

Course Name	Personal Stories and Religion		
Semester, Year	First Semester, 2019	Number of Credits	2 credits
Course level	1000	Course Number	027055
Instructor(s) (Institution)	Peter RICHARDSON 大学院メディア・コミュニケーション研究院		
Course Objectives	Why is it that there are so many different ideas and experiences about religion? Why is it that these ideas are so different and yet everyone is so certain that their idea is correct? What can this tell us about our minds and the way we think? The purpose of this course is to discuss these questions by introducing the students to a wide-ranging collection of authentic personal stories related to religion. These stories relate to some of the main world religions, such as Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism, while also covering the rejection of religion in the form of atheism.		
Course Goals	1) Develop the students' reading skills in order to allow them to confidently tackle authentic English texts. 2) Develop the students' ability to think critically and detect key similarities and differences in a range of texts, as well as to look for connections between texts that may at first look unrelated. 3) Encourage students to speak out, share and listen to the ideas of others.		
Course Schedule	Week 1: Course introduction Week 2: A framework for analyzing religious language, part one. Week 3: A framework for analyzing religious language, part two. Week 4: Introducing Christianity, Islam and Buddhism, part one. Week 5: Introducing Christianity, Islam and Buddhism, part two. Week 6: "Everything became clear": A Christian's story. Week 7: The language of Christians. Week 8: "I'd finally found the truth": A Muslim's story + midterm short presentations Week 9: The language of Muslims. Week 10: "At last, it dawned on me": A Buddhist's story. Week 11: The language of Buddhism. Week 12: Are there similarities between the language of religious believers and the language of atheists? + Student presentations Week 13: Student presentations Week 14: Student presentations Week 15: Student presentations and final test		
Homework	Students will be expected to positively engage in preparation for and review of lesson material. In addition to a general explanation regarding preparations for the course to be given at the beginning of the semester, instructors will be providing specific instructions at appropriate times throughout the semester regarding preparation for individual classes. Students will additionally be expected to proactively establish their own goals and learning plans and to autonomously engage therein. If students do not prepare adequately, they may fail to master the content and consequently there is a possibility that they be unable to gain credit for the course. It is therefore heartily recommended that students earnestly and systematically engage in preparation for classes.		
Grading System	Grades will be awarded according to the following framework: participation (level of participation in class activities and discussions): 20%; presentations on a religion of choice: 30%; vocabulary and comprehension test related to the principles and texts discussed in class: 50%.		
Textbooks / Reading List			
Websites			
Website of Laboratory			
Additional Information	There is no assigned textbook for this course. Students will be provided with handouts at the beginning of each class. This course is open to students with an Intermediate English ability (a score of 420-500 on the TOEFL-ITP), and will be also opened as a code-shared subject of "International Exchange Program".		