

## RELIGION AND CULTURE

**REL-1002 (3) Exploring Religions: World's Religions** (3 hrs Lecture) Religion is a universal phenomenon that varies in meaning from culture to culture. This course examines the ways religion is understood in different cultures, introducing basic concepts used in the academic study of religion (e.g., sacred and profane, myth and history, symbol and ritual, etc.) through a survey of the major world religious traditions (e.g., Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and the religions of indigenous peoples of North and South America). The teachings of individual traditions, how these teachings developed over time, and differences in interpretation will be examined against the background of the culture that produced them.

**REL-1003 (6) Exploring Religion: the Bible** (3 hrs Lecture) The meaning of the Bible is seldom self-evident. It has been interpreted in different and sometimes contradictory ways by various faith communities, within both Judaism and Christianity, who look to the Bible as an authoritative religious guide. The course seeks to explain why the Bible has been interpreted differently by various religious groups living in different times and places. It does so by introducing students to modern biblical scholarship, which sees the Bible against the background of the historical, political, cultural and intellectual contexts in which the biblical texts were written and interpreted.  
**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2125.

**REL-2001 (6) Elementary Biblical Hebrew** (4 hrs Lecture) This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of biblical Hebrew grammar and vocabulary. Selected prose texts in the Hebrew Bible will be read and translated.

**REL-2011 (3) Introduction to Modern Standard Arabic I** (3 hrs Lecture | 1 hrs Lab) This course is designed to introduce Modern Standard Arabic to students who have little or no prior knowledge of the language. Students learn the Arabic alphabet and master basic concepts of case and agreement. Vocabulary and additional grammatical concepts are discussed and integrated into classroom exercises and homework assignments. Restriction: Arabic speakers and persons with more than the most rudimentary prior knowledge of Arabic are not eligible to take this course.  
**Restrictions:** Instructor Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2010.  
**Requisite Courses:** REL-2011L (lab) (must be taken concurrently).

**REL-2012 (3) Introduction to Modern Standard Arabic II** (3 hrs Lecture | 1 hrs Lab) This course is designed to further develop introductory Modern Standard Arabic skills for students who have taken REL-2011 Modern Standard Arabic I. Students master basic concepts of case and agreement, learn how to form id-fah constructions, and form simple nominal and verbal sentences. Vocabulary and additional grammatical concepts are discussed and integrated into classroom exercises and homework

assignments. Restriction: Arabic speakers and persons with more than the most rudimentary prior knowledge of Arabic are not eligible to take this course.

**Restrictions:** Instructor Permission Required.  
**Requisite Courses:** REL-2011 [prerequisite(s)]; REL-2012L (Lab) (must be taken concurrently).

**REL-2121 (3) Early Judaism: From Formative to Normative** (3 hrs Lecture) This course surveys the historical events, documents, modes of interpretation, major figures and diverse communities and beliefs and practices that preceded and informed the emergence of rabbinic Judaism. The course unpacks the influence of momentous events such as Greek and Roman conquests in the Middle East, the nascent Jesus movement, and the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 C.E.. It explores how documents such as the Dead Sea scrolls, the Apocrypha and the Pseudepigrapha and authors such as Philo of Alexandria and Josephus provide insight into the formative period of Early Judaism. It introduces students to the major genres of early biblical interpretation, such as typology, allegory, and midrash and oral Torah.

**Cross-listed:** CLAS-2704

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and CLAS-2704.

**REL-2125 (3) Modern Biblical Interpretation** (3 hrs Lecture) Through the examination of specific, selected texts, this course introduces students to the basics of how secular biblical scholars approach and analyze biblical texts.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-1003.

**REL-2127 (3) Major Biblical Themes** (3 hrs Lecture) This course will examine biblical texts on various themes such as creation, salvation, law and covenant, priesthood and kingship, death and human destiny.  
**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3155.

**REL-2131 (3) Apocalyptic Literature** (3 hrs Lecture) This course will begin with a general introduction to apocalypse as a unique literary genre and will examine some of the problems of reading and interpreting apocalyptic writings in the light of their ancient contexts. This will be followed by an analysis of selected biblical and extra-biblical apocalyptic texts.  
**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2010\_3.

**REL-2211 (3) Studies in the Synoptic Gospels** (3 hrs Lecture) This course seeks to understand the origin of the three Synoptic Gospels of the New Testament - Matthew, Mark, and Luke - and the relationship among them. The study also involves a close examination of the distinctive character of these Gospels according to their literary and theological presentations of Jesus.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2211\_6.

**REL-2213 (3) Jesus in John** (3 hrs Lecture) This course analyses the literature of the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles in their respective contexts. The intention is to discover the implication of the Johannine ways of presenting Jesus to the first communities of readers in their social settings.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2122.

**REL-2237 (3) Religion in Greece and Rome** (3 hrs Lecture) This course will survey the religious beliefs and practices of the Greeks and Romans. Topics to be discussed will include the following: the worship of Olympian and Chthonic deities, oracles, orgiastic and mystery religions, Roman cults and rituals, Near Eastern religions, and the beginnings of Christianity.

**Cross-listed:** CLAS-2702(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and CLAS-2702.

**REL-2304 (3) Atheism, Skepticism and Religion** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores the five major contemporary critiques of religion, all of which have their roots in the writings of 19th and 20th Century critics of religion. Students will learn about the original historical contexts of the interpretations of religion advanced by Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Friedrich Nietzsche. The main concern of the course is to examine how these five powerful critiques shape the ways contemporary North Americans understand religion.

**REL-2305 (3) Early and Medieval Christianity** (3 hrs Lecture) This course introduces students to the religious and social changes that took place within the Christian tradition in the first fifteen centuries of the Common Era. Students explore the varieties of Christianity that emerged in this period in response both to theological debates within the church and to political forces in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. This course examines the changing relations between the church and imperial powers, as well as the development of monastic orders, mystical piety, the sacramental system, and the papacy. In addition, several key figures (such as Augustine and Aquinas) and key debates (such as the nature of sin and the trinity) are discussed.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2300 | REL-2301 | REL-2311.

**REL-2306 (3) Modern Christianity** (3 hrs Lecture) This course is a survey of modern Christianity as a global phenomenon from the 16th century to the present. This course examines the changing role of the church within the modern world from the Reformation to contemporary societies. It also examines the decline of Christianity in the West and its growth in the global South. Finally, this course introduces students to major thinkers within the modern church, including Martin Luther, Menno Simons, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Desmond Tutu and Kwok Pui-Lan.

**REL-2307 (3) Twentieth-Century Christianity** (3 hrs Lecture) This course examines Christian history, thought and practice globally in light of the dramatic and often

violent events of the twentieth century, including the two world wars, the Shoah, the Cold War, the Civil Rights and anti-war movements, feminism, gay liberation, and decolonial movements. Special attention is given to voices of dissent and challenge to conventional Christianity during this tumultuous time in which Christianity's influence waned dramatically in the North Atlantic world. Students will gain a sense of Christianity as a global phenomenon, which had both significant and waning influence upon contemporary political struggles.

**Experimental Course** - This course is offered on a trial basis to gauge interest in the topic. Students who successfully complete this course receive credit as indicated.

**REL-2363 (3) Mennonite Studies I** (3 hrs Lecture) This course is a survey of the origins and history of the Anabaptists in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, Prussia and Russia. Attention is given to the interaction of religion and culture in the history of European Mennonites.

**Cross-listed:** HIST-2108(3) and REL-2363(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and HIST-2108 | MENN-2101.

**REL-2364 (3) Mennonite Studies II** (3 hrs Lecture) This course is a survey of the immigration and resettlement of Mennonites in Russia and in North and South America. The course includes a study of the origins and distinctive characteristics of particular Mennonite groups and conclude with a brief survey of Mennonites around the world.

**Cross-listed:** HIST-2109(3), MENN-2102(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and HIST-2109 | HIST-3109 | MENN-2102.

**REL-2401 (3) Religion and Popular Culture** (3 hrs Lecture) This course considers the place of religion in North American popular culture. It explores how elements of popular culture (e.g., radio and television programs, compact discs, films, videos, and fashion) influence the ways many people conceive of religion and its role in their lives. Through this exploration, students will develop critical skills necessary to analyze ambiguous cultural phenomena, examining both the ways religious traditions are depicted in popular culture, and how religions respond to the values and beliefs implicit in popular culture itself.

**REL-2402 (3) Fundamentalisms in Global Context** (3 hrs Lecture) Fundamentalism is one of the most prominent religious phenomena in contemporary cultures and around the world. This course will explore a variety of so-called "fundamentalist" religious movements in contemporary Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. What do these groups have in common, and what distinguishes them from each other? It will also consider how appropriate the term "fundamentalist" is for understanding these groups and individuals and what the implications of this "fundamentalist" label are for them. Several "fundamentalist" religious movements will be discussed in order to understand their relationship with "modernity" and "pluralism", the two traditions to which fundamentalists seem to be responding.

**REL-2405 (3) Religion and Culture: the Multifaith Society** (3 hrs Lecture) The focus of this course will be on the ways Canadian institutions both reflect and have responded to religious pluralism. While French and British Christians dominated this country for hundreds of years, contemporary Canada is characterized by increasing multiculturalism. The less restrictive policies Canada adopted towards non-European immigrants in the 1960s have transformed the status and situation of religion in major institutions such as universities, government, and the media. The purpose of this course is to help students reflect critically on the overall place of religion in a society, the inherent Christian and "euro-centric" foundations of which have been challenged by growing non-Christian and/or non-European communities.

**REL-2406 (3) Issues in the Study of Secular Society** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores issues of contemporary interest regarding the study of religion and secular society, focusing on social, moral, political and existential aspects of western secularity. Broadly, the course engages topical questions of public life in a secular world from an interdisciplinary perspective. Issues of focus may include: the role of religion in the public sphere; religion, secularism and social justice; individual and group identity in secular contexts; ecology in a secular world; communication in secular society; skepticism, atheism and religious faith.

**REL-2407 (3) Contemporary Religion from a Social Scientific Perspective** (3 hrs Lecture) This course will introduce students to the ethnographic approach to religious phenomena, as well as the range of social scientific theories with which ethnography is associated. The distinguishing feature of ethnographic research is the way it involves the observer in the everyday lives of the people he or she is studying. This course explores several recent examples of participant observation research in the context of North American religious groups. As well, the course considers the relevance of the work of scholars such as Malinowski, Levy-Bruhl, Turner, and Geertz for the ethnographic study of contemporary religious life.

**REL-2425 (3) Religion and Contemporary Moral Issues** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores the relationship between religion and morality through a consideration of selected contemporary moral issues and the religious responses to them. Issues to be considered may include those pertaining to gender and sexuality, beginning and end-of-life debates, war and peace, ecology and the environment, human rights and social justice. Through its engagement with each of these issues, the course analyzes how religion implicitly and explicitly shapes modern moral thinking.

**REL-2507 (3) Sexuality in the Religious Context** (3 hrs Lecture) This course will observe patterns in the interpretation and regulation of human sexual relations in one or more of the major religious traditions, and will explore the implications of changes in these relationships in the modern world for those whose cultures are informed by those traditions. Included will be the implications of feminist movements for contemporary religions.

**REL-2511 (3) Religion and Society: the Critique of Development** (3 hrs Lecture) The course will examine the rise of a secular, capitalist, technological world order in Western Europe and North America, and its impact upon the rest of the world. The contribution of Christianity to this new world order, together with its increasing marginalization, will be noted. The responses of the affected cultures and religions, in particular their critique of Western imperialism and its visions of development, and their alternative proposals, will be examined. The role of religion as a factor which inhibits or encourages social change, in different contexts, will be a main theme.  
**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2512.

**REL-2513 (3) Health, Healing and Spirituality in Cross-Cultural Perspective** (3 hrs Lecture) This course examines the role which spirituality plays in health and the practice of healing, exploring how different ideas about healing and spirituality are rooted in distinct cultural perspectives. Topics covered will include comparisons of the relationship between religious beliefs, the process of healing, and the practice of medicine in the history and current experience of different cultures, both Western and Non-Western.

**REL-2515 (3) Ecology and Religion** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores the relationship between the religious beliefs and perceptions about nature in the context of Western, Eastern, and indigenous cultures. A critical examination is offered of the ways in which Christian perceptions of nature have influenced the development of western science and technology. As well, the course provides a survey of some contemporary scholarly attempts to relate ecology and religion.

**REL-2601 (3) Modern Judaism** (3 hrs Lecture) This course examines the historical, religious, intellectual and cultural life of Jewish peoples from the nineteenth-century European *Hasklah* (Jewish Enlightenment) to the global diaspora and the contemporary State of Israel. Key themes that are explored in this class include migration and return, anti-Semitism and the Shoah (Holocaust), nationalism, feminism, secular Judaism, and religious change.

**REL-2605 (3) Modern Christian Denominations** (3 hrs Lecture) This course concentrates on specific Christian institutions, bodies or movements such as, but not limited to, the following: The Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, the Anglican Church, the United Church of Canada, and the Pentecostal churches.

**REL-2607 (3) New Religions in North America** (3 hrs Lecture) This course will survey alternative religious movements which have recently arisen in North America, some as mission enterprises from elsewhere, others as spiritual responses from within the North American situation. Winnipeg and Manitoba groups will be emphasized. The aim of the course will be to understand the groups on their own terms, and to begin to think about how we might respond to and evaluate these movements.

**REL-2703 (3) Religions of India** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores the diversity of religious expression in India against the background of Indian culture. The focus will be on the origins and historical development of Indian ideas and practices. These are represented in the dominant tradition of Hinduism, as well as other important traditions originating in India (Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism), emphasizing continuities, patterns, and distinct developments.

**REL-2704 (3) Buddhist Traditions in India and Southeast Asia** (3 hrs Lecture) The course examines Buddhist beliefs and practices, focusing on the life and teachings of Gautama, the historical founder, the interpretation of his message in the Theravada tradition, and the development of Mahayana tradition in India. Special attention is given to examining the scriptural literature upon which these traditions are based and the spread of Theravada traditions to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

**REL-2707 (3) Chinese Religions** (3 hrs Lecture) This course is a study of the basic beliefs and practices of the Chinese as informed by the three major Chinese traditions: Confucian, Taoist (Daoist), and Buddhist. The course will examine the development of each of these traditions, as well as their blending into a comprehensive set of beliefs and practices that shaped the common understanding and practice of Chinese religion. The effect of Communism on Chinese religious life and the resurgence of religion in Contemporary China will also be examined.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2707(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2707.

**REL-2708 (3) Religion in Japanese Life** (3 hrs Lecture) This course examines the religious life of the Japanese people, as informed by traditions deriving from the native Shinto religion of Japan, the adapted traditions of Buddhism and Confucianism, and the impact of Westernization and modernization on traditional beliefs and practices.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2708(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2708.

**REL-2709 (3) Women in Asian Religions & Cultures** (3 hrs Lecture) The course examines the experience of women in several Asian cultures (e.g., India, China, Japan), in different religious traditions (e.g., Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism). The course is intended as a comprehensive introduction to women's experience in both pre-modern and modern contexts, with attention to how women are perceived and perceive themselves in religious and cultural roles.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2709(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2709.

**REL-2710 (3) Classical Islam** (3 hrs Lecture) This course focuses on the religious tradition of Islam from its inception through the medieval period. The message and the style of the Qur'an are examined, and Muhammad's life and experience as a prophet are traced. The fundamental beliefs and major practices of Islam are critically explored.

The course also examines the emergence of religious, political and legal institutions in the early centuries of Islam. In addition, attention is given to theological, philosophical and mystical interpreters of Islamic ethos, with particular reference to specific scholarly interpretations from different regions of the Islamic world.

**REL-2711 (3) Contemporary Islam** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores Islam as a faith and way of life in the modern context. Examples of Muslim approaches to modernity in general are examined, and modern interpretations of selected Qur'anic themes are studied. Themes such as gender equality and the freedom of women, and their implications for contemporary Islam, are discussed. The course traces the activities and opinions of Muslim organizations from the Muslim world. In addition, it assesses the current status of Islam in North America.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2701.

**REL-2713 (3) Muslims in Canada** (3 hrs Lecture) This course provides an historical overview of the Muslim community in Canada. The rise and development of Islamic institutions, organizations, associations, and forms of leadership are examined. In addition, Islamic identity, religious lifestyle, Islamic education, and the range of challenges facing Muslims living in Canada are discussed.

**REL-2714 (3) Gender and Sexuality in Muslim Societies** (3 hrs Lecture) After considering the social context of the ancient Near East, the first part of the course explores gender in the Qur'an, considers the formative role women played in the early Islamic movement, and examines constructions of gender in medieval Muslim societies. In the second part of the course, students explore Islamic legal and ethical doctrines regarding gender and sexuality, focusing on marriage and divorce, veiling and segregation, and same-sex relationships. Students review scriptural texts on these issues, and critically examine how these texts have been interpreted and re-interpreted in premodern and modern contexts.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2702.

**REL-2715 (3) African Religions** (3 hrs Lecture) Africans have, for long, practiced several closely related but diverse religions. This course surveys African Religions taking into account this religious plurality. Certain themes, including, cosmology and mythology, monotheism and polytheism, divinity and experience, rituals, etc., are discussed. Selected African Religions are introduced, briefly, highlighting these themes according to geographical locations (mainly in the sub-Saharan). Detailed treatment of one or more religions from each region is provided. For current concerns, this course critically studies selected works by scholars of African religions on various topics (from theory and method to roles of women).

**REL-2718 (3) Buddhist Traditions in East Asia** (3 hrs Lecture) This course traces the historical development of Mahayana (Great Vehicle) Buddhism in East Asia, focusing on the founding of East Asian Buddhist traditions in China, and their transmission to Korea and Japan. The course

introduces the major beliefs and practices associated with East Asian Buddhism, the schools, figures, and texts that form the traditions that have flourished in East Asian countries. In addition to Chinese Buddhist developments, the course examines the adaptation of Chinese Buddhist traditions in Korea and Japan.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2718(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2718.

**REL-2719 (3) Religion and Politics in the Middle East**

(3 hrs Lecture) This course examines the relationship between religion and politics in the contemporary Middle East. Class readings cover a wide variety of Middle Eastern states such as Turkey, Israel, Iran, Egypt, Syria, and Iraq. Key topics covered in the course include religion-based political movements, the place of religion in regional struggles over democracy and human rights, the place of religion in sectarian and ethnic conflicts, and the role of women in regional debates over religion. Attention is given to relevant current events affecting the contemporary Middle East.

**REL-2721 (3) Traditional Japanese Culture**

(3 hrs Lecture) This course surveys traditional Japanese culture through an exploration of visual and dramatic arts, literature, philosophy, and religion. Special emphasis is placed on cross-cultural roots that bridged Japan with its neighbouring countries in East Asia. The historical foundations of popular Japanese contemporary culture - Manga, Anime, and high technology to name a few - are also discussed.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2721(3) and ANTH-2121(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and ANTH-2121 | EALC-2721.

**REL-2724 (3) Popular Culture in Japan**

(3 hrs Lecture) Japanese culture is not just an integral component of today's Japanese society, but it is also embedded in today's globalized culture. In the decades following World War II, toys, animation, comics, video games and even an aesthetic of *kawaii* (cuteness) spread from Japan around the globe. This course begins with the birth and dissemination of Japanese pop culture in the late seventeenth century. It then focuses on the relationships between religion, print media, and popular culture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Finally, it explores Japan's pop culture boom of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2724

**Experimental Course** - This course is offered on a trial basis to gauge interest in the topic. Students who successfully complete this course receive credit as indicated.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2724.

**REL-2725 (3) Food in Japanese Culture**

(3 hrs Lecture) This course explores the culture and history of Japanese cuisine. Designated in 2013 by UNESCO as part of the world's "Intangible Cultural Heritage." Japanese food is no longer restricted to Japan itself, but is now an integral component of global culinary culture. In the class, students

follow the evolution of Japanese food from its origins in prehistoric hunting-gathering and rice cultivation to its globalization in fusion cuisine of the twenty-first century. The course ultimately aims to demonstrate how Japanese food today is not necessarily Japanese in origin, but the product of intra and later intercontinental cultural, political, and religious networks.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2725(3).

**Experimental Course** - This course is offered on a trial basis to gauge interest in the topic. Students who successfully complete this course receive credit as indicated.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2725.

**REL-2731 (3) Chinese Culture and Beliefs**

(3 hrs Lecture) This course focuses on Chinese traditions and values that have influenced modern Chinese society. This course is introductory and requires no prior knowledge of Chinese language and history. All the texts in this course are in English. Students discover ways in which cultural representations in social life, customs, business practice, literature, and art have affected and are being affected by beliefs. Through lecture and guided discussion students better understand how traditions and beliefs continue to inform about Chinese culture today.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2731(3).

**REL-2733 (3) Religious Traditions of Korea**

(3 hrs Lecture) This course provides an historical overview of Korean religious traditions. We examine the historical processes that world religious traditions--Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity--have undergone in Korea. Then we consider the Korean folk religious tradition, Shamanism, and new religions in relation to the social context of contemporary Korea. The various Korean religious traditions are critically examined in terms of their cumulative, participatory process in world religious history.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2733(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2733.

**REL-2740 (3) The Supernatural in East Asian Culture the Supernatural in Pre-Modern East Asian Literature and its Contemporary Cinematic Adaptations**

(3 hrs Lecture) This course introduces students to East Asian culture through depictions of supernatural phenomena. By transgressing the boundaries of life and death, human and animal, real and unreal, supernatural beings shed light on socio-culturally constructed boundaries, such as status and gender. Through the lens of traditional supernatural literature, a framework of social structures in traditional East Asia emerges to show how characters confront and transgress the bounds of normative behaviour. Topics may include gender, purity and contamination, Five Elements Theory, Buddhism, Daoism, Neo-Confucianism, popular religion, cultural taboos, and changing views toward the supernatural in the age of scientific inquiry.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2740(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2740.

**REL-2774 (3) Big Ideas and Great Debates in Chinese Intellectual History** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores the intellectual history of pre-modern China. By taking a thematic approach to leading intellectual currents within Chinese thought, the course critically examines debated and contested ideas between and among a diversity of schools of Chinese thought, including, but not limited to, Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism. The course is based on close reading of primary text materials in translation and students are required to engage in debate during class hours.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2774(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2774.

**REL-2780 (3) The Martial Arts of East Asia** (3 hrs Lecture) In this course, students challenge the portrayal of East Asian martial arts as an ancient, mystical practice by examining the history of martial arts. Students explore how military techniques once intended for war, policing, and control of banditry came to be practiced as methods of moral and physical self-cultivation. The course examines the historical origins of martial arts in China, Japan, and Korea, their evolution, and how they both subverted and served state agendas in the modern era. Lastly, it covers the role of martial arts in contemporary popular culture. This class is an online course requiring a high speed internet connection.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-2780

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-2780.

**REL-2801 (3) Introduction to Indigenous Spirituality** (3 hrs Lecture) This course provides an introduction to the plurality of Indigenous religious traditions in North America and the diversity, complexity, and vitality of these traditions. Included in the course content is an understanding of traditional ceremonies, cosmology or worldview, creation stories and other narrative forms, cultural values, healers, and medicine. Special attention is given to Anishinaabe, Omushkego, and Dakota traditions.

**REL-2802 (3) Indigenous and Christian Encounter** (3 hrs Lecture) This course will explore Indigenous Spirituality in the context of the encounter between Christianity and the traditional religions of the Indigenous peoples of Canada from first contact to the present. Topics will include missionary societies, residential schools and historical and contemporary responses to the Christian tradition. Special attention will be given to Anishnabe, Omushkego, and Dakota traditions.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-2805.

**REL-2803 (3) Indigenous Sacred Narratives** (3 hrs Lecture) In Indigenous traditions, storytelling is an important means by which cultural values, traditional knowledge and worldviews are taught. In this course, students are introduced to the vast corpus of sacred narratives found in Indigenous religious traditions in the Americas. Narratives are examined to identify mythic themes/story types, human and non-human characters, cultural values, and traditional teachings. Indigenous and academic concepts are used to

understand the importance and meaning of sacred narratives. Methodological and interpretive issues in the study of myth are explored.

**REL-2804 (3) Global Perspectives on Aboriginal Societies, Spiritualities, and the Environment** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores the spiritual traditions of Indigenous cultures throughout the world. For example, we examine the role of elders and shamans in various aboriginal societies, their understandings of the environment in which they live, and their various expressions of spirituality. The course discusses the recognition of Indigenous rights at the United Nations and its implications for preserving land, cultures and spiritualities. Finally, students reflect on the effect of development on Indigenous lands and how that is affecting Indigenous societies and their traditional belief systems.

**Cross-listed:** IDS-2804(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and IDS-2804.

**REL-2901 (3 or 6) Art in Non-Christian Religions** (3 hrs Lecture) This course explores the intrinsic links within non-Christian religious traditions between beliefs and social systems and the art produced in those contexts. We examine different traditions, regions, and eras, in religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Aboriginal Spirituality, and media such as architecture, decorative arts, painting, and sculpture. Students explore art's implicit and explicit messages about the religious beliefs of its producing society, the function of art in particular religions, and how one reads religious art. We investigate the impact of social, economic, and power structures on religious art, and the role of patronage in art production.

**Cross-listed:** HIST-2802(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and HIST-2802.

**REL-2942 (3) The Philosophy of Yoga** (3 hrs Lecture) In this course students become acquainted with the tradition of yoga and its background in the South Asian ascetic and religious discourse. This course potentially combines historical, philosophical, and experiential approaches in order to provide a nuanced vision of the traditional practice of yoga and thus provide a background and context to the modern global yoga movement.

**REL-3011 (3) Intermediate Arabic** (3 hrs Lecture | 4 hrs Lab) This course is a continuation of REL-2012 Introduction to Modern Standard Arabic. Students will continue their study of Modern Standard Arabic. The goal of this course is to be able to form and understand Arabic sentences at an intermediate skill level. Students will develop their abilities in reading, writing, aural comprehension, and oral expression.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-2012 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3120 (3) The Prophets in Israel's Culture** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course is a study of the biblical prophetic literature in its social and religious context, paying attention to the prophets' perspectives on social, political,

theological, and moral concerns.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4120(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3121 | REL-3122 | REL-4120.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-1003, REL-2125, or REL-2127 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3125 (3) Biblical Myths, Legends, and Folktales**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This seminar course begins by surveying major cross-cultural approaches to the study of myths, legends, and folktales. These approaches are then applied to biblical stories such as the Garden of Eden, flood, ancestor stories, and exodus traditions.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4125(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4125.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-1003 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3157 (3) Women in Ancient Israel** (3 hrs

Seminar/Discussion) This course examines the roles and status of women in ancient Israelite culture and religion. Topics to be treated include women in myth and other genres of traditional narrative, the female life-cycle, and women in law, politics, priesthood, and prophecy.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4157(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4157.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-1003 or REL-2111 or REL-2125 or WGS-1232 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3504 (3) The Problem of Evil** (3 hrs

Seminar/Discussion) In this seminar, we explore some of the ways Christians, Jews, and Muslims have conceptualized evil and responded to the problem of evil throughout history. In order better to understand this perennial religious problem, we consider selections from ancient scriptures, philosophical explanations, theological responses to catastrophes such as the Holocaust, and the depictions of evil in North American popular culture.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4504(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4504.

**Requisite Courses:** Any 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3510 (3) Feminist Theory and Western Religions**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course examines how contemporary feminist theory poses challenges and offers resources to the study of religion and culture. This course engages such contemporary feminist theories as affect theory, biopolitics, posthumanism and new materialisms in conjunction with Western religious thought on the nature and role of woman and gender.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4510

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4510.

**Requisite Courses:** A course at the 2000-level in Christianity, Judaism or Islam [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3512 (3) Religious Quest in the Modern Age** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) Students in this course explore

contemporary literature against the cultural and political background that produced these kinds of fiction. Students examine the ways in which these books rely on traditional explicitly religious themes as well as broader modern and post-modern concerns such as the question of selfhood, the search for freedom, the grappling with death, and the search for meaning. Authors may include Joseph Conrad, Franz Kafka, Dionne Brand, Arundhati Roy, Shauna Singh Baldwin, Albert Camus, Carol Shields, Rohinton Mistry, Umberto Eco, Yann Martel, Joy Kogawa, Jonathan Franzen, and Margaret Atwood.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4512(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4512.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3601 (3) Storied Lives: Contemporary Spiritual Biographies and the Construction of Identity** (3 hrs

Seminar/Discussion) In this course students will be introduced to the current social scientific reflection on the "life history" as a means of understanding individuals and contextualizing the larger notions of "religious traditions" and "culture". Specifically, we will consider the ways people construct and maintain their religious identities through weaving their own experiences into a narrative which includes other individuals and institutions. In addition to considering this method theoretically, students will have an opportunity to employ this tool in the context of fieldwork.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4601(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4601.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3701 (3) Issues in the Interpretation of the**

**Qur'an** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) In this seminar, some of the issues pertaining to Qur'anic interpretation (exegesis) are discussed. After gaining an understanding of the book as a scripture, the history and the development of its exegetical venture is traced. Approaches of both classical and modern Muslim commentators on the Qur'an are explored. The Orientalists' approach to the Qur'an and its interpretation is also examined. For practical concerns, this course deals with the interpretation of the Qur'an in a broader context. Examples include the Qur'anic commentaries on Moses and Jesus.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4701(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4701.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-1002, REL-2701, REL-2702, REL-2710 or REL-2711 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3703 (3) Islamic Law** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion)

This course considers the historical contexts within which Islamic law took shape, before examining its origins with the Qur'an and early development within Muslim societies. Next, the course shifts from the history of the law to its substantive areas and application, examining the underlying ethos and principles of Islamic law regarding violence and warfare, gender, non-Muslims, and modernity, are

considered, all considered through contemporary case studies.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4703

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4703.

**REL-3708 (3) Topics in Buddhist Culture and Society**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores topics of contemporary interest regarding the study of Buddhism and society, examining major issues facing Buddhism in the Asian context, focusing on aspects of the institutional, social, and political role played by Buddhism. May be taken for credit more than once, with permission of instructor.

Topics may include: Buddhism and Tibetan identity in the struggle for Tibetan autonomy in China, the Buddhist monastic institution and its role in society, and debates over the interpretation of Buddhism in modern Asian countries.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4708(3) and EALC-3708(3)/4708(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3708 | EALC-4708 | REL-4708.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours of EALC course work or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3713 (3) Gender and Sexuality in Chinese Culture**

(3 hrs Lecture) This course focuses on Chinese society, culture and conceptions of identity through the prisms of gender and sexuality. Topics include normative social roles as defined by Confucian values, power and sexual dynamics within polygamous households, the social body vs. the biological body and the diversity of atypical bodies in traditional China. Further we will see how gender inequality was appropriated to reflect China's backwardness vis à vis the West and Japan in the modern period, and how contemporary culture and society has sought to free gender expression from the confines of national discourse.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-4713(3), REL-3713(3), REL-4713(3)

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3709 | EALC-3713 | EALC-4709 | EALC-4713 | REL-4713.

**REL-3719 (3) Sufism: Islamic Spirituality and Philosophy**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) Sufism is Islam's rich tradition of spirituality and mysticism. It remains one of the most influential and popular expressions of Islam.

Historically, Sufis have been celebrated for their poetry, music and philosophy. This course will explore Sufism's origins, development, key role in classical Islamic civilization, and varied manifestations in the contemporary period.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4719.

**REL-3720 (3) Topics in Japanese Culture and Society**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores the development of intellectual culture in Tokugawa Japan (1600-1858). We examine the slaughter of Japanese Christians and Confucianism's subsequent rise as a state ideology for the Shogunate. We study how an increasing number of scholars responded to Chinese learning by turning toward Neo-Confucianism, Japanese nativism, and Western learning, as alternatives to Classical Confucian education. Along with the diversity of thought, we explore

how popular culture materialized in forms of print literature and theatrical entertainment. Finally, we focus on the culture of dissent that emerged as the Shogun's reign came to an end.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-3720/4720(3) & REL-4720(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3720 | REL-4720.

**Requisite Courses:** Prerequisite: One of Rel-1002, Rel-2704, Rel-2705, Rel-2707, Rel-2708, Rel-2709, Rel-2718, or Rel-2721. Written Permission of the Instructor is required if one of the above prerequisite's is not met [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3721 (3) The Age of the Samurai**

(3 hrs Lecture) "Samurai" often evokes an image of a warrior entranced in the Bushido code, ready to commit harakiri upon command. This course demystifies such an aura surrounding Japan's warrior class by exploring their rise from Heian temple servants to Sengoku warlords and then their fall from Edo Japan's intellectuals and bureaucrats to the realms of the destitute. Sources include samurai autobiographies, their intellectual scholarship, and representations of samurai in contemporary popular culture.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4721(3) and EALC-3721(3)/4721(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3721 | EALC-4721 | REL-4721.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-2721 or EALC-2721 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3731 (3) Topics in Chinese Culture and Society**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores specific topics in the Asian Religions and Cultures area of study at an advanced level. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4731(3) and EALC-3731(3)/4731(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3731.

**REL-3802 (3) Indigenous Healers**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course focuses on the religious/spiritual leaders who are often referred to as medicine men/women or shamans. These individuals primarily function as healers but may also serve as Elders, prophets, priests, philosophers, intellectuals, mystics, artists, poets, and musicians, among other roles. This course examines the historical and contemporary place of these highly respected persons in Indigenous religious traditions.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4802(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4802.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-2801 or REL-2802 or REL-2803 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-3803 (3) Indigenous Women's Teachings**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) Indigenous worldviews and ceremonies are, in general, gender inclusive. However, certain ceremonies and teachings, often referred to as "women's teachings", are specific to Indigenous women. In



addition, due to historical circumstances, the importance of women in worldview and ceremony has often been overlooked or sublimated in the written sources. This course examines the teachings, ceremonies, and issues related to Indigenous women. Written sources by and about Indigenous women and Indigenous women's teachings are examined and local Indigenous women Elders and traditional people are invited to speak to the class as oral sources.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4803(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4803.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-2801, REL-2802, or REL-2803 [prerequisite(s)].

### **REL-3804 (3) Indigenous Spirituality: Research**

**Methods** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course focuses on research methods and sources for the study of Indigenous spirituality. Sources include published and unpublished written material and oral narratives. Critical perspectives and ethical issues related to the study of Indigenous spirituality and research with Elders and Indigenous people are examined. Guidelines established by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council related to the development of an Indigenous Research Paradigm, or a decolonizing approach to research and scholarship are discussed. During the term, students develop their own research projects in consultation with the professor.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4804(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4804.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-2801 or REL-2802 or REL-2803 [prerequisite(s)].

### **REL-3805 (6) Indigenous Ceremonies and Healing**

(6 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course, organized in collaboration with local healers, involves participating in local Indigenous ceremonies and learning about Indigenous healing models and worldviews. Combined with an academic approach, it provides an opportunity to engage in experiential learning from an Indigenous perspective; which engages the four aspects of the self (mind, body, spirit, emotions) in the learning process. The course is offered in the spring/summer session when major ceremonies are held and involves some overnight camping. Students use their experiential learning as a framework to engage written sources related to the ceremonies and teachings. There are higher expectations for 4000 and graduate levels.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4805.

**Requisite Courses:** One of REL-2801, REL-2802, REL-2803, REL-2804, REL-3802, REL-4802, REL-3803, REL-4803, REL-3804, or REL-4804 or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

### **REL-3900 (3) Topics in Historical Judaism,**

**Christianity, or Islam** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores specific topics in the Historical Judaism, Christianity, or Islam area of study at an advanced level. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are

expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4900(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4900.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture, 3 of which must be in the Historical Judaism, Christianity, or Islam area of study, or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

### **REL-3940 (3) Topics in Religion and Modern Western Culture**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores specific topics in the Religions and Modern Western Culture area of study at an advanced level. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4940(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4940.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture, 3 of which must be in the Religions & Modern Western Culture area of study, or permission of the Instructor [prerequisite(s)].

### **REL-3970 (3) Topics in Asian Religions and Culture**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores specific topics in the Asian Religions and Cultures area of study at an advanced level. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4970(3) and EALC-3970(3)/4970(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3970 | EALC-4970 | REL-4970.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in East Asian Languages and Culture or 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture, 3 of which must be in the Asian Religions and Cultures area of study, or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

### **REL-3980 (3) Topics in Indigenous Religious**

**Traditions** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores specific topics in the Indigenous Religious Traditions area of study at an advanced level. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4980(3).

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4980.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture, 3 of which must be in the Indigenous Religious Traditions area of study, or permission of the Instructor [prerequisite(s)].

### **REL-3990 (6) Readings in Religion**

Reading) This course will provide individual directed study of a specialized subject at an advanced level.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4990(6).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required.

**REL-3991 (3) Readings in Religion** (3 hrs Directed

Reading) This course will provide individual directed study of a specialized subject at an advanced level.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4991(3).

**REL-3999 (6) Languages for Religious Studies** (3 hrs

Tutorial) This course will provide an individual tutorial program in a language required by an advanced student in connection with ongoing study in a specialized religious field.

**Cross-listed:** REL-4999(6).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-4999.

**REL-4120 (3) The Prophets in Israel's Culture** (3 hrs

Seminar/Discussion) This course is a study of the biblical prophetic literature in its social and religious context, paying attention to the prophets' perspectives on social, political, theological, and moral concerns.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3120(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3120 | REL-3121 | REL-3122.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-1003, REL-2125, or REL-2127 and written approval from Department's Honours Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4125 (3) Biblical Myths, Legends, and Folktales**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This seminar course begins by surveying major cross-cultural approaches to the study of myths, legends, and folktales. These approaches are then applied to biblical stories such as the Garden of Eden, flood, ancestor stories, and exodus traditions.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3125(3).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3125.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-1003 and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4157 (3) Women in Ancient Israel** (3 hrs

Seminar/Discussion) This course examines the roles and status of women in ancient Israelite culture and religion. Topics to be treated include women in myth and other genres of traditional narrative, the female life-cycle, and women in law, politics, priesthood, and prophecy.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3157(3).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3157.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-1003, REL-2111, REL-2125, or WGS-1232, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4504 (3) The Problem of Evil** (3 hrs

Seminar/Discussion) In this seminar, we explore some of the ways Christians, Jews, and Muslims have conceptualized evil and responded to the problem of evil throughout history. In order better to understand this perennial religious problem, we consider selections from

ancient scriptures, philosophical explanations, theological responses to catastrophes such as the Holocaust, and the depictions of evil in North American popular culture.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3504(3).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3504.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4510 (3) Feminist Theory and Western Religions**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course examines how contemporary feminist theory poses challenges and offers resources to the study of religion and culture. This course engages such contemporary feminist theories as affect theory, biopolitics, posthumanism and new materialisms in conjunction with Western religious thought on the nature and role of woman and gender.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3510

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3510.

**Requisite Courses:** A course at the 2000-level in Christianity, Judaism or Islam [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4512 (3) Religious Quest in the Modern Age** (3

hrs Seminar/Discussion) Students in this course explore contemporary literature against the cultural and political background that produced these kinds of fiction. Students examine the ways in which these books rely on traditional explicitly religious themes as well as broader modern and post-modern concerns such as the question of selfhood, the search for freedom, the grappling with death, and the search for meaning. Authors may include Joseph Conrad, Franz Kafka, Dionne Brand, Arundhati Roy, Shauna Singh Baldwin, Albert Camus, Carol Shields, Rohinton Mistry, Umberto Eco, Yann Martel, Joy Kogawa, Jonathan Franzen, and Margaret Atwood.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3512(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3512.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4601 (3) Storied Lives: Contemporary Spiritual Biographies and the Construction of Identity** (3 hrs

Seminar/Discussion) In this course students will be introduced to the current social scientific reflection on the "life history" as a means of understanding individuals and contextualizing the larger notions of "religious traditions" and "culture". Specifically, we will consider the ways people construct and maintain their religious identities through weaving their own experiences into a narrative which includes other individuals and institutions. In addition to considering this method theoretically, students will have an opportunity to employ this tool in the context of fieldwork.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3601(3).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3601.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4701 (3) Issues in the Interpretation of the**

**Qur'an** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) In this seminar, some of

the issues pertaining to Qur'anic interpretation (exegesis) are discussed. After gaining an understanding of the book as a scripture, the history and the development of its exegetical venture is traced. Approaches of both classical and modern Muslim commentators on the Qur'an are explored. The Orientalists' approach to the Qur'an and its interpretation is also examined. For practical concerns, this course deals with the interpretation of the Qur'an in a broader context. Examples include the Qur'anic commentaries on Moses and Jesus.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3701(3).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3701.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-1002 or REL-2701 or REL-2702 or REL-2710 or REL-2711, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4703 (3) Islamic Law** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion)

This course considers the historical contexts within which Islamic law took shape, before examining its origins with the Qur'an and early development within Muslim societies. Next, the course shifts from the history of the law to its substantive areas and application, examining the underlying ethos and principles of Islamic law regarding violence and warfare, gender, non-Muslims, and modernity, are considered, all considered through contemporary case studies.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3703

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3703.

**REL-4708 (3) Topics in Buddhist Culture and Society**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores topics of contemporary interest regarding the study of Buddhism and society, examining major issues facing Buddhism in the Asian context, focusing on aspects of the institutional, social, and political role played by Buddhism. May be taken for credit more than once, with permission of instructor. Topics may include: Buddhism and Tibetan identity in the struggle for Tibetan autonomy in China, the Buddhist monastic institution and its role in society, and debates over the interpretation of Buddhism in modern Asian countries.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3708(3) and EALC-3708(3)/4708(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3708 | EALC-4708 | REL-3708.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours of EALC course work or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4713 (3) Gender and Sexuality in Chinese Culture**

(3 hrs Lecture) This course focuses on Chinese society, culture and conceptions of identity through the prisms of gender and sexuality. Topics include normative social roles as defined by Confucian values, power and sexual dynamics within polygamous households, the social body vs. the biological body and the diversity of atypical bodies in traditional China. Further we will see how gender inequality was appropriated to reflect China's backwardness vis à vis the West and Japan in the modern period, and how contemporary culture and society has sought to free gender expression from the confines of national discourse.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-4713(3), REL-3713(3), REL-4713(3)

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3709 | EALC-3713 | EALC-4709 | EALC-4713 | REL-3713.

**REL-4719 (3) Sufism: Islamic Spirituality and Philosophy**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) Sufism is Islam's rich tradition of spirituality and mysticism. It remains one of the most influential and popular expressions of Islam. Historically, Sufis have been celebrated for their poetry, music and philosophy. This course will explore Sufism's origins, development, key role in classical Islamic civilization, and varied manifestations in the contemporary period.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3719.

**REL-4720 (3) Topics in Japanese Culture and Society**

(3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores the development of intellectual culture in Tokugawa Japan (1600-1858). We examine the slaughter of Japanese Christians and Confucianism's subsequent rise as a state ideology for the Shogunate. We study how an increasing number of scholars responded to Chinese learning by turning toward Neo-Confucianism, Japanese nativism, and Western learning, as alternatives to Classical Confucian education. Along with the diversity of thought, we explore how popular culture materialized in forms of print literature and theatrical entertainment. Finally, we focus on the culture of dissent that emerged as the Shogun's reign came to an end.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-3720/4720(3) & REL-3720(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3720.

**Requisite Courses:** One of REL-1002, REL-2704, REL-2705, REL-2707, REL-2708, REL-2709, REL-2718, or REL-2721 [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4721 (3) The Age of the Samurai**

(3 hrs Lecture) "Samurai" often evokes an image of a warrior entranced in the Bushido code, ready to commit harakiri upon command. This course demystifies such an aura surrounding Japan's warrior class by exploring their rise from Heian temple servants to Sengoku warlords and then their fall from Edo Japan's intellectuals and bureaucrats to the realms of the destitute. Sources include samurai autobiographies, their intellectual scholarship, and representations of samurai in contemporary popular culture.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3721(3) and EALC-3721(3)/4721(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-3721 | EALC-4721 | REL-3721.

**Requisite Courses:** EALC-2721 or REL-2721 and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4731 (3) Topics in Chinese Culture and Society**

(3 hrs Lecture) REL-4731/3 (S3) Topics in Chinese Culture and Society examines women in China from the pre-modern period to the contemporary era with a focus on women of modern Mainland China in their appropriate historical and cultural contexts. The course is a third year offering, however, it requires no prior knowledge of Chinese language, history, culture, or literature. Students in the course learn about the ways in which cultural

representations of women's lives have changed from past to present. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours of EALC Culture (non-language) courses (or equivalent). In the absence of the prerequisite, permission of the instructor is required.

**Cross-listed:** EALC-4731.

**Restrictions:** Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-4731.

**Requisite Courses:** You must successfully complete 6 credits of EALC culture (non-language) courses (or equivalent) or permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4802 (3) Indigenous Healers** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course focuses on the religious/spiritual leaders who are often referred to as medicine men/women or shamans. These individuals primarily function as healers but may also serve as Elders, prophets, priests, philosophers, intellectuals, mystics, artists, poets, and musicians, among other roles. This course examines the historical and contemporary place of these highly respected persons in Indigenous religious traditions.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3802(3).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3802.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-2801, REL-2802, or REL-2803, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4803 (3) Indigenous Women** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) Indigenous worldviews and ceremonies are, in general, gender inclusive. However, certain ceremonies and teachings, often referred to as "women's teachings", are specific to Indigenous women. In addition, due to historical circumstances, the importance of women in worldview and ceremony has often been overlooked or sublimated in the written sources. This course examines the teachings, ceremonies, and issues related to Indigenous women. Written sources by and about Indigenous women and Indigenous women's teachings are examined and local Indigenous women Elders and traditional people are invited to speak to the class as oral sources.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3803(3).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3803.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-2801, REL-2802, or REL-2803, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4804 (3) Indigenous Spirituality: Research Methods** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course focuses on research methods and sources for the study of Indigenous spirituality. Sources include published and unpublished written material and oral narratives. Critical perspectives and ethical issues related to the study of Indigenous spirituality and research with Elders and Indigenous people are examined. Guidelines established by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council related to the development of an Indigenous Research Paradigm, or a decolonizing approach to research and scholarship are discussed. During the term, students develop their own research projects in consultation with the professor.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3804(3).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students

may not hold credit for this course and REL-3804.

**Requisite Courses:** REL-2801 or REL-2802 or REL-2803, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4805 (6) Indigenous Ceremonies and Healing** (6 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course, organized in collaboration with local healers, involves participating in local Indigenous ceremonies and learning about Indigenous healing models and worldviews. Combined with an academic approach, it provides an opportunity to engage in experiential learning from an Indigenous perspective; which engages the four aspects of the self (mind, body, spirit, emotions) in the learning process. The course is offered in the spring/summer session when major ceremonies are held and involves some overnight camping. Students use their experiential learning as a framework to engage written sources related to the ceremonies and teachings. There are higher expectations for 4000 and graduate levels.

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3805.

**Requisite Courses:** One of REL-2801, REL-2802, REL-2803, REL-2804, REL-3802, REL-4802, REL-3803, REL-4803, REL-3804, or REL-4804 and permission of the instructor [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4900 (3) Topics in Historical Judaism, Christianity, Or Islam** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores specific topics in the Historical Judaism, Christianity, or Islam area of study at an advanced level. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3900(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3900.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture, 3 of which must be in the Historical Judaism, Christianity, or Islam area of study, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4940 (3) Topics in Religion and Modern Western Culture** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores specific topics in the Religions and Modern Western Culture area of study at an advanced level. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3940(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3940.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture, 3 of which must be in the Religions & Modern Western Culture area of study, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4970 (3) Topics in Asian Religions and Culture** (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion) This course explores specific topics in the Asian Religions and Cultures area of study at an advanced level. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are

typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3970(3) and EALC-3970(3)/4970(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and EALC-4970 | REL-3970.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in East Asian Languages and Culture or 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture, 3 of which must be in the Asian Religions and Cultures area of study, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

### **REL-4980 (3) Topics in Indigenous Religious**

**Traditions (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion)** This course explores specific topics in the Indigenous Religious Traditions area of study at an advanced level. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. Students enrolled at the 4000 level are typically assigned a heavier workload in terms of assignments and are expected to perform at a more advanced level. Students should consult the department regarding potential offerings in a given year.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3980(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3980.

**Requisite Courses:** 6 credit hours in Religion & Culture, 3 of which must be in the Indigenous Religious Traditions area of study, and permission of the Department Chair [prerequisite(s)].

**REL-4990 (6) Readings in Religion (3 hrs Lecture)** This course will provide individual directed study of a specialized subject at an advanced level.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3990(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required.

**REL-4991 (3) Readings in Religion (3 hrs Lecture)** This course will provide individual directed study of a specialized subject at an advanced level.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3991(3).

**Restrictions:** Honours Form Required.

**REL-4999 (6) Languages for Religious Studies (3 hrs Tutorial)** This course will provide an individual tutorial program in a language required by an advanced student in connection with ongoing study in a specialized religious field.

**Note:** Permission of the Department Chair is required.

**Cross-listed:** REL-3999(6).

**Restrictions:** Department Permission Required. Students may not hold credit for this course and REL-3999.

**REL-5000 (6) Method and Theory in the Study of Religion (3 hrs Seminar/Discussion)** This course will introduce the problem of method in Religious Studies, discussing Religion as a field of study, its definition, development, and relation to other disciplines. The student will be introduced to various methods of studying Religion and will be guided in the practice of a method suitable to his or her own area of research.

### **REL-5001 (3) Method and Theory in the Study of**

### **Religion I: Social Scientific Approaches (3 hrs Lecture)**

This course examines the problem of method in Religious Studies, discussing Religion as a field of study, its definition, development, and relation to other disciplines. Students examine classic social scientific approaches to the study of religion: sociological, anthropological, psychological, as well as feminist and post-modernist methods. Along with REL-5002(3), this course fulfills the method and theory requirement for the Joint Masters Program in Religion.

### **REL-5002 (3) Method and Theory in the Study of**

**Religion II: Textual Interpretation (3 hrs Lecture)** This course introduces the problem of method in Religious Studies, especially as it relates to the study and interpretation of religious texts. Texts are examined from the perspective of various possible hermeneutical interpretations, taking into account literary, contextual, and historical concerns, as well as doctrinal and ideological considerations. Students consider both traditional religious and post-traditional ways of interpreting texts, gaining appreciation for how historical and ideological forces shape the interpretation of religious texts. Along with REL-5001(3), this course fulfills the method and theory requirement for the Joint Master Program in Religion.

### **REL-5990 (6) Advanced Individual Study in Religion (3**

**hrs Directed Reading)** This course will provide individual, directed study of a specialized topic for students beyond the undergraduate level.

### **REL-5991 (3) Advanced Individual Study in Religion (3**

**hrs Directed Reading)** This course will provide individual, directed study of a specialized topic for students beyond the undergraduate level.