

Coming Soon!

Look for these Upper Division Courses in Religious Studies FALL 2009

<p style="text-align: center;">RS 301 Hebrew Bible Levitt <i>Fulfills Area 1: Sacred Texts</i> Tues & Thurs 12:30 to 1:45</p>	<p>The texts that make up the Hebrew Bible are not merely religious documents. They contain historical data, literary works, legal codes, folkloric materials, and important references to everyday life in ancient Israel. This course provides samples of all these and analyzes each section of the Hebrew Bible in the light of contemporary scholarship and archaeological discoveries, including other Near Eastern texts that originate from the biblical period.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RS 305 New Testament Moore <i>Fulfills Area 1: Sacred Texts</i> Monday 4:00 to 6:40 PM</p>	<p>This course examines the structure, composition and meaning of the New Testament, the earliest collection of Christian writings gathered in a single volume. To understand the diversity of these 27 books, we will focus on the letters of Paul, study the gospel accounts of Jesus' life, and read important post-Pauline texts. We will discuss a variety of methods for interpreting biblical texts, and learn to read the NT critically and in its historical context.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RS 328 Islam Swayd <i>Fulfills Area 2: World Traditions</i> Tues & Thurs 9:30 to 10:45 AM</p>	<p>This course provides a general overview of the Islamic religion and culture—its history, politics, theology, philosophy, literature, and gender relations—from the perspectives of Muslim and non-Muslim scholars representing both traditionalist and modernist schools of thought. This will be accomplished by examining a number of religious ideas and movements as well as some early and contemporary Muslim figures.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RS 335 Comparative Mysticism Timalsina <i>Fulfills Area 2: World Traditions</i> Tues & Thurs 2:00 to 3:15</p>	<p>This class covers the human desire to connect with the Divine as exemplified in the world's major religious traditions. The mystical impulse toward purgation, contemplation, annihilation, and union will be examined from a number of different perspectives, including both Western religious traditions (e.g. Kabbalah, Centering Prayer, and Sufism), as well as Eastern religious traditions (meditation, renunciation, yoga — including tantrism — enlightenment and liberation).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RS 338 Buddhism Hansen <i>Fulfills Area 2: World Traditions</i> Mon, Wed & Fri 9:00 to 9:50 AM</p>	<p>This class presents the life and teachings of the historical Buddha and explains the foundational concepts of Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhisms. The wisdom of various Asian cultures that include exotic and mystical propositions such as karma, dharma, and nirvana will be explored in depth. Meditation techniques and tantric and other, little known ritual systems will be introduced. Enlightenment as a possibility in this lifetime will be analyzed if not encouraged.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RS 342 Hinduism Timalsina <i>Fulfills Area 2: World Traditions</i> Tues & Thurs 12:30 to 1:45</p>	<p>This introductory course explores the earliest Vedic and Tantric cultures, and examines various yogas and esoteric teachings found in the Upanishads and the Bhagavadgita. It covers the life-cycle rituals and the ritual calendar of the Hindus, polytheism and monism, religious practices for the householders and the yogis. The course will use guest speakers, poems, films, Hindu narratives and other methods to present the rich diversity of this ancient religion.</p>

<p>RS 353 Religion & Psychology Stewart <i>Fulfills Area 3: Religion, Society and Culture</i> Mon, Wed & Fri 12:00 to 12:50</p>	<p>Religion and psychology is a survey that includes attention to Hinduism's Bhagavad Gita, an explanation of the psychological, existential, and spiritual condition of the human being; Lao Tzu's insights into what constitutes the "sane man;" the Buddha's pragmatic understanding of the human being; and the ideas of Freud, Jung, and others.</p>
<p>RS 364 Religion and Film Kuhlken <i>Fulfills Area 3: Religion, Society and Culture</i> Monday 7:00 to 9:40 PM</p>	<p>We will use different films to facilitate discussion about various dimensions of and issues in religion and will use images, metaphors, and teachings found in religion to discuss the layers and elements visually and audibly portrayed on screen. Through different critical approaches, this course examines how religion pervades the modern cinema and how one may engage in dialogue with this phenomenon.</p>
<p>RS 370 Women in Religion Stewart <i>Fulfills Area 3: Religion, Society and Culture</i> Mon, Wed & Fri 10:00 to 10:50 AM</p>	<p>An exploration of the development of human consciousness and religious thought from their nascence in Goddess worship through contemporary monotheism to a vision of a future well-informed by the past.</p>
<p>RS 376 Nature, Spirituality, Ecology Swayd <i>Fulfills Area 3: Religion, Society and Culture</i> Tuesday 4:00 to 6:40 PM</p>	<p>We will explore the place of nature in spirituality and the role of spirituality in ecology. The course examines the world's primary sacred texts as well as the writings of naturalists, deep ecologists, and eco-feminists. We will investigate a diversity of eco-crises, eco-theologies, and eco-perspectives, and explore the life and work of major literary and religious figures.</p>
<p>RS 376 HONORS Nature, Spirituality, Ecology Frost <i>Fulfills Area 3: Religion, Society and Culture</i> Wednesday 4:00 to 6:40 PM</p>	<p>We will explore the place of nature in spirituality and the role of spirituality in ecology. The course examines the world's primary sacred texts as well as the writings of naturalists, deep ecologists, and eco-feminists. We will investigate a diversity of eco-crises, eco-theologies, and eco-perspectives, and explore the life and work of major literary and religious figures.</p>
<p>RS 379 Religious Violence & Non-Violence Mohammed <i>Fulfills Area 3: Religion, Society and Culture</i> Tues & Thurs 2:00 to 3:15</p>	<p>This course analyzes the ways in which religion is a motivating force for both violent and nonviolent action. We begin with examples of religious terrorism against others and religious forms of violence against oneself and move on to compare those practices to forms of religious compassion and nonviolent justice seeking.</p>
<p>RS 390A Religion in American Institutions Moore <i>Fulfills Area 4: Religion and America</i> Mon & Wed 2:00 to 3:15</p>	<p>This is the first course in a two-semester sequence that fulfills the University's American Institutions requirement (U.S. history and government). We will study the impact of religion on U.S. society, economics, politics, and culture: from that of Native Americans to that of the writers of the Constitution, to that of the people fighting on both sides of the American Civil War. The course will cover the period of pre-contact Native American religions to the end of the 19th century. We will pay particular attention to constitutional issues affecting church and state relations.</p>
<p>RS 400 Senior Seminar Kelly <i>Required of all Senior Religious Studies Majors</i> Tuesday 4:00 to 6:40</p>	<p>This capstone course will provide graduating majors with an opportunity to reflect on what they have learned from the academic study of religion at SDSU. The readings, assignments, and research project this year are centered on the relationship of religion and culture. Each student will be expected to write a major research paper and give a presentation to students and faculty in the department at the end of the semester.</p>

<p>RS 530 Religion & Revolution Whitaker <i>Fulfills Area 3: Religion, Society and Culture</i> Tues & Thurs 12:30 to 1:45</p>	<p>This course studies liberation movements in their religious expression in the 20th century; focusing geographically on the Americas and the African Diaspora. Ecological, Feminist, Queer, and Black theological movements are covered. Issues explored include race, class, gender, power, oppression, and revolution.</p>
<p>RS 583 Jewish & Christian Origins Levitt <i>Fulfills Area 1: Sacred Texts</i> Wednesday 4:00 to 6:40 PM</p>	<p>Judaism and Christianity emerge out of ancient Israel and its Scripture, yet differ in their interpretation of this shared heritage. This course will examine the emergence of Judaism and Christianity from the Second Temple period to the conversion of the Emperor Constantine. We will look at diverse Judaisms, Jewish apocalypticism and the impact of the Dead Sea Scroll literature. We will consider the early Jesus Movement and the debate over biblical interpretation and observance and will examine the divergence between the early church and Rabbinic Judaism.</p>