Religion

**BIBLE, QUR'AN, & WESTERN CULTURE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 2040-01</td>
<td>Mark Verman</td>
<td>12:30-1:50</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 2040-02</td>
<td>Mark Verman</td>
<td>2:00-3:20</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 2040-03</td>
<td>Peter Bekins</td>
<td>10:10-11:05</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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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)
- Religion major and minor requirement
- Multi-Cultural Competence in Core
- Integrated Writing in Core
- Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor elective

**NON-WESTERN RELIGIONS**

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>REL 2320-01</td>
<td>Carmine Anastasio</td>
<td>2:00-3:20</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 2320-02</td>
<td>Carmine Anastasio</td>
<td>3:30-4:50</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 2320-90</td>
<td>Judson Murray</td>
<td>on-line course</td>
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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)
- Religion major and minor requirement
- Multi-Cultural Competence in Core
- Integrated Writing in Core

**INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM**

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>REL 3300/5300-01</td>
<td>Awad Halabi</td>
<td>6:10-8:50</td>
<td>Wednesday evening</td>
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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
- Middle East & Islamic Studies Minor requirement

**ASIAN MEDICINE**

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<tr>
<td>REL 3400/4930/5400-01</td>
<td>Judson Murray &amp; Valerie Stoker</td>
<td>12:30-1:50</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
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This course examines different traditions of medicine that originated in ancient China and India. Some of the practices from this ancient period are still in wide use today. The content relating to China begins by describing the early Chinese understanding of the human mind-body. Then we will discuss various diseases, illnesses, and forms of
pain, and identify the different pathogenic agents and forces that the Chinese believed caused them. Next, we consider the processes of examination and diagnosis, and, lastly, we will examine different therapies that were employed to heal the sick and injured, including breath (qi/ch'i) cultivation, diet, exercise, and needle therapy. The India section of the course covers similar issues, focusing on Buddhist, Hindu, and Islamic theories of disease and a range of healing practices such as yoga, Ayurveda, and herbal remedies. This section of the course will also consider the interactions of modern western and traditional Indian medicine in contemporary India.

**RELIGION IN AMERICA**

Ava Chamberlain

REL 3610/5610-01, HST 3600-02, AFS 3990-03
11:00-12:20 T&Th

Among western industrialized nations, the United States is unique both in the rate of religious belief and in the diversity of religious expression. This juxtaposition of religiosity and diversity has, throughout American history, given rise to conflicts and challenges. On the one hand, many early European colonists came to North America in order to freely practice their strongly held religious beliefs, and the right to free exercise of religion is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. On the other hand, many of the groups that populate the American religious landscape value unity and seek to minimize diversity, for they claim to possess exclusive access to the truth and the means of salvation. This course will explore a variety of ways this tension has manifested itself in American history, from the colonial period to the present day. It will consider such issues as puritan piety, witchcraft, immigration, slavery, and evangelicism.

- This course fulfills the American Religion area requirement for the Religion major.

**LETTERS OF PAUL**

Peter Bekins

REL 3700/5700-01
11:15-12:10 MWF

The apostle Paul played a vital role in the development and spread of the nascent Christian movement, and his letters are the earliest writings in the New Testament. In this course we will study Paul's letters in their Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts as well as their reception and interpretation in subsequent Christian communities. We will apply critical methodologies to the texts, such as literary and rhetorical analysis. Finally, we will discuss topics like Paul's view of the messianic age, his role in early controversies, and the implications of his thought for social, political, and ethical issues.

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

**Philosophy**

**PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS**

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<tr>
<td>PHL 2050-01</td>
<td>Jacob Bauer</td>
<td>12:20-1:15</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHL 2050-02</td>
<td>Donovan Miyasaki</td>
<td>12:30-1:50</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHL 2050-03</td>
<td>Donovan Miyasaki</td>
<td>11:00-12:20</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
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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 in Core
Wright State University ❖ Fall 2018 Schedule ❖ RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, CLASSICS

PHILOSOPHY OF STATE & SOCIETY
PHL 2100-01
William Irvine
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
PHL 3000-02
Linda Farmer
9:30-10:50 T&Th
PHL 3000-03
Jacob Bauer
9:05-10:00 MWF
PHL 3000-04
Linda Farmer
11:00-12:20 T&Th
PHL 3000-05
Jacob Bauer
10:10-11:05 MWF
PHL 3000-90
Scott Wilson
on-line course
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.

- All CoLA Majors are required to take PHL 3000, Critical Thinking

AESTHETICS & PHILOSOPHY OF ART
PHL 3410/5410-01
Donovan Miyasaki
3:30-4:50 T&Th
In this course we’ll discuss philosophical theories of art. Are the fine arts different from mere entertainment? Are there objective artistic standards? What is the goal of art? Is it to express emotion, communicate truth, or just produce pleasure? Can immoral artworks still be good art? By critically examining our prejudices and reflecting more closely on our artistic experiences, we’ll develop a richer sense of why we value the arts. Readings will include historical works by Plato, Tolstoy, Nietzsche, and Walter Benjamin, as well as contemporary philosophers such as Arthur Danto.

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

BIOETHICS
PHL 3780/5780-01
Scott Wilson
1:25-2:20 MWF
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
**Wright State University  ❖  Fall 2018 Schedule  ❖  RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, CLASSICS**

**FAITH & REASON**  
Linda Farmer  
PHL 3830/5830, REL 3930/5930-01  
2:00-3:20  T&Th  

Does God exist? Are any of the arguments for God’s existence any good? Is belief in God compatible with being a rational, intelligent person? Or is faith inherently irrational? What does it mean to believe in God anyway? These questions & more will be explored through primary readings & discussions.  
- Fulfills the Value Theory area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors  
- Integrated Writing

**PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE**  
William Irvine  
PHL 4710-01  
2:30-3:25  MWF  

In the Philosophy of Physical Science we explore the scientific method and its philosophical implications. Early in the course, we examine the difference between science and religion by taking a look at the debate between evolution, creationism, and intelligent design. Then we consider the “deep ancestry” of modern human beings, exploring not just our family trees but our position in the tree of life. We trace this tree back to its root—the origin of life on earth. We also examine the history of the genes in our DNA as well as the history of the individual atoms that comprise us. In this last examination, we consider scientific theories about the origin of the universe and the reasons scientists have for proposing those theories.  
- Fulfills the Core Curriculum Area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors

**Classics**

**INTRODUCTION TO GREEK & ROMAN CULTURE**  
CLS 1500-01  Bruce Lafortse  
12:20-1:15  MWF  
CLS 1500-02  Aaron Wolpert  
8:00-9:20  T&Th  
CLS 1500-03  Shawn Daniels  
9:05-10:00  MWF  
CLS 1500-04  Aaron Wolpert  
9:30-10:50  T&Th  
CLS 1500-05  Shawn Daniels  
11:15-12:10  MWF  

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 Languages & Cultures minors

**INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**  
CLS 1600-01  Aaron Wolpert  
12:30-1:50  T&Th  
CLS 1600-02  Aaron Wolpert  
2:00-3:20  T&Th  
CLS 1600-03  Jeannette Marchand  
12:20-1:15  MWF  Honors Section  
CLS 1600-04  Jeannette Marchand  
10:10-11:05  MWF  

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)

**GREEK TRAGEDY**

CLS 3300/4100/5300-01

Jeannette Marchand

2:30-3:25 MWF

Tragedy reached its definitive form in the specific cultural milieu of fifth century Athens. Since this is a course offered through the Classics department, our main focus in this course will be on investigating how Greek tragedies reflect the mindset of the society in which and for which they were originally composed. We will also be considering the plays as some of the greatest and most complex works of literature ever produced, and as pure works of art, they encourage us to reflect on timeless sources of conflict. By attempting to understand the ancient view on enduring questions of human existence such as male vs. female and the individual vs. society, we will have the opportunity to discuss how ancient views and concerns differed from those of our current society. We will also attempt never to forget that tragedy was a performance art; in addition to discussing how the plays might have been staged, we will explore the conventions and constraints of tragic performance by giving our own performances in class at the end of the semester. 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.

**BEGINNING GREEK /XENOPHON**

GR 1010/2010/4530/6530-01

Bruce Laforse

10:10-11:05 MWF

**BEGINNING LATIN 1**

LAT 1010-01

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.

**INTERMEDIATE LATIN/TACITUS**

LAT 2010/4530/6530-01

Rebecca Edwards

1:25-2:20 MWF

The goal of this class is to learn how to read Latin at a more advanced level. In order to do so we will read selections from various works of Tacitus, including his treatise on the demise of oratory under an emperor, his biography of his father-in-law Agricola, and his ethnographic writing on the early Germans. Upper-level students will read more of the historical works on the early Roman emperors (including the scandalous Nero).

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**2018 Summer Session**

Summer A is May 7 to June 14; Summer B is June 18 to July 26

**Summer 2018 Religion**

**NON-WESTERN RELIGIONS**

REL 2320-A90 Judson Murray 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

**Summer 2018 Philosophy**

**CRITICAL THINKING**

- **PHL 3000-A90** Jacob Bauer on-line course
- **PHL 3000-B90** Scott Wilson on-line course

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.

**Summer 2018 Classics**

**INTRODUCTION TO GREEK & ROMAN CULTURE**

- **CLS 1500-A01** Bruce Laforse 9:50-11:30 M-Th

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 Languages & Literatures minors.

**INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**

- **CLS 1600-B01** Shawn Daniels 9:50-11:30 M-Th

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)