

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.