

FALL 2020 COURSES

ENGLISH

ENGL 264: The Bible as Literature Pg. 2

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 101: Modern Hebrew Level I Pg. 2

HEBR 201: Modern Hebrew Level III Pg. 2

HEBR 121: Biblical Hebrew Level I Pg. 2

HEBR 221: Biblical Hebrew Level III Pg. 2

HISTORY

HIST 103: Introduction to the Medieval World Pg. 3

HIST 312: The Arab-Israeli Conflict Pg. 3

HIST 338: History of Human Rights Pg. 3

HIST 351: The Second World War Pg. 3

HIST 408: Dictatorship & Democracy: Europe 1919-1945 Pg. 3

JEWISH STUDIES

JWST 590: Directed Readings in Jewish Studies Pg. 4

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 206: Introduction to Philosophy of Religion Pg. 4

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 200: Introduction to the Study of Religion Pg. 4

REL 231: Religions of the West Pg. 4

REL 317: Ancient Judaism & Early Christianity Pg. 4

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 310: Race & Ethnicity Pg. 5

SOC 356: Hate and Violence Pg. 5

SOC 367: Religion in America Pg. 5

ENGLISH

ENGL 264: The Bible as Literature

TTh 4:30-5:45 p.m.

S. Goodhart

A study of selections from the Old and New Testaments as examples of Hebrew and early Christian literature.

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 101: Modern Hebrew Level I

MWF 12:30

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 1:30

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.

HISTORY

HIST 103: Introduction to the Medieval World

MWF 12:30

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 312: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

MWF 10:30

S. Holden

This class traces the emergence of political fault lines in Ottoman Palestine, the immigration of European Jews in the Interwar Era and after World War II, the divisive Policies of the British Mandate, the establishment of a Jewish state and the subsequent wars between Israel and surrounding Arab countries. In the end, students study religion as one part of a complex struggle for control over regional resources.

HIST 338: History of Human Rights

MWF 1:30

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 351: The Second World War

TTh 4:30-5:45

R. Roberts

Second World War. Ideally, this course will be taken in conjunction with History 349, First World War in the Fall since together the two world wars present a modern Thirty Years War (1914-45). History 351 will cover the military, diplomatic, political, social, and cultural history of World War II. It will focus on the causes of the war, the battles that decided the war, the leaders (civilian and military) who made the key decisions, and how the war changed society. An additional feature will be how the war is remembered in novels and films. Hollywood features and documentaries will play a crucial part in the course. In short, the course will cover the history of the war from the rise of Adolf Hitler to "Saving Private Ryan."

HIST 408: Dictatorship and Democracy: Europe 1919-1945

MWF 2:30

W. G. Gray

This course examines the fleeting triumph of democracy across Europe, followed by the rise of fascism, communism, and Nazism. Emphasis will be placed on broad economic, social, and cultural transformations as well as individual choices to resist or conform.

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: Introduction to Philosophy of Religion

TTh 10:30 lecture

F 10:30, 11:30, 1:30 recitation

M. Bergmann

The course will be divided into three parts. The first part of the course will deal with a question that has loomed large in the philosophical history of western monotheism (Judaism, Christianity and Islam): is belief in God rational? The focus here will be on arguments for God's existence (such as the argument from the fact that the universe seems to have been designed), on arguments against God's existence (e.g., the argument that a perfect God wouldn't permit terrible things to happen and yet they happen), and on whether belief in God can be rational if it isn't supported by argument. The second part of the course will focus on the fact that there are many different religions in the world, most of which claim to be the only religion that is right about the most important truths. Our question here will be whether, in the face of this plurality of religions, it can be rational to think that one's own religion is right and that other religions incompatible with it are mistaken. The third part of the course will focus on some questions in philosophical theology—questions such as: Can we be free if God foreknows what we will do? Does it make sense to make requests of God in prayer given that, whether we pray or not, a perfect being would know what we want and would do what is best? The course requirements will include several short quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 200: Introduction to the Study of Religion

TTh 12:00 – 1:15

D. Smith

This course will introduce students to the academic study of religion through an exploration of various methodologies available for a critical, reflective investigation of the study of religion.

REL 231: Religions of the West

MWF 12:30 (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.

REL 317: Ancient Judaism & Early Christianity (meets with HEBR 284 and HIST 201)

TTh 1:30 – 2:45

S. Robertson

This course offers a panoramic view of three old civilizations that feature prominently in the world today: ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Israel. In terms of size, Israel is by far the smallest, but the long-term

importance it has had is significant. These three old civilizations had much to do with each other back then, as they do today. We will try to learn something of how things began and why these three old civilizations still matter. Read. Listen. Ponder.

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 310-7: Race & Ethnicity

MWF 9:30

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 310-12: Race & Ethnicity

Distance Learning

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 356: Hate and Violence

Th 6:00-8:50 p.m.

R. Mate

Examines the causes of and solutions to hatred and violence. Concepts such as anti-Semitism, discrimination, hate crimes, prejudice, racism, bullying, homosexual prejudice, terrorism and other topics will be addressed. This course uses experiential activities, videos, guest speakers and classroom discussion.

SOC 367: Religion in America

TTh 3:00-4:15

F. Yang

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.