An in-depth introduction to the academic study of religion from a variety of perspectives, that attends to religion as a global, cross-cultural human phenomenon. Students will examine multiple traditions, geographical locations, and historical periods. Through close reading of texts, lecture, and discussion, students explore the religious lives of individuals and communities empathetically while also critically examining them within larger political, social, and cultural contexts. In this semester we will pay particular attention to films that illuminate themes in the study of religion.

Note: This course is offered as an Explorations in Religious Studies through Critical Perspectives.

An introductory survey of the Buddhist tradition, focusing on its history and development, key doctrines and practices, geographic spread, and cultural adaptations. Students will examine the intellectual and philosophical history of Buddhism in detail as well as explore how Buddhism functions as a living, practical tradition.

W/F 8:40 10:00 R. Overbey

The growing body of materials related to the history of Peoples Temple, the media's ongoing fixation with the community and Jim Jones, the group's complex socialist negotiation of religion, race, class, and politics, and its