIATE GREEK / XENOPHON**
Bruce Laforse
10:10-11:05 MWF

Xenophon’s *Anabasis, or The Trip Up-country.* Through reading this classic war memoir and adventure story, which retells the Athenian philosopher and general Xenophon’s first experience as a commander when he played a key role in guiding ten thousand Greek mercenaries back to the Greek world from the very heart of the Persian Empire, we shall review and reinforce the basic tenets and forms of Classical Greek vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. Xenophon’s prose style is famous for its lucidity and accessibility, especially to the beginning student. We shall read as much as we can in Greek while covering the rest of this fascinating and groundbreaking work in English.

### LAT 1010-01
**BEGINNING LATIN**
Rebecca Edwards
11:15-12:10 MWF

Beginning Latin 1: This class will introduce students to the fundamentals of Latin grammar and syntax. We will use sentences from ancient authors like Cicero, Caesar, Virgil, and Horace to develop skills in reading Latin. Students will also learn basic Latin vocabulary, useful not only in reading Latin, but in deciphering English derivatives.

### LAT 2010/3550-01
**INTERMEDIATE LATIN / CATULLUS**
Bruce Laforse
12:20-1:15 MWF

The first century BC poet Catullus specialized in highly personal and extremely vivid poems about his love-life, his fellow poets, poetry itself, as well as poking fun at some of the great figures of his time. Through his verbal dexterity, great insight, and humor, we get a sense of the passions of this fascinating and highly skilled poet, a member of the Roman elite during one of the most interesting periods in Roman history. The poems are mostly brief, accessible, and great fun. This course will both enhance your grasp of Latin syntax and grammar as well as give you an intimate view of Roman culture and society.