Religion

BIBLE, QUR’AN, & WESTERN CULTURE
REL 2040-01   Peter Bekins  11:15-12:10  MWF
REL 2040-02   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)
- 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
               11:00-12:20  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   Judson Murray  9:30-10:50  T&Th  Honors
REL 2320-02   Carmine Anastasio  2:00-3:20  T&Th
REL 2320-90   Judson Murray  on-line course, web only
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
ISLAM IN THE MODERN WORLD
REL 3320/5320-01, AFS 3990-03
6:10-8:50 Wednesday
Awad Halabi
This class investigates how Islamic societies and Muslim thinkers and activists have responded to modernity and how they have understood their religion in a changing and dynamic modern environment. Our sketch of this response stretches from the birth of the modern era in the early nineteenth century until roughly the present. Our study of how Muslims understand their religion in the modern world examines topics such as early Muslim reformers before and shortly after the twentieth century; the challenge of secularism in Islamic societies; Muslim thinkers in the mid-twentieth century; Islamic political groups and movements in the late twentieth century; and the debate of the role of women in a modern Islamic society.

- Fulfills the Western Religion area requirement for the Religion major

COMPARATIVE ASIAN MYSTICISM
REL 3510/5510-01
12:30-1:50 T&Th
Judson Murray
This course examines the religious phenomenon and category of “mysticism” in different Asian traditions, including Buddhism (both Indian Buddhism and Zen Buddhism), Daoism, and Confucianism. We begin by surveying both classical theories of mysticism and some important scholarship on the contemporary debate among scholars concerning “mystical experience.” Then we will analyze important texts from Asian religions in English translation, which have been interpreted by scholars as “mystical” writings, in light of this scholarly debate. Particular topics to be addressed include: (1) the nature of mystical experiences; (2) the relationship between mystical experiences and other aspects of religions such as doctrines, practices, and religious language; and (3) the question of the universality of mystical experience. Also, we will examine how major figures in each Asian religion understand the human self and the problematic conditions of existence that people encounter, the types of mystical training and techniques of self-cultivation they recommend in order to overcome these fundamental problems, and the mystical aims, experiences, and transformations that practitioners experience through sustained and successful training.

- Fulfills South Asian or East Asian Area Requirement for the Religion major

ANGELS & DEMONS IN THE BIBLE
REL 3700/5700-01
1:25-2:20 MWF
Peter Bekins
Many religious traditions imagine an invisible, supernatural world that is inhabited by angels, demons, and other types of spiritual beings. In this class, we will read key texts from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and other post-biblical traditions that discuss such supernatural beings. We will study the ancient mythologies that may have influenced the portrayal of angels and demons in the Bible, and we will also analyze the social and religious functions of the supernatural within these communities.

- Fulfills the Biblical Studies area requirement for the Religion major

PROPHETS & HISTORY
REL 3740/4930/5740-01
2:00-3:20 T&Th
Mark Verman
Biblical prophets constitute one of the core elements of ancient Israelite society. Commissioned to convey the Divine message to the people, prophets attempted to reorient the moral compass of the nation. Although they occasionally made future predictions, they primarily addressed contemporary situations. It is therefore imperative to examine the historical context of prophecies. These extraordinary women and men were impassioned social commentators. They formulated profound
insights into the meaning and interpretation of history and continue to impact the spiritual consciousness of Judaism and Christianity to this day.

- Fulfills the Biblical Studies area requirement for the Religion major
- Religion majors needing to complete Senior Capstone Experience should register for the class as REL 4930.

**Philosophy**

**PHILOSOPHY: THE BIG QUESTIONS**

PHL 2050-01 Keith Sims 3:30-4:50 T&Th
PHL 2050-02 Keith Sims 2:00-3:20 T&Th
PHL 2050-03 Jacob Bauer 10:10-11:05 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 Scott Wilson 11:15-12:10 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 Jacob Bauer on-line course, web only

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

**EXISTENTIALISM**

Donovan Miyasaki

PHL 3090/5090-01 12:20-1:15 MWF

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
- Integrated Writing

**HISTORY OF ETHICS**

Scott Wilson  
PHL 3120/5120-01  
11:00-12:20 T&Th  
This course is designed to introduce students to some of the most important ethical works in the history of philosophy. Philosophers study the history of ethics not just to understand what different ethical philosophers wrote and meant, but also to gain a deeper understanding of the ethical landscape facing us today. Many of our beliefs about what is right and wrong, good and bad, worth choosing or unworthy of choice, are heavily influenced by the history of ethical thought, while other beliefs of ours are idiosyncratic and the product of a particularly contemporary mode of thought. By studying the history of ethical philosophy, students will be able to gain a deeper understanding of their own views, of what the possible alternatives to their views are, and to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of both.

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

**PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**

Linda Farmer  
PHL 3670/5670-01  
2:00-3:20 T&Th  
This course introduces you to complex issues in the philosophy of mind, including several theories of mind, the mind/body problem, the nature of consciousness, artificial intelligence, individuation, propositional attitudes, and mental causation. Prior exposure to philosophy, while not technically required, is highly recommended.

- Fulfills Core Curriculum area requirement for Philosophy majors & minors
- Integrated Writing

**STOICISM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

William Irvine  
PHL 3990/5990-01  
2:30-3:25 MWF  
Stoicism is a two-millennia-old philosophy of life. Among its advocates in the ancient world were the Greeks Zeno of Citium and Chrysippus, as well as the Romans Seneca, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius. But Stoicism isn’t a dead doctrine; indeed, it has come to play an important role in the twenty-first century. The number of self-described Stoics has risen dramatically in the last decade, with the Silicon Valley becoming, somewhat surprisingly, an epicenter of Stoicism. In this course, we will explore the concept of a philosophy of life. We will then take a close look at Stoicism’s history, its principles, and the psychology that lies behind it. And finally, we will explore and experiment with the strategies the Stoics developed for having a good life.

- Fulfills History of Philosophy area requirement
Classics

**INTRODUCTION TO GREEK & ROMAN CULTURE**

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<td>CLS 1500-01</td>
<td>Bruce Laforse</td>
<td>12:20-1:15</td>
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<td>CLS 1500-02</td>
<td>Rebecca Edwards</td>
<td>2:30-3:25</td>
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<td>CLS 1500-03</td>
<td>Aaron Wolpert</td>
<td>8:00-9:20</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>
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<tr>
<td>CLS 1600-02</td>
<td>Jeannette Marchand</td>
<td>10:10-11:05</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)

**GREAT BOOKS CLASSICS: WAR MEMOIRS**

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<td>CLS 2040-01</td>
<td>Bruce Laforse</td>
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War has always been and, it would appear, always will be a central part of human existence. While the literature of war is vast, we shall focus primarily on the work of those who had first-hand experience of war. I am interested in the experience of the average soldier, the men (and now women) who did the killing and the dying, not of the famous generals and political leaders. What was it like? How did this experience affect them? How (and why) do they choose to record their experiences? What are the constants, the divergences, in memoirs from different wars? How, if at all, do cultural differences affect the shape memoirs take (e.g., American and Japanese memoirs from WWII)? We will explore these
and other issues. Our goal is to learn some basic techniques of both historical and comparative literary analysis and to deploy them in examining war memoirs ranging in date from antiquity to the present.

- Fulfills Arts & Humanities requirement in the WSU Core Curriculum (Area 4)
- Fulfills Veterans’ Experience component of the Veterans Services Minor

**ROMAN HISTORIOGRAPHY**  
Rebecca Edwards  
CLS 3500/4100/5500-01,  
HST 4000/6000-01  
Quintilian described history as close to poetry, a sort of poetry in prose (*carmen solutum*). This idea of historiography as an artistic genre rather than a science seems foreign to our notions of how history ought to be written. In this course we will examine how the three major Roman historians – Sallust, Livy, and Tacitus – approached their material, as well as the ways in which their notions of historical writing compare to (and differ from) our own.

- Classics majors needing to complete Senior Capstone Experience should register for the class as CLS 4100.
- CLS 3500 is a Classics elective

**BEGINNING GREEK /PLATO’S APOLOGY**  
Bruce Laforse, Rebecca Edwards  
GR 1020/2020/4510-01  
10:10-11:05 MWF  
The goal of this class is to learn how to read Greek at a more advanced level. In order to do so we will read Plato’s Apology. We will focus primarily on grammar and syntax, but we will also discuss the larger issues of the trial of Socrates and his attitudes toward Athenian democracy.

**BEGINNING LATIN 2**  
Rebecca Edwards  
LAT 1020-01  
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/VERGIL**  
Jeannette Marchand  
LAT 2020/3550/5550-01  
1:25-2:20 MWF  
This course introduces the grammar, syntax, and style of Vergil’s Aeneid. Although the course will focus on advancing translation skills and knowledge of the Latin language, we will also discuss the poem as a work of literature and one with a very specific historical context. Intermediate students will focus on mastering the translation of their first work of poetry and on learning the art of scansion, and on understanding the major themes of the poem. Advanced students will aim for nuanced translations, fluency in reading aloud in meter, and will assist the intermediate students work through the grammar of the poem.