RELIGION IN AMERICA (661) • Founded: 1997

This seminar explores the role of religion in American society from cross-disciplinary perspectives: history, anthropology, literature, sociology, theology, material culture, and more. Both "religion" and "America" are broadly defined—"religion" takes into account multicultural and multifarious religious expressions in an increasingly pluralistic setting, while "America" includes not merely the United States but Canada and the Caribbean as well. Members are particularly interested in examining the religiously rich environment of New York City.

CHAIR/S: **Gale Kenny**; **Courtney Bender** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Kristin Perkins**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 15	*Polygamy and Free Exercise at the Border* **Jeffrey Turner**, University of Alabama
October 13	*To Touch the Face of God* **Courtney Bender**, Columbia University
November 17	*Income-Tax Evangelism* **Daniel Vaca**, Brown University
February 9	*Heavenly Arithmetic* **John Lardas Modern**, Franklin and Marshall College
March 9	*Urban Sexularism: Space, Sexuality, & the Production of the Sacred* **Babak Manouchehrifar**, Princeton University
April 13	*"Empty Speech:" Enregistering That Which You Should Not Hear* **Gabriella Lee**, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Gale Kenny**, gkenny@barnard.edu; **Courtney Bender**, cb337@columbia.edu