

Bret Lewis
Loyola University Chicago
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Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, May 2011

Master of Arts, Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 2001

Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame IN, 1996, Cum Laude

Academic Positions and Teaching Experience

Senior Lecturer in World Religions, Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago, 2012-present

Courses Taught:

THEO 100: Christian Theology

THEO 107: Introduction to Religious Studies THEO 295: Islam

THEO 297: Buddhism

THEO 352: Zen Buddhism

THEO 393: Religion, Politics, and Native American Experiences

TP I: Theological & Religious Studies Pedagogy: Graduate Student Semester Workshop

TP II: Theological & Religious Studies Pedagogy: Graduate Student Semester Workshop

Faculty Associate, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State University, 2007- 2012

Courses Taught:

REL 100: Religions of the World

REL 207/305: Ritual, Symbol, and Myth

REL 320: American Religious Traditions

REL 321: Religion in America

REL 394/SGS 394: Religion and Conflict: Theories and Case Studies

Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Liberal Arts, Phoenix Community College, 2008-2012

Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Phil. and Religious Studies, Mesa Community College, 2005-2008

Administrative Experience and Academic Service

Committee Chair, Undergraduate Programs Committee, Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago, Aug 2022-May 2024

Committee Member, Department Advisory Committee, Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago, Aug 2022-May 2024

Assistant Chair, Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago, Nov 2015 – Dec 2021

Chair, Undergraduate Learning Committee, Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago, Academic Year 2018-20

Co-Chair, Undergraduate Learning Committee, Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago, Academic Year 2015-18

Program Organizer, Graduate Student Symposium on the Teaching of Religion, “Pedagogy in Praxis” Department of Theology, Loyola University, Chicago, 2015- present

Co-Coordinator, Catholicism in Dialogue Series, lectures and workshops, The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago, 2013-2016

International Learning Community Instructor, Theo 297: Introduction to Buddhism course, Spring 2016

Faculty Research Associate, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University, Summer, Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Religious Studies, Office of Undergraduate Advising, Arizona State University, Tempe 2005-2006

Course Design Experience and Professional Development

"Designing Courses for Significant Learning" Dee Fink & Associates 7th Annual National Workshop on Integrated Course Design, Chicago, IL May 19-21, 2015

Course Designer, “Religions of the World,” for Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margin’s (JC:HEM) Diploma in Liberal Studies program, Fall 2014- Summer 2015

“Subject Matter Experts Meetings” Jesuit Commons: Higher Education on the Margins (JC:HEM), Georgetown University, Washington DC, October 4-7, 2014

Course Designer, “REL100: Religions of the World” created the ASUonline’s regularized online course version for standard offering, Arizona State University, Spring 2012

Course Designer, "REL 394: Religion and Conflict: Theories and Case Studies" Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University, Fall 2010

"Online Teaching Course" Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago, September- November 2013

"Boot Camp for Teaching Online" Sponsored by ASUonline, Tempe AZ June 11-24, 2012

"Designing, Conducting, and Analyzing Field Experiments Workshop," Yale's Institution for Social and Policy Studies, New Haven CT, July 29-31, 2009

"Preparing Future Faculty (PFF)" - First Year Exploration Phase, Arizona State University, Academic Year 2008-09

Journal Articles

"Politics and Perceptions of Religious Studies: The Arizona Legislature and the Teaching of Religion" Co-written with Crystal Lopez, *Religion and Education* University of Northern Iowa; Routledge Publishers ISSN: 1550-7394 print/1949-8381 online, (2015):1-18.

"Mission, Religion, Religious Studies?: Student Perspectives on Courses in Buddhism and Islam at a Jesuit University" in *Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal* Regis University; Denver, CO, Vol. 3: No. 2 (2014): 21-46.

"The Impact of Religious Studies Courses: Measuring Change in College Students' Attitudes" *Religion and Education* University of Northern Iowa; Routledge Publishers Vol. 39, No. 3 (2012): 284- 307.

"Teaching Religion in Indonesia: A Report on Graduate Studies in Java" *Teaching Theology and Religion* Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion; Wiley-Blackwell Publishers Vol. 15: No. 3 (2012): 241-257.

"Effects of World Religions Courses on Undergraduates: A Pilot Study of Tolerance, Homogenization, and Contextualization." *Next: The Graduate Student Journal for the Academic Study of Religion* University of Colorado, Boulder. Vol 2 (2008): 1-27.

Book Reviews

Review of *Varieties of Religious Invention: Founders and their Functions in History*. Ed. Patrick Gray, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016; Located in *Religious Studies Review* Vol 42:2 June 2016, Pgs 92-93.

Encyclopedia Entries

"Muslim American Involvement in the Vietnam War" in *The Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, ed. Edward E. Curtis, Facts On File, New York (2010): 567-569.

Fellowships and Awards

Sujack Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence in the College of Arts and Science, Designated "Master Teacher," Loyola University Chicago, April 21, 2015

Research Partnership Grant with Three Tunisian Universities, grantee, funded by the U.S. State Department in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Tunis and three Tunisian Universities: Manouba University, University of Carthage, and the University of Tunis-El Manar, Peter J. Schraeder, Primary Investigator, June 6 -July 12, 2014

Henry Luce Foundation, grantee, in conjunction with the Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies (CRCS) and the Indonesian Consortium of Religious Studies (ICRS) Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in residence Jan-May 2010

Best Paper Award, American Academy of Religion: Western Region, Pasadena, CA, March 2008

University of Notre Dame Law School Fellowship, travel grant, in conjunction with the Archbishop's Office in Guatemala City, Guatemala, 1996

Conferences and Invited Lectures

"Expanded Awareness and Critical Openness," Best Practices to Support Undergraduate Success, panel speaker, Loyola University Chicago, November 7, 2017

"International Research in the field of Religious Studies," Capstone Course in Religious Studies, guest lecturer, Loyola University Chicago, April 20, 2016

"Approaching Religious Diversity: The Complicated Idea of Founder(s)" invited speaker, St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, Park Ridge, IL, Women's Guild Series, March 15, 2016

"Personal or Political? The Impacts of Studying Religion within a Secular Society" invited speaker, Department Majors and Minors Semester Event, Loyola University Chicago, Oct. 28, 2015

"Problematizing 'Religion' and 'Judaism' in the Post-Modern Context," guest lecturer, undergraduate course: Introduction to Judaism; Loyola University Chicago, Sep 14, 2015

"Religion, Higher Education, and the Making of Post-Revolutionary Tunisia" American Academy of Religion: Midwest Region, Ohio Northern University, Apr. 10, 2015

- Guest Lecturer, "Using Quantitative Methods in the Study of Religion," Capstone Course in Religious Studies, Loyola University Chicago, Mar. 20, 2014
- Guest Lecturer, "Approaching Religious Diversity in a Global Context," two sections of Theology 100 undergraduate courses; Loyola University Chicago, Dec. 4, 2014
- "Scholarship: What, Why, and How?" invited speaker, National Residence Hall Honorary Annual *Iggy Talk*, LUC Residence Life, Loyola University Chicago, Nov. 18, 2014
- "Seeing Double: Views of Religion through the Eyes of Religious Studies and Theology," invited speaker and panelist, Theta Alpha Kappa Honors Society, Loyola University Chicago, Nov. 3, 2014
- "Uncovering Student Perspectives: Religious Studies Courses in Buddhism and Islam at a Jesuit University," American Academy of Religion: Midwest Region, Ohio Northern U, Apr. 3, 2014
- "Varieties of Buddhist Perspectives on Vegetarianism," invited speaker, Interfaith Symposium "Passing the Plate: Food, Religion, and Culture," Loyola University Chicago, Feb. 3, 2014
- "Strategies for Teaching About Religious Difference Across the Curriculum," panelist, Focus on Teaching and Learning Conference, Loyola University Chicago, Jan. 9, 2014
- "Catholicism in Dialogue Series: In Pilgrimage: Journeys with Judah Halevi, Ignatius Loyola and Malcolm X," respondent, The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago, Oct. 17, 2013
- "Politics and Perceptions of Religious Studies: The Arizona Legislature and the Bible Class Initiative," American Academy of Religion, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Mar. 10, 2013
- "The Academic Study of Religion: Evaluating Various Approaches and Curricula" panel chair, American Academy of Religion: Western Region, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ, March 10, 2013
- "Trends and Influences in Religious Studies Courses: From African American Humanist Studies to Ecofeminism," panel chair, American Academy of Religion: Western Region, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara CA, Mar. 24, 2012
- "Developing and Implementing Religious Studies Courses: From Perspective to Delivery" panel chair, American Academy of Religion: Western Region, Whittier CA, Mar. 26-28, 2011
- "Producing Bridge Builders: A Report on Indonesia's Master's Level Religious Studies Program," Arizona State University Graduate Conference on Asian Studies, Tempe AZ, Nov. 20, 2010

“Keeping Score on Religion: Quantifying the Impact of Religious Studies Course on Undergraduate Attitudes,” American Academy of Religion: Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA, November 1, 2010

“Towards Inclusive Pedagogies in K-12, Religious, Theological, and Higher Education” & “Developing and Implementing Religious Studies Courses: From Syllabi to Critical Thinking” co-panel chair/organizer (but unable to attend due to research travel), American Academy of Religion: Western Region, Tempe AZ, Spring 2010

“An Unlikely (But Necessary!) Duo: The Humanities and Statistical Measures,” Interdisciplinary Conference, History Department: Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ, May 2, 2009

“When the Instructor Doesn’t Know Everything: Teaching Strategies in the World Religions Classroom,” American Academy of Religion: Western Region, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara CA., March 22-23, 2009

“Effects of World Religions Courses on Undergraduates: A Pilot Study of Tolerance, Homogenization, and Contextualization.” American Academy of Religion: Western Region, Los Angeles CA, March 30-31, 2008