

NEW CORE — NEW CLASSES — SPECIAL TOPICS
JCU UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES — SPRING 2016

TRS 235
Catholicism in a Digital Age
Catholic Studies Course
 (3 credits) V
Dr. Edward Hahnenberg
 TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm



“Catholicism in a Digital Age” studies the theological significance of the digital revolution for the Catholic experience of faith, with special emphasis on communication technologies and their implications for the Roman Catholic Church as a global religious institution. The course will briefly survey the historical impact of technological innovation on the church and then explore in greater depth several theological topics currently being rethought in light of technological change. These topics include the nature of religious practice and ritual, new forms of church community, the process of religious instruction, the role of religious authority, and new ethical questions arising out of an increasingly interconnected world.

TRS 272: Soul Food & Food for the Soul (linked course)
 (3 credits) D/EHE/R/V
Rev. Dr. Cory Wilson
 MWF 12:00 – 12:50 pm



Family rituals and food preparation practices are used to study ideals that pervade the academic and existential approaches of African and African-American expressions of spirituality, religion, and theology. We will examine the role of food culture as it relates to African-American family and experience, while deconstructing pervasive racism and ethnic stereotyping as conveyed in films, music, and popular culture, past and present. Food as sustenance and symbolism in Biblical texts will be examined, highlighting the centrality of food to our religious and spiritual lives.

TRS 299A: Special Topics – Religion, Freedom, & Law
 (3 credits) V
Rev. Robin Craig, J.D.
 MF 2:00 – 3:15 pm



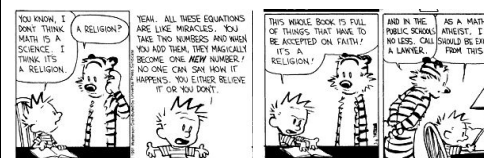
This course explores the history of the American interface between religion and law, highlighting the different ways in which religion and law address similar questions. Focusing on the First Amendment right of freedom of religion, we will explore how our public institutions and judicial system approach religious issues. Case studies will include significant religious topics that we debate and litigate in our public life.



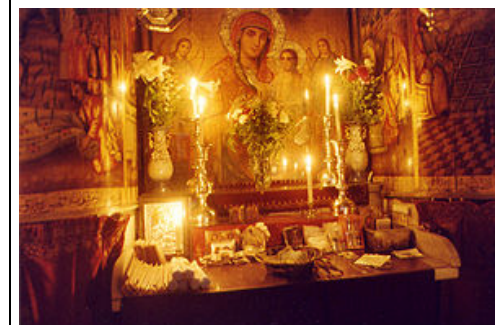
TRS 299B: Special Topics – Teaching Theology & Religious Studies to, with, & for Adolescents & Young Adults
 (3 credits) V
Drs. Sheila McGinn & Mark Storz
 W 6:30 – 9:15 pm



This course engages students in the theory and practice of teaching religion and theology to, with, and for adolescents and young adults, both in a public-school context and in the context of a religious community. We will explore the dynamics of human psychological, moral, intellectual, and faith development; strategies for engaged learning; the relationship between information and formation in religious education; as well as first-amendment issues and best practices for public-school teaching of religion.



TRS 299C: Special Topics – The Worlds of Eastern Catholicism
 (3 credits) V, S, *Catholic Studies*
Rev. Andrew Summerson, STL
 MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am



Contemporary crises in the Middle East and Ukraine have cast a light on the little-known Eastern Catholic communities, which are currently under oppression and persecution. Students will learn the distinctive aspects of the faith of these peoples, including their theology, liturgy, history and spirituality, and how these differ from the Roman Catholicism of the West. We will specifically look at the Byzantine, Syriac, and Armenian traditions. This course is aimed to enrich the students’ understanding of global Catholicism and to help them learn to breathe with what St. John Paul II called “the second lung” of the Catholic Church.

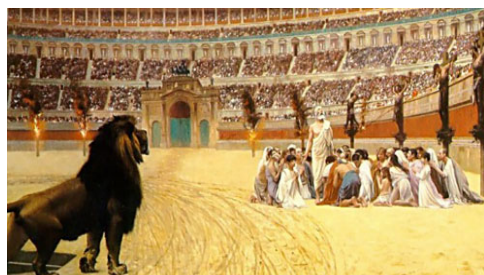
NEW CORE — NEW CLASSES — SPECIAL TOPICS
JCU UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES — SPRING 2016

TRS 329: Special Topics in Church History — Religious Enthusiasm (linked course)
 (3 credits) V, EHE
Dr. Kristen Tobey
 MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm



Religious “enthusiasm” has long been used to refer to public, loud, and otherwise unruly religious convictions or behaviors. Although counter to reports of religion as increasingly quiet, private, and unimportant in the lives of Americans, religious enthusiasm has never been absent from the US religious landscape. This course will examine several modern religious revitalization movements, paying particular attention to the appeal they exert over adherents versus the fear and mistrust they excite in society at large. Working through several case studies (including the People’s Temple, UFO religions, evangelical Christianity, new-age spirituality, and more), we will address questions like: Why are people drawn to revitalization movements? Why does the wider public so often fear, malign, or mock these movements? How do these groups both reflect and shape American religious culture, and American culture writ large?

TRS 329B: Special Topics in Church History — Early Christian Martyrdom
 (3 credits) V, *Catholic Studies*
Dr. Nathaniel Morehouse
 MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am



This course explores the history of martyrdom in early Christianity, as well as the various ways in which martyrs were used (*post mortem*) to influence the development of the Church. The course will focus the majority of its attention on the activities of (and surrounding) martyrs from the early-third through the late-fifth centuries. By the beginning of the fifth century, the martyr cult had become a central aspect of the dominant form of Christianity. Important church leaders crafted understandings of the martyrs that served to support their ecclesiastical and political agendas. The question remains, however, why this became one of the dominant features of Christian worship and self-identification.

TRS 351: Silk Road Religions
 (3 credits) V, EGC, R
Dr. Paul Nietupski
 MW 3:30-4:45 pm



This course focuses on the “Silk Roads,” the historical Eurasian international trade routes, giving particular attention to the northern overland routes through China, India, and the eastern Turkic republics. The time frame of the course begins in the Indian Mauryan and Chinese Han dynasties at about 200 BCE. The course continues with the Indian Kushan, Gupta, and Pala periods, and the Chinese Northern and Southern dynasties, with major focus on the Tang Dynasty (618–907), and extending to the middle of the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911). Key examples, or case studies for this course will be presented chronologically.

TRS 369B: Special Topics in Religious Ethics — Animals, the Planet, & Ethics
 (3 credits) V, *Catholic Studies*
Ms. Gillian Halusker
 MF 2:00 – 3:15 pm



The relationship between humans and nonhuman animals has changed dramatically in the last century due to industrialization of food production, the growth of the human population, and new avenues of scientific research. Current practices toward nonhuman animals have gone largely unnoticed and un-criticized in Christian thought. Theological emphasis remains on the relationship between God and humans, making a firm distinction between humanity and the rest of creation. We will reconsider the divide between humans and nonhumans in Christian theology and consider what has been said about nonhuman animals in the Judeo-Christian tradition, how nonhuman animals are treated in contemporary society, and how the relationship with nonhumans affects human spiritually, psychologically, and physically.

TRS 369C: Special Topics in Religious Ethics — Ethics and Aesthetics (linked course)
 (3 credits) V, EHE
Dr. Paul Lauritzen
 TR 2:00-3:15 pm



This course seeks to integrate the disciplines of ethics and aesthetics such that students will appreciate the importance of a capacious vision in wrestling with controversial moral issues. By comparing how ethicists and artists view issues like stem-cell research and terrorism, students acquire a fuller appreciation of the complexity of the moral life and the need to draw on a rich array of resources that do not fit neatly into the “boxes” of standard academic disciplines.

NEW CORE — NEW CLASSES — SPECIAL TOPICS
JCU UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES — SPRING 2016