RELST 2662 Daily Life in the Biblical World 3 credits
Zorn, J.  
MW  8:40-9:55
Crosslisted with ARKEO 2662, NES 2662, LA 2520, JWST 2662

The course will survey the common and not-so-common daily activities of the world of ancient Israel and its neighbors in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Canaan. Many courses cover aspects of ancient political history or ancient literature, but these often focus on the activities of members of social elites, at the expense of the activities of more average citizens. The focus of this class is on ancient technologies and human interactions with the environment. It will provide a broad spectrum, spanning all social classes, and many different kinds of resources and activities. Material to be covered will include topics such as food production and processing, pottery production, metallurgy, glass making, cloth production and personal adornment, implements of war, medicine, leisure time (games and music), and others.

RELST 2666 Jerusalem through the Ages 3 credits
Zorn, J.  
MWF 12:20-1:10
Crosslisted with ARKEO/NES/JWST 2666

Jerusalem is a holy city to the adherents of the three great monotheistic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. For most of its existence it has also been a national capital or major provincial center for the many states and empires which vied for control of the vital land bridge connecting Africa, Europe and Asia. Thus many of the pivotal events which shaped western civilization were played out in the streets and structures of Jerusalem. This class will explore the history, archaeology, and natural topography of Jerusalem throughout its long life, from its earliest remains in the Chalcolithic period (ca. 4000 B.C.E.) to the 19th century, including Jebusite Jerusalem, Jerusalem as the capital of the Davidic dynasty, the Roman era city of Herod and Jesus, the Crusaders and medieval Jerusalem, and Ottoman Jerusalem as the city entered the modern era. Students will examine the original historical sources (e.g. the Bible, Josephus, the Madeba map, etc.) which pertain to Jerusalem. PowerPoint shows will be used to illustrate the natural features, man-made monuments, and artifacts which flesh out the textual material providing a fuller image of the world’s most prominent spiritual and secular capital.

RELST 2799 Hebrew Bible, New Testament, & Quran in Comparative Perspective 3 credits
Brann, R.  
MW  11:15-12:20
Crosslist with NES 2799, JWST 2799

This course examines (in translation) the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Qur’an as foundational documents of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religious traditions respectively and as texts by which their corresponding religious communities constitute and define themselves and their historical memory. The approach in this course will be comparative, analyzing primarily literary aspects of parallel narrative traditions on Creation, the Noah story, Abraham/Ibrahim and his sons, the Joseph/Yusuf cycle, the Solomon-Sheba material and the figure of Jesus in the synoptic Gospels and in the Quran. The class will also discuss the concepts of revelation and prophethood and notions of history, eschatology and apocalypse set forth the three Scriptures.
Discussions:
Disc 201  F  9:05-9:55  Staff
Disc 202  F  11:15-12:05  Staff
Disc 203  F  12:20-1:10  Staff
Disc 204  F  1:25-2:15  Staff

RELST 3280  Literature of the Old Testament  4 credits
Carmichael, C.  TR  8:40-9:55
Crosslisted with COML 3280

Analysis of small sections of well-known material for in-depth discussion.

RELST 3316  Intro to Confucianism  4 credits
Rust, B.  TR  2:55-4:10
Crosslisted with ASIAN 3316

Survey of Confucian thought in East Asia from the sixth century BCE to the present. Major themes include ethical values, scriptural traditions, ritual practice, and interaction with other traditions. All readings are in English.

RELST 3347  Tantric Traditions  4 credits
Gold, D.  TR  11:40-12:55
Crosslisted with ASIAN 3347

Prerequisite: One Asian Studies course, one Religious Studies course or permission of instructor. After the pre-enrollment period ends, please contact Dan Gold (drg4) to enroll.

RELST 3359  Japanese Buddhism: Founders, Doctrines, Praxis  4 credits
Law, J.  TR  8:40-9:55
Crosslisted with ASIAN 3359

We will focus on six figures in Japanese Buddhism: Saichô (767-822), Kukai (774-835), Hōnen (113-1212), Nchiren (1222-1282), Dogen (1200-1253) and Hakuin (1686-1769). By studying their lives, writings, core practices and doctrines, we will see a central religious dynamic that the work of each embodies: establishment of a Mahayana ordination, esoteric practice, the popularization of Buddhism, Buddhist pro-nationalist ideologies, and establishment of Zen meditation as iconic "Japanese" Buddhism.

RELST 3531  Daoist Traditions  4 credits
Hinrichs, T.  MW  2:55-4:10
Crosslisted with HIST 3531, ASIAN 3332

This course will examine the modes of philosophical and spiritual inquiry, varieties of spiritual/bodily cultivation and practice, and religious organizations and movements in China that we know as Daoist (or Taoist). We will review debates around the labeling of these ideas and practices. We will examine the ways in which Daosim was used to contest or legitimate imperial political power, and how the procedures and ideologies of the imperial state in turn informed Daoist theory and practice. Throughout, we will consider the ways in which standard modern western dichotomies, such as sacred/secular, spiritual/physical, and mind/body, break down when we try to apply them to the study of Daoism.
RELST 3631  Sages and Satirists, Pirates and Pilgrims:  4 credits
Rusten, J.  
The Greek Literary World of the Roman Empire
TR  1:25-2:40
Crosslisted with CLASS 3631, NES 3931

The second century CE was at once the "most happy and prosperous" period of human history (Gibbon), and an "Age of Anxiety" (E. R. Dodds). This course will examine how the struggle between skepticism and belief in a world of opportunity and danger played itself out in the pages of (mostly) Greek popular literature, for example in doubts about traditional religion (oracles, mockery of myth, unmasking of charlatans), strategies for reviving belief (retreat, personal faith, travel, Christianity), or systems of prediction (dreams, physiognomy). We will conclude by studying two historical accounts of travelling missionaries (Acts of the Apostles and The Life of Apollonius of Tyana), and two novels of self-discovery (Apuleius' Metamorphoses and Heliodorus' Ethiopic). Selections, all in English, from Dio Chrysostom, Plutarch, Lucian and Philostratus as well as Aelius Aristides, Pausanias, Artemidorus, Justin Martyr, Galen, Marcus Aurelius, Clement of Alexandria.

RELST 3637  History and Literature of Early Christianity  4 credits
Haines-Eitzen, K.  MW  8:40-9:55
Crosslisted with CLASS 3637, NES 3637

This course traces the historical development of Christianity from its roots in 1st century Palestinian Judaism to the emergence of Islam in the early 7th century. The focus will be on exploring the rich diversity of Christianity by reading a wide range of primary literary sources—selections from the New Testament, church fathers, Gnostic writings, monastic literature, and much more—and studying the material culture through archaeology, art, inscriptions, and papyri. Special attention will be given to the ways in which Christianity in different regions around the Mediterranean interfaced with paganism, Judaism, and Islam.

RELST 4100  Latin Philosophical Texts  1-4 credits
MacDonald, S.  TBA
Crosslisted with PHIL 4002

Reading and translation of Latin philosophical texts. Co-meeting with PHIL 6020.

RELST 4280  Biblical Seminar  4 credits
Carmichael, C.  W  2:30-4:25
Crosslisted with COML 4280

A study of how biblical ethical and legal rules (in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy) comment on incidents in the biblical narratives (Genesis-2 Kings). The link between law and narrative enables us to observe in detail how ancient thinkers evaluate ethical and legal problems of perennial interest. Limited to 15 students.

RELST 4462  Religion, Colonialism, & Nationalism in S & SE Asia  4 credits
Blackburn, A.  TR  2:55-4:10
Crosslisted with ASIAN 4462
Prerequisites: one course in ASIAN, RELST, HIST, ANTHR at 3000 level or above or permission of instructor.

RELST 4707  Writing Muslims:  4 credits
Toorawa, S.  Literature & Film of Muslim Diaspora(s)
W  10:10-12:05
Crosslisted with NES 4707, ENGL 4798

How and where does -- indeed, can -- one write the story of a diaspora of the Muslim creative and critical imagination? How do contemporary diasporic Muslim writers and filmmakers operate with(in) memory, with the impossible longing to belong, with the loss of ‘home’ (when ‘home’ is where they already are...)? Guided by the critical work of e.g. Ahmed, Erickson, Hawley, Rushdie, and Subrani, we will read the works of e.g. Leila Aboulela, Zulfikar Ghose, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Mohja Kahf, Sorayya Khan, Manzu Islam, Hanif Kureishi, Yasmin Ladha, and others; and watch ‘Bhaji on the Beach,’ ‘My Beautiful Laundrette,’ ‘Surviving Sabu,’ and other films made in Britain and North America. We will critique, evaluate, and enjoy these works through the lens of the diasporic condition, by paying special attention to the effects of displacement and its impact on articulations of faith, history, identity, memory, mythologies, nation(alism), subjugation, the postmodern, and the (post)postcolonial. We will together try to understand how the ‘expatriate’ Muslim writes herself, her world, and her condition. All material in English.

RELST 4990  Directed Study  1-4 credits
Staff  TBA

For majors in Religious Studies; permission of director required.

RELST 4991  Directed Study  1-4 credits
Staff  TBA

For majors in Religious Studies; permission of director required.

RELST 4995  Senior Honors Essay  1-8 credits
Staff  TBA

Required for Honors in Religious Studies. Permission of Instructor required.

RELST 6020  Latin Philosophical Texts  1-4 credits
MacDonald, S.  TBA
Crosslisted with PHIL 6020, LATIN 7262

Reading and translation of Latin philosophical texts. Co-meeting with PHIL 4002.
Prerequisites: knowledge of Latin and permission of instructor.

RELST 6707  Writing Muslims:  4 credits
Toorawa, S.  Literature & Film of Muslim Diaspora(s)
W  10:10-12:05
Crosslisted with NES 6707, ENGL 6798

Please see the description for RELST 4707