

**RELI 3077 Religion and Social Movements (3,2,2)**

This course introduces students to the major social science theories of religion. We look at the explanatory value of these theories for various aspects of political development and social movements: institutions and structures, various forms of social movements, church-state relationship, civil society, democratization, etc. What effect does religion have on political democratization and social change within and across societies? How effective are current theories in adequately explaining the interplay between religion and social life? The course encourages a dialogue on different methodological approaches to the study of religion, politics and social movements.

**RELI 3085 Chinese Popular Religion (3,2,2)**

Is popular religion a residual category in the study of Chinese religions? Or is it actual the dominant form of Chinese religions? This is a course designed to give students a general introduction to the Chinese popular religion from historical and sociological perspectives. We will cover theoretical, thematic, textual and theatrical/ritual aspects of Chinese popular religious traditions. Students will learn the intimate relationship between these popular religions and the historical/social contexts from which they emerged and transformed.

**RELI 3086 Religion, Violence and Peace (3,2,2)**

The complex relationship between religion, violence, and peace is a central problem that bridges the boundaries of academic disciplines, historical periods, and global cultures. In recent years it has taken center stage in a number of academic disciplines including history, anthropology, political science, and of course, religious studies. While some scholars have argued that religion has been “hijacked” by violence, others have asserted that religion is inherently violent. Still others have moved for a more nuanced argument by positing that religion, conflict, and violence are interwoven across history and cultures. They have stressed that religions sometimes nurture their identities by being in conflict with dominant cultures, and that this conflict is not necessarily always violent, but can produce enormous benefits. But are conflict and violence necessary components of religion? Can religion be a resource for peace? We shall explore this question and the viewpoints and arguments that inform it.

**RELI 4005 Philosophy of Religion (3,2,1) (E)**

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) (E)**

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) (C)**

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)**

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) (E)**

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)**

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) (C)**

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)**

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.

**RELI 4027 Selected Readings In Christian Studies (3,2,1) (E)**

This course aims to (1) provide students with a basic understanding of the rich variety of Christian theological texts; (2) enable students to appreciate the thoughts of Christian thinkers through the primary texts; and (3) help students enjoy reading primary texts.