

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

RLST 101 Introducing Religious Studies: Conversion (3)

This course is an introduction to the subject of conversion. It will focus on the following question. Why does an individual leave one set of beliefs for another? How does this take place? What are the practical consequences for the new believer? How does a conversion change the convert's relationship to the world around him or her? With these questions in mind, we will begin by reading texts that define conversion in academic terms and then apply those terms to fictional and non-fictional case studies, specifically the memoir of Tara Westover, the biography of Malcolm X, and the novels of Yaa Gyasi and Sinan Antoon.

RLST 101 Introducing Religious Studies: Ideas and Experiences (3)

This course introduces students to the study of religion and theological inquiry. Through a variety of sources, it explores the meaning of religion in personal and cultural life. In this course, we attend to notions of God; the human person, relationships and community; the good life and ethics; and revelation in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We consider how these three religious traditions respond to questions such as: Who am I? Whose am I? Who is God? How ought we to live? From there, we turn to the relationship between theological ideas and religious experiences. We attend to plurality and change. In the end, we focus on the experiences of women in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. ***This course also satisfies LO2 Women's Voices and sections 71420 and 71331 also satisfy LO2 Critical Thinking Seminar.***

RLST 101W Introducing Religious Studies: World Religions in Dialogue (4)

How can learning about religion help us understand others, our world, and ourselves? This writing-intensive course will explore that question as we gain a sound basic understanding of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and the nature of religion. We'll take three main approaches. First, we'll practice scholarly tools that will help us understand religions, others, and ourselves better. Second, we'll learn some of the major concepts that make these religions distinctive, and perhaps make them similar as well. Finally, we'll examine how religions and interreligious dialogue are portrayed in different kinds of media, including contemporary news stories. Students will also have the opportunity to develop skills needed for college-level and professional writing, and each student will create a portfolio of her work to submit for LO2: Basic Writing Proficiency. ***This course also satisfies LO2 Women's Voices, LO3 Intercultural Competence and provides students the opportunity to earn the W.***