

Religious Studies

RLST 105 HM

Religion American Culture: Toleration Dyson

TTH 1:15-2:30 pm

This introductory-level course explores American religious history from pre-colonial indigenous civilizations through the present, focusing on three related issues – diversity, toleration, and pluralism. We will consider how religions have shaped or been shaped by encounters between immigrants, citizens, indigenous peoples, tourists, and, occasionally, government agents. Putting these encounters in historical context, we will look closely at how groups and individuals have claimed territory, negotiated meaning, understood each other, and created institutions as they met one another in the American landscape. At these sites of contact, we will also attend carefully to questions of power, translation, and the changing definitions of religion itself.

RLST 147 HM

World/Transnational Religions

Dyson

TH 2:45-5:30pm

This upper-level seminar explores what happens to religious practices and communities when they are transplanted to new terrain: for example, in the establishment of “old world” religious enclaves in the United States, New Age adoptions of “foreign” practices, American understandings of world religions, or the exportation of American or Americanized religion to other countries through missionaries, media, or returning immigrants. Considering exchange, conflict, adaptation and innovation as multi-directional, and always historically and politically informed, we will look at several historic and contemporary instances of religious border crossings.