

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) (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)**

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) (C)**

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.

**RELI 2007 Problems of Philosophy (3,2,1) (C)**

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)**

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)**

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) (C)**

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 2025 Social Justice, Liberalism and Economic Equality (3,2,1)**

This course introduces some major philosophical theories of distributive justice, focusing on the specific debates between Rawlsian liberalism and other schools of thought like libertarianism and communitarianism. While Rawls strives a balance among right, liberty and equality, libertarians emphasise choice and communitarians focus on social solidarity. This course explores the implications of these debates upon various concrete social issues, particularly under the Hong Kong context, and integrates them with theoretical discussions.

**RELI 2026 Theology, Liberalism, and Sex in Chinese Societies (3,2,1)**

This course introduces students to the dialogue between Christian theology and Liberalism on human sexuality with reference to their impacts on Chinese societies. 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 theological of sexuality from historical, philosophical, and theological perspectives. The values of liberal sex culture and the Christian tradition are compared and evaluated in light of the problems, tensions and challenges arising from various selected 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.