**INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT**
Professor Anne Merideth  
RELC 102; M/W/F 1025-1115

Examination of the texts of the New Testament, as well as other ancient sources, in an attempt to reconstruct a picture of Christianity in its beginnings. We will study the New Testament and the early Jesus movement within the wider context of Second Temple Judaism and the Greco-Roman world. Issues such as the development of the canon, the divisions with the Jesus Movement between Jews and Gentiles, the different understandings of the figure of Jesus, the conflicts which shaped the institutional development of the early church, and the conflict between Rome and the early church will receive particular attention and analysis.

**FROM CONFUCIUS TO ZEN**
Professor Douglas Brooks  
RELC 106; T/R 0940-1055

An introduction to the major religious traditions of China and Japan. In order of treatment, we will examine early Chinese religion, Confucianism, Taoism, Chinese Buddhism, Shinto, and Japanese Buddhism. While our main emphasis will be on basic teachings, we will also consider religious practices and social impact of these traditions. Readings include primary sources in translation and contemporary scholarship.

**GENDER IN JUDAISM**
Professor Jennifer Hall  
RELC 147; M/W 1400-1515 (with JWST & GSWS sections)

In this course we will examine approaches to the body and gender as described and manifested in Jewish texts, rituals, and communal practice from the biblical period to the present. We will look at interpretations of the body, and its effect on the status of women in particular, in the Bible and Talmud, paying close attention to the historical and cultural contexts of these interpretations. There will be a strong focus on modern reevaluations of gender and the body and how such revaluations have transformed what it means to be “Jewish”.

**INTERFAITH RELATIONS: THE GLOBALIZATION OF GOD**
Professor Denise Yarbrough  
RELC 159; T/R 1525-1640

This course offers an exploration of the dynamic interactions between people of the diverse religions of the world as societies adapt to religious pluralism. We use case studies to examine how religion, politics and culture interact to create opportunities for positive or negative engagement across religious traditions. We examine some of the most contentious world conflicts in which religion plays a part. We study the etiquette of interreligious engagement in multi-religious contexts building skills for global citizenship.

**UNDER CRESCENT AND CROSS: JEWS IN THE MIDDLE AGES**
Professor Aaron Hughes  
RELC 224; T/R 1105-1220

This course will offer an examination of Jewish communities - from roughly 500-1500CE - living in the lands of Christendom and Islamdom. Though providing a historical and comparative component, much of the class will be spent looking at their textual productions. The latter will include classic rabbinic literature (Talmuds, codes, and commentaries), philosophy, mysticism (Kabbalah), in addition to other genres (e.g., poetry).
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

One of the following:
- REL 101: Introduction to the Old Testament
- REL 102: Introduction to the New Testament

One of the following:
- REL 103: History of Judaism
- REL 104: History of Christianity
- REL 105: Asian Search for Self
- REL 106: From Confucius to Zen
- REL 107: History of Islam

Theory Requirement (Junior Year):
- REL 293: Theories of Religion

Capstone Experience (Senior Year)
- REL 389: Senior Seminar
- REL 393: Senior Tutorial

Electives:
- 6 elective courses of your choice in consultation with your advisor

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

One of the following:
- REL 101: Introduction to the Old Testament
- REL 102: Introduction to the New Testament

One of the following:
- REL 103: History of Judaism
- REL 104: History of Christianity
- REL 105: Asian Search for Self
- REL 106: From Confucius to Zen
- REL 107: History of Islam

Theory Requirement:
- REL 293: Theories of Religion

Electives:
- 3 elective courses of your choice in consultation with your advisor

The Rochester Curriculum is based on the idea that students learn best when they are allowed to study what excites and interests them. In the Department of Religion we couldn’t agree more! Which is why we place such a high value on providing personalized guidance for each student who enters our classroom and office. We want students to take courses in areas that fascinate them, and, thus, there are no prerequisite courses that students need to take as they begin their journey to majoring in Religion.

We do encourage our Freshman to begin with a 100-level course, but there are many such classes covering a wide range of interests. Some students may want to begin with REL 100: Introduction to the Study of Religion which introduces students to the field of Religion and challenges students to think about the many ways to approach the study of religion and to reflect upon the ways in which religion intersects with many other aspects of culture and society.

Many students initially take courses in Religion in order to fulfill their cluster requirement in the humanities and then go on to declare a minor or major in Religion, as evidenced by the fact that majority of our students graduate with a double major! Freshman are encouraged to contact our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Anne Merideth, with any questions. anne.merideth@rochester.edu