April 1: **To See, To Be, To Do: Primary Perspectives of World Religions**

An introductory lecture that offers an overview of the landscape of the world's religions in an easy to understand framework. Instead of the usual catalogue of dates and names, this lecture provides a map for appreciating diverse religious worldviews by comparing and contrasting how diverse faith traditions understand fourteen underlying principles.

April 8: **Hinduism: Thou Art That**

A rainbow religion with innumerable colours as Hinduism has been a collector tradition for thousands of years. We will watch how concepts have layered on top of others in India, including the idea that each person has divinity within them.

April 15: **Buddhism: All is Mind**

"All that we are arises with our thoughts" are the opening words of one Buddhist scripture. We consider how the Buddha's life and teachings identify the mind as both the cause and cessation of suffering.

April 22: **Judaism: A People Set Apart**

For Judaism, history is the page upon which God's story is written. The class retraces the narrative through a timeline of significant events that trace the evolution of the tradition through three major stages.

April 29: **Christianity: But I Say Unto You**
Christianity reinterprets the Jewish story from a past record to a future prediction. This session explores how scriptures develop, the shift from a Jewish movement to a gentile one, and ends with a provocative claim about how Christianity has shaped the fundamental outlook of both believers and non-believers in the modern West.

May 6: Islam: And Muhammad Is His Prophet

The youngest of the Abrahamic traditions is also the fastest growing. We consider Islam’s Five Pillars – one of faith and four of practice – religious and political contributions of Muhammad, and the rise of two major branches – Sunni and Shia.

May 13: Daoism: The Way And Its Power

A tradition of the Far East, Taoism is as distant from Western thought as it is in geography. The class explores this unique tradition that espouses no action, no belief, no ritual and a founder with no public ministry.

May 20: Perennial Themes: Definitions and Commonalities in World Religions

Are the world religions saying the same thing in different ways or different things in the same way? Are there common factors? What are the major differences? And what, after all, is religion anyway? This class sums up the program by asking some big questions and reaching for some tentative answers.