

that give rise to a consumer society, and the ideological impetus that give rise to the ideology of consumerism in its various forms and manifestations. The critique towards such consumerism would then be examined. After that, the religious reflection from various religious thinkers and practitioners towards modern day consumerism would be outlined and analysed. The spiritual movements arising from notable religious practitioners towards such consumerism would be examined. Their mutual influence and enrichment with secular counter-consumerism movement will be considered too. Lastly the impact of modern consumeristic attitude towards religious attendance and practice would be examined.

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)

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)

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 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)

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)

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)

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.

RELI 4035 Comparative Religious Themes (3,2,1)

This course aims to (1) enhance a deeper understanding of the world's living religions by building upon what the students have learnt in the first two years of their programme; (2) find out the

underlying causes of religious pluralism in the contemporary world; and (3) assess the prospects for inter-religious dialogue and religious co-existence.

RELI 4036 Religion and Ideology (3,2,1)

This course aims to (1) introduce the problem of ideology in the perspective of religious studies; (2) clarify the relation between ideology and traditional religions; and (3) enhance the students' acquaintance with critical analysis of various ideologies, and to locate them in the context of the modern society.

RELI 4037 Religion and Modern Society (3,2,1)

This course aims to (1) help students widen and deepen their understanding of contemporary religious life and institutions; (2) introduce a sociological perspective which puts religion in a modern social context; and (3) help students to acquire an objective understanding and evaluation of the growth and decay of religious life, movements and institutions in modern society.

RELI 4045 Religions in Northwestern China Today (3,2,1)

This course aims to (1) provide students with a truly dramatic way to see Northwestern China, and have an unique experience of inter-cultural, inter-ethnic, and inter-religious encounters; (2) equip students with a better understanding of how each of the major religious tradition of China adjusts to a rapidly changing political and economic landscape; (3) offer students an opportunity to visit China's world-famous historical sites, and learn about its religious implications; and (4) provide students with the opportunity to learn to be a culturally-aware and socially-responsible person since the study trip itself emphasizes the idea of partnership and responsibility (student to professor, student to student, and student to self).

RELI 4046 Selected Topics/Readings in Religious Studies (3,2,1)

To provide an opportunity for students to study and discuss selected topics of particular interest and relevance to Religious Studies. This is an advanced course; students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

RELI 4047 Mind in Chinese Buddhist Philosophy (3,2,2)

The course aims to provide a comparative study of the Buddhist philosophy of mind in the context of Chinese Buddhism and the philosophy of mind developed in the contemporary Analytic Philosophy. In this course, we will address a number of fundamental questions which are often discussed in the contemporary analytic philosophy of mind: What is consciousness? Can science explain consciousness? What is the place of consciousness in nature? Is consciousness physical or non-physical? Is the mind nothing but the brain? How do we know about our mind? What are the contents of our mental states? How does mind relate to body and the external world? We will discuss this set of questions from the perspectives of Chinese Buddhism. Throughout the course, philosophical theories and concepts developed in the contemporary analytic philosophy of mind will be brought into dialogue with the Chinese Buddhist perspectives.

RELI 4055 Philosophy of Language and Chinese Philosophy (3,2,2)

The course aims to study the philosophy of language in the context of Chinese philosophy. In this course, we will address a number of fundamental questions which are often discussed in the Chinese philosophy of language: How do words acquire their meaning? What are the functions of language? What is the relationship between name and reality? Is there anything that cannot be spoken? Can language completely express ideas in our mind? What is the relationship between language and thought? These are the central questions of Chinese philosophy of language. In this course, we will discuss the views of the Confucian, the Daoist including the Neo-daoist, the Moist and the School of Names with regard to the above set of questions.

Throughout the course, philosophical theories and concepts of contemporary philosophy of language will be brought into dialogue with the Chinese philosophical perspectives.

RELI 4056 Philosophy, Religion, and Market Economy (3,2,2)

This course intends to explore some topics at the intersection of philosophy, religion, and economic issues related to market economy, through an investigation of questions such as the following: Do rational agents necessarily act so as to maximize expected utility? What do we know about rationality by looking at game theory and social-choice theory? What is the relationship between freedom and responsibility in market activities? Is there such a thing as an "economic right"? Why do we care about social justice and wealth redistribution? The course will also address specific roles played by religion in the market and economic development from the perspective of the correlation between material infrastructure and religious superstructure.

RELI 4057 Religious Charity, Public Good and Chinese Society (3,2,2)

The world's major religions encourage their followers to be compassionate. Charity and social services existed in most cultures often were driven by religious traditions. These religious works have been remarkable in promoting public good and social development through the caring of the underprivileged people in society. The course will begin with the history of charity and social equality movements in the Western and Chinese religious traditions. The religious thinking and practice behind such social work and social movement will be examined. The major organizations and communities resulted will be identified and analysed. The contribution of Christian organizations to education, social work and health care in China will be surveyed. The impact of missionary activities on the socio-cultural development and advocacy in China will be discussed. Then, brief comparative studies of Chinese Buddhist, Islamic, Taoist, and social charities will be offered for building up knowledge of contextual analysis. Recent developments in social enterprise will also be considered. The course will end with a critical analysis of modern secular and religious humanitarian organizations in China. It will analyse the effects of secularization on charitable behaviour in our society and discuss whether individualism penetrated religion itself to such an extent that compassion is endangered.

RELI 4898-9 Honours Project (3,2,1)

This course aims to (1) help integrate the various courses studied over the last two years into an independent research project; (2) further develop and to apply the professional skills to a topic of the student's own interest; and (3) write a thesis which is clearly defined, well argued and sufficiently supported by relevant material.

SCI 3110 Environmental Chemistry and Pollution Control (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Year III standing

This course describes the sources, transport, reactivity and sink of contaminants in the environment together with various technology options used for pollution control. The interconnection between air, water, land pollution and human activities will be addressed.

SCI 3120 Environmental Studies Laboratory (1,0,3)

Prerequisite: Year III standing (Environmental Studies Concentration)

These are practical sessions consisting of experiments utilizing the techniques commonly used in environmental studies. In addition to laboratory exercises, a field-based project will be undertaken. Visits to waste treatment plants and/or chemical industries in Hong Kong and neighbouring areas will be arranged at appropriate times. This course is open to Chemistry majors only.