

GEOG424

Geographies of religion

Prof Elizabeth Olson T/TH 2-3:15, Carolina Hall room 220



Or, how to talk about religion in a complex world.

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. We can even bathe in karma. We will explore the various ways that religion constructs 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.

This is a research-led course. Our readings about religiosity and spirituality will help us conduct an original research project.