“Majors Colloquium” is designed to initiate the student into the full range of professional activities in the study of religion. Students will learn to deliver both written and oral reviews of published works, hone research skills and field methods, explore practical issues of preparing a paper for publication as an article, and extend the skills of the formal study of religion to various forms of cultural production, such as film, visual art, music, and web-based activities. The content of this course will vary from term to term.

For the fall of 2017, RLST 4970 will pair with 4960W to expand on topics explored in that class and give students the opportunity to develop independent projects and interests. There are four required common readings that are paired with assignments in 4960W. In addition, we will add other collective assignments such as additional readings or film screenings based on student interests. The remaining hours of the course will be completed through individualized meetings with the instructor who will supervise projects or directed readings. Students may either develop reading lists to probe a topic that interests them or design independent projects. Independent projects can be initial research into a potential senior thesis, a book review of a recent book with a theoretical angle, or any other type of academic or creative expression successfully proposed by the student.

All dates are approximate; we will find a time and place where we can all meet together, often in the evening.

Sept 12  Foucault, “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History” (Paired with Gay “Fact, Value, Types of Theory”)

Oct 3  Asad, “The Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category” (Paired with Geertz, “Religion as a Cultural System”)

Oct 17  Lincoln, “From the Second World War to the Present (and Possibly a Little Beyond)” (Paired with Lévi-Strauss, “The Structural Study of Myth”)


Location and Time TBA