



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Committee on the Study of Religion

Pedagogy Course in the Study of Religion

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Capstone Project
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LOOKING BACK

Fall 2021

- No pedagogy course
- Instead:
 - Regular communication/
check ins/consultations with TFs
 - Series of workshops, etc.





September:	HDS TF Liaison hired
October:	Reach out to Chair/DGS
November:	Zoom meeting with DGS
December:	Proposal to the Doctoral Subcommittee & Standing Faculty Committee 12/13 proposal approved! (optional course, 2 credits)
January:	Coordinate with faculty convener & admins Create syllabus, invite faculty guests 1/24 first class meeting



Course Schedule

Date	Guest/Facilitator	Topic
January 24		Introduction to the course
February 14	Diana Eck, Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies	Using case studies in teaching <i>Reading:</i> Sample Case Study
March 7	Eleanor Craig, Lecturer in Ethnicity, Migration, Rights and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality	Critical pedagogies for desperate times <i>Reading:</i> Kyla Wazana Tompkins, “The Shush.”
March 21	Ali Asani, Professor of Middle-Eastern Studies and Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures	Teaching religion through the arts <i>Reading:</i> Asani, Ali. “Islam, Art, and Pedagogy.”
April 11	Mohsen Goudarzi, Assistant Professor in Islamic Studies	Uncomfortable moments teaching sacred texts and traditions <i>Reading:</i> Sharp and Clark-Soles, “Helping Students Navigate Faith Challenges in the Biblical Studies Classroom.”
April 25	Francis X. Clooney, S.J., Professor of Divinity and Comparative Theology	Comparative studies and teaching in denominationally-specific colleges or universities

Nine doctoral students enrolled (plus me and HDS TF Liaison)

- four G2s, one G3, three G4s, one G5

Some of the feedback so far:

- existence of the course 👍
- diverse range of faculty experiences/styles
- access to professors/mentors
- more time to discuss immediate teaching experiences
- more time with just grad students
- different needs for G2s and G3+s





Future Possibilities?

Status quo: Series of Workshops in Fall
Pedagogy Course in Spring

Alternative 1: Pedagogy Course for G3s in Fall (focus on TF work)
Pedagogy Course for G3+s in Spring

Alternative 2: Pedagogy Course for G3+s in Fall
Pedagogy Course for G2s in Spring (focus on TF work)

etc.

Thank You 😊