

# SPRING 2014 CLASS



## SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS SPIRITUALITY IN AMERICA MW 1 - 1:50 + SECTIONS • PROF. MATT HEDSTROM

What does "spiritual but not religious" mean? Why has it become such a pervasive self-description in contemporary America?

This interdisciplinary lecture course surveys spirituality in America, with a particular eye for the relationship between spirituality and religion, on the one hand, and secular modes of understanding the self, such as psychology, on the other. Along the way we'll study everything from AA to yoga to Zen meditation, with stops in Christian rock, Beat poetry, Abstract Expressionist painting, spirit photography, the feminist movement, and recent film. We'll consider spirituality in America as a complex intermingling of the great world religions, modern therapeutic psychology, the politics of movements for social change, and a crassly commercialized, billion-dollar culture industry.

Is this the fate of religion in a modern, capitalist, globalized society? Join this class and we'll explore this question together!