

## The College of Charleston

# Religious Studies Department Spring 2016 Course Brochure

All Religious Studies courses satisfy the Humanities requirement. There is both a major and a minor in Religious Studies for those with a serious interest in the study of religion. All students who have earned 45 credits or more must declare a major by **February 23, 2016**. If you would like to learn more about the Religious Studies major, please speak with your Religious Studies professor or with the Chair.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES:** 34 semester hours, that must include:

- 1) RELS 101 or 105
- 2) RELS 210 Theories in the Study of Religions
- 3) One of the Western Abrahamic religions: RELS 223 (Ancient Near East), 225 (Judaism), 230 (Christianity), or 235 (Islam)
- 4) One of the Asian religions: RELS 240 (Buddhism), 245 (Hinduism), or 248 (Religions of China & Japan)
- 5) One of the American religions: RELS 250 (American religions), 260 (Native American), 270 (African American)
- 6) One of the Sacred Texts: RELS 201 (Hebrew Bible/Old Testament), 202 (New Testament), 205 (Asian Sacred Texts) or 310\* (Sacred Texts) --\* if taken as a sacred text course, 2 more 300 level courses are needed
- 7) RELS 450: Senior Seminar in Religious Studies
- 8) RELS 451: Capstone Colloquium (1 Credit Hour)
- 9) One additional course at the 200-level or above
- 10) Two additional courses at the 300-level or above
- 11) Additional elective: 1 additional course

With the approval of the Chair of Religious Studies, one course (200 level or above) in a related discipline may be substituted for one of the courses listed under 9 or 10 above.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES:** 18 semester hours which must include:

- 1) RELS 101 or 105
- 2) One of: RELS 225, 230, 235, 240, 245 or 248
- 3) One of: RELS 201, 202, 205 or 310 (note: 310 cannot be used to satisfy both the sacred text course requirements and the one additional course at the 300-level or above requirements)
- 4) One course from RELS 300-499, not including 451
- 5) 2 Additional Courses.

| CRN   | Course     | Title  | Instructor    | Day | Time  |       | Building | Room |
|-------|------------|--|---------------|-----|-------|-------|----------|------|
| 21575 | HONS381.4  | Special Topic: Altered States of Consciousness   | Irwin/ Wright | MW  | 2:00  | 3:15  | MYBK     | 320  |
| 22206 | FYSM 134.1 | Maidens, Mothers, Mystics and Martyrs            | Doire         | MW  | 2:00  | 3:15  | ECTR     | 103  |
| 22207 | FYSM 134.2 | Introduction to World Religions                  | Cormack       | MWF | 10:00 | 10:50 | ECTR     | 103  |
| 20970 | RELS101.01 | Approaches to Religion: Sacred & Special Stuff   | Cressler      | TR  | 10:50 | 12:05 | ECTR     | 116  |
| 21740 | RELS101.02 | Approaches to Religion: Life after Death         | Irwin         | MWF | 10:00 | 10:50 | ECTR     | 116  |
| 20971 | RELS101.03 | Approaches to Religion: Evil & Suffering         | Doire         | TR  | 12:15 | 1:30  | ECTR     | 103  |
| 22099 | RELS101.04 | Approaches to Religion: Evil & Suffering         | Doire         | TR  | 1:40  | 2:55  | ECTR     | 103  |
| 20972 | RELS105.01 | Intro to World Religions                         | Cormack       | MWF | 11:00 | 11:50 | ECTR     | 103  |
| 20973 | RELS105.02 | Intro to World Religions                         | McDaniel      | TR  | 9:25  | 10:40 | ECTR     | 103  |
| 20974 | RELS105.03 | Intro to World Religions                         | McDaniel      | TR  | 10:50 | 12:05 | ECTR     | 103  |
| 21275 | RELS115.01 | Religion and Society In India and Tibet          | Bjerken       | TR  | 8:00  | 9:15  | ECTR     | 219  |
| 23316 | RELS120.01 | Religion, Art, & Culture in the American South   | Bjerken       | TR  | 12:15 | 1:30  | ECTR     | 219  |
| 23317 | RELS185.01 | Women & Religion                                 | Doire         | MW  | 4:00  | 5:15  | ECTR     | 103  |
| 22344 | RELS201.01 | Hebrew Bible: History & Interpretation           | Huddlestun    | MWF | 11:00 | 11:50 | ECTR     | 219  |
| 23318 | RELS201.02 | Hebrew Bible: History & Interpretation           | Huddlestun    | MWF | 12:00 | 12:50 | ECTR     | 219  |
| 21551 | RELS210.01 | Theories in Study of Religions                   | LeVasseur     | TR  | 9:25  | 10:40 | ECTR     | 219  |
| 23319 | RELS248.01 | Religions of China & Japan                       | Siegler       | MWF | 9:00  | 9:50  | ECTR     | 219  |
| 23320 | RELS248.02 | Religions of China & Japan                       | Siegler       | MWF | 10:00 | 10:50 | ECTR     | 219  |
| 22106 | RELS250.01 | Religion in America                              | Cressler      | TR  | 4:00  | 5:15  | ECTR     | 219  |
| 23321 | RELS298.01 | Special Topic: Spirituality, Madness & Healing   | McDaniel      | TR  | 1:40  | 2:55  | ECTR     | 219  |
| 23322 | RELS360.01 | Myth, Ritual & Symbols                           | Huddlestun    | MW  | 4:00  | 5:15  | MYBK     | 119  |
| 23323 | RELS375.01 | History of Religions: Religion(s) in Scandinavia | Cormack       | MW  | 2:00  | 3:15  | ECTR     | 219  |
| 21743 | RELS451.01 | Capstone Colloquium                              | Siegler       | M   | 12:00 | 12:50 | MYBK     | 119  |

**HONS 381.004: Altered States of Consciousness:****Prof. Lee Irwin & Jennifer Wright****For Honors Students****Section 004 (MW 02:00 - 03:15)****MYBK 320**

This course will be an interdisciplinary survey of research on altered states of consciousness. The course is team taught and will review material from the perspectives of religious studies and psychology. Specifically, we'll examine how different disciplines understand altered states of consciousness—what they are, their diversity and origins, how they are achieved, and their potential value to human life. We will explore the role of altered states of consciousness in a variety of religious, shamanic, and mystical practices, in meditation practices, and in other more mundane, daily life practices. We will explore their implication for understanding of the mind and selfhood, life and death, paranormal abilities, and the boundaries of experience. We will also examine what altered states look like neurologically and then explore the question of how much research in brain states can tell us (if anything) about the mental states they are taken to instantiate or represent.

**FYSE 134.01: Introduction to World Religions****Prof. Margaret Cormack****For Freshmen****Section 001 (MWF 10:00 – 10:50)****ECTR 103**

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the beliefs, practices, and history of the major religions of the world. We will approach each tradition impartially, studying its beliefs concerning divinity/ies, the universe, the place and obligations of human beings within that universe, the afterlife, and how these beliefs were represented in cultural artifacts – poetry, statues, temples, and sacred texts. We will consider how the beliefs developed and how they relate to the societies that adhere to them. You will learn how people from different cultures look at the world, and how to think critically and sympathetically about a variety of world-views.

**FYSE 134.02: Maidens, Mothers, Mystics and Martyrs****Prof. Louise Doire****For Freshmen****Section 002 (MW 02:00 – 03:15)****ECTR 103**

In this course students will examine two aspects of "woman" as she has been encountered in human religious history, i.e., through the religious roles of women, and representations of the divine feminine. Attention will be paid to religiously and culturally constructed gender ideology and role expectations. These roles will include the priestess, the holy virgin, the saint, the martyr and the mystic. Treatment of the divine feminine will focus on images of the goddess through various historical time periods and cultures. The methodology will consist of analysis through historical, comparative and feminist criticism.

**RELS 101.001: Approaches to Religion: Sacred and Special Stuff****Prof. Matthew Cressler****No Prerequisites****Section 001 (TR 10:50 - 12:05)****ECTR 116**

When we hear the word "religion," the first thing that probably comes to mind is belief. But when we actually encounter religion in the world, we soon find ourselves face to face with lots of stuff: rosary beads and hijabs, gongs and incense, prayer shawls and peace pipes, amulets and daggers and dolls. This course will introduce students to the academic study of religion through an exploration of some of the *stuff* – meaning, physical objects and material culture – that is significant for Christians in the Americas, Muslims in Africa, and Buddhists in southeast Asia. And, in the process, we will consider one of the most central questions for religious studies: what makes some stuff special or "sacred."

**RELS 101.002: Approaches to Religion: Life After Death****Prof. Lee Irwin****No Prerequisites****Section 002 (MWF 10:00 - 10:50)****ECTR 103**

This course is a comparative introduction to religion organized around the theme of death, soul concepts, and a variety of beliefs about life after death. In terms of culture areas, the theme will be internationalized by looking at a variety of model cultures: Hinduism and Buddhism in India; ancient Mediterranean religions; Judaism and Christianity in Europe and America; Islam in the Middle East; and Daoist and Confucian beliefs in China. The organization of the course starts with the culture areas and examine attitudes and religious beliefs in life after death among the religions of the world – this portion of the course will emphasize theories in comparative religions. In Buddhism we will discuss a book by a world famous Tibetan Buddhist leader on the after death process of rebirth and in Christianity we will look at an esoteric Christian writer on sacred cosmology. Toward the end of the course, we will look at current research on life after death, in relation to a variety of studies linked to scientific investigation of post-mortem life independent of theories in religion or philosophy.

**RELS 101.003/04: Approaches to Religion: Evil and Suffering****Prof Louise Doire****No Prerequisites****Section 003 (TH 12:15 - 01:30)****ECTR 103****Section 004 (TH 01:40 – 02:55)****ECTR 103**

This course is an introduction to the academic study of religion through a particular theme. In this course we will focus our study on the topics of good and evil, and human suffering. Our examination will incorporate theological (when applicable) understandings and cultural constructions of these themes as they have been presented in Judaism, Christianity and Buddhism. The human experience of evil and suffering has been and continues to be a fundamental element of theological, religious and cultural ideology. As we proceed in our academic study, each student will be challenged to examine the theological, religious and cultural influences that have shaped and informed their own understanding of the universal experience of evil, the "Good," and human suffering.

**RELS 105.01: Introduction to World Religions****Prof Margaret Cormack****No Prerequisites****Section 001 (MWF 11:00 - 11:50)****ECTR 103**

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the beliefs, practices, and history of the major religions of the world. We will approach each tradition impartially, studying its beliefs concerning divinity/ies, the universe, the place and obligations of human beings within that universe, the afterlife, and how these beliefs were represented in cultural artifacts – poetry, statues, temples, and sacred texts. We will consider how the beliefs developed and how they relate to the societies that adhere to them. You will learn how people from different cultures look at the world, and how to think critically and sympathetically about a variety of world-views.

**RELS 105.02/03: Introduction to World Religions****Prof June McDaniel****No Prerequisites****Section 003 (TR 09:25 - 10:40)****ECTR 103****Section 004 (TR 10:50 - 12:05)****ECTR 103**

This course will examine a wide variety of religions, including indigenous religions (Hawaiian, Australian, African, Inuit), Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Ancient Near Eastern religions, Rastafarianism, varieties of shamanism and new religious movements. We shall discuss their beliefs and rituals, and assignments will include visits to religious sites in Charleston. There will be films and guest speakers, three tests and two papers.

**RELS 115.01: Religion and Society in India & Tibet****Prof. Zeff Bjerken****No Prerequisites****Section 001 (TR 08:00 - 09:15)****ECTR 219**

This course is an introduction to two Asian religious traditions, Hinduism and Buddhism, and how they have shaped the societies of India and Tibet. The course will survey forms of social organization (e.g. the caste system, religious hierarchies, the status of women, monastic life), and the practices and beliefs of Hindus and Buddhists, including their origin myths, life cycle rituals, and their ethical norms. In particular we will examine the religious and political reforms of Mahatma Gandhi and the Dalai Lama, two of the most important leaders of the twentieth century. The non-violent ideals of Gandhi and the Dalai Lama present us with an alternative to our modern consumer-oriented technological culture, where people seek what they are programmed to seek. This course will really encourage you to “**Think Different**,” as the Apple computer advertisements that once featured both Gandhi and the Dalai Lama put it.

**RELS 120.01: Religion, Art, and Culture: Searching for the Sacred in the Art, Food, and Music of the South****Prof. Zeff Bjerken****No Prerequisites****Section 001 (TR 12:15 - 01:30)****ECTR 219**

This course will introduce students to unusual expressions of the sacred in the American South, including Southern “outsider” art, “soul food,” and “soul music,” including the jazz of New Orleans. We begin by reading the studies of two “Road Scholars” who interpret unusual forms of religiosity while they undertake a common American ritual: the road trip. On their journeys they encounter religion on the margins of the South, yet they reveal themes that are central to religious life in America: prophecy and the apocalypse, pilgrimage and the desire to recreate sacred time and space, and creativity as religious devotion. Then we move to New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz, where we will examine the relationship between African religions, voodoo, jazz funerals and parades, and Mardi Gras Indians. We will rely on texts that combine travel narrative, story-telling and religious study, as well as films and the HBO series *Treme*, to gain insight into the sacred art, rituals, and stories that inspire faith and create ties that bind communities together.

**RELS 185.01: Women and Religion****Prof. Louise Doire****No Prerequisites****Section 001 (MW 04:00 - 05:15)****ECTR 103**

In this course students will examine two aspects of "woman" as she has been encountered in human religious history, i.e., through the religious roles of women, and representations of the divine feminine. Attention will be paid to religiously and culturally constructed gender ideology and role expectations. These roles will include the priestess, the holy virgin, the saint, the martyr and the mystic. Treatment of the divine feminine will focus on images of the goddess through various historical time periods and cultures. The methodology will consist of analysis through historical, comparative and feminist criticism.

**RELS 201.01/02: Hebrew Bible: History and Interpretation****Prof. John Huddlestun****No Prerequisites****Section 001 (MWF 11:00 - 11:50)****ECTR 219****Section 002 (MWF 12:00 - 12:50)****ECTR 103**

In this course, the student is introduced to the academic study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, examining issues of its composition, historical development, and interpretation (ancient and modern). Particular genres or types of biblical literature are interpreted within their wider ancient Near Eastern context (creation and cosmos, biblical laws, wisdom traditions, etc.). In reading and analyzing selected portions of the Hebrew scriptures, students will be exposed to various historical-critical, literary, and archaeological interpretations of the text. Topics covered include the covenant theme in Genesis and beyond, kingship in ancient Israel, the exodus event (history and archaeology), the biblical legal tradition (covenant code, Ten Commandments), the role of prophets and the nature of ancient Israelite prophecy, the Davidic king-messiah and messianic expectation, biblical wisdom literature (e.g., Job, Qohelet), and love poetry (Song of Songs). A primary goal of the course is to instill in the student an acute awareness of and appreciation for the underlying strategies and ideologies that informed the composition of the biblical and other ancient texts, as well as the cultures that produced them.

**RELS 210.01: Theories in the Study of Religions****Prof. Todd LeVasseur** **No Prerequisites****Section 001 (TR 09:25 - 10:40)** **ECTR 219**

As a theoretical introduction to the academic study of religion, this course surveys a number of important debates in the history of religious studies, such as the insider/outsider problem, definitions of religion, theories on the origins of religion, the comparison of religions, and religion's psychological, sociological and political functions.

**RELS 248.01/02: Religions of China & Japan****Prof. Elijah Siegler** **No Prerequisites****Section 001 (MWF 09:00 - 09:50)** **ECTR 219****Section 002 (MWF 10:00 - 10:50)** **ECTR 219**

This course provides an overview of the history, worldviews, and practices of Chinese and Japanese religions. We begin with the earliest period of Chinese history, the Shang dynasty (ca. 1550-ca. 1030 B.C.E.), and end with the present day. Although we will consider discrete traditions such as Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Shinto, and various new religious movements, we pay special attention to thematic issues (religion and the state; religion and popular culture; religious change) and contemporary issues in East Asian religions, including their internationalization. Students will read excerpts from important primary sources.

**RELS 250.01: Religions of America****Prof. Matthew Cressler** **No Prerequisites****Section 001 (TR 04:00 - 05:15)** **ECTR 219**

Some people call the United States of America a "Christian nation" while others consider it the most religiously diverse nation in the world. What is the history of religion in America? What does American religious life look like today? And what does it mean to call something an "American religion" in the first place? Students will engage each of these questions as they are introduced to religion in the American past and present. Students will explore topics ranging from encounters between Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans in the colonial Americas to the rise of American evangelicalism to Islam and Atheism in the post-9/11 United States. Special attention will be paid religion in "the Holy City," with trips to significant sites around Charleston.

**RELS 298.01: Special Topics: Spirituality, Madness and Healing****Prof. June McDaniel** **No Prerequisites****Section 001 (TR 01:40 - 02:55)** **ECTR 219**

This course will deal with the religious aspects of healing and healers, and examine illness, healing, and religion in cross-cultural perspective. There will be a special focus on understandings of body, mind and spirit in both Asian and Western traditions. We shall look at alternative medical traditions which are dependent on non-traditional understandings of body and spirit: ayurveda, acupuncture, kundalini, indigenous shamanic healing, and faith healing, as well as responses to culture-bound syndromes explored by ethnopsychology. We shall see how mental and physical illnesses are framed in a meaningful context, and the role of religious, spiritual, and moral concerns. We shall also question the ways that modern Western psychology determines mental illness, by exploring alternative understandings of consciousness. There will be three tests, and two papers.

**RELS 360.01: Myth, Ritual & Symbols****Prof. John Huddlestun** **3 Credit Hours****Section 001 (MW 04:00 - 05:15)** **MYBK 119**

Since its inception, the field of religious studies and related disciplines have struggled to address both the meaning of and interrelationships among the three central topics of myth, ritual/performance and symbol. Drawing from the vast literature in religious studies, anthropology, and sociology, we will address a number of questions and concerns across a range of religious, social, and political situations. Do myths, rituals and symbols reflect reality, or create it? Do (or must) myths or symbols have universal meaning? What is the relationship between myth and ritual? Must one precede the other? Do rituals simply reflect one's belief or worldview or do they create it? What is the place of myth, ritual, and symbol in human social and political life?

What about secular rituals or rituals that are performed incorrectly or fail? How would one determine (or who would determine) that a ritual had failed? Following a reading of some influential figures and selected responses to their work, we will focus on a number theoretical issues relating especially to ritual, and on how myth, ritual, and symbol are created, used (or abused), revised, reinvented and given authority in modern life (e.g., birth, death, circumcision, abortion, political contexts, etc.), and ways in which they legitimate or reinforce existing religious and socio-political institutions.

**RELS 375.01: History of Religions: Religions of Scandinavia**

**Prof. Margaret Cormack 3 Credit Hours**

**Section 001 (MW 02:00 - 03:15) ECTR 219**

This interdisciplinary course will examine the religions of Scandinavia, and evaluate the evidence and sources for myths, beliefs and practices from the prehistoric period to the nineteenth century. The course will cover two conversions, from paganism to Christianity and from Catholicism to Lutheranism, and discuss how these events changed conceptions about the otherworld and the various kinds of supernatural beings that inhabit both it and the physical world. We will consider the nature of, and punishments for, magic (and cross-dressing) at different periods. The sources will be archeological, legal, literary, and folkloric. We will read the primary versions of some Norse myths, and consider how they compare with other evidence for the same stories.

**RELS 451.01: Capstone Colloquium**

**Prof. Elijah Siegler For Seniors-210, 450 & 1 other RELS**

**Section 001 (M 12:00 - 12:50) MYBK 119**

This *required* course is designed to provide a *capstone experience* for majors in Religious Studies, and it will feature visits from RELS faculty and recent alumni as guest speakers. The Colloquium is not another course on the subject of religion, but a “meta-course” that will provide RELS students with an opportunity to reflect on the cumulative achievement of their studies and consider how they might apply their knowledge and skills in their future professional lives. The Colloquium is designed to give students, in the company of other majors, the opportunity to: 1) review their own study of religion at CofC in order to identify their distinctive interests in particular subjects; 2) write an intellectual autobiography; 3) evaluate how their training served as a bridge between other academic disciplines; and 4) grasp how the study of religion might prepare them to put their learning to work in the world.

**2016 MAYMESTER - SUMMER I - SUMMER II**

| CRN                        | Maymester (May 16 – May 31) |  |           |       |              |          |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|-------|--------------|----------|
| 30065                      | RELS 105.01                 | Introduction to World Religions  | LeVasseur | MTWRF | 1:00- 4:30   | ECTR 103 |
| 30322                      | RELS 280.01                 | Religion & Film: Saint Joan Goes to Hollywood                                  | Doire     | MTWRF | 8:30- 12:00  | ECTR 219 |
| Summer I (June 3 – July 2) |                             |  |           |       |              |          |
|                            | RELS 298.01                 | Special Topic: Nature Spirituality, Ecotopia, and Applied Ecovillage Living    | LeVasseur | MTWRF | 10:00- 11:45 | ECTR 103 |
|                            | RELS 298.02                 | Special Topic: Encountering Religions and Globalization in the Indian Himalaya | Bjerken   | India |              | India    |
|                            | INTL 290/<br>ENVT 352       | International Development & Environmental Justice in the Himalaya              | Taylor    | India |              | India    |
| Summer II (July 7 – Aug 5) |                             |  |           |       |              |          |
| 30666                      | RELS 105.02                 | Introduction to World Religions  | LeVasseur | MTWRF | 10:00- 11:45 | ECTR 103 |

**Maymester 2016 (May 16- May 31)**

**RELS 105-001: Introduction to World Religions**

**Prof. Todd LeVasseur No Prerequisites**

**Section 001 (MTWRF 1:00– 4:30)**

**ECTR 103**

This course is designed to introduce CofC students to the more popular religions (in terms of adherents) of the globe. By utilizing a comparative and historical approach, the course investigates the origin and flourishing of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course also briefly covers some of the key theorists in religious studies, and ends by looking at religion in today’s globalized world. The class consists of lectures, reading and discussing sacred texts, videos, and discussing how and why religion is a driving force behind contemporary social and political issues.

**RELS 280-001: Religion & Film: Saint Joan Goes to Hollywood**

**Prof. Louise Doire No Prerequisites**

**Section 001 (MTWRF 8:30- 12:00)**

**ECTR 219**

In this course students will explore the pervasive presence of religious themes in film including representations of female saints and sinners, and interpretations of redemption, God, self-sacrifice and the human condition. We will view and discuss films that are obvious in their portrayal of religious subjects such as *Joan of Arc*, *The Mission*, *The Last Temptation of Christ* and films that are not so obvious (*The Fisher King*). Other themes include Latin American Liberation Theology, Mary Magdalene in early Christianity and the medieval legend of Percival, the Green Knight and the quest for the Holy Grail.

**SUMMER I 2016 (June 3- July 2)**

**RELS 298-001: Special Topics: Nature Spirituality, Ecotopia, and Applied Ecovillage Living**

**Prof. Todd LeVasseur No Prerequisites**

**Section 001 (MTWRF 10:00 - 11:45)**

**ECTR 103**

Ever wondered what an “Ecovillage” is, or what it is like to create and live in one? This course explores how ecovillages help human communities live more sustainably by incorporating ecocentric values, ecological design, and environmentally friendly technologies. This Summer I course will meet on campus for the first week, and then will spend one week living in residency at Earthaven Ecovillage in Black Mountain, NC, outside of Asheville. Students will live on-site for 1 week, participating in hands-on learning modules about permaculture, organic farming, alternative building construction, nature spirituality, alternative energy, and other aspects of sustainable homesteading in the Appalachian mountains

**Study Abroad Trip to North India (June 1 – June 28)**

This study abroad program immerses students in the Himalayan culture of North India, and students will learn about environmental change, local and refugee political communities, and the religious diversity of Ladakh and Dharamsala. Although Ladakh’s rugged high desert landscape is so sparsely populated that it is often described in travel literature as “isolated,” it has actually been a crossroads for the transmission of goods and religions (including Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Christianity) for at least a thousand years. Today Ladakh is undergoing rapid social change and a “renaissance” of sorts, due in part to the rapid influx of western adventure and spiritual tourists. The first part of the program will take place in Leh, the political, religious, and tourist hub of Ladakh, which is an exciting laboratory for examining the cross-cultural encounter of western travelers, Indian tourists, Tibetan exiles, and local Ladakhis. We then travel to Dharamsala, the current home of the Dalai Lama and the seat of the Tibetan government in exile, where we will meet with Tibetan refugees and community leaders. Finally, we spend the last few days in India’s capital of Delhi, where we will visit some of India’s largest modern religious institutions, including the Bahai Lotus Temple, the Hare Krishna Temple, and the Jama Masjid.

**RELS 298-002: Special Topics: Encountering Religions and Globalization in the Indian Himalaya**

**Prof. Zeff Bjerken No Prerequisites**

**Section 001**

**India**

This course introduces students to the religious diversity present in Ladakh and Dharamsala, where Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and Jews all encounter each other. We will examine how globalization affects this encounter, and explore various responses to globalization including the clash of civilizations, interreligious dialogue, and how religious institutions have responded to global tourism and cosmopolitanism. We will learn how various agents—tourists, missionaries, immigrants—carry religious ideas and practices, and how macro-processes such as economic development, militarization, and religious modernization, impact the local religious landscape in the Himalayas. The class will include site visits in Ladakh to Buddhist monasteries and schools, Hindu temples, Islamic mosques, a Sikh gurudwara, a Moravian Missionary Church, Yoga and Ayurvedic healing centers, and in Delhi we will visit a Bahai temple and Hindu Hare Krishna temple.

**AND**

**INTL 290/ENVT 352: International Development & Environmental Justice in the Himalaya**

**Prof. Amberjade Taylor No Prerequisites**

**Section 001**

**India**

This course provides an overview of the key concepts, major drivers, and practical workings of international development, and introduces students to specific environmental rights issues in the Himalaya region. We’ll investigate how globalization, voluntourism, and infrastructure projects impact local communities, including refugees and marginalized groups. We’ll examine responses to natural disasters and ongoing water and land use issues, and develop strategies to analyse and critique the systems and power relationships of “international development.” This course is built around two case studies: in Ladakh (post-2010 cloudburst and resulting humanitarian response), and in Dharamsala (daily life water and land for Tibetan refugees, Indian residents, and Western tourists). Students will participate in unique experiential learning activities related to these case studies, including narrative power analyses, field observation and ethnographic reflection, and digital media-making. Students will also discover how advocacy for environmental justice is shaped by class, caste, gender, and religious identities.

**SUMMER II 2016 (July 7- August 5)**

**RELS 105-002: Introduction to World Religions**

**Prof. Todd LeVasseur No Prerequisites**

**Section 001 (MTWRF 8:30- 12:00)**

**ECTR 103**

This course is designed to introduce CofC students to the more popular religions (in terms of adherents) of the globe. By utilizing a comparative and historical approach, the course investigates the origin and flourishing of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course also briefly covers some of the key theorists in religious studies, and ends by looking at religion in today’s globalized world. The class consists of lectures, reading and discussing sacred texts, videos, and discussing how and why religion is a driving force behind contemporary social and political issues.