

Course Name	Personal Stories and Religion		
Semester, Year	1 学期	Number of Credits	2 credits
Course level	1000	Course Number	027041
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	<p>1) Develop the students' reading skills in order to allow them to confidently tackle authentic English texts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3) Encourage students to speak out, share and listen to the ideas of others.</p>		
Course Schedule	<p>Week 1: Course introduction</p> <p>Week 2: A framework for analyzing religious language, part one.</p> <p>Week 3: A framework for analyzing religious language, part two.</p> <p>Week 4: Introducing Christianity, Islam and Buddhism, part one.</p> <p>Week 5: Introducing Christianity, Islam and Buddhism, part two.</p> <p>Week 6: "Everything became clear": A Christian's story.</p> <p>Week 7: The language of Christians.</p> <p>Week 8: "I'd finally found the truth": A Muslim's story + midterm short presentations</p> <p>Week 9: The language of Muslims.</p> <p>Week 10: "At last, it dawned on me": A Buddhist's story.</p> <p>Week 11: The language of Buddhism.</p> <p>Week 12: Are there similarities between the language of religious believers and the language of atheists? + Student presentations</p> <p>Week 13: Student presentations</p> <p>Week 14: Student presentations</p> <p>Week 15: Student presentations and final test</p>		
Homework	Students will be expected to positively do preparation for and review of lesson material. Instructors will give a general explanation regarding preparations for the course at the beginning of the semester, and will also provide specific instructions as appropriate throughout the semester regarding preparation for individual classes. Students will also be expected to proactively establish their own goals and learning plans and to carry them out by themselves. If students do not prepare adequately, they may fail to master the content of the course and consequently there is a possibility that they be unable to gain credit. Students are therefore strongly recommended to 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	<p>There is no assigned textbook for this course. Students will be provided with handouts at the beginning of each class.</p> <p>Students with English language proficiency at or above advanced level (TOEFL-ITP score < 500) may register for this course.</p>		