This class will take a broad, comparative approach to exploring the relationship between religion and literature in contemporary America.

We will focus on stories that have been retold in multiple forms of media--books, movies, TV series, music. How do different formats affect the same story? Where can we recognize religious genres like origin myths, tales of pilgrimage, or prayer in unexpected places? And how do Americans make things that look like religion out of works of literature--like Harry Potter?

No religious background is necessary or assumed; however an interest in the written or performing arts will be useful in completing the final writing assignment.