This difficult question in the context of French colonial Algeria; South Africa; British colonialisation of the American south with its reliance on the importation of African slaves; and not the least, Canada.

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

FALL 2020 Live Lectures

GREL-7901 001 Reading Buddhist Texts
Dr. Stephanie Balkwill
Tuesdays 2:30pm - 5:15pm

This seminar is devoted to the reading, study, and interpretation of Buddhist texts in English translation. The texts under consideration are primarily drawn from the Buddhist canon; however, the syllabus is tailored to student interests and the reading list might therefore also include Buddhist literature, biography, and poetry from both historical and contemporary times. Students lead seminars in their own areas of interest and the final project includes a creative option to write one’s own Buddhist text. Readings will consist of selections of Buddhist textual material alongside relevant secondary studies and students determine the topics to be covered on the first day of class.

GREL-7901 002 Sufism
Dr. Rory W. Dickson
Wednesday 2:30pm - 5:15pm

Sufism is Islam’s rich tradition of spirituality and mysticism. It remains one of the most influential and popular expressions of Islam. Historically, Sufis have been celebrated for their poetry, music, and philosophy. Students will examine the emergence of Sufism in the early medieval period, along with the fundamental doctrines, practices, and social roles of Sufism. The course then considers the history of Sufism’s transmission to the modern West, exploring key issues in the development of Western Sufism.

GREL-7901 003 Post-Humanism
Dr. Jane Barter
Monday 2:30pm - 5:15pm

This course is an examination of posthumanism as a means of critically interrogating the Western humanist tradition and its thinking about human subjectivity and sovereignty. Specifically, it examines the origins and the legacy of Western conceptions of the human as articulated in religious and political thought. Some of the critiques engaged include animal studies, new materialism, ecofeminism, African diasporic cultural studies, and critical Indigenous studies.

WINTER 2021 Live Lectures

GREL-7902 001 Storied Lives: Contemporary Spiritual Biographies and the Construction of Identity
Dr. Carlos Colorado
Thursday 2:30pm-5:15pm

In this course students will be introduced to the current social scientific reflection on the “life history” as a means of understanding individuals and contextualizing the larger notions of “religious traditions” and “culture.” Specifically, we will consider the ways people construct and maintain their religious identities through weaving their own experiences into a narrative which includes other individuals and institutions.

GREL-7902 002 Japanese Culture & Society
Dr. Jeffrey Newmark
Wednesday 2:30pm-5:15pm

This seminar explores the origins, evolution, and spread of Japanese Pop Culture. We begin in the late seventeenth century during Japan’s Genroku age, a cultural boom in both the literary and visual arts. We will cover the rest of the Tokugawa Period with an emphasis on early modern print culture before surveying pop culture’s transition into the modern era. By the end of the course, we will understand how contemporary Japanese animation, music, cinema, characters/mascots, and “kawaii” aesthetics all share as much with their ancestral past as they do with the twenty-first century.

GREL-7902 003 Gender & Sexuality in Chinese Culture
Dr. Lenore Szekely
Tuesday 2:30pm-5:15pm

LIVE LECTURES

This course will focus on Chinese society, culture and conceptions of identity through the prisms of gender and sexuality. Topics include normative social roles as defined by Confucian values, power and sexual dynamics within polygamous households, the social body vs. the biological body and the diversity of atypical bodies in traditional China. Further we will see how gender inequality was appropriated to reflect China’s backwardness vis à vis the West and Japan in the modern period, and how contemporary culture and society has sought to free gender expression from the confines of national discourse.

For further information, please contact:
Sara Payette, Graduate Program Assistant
326 Fletcher Argue Building
Sara.Payette@umanitoba.ca