RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM (RELG)

RELG 108 World Religions
Description: The world’s major religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 118 Introduction to Hinduism, Buddhism, and Daoism
Description: Asian religions in philosophical, ritual, ethical, contemplative, and historical contexts. Essential texts, ideas, beliefs, and practices of the three main religious traditions of South and East Asia. Hinduism and in South Asia. Daoism in East Asia. Buddhism in South and East Asia. Traditional and modern expressions of Asian religions.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 125W Religion, Peace and Social Justice
Description: Explores religious, particularly Christian, responses to social justice issues such as peace, poverty, oppression, discrimination, the environment, the death penalty and abortion.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 130W Women and Religion
Description: Readings and documents from church history dealing with attitudes toward women in Western religious thought. How this thinking has influenced theological concepts confronting women today and the role of theology in leading toward the emancipation of women in contemporary society.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 134 Religious Diversity in America
Crosslisted with: HIST 134
Prerequisites: Permission.
Description: Introduction to the religious traditions in America through thematic, historical, denominational and cultural considerations. Emphasizes the variety and diversity of religious experiences in America, including Native American, Protestant, Catholic, African-American, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist traditions.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 150 Explaining Religion
Description: Introduction to religion as an academic subject. Examines religion in terms of four interconnected elements: myth, ritual, transformative experience, and ethics. Representative materials drawn from different religions and cultures, including both western and non-western traditions.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities

RELG 181 Judaism, Christianity and Islam
Description: A comparative study of the three great monotheistic faiths, from their historic beginnings to their present-day manifestations.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 182 Alpha Learning Community Freshman Seminar
Description: Topic varies.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 189H University Honors Seminar
Prerequisites: Good standing in the University Honors Program or by invitation.
Description: Topic varies.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 205 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
Crosslisted with: JUDS 205
Description: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in translation. History, culture and religion of Ancient Israel as it is reflected in the biblical books and the archaeological record.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: JUDS 308, RELG 308
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities

RELG 206 Ways of Western Religion
Description: Introduction to the nature and range of religious traditions in western culture from the Bronze Age to the present as seen through selected primary religious texts. Nature of religion and religious tradition, how these function to shape our view of self and society, and how religion functions to render human experience interpretable and significant.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities
RELG 208 Introduction to Islam
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 209 Judaism and Christianity in Conflict and Coexistence
Crosslisted with: JUDS 209
Description: The history of Jewish-Christian relations from the birth of Christianity until the present. Readings from primary and secondary sources as written by Jewish and Christian authors.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 212W Life and Letters of Paul
Description: Pauline literature, Paul's interpretation of Jesus, and his work as missionary to the Gentiles. Acts and the Pauline Epistles are primary sources. Contemporary analyses of Pauline thought and its importance for the contemporary situation.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 214 History of Islam
Crosslisted with: HIST 214
Description: Survey of Islam's development from its origins to the present. Includes Islamic theology, art, and literature, the structure of traditional Islamic societies, and the changing role of Islam in the modern world.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity
Groups: Lat Am, Asian, Middle East Hist

RELG 215 Religion and Culture Before 1000 C.E.
Description: Survey of the natures of religions prevalent in European cultures before 1000 C.E. Differing cultures and peoples and the role of religion in their interaction. The nature of pagan European culture and religion, and analysis of the conversion to Christianity. Conflicts between pagan and Christian culture as related in cultural artifacts like texts, art, ritual, and linguistic history. Cultural adaptations of Greek and Latin Christianity.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 216 History of Christianity
Crosslisted with: HIST 216
Description: Impact of the Judaeo-Christian tradition upon the development of Western civilization. Pre-1800 content.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities
Groups: Pre-1800 History

RELG 217 Israel: The Holy Land
Crosslisted with: HIST 217, JUDS 217
Description: Survey of the history of the Land of Israel from Biblical times to the present. Includes Roman and Byzantine rule, the Crusades, Islamic Palestine, Zionism and the modern state of Israel, and the religious importance of the land for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity
Groups: Lat Am, Asian, Middle East Hist

RELG 218 Buddhism
Description: Buddhist traditions from several perspectives. Historical, philosophical, contemplative, and ethical dimensions of Buddhism. The Buddha and his teachings, development of the Buddhist community, and early forms of Buddhism. The rise of Mahayana, Buddhist philosophical and contemplative systems, and different models of the Buddhist path and its stages. Buddhist traditions of South and East Asia. Contemporary Buddhist perspectives on ethics and bioethics, transformations of Buddhist practices in Europe and America, and contemporary Buddhist education in the West.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 219 Introduction to Jewish History
Crosslisted with: HIST 219, JUDS 219
Description: Survey of the history of the Jewish people from Biblical times to the present. The Old Testament, Ancient Israel, the Talmud, the relationship to Christianity and Islam, persecution and self-government in the middle ages, Jewish philosophy and mysticism, emancipation, modern anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, Zionism, the modern state of Israel, and the Jewish experience in America.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity
Groups: Lat Am, Asian, Middle East Hist

RELG 220 Reason and Religion
Description: Issues arising from the attempt to understand the human encounter with the divine. Introduces the study of philosophical theology. Significant figures from the past and contemporary approaches.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities
RELG 225 Science and Religion
Description: The clash between science and religion, past and present. Are current scientific theories of the origin of the universe and the evolution of matter, life and mind compatible with religious belief? Responses to science by various religious movements.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities

RELG 226 The History of African-American Religious Experience
Crosslisted with: HIST 226
Description: Study of the religious history of African Americans from the seventeenth to the early twenty-first centuries through the motif of movement-literal, metaphorical, and spiritual. Main topics include the influence of African religious beliefs and practices on the creation of new diasporic African-American religious traditions, "slave religion," the formation of independent black churches, African-American Islamic traditions, social protest movements, religion in African-American literature, black womanist movements, and the rise of a "black, Christian Presidency.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Offered: FALL/SPR
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 227 Religion and Politics in America
Crosslisted with: HIST 227
Description: Study the influence of religion on all sides of key national debates through a historical, cultural, and comparative ethical examination of the intersection of religion and politics in American history.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Offered: FALL/SPR
ACE: ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship

RELG 230 Tibetan Buddhism
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 288 Exploring Love, Sexuality and Femininity in the History of Arabic Culture
Crosslisted with: ARAB 288, WMNS 288
Notes: Letter grade only.
Description: Concepts of love, sexuality and femininity as studied in their historical, religious and sociological contexts.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 305 Ancient Greek Religions
Crosslisted with: CLAS 305
Description: Introduction to the religious practices of ancient Greece from the prehistoric through the classical periods. Myth and ritual and the evidence from art history and archaeology.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 306 Women in Quran
Crosslisted with: ARAB 306, MRST 306, WMNS 306
Notes: Letter grade only.
Description: A diachronic approach to Quran as a literature. Provides an analytic, linguistic as well as the critical study of both the Qur’anic text and its exegeses.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

RELG 307 Early Christianity
Crosslisted with: CLAS 307, CLAS 807, HIST 307, HIST 807
Description: Life, literature, thought, and institutions of the Christian movement from Jesus to Constantine. A critical, historical approach to the sources in English translation and how they reflect the interaction of Christian, Jew, and pagan in late antiquity. Includes the historical Jesus vis-a-vis the Christ of Faith, the impact of Paul’s thought, the formation of Christian dogma, methods of interpreting canonical and extra-canonical Christian literature, the problem of heresy and orthodoxy.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

RELG 308 Dead Sea Scrolls
Crosslisted with: JUDS 308
Prerequisites: JUDS/RELG 205 or permission.
Description: Dead Sea Scrolls, including the history and thought of the Qumran inhabitants, the archaeology of Qumran, and the corpus of the Scrolls. Concentration on the reading of selected primary texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
RELG 310 Great Ideas in Religious Thought: From God to Nothingness  
**Description:** Six traditions in the history of religious thought, from Greek and medieval conceptions of divinity through the Enlightenment to the modern era, including existentialist, humanistic, and atheistic responses to religion, and Buddhist thought. A comparative look at central religious ideas within these traditions contrasting western and non-western conceptions of ultimate reality, self, ethics, and responses to evil.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC

RELG 312 Pagans and Christians in the Roman Empire  
**Crosslisted with:** CLAS 312  
**Description:** The social, political and intellectual dimensions of the conflict between the old and new religions of the empire.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC

RELG 318 Islam in the Modern World  
**Description:** Diversity of Islam in the modern world. Muslim responses to modernity. Traditionalism, securlarism, Islamic modernism, and "Islamic fundamentalism".  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC

RELG 319 The Crusades  
**Crosslisted with:** HIST 319, MRST 319  
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore level standing or higher  
**Description:** An introduction to the Crusades and the idea of holy war in the middle ages from both the Christian and Islamic perspectives.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC

RELG 323 American Religious Autobiographies  
**Crosslisted with:** HIST 323  
**Prerequisites:** 3 hr RELG courses  
**Description:** Investigates how American identities have been constructed from the colonial era up to the present day through the genre of self writing (autobiography, among other genres), and how these identities have intersected with gendered, political, religious, and sexual identities.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC

RELG 331 Ancient Israel  
**Crosslisted with:** HIST 331, JUDS 331, CLAS 331  
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore standing.  
**Description:** The cultural, social, and religious institutions of Ancient Israel from their antecedents in the Late Bronze Age until the Great Jewish Revolt and the beginning of Rabbinic Judaism. Literary works and material remains of the Israelites, and evidence from surrounding cultures.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC

RELG 332 Jews in the Middle Ages  
**Crosslisted with:** JUDS 332, HIST 332, MRST 332  
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore standing  
**Notes:** Pre-1800 content.  
**Description:** Traces the emergence and development of a distinctive Jewish culture and identity in medieval Europe and in the regions bordering the Mediterranean sea from the birth of rabbinic Judaism under the Roman empire until the seventeenth century orthodox synthesis of Talmudic learning, Kabbalah, and custom and Jewish responses to the Enlightenment. Includes interaction of Jews with majority cultures (including the development of anti-Semitism), and the impact of Jews and Jewish learning upon western culture.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC

RELG 333 Jews in the Modern World  
**Crosslisted with:** HIST 333, JUDS 333  
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore, junior, or senior standing.  
**Description:** Examines the history of the Jewish people since the 18th century with geographical foci on Europe, North America, and the Middle East. Emphasis on the Jewish Enlightenment, emancipation and assimilation, anti-Semitism, migration to and adaptation in America, Zionism and the modern state of Israel.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC

RELG 334 Jews, Christians and the Bible  
**Crosslisted with:** JUDS 334  
**Description:** Jewish and Christian interpretations of the Hebrew Bible and/or Old Testament from 400 BCE to 1800 CE. Readings from the Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament, the Church Fathers and the Talmud, medieval and early modern Christian and Jewish biblical commentators.  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 3  
**Format:** LEC
RELG 335 Buddhist Scriptures
Description: Seminal texts from the Tibetan, Theravada, and Chinese Buddhist canons in English translations. Perfection of Wisdom, Lotus, Pure Land, Flower Garland, Descent to Lanka, and other scriptures that comprise the foundation of the Buddhist canons. Influential commentaries on those scriptures written by Nagarjuna, Vasubandhu, and other seminal thinkers whose works assumed canonical status.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 340 Women in the Biblical World
Crosslisted with: JUDS 340, WMNS 340
Description: Role and status of women as depicted in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the New Testament. The stories and laws concerning women found in the Bible and from extra-biblical evidence.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 342 The Quran
Crosslisted with: ENGL 342
Description: Examination of the Quran, the scripture of Islam.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 345 Buddhist Meditation
Description: Analysis of Buddhist contemplative systems from different angles and in diverse cultural contexts. Meditation systems of Theravada Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia. Indian and Tibetan contemplative systems of Mahayana Buddhism. Visualization practices of Himalayan Vajrayana Buddhism.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 350 Issues in the Theory and Study of Religion
Description: Issues in the field of Religious Studies. Diverse methods and approaches in the study of the issues. Sample topics: religious experience across cultures; the nature and interpretation of scriptures and sacred texts; religion as self-defined and externally understood; and the relation of religion to Western science.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: RELG 419

RELG 351 Death, Immortality, and Transcendence in Asian Religions
Description: Perspectives of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Chinese religions on ritual practices, contemplative techniques, devotional elements, philosophical questions, and ethical issues related to death, immortality, and transcendence. Asian religious perspectives on the issues of death, rebirth, and postmortem existence. The nature of ghosts, ancestors, divinities, and their role in daily life. Funerary and other death-related rituals. Ethical and bioethical issues of killing, suicide, abortion, and euthanasia.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 355 Buddhist Thought
Description: Early Buddhist teachings and Theravada doctrines of the four noble truths, selflessness, cyclic existence and nirvana, structure of consciousness and external universe. Later interpretations of emptiness, perception, buddha-nature and other ideas by Madhyamaka (Middle Way) and Cittamatra (Mind Only), the two major systems of Mahayana Buddhism. Polemical issues in the Buddhist thought. Synthesis of major systems of thought by later Mahayana thinkers.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

RELG 381 Topics in Religion and Popular Culture
Description: The tools and concepts for understanding the social organization of religion, and religion as a lived experience, in a given setting. Analyze religion’s function within a social setting to understand one of the following phenomena: (a) the position(s) of religion within a public space; (b) the shifting boundaries of religious and non-religious activity; (c) the fluid nature of orthodoxy and heterodoxy; and (d) the use of violence as a means of religious coercion. The topics covered in RELG 381 are determined by the instructor.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities

RELG 398 Special Topics in Religious Studies
Description: Topics vary.
Credit Hours: 1-3
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 6
Format: LEC

RELG 399 Independent Study in Religious Studies
Prerequisites: Permission.
Credit Hours: 1-12
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 12
Max credits per degree: 12
Format: IND
REL 401 Research Seminar
Crosslisted with: CLAS 401
Description: Research on one topic under the direction of a faculty member with emphasis on methodology, familiarity with primary and secondary source materials, and composition of scholarly literature. Letter Grade only
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

REL 406 Second Temple Judaism
Crosslisted with: JUDS 406, RELG 806
Description: An in-depth study of the literature, history and culture of Judea and the Jews in the Second Temple period, from 550 BCE to 70 CE. Readings include apocalyptic texts, Wisdom literature, and selections from the Dead Sea Scrolls.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Prerequisite for: JUDS 308, RELG 308

REL 409 Religion of Late Western Antiquity
Crosslisted with: CLAS 409, CLAS 809, HIST 409, HIST 809
Description: Examination of the religious institutions, philosophies, and lifeways of the Hellenistic Age from Alexander to Constantine. Includes civic religion of Greece and Rome, popular religion, mystery cults, Judaism, Christianity, popular and school philosophies (Platonism, Aristotelianism, Epicureanism, Cynicism, Stoicism), Gnosticism. History, interrelationships, emerging world view of these movements.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

REL 410 Gnosticism
Crosslisted with: CLAS 410, CLAS 810
Description: Examination of the nature, history, literature, ritual, and impact of the classical Gnostic religions, 100 BCE to 400 CE. Extensive reading of original Gnostic treatises in English translation, with particular attention to their appropriation and transformation of earlier Jewish, Christian, and pagan religious and philosophical traditions. The principal Gnostic schools to be treated are Simonians, Sethians, Valentinians, Hermetics, and Manichaeans.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

REL 418 Fundamentalism, Religion, and Politics
Description: Phenomenon of religious fundamentalism. Theories advanced to define and explain fundamentalism. Examples of fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

REL 419 Topics in American Religious History
Prerequisites: Junior standing and RELG 350
Description: Employs a public history approach to explore the often contentious and sometimes violent history of producing and displaying symbolic objects in the sacred spaces of American civil religion. Explores the changes to the fields of material culture, museum studies, critical race and gender studies, and legal history, which have evolved to include the stories of marginalized Americans in the narration of American history.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC

REL 421 The German Reformation
Crosslisted with: HIST 421, HIST 821, MRST 421, MRST 821
Prerequisites: Junior standing
Notes: Pre-1800 content.
Description: The cultural and intellectual developments of the German Reformation against its social background. The religious and political events of the first half of the sixteenth century. Transition from medieval to modern Christianity. The transmission and revolutionary nature of evangelical doctrines. The gradual institutionalization of the new churches.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

REL 426 Reformation Thought
Crosslisted with: HIST 426, HIST 826, MODL 426, MODL 826, MRST 426, MRST 826, RELG 826
Prerequisites: Junior standing
Description: Life and thought of significant figures and schools of thought in the Reformation period
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Pre-1800 History

REL 450 Buddhist Paths to Enlightenment
Notes: A previous course in Buddhism or Asian religions is recommended.
Description: Different presentations of the Buddhist path and its result from the perspectives of Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism in its Indo-Tibetan form including Tantra, East-Asian Zen, and Pure Land Buddhism. Enlightenment as a gradual versus a sudden process; innate enlightenment versus enlightenment as a distant possibility; relationship of conceptuality and non-conceptual realization of reality; and stages of the path.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
RELG 489 Medieval Literature and Theology
Crosslisted with: ENGL 489, ENGL 889, RELG 889
Description: The relationship between significant medieval theologies and primary medieval poets and prose masters.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Format: LEC
Groups: Literary and Cultural Studies