

# Fall 2023 Humanities Colloquia



## History of Anti-Semitism

Michael Levin, MWF 12:55pm -1:45pm  
(73134) HONOR 350 – 001

Why do people hate Jews? Is anti-Semitism different from other forms of prejudice? And what does it mean to be Jewish in the first place? In this colloquium we will explore the historical roots of these questions, using various primary sources as a springboard for discussion. We will start in Biblical times, and cover such topics as the Spanish Inquisition, the Holocaust, and events in modern America. There will be guest lectures from other professors in the History Department, who will bring their own expertise and experiences to the class. The emphasis of the course will be on discussion, with a final project to be determined.

## Religion East and West: The Big Questions (and Answers in Words and Art)

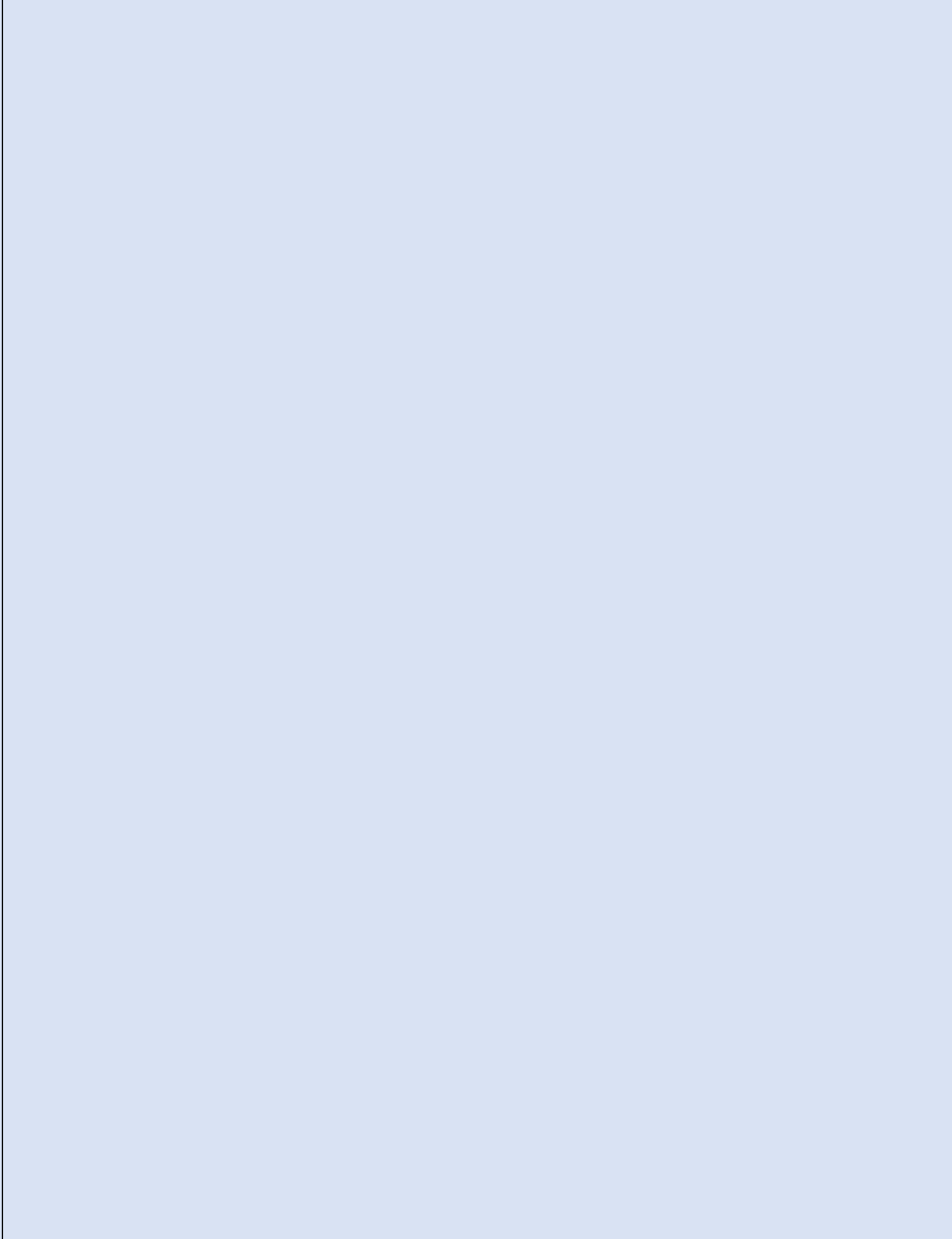
Paula Levin, TuTh 12:15pm – 1:30pm  
(72938) HONOR 350 – 002

What is the meaning of life? How should I live? What happens after we die? What is God? We humans, conscious of our mortality and our limitations, have wrestled with these questions since the dawn of time. In this course we will examine the teachings of major world religions - Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam - in their attempts to guide us to answers. In addition to consulting various texts and primary sources, we will consider religious expression in art, literature, music, drama, and film. And we will discuss how religious beliefs (or the absence of them!) affect how we may experience the world.

## Multicultural Images of the American Dream in Literature, Film, and Music

Catherine Stoyhoff, TuTh 10:45am – 12:00pm  
(72939) HONOR 350 – 003

James Truslow Adams coined the term “American Dream” in his 1931 book *Epic in America*. Since then, this term has represented a set of ideals that are connected to the belief that



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well-known works—as TV shows, films, podcasts, and even board games—to study how one genre and medium is adapted to other forms. There will be class discussion, several response papers, and a final project.