

RELI 2007 Problems of Philosophy (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) introduce basic knowledge of philosophy, and to help develop students' analytical ability to tackle problems of philosophy through the study of and reflection on various philosophical concepts, problems and attempted solutions in both the western and Chinese philosophical traditions; (2) enable students to acquire basic knowledge of philosophy in both the western and Chinese traditions; (3) examine critically various philosophical concepts, problems and attempted solutions; and (4) tackle methodological problems in philosophy.

RELI 2015 Approaches to the Study of Religion (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) achieve a comprehensive understanding of various approaches to the study of religion; (2) understand the pros and cons of different approaches and their impact on the study of religion; (3) help students understand various methodological perspectives which provide useful ways to study religion; (4) help students understand the multifarious phenomena of religion; and (5) arouse students' interest in the typical issues concerning religious faith and practice in actual life.

RELI 2016 Buddhism (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) help develop students' ability to study Buddhism in a critical, independent and systematic way; (2) acquire basic knowledge of the development of Buddhism and examine critically the teachings of Buddhism; and (3) relate the relevance of Buddhist ideas and values for moral, ethical and socio-cultural problems in contemporary world.

RELI 2017 Religious Rituals and Practices in Hong Kong (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) understand the symbolic meaning conveyed by religious rituals and practices; (2) reflect critically upon the relevance of religious rituals and practices in students' personal lives and in society; (3) introduce theories of rituals and practices in religious studies; (4) understand different forms of rituals and practices among major religious traditions; and (5) integrate theories of rituals and practices with religious phenomena in Hong Kong.

RELI 3005 Daoist Religion (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) encourage students to seek for a broader understanding of Daoist Religion including its history, beliefs and practices; (2) help students to reflect critically on basic Daoist concepts and doctrines as well as their influences; (3) introduce students to the history of Daoist Religion, its concepts, doctrines, practices and influences; and (4) guide students in the investigation of selected Daoist texts so that they may understand their content and appreciate their complexity.

RELI 3006 Major Streams in Chinese Philosophy (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) provide students with a basic understanding of the major themes addressed in Chinese philosophical traditions from ancient times through the 20th century; (2) enable students to become acquainted with the character of Chinese philosophical thinking as embodied in its different major sub-traditions; and (3) provide students with sufficient background so that they may have a deeper understanding and appreciation of their own intellectual and spiritual heritage, including philosophically significant texts within Chinese religious traditions.

RELI 3007 Meaning and Knowledge (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) help develop students' ability to tackle methodological problems through reflection on various philosophical issues in relation to the philosophy of language and epistemology; (2) enable students to acquire basic knowledge concerning methodology; (3) examine critically various philosophical views concerning language and knowledge; and (4) tackle methodological problems concerning religion.

RELI 3015 Existence and Reality (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) enrich students' understandings of the answers and justifications offered by various religious traditions regarding issues relating finite life to transcendent realms; (2) help students explore religious responses to the human condition affected by free will and determining factors such as suffering and death; (3) guide students in understanding religious conceptions of divine or transcendent realms and to be able to articulate how various religious representatives claim that people may attain these realms; and (4) provide opportunities for students to compare and weigh different religious claims and justifications about their views of the relationship between existence and reality.

RELI 3016 Morality and Society (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) introduce students to major philosophical concepts, problems and theories of moral philosophy; (2) help develop students' critical ability to tackle philosophical problems through studying the major philosophical concepts, problems and theories of moral philosophy; and (3) elucidate moral and socio-political implications of some religious traditions by means of relevant concepts, distinctions, and theories in moral philosophy.

RELI 3017 A Survey of Jewish and Christian Scriptures (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) acquire a basic understanding of the history of the formation of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures; (2) acquire a proper understanding of the content and historical message of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures against the historical situations from which they sprang; and (3) articulate knowledge correctly, clearly and systematically.

RELI 3025 Biblical Theology and Moral Life (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) study the intersection of selected theological and moral themes in the Old and New Testaments; (2) examine major moral and socio-political themes of Jewish and Christian traditions; and (3) acquire basic knowledge of Christian ethics and a better understanding of the issues in ethics; and (4) to sharpen the skill of moral reasoning and the art of moral discernment.

RELI 3026 Contemporary Theology and the Public World (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) help students understand contemporary Christian thought in light of their socio-cultural settings, thus cultivating students' interest in contemporary theology; (2) help develop a critical appreciation of the creative tensions in contemporary Christian thought, and of the relevance of contemporary theology to the public world; and (3) help students appreciate the relevance of contemporary Christian intellectual tradition to our modern life and the public world.

RELI 3027 Existentialism and Nihilism (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) enable students to understand the basic ideas of the major existentialists and their relevance to contemporary life; (2) deepen students' reflective attitude toward human life and toward the meaning of their own existence; (3) help students develop a critical appreciation of existentialists' reflections on life, especially the religious dimension of these reflections; and (4) provide students with an opportunity to explore the salient issues which constitute the mystery of human existence, and to stimulate them to formulate their own answers to these issues, especially the challenge of nihilism.

RELI 3035 Philosophical Issues in Chinese Religion (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) encourage students to seek for an understanding of Chinese religion from a philosophical point of view; (2) encourage students to reflect critically on the philosophical implications of important conceptions and teachings of Chinese religion; (3) introduce students to various philosophical issues related to Chinese religion and the arguments for or against various philosophical theses related to Chinese religion; (4) help the students to arrive at their own judgment of these religious philosophical ideas in a critical and rational manner; and (5) help

the students to apply these Chinese philosophical and religious ideas in understanding modern problems or real life issues, reflect on and assess their personal values and beliefs, and seek to appreciate religious traditions different from their own.

RELI 3036 Christian Social Thought (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) extend one's understanding of Christianity by examining its social teachings; (2) understand how a religious faith shapes or accommodates to a culture; and (3) examine the contemporary social relevance of the Christian faith.

RELI 3037 Christian Spirituality (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) draw on the rich spiritual heritage of Christianity, and to become familiar with its major representatives and sources; (2) understand the main concepts of spirituality and to critically appreciate their significance for contemporary Christian life; and (3) provide the foundation for a thorough understanding of the relationship between the intellectual and experiential dimension of Christian faith.

RELI 3045 Contemporary Ethical Problems (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) have an in-depth study of some contemporary ethical problems on the basis of what the students have learned in an earlier more elementary ethics course; (2) sharpen the skill of moral reasoning and the art of moral discernment; (3) have a better understanding of the nature of issues in Applied Ethics.

RELI 3046 Hermeneutics (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) raise students' awareness of the ubiquity of interpretation throughout human life in general and religious studies in particular; (2) introduce students to the essential lexical aids that can facilitate an in-depth approach to biblical studies; (3) familiarize students with some key philosophical problems associated with the task of interpreting texts; and (4) give students 'hands-on' practice in applying various hermeneutic principles to the interpretation of specific religious and/or philosophical texts.

RELI 3047 Islam (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) demonstrate analytical skills related to religious studies as applied to studies of Islam; (2) evaluate the central significance of divine revelation and prophecy within Islamic communities; (3) demonstrate a general understanding of Islamic institutions and forms of life, especially within their significance with specific Middle Eastern cultures during certain historical periods; and (4) appreciate the major contributions of Islamic culture to various civilizations, including past and present Chinese civilization.

RELI 4005 Philosophy of Religion (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) raise students' awareness of the fundamental philosophical problems associated with religion; (2) introduce students to the religious views of some of the most influential philosophers who have grappled with such problems; (3) foster an appreciation of how each philosopher's solutions to these problems arises out of the presuppositions inherent in his overall approach to philosophy; and (4) stimulate students to think philosophically about their own attitudes towards religion.

RELI 4006 Comparative Philosophy: East and West (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) provide students with a synoptic understanding of the universal ideas shared by Eastern and Western philosophies; (2) equip students with an analytic ability to explore the contrasts between Eastern and Western philosophies; and (3) encourage students to develop analytic and argumentative skills through the process of reading, speaking, and writing about various philosophical issues.

RELI 4007 Theology and Sex in Chinese Societies (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) study Christian theology of sex, together with its integral relation to humanity, and provide students

with systematic and in depth understanding of Christian sexual values; (2) help establish a dynamic and dialogical relation between constructive theology and public life, and help students appreciate the wisdom of Christian perspectives and its relevance to contemporary Chinese societies; (3) enrich students' intellectual experience through interdisciplinary approach to concrete socio-cultural issues, thus providing a broader basis for critical thinking and whole-person education; and (4) help students appreciate the public relevance of Christian values and spiritualities.

RELI 4015 Mysticism and Religious Experience (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) become familiar with some of the most influential mystics who have interpreted their religious experiences in philosophically significant ways; (2) consider and critically assess a selection of classical and contemporary theories of the nature of religious experience; (3) encourage students to recognize a dimension of religion that goes beyond doctrinal belief and ritual practice; and (4) promote open discussion and debate regarding various controversial issues that arise in the process of trying to understand mystical world views.

RELI 4016 Selected Topics/Readings in Philosophy (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims at helping the student to investigate a specific philosophical theme through a detailed study of a selected text (1) arouse students' interest in the important issues concerning philosophical issues and problems; (2) engage in a close reading of a selected philosophical topic/text so as to discover the major philosophical themes and insights contained therein; (3) cultivate students' ability in critically assessing various philosophical viewpoints towards a specific topic; and (4) further aims/objectives pertaining to the selected topic/readings can be furnished here.

RELI 4017 Chinese Christianity (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) introduce the general history of various forms of Christianity which have entered into Chinese societies, including representatives from Oriental, Roman Catholic, Protestant and Russian Orthodox churches; (2) investigate the cultural encounters between different forms of Christianity and Chinese cultures of various periods so that the resultant effects on the development of certain kinds of Chinese Christianity can be explained; (3) provide students with a fairly thorough account of the nature and development of Christianity in modern China; (4) guide students in grasping how the faith of Chinese Christians is expressed in daily life and yearly cycles of religious festivals; and (5) arouse students' interests in the problems related to Christian faith and practice within cultural China during ancient and modern periods.

RELI 4025 Christianity and Chinese Culture (3,2,1) (tbc)

The course aims to (1) examining the deeper dynamics of cultural dialogue and cross-culture communication arising from Christianity's encounter with Chinese culture; (2) exploring the multiple tensions between Chinese culture and Western culture informed and inculcated by Christianity, locating these tensions to the fundamental religious dimension of their respective worldviews; and (3) reflecting on these tensions existentially as they occur in Hong Kong with people living on a Chinese cultural substratum yet fast assimilating Christian ideas and practice into their daily lives.

RELI 4026 Christianity, Modern Science and the Environment (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) enrich students' intellectual experience through a fruitful experience in inter-disciplinary studies of science and religion, and to help them understand the recent developments; (2) stimulate students' interest in the quest for meaning and truth in both science and religion; (3) stimulate students' concern for the environment by exploring the ethical and spiritual resources of the Christian religion; and (4) help students develop a critical appreciation of the creative tensions between science and religion.