



Department of
Theology and Religious Studies

NEW, COOL & SPECIAL

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SPRING 2017**



TRS224 - MINORITY RELIGIONS (3 credits) V/D TR 9:30–10:45AM

Dr. Kristen Tobey



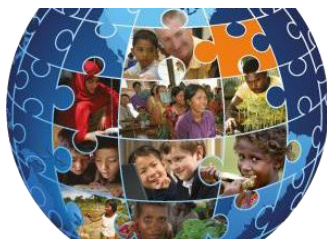
Investigate the histories, traditions, and lived religious practices of select American “fringe” religious groups by examining the way they interact and exchange with wider culture through architecture, commerce, food, law and media. What marks have these “fringe” religions made on the American religious and cultural landscape? Using case studies, we will consider the shifting contextual meaning of designations such as minority/majority and marginal/central, their purposes, utility and inadequacy; the distinct ways American religious groups affect one another; and how religious groups maintain their distinct identities and reinforce their boundaries.

NB: Meets a history requirement for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS231 - CONTEMPORARY CATHOLIC THEOLOGY: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

(3 credits) V/R/CS/SLC TR 12:30–1:45PM or 2:00–3:15PM

Dr. Kathleen Philipps



What does Catholicism have to do with current global issues like human trafficking, dislocation of refugees, and immigration? Are you concerned about tensions between the Vatican and the People’s Republic of China, or the relationship of the Roman Catholic Church to Islam? Are you wondering what contemporary Catholic theologians and the Roman Catholic tradition have to say about these and other world issues like ecology, consumerism and economics? Join this eye-opening exploration of issues important to you!

NB: Meets a theology requirement for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS272 - SOUL FOOD & FOOD FOR THE SOUL

(3 credits) V/EHE MWF 12:00–12:50PM - LINKED WITH IC208, MWF 1PM

Dr. Cory Wilson



African-American religious traditions, spirituality, and identity formation through religious rituals and food experiences within the family and the greater African-American cultural group. History of food availability and preparation. Film portrayals of African-American family unity maintained through cultural traditions related to food. Get a “taste” of African and African-American religion in this fascinating religious and cultural survey.

NB: This course is linked with IC208 in the “Engaging Human Experience” sector of the Integrative Core Curriculum.

TRS329 (=HS297) - CHRISTIANITY IN LATIN AMERICA

(3 credits) V/CS/EGC **pending** MWF 10:00–10:50AM

Dr. Anne M^cGinness



Explore the development of Christian thought in Latin America through 500 years from conquest and colonization to current day intellectual and cultural encounters between indigenous civilizations, African societies, and European colonists. See how the gospel message has been assimilated with the Latin culture. Discover the impact of colonization on Catholicism and the emergence of liberation theologies. Conclude the semester by examining the “Latin American Reformation”; the rise of Evangelicalism and Pentecostalism on culture and society; and the impacts of Latinos/Latinas and their religion on the borders and in the USA today.

NB: Meets a history requirement for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS350 INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE (3 credits) V/CS M 3:30–6:15PM

Fr. Thomas Chillikulam, SJ, with Drs. Paul Nietupski & Sheila McGinn



The USA is the most religiously diverse country in the world and the most religiously active country in the West, yet many Americans live in an insular bubble that prevents them knowing and understanding people who follow religious traditions other than their own. Students will explore basic features of selected global religions (especially those represented in the Cleveland metropolitan area) and gain the tools for respectful dialogue across difference. The culminating course project includes a structured exercise in interreligious dialogue among seminar members and representatives of key religious communities.

NB: Meets a world religions requirement for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS351 SILK ROAD RELIGIONS (3 credits) V/R/EGC

TR 11:00AM –12:15PM

Drs. Paul Nietupski and Bo Liu



This team-taught course focuses on religion, art, and politics on the international trade routes of East, Central, and South Asia, from the second through the twentieth centuries. Representative examples are presented chronologically and carefully situated within their political and religious contexts. The interdisciplinary methodology in the course includes consideration of the history, religions, arts, and politics of the times.

NB: Meets a world religions requirement for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS363 SOCIAL JUSTICE & THE ECONOMY: MORALS AND MONEY

(3 credits) V/D/ISJ/CS/PJHR/SLC MWF 1:00–1:50PM

Ms. Megan Wilson-Reitz, MA



Explore the relationship between religious ethics and the economy, examining the religious, moral, and ethical teachings of multiple global religious traditions. We will examine such questions as: What do the major world religions teach about wealth, greed, poverty, inequality and the ethical use of money? Can market economy doctrines be considered a kind of religion? What are characteristics of an ethical economy? What can we learn from alternative economic models based on religious ethics? What can our local economic realities teach us about ethics in contemporary society?

NB: Meets an ethics requirement for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS364 - CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY (3 credits) V/D/CS

TR 9:30–10:45AM (H) or 11:00–12:15 AM

Dr. Elizabeth Antus



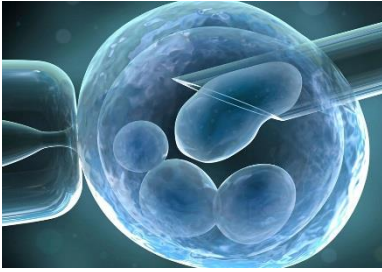
Study of human sexuality, its meaning and mystery, and ethical issues related to sexual behavior and attitudes, all from a Christian perspective. Christian wisdom and wisdom of the ages in light of human experience and contemporary theories of the meaning and significance of sexuality. Special attention to the inherent relationship between spirituality and sexuality.

NB: Meets an ethics requirement for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS369 - BIOETHICS (3 credits) V

M 6:30–9:15PM

Dr. Paul Lauritzen



This course examines the ethical principles and forms of moral reasoning that typically guide decisions in health care and frame public policy debates generated by contemporary biomedicine. It includes materials from both religious and secular traditions of thought, with particular attention given to Catholic teaching on bioethical issues. Issues addressed include: assisted reproductive technology, euthanasia, and stem cell research.

NB: Meets an ethics requirement for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS379 - ARTFUL SPIRITUALITY (3 credits) V/CS/CAPA pending

MF 2:00–3:15PM

Ms. Mary Coffey, MA



Explore the intersection of spirituality and creativity in the lives of Christian spiritual masters and in your own life. We will use a variety of visual art techniques as a way of expressing your voice and facilitating a deeper and more focused spiritual journey. No art experience necessary!

NB: Serves as an upper-division elective for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS389 - LITURGY & THE ART OF RITUAL (3 credits) V/CS

W 6:30–9:15PM

Dr. Edward Kaczuk



A holistic approach to celebrating the Rites of the Catholic Church, faithful to its Tradition and in service to the common spiritual good of its faith communities. Special emphasis is given to preparing for parochial liturgies, the roles of liturgical music and art, liturgical ministries, liturgical law and pastoral issues.

NB: Serves as an upper-division elective for the TRS Minor or BA degree.

TRS329 (=HS297) - CHRISTIANITY IN LATIN AMERICA

(3 credits) V/CS/EGC pending MWF 10:00–10:50AM

Dr. Anne M^cGinness



What besides the Bible gave shape to Christianity and formative Judaism in the first centuries CE? This course provides an introduction to those non-Biblical writings, studying such texts as 1–3 Enoch, The Gospel of Judas, The Acts of Pilate, The Acts of Thecla, The Shepherd of Hermas, The Proto-Gospel of James, The Infancy Gospel of Thomas; selections from the Mishnaic and later Talmudic literature; and the writings of early Christian authors such as Barnabas, Clement, Justin Martyr, and the Montanist Oracles.

NB: This seminar satisfies the biblical studies requirement for the TRS MA degree.