REL 502: Themes in the Study of Religion:

Religion as Media
(From start...until now)

“Religion is the practice of making the invisible visible...Once made material, the invisible can be negotiated and bargained with...But the question remains: How does this happen?” (Robert Orsi)

All religion is shared and communicated by media within a community of adherents. New technologies invite new mediation practices and forms that coexist with old ones.

But what is mediated, who mediates it, how, and under what circumstances?

This class approaches religion as a practice of mediation, and media as intrinsic to religion. It draws on media and visual theory, but also includes concepts borrowed from anthropology, archaeology, art history, history, and other disciplines.

We share and discuss readings that will then serve as tools for students' individual research on a case study related to the student's own areas of interest.

Graduate and advanced undergraduate students from any department welcome (by permission of instructor.)

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