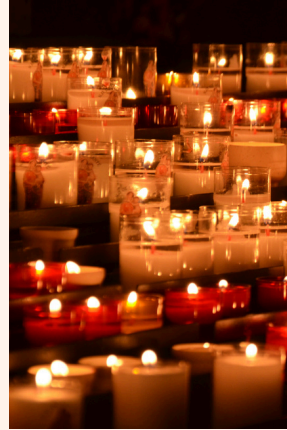


SOSC 171-172-173

Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, & Community

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THIS SEQUENCE?

The first quarter focuses on wonder. How did the world come to be, and how do the categories we use to think about the world relate to its essence and existence? The second quarter focuses on conscience and consciousness. Why do people suffer? What causes that suffering and what means do we as individuals and societies have to remedy it? The third quarter considers how religion both inspires and stymies political change in the world.



WHO MIGHT BENEFIT FROM TAKING RELIGION?



- Students who want to read texts from multiple religious traditions across cultures and time periods, in conversation with the classics of social theory
- Students who want to reflect on the major questions outlined above without treating secular modernity as a clean break with the past

TEXTS COVERED



Autumn: Durkheim, Rousseau, M. Douglas, Daodejing, Ibn Tufayl, Mencius, Qur'an

Winter: Freud, Book of Job, Kafka, Bhagavad Gita, Nietzsche, C.S. Lewis, Santideva

Spring: Marx, Arendt, Weber, Foucault, Malcolm X, D. Day, Xunzi, Gandhi

WHAT MAKES RELIGION STAND OUT AS A SEQUENCE?

- Considers how the social sciences are constituted in conversation and in a struggle with the religious traditions from which they emerged
- Shows how many of our human questions about why we're here, why we suffer, and how we can make the world better remain the same across time and space, even as the answers differ radically
- Focuses on how religious history and ideals continue to pervade the social world in all of its manifestations