

T/RS ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

SPRING 2019

T/RS 210Z	(D,P) Jews, Christians & Bible	TR – 01:00pm - 02:15pm	Dr. Marc B. Shapiro
A Survey of ancient and modern ways of reading the Bible. The focus will be on a group of central biblical figures whose stories will be examined in the context of ancient Israelite history and society. The biblical stories will then be compared with later elaborations by Jewish and Christian interpreters. (Non-Christian/Comparative)			
T/RS 219	(D,P) Religions of the World	TR – 04:00pm - 05:15pm	Dr. Marc B. Shapiro
An exploration of belief in the traditions of the classical historical religions of the world through both systematic analysis and the reading of the sacred texts. (Non-Christian/Comparative)			
T/RS 228	(P) Parables in Pop Culture	MW - 05:00pm - 06:15pm	Dr. Cyrus Olsen
This course is designed to help students attend to and interpret popular culture, especially its narrative elements, from the perspective of Christian faith. The course will examine Jesus' parables as secular windows into God's kingdom and will explore the ways in which contemporary film can function as parabolic storytelling.			
T/RS 232	(P) Catholic Social Thought	MW - 03:00pm - 04:15pm	Dr. Patrick Clark
An in-depth study of the tradition of Catholic teaching on social life, political organization, and the common good. Primary readings will come from the Bible, Church documents, and from influential figures within the Catholic intellectual tradition. Major themes include human dignity, family, participation in society, civil authority, rights, duties, solidarity, social justice, poverty, war, and stewardship of creation. (Moral)			
T/RS 234	(D,P) 20th Century Peacemakers	MWF - 01:00pm - 01:50pm	Dr. Christopher Haw
Our previous century was marked by both astonishing apocalyptic violence and massive breakthroughs in peacebuilding. Everything is increasing, both the good and bad. This course will briefly outline that century's history and context and will then focus on the lives, witnesses, and movements that have worked to build peace amidst our wild and chaotic world. This will involve a range of people from Mahatma Gandhi to Leymah Gbowee, from Dorothy Day to Peacemakers in Iraq. And it will consider practices ranging from civil disobedience that provokes conflict-toward-justice to quiet but radical self-giving service.			
T/RS 284	ST: Separating Church and State? Bible Law & America	MWF - 12:00pm - 12:50pm	Dr. Joel Kemp
Through an examination of the Bible, historical texts from America's founding, court cases, and secondary literature produced by religious and legal scholars, students will investigate some of the ways the Bible has influenced the structure, values, and function of aspects of America's judicial system. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the development of and debates surrounding the First Amendment provisions governing "freedom of religion." As part of this course, students will explore various perspectives on how the "separation of church and state" is related to questions of the proper place of religion in politics and public life.			
T/RS 317	(P) Pauline Letters	TR – 08:30am - 09:45am	Rev. Michael Azar
Called simply "the Apostle" by the early Christians, Paul authored a series of letters that are not only the earliest Christian writings but also among the most influential. Without his letters, doctrines and practices such as original sin, justification by faith, predestination, heyschasm, and theosis (to name only a few) would hardly have taken shape. This class will examine the historical and literary contexts of Paul's letters as well as the reception and influence of those letters in later church history, down to the present day. (New Testament)			

T/RS 320	(P) Early Christian Writers	TR – 02:30pm - 3:45pm	Dr. Eric Plumer
An introduction to the main figures, theological currents and ideas of the formative period of the history of Christian theology by a close reading of selected texts, beginning with the earliest Christian writings not included in the New Testament and going up to St. Augustine (354-430 A.D.). The types of literature covered will include apocryphal Gospels, records of the early Christian martyrs, documents showing the development of the liturgy and of Church offices, and much else.			
T/RS 323	(P) Protestant Traditions	TR – 10:00am - 11:15am	Dr. Charles Pinches
This course will examine both historical and contemporary representatives of selected Protestant traditions, focusing on their characteristic understandings of 1) scripture, tradition and knowledge of God, 2) grace, faith and works, and 3) the Church and the Christian life.			
T/RS 410	Salvation Outside the Church?	W - 04:30pm-07:10pm	Rev. James Redington
T/RS 510	An exploration of the place of other religions in Christian belief and practice today. What does it mean that there are other religions? How should Christians relate with these religions and their followers? Can their followers be saved through them? Can Christians learn and grow from these followers and their religions? What does all this have to do with God, and with love of God and neighbor? And so forth.		
T/RS 484	God in the New Testament	T - 04:30pm-07:10pm	Dr. Brigid Frein
T/RS 584	Unlike most studies of the New Testament which focus on the acts and teaching of Jesus, this course will concentrate on how the various writings of the New Testament portray the God of Jesus as acting in the world and among humans. It will examine the various images of God presented by the writings of the New Testament.		
T/RS 490	Theology Capstone	M - 05:00pm-7:40pm	Dr. Will Cohen
This course is for seniors majoring in Theology & Religious Studies as a culmination of their undergraduate studies in the discipline. The format and focus of the course are determined each year by the instructor.			
HONR 287H	(CL or P) Honors Keystone	Dr. Will Cohen Dr. Joseph Kraus	
This course will explore modes of belonging through the prisms of sports, religion, and politics. The inclination to identify with something larger than ourselves is intrinsic to the human condition, yet the line between mob mentality and healthy community can be a fine one. The course will look at fictional portrayals as well as philosophical analyses of how individuals seek self-transcendence whether as a fan of a team, a follower of a faith, or a citizen of a nation. We will draw on Scriptural passages and other religious texts to ask if religious belonging itself is "tribal" -- or is it rather an antidote to tribalism? -- and will consider the significance in recent years of the rise of the so-called "Nones," those with no professed identification with any particular religious institution or tradition.			

