REL 125g
Introduction to Christianity

Do you know **how many varieties** of Christianity exist on the planet? Did you know Christianity is the **fastest growing religion** in China and sub-Saharan Africa? Have you considered whether Christianity had a **hidden impact** on the recent USA election?

Christianity is the largest and, probably, most diverse religion in the world. In this introductory course, we will journey through time and space in order to study the historical background and developments, the many cultural contexts, and the distinctive religious features of Christianity, from its origins to contemporary times. Emphasis will be placed upon the diversity that has characterized Christianity from its very beginnings in order to understand how Christianity became such a global phenomenon. Throughout the semester, we will encounter many varieties of Christianity (or ‘Christianities’), as they have existed at different times and in different locations, and we will make use of a variety of Christian writings to understand each form within its historical and sociocultural contexts. While we will study Christianity’s influence on Europe and North America, the course will pay particular attention to the rapid growth of Christianity across the Global South (Asia, Africa, and Latin America) to better appreciate the nature of World Christianity today and tomorrow.

Fulfills GE-B/Old GE Category I

Fall 2017

Tue, Thu 2:00pm-3:20pm SAL101

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