

**RELI 1741 B**  
**with Alyshea Cummins**

**Description:**

An estimated 80% of the world's 7 billion people identify with a religious tradition indicating that knowledge of the world's religions or 'religious literacy' is vital to understanding global issues. This single semester course affords a brief introduction to some of the religions of the world (and their histories) but with a focus on the contemporary: how religious affiliation is playing out today. Using religious literacy as a framework, students will develop the ability to observe religion as existing in cultural matrixes and how this then affects political, cultural, and social expressions of religion across space and time. This course is designed for students wishing to gain introductory knowledge about religious traditions and commitments and their influence on current politics, culture, and international relations. Special attention is given to the study of Muslims in contemporary societies.