



## DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### COURSES 2020–21

**(Updated September 9, 2020)**

Due to the circumstances brought on by COVID-19, courses this coming year will be offered either as blended (270) or fully online (650). Blended courses are scheduled in the timetable and include some scheduled (synchronous) elements.

#### RS 1022A (270) and 1022B (270) - PERPLEXING ISSUES

An introductory study to broaden students' awareness of religious ways of understanding the human condition.

*Blended*

*1022A (Corinne Walsh): Remote – no on-campus components.*

*1022B: Julius-Kei Kato*

#### RS 1023E (270 and 271) - INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS

A broad introduction to the major religious traditions of the East (Term 1) and West (Term 2).

*Blended: synchronous/asynchronous remote. No on-campus components.*

**Jonathan Geen/Chaya Halberstam/Mahdi Tourage**

#### RS 1027E (270) - INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY

A comprehensive overview of Catholic Christianity, its historical development, and major concepts, themes, and current questions.

*Blended: In-person initial class meeting; all other regular class meetings remote*

**Mark Yenson**

### RS 1033A (270) - THE MEANING OF LIFE AT THE MOVIES

An exploration of religious themes and questions in selected contemporary films.

*Blended*

**Charles Burnetts**

### RS 2134B (650) - MODERN MORAL DILEMMAS

An exploration of contemporary morally challenging issues ranging from euthanasia and scarce resource allocation in the midst of a pandemic, to the ethical treatment of animals and the environment in a consumerist world.

*Online*

**Carolyn Chau**

### RS 2163A (270) - “AN EYE FOR AN EYE”: BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

What influence does biblical and pre-biblical legal thought have on our thinking about crime and punishment today? This course explores ancient, religious structures of crime and punishment by looking closely at stories of biblical criminals.

*Blended – remote only*

**Chaya Halberstam**

### RS 2181B (270) - SCIENCE AND RELIGION

An examination of the two dominant ‘world views’ in modern life, including their similarities and historical conflicts, and how they might (or might not) be compatible in the life of a modern person.

*Blended*

**Jonathan Geen**

### RS 2200F (270) - APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION

An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of religion, from anthropological, sociological, feminist, and other perspectives.

*Blended, including on-campus components if possible.*

**Mahdi Tourage**

## RS 2201F (270) - INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE: THE OLD TESTAMENT

Historical and literary exploration of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and contemporary approaches to interpretation.

*Blended learning course: Regular class meetings (remote) – no on-campus components.*

**Andrea Di Giovanni**

## RS 2202G (270) – INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE: THE NEW TESTAMENT

An introduction to the distinctive Scriptures of Christianity and to the interpretative methods employed by ancient and contemporary readers of these books.

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); optional in-person sessions if possible.*

**Julius-Kei Kato**

## RS 2203G (270) - INTRODUCTION TO EASTERN RELIGIONS

An introductory survey of some of the most interesting aspects of religious traditions from India, China and Japan.

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); optional in-person sessions if possible.*

**Jonathan Geen**

## RS 2204G (270) - JUDAISM AND ISLAM

An introductory study of the history, beliefs, and practices of Judaism and Islam.

*Blended*

**Gyongyi Hegedus**

## RS 2207E (650) - CHRISTIAN ETHICS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

An introduction to the foundations of Catholic Christian ethics and the critical engagement of challenging moral issues in the contemporary world.

Online

**Carolyn Chau**

## RS 2218F (270) - INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY

A comprehensive overview of Christianity, its historical development, and major concepts, themes, and current questions.

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); no on-campus components.*

**Julius-Kei Kato**

## RS 2267F (270) - SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS?

An investigation of spirituality and the role that it plays in fostering human flourishing.

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); no on-campus components.*

**Julius-Kei Kato**

## RS 2271F (650) - WHY THE CHURCH?

A critical exploration of the Church and its mission, its structures of authority, its engagement with the world, and its current crises and challenges.

Online

**Mark Yenson** (updated Sept 8, 2020)

## RS 2272G (270) - THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

An exploration of the sacraments and rituals of the Roman Catholic at their call to personal and communal transformation.

*Blended*

**Fr. Michael Bechard**

## RS 2276G (270) - BUDDHIST MEDITATION

Examines the role of meditation in Buddhist practice, including how and why meditation is indispensable in attaining a clearer view of ourselves and our world, and how it can transform our entire way of being in the world.

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); optional in-person sessions if possible.*

**Jonathan Geen**

### RS 2285G (270) – INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

An introduction to Islam, its origins, main beliefs and practices and the diversity of modern Islam and its responses to the modern world

*Blended, including optional in-person sessions if possible.*

**Mahdi Tourage**

### RS 2291G (270) – SPECIAL TOPICS: ECOLOGY, SPIRITUALITY AND JUSTICE

An examination of the climate and ecological crisis through the lens of the emerging field of ecology and religion, including Judeo-Christian eco-theologies, Asian cosmologies, and Indigenous spiritualities. The course will consider the moral dimensions of ecological issues, especially as they relate to other justice issues of race, gender and poverty.

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); optional in-person sessions if possible.*

**Michael Ross**

### RS 2294F (270) - THE MEANING OF JESUS

An exploration of the figure of Jesus of Nazareth—historical roots, Christian interpretations, and contemporary religious, cultural, and political significance.

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); no on-campus components.*

**Mark Yenson**

### RS 2345G (270) - BIBLICAL STORYTELLING

An examination of the heroes, villains, and miracle stories of the Hebrew Bible from their roots in the ancient Near East to their incorporation into early Judaism.

*Blended – remote only*

**Chaya Halberstam**

### ~~RS 2347F (270) – LIVING THE BIBLE: LAW AND ETHICS~~

This course typically explores the various ways that religious communities, particularly Judaism and Christianity, have interpreted biblical commandments and derived morality and ethics from biblical texts. This year, the course will focus especially on one urgent contemporary ethical imperative: **dismantling biblical racism.**

***Due to external circumstances, this course has been cancelled for this semester. Please contact the department chair, [myenson@uwo.ca](mailto:myenson@uwo.ca), for alternatives.***

### RS 2351G (270) - INCULTURATION AND SPIRITUALITY

This course fosters understanding of inculturation and spirituality within a First Nations context; the legacy of colonization and movements fostering greater autonomy in the Canadian aboriginal context.

*Pre-trip classes blended; experiential travel component to Northern Canada, June 2021*

**Fr. Michael Bechard**

### RS 2502F (270) - GENDER IN ISLAM

This course explores Islam's social, institutional, doctrinal, and historical expressions through the prism of gender: how is gender textually defined and socially enacted in Islam, and how do women assert power through mystical experiences rituals, prayer, and transmission of knowledge?

*Blended – remote only (no on-campus components).*

**Mahdi Tourage**

### RS 3300G (650) - BASIC ISSUES IN RELIGION

A critical engagement of key challenges to religion and religious belief today posed by modern science, the social sciences, and contemporary philosophy.

Online

**Carolyn Chau**

### RS 3360F (270) - ISLAM, JUSTICE AND PEACE

This course examines Muslim conceptualizations and expressions of justice and peace in historical and modern context, including contemporary issues of social, gender, racial, and environmental justice.

*Blended – remote only (no on-campus components)*

**Mahdi Tourage**

### RS 3451F (270) - RELIGION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

This course introduces a variety of theoretical and practical perspectives on the role religion plays in international conflict resolution and peace building.

*Blended*

**Megan Shore**

**RS 3453F (270) - SUFFERING, GRIEF, AND INJUSTICE**

An exploration of the biblical book of Job and the way artists and thinkers through the ages in literature, art, and film have re-imagined Job to make sense of their own experiences of suffering, grief, and injustice.

*Blended – remote only; no on-campus components.*

**Chaya Halberstam**

**RS 4400G (270) – MAKING SENSE OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY**

A seminar in world religions that examines questions raised by difference and diversity among religious traditions.

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); optional in-person sessions if possible.*

**Julius-Kei Kato**

**CATHOLIC STUDIES FOR TEACHERS**

**RS 2208U (270) – CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN PRACTICE – SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT**

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); optional in-person sessions if possible. Practicum placements will be worked out with the CST Placement Coordinator.*

**Bret Babington**

**RS 3308U (270) - CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN PRACTICE – SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT**

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); optional in-person sessions if possible. Practicum placements will be worked out with the CST Placement Coordinator.*

**Bret Babington**

**RS 4408Y (270) - CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN PRACTICE – SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT**

*Blended: Regular class meetings (remote); optional in-person sessions if possible. Practicum placements will be worked out with the CST Placement Coordinator.*

**Bret Babington**

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSES AT ST PETER'S SEMINARY

### RS 2234G (270) – CHRISTIAN SOCIAL TEACHING AND PRACTICE

A study of the rise of modern Christian social movements; the theology which gradually evolved to support Christian social action; the principles contained in Catholic social doctrine; applications in the areas of property and poverty in Canada and the world.

**Fr. Jason Kuntz**

### RS 2238F (270) – FUNDAMENTAL MORAL THEOLOGY

An exploration of the fundamental concepts of the Catholic moral tradition in light of the Second Vatican Council.

**Fr. Jason Kuntz**

### RS 2241G (270) – FAITH AND CULTURE

A study of the interaction between modern culture and Christian faith, including faith's relation to science, technology, environment, law, and human rights.

**Fr. Denis Grecco**

### RS 2250E (270) – HISTORY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The historical character of the Church. Chronological survey of the main developments of the Apostolic Age to Vatican Council I.

**Fr. John Comiskey**

For course time tables, see:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/course-information/course-timetables/>

For more information on courses including full course outlines:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/academics/religious-studies/course-offerings/>

Or contact Dr. Mark Yenson, Department Chair, at [myenson@uwo.ca](mailto:myenson@uwo.ca)