



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FALL/WINTER 2021–22

HIGHLIGHTS

- *International Experiential Learning Course:*
Rome and the Christian Tradition (RS 2352G).
- *New Special Topic Course:*
Religious Perspectives on Death and Dying (RS 2291F/Thanatology 2269F)
- *Special Topic Course:*
Ecology, Spirituality, and Justice (RS2277G/SJPS 2278B)

FULL COURSE LIST

RS 1022A/B – PERPLEXING ISSUES

A general introduction to questions of spirituality and ethics and to religious ways of understanding the human condition.

RS 1023E – INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS

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

Jonathan Geen/Gyongyi Hegedus/Mahdi Tourage

RS 1027E – INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY

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

Mark Yenson

RS 1033A/B – THE MEANING OF LIFE AT THE MOVIES

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

RS 2134A – 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.

Carolyn Chau

RS 2139A – LOVE, SEX, AND RELATIONSHIPS: A THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

A multidisciplinary study of marriage incorporating theological, sociological, moral, and psychological perspectives.

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

Chaya Halberstam

RS 2181B – 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.

Jonathan Geen

RS 2200F – APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION

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

Mahdi Tourage

RS 2201F – INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE: THE OLD TESTAMENT

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

Julius-Kei Kato

RS 2202G – 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.

Julius-Kei Kato

RS 2203G - INTRODUCTION TO EASTERN RELIGIONS

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

Jonathan Geen

RS 2204F – JUDAISM AND ISLAM

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

Gyongyi Hegedus

RS 2205F – EMERGENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION

An exploration of the how Christian identity, belief and practice took shape from the beginnings of Christianity to the Reformation.

Mark Yenson

RS 2207E – 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.

Carolyn Chau

RS 2212F – ONE JESUS, MANY GOSPELS

Why did early Christians produce multiple accounts of Jesus? An exploration of how the four gospels in the New Testament emerged, their distinctive portrayals of Jesus, and questions about the historical Jesus.

Julius-Kei Kato

RS 2277G – SPECIAL TOPIC: ECOLOGY, SPIRITUALITY, AND JUSTICE

An examination of the climate and ecological crisis through the lens of Jewish and Christian eco-theologies, Asian cosmologies, and Indigenous spiritualities.

Cross-listed with SJPS 2278B

RS 2281F – INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

An exploration of the Buddhist tradition, from the original teachings of the Buddha through later doctrines, philosophies, practices, and art from Sri Lanka, China, Japan and Tibet.

Jonathan Geen

RS 2285G – 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

Mahdi Tourage

RS 2286F – INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

An introduction to the experiential dimensions of the Jewish tradition. Through exploring the festivals and observances that comprise a single Jewish year, we will delve into Judaism's conceptions of time, the body, food, suffering, and love.

Blended

Chaya Halberstam

**RS 2291F – SPECIAL TOPIC:
RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON DEATH AND DYING (NEW COURSE)**

An exploration of diverse religious perspectives on death, dying, and the afterlife, and the practices and rituals connected to death and dying.

Cross-listed with THANATOLOGY 2269F

RS 2347F (270) - LIVING THE BIBLE: LAW AND ETHICS

This course explores the various ways that religious communities, particularly Judaism and Christianity, have interpreted biblical commandments, and derived morality and ethics from biblical texts.

Blended

Chaya Halberstam

RS 2352G – ROME AND THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION

An exploration of the intersections of religious practice and belief, art and architecture, politics, and culture through a 9-day tour of Rome and Assisi, Italy (Reading Week, February 2022).

International Experiential Learning. King's students registered in this course are eligible for the King's International Study Award. For more information, contact jkato@uwo.ca

Carolyn Chau/Julius-Kei Kato

RS 2500F – INTRODUCTION TO THE QU'RAN

An exploration of the form, content, and major themes of the Qu'ran, and its historical and contemporary significance.

Mahdi Tourage

RS 3301G – MODERN CATHOLIC THOUGHT

This course examines the development of Catholic thought in the modern era, with a focus on diverse global perspectives in contemporary theology.

Carolyn Chau/Julius-Kei Kato

RS 3360F - ISLAM, JUSTICE AND PEACE

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

Cross-listed with SJPS 3360F

Mahdi Tourage

RS 3451F - 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.

Cross-listed with SJPS 3451F

Megan Shore

RS 3452G – GLOBALIZATION, SPIRITUALITY, AND JUSTICE

An exploration of Christian theological and spiritual reflections on globalization and social justice, focusing on voices from the global South.

Cross-listed with SJPS 3452F

Julius-Kei Kato

RS 4420G – SEMINAR IN RELIGION AND CULTURE: TRUTH & RECONCILIATION AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Church in Canada has struggled to respond adequately to calls for justice and reconciliation over its involvement in the residential school system. This seminar examines historical, cultural, and theological issues raised by this legacy, by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report, and by church responses.

(Fourth-year seminar. Third- or fourth-year standing in an Honors Specialization, Specialization, or Major module in a Religious Studies program, or permission of the Department.)

Mark Yenson

CATHOLIC STUDIES FOR TEACHERS

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

Seminar on the philosophy, methods, and practices of Catholic education. Practicum placements will be worked out with the CST Placement Coordinator.

Bret Babington

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

Seminar on the philosophy, methods, and practices of Catholic education. Practicum placements will be worked out with the CST Placement Coordinator.

Bret Babington

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

Seminar on the philosophy, methods, and practices of Catholic education. Practicum placements will be worked out with the CST Placement Coordinator.

Bret Babington

RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSES AT ST PETER'S SEMINARY

RS 1020B – BEAUTY AND BELIEF

An exploration of Christian beliefs through a study of various medium including paintings, icons, sculpture, church architecture, liturgical and devotional acts and their implication for religious faith and imagination

Fr. Denis Grecco

RS 2238F – FUNDAMENTAL MORAL THEOLOGY

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

(Anti-requisite: RS 2207E)

Fr. Jason Kuntz

RS 2239G – CHRISTIAN BIOETHICS

A specialized course concerning Catholic moral principles with clinical/ pastoral applications for a pluralistic world. Topics: reproduction issues, abortion, organ transplants, genetics, death and dying, resource allocation, and global ethics.

Fr. Jason Kuntz

RS 2250E – 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 timetables, 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