

**RLST 4970 Majors Colloquium**  
M 2:10–3:00 PM, Garland 301 D

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Office hours: M 1:00–2:00 PM, Th 9:00–10:00 AM, and by appointment, Garland 301D

“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 spring of 2018, RLST 4970 will begin by exploring issues related to subaltern, post-colonial and decolonial studies. After completing the core readings listed below, students will develop an annotated bibliography on a topic that interests them and will pursue select readings from this list with the professor. Students writing senior theses will also circulate drafts to workshop and will present their research to the department. Other possible activities include writing a book review or designing an independent project. Attention will also be given to professional development and standard scholarly practices in accord with students’ needs.

The course schedule is as follows:

January 8	Organizational meeting
January 15	No class: MLK Day
January 22	Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak”
January 29	King, <i>Orientalism and Religion</i> , excerpts
February 5	Masuzawa, <i>Invention of World Religions</i> , excerpts
February 16*	Maldonada-Torres, “Religion, Modernity, and Coloniality” and Bhabra, “Postcolonial and Decolonial Dialogues”
February 19	Mignolo, <i>The Darker Side of Western Modernity</i> , excerpts
February 26	Discussion of student-generated annotated bibliographies
March 12–April 2	Topics TBD in consultation with students
April 9–16	Workshop on senior thesis chapters
April 23	Final class reflections

\*I will be traveling for a conference on February 12. We will meet Friday, February 16 instead.