

Religious Studies Newsletter

September 2021, Vol. 2

This Newsletter Includes...

- **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - *Pre-Registration Advising Appointments*
 - *American Academy of Religion Southeastern Regional Conference*
- **DECLARING THE MAJOR/MINOR**
 - *How to declare your major in Religious Studies*
- **M.A. IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**
 - *General Information and Early Entry*
- **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**
 - *Annie Burchill, Religious Studies Graduate Student*
- **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**
 - *Dr. William Sherman, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies*
- **PROGRAMMING**
 - *Religious Studies Colloquium*
 - *Annual Women's and Gender Studies Social*
 - *Mastering a JEDI Mindset*
- **HELPFUL RESOURCES**
 - *University Center for Academic Excellence (UCAE)*
- **DEPARTMENT EVENTS**
 - *Religious Studies Reading/Writing Group*
 - *Religious Studies Scavenger Hunt*

Special Announcements

Pre-Registration Advising Appointments Are Now Available!

- It's time for you to schedule your appointment for Spring 2021 pre-registration.
- Have a list of courses that you plan to take next semester, even if you aren't quite sure what courses you should take. It's better to have something than nothing.
- Find your overall earned credit hours on your Unofficial Transcript or Advising Transcript in Banner Self-Service. You must earn at least 120 credit hours to graduate from UNC Charlotte.
- **Follow this link to schedule your appointment:** <https://uncc.campus.eab.com/home>.
- If you are graduating in Fall 2021, there is no need to schedule an appointment.

American Academy of Religion Southeastern Regional Conference Will Be Online

- Given ongoing concerns about the Covid-19 situation, the AAR/SBL-SE board decided the March 11-13, 2022 Regional Conference will be solely online, similar to last year's conference.
- The Call for Papers has now been pushed to October 15, 2021.
- **Please submit your paper proposals [here](#).**
- For updated information about the Regional Conference visit <https://relse.org/>.

Declaring the Major

How to Declare the Major in Religious Studies

- To declare the undergraduate major in Religious Studies, just fill out [this form](#).
- The major in Religious Studies requires 30 credit hours.
- The minor in Religious Studies only requires 15 credit hours. With a few more classes, you could acquire a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies.

M.A. in Religious Studies

How to Apply for the M.A. in Religious Studies

- The M.A. in Religious Studies program approaches the academic study of religion and religions from a variety of critical and interdisciplinary perspectives, with an emphasis placed on the global and multicultural aspects of religion.
- The M.A. application is completely electronic via the [Charlotte Graduate School website](#).
- Exceptional undergraduate students at Charlotte may apply for the Early Entry Program and begin work toward the graduate degree before completion of the Bachelor's degree.
 - Check out our promotional [video](#) to understand the Early Entry Program!
- For more information regarding admission requirements or other aspects of the program please contact: Dr. Kent Brintnall - kent.brintnall@uncc.edu.

Student Spotlight



Annie Burchill, Religious Studies Graduate Student

- Please give your attention to this volume's student spotlight: Annie Burchill!
- Annie is a graduate student in the Department of Religious Studies.
- Her research focuses on the influence of Protestant Christianity upon the formation of punitive social systems in the United States, most specifically the police and the prison industrial complex.
- In her junior and senior years at Charlotte, Annie was an [Underwood and Witherspoon scholarship](#) recipient, and she served as a [Martin Scholar](#).
- In October of 2019, Annie was selected as one of two students chosen to present at the North Carolina Religious Studies Association (NCRSA).

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. William Sherman, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

- This volume's faculty spotlight goes to Dr. Sherman!
- His first book, which should be published next year, is about a sixteenth century Sufi Muslim community in modern-day Afghanistan who pursued the language of God
- For one of his projects, he has been gathering and analyzing "imitations of the Qur'an, asking important and common questions: what makes the Qur'an *the Qur'an*? Why is it *inimitable*? What is the "recipe" for divine speech?
- He is also working on a translation with an Iranian friend of his, Ahoon Najafian, They are translating a book-length *masnavi* poem by Farid al-Din 'Attar called the *Musibat-Namah* (they translate as *The Divine Tragedy*). It's an allegory about the troubles, tortures, and toils that a soul encounters when it pursues the spiritual path to God.

Programming

JONATHAN MARKS

Creationism as a 19th century theological issue, not a 21st century scientific issue

Why Are There Still Creationists?

Available now!
Polity (UK) / Wiley (US)

Jonathan Marks

UNC CHARLOTTE
Dept. of Anthropology

Religious Studies Colloquium

- Dr. Jonathan Marks, Professor of Anthropology, will present work from his most recent publication, "*Why Are There Still Creationists?*," at our colloquium.
- **October 4, 2021 from 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM.**
- **Join the colloquium with this Zoom link:**
<https://uncc.zoom.us/j/97510008430?pwd=eKtIM25kQ2s3OHdRaFFjQnlqdHBzZz09>.

**ANNUAL
WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES
SOCIAL**

WELCOME ALL WGST STUDENTS, FACULTY, & AFFILIATES

**THURSDAY, OCT 7
1:30 - 3 PM
VIRTUAL, DROP-IN**

JOIN US TO MEET OTHER WGST FOLX,
SHARE FALL EVENTS, &
LEARN HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

PLEASE REGISTER:
[HTTPS://UNCC.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TJYSFUGURJ8JHDYMGEDRDPWPA8PG_AAV0](https://uncc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjysfugurj8jhdymgeqdrdpwpa8pg_aav0)

Annual Women's and Gender Studies Social

- The Department of Women's and Gender Studies is holding its Annual Social.
- Students, faculty, and affiliates of the WGST Department are invited to attend.
- **October 7, 2021 from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.**
- **To register, please follow this link:**
https://uncc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjysfugurj8jhdymgeqdrdpwpa8pg_aav0.
- After registering, you will receive an email confirmation with the meeting details.

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Department of Sociology Present: A Fall Learning Series Workshop 2
Sponsored by the Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund

Mastering a JEDI Mindset

JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
A JEDI Mindset:

- Centered in justice, equity, diversity & inclusion
- Honors the diversity that exists around us
- Understands the importance of being a critical thinker and practitioner

**Thursday, October 21
11:30-12:30, via Zoom
Click here for registration link**

Dr. Stephanie Helms Pickett
leadership consultant, author, and motivational speaker

Contact: Stephanie Helms Pickett, shp@uncc.edu
CALS 1000 and Social Justice Institute

Mastering a JEDI Mindset

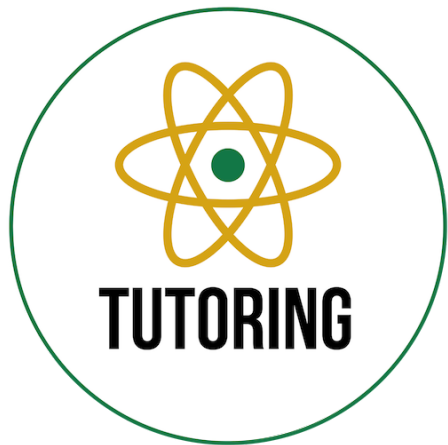
- In this workshop, undergraduate and graduate students will understand the importance of being critical thinkers.
- You will learn about operating in a mindset centered in justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in an effort to honor the diversity that exists in the world around us.
- **October 21, 2021 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.**
- **Follow this link to register:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNd-Sc8wafr_vCWzpS5zg-ZJ6UXEP5M6KOcbUsVGOjil9wOA/viewform.
- Hosted by Dr. Stephanie Helms Pickett, Associate Vice Provost of Inclusive Excellence and Strategic Practice and Diversity at NC State University.

Helpful Resources



University Center for Academic Excellence (UCAE)

- The University Center for Academic Excellence offers a wide variety of workshops on topics that strengthen students' academic success.
- These highly interactive workshops are led by staff and trained graduate students virtually, on-site and across campus.
- Topics include: Communicating with Your Professor, Study Hacks, Goal Setting, etc.
- More information can be found [here](#).



University Center for Academic Excellence (UCAE)

- UCAE Tutorial Services is UNC Charlotte's main course-specific academic support program that serves students through appointment and drop-in tutoring.
- Services are free and available to any enrolled undergraduate student, in any major, in any academic standing.
- More information can be found [here](#).

Department Events



Religious Studies Reading/Writing Group

- David Flaherty, a graduate MA student in Religious Studies, is hosting a reading and writing group.
- Open to undergraduate and graduate students.
- This is a space to help each other edit papers, understand texts, work silently, collaborate on research, and foster a community!
- If you are interested, **the group meets on Mondays from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM via Zoom:**
<https://uncc.zoom.us/j/93149205675?pwd=UEFob3J2L2lveWR3WkNjQ0lkVitCUT09>.
- If you have any questions, you can contact David at dflahe1@uncc.edu.



Religious Studies Scavenger Hunt

- Starting on October 4, 2021, the Department of Religious Studies will be launching a scavenger hunt!
- Each week will feature different themed challenges beginning on Mondays.
- Small prizes will be offered on Fridays with a midweek bonus.
- At the end of the semester, the person with the most challenges completed will win a Mystery Grand Prize!
- Keep your eye open for more information regarding this event.

News about department events will be emailed to you as well as posted on the [department website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram](#). We will host the Loy H. Witherspoon Annual Lecture as well as the Tate Lecture in Judaic Studies this year, both virtually.