Course description. Social scientists often root contemporary inquiries into the form, organization, and function of human societies in the Enlightenment, arguing that its twin legacies of secularism and empiricism are preconditions for any scientific approach to society. But this historiography ignores the many complex ways people have grappled with key “social science” questions long before the modern era. With a focus on religion, this course seeks to trace out the pre-social scientific history of some of the major leitmotifs of what we now call “social science,” including the relationships between empirical data and knowledge, narrative and history, discourse and practice, and human sameness and difference. While exploring these leitmotifs, we will pay particular attention to the presence or absence of the kinds of categories and distinctions that animate contemporary understandings of human societies, particularly ideas of culture, religion, secularity, and the bounds of inclusion and exclusion within and from communities. Central questions we will explore include the following:

- What is religion and how is it defined and understood in different contexts?
- What role does religion play in the struggle to understand other peoples’ cultures?
- How do individuals and societies use their vision of other cultures, religions, and communities to give identity to their own?
- How do religion, community, and political authority interact?
- How has religion been used to explain and understand how human societies are organized and function?

Grading. Your seminar instructor determines your final grade, based on the following components: class attendance and participation, 20%; seminar papers, 50%; midterm, 10%; final exam, 20%. Attendance at lectures and seminar discussions is an important part of the course. Absences from lecture and seminar will be weighed seriously by your seminar leader, and will bring down your final grade.

Midterms will be scheduled by your seminar leader, and taken in seminar.

The Core Writing Fellows are available for help throughout the semester. Fellows are graduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. To make an appointment, consult the online reservation instructions at www.bu.edu/core/writing, call 617-353-5404, or sign up in the Core office, CAS 119.

An online writing handbook is available at www.bu.edu/core/handbook. The recommended print resource for writing in the Core is Hacker and Sommers, Rules for Writers, 8th Edition. Many faculty members and departments also have published their own writing guides—ask your seminar instructor.

On the Core website—www.bu.edu/core—students will find faculty profiles and office locations, reading lists, supplemental course material, a departmental activities and academic calendar, syllabi, Writing Fellow contact information and writing FAQs, and other resources.
Course communication will take place via announcements and handouts in lecture and seminar, and email messages sent from core@bu.edu and from the accounts of individual instructors. Lecture media, handouts, and readings can be accessed at www.bu.edu/core/cc112.

Required textbooks are available at the BU Bookstore:

1. Bartolomé de las Casas: *In Defense of the Indians* (Northern Illinois University, 9780875805566)

Recommended text available at the BU Bookstore:

   
   *In lieu of purchasing the print edition, students may access selections from City of God via the course webpage, or pick-up a print-out of the selections from the Core office.*

Additional readings can be found at www.bu.edu/core/cc112 or in the course pack distributed in hard-copy at the first lecture and available in the Core office.

Learning and testing accommodation. Boston University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, you should contact your seminar leader and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at access@bu.edu and 617-353-3658. Letters of accommodations should be presented as soon as possible to ensure that student needs are addressed from the start of the course. Learn more at www.bu.edu/disability/policies-procedures.

Academic Conduct. All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity; we have the same expectations of each other in this course. Seminar leaders take the issue of plagiarism seriously and expect all the work you do in this course to be your own. If you have questions about what plagiarism is and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people’s work, speak with your instructor or consult the Academic Conduct Code at www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct.

CC 212 Spring 2017 Lecture Schedule:

**WEEK 1**
1/19 Lecture: Simon Rabinovitch (History)
Reading: The Book of Esther (course pack)

**WEEK 2**
1/26 Lecture: Deeana Klepper (Religion and History)
Reading: Augustine (354-430 CE), *City of God*, Books 1; 8; 15 (chapters 1-7); 18 (chapters 1, 38-54); 19

**WEEK 3**
2/2 Lecture: Jennifer Knust (Religion and School of Theology)
Reading: Augustine, *City of God*, cont’d.

**WEEK 4**
2/9 Lecture: Clifford Backman (History)
Reading: Marsiglio of Padua (1275-1342), “The Defender of the Peace” (course pack); Christine de Pizan (1364-1430), “The Book of the Body Politic” (course pack)

**WEEK 5**
2/16 Lecture: Christopher Brown (School of Theology)
WEEK 6
2/23 Lecture: Eugenio Menegon (History)
Reading: Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), The True Meaning of the Lord of Heaven, Intro; chapters 1; 2; 7 (course pack); Clement XI (1649-1721), Ex illa Die (course pack)

WEEK 7
3/2 Lecture: Tamar Herzog (Harvard University, History Department and Harvard Law School)
Reading: Juan Giné de Sepúlveda (1490-1573), Apology for the book on the just causes of war, ms pp. 1-27 (course pack); Bartolomé de las Casas (1484-1566), In Defense of the Indians, Preliminaries, chapters 1-6; 24; 33-38; 52; 56-63

March 6-10: Spring Break

WEEK 8
3/16 Lecture: Elizabeth Pritchard (Bowdoin, Department of Religion)
Reading: John Locke (1632-1704), A Letter Concerning Toleration (course pack)

WEEK 9
3/23 Lecture: David Roochnik (Philosophy)
Reading: William James (1842-1910), Varieties of Religious Experience, lectures 1-3; 6-7; 20; Conclusions and Postscript

WEEK 10
3/30 Lecture: Brian Jorgensen (Core)
Reading: William James (1842-1910), Varieties of Religious Experience cont’d.

DEADLINE
3/31
Applications for Summer Study in Greece are due by 5 PM. Info: www.bu.edu/classics/greece

WEEK 11
4/6 Lecture: David Swartz (Sociology)
Reading: Émile Durkheim (1857-1917), Elementary Forms of Religious Life, Intro; Book 1, chapters 1 & 4; Book 2, chapter 7; Book 3, chapter 2, pp. 243-260; Conclusion

WEEK 12
4/13 Lecture: Stephen Kalberg (Sociology)
Reading: Durkheim, Elementary Forms of Religious Life cont’d.

WEEK 13
4/20 Lecture: Parker Shipton (Anthropology)
Reading: E. E. Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973), Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande, chapters 1-4; chapters 7 & 8; chapters 12 & 13

EVENT
4/24
“Hildegard von Bingen: Cosmic Egg” at 5:30 PM, the Museum of Science. Sign-up in Core office.

WEEK 14
4/27 Lecture: Final summation and review (CC 112 faculty)
Final Exam: date and location TBA.