RLHT 736: From Constantine to Napoleon: Teaching the East Mediterranean

This course is intended for graduate students who wish to learn about the East Mediterranean area from the end of the ancient world to pre-modern times. The focus of the course will be to prepare students to teach undergraduate courses in this area and time-period. Students will read primary historical, religious, and cultural texts in translation, secondary texts, and texts relating to the theories and practices of civilizational studies. Religion as a force for social transformation will be a major area of examination, and the interactive roles of varieties of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the formation of “Western” culture will be explored.

Learner Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course will be conversant with several theories of cultural, historical, and literary analysis, including socio-rhetorical analysis; be familiar with the major events and actors of this historical period; be conversant with the development of the major sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam; and have prepared a detailed syllabus and several lecture-outlines for an undergraduate college-level course on some aspect of this area and period.

Texts:

Willard G. Oxtoby (ed.), World Religions: Western Traditions
Marshall G. S. Hodgson, The Venture of Islam (3 volumes)
John Meyendorff, Imperial Unity and Christian Divisions
Vernon K. Robbins, Exploring the Texture of Texts
Gordon D. Newby, A History of the Jews of Arabia
Selected texts on Blackboard and on reserve

Particulars: Weekly written assignments: 30% Class participation: 20% Syllabus preparation and presentation: 50%