



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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COURSES

REL 101: Introduction to Religion

Callender | TR 11:20AM – 12:35PM

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

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

Ritzinger | TR 11:20PM – 12:35PM (Online)

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:

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

REL 111/JUS 301: Introduction to the Old Testament / Hebrew Scriptures
Crocker-Papadakis | T 6:00PM – 8:45PM (Online)

The history and literature of ancient Israel and early Judaism.

REL 111 counts toward the following cognates:

- Introduction to Religion
- Religion in the Ancient World
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
- The Evolution of the Jewish People in their Homeland and the Diaspora
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

REL 131: Religion in America
Kling | MWF 11:45AM – 12:35PM

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 - 8:45PM (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 242: Religion in Revolutionary History

Pals | Online

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 281: Introduction to Buddhism

Ritzinger | TR 1:00PM – 2:15PM (Online)

The Buddhist tradition from a variety of angles and in several cultural contexts. We will attend to the ideas for which Buddhism is famous, while situating Buddhist practitioners in their social contexts at key historical moments. Throughout we will give attention to the issue of our own perspective and what it means to think across the porous borders of culture in an interrelated world.

Counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 322: The Apostle Paul: Letters, Controversies, and Philosophy

Walsh | TR 11:20AM - 12:35PM (Online)

The heritage, writings, and legacy of the apostle Paul. Careful analysis of the Pauline corpus (especially Romans), with particular attention given to the radically different interpretations of Paul in both ancient and modern thought.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion in the Ancient World
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

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:

- Caribbean Studies
- Caribbean Studies-Humanities
- Religion in the Americas
- Latin America Art and Culture
- Exploring the Caribbean through the Social Sciences
- Africa and the African Diaspora
- Belonging in a Diverse Society
- Spirituality

REL 334/JUS 360: The American Jewish Experience: Hollywood and Popular Culture
H. Green | T 4:30PM – 7:10PM (Online)

The course, Hollywood and Popular Culture, examines the American Jewish Experience through watching and reviewing films over the last 100 years. What do Jews bring to Hollywood and American popular culture and how does Hollywood shape the Jewish American experience? A selection of genres (dramas, comedies, musicals, crime, war, documentaries, and biographies) are examined to answer these questions. The tensions between maintaining an ethnic identity and assimilating, affirming cultural pluralism, and sustaining religious tradition in the face of modernity are core features of the course. Each session will involve a brief overview after having watched the week's film on your own, pre-class.

REL 334 counts toward the following cognates:

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

REL 356: Myth and Religion
Callender | TR 4:20PM – 5:35PM

How humans use language to form and communicate conceptions of reality, focusing on the highly elusive concept "myth"; special attention to the concept's usefulness for thinking about religion.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation

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:

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

REL 360: Religion and Bioethics

Newell | TR 2:40PM – 3:55PM

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

REL 371/GSS 350: Women, Gender, and Islam

Husayn | TR 11:20AM – 12:35PM (Online)

An examination of issues related to women and gender with an emphasis upon themes pertaining to the Muslim world. We will study the contributions of progressive/feminist Muslim writers in addition to secular academic research on the subject. Topics include Qur'anic revelations concerning women; gendered ideals that developed after the founder's death; understanding how Islamic texts, rituals, and doctrines have both reinforced and challenged certain gender categories; and the experience of Muslims living in the U.S. and the Middle East, addressing racial as well as gendered hierarchies.

REL 371 counts toward the following cognates:

- A Cross-Cultural and Historic Examination of Sexuality
- Religion, Identity, & Popular Culture
- Islam and the Arab World

- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

REL 372: Islam and the United States: The Politics of Race, Media, and Terrorism
Husayn | TR 1:00PM – 2:15PM (Online)

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:

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

REL 401/CLA 402/JUS 401: Biblical Hebrew
W. Green | Online

An independent study course in the basic elements of Biblical Hebrew.

REL 406/COS 391/JUS 401: Persuasion, Propaganda, Genocide
W. Green, R. Jebreal | T 5:45PM – 8:15PM (Online)

This course will examine the ways in which governments create discourses that make it plausible for citizens to murder other citizens. It will review theories of persuasion and propaganda and explore both historical and contemporary cases of genocide. This will be a discussion-based course.

REL 406/CIM 489-689/JUS 401: Religion, Artificial Intelligence, and Virtual Reality
W. Green, Grinfeder | R 6:00PM – 8:45PM (Online)

Throughout human history, religion has been a significant factor in the formation of human community and the communication of prosocial values and practices. Digital culture has created new modes of communication--both aural and visual--that may affect and change how religion works and its impact on society. This course will examine the various impacts that emerging technologies have on religion's structure and practice in the contemporary world.

REL 409/JUS 401: Racism, Human Rights and Freedom of Religion: The Forgotten Exodus
H. Green | M 2:55PM – 5:35PM (Online)

Over the last 70 years, millions of people have been displaced from North Africa and the Middle East: Copts (Egypt), Jews (from the Atlantic Ocean to the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers), Kurds and Yazidis in Iraq, and Syrians (Christian and Moslem). The course examines the reasons why these minorities and populations have been displaced. Highlighting the International Declaration of Human Rights in the wake of the Holocaust (1951), the course engages students in collecting and documenting the testimonies of these refugees. The narratives include life in their countries of origin, their story of leaving and their experience of resettling in a new country. Core themes such as racism, religion, human rights, transnational identity, exile, diaspora, and migration are central to the course. Witnesses who have been exiled will be invited to the class to tell their stories of displacement.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Community Engagement and Social Change
- Study of Aspects of the Holocaust

REL 505/JUS 401/MLS 625: Jerusalem and Israel in the Time of Jesus
Graf, W. Green | M 6:00PM – 8:15PM (Online)

This course will survey the increasing archaeological evidence from Galilee to Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. Emphasis is on the architectural remains, material culture, and inscriptions of the period that illuminate Jewish society and religion from the reign of Herod the Great until the Jewish Revolt (37 BCE to 70 CE).

The Minor and Major in Religious Studies

Minor Requirements: 12 credits (6 credits at 300-level or above). One of the following: REL 101, REL 102, REL 103, or REL 105.

Major Requirements: 24 credits (12 credits at 300-level or above); one of the following: REL 101, REL 102, REL 103, or REL 105. Required: REL 499.

<https://religion.as.miami.edu/about-the-program/undergraduate-programs/index.html>

The Minor and Major in Religion and Health Care

<https://religion.as.miami.edu/about-the-program/undergraduate-programs/index.html>