

# RELI 542H: Religion and the Counterculture

The course aims at exploring the countercultural scene of the 1960s-1970s and the interaction between its values and ways with religious groups, ideas and practices.

We will investigate the rise of new religious movements and communities, modes of spirituality and religious practices, as well as the manners that countercultural values and ways affected well established religious groups. We will look at a number of religious movements that grew out of or thrived with the counterculture, such as the San Francisco Zen Buddhist Center; the Children of God; Calvary Chapel and its affiliates; ISCON; and the Jewish neo-Hasidic and Renewal movements.

We will look at the attempts to use psychedelic drugs, and other substances, as a means to achieve spiritual growth. Likewise, we will take notice of the relationship between religious faith and spirituality and the new movement of communes in America. Similarly, we will look at the ways members of the counterculture associated between music, poetry and spirituality, as well as the manner the innovations they have introduced affected spiritual artistic expressions in America at large. In addition to scholarly readings and classroom discussions, we will also read novels, watch movies and listen to music.



Professor Yaakov Ariel  
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Tuesday/Thursday  
11:00AM-12:15PM

**General Education  
Requirements: Fulfills  
US**

