



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

*SPRING
2020
COURSES*

REL 101: Introduction to Religion**Callender | TR 3:30PM - 4:45PM**

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 Course**

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REL 101: Introduction to Religion - URome Students ONLY**Callender, H. Green, W. Green, Kling, Pals, Stampino, Walsh, Ritzinger, Papadakis, Newell**

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 232: A Global History of Christianity**Kling | TR 9:30AM - 10:45AM**

An introduction to the history, themes, and issues in the history of Christianity from the first century to the present. Attention will be given to a variety of issues: theological (the formulation of beliefs); social (the formation of Christian communities); political (the interaction between political structures and the Christian church); biographical (the personal dimension of faith); and the role of Scripture.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 234: Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus

Graf, W. Green | M 5:45PM - 8:00PM

The archaeological evidence of Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. Emphasis on the architectural remains, material culture, and inscriptions of the period that illuminate Jewish society and religion in Jerusalem. The places associated with the Gospels and the last days of Jesus will be a focus.

REL 236/SOC 291: Cults and New Religious Movements in America (January Intersession)

Kling | MTWRF 5:30PM - 9:45PM & Sa: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Twentieth and twenty-first century religious groups in America, so-called "cults" or new religious movements (NRMs), located on the periphery of "mainstream" religion. An examination of the origins, beliefs, attraction, and interaction of the NRMs from a variety of disciplinary perspectives (historical, psychological, sociological) as well as from other perspectives (potential for violence, "brainwashing", involvement of women, and charismatic leadership). The goal is to increase our understanding of certain aspects of contemporary religious activity and the general societal response to them, and hence, of religion in general.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Spirituality
- Religion in the Americas

REL 242: Religion in Revolutionary History

Pals | Online Course

Explores the pivotal role of religion in the revolutions that have shaped the modern Western world: the Puritan Revolt in 17th-century England, the American/French Revolutions of 1776 and 1789, and the Russian (Communist) Revolution of 1917.

REL 255 - Religion and Sports: From the Ancients to the Present

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

The intersection of sports and religion from the ancient Greeks to the present, with attention given to the role of religion and sports in American culture. It examines the functions and significance of sport, play, ritual, and religion, recognizing both the dialectical and intimate relationship between sports and religion. Religion has not only influenced sports; sports also has influenced religion. In some cases, the two have merged: sports has become a religion. Through various media we will study the topics of religion and sports, the spirituality of sports, and sports as a religion.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Sports Communication
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture

REL 291: Introduction to Hinduism

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

Sources of Hindu belief and practice date back as early as 1500 BCE, but the mythologies of India harken to time immemorial. The tradition that is now known as Hinduism developed through the rise and fall of empires, the evolution of social hierarchies, and the telling and retelling of colorful stories about heroes and divinities. Today, Hindu practices are part of the landscape not only in India, but in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the Americas, too. Through readings, images and films, this course will introduce the rich and layered diversity of Hindu traditions as well as provide exposure to the methods and theories of Religious studies.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 312/JUS 301: The Torah and Ancient Law

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

The first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) in relation to their ancient Near Eastern historical, cultural, and religious context.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 334/AMS 327/JUS 360: The American Jewish Experience

H. Green | T 5:05PM - 7:50PM

Analysis and interpretation of the image of the Jew and the Jewish experience in American cinema, with emphasis on how the experience and attitudes of Americans in general and the American Jewish community in particular have been reflected on the screen from the pre-World War II period until the present and on the tension between maintaining an ethnic identity and assimilating.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- American Studies: Politics and Religion
- Popular Culture
- The Evolution of the Jewish People in their Homeland and the Diaspora

REL 352: Religion and Science

Maklakiewicz | R 5:05PM - 7:50PM

The religious and ethical issues created by modern science and technology.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion and Medicine

REL 354: Religion and the Problem of Evil

Crocker Papadakis | W 5:05PM - 7:50PM

Major religious perspectives on the origin and nature of evil and human suffering.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 360: Religion and Bioethics

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

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

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 362: The Sanctity of Life - URome Students ONLY

Callender, H. Green, W. Green, Kling, Pals, Papadakis, Ritzinger, Stampino, Walsh, Newell | Study Abroad

This course examines the religious foundation of the idea that human life is “sacred” and considers a wide range of historical and ethical issues associated with this central concept of Western thought. It explores the meaning of the multi-faceted phrase “sanctity of life,” including its implications for such ethical and legal concerns as conception, birth, and termination of life; human dignity and human rights; the quality of life; and social justice. We will examine how “life” is defined and described in different cultures at different times in history, and how various religions have influenced these matters.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics

REL 370: Islam in the Modern World

Husayn | MW 3:35PM - 4:50PM

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 372: Islam and the United States: The Politics of Race, Media and Terrorism

Husayn | MW 5:05PM - 6:20PM

A critical review of the cultural and political history of U.S. relations with various Muslim communities both domestic and foreign. Major themes include the experience of Muslims in North America, xenophobia, racism, national security, law enforcement and violence.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Religion in the Americas
- Islam and the Arab World

REL 406/AMS 324: Is Star Wars a Religion? (Harkness Course)

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

Selected topics in religious issues or problems.

Counts towards the following cognates:

- Religion and Pop Culture
- Religion, Myth and Interpretation

REL 409: Special Projects in Religious Issues or Problems

H. Green | M 3:00PM - 5:40PM

Selected projects in religious issues or problems.