



## DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### COURSE OFFERINGS 2022–23

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- *New Courses:*
  - **Decolonizing the Bible (RS 2171B)**
  - **Ecology, Spirituality, and Justice (RS 2230G)**
  - **Religious Perspectives on Death and Dying (RS 2270F)**
  
- *International Experiential Learning*
  - **Rome and the Christian Tradition (RS 2352G)**  
(Travel to Rome for Reading Week February 2023:  
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/academics/religious-studies/rome-and-the-christian-tradition/>)

#### 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 (650) – INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS**

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

*\*This course is asynchronous online.*

**Jonathan Geen/Chaya Halberstam/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 2134B – 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 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 2171B – DECOLONIZING THE BIBLE

This course will explore some of the ways the Bible has been used to support colonial, racist, antisemitic, and genocidal ideologies, and violence. It will also look at how the Bible may be re-appropriated by the very groups it was used to oppress.

**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 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 2218E – INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY

A survey of the origins and historical development of Christianity.

**Julius-Kei Kato**

## RS 2230G – ECOLOGY, SPIRITUALITY, AND JUSTICE

An examination of the relationship between spiritual practices and the environment through lenses of social justice. How do spirituality and spiritual practices offer ways to reframe our relationship to our natural world at a time of intensifying climate and economic crises?

*This course is cross-listed with SJPS 2230G*

## RS 2270F – RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON DEATH AND DYING

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

*This course is cross-listed with THANATOLOGY 2270F*

## RS 2271G – WHY THE CHURCH?

An exploration of Catholic understandings of the church, its mission, and its relation to culture, human well-being and social transformation.

**Carolyn Chau**

## RS 2272F – THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

An exploration of the prayer, sacraments, and rituals of Catholicism in historical and contemporary context.

**Mark Yenson**

## RS 2276F – BUDDHIST MEDITATION

An introduction to basic Buddhist teachings, and the various styles of meditation that developed in India, Sri Lanka, Tibet, China and Japan, as well as modern scientific studies of the effects of Buddhist meditation.

**Jonathan Geen**

## RS 2285F – 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 2289G – YOGA IN THE INDIAN TRADITION

This course examines a wide variety of beliefs and practices that fall under the rubric of 'Yoga', from its earliest sources up to the creation of modern yoga studios.

**Jonathan Geen**

## RS 2294F – THE MEANING OF JESUS

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

**Mark Yenson**

## RS 2345F – BIBLICAL STORYTELLING

A literary exploration of stories of the Hebrew Bible, how they have been read in Judaism and Christianity and contemporary interpretations.

**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](mailto:jkato@uwo.ca)*

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/academics/religious-studies/rome-and-the-christian-tradition/>

**Julius-Kei Kato**

## RS 2502G – GENDER IN ISLAM

This course examines Islam's social, institutional, and historical expressions through the prism of gender.

***Mahdi Tourage***

## RS 3180F – CENSORED SCRIPTURES

An exploration of the volatile world of the early Christians, groups outlawed as “heretics,” and the texts they produced.

***Julius-Kei Kato***

## RS 3300G – BASIC ISSUES IN RELIGION

How does religious belief meet the challenges posed by modern science, the social sciences and contemporary philosophy?

***Carolyn Chau***

## 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 3453F – SUFFERING, GRIEF, AND INJUSTICE**

This course explores the biblical book of Job, and the way literature, art, and film have re-imagined Job to make sense of the experience of suffering, grief, and injustice.

**Chaya Halberstam**

**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 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 2241G – 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 – 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**

## OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST

### **ENG 2239E – SURVEY OF NOTED CATHOLIC AUTHORS**

A survey of fiction and poetry by noted Catholic authors from around the world, including in translation. This course focuses on literary engagements with the Catholic tradition of art, architecture, theology, and spiritual practices (such as pilgrimage), as well as with broader social issues, such as decolonization and social justice.



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](mailto:myenson@uwo.ca)