

**RELG 3325: Buddhism**

**Dr. Nick Brasovan**

[Asian Religious Traditions Core or Elective]

[UCA Core: D, R]

**TTH 10:50-12:05**

**Irby 311**

**RELG 3335: Judaism**

**Mr. Phillip Spivey**

(This course satisfies the Western Religious Traditions Core or serves as an Elective requirement for the Religious Studies major or minor.) This course is a historical and cultural survey of the oldest Western faith tradition: Judaism. Jewish beliefs, customs, history, and sacred literature will be examined by discussing classical and contemporary readings. Students will be introduced to the major figures, ideas, customs, and history of the Jewish people; identify and critically analyze major themes, poetic expressions and symbolism in Jewish literature; and recognize Jewish contributions to Western culture and thought.

[Western Religions Core or Elective]

[UCA Core: D, R]

**MWF 10:00-10:50**

**Irby 307**

**RELG 3340: Religion, Science, and Technology**

**Dr. Clayton Crockett**

This course examines scientific and technological ideas and their significance for thinking about religion. First we will read the most famous and widely-read book about science in the 20th Century, Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Next we will read a textbook on *Science & Religion 1450-1900* that explores some of the major scientific developments in Western culture from Copernicus to Darwin and their relationship to religion. Then we will read a book arguing that Buddhism represents an important resource for understanding and living within our contemporary world, *The Bodhisattva's Brain*. Finally, we continue to engage with ideas about the brain and its neuroplasticity and their implications for thinking about religion as expressed by a contemporary French philosopher, Catherine Malabou, in *What Should We Do with Our Brain?*.

[Religion, Culture, and Society Core or Elective]

[UCA Core: I, C]

**MWF 2:00-2:50**

**Irby 311**

**RELG 3342: New and Alternative Religious Movements**

**Dr. James Deitrick**

Religions change with the times and new religious movements are ever on the rise. This course examines a variety of new and alternative religious movements in the United States today. These include movements arising out of established, "mainstream" (i.e., Christian) religious traditions (e.g., Mormonism, Peoples Temple, the Branch Davidians); movements that are well-established in other parts of the world and are beginning to have a significant impact in the US—while also undergoing significant change in the process (e.g., Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism); and radically new movements emerging only indirectly from established religious traditions or not at all (e.g., neo-Paganism and Wicca, Scientology, Rastafarianism, Raelianism, Jediism). These and other movements are studied for what they teach us about religion in the US today and how religion is changing to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

[Religion, Culture, and Society Core or Elective]

**TTH 12:15-1:30**

**Irby 311**

**RELG 3380: Internship in Religious Studies**

**TBA**

**Mr. Phillip Spivey**

[Elective]

Students must have the permission of the instructor to enroll in this course.

**PHIL 3301: Medieval Philosophy**

**TTh 12:15-1:30**

**Dr. Jacob Held**

**Irby 316**

An investigation of the development of Western philosophy from the early Middle Ages to the Renaissance, or the millennium ranging from 500-1500 CE, roughly. We will focus on major thinkers in this time span beginning with St. Augustine and ending with the late medieval thinking of the fourteenth century including William of Ockham and John Duns Scotus. Issues to be covered include natural law, the existence and nature of God, the problem of universals, realism versus nominalism, and free-will. But there is much to be covered and we will only be scratching the surface.

[Religious Studies Elective]

**PHIL 4340: Meaning of Life**

**TTh 9:25-10:40**

**Dr. Charles Harvey**

**Irby 311**

This course will focus on philosophical issues revolving around the meaning(s) of life. We will approach the issue through three broad conceptual trajectories: Philosophers who argue that (1) life is absurd unless there is a God (and there is one), (2) philosophers who argue that life is absurd because there isn't a God, and (3) philosophers who argue that life can be meaningful in either case; it can be lived with a finite, celebratory significance with or without positing a God. We will read some of the essays in Klemke and Cahn's *The Meaning of Life*, most of Herbert Fingarette's *Death: Philosophical Soundings*, and work through Ernest Becker's classic work, *The Denial of Death*. As a Capstone Course for students in philosophy and religious studies, students will be expected to play a significant participatory role in the class. (Successful completion of the course capstone course credit, if so desired, and 3 hours credit in the "Social, Political, Values" area in Philosophy or 3 hours elective credit in Religious Studies.)

[Religious Thought Core or Elective]

[UCA Core: Z]

**ART 2325: Asian Art Survey**

**TTh 2:40-3:55**

**Dr. Reinaldo Morales**

[Elective]

**HIST 3321: History of Christianity**

**MWF**

**Dr. Ken Barnes**

**Irby 102**

[Western Religious Traditions Core or Elective]

[UCA Core: R]