

FALL 2018 COURSES

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ENGLISH

ENGL 264: The Bible as Literature

TTh 9:00-10:15

A. Duran

The Bible contains some of the weirdest and most wonderful literature you will ever read, and there is certainly no book that has had a greater influence on English and American literature, from *Beowulf* to Toni Morrison. This course asks the questions “why read the Bible in a literary way?” and “how does reading the Bible literarily expand our understanding of the Bible?” We will answer these questions primarily through reading and discussing key selections of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Christian Bible/New Testament, using our textbook as a main guide, and exploring the biblical collections at the campus Archives and Special Collections. Our attention to literary matters of inspiration, genre, theme, structure, plot, protagonists, characters and their motivations, allusions, moral meaning, and contemporary relevance will enable us to agree or disagree – or at least lay the ground-work for doing so – with biblical and literary critic and reader Northrup Frye that the Bible is “the great code of Western Literature.”

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 101: Modern Hebrew Level I

MTWF 9:30

A. Kantor

Introduction to Modern Hebrew: The writing and sound systems, and systematic presentations of basic structures. All language skills – reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension – are emphasized. No previous knowledge of Hebrew required.

HEBR 201: Modern Hebrew Level III

MWF 10:30

A. Kantor

Extensive practice in reading, speaking, and writing Hebrew, based on a variety of subjects from daily life and literature. Continued study of grammar and reading in the modern language. Prerequisite: HEBR 102 or equivalent.

HEBR 121: Biblical Hebrew Level I

TTh 9:00 – 10:15

S. Robertson

The first semester of biblical Hebrew will seek to master the basic elements of the language, including alphabet, vocabulary, and grammar. No previous knowledge of Hebrew required.

HEBR 221: Biblical Hebrew Level III

TTh 10:30 – 11:45

S. Robertson

The third semester of biblical Hebrew focuses on reading and translation of extended passages from the Pentateuch and the use of textual criticism. Prerequisite: HEBR 122 or equivalent.

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 284: The Ancient Near East: Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Israelites

TTh 3:00 – 4:15 (meets with HIST 201 and REL 317)

S. Robertson

This course traces the parallel story of the ancient Near East from ancient Egypt and Sumer (ca. 3000 BCE) to the end of the Achaemenid Dynasty of Persia (ca. 330 BCE). This sweep of time and places includes the rise and fall of great personalities that imposed their wills along the way (e.g., Ur-Nammu, Sargon, Hammurabi, Moses, and Cyrus), and the shifts of fortune that brought various people-groups to prominence and decline. Ancient Israel, though a small nation, played an ongoing role in the stories of many of the larger people-groups of the ancient world. We will learn different aspects of the vitality of this remote time shown in its art, architecture, religions, literature, laws, agriculture, and medicine that has had lingering effects on our own time.

HISTORY

HIST 103-2: Introduction to the Medieval World

MWF 1:30

M. Zook

This course is a survey of medieval history in Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to the birth of the Renaissance. We explore political, religious, and social changes as well as economic, technological, and cultural developments, seeking to understand the complexity of the medieval past, including an awareness of the experiences of peasants, townsfolk, students, the religious, knights and nobles. Topics include: the Birth of Christianity and decline of the Roman Empire; Barbarian nations; the Feudal World and Crusades; Chivalry, Medieval Warfare, and the Arthurian legend; Cities, Education and Daily Life; the Church, Heresy & Witchcraft; and The Black Death.

HIST 246: Modern Middle East and North Africa

TTh 10:30-11:45

S. Holden

Men and women in the Middle East and North Africa have long grappled with issues of democracy, religion and national identity as well as conflicting reactions toward Western intervention in a variety of forms. In this class, students examine local responses to Western exploitation, the rise and demise of secular Arab nationalism, the employment of Islamic rhetoric in political activism, and the use of terrorist tactics in various ideological and territorial conflicts. Focusing in particular on case studies of well-known hotspots, this class sheds light on the multiple forces shaping the modern Middle East and North Africa.

HIST 302: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

TTh 12:00-1:15

S. Holden

The media often presents the Arab-Israeli conflict as an irreconcilable age-old divide between Muslims and Jews, but political tensions between Arab Palestinians and Israeli Jews originated only a century ago. This class traces the history of this conflict from the start of Zionist immigration during the late-Ottoman era through the divisive policies of the British Mandate, the establishment of a Jewish state and the multiple wars between Israel and Arab countries. In examining these events, students assess the significance of Jerusalem to Christians, Muslims and Jews; the role of women in Palestinian nation-building; the development of Israeli heritage and cultural policies; the myriad effects of American diplomacy; the immigration of Arab Jews and their inclusion in the political life of Israel; and the various ways that Palestinians have resisted Israeli occupation. Students will learn how religious difference is but one part of a complex struggle for access to land and resources in the Middle East.

HISTORY

HIST 323: German History

MWF 12:30

W. G. Gray

How could the Germans, a people of great historical and cultural accomplishments, produce the barbarity of Nazism and the Holocaust? This is the central question of modern German history. The answers lie not only in the story of the Nazis themselves, but in the entire history of the German people. This survey requires no prerequisites. It introduces German history with brief coverage of the medieval, reformation, and early modern periods, and then turns to a more detailed study of German unification under Bismarck, the rise and fall of the Weimar Republic, and the victories and defeats of Hitler and the Nazis. The post-World War II period deals with West Germany, East Germany, Austria, and German reunification.

HIST 338: History of Human Rights

MWF 2:30

R. Klein-Pejšová

This course explores human rights' genealogy and uneven historical evolution from the European Enlightenment through the late twentieth century human rights revolution and experience of globalization. It examines Atlantic Revolutionary era articulations of "rights of man" and "human rights," the interwar institutionalization of rights, the post-WWII shift from minority to individual human rights, the human rights revolution of the late 1970s, and the relationship between globalization and human rights using a variety of primary and secondary sources.

HIST 390: Jews in the Modern World: A Survey of Modern Jewish Society, Culture, and Politics

MWF 1:30

R. Klein-Pejšová

From the Spanish Expulsion 1492 - World War II

Jewish society and culture under the Crescent and under the Cross, in the Ghetto and in the Shtetl, Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah), Emancipation, and Citizenship, the rise of Hasidic, Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative Jewish practice, Modern Antisemitism, Varieties of Modern Jewish Politics (including Zionism), World War One and the End of Empire, with special attention to the experience of war & catastrophe.

Featuring: The Great Greater Lafayette Jewish Scavenger Hunt!

Counts toward the human rights studies minor

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

FVS 491: Jewish Cinema (meets with IDIS 491 and LC 490)

W 11:30 am - 2:20 pm

A. Kantor

While the concept of Jewish cinema can be interpreted and defined in many ways, for the purposes of this course, it broadly encompasses cinematic works that deal with issues directly related to Jews and Judaism. The primary objective of the course will be to provide the students with an understanding of the great breadth of Jewish cinema, which cannot be reduced to any one category, genre, or style. Films shown over the course of the semester will represent a cross-section of cultural and socio-historical contexts; some films will address the far-reaching ramifications of anti-Semitism, past and present, while others will highlight different facets of, and perspectives on, Jewish culture and its traditions. The course will be structured chronologically with the intent of surveying the history of international films that address Jewish identity in various ways and in a number of times and places. No prerequisites are required.

JEWISH STUDIES

JWST 590: Directed Readings in Jewish Studies

Time and instructor to be arranged

A reading course in aspects of Judaica directed by the instructor in whose particular field of specialization the content of the reading falls. Permission of Instructor required.

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 206: Philosophy of Religion

TTh 12:00-1:15

P. Draper

The goal of this course is to introduce students to philosophical inquiry about the nature and existence of God. The course has two parts. In the first part, an attempt is made to articulate the Western monotheistic idea of God. Topics include the issue of whether or not the idea of God is identical to the idea of a perfect being and, if so, what does that imply about God's attributes. In the second, evidence both for and against the existence of God is analyzed and evaluated. Topics include the issue of whether or not the order in the universe is evidence for God's existence and whether or not the suffering we observe is evidence against God's existence. Students of all religious and non-religious viewpoints are welcome in this course and will be treated with respect.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 231: Religions of the West

MWF 11:30 (meets with PHIL 231)

T. Ryba

This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the three Abrahamic monotheistic religions of the West: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will examine the diversity of practices and belief systems within these religions and address debates within and between communities as well as contemporary concerns. The philosophical and religious contexts of each tradition will be considered by examining its history, primary texts, key teachings, and cultural expressions.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 317: The Ancient Near East: Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Israelites **TTh 3:00-4:15 (meets with HEBR 284 and HIST 201)**

S. Robertson

This course traces the parallel story of the ancient Near East from ancient Egypt and Sumer (ca. 3000 BCE) to the end of the Achaemenid Dynasty of Persia (ca. 330 BCE). This sweep of time and places includes the rise and fall of great personalities that imposed their wills along the way (e.g., Ur-Nammu, Sargon, Hammurabi, Moses, and Cyrus), and the shifts of fortune that brought various people-groups to prominence and decline. Ancient Israel, though a small nation, played an ongoing role in the stories of many of the larger people-groups of the ancient world. We will learn different aspects of the vitality of this remote time shown in its art, architecture, religions, literature, laws, agriculture, and medicine that has had lingering effects on our own time.

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 310-5: Racial & Ethnic Diversity **TTh 10:30-11:45**

J. Cox

Examines racial and ethnic pluralism in America: ways groups have entered our society; their social and cultural characteristics; and their relationships with other groups. Groups include the English, Germans, Irish, Jews, Chinese, Japanese, Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans.

SOC 310-7: Racial & Ethnic Diversity **MWF 11:30**

W. Dukes

Examines racial and ethnic pluralism in America: ways groups have entered our society; their social and cultural characteristics; and their relationships with other groups. Groups include the English, Germans, Irish, Jews, Chinese, Japanese, Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans.

SOC 310-8: Racial & Ethnic Diversity **TTh 1:30-2:45**

J. Beaman

This course is a sociological examination and analysis of the presence and significance of race and ethnicity in our society. The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation and critical framework for assessing the origins and manifestations of race and ethnicity. Race and ethnicity have historically been one basis for differentiation and stratification in the United States and other societies, and this persists today. In this course, we will examine the emergence of race and ethnicity as concepts, and how they shape our everyday lives. We will be guided by the following questions: Why do we study race and ethnicity? How and why are they relevant in our society? How do we experience race and ethnicity, and how has this changed over time? Topics include multiculturalism and diversity; media representations; racism and discrimination; colorism; racial hierarchies; immigration; and different domains of racial inequality.

SOC 367: Religion in America **TTh 12:00-1:15**

D. Olson

Examines the social dimensions of religion in American life; religion in American culture; social profiles of America's religious groups, trends in individual religious commitment; and religion's impact on American life.