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| FALL 2022 Classes  JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM | |
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| WLLC 3400.001  MWF 12-12:50PM  Prof. Cindy Renker | | | HOLOCAUST AND FILM  This course examines how the historical tragedy of the Holocaust has been portrayed in feature films and documentaries, a medium of popular culture, in different countries. Our guiding questions include: Do cinematic attempts to capture the horror of the Holocaust faithfully convey its scope, or do they end up trivializing it? How do filmmakers attach words and especially images to the Holocaust and its aftermath? Do differences in genre, style, subject matter, and authorial intent affect the “meaning” of Holocaust film? Through watching various cinematic texts, we will examine: the problem and limits of language, the role of trauma, authenticity, memory and post-memory, genocide, storytelling and history, and representation and adaptation of the Holocaust in film in Hollywood, Europe (France, Italy, Hungary, and Germany) and in Israel. We will try to decide what should count as "success" or "failure" in such representations. | | |
| PHIL 3540 TR 11am-12:20pm  Prof. Yaffe  BLB 270  \_\_\_\_\_ HIST 4385 T 6:30-9:20 PM  Prof. Mierzejewski  WH 215 | | | JUDaism AND phiLosophy This course looks at how a number of Jewish thinkers seek to defend Judaism against the widespread, though dubious, opinion that the Bible (notably Genesis 1:26–28) is somehow the cause of our environmental crisis. We then consider the life and thought of the excommunicated Jew Benedict Spinoza (1632–1677), whose *Theologico-Political Treatise* (1670) is a philosophical founding-document of modern Judaism, modern biblical criticism, and modern liberal democracy. Finally, we read selected essays on Judaism by Leo Strauss (1899–1973), whose scholarly work explored not only the key differences between ancient and modern thought (including Jewish thought) but also the ongoing tension between the Bible and philosophy or science. nazi Germany The course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive, sophisticated account and analysis of the Nazi period in German history.  It will explore issues related to the content and implications of Nazi ideology, the role of Hitler, the complicity of elites such as the Junkers, the military, the churches and big business.  The course will examine the origins of the Nazi movement and of the conditions in Germany that lead to the movement's rise to power.  It will provide a detailed analysis of the consequences of the implementation of Hitler's policies in the forms of genocide, military conquest, and defeat. The Bible as LITERATURE This course will familiarize students with the most influential text in Western culture. Taught from a literary perspective, the course will consider the variety of literary genres and narrative strategies in the Bible and the historical contexts in which its various writers wrote. The Bible is long, the semester short, so we will focus on books of major literary interest or influence selected both from the Torah, Prophets, and Writings of the Hebrew Bible or “Old Testament” and from the New Testament. Biblical readings will also be paired with works of literature in English influenced by the Scriptures. No acquaintance with the Bible is assumed. | | |
| ENGL 3910 TR 3:30-5:00 PM  Prof. Robert Upchurch | | |
| PHIL 3530 TR 12:30-1:50PM  Rabbi Geoffrey Dennis  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL 2070 .001: TR 9:30-11am  .002: TR 11am-12:20pm  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  PHIL 3050  TBD  TBD | | | Kabbalah This course is an introduction to Jewish esotericism, presented in historical survey. Through lectures, readings, and discussions from seminal texts: *The Song of the Sabbath Sacrifice, Enoch, Sefer Yetzirah, Sefer ha-Bahir,  Sefer Chasidim, The Treatise on the Left Emanation, Sefer ha- Zohar,*and*Sefer ha-Gilgulim*, the course will explore the major topics of Jewish Kabbalah, including mystical cosmogony, apocalypse, and eschatology, theosophy, word-mysticism, meditation, and mystical-magical rituals of power. Attention will be given to the on-going influence of Jewish esoteric thought on religious (Jewish, Christian, and Islamic) and secular philosophy.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ WORLD RELIGIONS Religion is the most pervasive yet least understood topic in global life. From the vistas of Beijing's Temple of Heaven to the cul-de-sacs of the American Sunbelt, religion shapes and suffuses the way billions of people think and act, vote and fight, love and, tragically, hate. This course will cover Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, and Yoruba, among others.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM This course aims to articulate the basic theological, historical, and cultural principles of Judaism. Topics covered include: Biblical, Rabbinic, medieval, and modern Judaism; Jewish holidays and life cycle events; the Holocaust and the State of Israel; the different streams of Judaism; differences between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; and the origins of the American Jewish community and its contribution to American society. | | |
| PHIL 3140 TR 2-3:20 PM  GAB 114  Prof. Terra Rowe | | | Religion and American Society   What does it mean to be religious in America today? How has and does religion impact the daily lives of Americans? How are religious demographics changing and what challenges and opportunities do American’s experience as a result? These are just a few of the questions we will explore this semester. This course will cover religious experience in America, emphasizing the diversity of religious practice that has been present from its beginnings through current times. Rather than reinforcing a common view that this is and always has been a monolithic “Christian nation,” or even the assimilationist view of America as a melting pot, this course will emphasize the unique ways American soil has acted as a meeting place—at times in conflict, others in collaboration or mutual change and exchange—of difference. Readings, for example, will cover Native American lifeways in America, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism in America, race and religion in America, gender and religion in America, as well as environmentalism and religion in America. | | |