



INDIANA UNIVERSITY College of Arts and Sciences Bloomington

## Summer 2013 Courses

### FIRST FOUR-WEEK SESSION (4W1):

**REL-A300:** *Studies in African, European, and Western Asian Religions: Sexuality and Gender in Early Modern Christianity*

### FIRST SIX-WEEK SESSION (6W1):

**REL-R102:** Religion and Popular Culture

**REL-R170:** Religion, Ethics, and Public Life

**REL-A250:** Introduction to Christianity

### SECOND SIX-WEEK SESSION (6W2):

**REL-R133:** Introduction to Religion

**REL-B202:** Issues in South and East Asian Religions:  
*Religions of the Silk Road*

**REL-A220:** Introduction to the New Testament

**CROSS-LISTED – Collins Expeditions Course**

**CLLC-L230:** Learning From Nature: Permaculture



**May 19 – June 2, 2013 (Instructor: Haberman)**

This course takes place entirely at White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, IN. Enrollment is by application and is limited to 25 students.

**Information and forms:**

[www.indiana.edu/~llc/academics/permaculture.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~llc/academics/permaculture.shtml)

**Application Deadline:** 5:00pm, Monday, April 1, 2013.

## **FIRST FOUR-WEEK SESSION (4W1)**

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### **REL-A300: Studies In African, European, And West Asian Religions: *Sex and Gender in the Reformation***

**(Instructor: Furey / Credits: CASE A&H Breadth of Inquiry)**

How does gender help us analyze religion? One of the most famous passages in the Christian bible proclaims “neither male nor female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ” (Gal 3.28). But this claim of spiritual equality coexists with doctrines and practices that emphasize gender differences and, often, the superiority of men and the inferiority of women. This course will consider this contradiction by focusing on a moment in Christian history when these were life and death issues. During the Protestant Reformation, a time of chaotic religious change, women who claimed to speak for God were hailed as saints and condemned as witches. A Virgin Queen ruled over England even as Protestants insisted that marriage was better than celibacy. Mystical claims of gender-bending or androgyny or homoeroticism became suspect even as Catholic and Protestant writers alike continued to exploit the spiritual ambiguity of a gendered identity. And in small but violent outbreaks throughout Europe, people fearful of witches tortured and destroyed women’s bodies. This exploration of the gender of prophecy, celibacy, sex, and witchcraft should give you specific examples to think with as you consider the question about how a focus on gender might influence your vision of religion. Participants will be required to do discussion questions, several short (1-2 page) writing assignments; and a final paper (5-7 pages).

## **FIRST SIX-WEEK SESSION (6W1)**

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### **REL-R102: Religion in Popular Culture: *Jesus in Pop Culture***

**(Instructor: Maldonado Rivera / Credits: (CASE) A&H Breadth of Inquiry)**

Who was or is Jesus of Nazareth? The divine Word of the Gospel of John? The strong and mighty Lord of medieval liturgical poetry? The symbol for all persecuted minorities of the controversial play “Corpus Christi”? The conflicted messiah of “The Last Temptation of Christ” and “The Life of Brian”? The miraculous appearance in “Glee”? Or the funny, down to earth savior that often has adventures with Stan, Kyle, Cartman and Kenny in “South Park”? Instead of deciding who is the “real” Jesus of Nazareth, in this course we will focus on how different depictions of Jesus reflect the values, hopes, fears and anxieties of the cultures that produced them. In order to do so, we will focus on a variety of sources from different time periods (biblical narratives, medieval and contemporary literature, art, TV shows and cinema). We will compare, contrast, and think critically about these sources in order to assess the multiple meanings that Jesus of Nazareth has had over time. As a way to frame our ongoing conversation, we will also devote some attention to contemporary debates about the relationship between popular culture, consumerism and religion. Key topics

in this course will be: ways to interpret and theorize ancient and modern popular culture, religious tradition and its reassertions, challenges and skepticism of tradition, the role of religious figures as countercultural icons and the multiple roles of religious figures in contemporary pop culture.

### **REL-R170: Religion, Ethics & Public Life**

**(Instructor: Cottine / Credits: IUB GenEd A&H, COLL (CASE) A&H Breadth of Inquiry)**

This is an introductory course in religion and ethics, focusing on social responsibility and moral reasoning. We will begin by examining basic methods and tools in ethics, after which we will examine several topics: medical ethics, environmental ethics, and global justice and political activism. The primary objective of the course is to explore the complexity of these topics and to understand what intellectual resources various religious traditions bring to the moral discussion in American public life today. We will focus on hotly debated issues today, and ask whether individuals or groups have a responsibility to protect the interests of vulnerable, or “at-risk” populations: fetuses, political communities under attack, sick and dying patients, the poor, and minorities. At the end of the course we will begin to explore the complexities, challenges, and opportunities that living in a globalized and religiously and culturally diverse world presents to ethics. These groups, and the issues that surround their needs, stand at the center of debates in public culture today—debates in newspaper articles, religious gatherings, political elections, professional meetings, evening talk shows, shop floor conversations, and family dinners. With each topic we will examine different arguments and points of view. Since we live in a diverse world, we will look at cases and arguments from a variety of cultures and traditions.

### **REL-A250: Introduction to Christianity**

**(Instructor: Libby / Credits: GenEd World Culture, GenEd A&H, (CASE) Global Civ & Culture, (CASE) A&H Breadth of Inquiry)**

This course introduces you to a religion with a 2000-year history that currently claims nearly 1/3 of the world’s population (around two billion people). Although Christianity is often characterized as a uniform religion coalescing around the figure of Jesus, there are, in fact, a wide variety of practices and beliefs that fall within the bounds of the tradition. In this class we will trace the variation and development of Christianity from its origins as a Jewish sect up to its current expressions. In order to unearth and understand these particularities students will read documents written by and about Christians over the last 2000 years. These will include the story of an early Christian martyr, a medieval doctrinal treatise, the biography of a Protestant reformer, a North American short story, and excerpts from 21st century African theology. Utilizing these primary sources in conjunction with in-class discussions students will be introduced to pivotal themes and debates that have animated Christianity over the centuries.

## **SECOND SIX WEEK SESSION (6W2)**

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### **REL-R133: Introduction to Religion**

**(Instructor: Fruchtman / Credits: IUB GenEd A&H, (CASE) A&H Breadth of Inquiry)**

Religion is everywhere. We all encounter it, either in our own lives, in the lives of our peers, or in the world around us. Even if we somehow manage to encounter it only through those who oppose religious practice or belief, religion is still a force that shapes human experience. But what is religion? How should we define it? Is a definition even possible, given the diversity of religious experience and performance? What does religion look like “on the ground”? How do people incorporate it into daily life, and how is it influential in wider culture? What role do religions play in the lives of their adherents? And how can we study religion(s)?

In this course, we will address all these questions and maybe even attempt some answers. By looking at how scholars have tried to answer these questions, we will familiarize ourselves with the field and discipline of Religious Studies. In addition, however, we will also look at the experiences and practices of religious adherents, so as to get a sense of religion's role in the world and in human life.

This course thus attempts to provide not only an introduction to the field of Religious Studies, but an introduction to the object of study itself. As such, it includes scholarly explanations of religion as well as descriptions of religious practice and experience drawn from participants, rather than observers. This balance will, I hope, both prepare students to further their study of religion and also pique their interest in the vast array of topics available to scholars of religion.

### **REL-B202: Issues in South and East Asian Religions:**

#### ***Religions of the Silk Road***

**(Instructor: Dubeansky / Credits: (CASE) A&H Breadth of Inquiry)**

The Silk Road spanned the Eurasian continent, from China to Greece. Its branches travelled past Buddhist monasteries, Zoroastrian fire altars and Greek shrines. In this course we will examine these and other religions practiced in ancient Central Asia, India, Persia and the Mediterranean. Using original texts and archaeological evidence, we will see how these religions did not exist in a vacuum but were part of the everyday lives of kings and commoners alike.

### **REL-A220: Introduction to the New Testament**

**(Instructor: Alt / Credits: GenEd World Culture, GenEd A&H, (CASE) A&H Breadth of Inquiry, (CASE) Global Civ & Culture)**

Origins of the Christian movement and development of its beliefs, practices, and institutions in the first century. Primary source is the New Testament, with due attention to non-Christian sources from the same environment.