Religion

**BIBLE, QUR’AN, & WESTERN CULTURE**

REL 2040-01  
Mark Verman  
12:20-1:15  MWF

REL 2040-02  
Mark Verman  
2:30-3:25  MWF

REL 2040-03  
Peter Bekins  
9:30-10:50  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)
- Required for Religion majors and minors
- Multi-Cultural Competence
- Integrated Writing
- Middle East & Islamic Studies Minor elective

**NON-WESTERN RELIGIONS**

REL 2320-01  
Carmine Anastasio  
2:00-3:20  T&Th

REL 2320-02  
Carmine Anastasio  
3:30-4:50  T&Th

REL 2320-03  
Judson Murray  
11:15-12:10  MWF  Honors Section

REL 2320-90  
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 Global Studies requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum (Area 3)
- Required for Religion majors and minors
- Multi-Cultural Competence
- Integrated Writing

**INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM**

REL 3310/5310-01, AFS 3990-03  
Awad Halabi  
6:10-8:50  Wednesday 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
- Middle East & Islamic Studies Minor requirement
**ZEN BUDDHISM**  
**Judson Murray**  
**REL 3470/5470-01**  
1:25-2:20 MWF  
This course will survey the history, doctrines, and practices of Zen Buddhism in China, where it originated and where it is called Chan Buddhism, and in Japan, where it has influenced many aspects of Japanese culture and where it was exported to the West. Topics to be examined include: Zen understandings of enlightenment, techniques of Zen meditation to reach enlightenment, Zen monastic life, Zen and the arts, women and Zen, and Zen and western philosophy. We will also explore how the Japanese Zen tradition was transplanted onto America soil where it has influenced various aspects of American religious and cultural life.  
- Fulfills the East Asia area requirement for the Religion major.  
- Meets course requirement for both Chinese Studies minor and the International Studies major

**HINDU MYTHOLOGY**  
**Valerie Stoker**  
**REL 3480/5480-01**  
12:30-1:50 T&Th  
This course will explore the following questions: What is myth and why is it significant for the study of religion? Can we speak of a “Hindu mythology”? How have Hindus organized their sacred narratives and what kinds of religious themes do these stories convey? How are Hindu sacred narratives related to Hindu beliefs and practices? How have scholars analyzed Hindu mythic traditions? What intellectual issues are at stake in reading mythology across cultures? Class time will be devoted to lectures, slide-shows, discussions, the viewing of documentary films, and (perhaps) a trip to the Hindu Temple of Dayton. Students will do a paper that offers a critical reading of a religious text.  
- Fulfills the South Asia area requirement for the Religion major.  
- Meets course requirement for the International Studies major

**WOMEN & RELIGION IN AMERICA**  
**Ava Chamberlain**  
**REL 3630/5630-01, WGS 3200/5200-01, AFS 3990-05**  
2:00-3:20 T&Th  
In America, religious practice is closely tied to gender. This course will investigate a variety of ways that the relation between religion and gender has expressed itself in US history. Ranging from the colonial period to the present, we will consider how religion has shaped the lives of ordinary women and how religious experience has led women beyond the bounds of ordinary religious experience. We will look at such issues as women’s religious roles in society, witchcraft, women’s charismatic ministry, and the struggle for women’s ordination.  
- Fulfills the American Religions area requirement for Religion majors

**FOUR GOSPELS**  
**Peter Bekins**  
**REL 3760/5760-01**  
11:00-12:20 T&Th  
This course introduces students to the critical study of the canonical gospels, as well as a selection of non-canonical texts (e.g., the Gospel of Thomas, the writings of Josephus, the Life of Apollonius of Tyana, etc.) that are suggestive for thinking about broader questions of genre, composition, dating, historicity, authorial interest, intended audience, canonization, and, most importantly, the relationship of gospel literature to early Christian religious practice. In addition to close readings of the canonical gospels, we will also investigate the wider context of literary production and intellectual life in the first and second centuries of the Roman Empire. There are no prerequisites for the course, and no prior knowledge of the New Testament is presumed.  
- Fulfills the Biblical Studies area requirement for Religion majors  
- Integrated Writing
GREEK RELIGION & SANCTUARIES
Jeannette Marchand
REL 3790/5790-01
2:30-3:25 MWF
CLS 3400/4100/5400-01
See description under “Classics.”

 Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS
Donovan Miyasaki
12:20-1:15 MWF
Donovan Miyasaki
10:10-11:05 MWF
Jacob Bauer
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
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
Scott Wilson
11:15-12:10 MWF
Linda Farmer
9:30-10:50 T&Th
William Irvine
2:30-3:25 MWF
Linda Farmer
11:00-12:20 T&Th
Erik Banks
10:10-11:05 MWF
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.
ETHICS  
Scott Wilson  
PHL 3110/5110-01  
1:25-2:20  MWF
This course will familiarize students with contemporary meta-ethics. Unlike normative ethics or applied ethics, meta-ethics is not concerned with determining what actions are right or wrong, or what sorts of things are good or bad. Instead, meta-ethics is concerned with questions such as: Can ethics be objective? What does it mean to say that something is objective or subjective? If ethics is not objective, then how should we understand ethical statements? Are ethical properties secondary qualities? Do ethical judgments necessarily give us reasons to act? Do ethical judgments necessarily motivate us to act? As this is an upper-level seminar, prior classes in philosophy will be useful to do well in the course.

- Fulfills the Value Theory area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors
- Integrated Writing
- Medical Humanities & Health Studies minor requirement

THEORIES OF HUMAN NATURE  
Linda Farmer  
PHL 3650/5650-01  
2:00-3:20  T&Th
Is there such as thing as human nature? If so, what is it? In this course, we will explore the idea of human nature and various understandings of it put forward by such diverse thinkers as Aristotle, Descartes, Rousseau, Marx, Freud, E. O. Wilson, Wollstonecraft, and Sartre. What theories do they present? Are they well argued for? What are their theories’ social, personal, and political implications? These are just some of the interesting questions we shall be raising throughout the quarter.

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

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE FICTION  
Erik Banks  
PHL 3990/5990-01  
2:30-3:25  MWF
Are science fiction writers philosophical? You bet. We will look at novels from Asimov, Bradbury, Heinlein, Kurt Vonnegut, Frank Herbert, Stanislaw Lem, Philip K Dick, William Gibson, Ursula K. LeGuin and many more. This course requires only a desire to read the classics of science fiction and to expand your mind.

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

PHILOSOPHY, LITERATURE, FILM  
Donovan Miyasaki  
PHL 3990/5990-02  
11:00-12:20  T&Th
Modern European philosophy forged a new relationship with the arts, applying aesthetic perspectives to philosophical questions. We’ll explore this development in French and German literature and film. With Nietzsche, we’ll wonder whether freedom is reason or passion, in conversation with Hoffman’s story “The Sandman” and Herzog’s film Agrid, the Wrath of God. We’ll worry with Heidegger and Adorno over technology and mass culture, with help from Ionesco’s play Rhinoceros and Lang and Tati’s films Metropolis and Mon Oncle. Finally, we’ll explore the socially constructed self in Foucault, alongside Kafka’s story “In the Penal Colony” and Truffaut’s film The 400 Blows. Along the way, we’ll sample poetic works by Rimbaud, Baudelaire, and Brecht.

- Fulfills either the History of Philosophy or the Value Theory area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors
HEALTH CARE ETHICS
PHL 3990/5990-03, BIO 4030-01
Mary White
4:40-7:20 Monday evening
Ongoing advances in biology and medicine regularly raise new and challenging ethical questions in health care and public health. This course, an introduction to health care ethics, will explore many of these questions through legal, philosophical, and religious perspectives. Through analysis of readings representing diverse points of view, discussion, debates, and writing exercises, students will hone their awareness of the prevalence of ethical issues in health care, common ethical principles and theoretical frameworks used to guide decision-making, and the role of implicit biases and heuristics on moral judgment. This course will provide a strong foundation in clinical ethics for students interested in careers in medicine, nursing, psychology, or public health.

- Fulfills the Value Theory area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors
- Medical Humanities & Health Studies minor elective

Classics

INTRODUCTION TO GREEK & ROMAN CULTURE
CLS 1500-01 Bruce Laforse 10:10-11:05 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 Language & Literature 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
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 RELIGION & SANCTUARIES

Jeannette Marchand

CLS 3400/4100/5400-01, REL 3790/5790-01

2:30-3:25 MWF

Join us on a tour of the archaeological remains of the sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi, of Demeter and Kore at Eleusis, of Asclepius at Epidauros, and of many other Greek sanctuaries both famous and obscure, on which we will consider the degree to which the image of the cult practice conducted at these sites conforms (or not) to the one presented in myth and in literary sources. Along the way, we will confront the problematic question: can we, at such a great remove of time and culture, understand what their religion and cults actually meant to the Greeks?

- Integrated Writing
- Fulfills the Western Religions area requirement for the Religion major

BEGINNING GREEK / HERODOTUS

Jeannette Marchand

GR 1010/2010/4530-01

10:10-11:05 MWF

This is the first quarter of beginning Ancient Greek. 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.

BEGINNING LATIN

Bruce Laforse

LAT 1010-01

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/HORACE

Bruce Laforse

LAT 2010/3550-01

1:25-2:20 MWF

We will read a selection of Horace’s Odes in Latin as well as others in translation. The aims of the course will be: 1. to expand and reinforce your knowledge of Latin grammar and vocabulary; 2. to hone your reading and translation skills; 3. to help you begin to understand and (I hope) appreciate the skill and art of Horace; 4. in order to achieve #3 introduce you to the culture and background in which the poet lived and wrote.