Why Study Religion at Brown?

The Department of Religious Studies is the principal site on campus to engage in research and teaching that pertains to the various manifestations of religion. The Department employs the academic approaches typically associated with the liberal arts, especially the social sciences and the humanities. These include, but are not limited to, a commitment to developing skills and habits of thought that enable students to interpret and engage with a complex world, past and present, near and far, familiar and unfamiliar, natural and social. Religious Studies fosters such excellence in writing and verbal expression, interpretation of the past from written and physical evidence, and interpretation of contemporary society by studying it directly and by applying knowledge of other times and places.

Many of today’s pressing political and social concerns are illuminated by an understanding of the religious beliefs and practices that lie beneath and within the news headlines. By exploring the public and private concerns that religions engage – for example, the nature of community and solitude, suffering and death, good and evil - students discover new ways of interpreting the complex world in which they live. As students venture into the religions of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the Americas and Europe, they learn about the formation and transmission of beliefs, behaviors, values, rituals, texts, institutions, and forms of community. Students also learn about conflict and accord within and between religions, as well as between religious and non-religious perspectives. In sum, Brown’s graduate and undergraduate students acquire a variety of scholarly tools for understanding and interpreting the religions in various historical, cultural, and social contexts.

The Department of Religious Studies offers students a wide selection of courses that represent various academic approaches to the study of religion including socio-historical, textual, ethnographical, ethical, and philosophical, among others. The academic study of religion at Brown, then includes a wide array of interests, questions, and approaches. Nonetheless, while respecting diversity in interest and approach, the Department of Religious Studies endeavors to foster an intellectual community among its faculty and students that is coherent, identifiable, and collegial.
The concentration in Religious Studies includes course work in Religious Studies 1000 (junior seminar in methods in the study of religion) and eight other courses conforming to the following requirements:

Each student, in consultation with appropriate faculty members, devises a concentration program which may include up to three courses given outside the department. The student presents (for approval by the concentration advisor) a written statement of the objectives of his or her concentration program and a list of the component courses. The program is expected to encompass the study of at least one religious tradition from each of the following groups. Ordinarily, this requirement is satisfied by two or more courses in each of these areas:

1. Traditions that emerge from West Asia and the Mediterranean World.
2. Traditions that emerge from South and East Asia.

The plan of study must take account of more than one approach to the study of religion, e.g., philosophical and historical; contain at least two intermediate-level courses (0200-0999), RELS 1000, and two additional advanced-level courses (above 1000). This means that no more than four courses (out of nine) can be at the introductory level. Courses listed in other departments but taught by Religious Studies faculty can count toward the program. Up to three courses that are outside the department and not taught by Religious Studies faculty can count toward the program.

No later than the end of spring registration in the junior year, the concentrator will determine if they wish to write an honors thesis or choose a capstone course for his or her concentration. A capstone course will be selected in consultation with the concentration advisor and other faculty as appropriate. Within the frame of the capstone course, the concentrator will address the theoretical and interpretive issues of his or her particular focus in the Religious Studies concentration.

Honors:
To receive Honors in Religious Studies, a student must write an Honors Thesis. A thesis is an opportunity for students to conduct extended independent research under the guidance of the faculty. To be eligible to write a thesis, a student must have earned a grade point average of greater than 3.5 (A=4, B=3, C=2) on courses that count toward the concentration. Additionally, to be eligible for honors, concentrators can elect to take no more than two of the concentration courses with “S/NC” option, after declaring an RS concentration. (If a student is philosophically committed to taking the majority of her or his courses at Brown as “S/NC,” that student may petition the Department to waive the “S/NC” limit.) Writing the thesis is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition of receiving Honors. The thesis must earn an A from its readers for the student to receive Honors, and the student must have earned a grade point average of 3.5 in the concentration (as well as satisfy all the other concentration requirements).
Graduate Study
Stephen Bush, Director of Graduate Studies
Nicole Vadnais, Graduate Program Manager

The graduate program in Religious Studies at Brown is one of the finest in the nation.

From among a large pool of highly qualified applicants, the department admits four to six doctoral students a year. Our students receive five years of full funding; additional funding is possible but not guaranteed. The department’s graduates have an excellent placement record, teaching in such institutions as Harvard, Stanford, Indiana University, University of California, Brooklyn College, Reed College, Haverford, and University of Wisconsin (Madison). Current graduate students have distinguished themselves by presenting papers at international conferences and earning recognition and support from prestigious external funding organizations.

We offer Ph.D. studies in four areas:
★ Asian Religious Traditions (ART)
★ Religion and Critical Thought (RCT)
★ Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean (RAM) (including Ancient Judaism, Early Christianity, early Islam and numerous others)
★ Islam, Society & Culture (ISC).

For more information on these programs, please visit the Departmental website.

In all programs, our goal is to combine specialized, rigorous training with a common and more general disciplinary approach to the study of religion.

We don’t offer a general Master’s program, although under exceptional circumstances we will consider applications for a specialized MA program in one of the four designated areas.

Doctoral students are normally expected to complete two years of coursework beyond their Masters degree (or three years post-baccalaureate). These courses are primarily drawn from seminars offered by departmental faculty, but also include individual reading courses as well as courses in other departments, such as Classics, Philosophy, History, Comparative Literature, Anthropology, Political Science, and the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World. The third year is spent preparing for and taking Preliminary Exams, and the remaining years are devoted to developing the dissertation prospectus and researching and writing the dissertation.
COURSES
Fall 2018

RELS 0036 Love and War in India
S. Reddy, T/Th 9-10:20
*Dual listed as COST 0036

RELS 0071 Believers, Agnostics, and Atheists in
Contemporary Fiction and Memoirs
D. Jacobson, MWF 10-10:50
*Must register for JUDS0050A

RELS 0082 Japan’s Floating World
J. Sawada, T/Th 10:30-11:50

RELS 0090K Christmas in America
D. Vaca, Th 4-6:30

RELS 0100 Buddhist Thought, Practice & Society
J. Protass, MWF 10-10:50

RELS 0110 Christians
S. Harvey, MWF 12-12:50

RELS 0140 Food, Religion and Politics in South
Asia
F. Moore Gerety, T 4-6:30
*Dual listed as COST 0140

RELS 0145 Karma, Rebirth and Liberation: Life and
Death in South Asian Religions
F. Moore Gerety, T/Th 1-2:20
*Dual listed as COST 0145

RELS 0200A Christianity and Economic Inequality,
A. Willis, M 5:35-8

RELS 0290D Islamic Sexualities
N. Khalek, T/Th 1-2:20

RELS 0290H Defense Against the Dark Arts in the
Ancient World
J. Han, MWF 2-2:50

RELS 0322 Great Jewish Books
M. Satlow, M 3-5:30
*Must register for JUDS 0681

RELS 0369 Prescribed Literature
M. Satlow, W 3-5:30

RELS 0415 Ancient Christian Culture
D. Ivanisevic, T/Th 9-10:20

RELS 0570 Science, Religion, and the Search for
Happiness in Traditional Asian Thought
H. Roth, T 6:40-9, Lab MW 9-9:50
*Dual listed as COST 0570

RELS 0825 Foundational Texts in African American
Theology
A. Willis, MWF 1-1:50

RELS 0880D Fascism: 1933-Present
P. Nahme, T/Th 9-10:20
*Must register for UNIV 0701

RELS 0915D Dreaming in the Ancient World
M. Van Veldhuizen

RELS 0950D Buddhism in Chinese History
J. Protass, W 3-5:30

RELS 1000 Methods in Religious Studies
P. Nahme, W 3-5:30

RELS 1090A Godessess and Women Gurus in
South Asian Religious Traditions
D. Buchta, T/Th 2:30-3:50
*Must register for CLAS 1145

RELS 1190A Goddesses and Women Gurus in
South Asian Religious Traditions
D. Buchta, T/Th 2:30-3:50
*Must register for CLAS 1145

RELS 1200A Goddesses and Women Gurus in
South Asian Religious Traditions
D. Buchta, T/Th 2:30-3:50
*Must register for CLAS 1145

RELS 1290A Goddesses and Women Gurus in
South Asian Religious Traditions
D. Buchta, T/Th 2:30-3:50
*Must register for CLAS 1145

RELS 1300A Goddesses and Women Gurus in
South Asian Religious Traditions
D. Buchta, T/Th 2:30-3:50
*Must register for CLAS 1145

RELS 1370B Philosophy of Mysticism
S. Bush, M 3-5:30

RELS 1379A Goddesses and Women Gurus in
South Asian Religious Traditions
D. Buchta, T/Th 2:30-3:50
*Must register for CLAS 1145

RELS 1400 Themes in Japanese Buddhism
J. Sawada, T/Th 2:30-3:50

RELS 1405 Buddhism in Chinese History
J. Protass, W 3-5:30

RELS 1530B Heresy and Orthodoxy in Islamic
Thought, N. Khalek, W 3-5:30

RELS 1610 Sacred Sites: Law, Politics, Religion
N. Berman, Th 4-6:30

RELS 1650 Gospel Music from the Church to the
Streets,
C. Barron, T/Th 2:30-3:50
*Dual listed as AFRI 1200

RELS 1740 The Sacred and Profane: Dante, Milton,
Mingus, Rushdie
A. Colarusso, M 3-5:30
*Must register for LITR 1231I

RELS 1990 Individual Study Project

RELS 1999 Undergraduate Thesis Preparation

RELS 2000F Religion and Internationalism: Law,
Politics, and the Globalized Struggle over
Secularism
T. Lewis/N. Berman, Th 12-2:30
*Must register for HMAN 2400L

RELS 2100G Early Rabbinic Literature: The
Mishnah
M. Satlow, T 12-2:30

RELS 2600F Religion and Internationalism: Law,
Politics, and the Globalized Struggle over
Secularism
T. Lewis/N. Berman, Th 12-2:30
*Must register for HMAN 2400L

RELS 2705 Sufism Seminar
S. Bashir, M 3-5:30

RELS 2890 Preliminary Examination Preparation

RELS 2910 Graduate Independent Research

RELS 2990 Graduate Thesis Preparation

CONTEMPLATIVE STUDIES
COST 0200 Meditation and the Brain
J. Lindahl/W. Britton, M 3-5:30, Lab 2-2:50

COST 0950 Capstone Seminar in Contemplative
Studies
H. Roth, W 3-5:30

COST 1950 Capstone Seminar in Contemplative
Studies
H. Roth, W 3-5:30
Course Descriptions

RELS 0036 (COST 0036) Love and War in India
S. Reddy
Love and War in India explores two fundamental cultural tropes that have significantly shaped the religious, literary, social and political life of South Asia. Building on the ancient Tamil conceptions of aham (love/interiority) and puram (war/ exteriority), and the Sanskrit ideas of kama (desire), dharma (duty), and ahimsa (non-violence), we will investigate a variety of texts on religious devotion, ethical behavior and political theory in order to contextualize the concepts of love and war within multiple arenas of Indian social and cultural life.

RELS 0071 (JUDS 0050A) Believers, Agnostics, and Atheists in Contemporary Fiction and Memoirs
D. Jacobson
In recent decades, there has been a resurgence of religiosity in contemporary society, while at the same time many have been skeptical and even hostile to religious belief and practice. Others are just not sure what to believe. We will study selections of fiction and memoirs by writers of Christian and Jewish background that explore such situations as the affirmation or negation of the existence of God, the role of religious ritual in a person’s life, and the positive and negative impacts on society of religious institutions and the clergy who lead them. FYS, WRIT, DIAP

RELS 0082 Japan’s Floating World
J. Sawada
An introduction to visual, literary, and dramatic expressions of Japan’s moral and aesthetic values in the early modern period (17th-19th centuries). We will seek to identify recurring intellectual and cultural patterns, as illustrated in woodblock prints, Kabuki, puppet theatre, and popular fiction, with an eye to connections with later popular culture. Course material are primary readings in translation, secondary scholarship, and audiovisual works. No previous knowledge of Japan or Japanese language is expected.

RELS 0090K Christmas in America
D. Vaca
This course explores how Christmas became a religious, consumer, and social extravaganza. Every year, many Americans devote several months to preparing for and recovering from Christmas. Most participate as Christians, but others participate despite other religious identities. Yet Christmas has not always loomed so large. Through encounters with such phenomena as sacred stories, consumer practices, and legal controversies, this course invites students to ask how and why Christmas became an important event. By the end of the course, students not only will recognize how religion and culture take shape together but also will appreciate how popular practices develop. FYS, WRIT
RELS 0100 Buddhist Thought, Practice and Society
J. Protass
From its beginning to the 21st century. Principal teachings and practices, institutional and social forms, and artistic and iconographical expressions.

RELS 0110 Christians
S. Harvey
A historical survey of Christianity from its foundations to the present, tracing its development into three main branches: Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant. Reading from a variety of Christian “classics” accompany the survey, pursuing the theme of how-in different times, places, and circumstances - Christians have understood their relations to the divine and to the world.

RELS 0140 (COST 0140) Food, Religion and Politics in South Asia
F. Moore Gerety
Why study food? What can food tell us about religion, politics, and culture? Food in South Asia often shapes identity, social status, ritual purity, religious belonging, and political activism — the notion that you are what you eat has wide currency. Whatever form it takes, food embodies histories of migration, trade, empire, colonialism, and ethics. Through reading primary texts and ethnographic articles, watching films, and (of course) eating delicious food, we will explore the rich footways of South Asia and their social, religious, and political ramifications. WRIT

RELS 0145 (COST 0145) Karma, Rebirth, and Liberation: Life and Death in South Asian Religions
F. Moore Gerety
Karma, Sanskrit for the “action” that makes up a human life, has been a central concern for the religious traditions of South Asia throughout their history. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism share the belief that after death people are reborn, taking on lives according to their actions in lives previous. In these traditions, liberation from the cycle of rebirth becomes the ultimate goal of human existence. This course examines the ideas of karma, rebirth and liberation in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism from historical, cosmological, ritual, narrative, iconographic, and theological points of view. We also look at these ideas in Western culture. WRIT, DIAP
RELS 0200A Christianity and Economic Inequality
A. Willis
In the face of the vast, increasing economic inequality, this sophomore seminar interrogates the role of religious institutions and individuals. Do our religious institutions sustain or challenge economic inequality, and how? We will attempt to answer this question with a focus on three types of texts: classical texts that shaped 20th Century U.S. Christian consciousness (e.g., Weber, Niebuhr, and Ayn Rand); contemporary works that analyze the effects of economic inequality on the social fabric (e.g., Stiglitz, Freeland, Wilkinson/Picket); and texts that clarify the vital roles some contemporary religious movements are playing in supporting economic inequality (e.g., Bowler, Walton, Byrne). Sophomore Seminar, DIAP

RELS 0290D Islamic Sexualities
N. Khalek
In this course we examine gender and sexuality in Muslim cultures, as well as the ways in which Islam is imagined in relationship to gender and sexuality. We will think about how particular constructions of gender and sexuality affect the representation of Islam and Muslims in the U.S. and abroad, especially in films and documentaries, which form a critical component of this course. Students will learn to engage with and complicate key terms and themes including “masculinity,” “cultural difference,” “women’s and LGBT rights,” and “modernity/civilization” that are widely, and often uncritically, deployed in current representations of Islamic culture. WRIT, DIAP

RELS 0290H Defense Against the Dark Arts in the Ancient World
J. Han
Alongside their Jewish and Pagan neighbors, ancient Christians sought to control and defend themselves against unseen forces teeming around them. They bound powerful angels to their will and harnessed the spirits of the recently deceased to activate their spells. Though none found the Elixir of Life, they left behind spells, recipes, and talismans as evidence of their quest to master spirits both hostile and sympathetic. This course will interrogate Christian and non-Christian conceptions of magic, its relationship with “religion” and “philosophy,” contextualize Christian magical practices alongside their neighbors, and conclude by examining the reception of “magic” into the modern West. WRIT

RELS 0322 (JUDS 0681) Great Jewish Books
M. Satlow
A survey of classic Jewish texts, from the Bible to modern literature. Each text will be discussed from the perspective of both its own historical and social context and its engagement with earlier ones. Attention will be paid on how these authors address perennial issues of human concern and how their answers are shaped by their experience as Jews.
RELS 0415 Ancient Christian Culture
D. Ivanisevic
How did the Jesus movement that originated in a backwater Roman Empire become the Empire’s dominant religion? What was it like to be a Christian in a world full of religions, cults and philosophical traditions, and of diverse social and cultural identities? An introduction to the history of early Christianity, and to the ancient Christian culture through the exploration of selected topics by means of textual, material, and epigraphic evidence. Multiple Christianities; literacy and orality; visual culture; the episcopal authority; wealth and poverty; asceticism and monasticism; hagiography and the cult of saints; sacred landscape and pilgrimage; women, gender, burial.

RELS 0570 (COST 0570) Science, Religion, and the Search for Happiness in Traditional Asian Thought
H. Roth
The search for true happiness is as relevant today as it was 2500 years ago in South and East Asia. Is it attained through sense pleasures or through spiritual satisfaction? Attained through self-indulgence or through self-denial. Can you be completely and truly satisfied in life if you flourish while others suffer? What are the roles of compassion for self and others and of mindfulness and meditation in the creation of a life of genuine happiness? This course will explore these issues through readings in the Buddhist, Confucian, and Daoist traditions and via recent scientific research on mindfulness, meditation and compassion.

RELS 0825 Foundational Texts in African American Theology
A. Willis
Central topics and foundational texts in the field of scholarship historically known as Black Theology. Major African American responses to those writings by Marxists, Womanists, process theologians, and religious humanists. DIAP

RELS 0880D (UNIV 0701) Fascism: 1933-Present
P. Nahme
The resurgence of ethno-nationalist and populist movements has upended the liberal democratic consensus of the past half century and elicited comparisons to Weimar Germany. With the rise of a distinctly authoritarian politics in Europe and America, many have questioned whether we are witnessing a return of Fascism. As a political worldview believed to have been defeated at the end of WWII, Fascism nevertheless continues to represent the anxiety looming over the liberal political order. This class will examine the intellectual history of Fascism as a politic of identity, from interwar Europe to the present day and interrogate its meaning today. WRIT, DIAP
RELS 0915D (CLAS 0771) Dreaming in the Ancient World
M. Van Veldhuizen

Dreaming has always been part of our everyday experience. But did the Greeks and Romans dream any differently than we do? How and why did they extract meaning from their nightmares and daydreams? How and why did they extract meaning from their nightmares and daydreams? In this course, we will explore the cultural history of dreams and dream interpretation, a curious practice that stands at a fascinating intersection in the history of ideas between psychology, religion, and medicine. Readings (all in translation) include Homer, Herodotus, Plato, Egyptian magical papyri, Babylonian dream diaries, Cicero, Freud, and more.

RELS 1000 Methods in Religious Studies
P. Nahme

Intensive introduction to classical and contemporary theories of religion and the principal methods for the study of religion. Junior seminar for Religious Studies concentrators. Enrollment limited to 25. WRIT

RELS 1370B Philosophy of Mysticism
S. Bush

Covers important attempts to understand the nature of religious experiences and mysticism. We will look at several philosophical issues surrounding religious experience, including: (a) whether mystical experiences are too private for outsiders to understand or evaluate them; (b) what the relationship between religious experiences, language, and culture is; (c) whether religious experiences justify religious beliefs; and (d) how gender and religious experiences are related. We will treat theorists from various perspectives, including philosophical, historical, theological, psychoanalytic, and neuroscientific. Previous work in philosophy courses (or philosophically-intensive courses) is highly recommended.

RELS 1397A (CLAS 1145) Goddesses and Women Gurus in South Asian Religious Traditions
D. Buchta

Indian Religions have featured some prominent female figures: fierce goddesses, domestic goddesses, legendary women sages, and historical women poets. These figures can be used to empower female authority and agency, but can also be used to construct normative gender roles that limit societally accepted agency for women. This course will explore the canonical narratives of these prominent female figures and the reception of these narratives in various historical contexts. It will also examine the contemporary reception of these figures, looking both at those who champion the progressive possibilities they represent as well as feminist subaltern critiques. WRIT, DIAP
RELS 1405 Buddhism in Chinese History  
J. Protass  
This is an advanced course concerning the modern study of Buddhism in Chinese history. Weekly readings include content from major movements over eighteen hundred years. In-class seminar discussions emphasize modern methods, sources, and scholarly assumptions. We will revisit foundational debates from the 20th century, such as the competing models of ‘Sinification of Buddhism’ and ‘Buddhist conquest of China.’ We will also read recent publications that study Buddhism in China through lenses of cultural and material history. Students will lead book discussions each week, and complete a final seminar paper.

RELS 1440 Themes in Japanese Buddhism  
J. Sawada  
An exploration of critical themes and debates in the study of Japanese Buddhism. Participants become conversant with the key features of medieval Japanese thought as well as the strengths and weaknesses of established conceptual models in Japanese Buddhist studies. Readings include primary texts in English translation and modern secondary interpretations. Recommended: a course in Buddhism or East Asian religions.

RELS 1530B Heresy and Orthodoxy in Islamic Thought  
N. Khalek  
Orthodoxy is defined as “right belief” while Heresy is just the opposite, but those definitions have always been in tension with society and culture. This course will interrogate theory and history to ask “What are Islamic Orthodoxy and Heresy?” From Islamic Law to who is or not a “heretic” we will uncover interpretations of religious law, practice, and culture to learn how scholars apply orthodoxy or heresy to disrupt and unsettle notions of what “Islam” was at different moments, and how their interpretations force us to think of new ways to envision the formation of communities.

RELS 1610 Sacred Sites: Law, Politics, Religion  
N. Berman  
Sacred sites have long been flashpoint for inter-communal conflict the world over, as well as posing challenges to sovereign State authority. Such sites range from natural landscapes to architectural masterpieces. They often come to symbolize the perennial clash between the religious and the secular, the sacred and the political, tradition and modernity. We will discuss a diverse array of specific disputes and ask whether one may even speak of “sacred sites” cross-culturally. Can legal framework embrace different notions of the sacred? We will also examine the historical contexts that provoke such disputes, particularly the aftermath of colonialism.
RELS 1650 (AFRI 1200) Gospel Music from the Church to the Streets
C. Barron
Black gospel music has informed popular music artists including Beyonce, Elvis, and Chance the Rapper. This course surveys African American gospel music as it is implemented for worship, evangelism, and popular consumption. Beyond analysis of key musical and lyrical characteristics of gospel, this class gives attention to the religious and sociocultural contexts that inform gospel composition and performance. Gospel music is integrally connected to the worship traditions of black American Pentecostals, Baptists, and Methodists. Consequently, this course is also a musical introduction to African American Christianity. Classes include interactive demonstrations in addition to discussion of audio/video recordings and required texts.

DIAP

RELS 1750 (LITR 1231I) The Sacred & Profane: Dante, Milton, Mingus, Rushdie
A. Colarusso
We will explore a variety of sacred texts in the Abrahamic tradition to better understand the major works of four radical makers (in chronological order): Dante Alighieri, John Milton, Charles Mingus, and Salman Rushdie. We will read supplementary texts by Durkheim, Eliade Mircea, Simone Wiel, Carl Jung, and Edward Said. WRIT

RELS 1990 Individual Study Project
Directed reading and research arranged with individual faculty. Section numbers vary by instructor. Please check Banner for the correction section number and CRN to use when registering for this course.

RELS 1999 Undergraduate Thesis Preparation
Required of seniors in the honors program. Open to others by permission of the chair of the department. Section numbers vary by instructor. Please check Banner for the correct section number and CRN to use when registering for this course.

RELS 2100G Early Rabbinic Literature: The Mishnah
M. Satlow
Readings in the Mishnah and related rabbinic literature. While the focus will be on gaining textual skills, we will also survey academic approaches to the Mishnah: What is the Mishnah and its relationship to earlier and contemporaneous texts? How was it composed, transmitted, and received? Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of Hebrew.

RELS 2600F (HMAN 2400L) Religion and Internationalism: Law, Politics, and the Globalized Struggle over Secularization
T. Lewis/N. Berman
Scholarly debates across many disciplines and political upheavals around the globe demonstrate the continued urgency of the struggle between the “secular” and the “religious.” This collaborative seminar traces the intertwined genealogies of the three key terms in this conundrum: religion, secularity, and the international. These terms have been continually subject to theoretical and practical contestation and reconfiguration, from early modern Europe, through the histories of colonialism and anti-colonialism, to post-Cold War turmoil. Readings include judicial decisions from the United States, Europe, and India, as well as authors such as Saba Mahmood, As his Nandi, J.Z. Smith, Dipesh Chakrabarty, and Winnifred Sullivan.
RELS 2890 Preliminary Examination Preparation
For graduate students who have met the tuition requirement and are paying the registration fee to continue active enrollment while preparing for preliminary examinations.

RELS 2990 Thesis Preparation
For graduate students who have met the tuition requirement and are paying the registration fee to continue active enrollment while preparing a thesis.

COST 0200 Meditation and the Brain
J. Lindahl/W. Britton
This course provides an exploration and critique of psychological and neuroscientific research on meditation by situating the current applications of meditation in the West in the broader historical context of the development of Buddhism. In this course, we will critically evaluate the findings of scientific and clinical studies of meditation in terms of their methodological rigor, implicit assumptions, and biases. We will also study the transmission of Buddhism from Asia to the West in order to understand the influence of Buddhism norms and worldview on contemporary applications of meditation. This course will also feature first-person experiential learning in select meditation practices.

COST 1950 Senior Concentrators’ Seminar
H. Roth
A selection of topical readings that will enable concentrators in the Sciences and Humanities Tracks of the concentration to synthesize their knowledge of the field of Contemplative Studies and its current principal issues. Students will also share ideas and methods regarding the research and writing of their Capstone Projects, which typically, they will be working on concurrently via their other course.

For more information on Contemplative Studies, please visit their website: www.brown.edu/academics/contemplative-studies or email Anne_Heyrman-Hart@brown.edu.