

The background of the cover is a repeating pattern of diamond-shaped tiles. Each tile contains a white religious symbol on a light green or light orange background. The symbols include a cross, a six-pointed star, a hand with a sun, a yin-yang, a dove, a lotus flower, and a gear-like symbol. In the center, there are two overlapping ribbon-like shapes. The top one is orange and contains the text 'RELIGIOUS STUDIES'. The bottom one is green and contains the text 'FALL 2018'.

**RELIGIOUS
STUDIES**

**FALL
2018**

REL 101: Introduction to Religion

Callender | Online Course

This course gives students an introductory exposure to various religions of the world as seen from the perspective of the academic study of religion. It takes an objective and non-sectarian approach and is intended to inform rather than to persuade. The course assumes that students are capable of understanding worldviews and value systems different from their own and that sympathetic exposure to such alternatives is both an integral part of a university education and an essential component of functioning as a responsible citizen of the 21st century.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 102: Problem of God

Maklakiewicz | R 5:00PM-7:40PM

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 103: One God: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Maldonado, Husayn, W. Green | TR 11:00AM - 12:15PM

Monotheism is one of the most important ideas in human history. This course examines how Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have lived it, understood it and interpreted it. The basic structures of all three religions and explore their similarities, differences and interactions on a set of critical issues, both contemporary and classical. The course will encourage students' conversation and active participation.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Introduction to Religion
- Western Civilization: Historical Approaches

REL 105: One Goal: Transforming the Self in the Asian Religions

Ritzinger | TR 12:30PM-1:45PM

A selective survey of some of the continent's major religious traditions that attempts to provide a sense of their diversity, including a hint of their internal diversity. We will encounter major figures, doctrines, and ethical precepts, but special attention will be paid to one key element shared that distinguishes them from their Abrahamic counterparts (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam): the one goal of self-transformation and the techniques for achieving it. Here we will find the differences among traditions thrown into stark relief even as we encounter surprising parallels and continuities. Along the way students will be exposed to major concepts and approaches to the academic study of religion.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 121: Introduction to the New Testament

Billings | MWF 11:15AM-12:05PM

What do we know about the beginnings of Christianity and how do we know it? This course is designed to introduce you to the historical circumstances that gave rise to the religious movement we now call Christianity. Through the close and careful reading of both New Testament literature and a variety of relevant ancient sources from outside of the Christian canon, we will work together to understand the world of the first through third centuries CE. Beyond literary evidence, we will also use tools from other disciplines such as archaeology, art history, anthropology, the social sciences, and the cognitive sciences to help us understand how the Jesus movement took root and flourished in the Roman world. This course does not presuppose any prior knowledge of Christian, Roman or Jewish history. All texts will be read in translation.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Introduction to Religion
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Religion in the Ancient World

REL 131/AMS 301: Religion in America

Kling | TR 2:00PM-3:15PM

An introductory survey of the history of religion in America, including religions that have been most prominent (Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism), native to the land (Native American), and non-traditional ("cults," Buddhism, Islam).

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 151: Religion and Moral Choices

Swanson | T 5:00PM-7:40PM

An introduction to major themes and important figures in religious and philosophical ethics. We will read, discuss, and write about ethical issues ranging from abortion to war, including topics such as the death penalty, environmentalism, and stem cell research.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

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

Newell | TR 3:30PM - 4:45PM

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
- Spirituality

REL 231/JUS 231: Jewish Civilization and Being Jewish

H. Green | TR 9:30AM-10:45AM

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

Husayn | TR 2:00PM-3:15PM

An introduction to the religion, culture, and history of Islam, examining the context in which Islam emerged, the Prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an, Muslim ritual and devotional practices, Islamicate aesthetics, law, and issues of gender. Readings and lectures will focus on Islam as a diverse, lived tradition.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Introduction to Religion

REL 307: Religion and Culture in Pre-Islamic Arabia

Graf | TR 9:30AM - 10:45AM

A survey of religion and culture in Arabia from prehistory to the coming of Islam.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion in the Ancient World
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

REL 311: Prophecy and Prophetic Literature in the Hebrew Bible

Callender | TR 12:30PM-1:45PM

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 325: Jesus in Myth and History

Billings | MWF 10:10AM - 11:00AM

Changing concepts of Jesus in Western culture, as they emerge in literature, art, and films.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

REL 330: Caribbean Religion

Maldonado | Online Course

Caribbean Religion with an emphasis on African Diaspora and Creole religions. The religious traditions we will cover include: Rastafarianism, Regla de Ocha (Santeria), Voodoo, Espiritismo, Regla de Palo, and Obeah.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion in the Americas
- Spirituality
- Africa and the African Diaspora
- The Caribbean through Literature, History, and the Arts
- Latin American Art and Culture
- Exploring the Caribbean through the Social Sciences

REL 345 / CLA 222 / WGS 350: Religion and Gender

Billings | MWF 1:25PM - 2:15PM

The influence of Western religion on the status and role of women.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
- A Cross-Cultural and Historic Examination of Sexuality
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics

REL 360/ECS 375: Religion and Bioethics

Newell | W 3:35PM - 6:05PM

The implications of religious thought for contemporary problems of biomedical ethics.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 375/JUS 375: Democracy and Religion in Israel and Palestine

H. Green | TR 11:00AM - 12:15PM

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 388: Living Stories: Narrative In Asian Traditions

Ritzinger | TR 9:30AM - 10:45AM

In popular culture, Asian religions are referred to as "Eastern Philosophy." Yet, philosophical doctrine is only one part of Asian religious traditions and for many not the most prominent. Oftentimes narrative, key stories or modes of storytelling, occupies a more central role. But what is that role? How do narratives transmit religious ideas and values and inform ritual life? How do they evolve over time? And how have religious individuals and communities drawn upon them to work in the world? This course will address these questions through a focus on a few narratives selected Asian religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. We will attend to these stories as living phenomena that evolve over time and play a vital role in their communities and also as something that those communities live with as they make their way through the world.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
- Asian Religions: South and East Asia

REL 391 / HIS 313 / INS 310: Bollywood and Beyond: Religion, Gender and Politics in South Asian Film

Dutt | MWF 2:30PM - 3:20PM

This course studies themes in Indian society through the lens of Indian cinema – both Bollywood and the regional film industry. The important themes covered are: the complex narratives of religious iconography, myths and faith, caste, gender, sexuality, and the challenges of tradition, customs, and “globalized” modernity in India.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 403: Supervised Reading in Religious Issues or Problems

W. Green | Online Course

Independent study to enable students to read extensively in an area of personal interest in religious issues or problems.

REL 406 / BIL 575/ HIS 396 / PHI 391: Religion, Evolution, and the U.S. Constitution

Haack | M 5:00PM - 7:40PM

An interdisciplinary course that will include topics in history, religion, law, philosophy, and biology. The class will focus on the Religion Clauses of the U.S. constitution, with special reference to the Establishment Clause and its application to the teaching of evolution in public high schools—from the old Tennessee “Monkey Trial,” in which John Scopes was found guilty of the crime of teaching the theory of evolution in a public high-school class, to recent controversies over whether students should learn about Intelligent Design Theory, as well as evolution, in biology classes.

REL 499: Method and Theory in the Study of Religion

Callender | T 5:00PM-7:40PM

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.

REL 505 / CLA 505 / MLS 611 / JUS 410: Rome & Its Friendly Kings: Judea and Nabataea

Graf | R 6:25PM – 9:05PM

Rome’s Eastern Frontier was a continual problem, with a series of misfortunes and failures. Augustus implemented a series of buffer kingdoms on the Eastern Frontier as a defensive strategy. This course will pursue these policies and practices by investigating two of the better known of these client kingdoms, the Herodian kings of Judea and the Nabataean kings at Petra in Arabia. The literary sources and archaeological remains (regional settlements and sanctuaries in particular) will be emphasized, as well as a comparison of their similarities and differences, and their fortunes and fate under Roman rule.