Religion

BIBLE, QUR’AN, & WESTERN CULTURE

REL 2040-01 Peter Bekins 11:15-12:10 MWF
REL 2040-02 Mark Verman 2:00-3:20 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)
- Religion major and minor requirement
- Multi-Cultural Competence in Core
- Integrated Writing in Core
- Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor elective

WHAT IS RELIGION?

REL 2050-01 Valerie Stoker 2:00-3:20 T&Th

This course will explore fundamental yet challenging questions for all students of religion: what is religion and how best does one study it? To answer these questions, we will explore the ideas of some of the most famous theorists of religion including Frazer, Freud, Durkheim, and Marx. We will also adopt a case study approach that will consider, in comparative perspective, the features of different religious traditions from around the world. Using this combined approach, students will learn to make their own contributions to the field of religious studies.

- Religion major and minor requirement

NON-WESTERN RELIGIONS

REL 2320-01 Carmine Anastasio 11:00-12:20 T&Th
REL 2320-02 Carmine Anastasio 2:00-3:20 T&Th
REL 2320-03 Judson Murray 3:30-4:50 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)
- Religion major and minor requirement
- Multi-Cultural Competence in Core
- Integrated Writing in Core
DEAD SEA SCROLLS  
REL 3100/4930/5100-01, HST 3450-01  
Mark Verman  
12:30-1:50  
T&Th

This ancient collection of biblical and extra-biblical texts was compiled by a group of radical Jewish priests known as the Essenes. Their writings and message influenced John the Baptist and Jesus. Come delve into some of the most fascinating literature that has ever been preserved. This course will satisfy the Western Religion or the Biblical Studies requirement & is writing intensive.

- Fulfills the Biblical Studies area requirement for the Religion major

ASIAN PHILOSOPHY  
Judson Murray  
PHL 3990/5990-02, REL 3400/5400-02  
11:00-12:20  
T&Th

This introductory course on Asian philosophy will examine various themes of interest to Chinese, Japanese, and Indian thinkers spanning a range of historical periods from classical to more contemporary times. These themes include, among other subjects, death (and life), human nature, knowledge, ethics, self-cultivation, sociopolitical philosophy, and aesthetics. We will read key writings in Asian thought (in English translation) and analyze how seminal thinkers conceived of the ideal life, the way to attain it, and the problems that often prevent people from living such a life, which must be overcome. This course fulfills a degree requirement in majors including Philosophy, Religion, and International Studies.

RELIGION & POLITICS IN AMERICA  
Ava Chamberlain  
REL 3640/5640-01, PLS 3150-01, AFS 3890-03  
1:25-2:20  
MWF

Despite – or because of – the constitutional separation of church & state, there is a close relationship between religion & politics in the United States. In this course we will examine the nature of this relationship both historically & in its contemporary manifestations. We will begin with a discussion of such contemporary issues as how religious affiliation affects voting behavior. We will then gain some historical perspective on the contemporary situation by examining the debate surrounding the composition of the First Amendment. Given this historical background, we will turn to the development of modern legal definitions of religious establishment & free exercise.

- Fulfills the American Religion area requirement for the Religion major
- Fulfills senior seminar requirement for Religion majors
- Integrated Writing

JEWISH & CHRISTIAN APOCALPTES  
Peter Bekins  
REL 3700/5700-01  
10:10-11:05  
MWF

Apocalypse is a genre of literature that was first written by Jewish communities in response to Greek and Roman rule. The stories shift the action from earth to heaven to explain the origin and spread of evil. Ultimately, they envision a dramatic reversal in which evil is destroyed and the righteous live peacefully in a new age of justice. Apocalypses are found in the biblical books of Daniel and Revelation, but we will also study Jewish and Christian writings from outside the Bible, such as 1 Enoch, The War Rule, and the Shepherd of Hermas. We will explore apocalypse as a literary genre by asking which elements make a text apocalyptic, and we will examine the social and political contexts of the communities in which such texts became popular.

- Fulfills the Biblical Studies area requirement for the Religion major
Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS
PHL 2050-01  Donovan Miyasaki  1:25-2:20  MWF
PHL 2050-02  Keith Sims  2:00-3:20  T&Th
PHL 2050-03  Jacob Bauer  12:20-1:15  MWF

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

CRITICAL THINKING
PHL 3000-01  Jacob Bauer  10:10-11:05  MWF
PHL 3000-02  William Irvine  1:25-2:20  MWF
PHL 3000-03  Linda Farmer  9:30-10:50  T&Th
PHL 3000-04  Linda Farmer  11:00-12:20  T&Th
PHL 3000-90  Scott Wilson  on-line course
PHL 3000-91  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

SYMBOLIC LOGIC

PHL 3200-01  William Irvine  2:30-3:25  MWF

Students will learn how to translate English sentences into symbolic sentences, and how to use derivations and truth tables to check the validity of English arguments. In this class, we will explore both propositional logic, which deals with the logical connectives if, and, and or, as well as predicate logic, which deals with the logic of sentences that make claims of existence (“Some men are married”) or of universality (“All men are married.”). This course has no prerequisite. Students who have zero logical ability will be transformed, in small steps, into students capable of doing complex derivations.

- This course is required for all Philosophy majors
- Prerequisite is PHL 3000, Critical Thinking
### SHAKESPEARE & PHILOSOPHY

**PHL 3990/5990-01, ENG 4200-01**  
5:00-6:20  T&Th  
Linda Farmer, Carol Mejia-LaPerle  
An in-depth analysis, both literary and philosophical, of the following plays by Shakespeare: Othello, The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, and The Tempest. This course requires active engagement and involves debates, presentations, readings in philosophy (in addition to the works studied), and a major research paper.

### ASIAN PHILOSOPHY

**PHL 3990/5990-02, REL 3400/5400-02**  
11:00-12:20  T&Th  
Judson Murray  
This introductory course on Asian philosophy will examine various themes of interest to Chinese, Japanese, and Indian thinkers spanning a range of historical periods from classical to more contemporary times. These themes include, among other subjects, death (and life), human nature, knowledge, ethics, self-cultivation, sociopolitical philosophy, and aesthetics. We will read key writings in Asian thought (in English translation) and analyze how seminal thinkers conceived of the ideal life, the way to attain it, and the problems that often prevent people from living such a life, which must be overcome. This course fulfills a degree requirement in majors including Philosophy, Religion, and International Studies.

### ETHICS SEMINAR

**PHL 4110/6110-01**  
12:30-1:50  T&Th  
Jacob Bauer  
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
- Fulfills the History of Philosophy area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors
- Integrated Writing
# Classics

## Introduction to Greek & Roman Culture

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<th>Class Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1500-01</td>
<td>Shawn Daniels</td>
<td>9:05-10:00</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1500-02</td>
<td>Shawn Daniels</td>
<td>10:10-11:05</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1500-03</td>
<td>Aaron Wolpert</td>
<td>8:00-9:20</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1500-04</td>
<td>Aaron Wolpert</td>
<td>9:30-10:50</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 Languages & Cultures minors

## Introduction to Classical Mythology

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<td>CLS 1600-01</td>
<td>Aaron Wolpert</td>
<td>12:30-1:50</td>
<td>T&amp;Th</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1600-02</td>
<td>Shawn Daniels</td>
<td>1:25-2:20</td>
<td>MWF</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 Historiography

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<td>CLS 3300/4100/5300-01, HST 4000/6000-01</td>
<td>Bruce Laforse</td>
<td>9:05-10:00</td>
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It has been fashionable in some circles to argue that history is dead. Whether or not that is so, it is worth examining when history and historiography were invented. Who decided to write down a record of the past? Under what conditions, influences and circumstances? Why? What were the first historians trying to do? How does that compare with what modern historians do? To what extent have the ancient historians shaped the work and approaches of their modern counterparts? To get some perspective on these questions we will read the works (in translation), in their entirety, of the first two great historians of fifth century BCE Greece, Herodotus and Thucydides, as well as selections from some of their successors, such as Xenophon. The course is writing intensive.
**BEGINNING GREEK / EURIPIDES**  
**GR 1020/2020/3530-01**  
Jeannette Marchand  
10:10-11:05  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.

**BEGINNING LATIN 2**  
**LAT 1020-01**  
Bruce Laforse  
11:15-12:10  MWF  
This class is a continuation of LAT 1010 and a pre-requisite for LAT 2010. In this course students will continue to learn Latin forms and will work on more advanced grammar. This class will help students prepare to read texts in Latin.

**INTERMEDIATE LATIN/OVID**  
**LAT 2020/3550/5550-01**  
Jeannette Marchand  
1:25-2:20  MWF