Religion

NON-WESTERN RELIGIONS  Judson Murray
REL 2320-A90  on-line course
REL 2320-B90  on-line course

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 the Global Studies requirement in the WSU Core curriculum (Area 3)
- Required for all Religion majors and minors
- Integrated Writing

CHRISTIANS IN THE ROMAN WORLD  Heidi Wendt
9:50-11:30  MTWR
REL 3200/5200, CLS 3500/5500, HST 4000/6000-B01

This course explores the historical development of Christianity from its origins in the 1C CE until the official suppression of non-Christian forms of religion at the end of the 4C. We will consider a number of events, circumstances, and dynamics that shape our understanding of early Christian history, including but not limited to the spread and diversity of teachings about Christ, second- and third-century debates among rival Christian experts, the so-called Gnostics, the formation of the New Testament canon, and Roman efforts to investigate and punish Christians (‘martyrdom’). Readings will consist of primary sources, both Christian and non-Christian, as well as a selection of relevant scholarly literature.

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

HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE & FILM  Mark Verman
1:30-3:10  MTWR
REL 3900/5900-A01

The Holocaust defies easy explanations. The complexity of the historical events before and during WWII is compounded by the magnitude of human suffering and death. We shall sample a variety of cinematic gems and genres, including Night and Fog, The Pianist and Shoah. Additionally, we will read an insightful historical overview by Doris Bergen, Wladyslaw Szpilman’s memoir upon which The Pianist was based, and Joshua Hirsch’s thought-provoking analysis of Holocaust films and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

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

PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS
PHL 2050-A01 Scott Wilson 11:40-1:20 MTWR
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 the Arts & Humanities requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum. (Area 4)
- Fulfills the Core Curriculum Area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors.

PHILOSOPHY OF STATE & SOCIETY
PHL 2100-B01 William Irvine 11:40-1:20 MTWR
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 the Arts & Humanities requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum. (Area 4)

CRITICAL THINKING
PHL 3000-A01 Scott Wilson 9:50-11:30 MTWR
PHL 3000-B01 William Irvine 1:30-3:10 MTWR
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.
**Classics**

**INTRODUCTION TO GREEK & ROMAN CULTURE**

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<tr>
<td>CLS 1500-A01</td>
<td>Krishni Burns</td>
<td>9:50-11:30 MTWR</td>
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<td>CLS 1500-B01</td>
<td>Bruce Laforse</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.

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**INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**

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<tr>
<td>CLS 1600-B01</td>
<td>Rebecca Edwards</td>
<td>1:30-3:10 MTWR</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 revealed 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)