Overview:
This course will orient students to the study of religion in a postcolonial context, where "postcolonial" refers both to a time after colonialism and to the critique of colonialism. We will read classic works of postcolonial theory with attention to the role that religion plays in theory as well as to the usefulness of postcolonial theory for the study of religion. We will examine the way colonial and postcolonial religions have been distorted. We will read a series of recent case studies of postcolonial religion in a variety of regions. Finally, we will read recent theoretical work attempting to move the study of postcolonial religion in new directions, with attention to the themes of secularism, race, sexuality, and settler colonialism (can the US be understood as "postcolonial")?

Objectives:
By the end of the course the student should be able to:
1) Identify and understand important approaches to postcolonial religion.
2) Enter into current conversations about postcolonial religion.
3) Plan and conduct a small independent research project, culminating in a final paper.

Workload:
Conventional wisdom for graduate courses holds that, for each hour a student spends in class, she or he should spend about four hours on coursework outside of class. If you find yourself spending substantially more or less time than this suggests, please speak with the instructor.

Grading:
60%: Final Paper (15-20pp), due via e-mail Thursday, December 11, 5pm. I do not give incompletes except in extraordinary circumstances. Late papers will receive grade reductions.
20%: Weekly Reading Responses (2-3 paragraphs embedded in e-mail to class, not attached)
20%: Critical Response Paper (6-8pp), due via e-mail Monday, October 6, 5pm
Readings:
For Purchase, Available in the Library Bookstore –

7. Pamela Klassen, *Spirits of Protestantism: Medicine, Healing, and Liberal Christianity* (California, 2011)

Other readings will be made available via e-mail.

Schedule:

**Introduction**

September 4
- Aime Cesaire, “Notebook of a Return to a Native Land”

**Orientations**

September 11
September 18

September 25
- Edward Said, *Orientalism*, Introduction and Chapter 1
- Edward Said, “Islam as News” in *The Edward Said Reader*
- Richard King, *Orientalism and Religion* (Routledge, 1999), Chapters 4 and 5.

October 2
- Tomoko Masuzawa, *The Invention of World Religions*

October 9
- Peter van der Veer, *Imperial Encounters*

Case Studies

To Be Scheduled
- Angie Heo, *Likeness and Limit: The Powers and Problems of Holy Media in Egypt* (manuscript) – and Skype discussion with the author

October 16
- Gauri Viswanathan, *Outside the Fold*

October 23
- Aamir Mufti, *Enlightenment in the Colony*

October 30
- Joan Dayan, *Haiti, History, and the Gods*
November 6
- Matthew Engelke, *A Problem of Presence*

November 13
- Pamela Klassen, *Spirits of Protestantism*

New Directions

November 20
- Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages*

December 4