

**RELS 382: Teaching Apprenticeship**  
**AJ Williamson (Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Zeff Bjerken)**

In the Fall semester of 2021, I will serve as the teaching apprentice for Dr. Bjerken's RELS 120: Religion, Art, and Culture class, a class that I completed as an Express II course in Spring 2021. Over the course of the fall semester, my apprenticeship will consist of: attending all class sessions, delivering a lecture on religion as art, leading a class discussion on *Daughters of the Dust*, delivering a lecture on my religion at CofC research, assisting in the development and delivery of a creative assignment, and hosting review sessions for the midterm and final exam.

Additionally, Dr. Bjerken and I will meet once a week to review the progress of the class and discuss pedagogical readings. These readings may include excerpts from:

- Eugene V. Gallagher and Joanne MacGuire, *The Religious Studies Skills Book: Close Reading, Critical Thinking, and Comparison* (Bloomsbury, 2018).
- *On Teaching Religion: Essays by Jonathan Z. Smith*, Christopher I. Lerich, ed. (Bloomsbury, 2012).
- bell hooks, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as a Practice of Freedom* (Harvest, 1994).
- Barbara E. Fassler Walvoord, *Teaching and Learning in College Introductory Religion Courses* (2007).

There are a variety of reasons that I would like to serve as a TA, but primarily, I am interested in gaining experience that will help me to determine if teaching is a path I want to pursue eventually. I am also looking at graduate programs that would allow me to continue engaging with the intersection of religion and art as a research interest, so this particular class felt like a good fit for both my personal investments and upcoming applications.