Why geographies of religion?

In the 21st century, religion is implicated in space and place in a range of ways, challenging the distances that we assume to exist between the intimate space of the body and geopolitics. Rather than declining in modernity, we see it everywhere, such that we can bathe in karma, drive on an ‘atheist’ bus, and go to a musical about the Book of Mormon. Drawing upon the work of geographers, sociologists and anthropologists, we will explore the various ways that religion is seen to modify, accommodate, or construct contemporary lives, places and spaces. We will consider some key ideas in the theorization of religion and society, including secularization theory, sacredness, lived religion, and piety, in order to identify the the implicit and explicit role of space in how we think about and theorize religion, spirituality and the sacred. This class has been designed to fulfill the Communication Intensive (CI) General Education requirement.

What will we do?

This is a research-led course. Our readings about religiosity and spirituality will help us conduct an original research project. Our work will be supported by the Digital Innovation Lab and will entail learning about oral histories and digital humanities.

Who are you?

Students from diverse disciplines are welcome. The only requirement is the desire to be involved in an energetic, challenging and rewarding class.