

**REL 3630 Selected Topics/Readings in Christian Studies (3,2,1) (tbc)**

This course is a study of primary texts of major theological thinkers and/or ecclesiastical documents. The texts to be studied in detail may cover one or more periods of history (e.g. the Patristic Period, the Middle Ages, the Reformation or the Post-Enlightenment Period), or focus on one or more theologians or themes. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

**REL 3770 Religion and Ideology (3,2,1) (E)**

This course introduces students to the concept of ideology and its significance for the understanding of religion in the modern world. Through the particular example of Marxist critique of religion as ideology, the classical formulation of the concept of ideology is introduced. The validity and nature of this critique will then be considered. Religion's response to the critique will then be examined. Religion's critique of ideology as quasi-religion will also be discussed. Various modern ideologies will then be surveyed and their inherent strength and weakness will be set out in contrast with traditional religions. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

**REL 3780 Religions in Northwestern China (3,2,1) (P) Today**

This course, which is supplemented by a summer study tour, enables students to explore the various religious traditions in contemporary mainland China. Its specific focus is on religious diversity in the northwestern part of China. The primary way this is done is to begin with a general understanding of Chinese religions including Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Islam, Protestant and Catholic Christianity, and "Popular Religion". Particular attention will be paid to sociological and ethnographic issues in northwestern China such as religion and secularization, ethnicity and modernity.

**REL 3990 Selected Topics/Readings in Religious Studies Today (3,2,1) (E/C)**

The precise content of the course will be determined on the basis of (1) the needs of the students, (2) availability of faculty, and (3) consultation between the teaching faculty and Head of Department. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

**REL 7010 Graduate Seminar (3,3,0)**

Each graduate student will be required to present and defend at least one research paper during the semester. The teacher(s) may also present lectures and/or lead discussions on topics relevant to the students' research topics. The exact course description, outline content, assessment, teaching methods/approach to learning, and references for this course will depend on the following factors: (1) the number of graduate students enrolled in the seminar; (2) the nature of their topics; and (3) the specialization(s) of the teacher (or teachers, if it is team-taught).

**REL 7020 Selected Masterpieces in Philosophy (3,3,0)**

An in-depth study of selected seminal work(s) of philosophy. The course aims at enabling the students to appreciate the historical significance of the work, to understand its role in the philosophical tradition, to critically assess its major ideas and arguments, and to explore its relevance to the contemporary world. The instructor(s) of this course will set the pace, present lectures when deemed necessary, design the topics for discussions and guide the students to write their reports. Reports will be presented in seminars while the instructor(s) and other students act as discussants.

**REL 7030 Selected Masterpieces in Christian Religion (3,3,0)**

An in-depth study of selected seminal work(s) of Christian theology. The course aims at enabling the students to appreciate the historical significance of the work, to understand its role in the Christian tradition, to critically assess its major ideas and

arguments, and to explore its relevance to the contemporary world. The instructor(s) of this course will set the pace, present lectures when deemed necessary, design the topics for discussions and guide the students to write their reports. Reports will be presented in seminars while the instructor(s) and other students act as discussants.

**REL 7040 Selected Masterpieces in Chinese Religions (3,3,0)**

An in-depth study of selected seminal work(s) in Chinese religions (e.g. Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism). The course aims at enabling the students to appreciate the historical significance of the work, to understand its role in the Chinese culture, to critically assess its major ideas and arguments, and to explore its relevance to the contemporary world. The instructor(s) of this course will set the pace, present lectures when deemed necessary, design the topics for discussions and guide the students to write their reports. Reports will be presented in seminars while the instructor(s) and other students act as discussants.

**REL 7050 Comparative Study of Religious Masterpieces (3,3,0)**

An in-depth comparative study of a selected seminal work of Christian theology and a selected seminal work in Chinese religions (e.g. Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism). Besides enabling the students to appreciate the historical significance of the works, to understand their roles in their religious traditions, to critically assess their major ideas and arguments, and to explore their relevance to the contemporary world, the course also aims at a comparative study of the themes, modes of thinking, symbols, etc. in these works from diverse religious traditions. The instructor(s) of this course will set the pace, present lectures when deemed necessary, design the topics for discussions and guide the students to write their reports. Reports will be presented in seminars while the instructor(s) and other students act as discussants.

**REL 7060 Advanced Required Readings (3,\*,\*)**

This course aims to (1) provide a tailor-made and guided reading programme for research postgraduate students in specific areas of religious studies or philosophy, and (2) induce students to acquire in-depth understanding of their research area and related disciplines. The supervisor and the student are required to work out a reading list to cover the topics pertaining to the student's research area. The approved list will be submitted to the department for record. The student might have to submit one or more reading reports as seen fit by the supervisor.

**RELI 1005 Quest For Truth and Meaning (3,2,1) (E/C)**

This is an introductory course in philosophy and religious studies for students with no background knowledge. It begins by assisting students to discover the quests for truth and meaning in popular culture. After introducing some basic critical thinking skills, this course guides students to explore and appreciate the multiple relationships between philosophy, religious studies and various dimensions of human existence—individual life, society, and civilization. Students will experience the joy and excitement of studying philosophy and religious studies.

**RELI 2005 History of Christian Thought (3,2,1) (tbc)**

This course aims to (1) provide students with systematic understanding of the history of Christian thought; and (2) enable students to appreciate the development of the Christian intellectual tradition.

**RELI 2006 Introduction to Christianity and Civilizations (3,2,1) (tbc)**

This course aims to (1) introduce the Christian religion holistically to beginners by exploring the richness and diversity of the Christian traditions; and (2) conduct an impartial examination of some multi-faceted impacts, positive and negative, of Christianity upon the Western and Chinese civilizations.