



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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COURSES

REL 101: Introduction to Religion**TBA | MWF 10:30AM – 11:20AM**

An overview of religious perspectives concerning ultimate reality, humankind, and the world, with special attention to major Asian and Abrahamic religions.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Asian Religions: South and East Asia
- Introduction to Religion
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture

REL 101: Introduction to Religion**Callender | Online**

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REL 102: Problem of God**Henry Mack | T 6:00PM – 8:55PM**

Contemporary religious issues related to the concept of God. Foundational to this course is an examination of the religious dimension of human experience and consciousness in relation to a number of historical and contemporary problems and challenges. This course approaches “the problem of God” from the angle of human experience, focusing on the various historical, social, and existential determinants of belief. Topics include: globalized religion, the challenge of atheism and humanism, the impact of secularization on religion, and an exploration of the historical, social, and theological images of creation and the divine.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- Introduction to Religion
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation

REL 109: Anthropology of Religion**Devarajan | TR 11:20AM – 12:35PM**

Through themes such as myth, word and text, symbol, gender, pilgrimage, embodiment, and ritual, students learn about lived religion through anthropological research and field methods. The course also exposes introductory-level students to diverse world religious traditions: Korean folk religion, Indonesian Islam, Hinduism in diaspora, Judaism across cultures, Japanese temple Shinto traditions, and more.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture

REL 121: Introduction to the New Testament**TBA | TR 2:40PM – 3:55PM**

The history and literature of the early Christian movement.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion in the Ancient World

- Introduction to Religion
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

REL 131/AMS 324: Religion in America

TBA | MWF 2:15AM – 3:05PM

The history of religion in the U.S. from the pre-colonial period to the present. Includes study of the religion of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, women, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and cults.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion in the Americas
- Introduction to Religion
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

REL 151: Religion and Moral Choices

Crocker-Papadakis | R 6:00PM – 8:55PM Online

Religious responses to dilemmas raised by issues such as capital punishment, biotechnology, abortion, euthanasia, and war.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Politics and Religion
- Religion and Medicine
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- Introduction to Religion

REL 161: Religion and Medicine: Health Care as Spiritual Practice

Newell | TR 2:40PM – 3:55PM

An exploration of the history of medical care and the history of medicine as calling, as well as the changing professionalism of health care; the role of virtue ethics in the practice of medicine; the tensions between religion and medicine; the place of personal religious beliefs in health care; and the changing landscape of health, holism, healing, faith and the science of medicine.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion and Medicine
- Medical Humanities: Exploring the Human Dimensions of Health & Medicine
- Spirituality

REL/JUS 231: Jewish Civilization and Being Jewish

W. Green | TR 4:20PM – 5:35PM

A survey of the development of Judaism from antiquity to modern times.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- The Evolution of the Jewish People in their Homeland and the Diaspora

REL 271: Introduction to Islam

Homayounvash | TR 1:00PM – 2:15PM

An introduction to the religion, culture, and history of Islam. This course examines Muslim beliefs about God, the Prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an, the caliphate and the emergence of various sects.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Introduction to Religion
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Islam and the Arab World

REL 288: Chinese Religions

Ritzinger | TR 2:40PM – 3:55PM

Over the last generation, China has largely thrown off communist ideology, becoming an economic powerhouse that will shape the 21st century. Alongside economic growth has come a rediscovery and revitalization of its religious heritage. But what is this religious heritage? What makes it unique? What does it offer? And how does this heritage shape China's religious scene today? This course addresses these questions through a survey of Chinese religion focusing on the "Three Teachings" - Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism-as well as popular religion.

We will examine their development and mutual interaction, attending to their thought and practice as well as their historical and social context. Students will gain not only a familiarity with the religious traditions of China, but also cultivate their ability to think historically and to balance sympathetic and critical understanding.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- China Studies
- Asian Religions: South and East Asia
- Introduction to Religion

REL 311: Prophecy and Prophetic Literature in the Hebrew Bible

Callender | TR 11:20AM – 12:35PM

Prophecy in ancient Israel and Judah and the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible in relation to its ancient near-eastern historical, religious, and social context.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Religion, Myth and Interpretation
- Religion in the Ancient World
- A Survey of Jewish Literature

REL 330: Caribbean Religion

Tsang | Online

Caribbean Religion with an emphasis on African Diaspora, Atlantic, and Creole religions and spirituality. Some of the religious traditions we will cover include Lucumí or La Regla de Ocha (Santería), Haitian Vodou, Spiritism, Regla de Palo Mayombe, Abakua, and Obeah. We will explore race; gender; material and visual culture; healing; as well as issues of stigma, marginalization, and activism.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion in the Americas
- The Caribbean through Literature, History, & the Arts
- Latin America Art and Culture
- Exploring the Caribbean through the Social Sciences
- Africa and the African Diaspora
- Belonging in a Diverse Society: Intersections of culture, Identity, and social justice
- Spirituality

REL 351: Death and Dying**Catherine Newell | TR 4:20PM – 5:35PM**

For as long as we have documented history on the subject, human beings have debated issues about what it means to be mortal, what it means to live well, how to die well and whether death is truly the end of life. This course surveys discourses about death and death rituals from the ancient Mediterranean (ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome) to the present day. Some of the issues we will discuss include (but are not limited to): the history of certain perspectives on illness, death and burial; the relationship between organized religious systems and death and dying; personhood; theodicy; euthanasia; suicide; and the afterlife.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion, Identity, & Popular Culture
- Religion and Medicine
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- Medical Humanities: Exploring the Human Dimensions of Health & Medicine

REL 358: The Color of God: Race and Religion**Callender | Online**

This course will examine the role of race and ethnicity within the discipline of religious studies. We will emphasize the manner in which racial and ethnic identity have contributed to religious identity, and the way in which religion has functioned within the struggles of racially and ethnically marginalized peoples. This course will focus on the Americas and draw from diverse racial, ethnic, and religious traditions.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion in the Americas
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture
- Africa and the African Diaspora
- Spirituality

REL 370: Islam in the Modern World**Homayounvash | TR 11:20AM – 12:35PM**

How is Islam understood and practiced in the modern world? Students will learn about the rituals, traditions and popular beliefs of contemporary Muslims through film and key texts. The course also explores fault lines in the community such as the rise of authoritarian states, secularism, and liberal values on one hand and increased sectarianism and patterns of radicalization on the other.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture
- Islam and the Arab World

REL/JUS 375: Democracy and Religion in Israel and Palestine**TBA | MWF 11:45AM – 12:35PM**

Israel's evolution as a nation and a society by focusing on the impact of religion on ethnicity, culture, and democracy.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- Politics and Religion

- Studies of Modern Day Israel
- The Evolution of the Jewish People in their Homeland and the Diaspora
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture

REL 384: Karma

Ritzinger | TR 11:20AM – 12:35PM

Karma is one of the most central doctrines of Buddhism and by far the most viral. Through lip jars, pop songs, and TV shows, the concept has become familiar to many. But what is karma? How does it work? What does it mean to live in a karmic universe? This course will examine these questions through a consideration of Buddhist doctrine, ritual, ethics, and narrative.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- Asian Religions: South and East Asia

REL 499: Method and Theory in the Study of Religion

Callender | R 4:20PM – 7:15PM

An examination of central issues and texts in the academic study of religion, with special focus on the rise of the discipline, its axioms, and its several schools of interpretation.