



Manuscript Migration Lab

AT THE FRANKLIN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

Course Guide Spring 2022

Hen K¹

This document provides a list of courses taught by scholars affiliated with the Lab. It includes both the graduate and undergraduate classes being offered for the Spring 2022 semester. If any changes need to be made, please contact Hen Kennett at hmk20@duke.edu.

Undergraduate Courses

Department of Classical Studies

[CLST 283 / Greek History](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [Joshua D. Sosin](#)

Graduate Instructor: [Michael A. Freeman](#)

Description:

This course is a survey of Greek history from the Archaic period to the fourth century. We will focus on primary sources, reading Homer's Iliad, selections from the histories of Thucydides and Herodotus, as well as selected Greek Tragedies, Comedies, and actual speeches delivered in Athenian courts of law.

We shall cover a range of topics including the interrelationship between religion and law; the rise of the city-state and the growth of the Athenian Empire; the birth, implosion, and re-birth of Athenian democracy; slavery; violence in Athenian society and culture; and many other subjects, which we shall address through combination of lecture and discussion.

This course WILL NOT swamp you with names and dates and maps and technical terms. Our goal is to read primary sources critically, think historically, write creatively, discuss boldly, and to engage with a remote culture in a way that is meaningful, rewarding, and fun.

[CLST 360 / The History of the Book](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [Jennifer Clare Woods](#)

Description:

This course investigates the history of the “book” as physical object from its earliest forms (clay, bone or bamboo tablets, papyrus scrolls) through to texts in the digital age. Throughout the course, we will use materials from the Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library to explore forms of written media at first hand. We'll explore handwritten books from ancient Greece and Rome through medieval manuscripts and early printed books to the present day. In the course of the class, we'll investigate how texts were copied and where, how and why scripts and decoration/illustration developed, and changes in the form of the book and methods of book production through the ages. In the final part of the course, we'll look at book forms and reading practices now, and discuss possibilities for the future of the book.

Department of Religious Studies

[Religion 89S / Religion and Humor](#)

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Core Faculty Associate: [David A. Morgan](#)

Description:

For some people, religion is serious business; for others, it is the object of satire, parody, and ridicule. Laughing at or about religion is so common that it likely has something to say about how religions are regarded, feared, resented, and enjoyed. Why is so much humor about religion? This course explores that question in a variety of ways. The course combines the use of film, video, political and satirical cartoons, memes, roundtable discussions, and a large variety of scholarship ranging from folklore and media studies to anthropology, religious studies, history, and social psychology.

[Religion 101 / Introduction to Religious Studies](#)

Co-Director: [Jennifer Wright Knust](#)

Description:

Introduction to leading themes and concepts in the study of religions from the ancient world to the present. Course is divided into two parts: 1) what is religion? and 2) how is religion studied? A variety of religious traditions are examined as well as various theories and definitions of religion. Includes exploration of key ways in which different religions understand such social problems as violence and ideological conflict.

[Religion 205S / Women, Gender, and Christian Origins](#)

Graduate Instructor: [Elizabeth B. Schrader](#)

Description:

A study of early Christian perspectives on women and gender as expressed in the New Testament and other Jewish and early Christian writings within the context of ancient Mediterranean religions. Topics addressed include: women's roles, ancient discussions of masculinity and femininity, institutional arrangements and the household, and the development of the category "virgin."

Religion 290S / Scribes & Scriptures

Graduate Instructor: [Nicholas E. Wagner](#)

Description:

Students in this seminar will study the people and communities responsible for the writing and copying of sacred literature in antiquity, with a focus on the transmission of biblical texts. Topics covered in the course include scribal education, tools or instruments, methods of copying, and (dis)similarities in practices across time, place, and religious tradition. Ancient texts now held at Duke's Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library will form the basis of our inquiry.

[Religion 295S – 01 / Black Muslims: Race, Religion, & Culture](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [Ellen McLarney](#)

Description:

The intersection of African, American, European, and Islamic cultures studied through the cultural and intellectual flourishing of black Islam. Topics include early Muslim communities established in the Americas through the transatlantic slave trade, Muslim slave rebellions in Brazil and the Caribbean, Muslim slave autobiographies, African Muslims in Europe, the emergence of the Moorish Science Temple and the Nation of Islam, Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm

X, Muhammad Ali, women of the Nation of Islam, women's Qur'an exegeses, Hagar as a black woman, black feminism, the Five-Percent Nation, Islamic hip-hop and rap, "the Black Crescent," the black international and Islam, and the Black Panthers.

[Religion 310S / Literary Translation: History, Theory, and Practice](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [Laura S. Lieber](#)

Description:

A study of the theory and practice of translation from antiquity to the present, with a focus on religious, literary, and philosophical texts and the distinctive challenges involved in rendering such works into a different language. Topics include analysis of historically-significant translations, a survey of the history and theory of translation as a practice, a close study of the ethics of translation, and a workshop in which students will prepare, revise, and analyze their own translations.

Prerequisite:

Three semesters of language.

[Religion 361 / The End of the World: Apocalyptic Arguments from Antiquity to Present Day](#)

Co-Director: [Jennifer Wright Knust](#)

Description:

Traces end-time arguments, predictions, and prophecies from the second-century BCE until the present day. Why are prophecies of doom so compelling? Why must time come to a stop? What happens after the world's end? Who decides? Close study of the role of apocalyptic eschatology in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam across time and place provides a lens for interpreting more recent apocalyptic movements, texts, claims, and artistic productions.

[Religion 373S / Islamic Mysticism](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [Mona Hassan](#)

Description:

This course introduces the history and key concepts of Islamic spirituality through the lives, writings, institutions, and influence of Muslim sages, ascetics, and saints across Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Critical topics include Sufi origins, psychology, healing, music, poetry, politics, and the aspiration to beautify one's self and society through connection with the Divine.

Graduate Courses

Department of Classical Studies

[Latin 508S / Medieval and Renaissance Latin](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [Jennifer Clare Woods](#)

Description:

In this graduate Latin seminar we will explore the vibrant literary culture of the so-called Carolingian Renaissance, which began during the reign of Charlemagne in the second half of the eighth century, and lasted into the late ninth century. Intellectual culture in this period took place mostly in and between ecclesiastical centers (cathedrals, monasteries) or at royal courts. We will sample a range of Latin texts and genres as we explore the scope and variety of Carolingian writing, including legislation and letters, biography, sacred and secular poetry, and texts from the

Carolingian schoolroom. In order to provide material context for these exchanges, the course will also offer an introduction to Carolingian manuscript culture.

Prerequisite:

Successful completion of at least one 300-level Latin course, or equivalent, or approval of instructor.

Department of Religious Studies

[Religion 773S / Islam, Law, and Society](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [Mona Hassan](#)

Description:

Examines the history and development of Islamic law in the context of different Muslim societies from its origins to the present. Varying course themes include ethical and legal norms, gender dynamics, social networks, commerce, governance, secularism, modernity, and more.

[Religion 791S / Literary Translation: History, Theory, and Practice](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [Laura S. Lieber](#)

Description:

A study of the theory and practice of translation from antiquity to the present, with a focus on religious, literary, and philosophical texts and the distinctive challenges involved in rendering such works into a different language. Topics include analysis of historically-significant translations, a survey of the history and theory of translation as a practice, a close study of the ethics of translation, and a workshop in which students will prepare, revise, and analyze their own translations. Graduate students will produce an annotated translation of a text in their research field, at a level appropriate for publication in a peer-reviewed venue.

Prerequisite:

Four semesters of a second language, classical or modern, or equivalent; or instructor permission.

[Religion 879S / Religion and Media](#)

Core Faculty Associate: [David A. Morgan](#)

Description:

This seminar examines leading theories, concepts, topics, and historical treatments of the relationship between religion and media, with a concentration on the modern era. The term *media* is not limited to the modern sense of mass communication, but also signifies the much larger historical sense of religion as a fundamentally mediated cultural phenomenon.