

**REL 2750 Christian Social Thought (3,2,1)**

This course examines the various theological tendencies within the Christian Church in regard to their understanding of Christian responsibility to society and culture, and of the forms of social action in response to the needs in society.

**REL 2760 Major Streams in Chinese Philosophy (3,2,1)**

This course introduces the origin and development of major philosophical themes in the traditional schools of Chinese philosophy and religion such as Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and Mohism. While providing a survey of the history and interrelationships between main streams of Chinese thought from before Confucius and stretching up to the modern period, the course also presents to students some critical assessments of these trends. In the course of discussions some attention will also be given to sub-traditions such as the teachings of Gongsun Long and Hui Shi, as well as some of the new doctrines developed by Neo-Daoists, Chinese Buddhists and Neo-Confucians, and the criticisms raised by some modern Chinese philosophers. By this means students will be provided with broad historical accounts to the background and development of the problems addressed in various Chinese philosophical and religious traditions.

**REL 3210 Philosophy of Religion (3,2,1)**

The course explores a whole range of philosophical problems related to religion, including issues such as proofs for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the intelligibility of religious language, the rationality of religious belief, the relationship between religion and morality, and the significance of religious experience. A selection of influential philosophers will be studied in depth, and students will be encouraged to compare and contrast their various approaches. This is an advanced course; students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

**REL 3220 Comparative Religious Themes (3,2,1)**

This course attempts to provide students with a historically and culturally contextualized empathetic understanding of the world's major living religions by examining the relationships between these religious worldviews and their teachings on personal and social life. It also aims at finding out the prospects for obtaining universal, cross-cultural values in a religiously pluralistic world. Furthermore, it tries to draw on the ancient spiritual resources and various religious wisdom to address the urgent contemporary issues confronting humankind. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

**REL 3230 Christianity and Chinese Culture (3,2,1)**

The course utilizes a comparative and interdisciplinary approach to provide a solid platform for the mutual reflections both on the Christian faith in its Western form, as well as on Chinese culture in its current modernization and rejuvenation. Special attention would be paid to Chinese Christian thinkers who have tried to address the cultural dilemmas that arose from their conversion to Christianity, or to non-Christian Chinese thinkers who felt a special need to address the cultural challenge from Western Christianity.

**REL 3240 Religion and Modern Society (3,2,1)**

The course begins with an introduction on classical thinking concerned with the role of religion in society. It then examines the deeper problems of religions raised in the process of modernization/Westernization of society. It explores the religious situations of several typical societies, namely, that of a modernizing non-Western society, that of a modernized non-Western one, and that of a post-modern Western society. Students are invited to reflect existentially with participant observation on the religious situation of his/her own society. This is an advanced course; students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

**REL 3260 Chinese Christianity (3,2,1)**

This is a study of the missions of the Syriac/Persian (Nestorian), Roman Catholic, Protestant and Russian Orthodox churches in China and their reception among different Chinese societies. The course will begin with a focus on the historical development of different forms of Christianity during the imperial era in China from the Tang to the Qing dynasty. Substantial questions will address cultural and theological issues which have emerged through the modern encounter of Roman Catholic and Protestant expressions of Christianity during modern times. These will include the adaptations required by them in post revolutionary periods of the 20th century China as well as current and long-term problems being faced in the broader realms of cultural China.

**REL 3270 Mysticism and Religious Experience (3,2,1)**

This course examines the standard philosophical problems relating to the nature and interpretation of experiences that lead a person to believe he or she has come into contact with a "transcendent reality" (e.g. God). Special emphasis will be given to thinkers who have developed world views that centre upon such religious or "mystical" experiences.

**REL 3410 Theology and Sex in Chinese Societies (3,2,1)**

This course introduces students to Christian theology of sex by focusing on the integral relation between sexuality and humanity. It studies the changing sex culture in the last few decades in the west and subsequent movements in contemporary Chinese societies. It explores the underlying ideologies and their impact. It introduces Christian theology of sexuality from biblical, historical and theological perspectives. The values of contemporary sex culture and the Christian tradition are compared and evaluated in light of the problems, tensions and challenges arising from selected various issues in contemporary Chinese societies. These issues include pornography and prostitution, marriage and family, procreation and reproductive technologies, gender and homosexual relations, etc. The relevance of Christian values in public life and postmodern society will also be explored.

**REL 3420 Christianity, Modern Science and the Environment (3,2,1)**

This course is mainly a study of the complex interplay between science and the Christian religion. Some emphasis will also be placed on issues concerned with the meaning of life and the environmental problems. It begins with an invitation to the perennial problems of truth and meaning in science and religion. Different models of the interaction between religion and science will be explored. Then we will discuss whether modern science and the Christian religion are compatible in several major areas: biology, physics and methodology. Important cases of conflict will also be analysed in their historical contexts.

**REL 3591-2 Honours Project (3,\*,\*)**

A project for BA (Hons) in Religious Studies students. Students will pursue in-depth research on a specific topic of interest to the student under guidance of an appointed lecturer from the Department of Religion and Philosophy. Students are to consult with their advisers regarding the necessary library and archival research, synthesis and writing. This project will be open only to Year III Honours Degree students.

**REL 3610 Comparative Philosophy: East and West (3,2,1)**

This course aims to offer a comparative examination of Eastern (with an emphasis on Chinese philosophy) and Western philosophies from a macroscopic point of view. The focus will be directed on the principal ideas advanced and the modes of thinking employed. Similarities as well as differences between Eastern and Western philosophies will be explored and discussed. Religious implications where relevant to the thoughts and theories concerned will be emphasized.