

**RELI 4850 A / 5850 W Seminar in the Study of Religion**  
**Constructing the Cosmos: Cosmology and World-building from Antiquity to the Middle Ages**

Course Format: In-person

Course Description:

Questions about the origin and organization of the cosmos have perplexed and fascinated mythmakers, philosophers, theologians, and scholars for millennia. Basic ideas about the fundamental nature of the universe have served as the foundation for religious worldviews and philosophical systems from antiquity to the Middle Ages and are prominently featured in many classic works of world literature. Even today, there are lively on-going debates within the academic community and popular media about cosmological issues such as the multiverse, the simulation hypothesis, the Big Bang, and the flat-earth theory. This seminar will examine how cosmologies and creation stories have changed (often radically) over time from the ancient world to the medieval period.