DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Contact Information
Department of Religious Studies
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Introduction
The Department of Religious Studies is dedicated to the study of religions as historical and cultural phenomena. It examines the history, texts, artifacts, beliefs, values, and rituals of a variety of religious traditions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Inherently interdisciplinary in its approach, religious studies explores religions in light of related fields in the humanities and social sciences such as anthropology, classics, archaeology, sociology, philosophy, and history.

Advising
The director of undergraduate studies advises majors and minors in religious studies. Please contact the Department of Religious Studies for updated contact information.

The director of Jewish studies advises majors and minors in Jewish studies. Please contact the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies for updated contact information.

The director of Christianity and culture advises minors in the study of Christianity and culture. Please contact the Department of Religious Studies for updated contact information.

The director of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations advises minors in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies. Please consult the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations for updated contact information.

Graduate School and Career Opportunities
Those wishing to proceed to graduate work in religious studies can consult the director of undergraduate studies. We encourage students to pursue the study of two or more languages in which the sacred literatures of the world have been written, as well as the modern languages of scholarship. In addition to the language courses offered by this department, UNC—Chapel Hill offers courses in Greek, Modern Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, Hindi-Urdu, Latin, Arabic, Sanskrit, Persian, Bengali, and Tamil.

Students majoring in religious studies often choose to pursue an M.A. or Ph.D. in religious studies or other related fields in the humanities and social sciences. Some of the graduates of the program go on to professional schools in law, medicine, divinity, or journalism. Each year the department awards the Bernard Boyd Fellowship to a graduating religious studies major who is planning to pursue graduate study in religion at another institution.

Majors
• Religious Studies Major, B.A. (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-major-ba)

Minors
• Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/islamic-middle-eastern-studies-minor)
• Jewish Studies Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/jewish-studies-minor)
• Religious Studies Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-minor)
• Study of Christianity and Culture Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/study-christianity-culture-minor)

Graduate Programs
• M.A. in Religious Studies (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/religious-studies)
• Ph.D. in Religious Studies (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/religious-studies)

Professors
Barbara Ambros, Yaakov Ariel, Bart D. Ehrman, Carl W. Ernst, Jodi Magness, Zlatko Plese.

Associate Professors
Jessica Boon, Juliane Hammer, David Lambert, Lauren Leve, Evyatar Marienberg, Todd Ramón Ochoa, Randall Styers.

Assistant Professors
Brandon Bayne, Andrea Cooper, Harshita Mruthinti Kamath, Joseph Lam, Brendan Thornton.

Adjunct Professors

Adjunct Associate Professors
Anna Bigelow (NCSU), Christian Lundberg, Barry Saunders, Margaret J. Wiener.

Adjunct Assistant Professors
Maria Doerfler (Duke University), Levi McLaughlin (NCSU).

Professors Emeriti
The department offers a variety of courses ranging from large lecture to advanced seminars, as well as independent studies, an honors thesis program, and a capstone course for all majors (RELI 697). Introductory courses, which are numbered below 200, orient students to the field of religious studies or to major approaches, topics, or issues within that broader field. Intermediate courses are numbered between 200 and 399, and they provide more in-depth analysis. Advanced courses, which are numbered 400 and above, often build on knowledge or skills derived from lower-level courses, and they provide opportunities for research-intensive study in particular areas of concentration in the study of religion.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**Undergraduate-level Courses**

**REL 60. First-Year Seminar: Religion and Racism. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the ways in which religion, magic, and science are defined in the modern world and the different forms in which supernaturalism circulates within contemporary culture.

*Gen Ed: HS.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 61. First-Year Seminar: Religion, Magic, and Science. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the ways in which religion, magic, and science are defined in the modern world and the different forms in which supernaturalism circulates within contemporary culture.

*Gen Ed: NA, WB.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 62. First-Year Seminar: A History of Heresy: Christian Dissent from the Gnostics to the Pentecostals. 3 Credits.**

Christian orthodox beliefs or practices often get formulated expressly to marginalize a viewpoint or community considered too radical. This course examines a variety of Western Christian dissenters and the authorities who opposed them: Gnostics; medieval, Spanish, and Latin American inquisitions; Protestant Anabaptists; witches; Galileo; Mormons; and Pentecostals.

*Gen Ed: SS, CI, US.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 63. First-Year Seminar: The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls. 3 Credits.**

In this seminar students learn about the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient manuscripts dating to the time of Jesus from caves around the site of Qumran by the Dead Sea. They include early copies of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and sectarian works belonging to the Jewish community that lived in Qumran.

*Gen Ed: HS, WB.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 64. First-Year Seminar: Reintroducing Islam. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the Islamic religious tradition, focusing on major themes of Islamic religious thought, bringing out both traditional spirituality and the critical issues confronting Muslims today.

*Gen Ed: PH, BN, GL.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 65. First-Year Seminar: Myth, Philosophy, and Science in the Ancient World. 3 Credits.**

This course examines the conflicting ways in which ancient myth, science, and philosophy explained creation of the universe, origins of mankind, nature of dreams, and foundations of culture.

*Gen Ed: PH, WB.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 66. First-Year Seminar: Buddhism in America: From the Buddha to the Beastie Boys. 3 Credits.**

Introduces students to Buddhism and traces its history in the United States, highlighting the period since 1965. It focuses on immigrants, converts, and the cultural influence of Buddhism in America.

*Gen Ed: PH.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**


This course explores how different religious traditions conceive of human nature and cultural personhood, and the ways that these understandings are reflected in diverse forms of personal identity and public life.

*Gen Ed: SS.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 68. FYS: Charisma in Religion, Science, and Poetry Studies in the Entrepreneurial Imagination. 3 Credits.**

A comparative examination of prophet, scientist, and poet as critics and creators of the entrepreneurial outlook and sensibility in individuals and organizations with special attention to innovator’s dilemmas.

*Gen Ed: PH.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 68H. FYS: Charisma in Religion, Science, and Poetry Studies in the Entrepreneurial Imagination. 3 Credits.**

A comparative examination of prophet, scientist, and poet as critics and creators of the entrepreneurial outlook and sensibility in individuals and organizations with special attention to innovator’s dilemmas.

*Gen Ed: PH.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 69. First-Year Seminar: Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism. 3 Credits.**

Taking a global perspective, the course compares the manners in which Jewish communities in America, Israel, Europe, Asia, and Africa have accommodated themselves to the changing norms in gender and sexuality in the last generation.

*Gen Ed: SS.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 70. First-Year Seminar: Jesus in Scholarship and Film. 3 Credits.**

This seminar explores the ways the historical Jesus has been portrayed in the writings of modern scholars and films of the 20th and 21st centuries.

*Gen Ed: SS.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 71. First-Year Seminar: Ethics and the Spirit of the New Capitalism. 3 Credits.**

What does it mean to be ethically literate in the age of information technology? Philosophical and historical inquiries into organizational practices and styles of life.

*Gen Ed: PH.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**

**REL 72. First-Year Seminar: Apocalypse Now? Messianic Movements in America. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the messianic idea in America as well as the messianic movements that have been active in the nation’s history and their interaction with American society and culture.

*Gen Ed: HS, NA.*

**Grading status: Letter grade.**
RELI 73. First-Year Seminar: From Dragons to Pokemon: Animals in Japanese Myth, Folklore, and Religion. 3 Credits.
This course examines the cultural construction of animals in Japanese myth, folklore, and religion.
Gen Ed: LA, BN, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 73H. First-Year Seminar: From Dragons to Pokemon: Animals in Japanese Myth, Folklore, and Religion. 3 Credits.
This course examines the cultural construction of animals in Japanese myth, folklore, and religion.
Gen Ed: LA, BN, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 74. First-Year Seminar: Person, Time, and Religious Conduct. 3 Credits.
Within the vast field of activity called "religion," this course examines how people and societies give meaning to the relation between human organisms and the universe in time and space.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 74H. First-Year Seminar: Person, Time, and Religious Conduct. 3 Credits.
Within the vast field of activity called "religion," this course examines how people and societies give meaning to the relation between human organisms and the universe in time and space.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 75. First-Year Seminar: Sacrifice and Surrender. 3 Credits.
This course will consider the questions of debt, loss, and surrender as we explore the problem of sacrifice. Readings will address the associated problems of violence, transgression, and animality.
Gen Ed: PH, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 76. First-Year Seminar: Money and Morality: Divining Value in Social Life. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the many ways that different religions and cultures have imagined spiritual wealth, secular riches, and the appropriate modes of interaction between them in different places and times.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 77. First-Year Seminar: Martyrs and Warriors: Religion and the Problem of Violence. 3 Credits.
This seminar asks why some people choose to take life (their own or another's) for religious purposes and how texts, practices, and communities shape these motives. Focuses on martyrological traditions in Western religions, but also tracks idioms of war, sacrifice, and ritualized suffering in other religious contexts and secular discourses.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 78. First-Year Seminar: Reading the Bible: Now and Then. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. We will look at the biblical text as modern interpreters and through the eyes of the Bible’s earliest Jewish and Christian interpreters with special attention to changing assumptions about how to read the Bible and the nature of Scripture itself.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 79. First-Year Seminar: Human Animals in Religion and Ethics. 3 Credits.
This course investigates the figure of the human animal in religion and philosophy. What kind of animal is the human, and what separates humans from animals? We will consider how attending to distinctions between humans and animals can highlight varying ideological and religious viewpoints.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 80. First-Year Seminar: Religion and Writing in the Ancient World. 3 Credits.
This seminar considers the role of writing as a technology in the shaping of ancient religious traditions, from the inventions of writing in Mesopotamia and Egypt to the advent of Islam. Topics include the early alphabet, magical/mystical uses of writing, religion and literacy, and the development of "Scripture" (e.g., Bible, Qur'an).
Gen Ed: HS, WB.

RELI 83. First-Year Seminar: Sex, Marriage, and Family in Religion. 3 Credits.
This course approaches the central role of discourses about sexual norms, marriage, and family in select religious traditions. It asks how religious traditions have defined and negotiated normative models for marriage and family in their connection to larger theological frameworks and religious source texts.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 88. First-Year Seminar: Religion and Society in Historical Novels. 3 Credits.
In this seminar we will read several books. Most of them are bestsellers and can be described as "historical novels." Having these books as a starting point, we will explore religion and society in Europe and the Middle East in the medieval and early modern period.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 89. First-Year Seminar: Special Topics. 3 Credits.
Special topics course. Content will vary each semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 89H. First-Year Seminar: Special Topics. 3 Credits.
Special topics course. Content will vary each semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 101. Introduction to Religious Studies. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the academic study of religion that considers approaches to the interpretation of religion and includes study of several religious traditions.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 102. World Religions. 3 Credits.
This course examines forms of religious expression as embodied in several important religious traditions. It investigates religious experience; myth and ritual; teachings and scripture; historical, social, and artistic aspects of religion; and the nature and function of religion in society, with a special focus on ethics and values.
Gen Ed: PH, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 103. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the various books of the Hebrew Bible and to the history and culture of ancient Israel, focusing on the formation of national identity, ancient conceptualizations of divinity, ritual practice, and modes of social regulation, all of which are set against the background of the ancient Near East.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 103.

RELI 103H. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the various books of the Hebrew Bible and to the history and culture of ancient Israel, focusing on the formation of national identity, ancient conceptualizations of divinity, ritual practice, and modes of social regulation, all of which are set against the background of the ancient Near East.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 104. Introduction to the New Testament. 3 Credits.
This course studies the New Testament from both a literary and a historical perspective, focusing on its origins in the land of Israel and moving into the eastern Mediterranean. In it students learn to wrestle with the nature of historical evidence, develop their skills for making argumentation, and learn how to analyze the philosophical and ethical claims of the ancient Christian texts, and participate in class debates on contemporary ethical issues.
Gen Ed: PH, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 104H. Introduction to New Testament Literature. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to New Testament literature and to the faith of the early Christian communities, focusing on Jewish and Greco-Roman background, the development of the gospel traditions, the life and ministry of Jesus, the ministry of Paul, the post-Pauline era, and the literature of the Johannine circle.
Gen Ed: HS, NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 105. Religions of the Greco-Roman World. 3 Credits.
An introduction to religions and the religious life of the ancient world (1000 BCE-300 CE) in various cultural settings: Greek cities, cosmopolitan Hellenistic kingdoms in Egypt and Syria, and the Roman Empire.
Gen Ed: HS, NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 106. Introduction to Early Judaism. 3 Credits.
This course surveys Jewish history and religion during the Second Temple and Rabbinic periods, from the destruction of the First Jewish Temple (Solomon’s Temple) in 586 BCE to the Muslim conquest of Palestine (640 CE).
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 106.

RELI 107. Introduction to Modern Judaism. 3 Credits.
The course offers a comprehensive understanding of the development of Judaism from the late Middle Ages to contemporary times.
Gen Ed: HS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 107.

RELI 108. Classic Jewish Texts: From Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls to Kabbalah and Hassidism. 3 Credits.
This course will explore Jewish literary works that are considered "fundamental," "classic," "traditional" (often, all of the above), including the Hebrew Bible, the Mishnah, the Babylonian Talmud, midrashic collections, works by Maimonides, major codes of Jewish law, major kabbalistic, philosophic, poetic, and ethical works, hassidic compositions, and more.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 109. History and Culture of Ancient Israel. 3 Credits.
An examination extending from Hebrew origins to the Babylonian exile and including political history as well as social and religious institutions.
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 109H. History and Culture of Ancient Israel. 3 Credits.
An examination extending from Hebrew origins to the Babylonian exile and including political history as well as social and religious institutions.
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 110. The Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period. 3 Credits.
This course surveys the archaeology of Palestine (modern Israel and Jordan) from the Persian period (ca. 586 BCE) to the Muslim conquest (640 CE).
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: CLAR 110, JWST 110.

RELI 117. Culture of the Ancient Near East. 3 Credits.
An overview of the history and culture of the ancient Near East, from the birth of writing through the first millennium BCE, covering the regions of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia, and Syria-Palestine.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 121. Introduction to Religion and Culture. 3 Credits.
An introductory course that explores relations between religion and culture through the examination of social theory and the analysis of case studies. The case studies focus on such issues as visual culture, ritual, media, gender, and politics.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 121H. Introduction to Religion and Culture. 3 Credits.
An introductory course that explores relations between religion and culture through the examination of social theory and the analysis of case studies. The case studies focus on such issues as visual culture, ritual, media, gender, and politics.
Gen Ed: PH, SS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 122. Introduction to Philosophical Approaches to Religion. 3 Credits.
An introduction to philosophical approaches to the study of religion, exploring such topics as religious language and experience, the problem of evil, the relation between religious belief and practice, and issues of religious diversity.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 122H. Introduction to Philosophical Approaches to Religion. 3 Credits.
An introduction to philosophical approaches to the study of religion, exploring such topics as religious language and experience, the problem of evil, the relation between religious belief and practice, and issues of religious diversity.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 123. Introduction to Jewish Studies. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the broad scope of Jewish history, culture, and identity, from biblical times to the 21st century and from the Middle East to the New World.
Gen Ed: HS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 100.

RELI 125. Heaven and Hell. 3 Credits.
This course will explore cultural development and significance of religious notions of an afterlife. Are they coherent? What alternative notions of life after death can we imagine?
Gen Ed: PH, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 126. Philosophy of Western Religion. 3 Credits.
A philosophical inquiry into the problems of religious experience and belief, as expressed in philosophic, religious, and literary documents from traditional and contemporary sources.
Gen Ed: PH, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PHIL 134.

RELI 126H. Philosophy of Western Religion. 3 Credits.
A philosophical inquiry into the problems of religious experience and belief, as expressed in philosophic, religious, and literary documents from traditional and contemporary sources.
Gen Ed: PH, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PHIL 134H.

RELI 127. The Claims of Science and Religion. 3 Credits.
The proposition that God exists is treated as a scientific hypothesis. Evidence for and against the hypothesis. The status of other minds and free will in science and religion. Conflicting views about creation, revelation, miracles, and prayers.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 134. Introduction to Religious Ethics. 3 Credits.
A study of the nature, methods, and aims of ethics as seen in exemplary persons and actions with emphasis on religious and social context and contemporary problems.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 134H. Introduction to Religious Ethics. 3 Credits.
A study of the nature, methods, and aims of ethics as seen in exemplary persons and actions with emphasis on religious and social context and contemporary problems.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 135. Technology, the Self, and Ethical Problems. 3 Credits.
Problems in the study of ethics in the new worlds of information technology.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 138. Religious Freedom. 3 Credits.
This course explores the development of religious liberty and freedom of conscience in Western culture by examining both the historical emergence of these concepts and important contemporary controversies.
Gen Ed: PH, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 140. Religion in America. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the history, themes, and issues in American religion from the precolonial period to the present.
Gen Ed: HS, NA, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 140H. Religion in America. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the history, themes, and issues in American religion from the precolonial period to the present.
Gen Ed: HS, NA, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 141. African American Religions. 3 Credits.
Survey of the historical development of various African American religious traditions, with emphasis on folk spirituality, gender issues, black nationalism, and the role of the church in the black community.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 141H. African American Religions. 3 Credits.
Survey of the historical development of various African American religious traditions, with emphasis on folk spirituality, gender issues, black nationalism, and the role of the church in the black community.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 142. Catholicism in America. 3 Credits.
An introduction to Roman Catholicism in the United States.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 143. Judaism in Our Time. 3 Credits.
An examination of Judaism in its two major centers, demonstrating how different social and cultural environments shape very different interpretations and practices of the Jewish tradition.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 143.

RELI 151. Religion in Latin America. 3 Credits.
This course surveys the history of Latin American religious traditions from precontact to the present. It explores the contributions of African, indigenous, and European traditions as well as the extraordinary combinations that resulted from their interaction.
Gen Ed: HS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 161. Introduction to the History of Christian Traditions. 3 Credits.
Analysis of continuities and innovations in the history of Christian traditions in the West and globally.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 161H. Introduction to the History of Christian Traditions. 3 Credits.
Analysis of continuities and innovations in the history of Christian traditions in the West and globally.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 162. Catholicism Today: An Introduction to the Contemporary Catholic Church. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with a first glimpse and insight into the Catholic tradition, past, present, and future: its beliefs, structure, aims, successes, and failures.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 163. Critical Issues in Western Religious Thought. 3 Credits.
A consideration of major questions within and about religious thought.
Gen Ed: HS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 164. Heresy and Inquisition: Religion, Ethics, Marginalization. 3 Credits.
During the Middle Ages and the early modern era, various inquisitions used legal inquiry and torture to determine the boundaries of heresy. This course surveys the influence of these regimes on the doctrine, practices, and morality of heretics, mystics, witches, Jews, and Muslims, in the interest of delimiting “orthodox” Catholicism.
Gen Ed: NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 165. Mysticism. 3 Credits.
Comparative study of mysticism in several religious traditions, Eastern and Western.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 165H. Mysticism. 3 Credits.
Comparative study of mysticism in several religious traditions, Eastern and Western.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 166. Ideals, Cultures, and Rituals of the University. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. A religious studies approach to the rituals, cultures, and disciplines of the university, assessing the ways in which explanatory ideals are embedded, changed, and promoted.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 166H. Ideals, Cultures, and Rituals of the University. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. A religious studies approach to the rituals, cultures, and disciplines of the university, assessing the ways in which explanatory ideals are embedded, changed, and promoted.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 180. Introduction to Islamic Civilization. 3 Credits.
A broad, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary introduction to the traditional civilization of the Muslim world. Students may not receive credit for both RELI 180/ASIA 180 and ASIA 138/HIST 138.
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 180.

RELI 181. Modern Muslim Societies. 3 Credits.
This course surveys important developments in modern Muslim societies since the 16th century and up to the present. Topics covered include Muslim experiences with colonialism and nationalism, modernist reform movements, fundamentalism, women’s activism and changes in Qur’an interpretation, Islamic law, and religious practice. Students may not receive credit for both RELI 181/ASIA 181 and ASIA 139/HIST 139.
Gen Ed: HS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 182. Asian Religions. 3 Credits.
An introduction to major religions of South Asia and East Asia, such as Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: ASIA 182.

RELI 183. East Asian Religions: The Religions of East Asia and the Environment. 3 Credits.
This course surveys East Asian religions and their relationship with the natural world. It provides an East Asian religious perspective on environmental thought and an environmental perspective on East Asian religions. We will explore parallels and divergences, and how each can enrich and critique the other.
Gen Ed: PH, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 185. Women/Gender/Islam. 3 Credits.
A survey of gender roles in Muslim societies from the advent of Islam to the present. It explores how Muslims have interpreted the Qur’an to determine discourses on gender and sexuality and emphasizes the role of religious authority as well as historical/geographical contexts for Muslim women's lives.
Gen Ed: BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 185H. Women/Gender/Islam. 3 Credits.
A survey of gender roles in Muslim societies from the advent of Islam to the present. It explores how Muslims have interpreted the Qur’an to determine discourses on gender and sexuality and emphasizes the role of religious authority as well as historical/geographical contexts for Muslim women's lives.
Gen Ed: BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 196. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Subject matter will vary with instructor but will always be focused on a particular problem or issue.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 201. Ancient Biblical Interpretation. 3 Credits.
The course looks at the origins of biblical interpretation, how the Hebrew Bible was interpreted around the turn of the Common Era, the key formative period for early Christianity and rabbinic Judaism. We consider the nature of interpretation as an endeavor, as well as how the Bible came to be viewed as Scripture.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 201H. Ancient Biblical Interpretation. 3 Credits.
The course looks at the origins of biblical interpretation, how the Hebrew Bible was interpreted around the turn of the Common Era, the key formative period for early Christianity and rabbinic Judaism. We consider the nature of interpretation as an endeavor, as well as how the Bible came to be viewed as Scripture.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 205. Sacrifice in the Ancient World. 3 Credits.
This course examines the religious phenomenon of sacrifice with a focus on examples from the ancient Mediterranean world (including Greece, ancient Israel, and the Near East).
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 205H. Sacrifice in the Ancient World. 3 Credits.
This course examines the religious phenomenon of sacrifice with a focus on examples from the ancient Mediterranean world (including Greece, ancient Israel, and the Near East).
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 206. Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah. 3 Credits.
An examination of prophecy and divination in the Israelite-Jewish traditions and in their environments, including an analysis of the major biblical prophets.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 206.

RELI 206H. Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah. 3 Credits.
An examination of prophecy and divination in the Israelite-Jewish traditions and in their environments, including an analysis of the major biblical prophets.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 207H. Gnosticism. 3 Credits.
A comprehensive survey of ancient Christian Gnosticism, one of the earliest and most long-lived branches of early Christianity, with principal readings drawn from the famous "Nag Hammadi Library.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 217.

RELI 208. Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages. 3 Credits.
This course draws on a variety of cultural documents to explore both the conflict and cross fertilization between the Christian and Islamic cultures of the Middle Ages. Readings and discussions in English. Previously offered as GERM 218.
Gen Ed: HS, GL, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GSLL 218.

RELI 209H. Varieties of Early Christianity. 3 Credits.
A study of various forms of Christianity in the second and third centuries (e.g., Gnosticism, Marcionism, Montanism), focusing on their polemical relationship to orthodox Christianity.
Gen Ed: HS, NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 209. Varieties of Early Christianity. 3 Credits.
A study of various forms of Christianity in the second and third centuries (e.g., Gnosticism, Marcionism, Montanism), focusing on their polemical relationship to orthodox Christianity.
Gen Ed: HS, NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 224. Modern Jewish Thought. 3 Credits.
This course examines how contemporary thinkers have considered philosophy, ethics, and theology from a Jewish perspective. Methodological points of inquiry include: the role of interpretation in Judaism, revelation and redemption, authority and tradition, pluralism and inclusion, suffering and evil, gender and Jewish philosophy, and 20th-century approaches to God.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 224H. Modern Jewish Thought. 3 Credits.
This course examines how contemporary thinkers have considered philosophy, ethics, and theology from a Jewish perspective. Methodological points of inquiry include: the role of interpretation in Judaism, revelation and redemption, authority and tradition, pluralism and inclusion, suffering and evil, gender and Jewish philosophy, and 20th-century approaches to God.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 225. Christian Cultures. 3 Credits.
This course explores the range of cultural manifestations of Christianity in the contemporary world, focusing particularly on differences of race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and class.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 226. Human Animals in Religion and Ethics. 3 Credits.
This course investigates the figure of the human animal in religion and philosophy. What kind of animal is the human, and what separates humans from animals? We will consider how attending to distinctions between humans and animals can highlight varying ideological and religious viewpoints.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 227. Luther and the Bible. 3 Credits.
The Reformation was seminal for the development of the modern world. This course will investigate Reformation literature written in the period from the end of the 15th century to the end of the 17th century, and will investigate how Reformation ideas resonate through today. Readings and discussions in English.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 228. Place, Space, and Religion. 3 Credits.
A consideration of the attitudes toward place and space as they are expressed in religious ritual and artifact.
Gen Ed: VP.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 229. German Culture and the Jewish Question. 3 Credits.
A study of the role of Jews and the "Jewish question" in German culture from 1750 to the Holocaust and beyond. Discussions and texts (literary, political, theological) in English. Previously offered as GERM 270.
Gen Ed: HS, GL, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 230. Historical Sociology of Christianity. 3 Credits.
Examines the social conditions that helped give rise to the early Christian movement, follows Christianity as it influences and is influenced by social forces at key points in its historical development, and considers important contemporary developments around the globe.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SOCI 140.

RELI 231. Introduction to American Judaism. 3 Credits.
Engages literary, performing, and visual arts to explore religion in American culture.
Gen Ed: LA, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 232. Shrines and Pilgrimages. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the study of shrines and pilgrimage in multiple cultural contexts.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 233. Religion and Violence. 3 Credits.
This course examines the problematic interplay between religion and violence. It engages and tests accusations that religion is inherently violent through the reading of sacred texts, historical cases, and critical theories.
Gen Ed: HS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 234. Historical Sociology of Christianity. 3 Credits.
Takes an historical sociology approach to the study of Christianity. Examines the social conditions that helped give rise to the early Christian movement, follows Christianity as it influences and is influenced by social forces at key points in its historical development, and considers important contemporary developments around the globe.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 235. Place, Space, and Religion. 3 Credits.
A consideration of the attitudes toward place and space as they are expressed in religious ritual and artifact.
Gen Ed: VP.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 236. Religious Things. 3 Credits.
An introduction to religion and visual culture in the United States. The course focuses on painting, ritual objects, and architecture.
Gen Ed: VP, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 237. German Culture and the Jewish Question. 3 Credits.
A study of the role of Jews and the "Jewish question" in German culture from 1750 to the Holocaust and beyond. Discussions and texts (literary, political, theological) in English. Previously offered as GERM 270.
Gen Ed: HS, GL, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 238. Historical Sociology of Christianity. 3 Credits.
Examines the social conditions that helped give rise to the early Christian movement, follows Christianity as it influences and is influenced by social forces at key points in its historical development, and considers important contemporary developments around the globe.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SOCI 140.

RELI 239. Place, Space, and Religion. 3 Credits.
A consideration of the attitudes toward place and space as they are expressed in religious ritual and artifact.
Gen Ed: VP.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 240. Religion, Literature, and the Arts in America. 3 Credits.
Engages literary, performing, and visual arts to explore religion in American culture.
Gen Ed: LA, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 240H. Religion, Literature, and the Arts in America. 3 Credits.
Engages literary, performing, and visual arts to explore religion in American culture.
Gen Ed: LA, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 241. Messianic Movements in American History. 3 Credits.
The course examines messianic movements in American history raising the questions, What has been the impact of such movements on the nation? What makes America particularly conducive to such movements?
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 242. New Religious Movements in America. 3 Credits.
An introduction to new religious movements in the United States, with emphasis on the nature of conversion and the role of founders.
Gen Ed: SS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade

RELI 243. Introduction to American Judaism. 3 Credits.
Course provides a comprehensive introduction to American Judaism, its various movements, institutions, theological, and liturgical characteristics, as well as its standing within the larger framework of religious life in America.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 243.
RELI 244. Gender and Sexuality in Western Christianity. 3 Credits.
An examination of the development of teachings on issues of gender and sexuality through the history of Western Christianity, with particular focus on contemporary controversies.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: WGST 244.

RELI 244H. Gender and Sexuality in Western Christianity. 3 Credits.
An examination of the development of teachings on issues of gender and sexuality through the history of Western Christianity, with particular focus on contemporary controversies.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: WGST 244H.

RELI 245. Latina/o Religions in the United States-Mexico Borderlands. 3 Credits.
The goal of this course is to orient students in the great diversity of Latina and Latino religious formations in the United States today. Focusing on Indigenous, African, and Catholic Creole "inspirations," this course will focus students to the emergence of a distinctly U.S. Latina/o religious experience.
Gen Ed: US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 245H. Latina/o Religions in the United States-Mexico Borderlands. 3 Credits.
The goal of this course is to orient students in the great diversity of Latina and Latino religious formations in the United States today. Focusing on Indigenous, African, and Catholic Creole "inspirations," this course will focus students to the emergence of a distinctly U.S. Latina/o religious experience.
Gen Ed: US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 246. Supernatural Encounters: Zombies, Vampires, Demons, and the Occult in the Americas. 3 Credits.
This course examines accounts of supernatural beings such as zombies and vampires and aims to understand them as popular ways of making sense of the world in the context of uneven and frequently unsettling processes of modernization, neoliberalism, and globalization.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 246H. Supernatural Encounters: Zombies, Vampires, Demons, and the Occult in the Americas. 3 Credits.
This course examines accounts of supernatural beings such as zombies and vampires and aims to understand them as popular ways of making sense of the world in the context of uneven and frequently unsettling processes of modernization, neoliberalism, and globalization.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 248. Introduction to American Islam. 3 Credits.
This course surveys Muslim communities in North America in their religious, historical, political, social, and cultural dimensions. Discussion frames include methods for the study of American Muslims, the role of public and media representations of Islam and Muslims, and the place of American Muslims within the larger American religious landscape.
Gen Ed: SS, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 248H. Introduction to American Islam. 3 Credits.
This course surveys Muslim communities in North America in their religious, historical, political, social, and cultural dimensions. Discussion frames include methods for the study of American Muslims, the role of public and media representations of Islam and Muslims, and the place of American Muslims within the larger American religious landscape.
Gen Ed: US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 266. Medieval and Renaissance Christian Cultures. 3 Credits.
This course explores the cultural manifestations of Christianity in the medieval and Renaissance worlds, focusing particularly on interactions with other religions and on differences of gender, geography, and class.
Gen Ed: PH, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 280. Hindu Gods and Goddesses. 3 Credits.
This courses focuses on the ways Hindu gods and goddesses are experienced in South Asia through analysis of literary works, including texts, film, comic books, performance, and ethnography. We will also examine key Hindu concepts (dharma, karma, and caste) in Hindu religious narratives.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 280.

RELI 280H. Hindu Gods and Goddesses. 3 Credits.
This courses focuses on the ways Hindu gods and goddesses are experienced in South Asia through analysis of literary works, including texts, film, comic books, performance, and ethnography. We will also examine key Hindu concepts (dharma, karma, and caste) in Hindu religious narratives.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 280H.

RELI 283. The Buddhist Tradition: India, Nepal, and Tibet. 3 Credits.
Examines the diverse beliefs, practices, and cultures associated with Buddhism in the Himalayan regions of India, Nepal, and Tibet. Topics include Buddhism's development and spread, the cultural dynamics of Himalayan societies, monasticism, folk religion, revivalism, tourism, gender, globalization, and the role of the state in shaping Buddhist life and culture.
Gen Ed: PH, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 300.

RELI 284. The Buddhist Tradition: East Asia. 3 Credits.
An examination of the development of Buddhism after its importation to East Asia.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 284.

RELI 285. The Buddhist Tradition: Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka. 3 Credits.
This course explores the Theravada school of Buddhism and themes in the social, cultural, and political lives of the Theravada Buddhist countries of Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka.
Gen Ed: BN, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 285.
REL 286. Premodern Japanese Religions. 3 Credits.
Historical survey of the major premodern religious traditions in Japan: Shinto, Buddhism, Shugendo, and Christianity.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 303.

REL 287. Modern Japanese Religions. 3 Credits.
Survey of the major religious traditions in modern and contemporary Japan: Shinto, Buddhism, and the New Religions.
Gen Ed: SS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 302.

REL 288. Chinese Religions. 3 Credits.
Historical introduction to Chinese religions: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and folk religion.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 303.

REL 289. Muhammad and the Qur’an. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the life and significance of the Prophet Muhammad and the sacred scripture of Islam, the Qur’an. It offers discussion of textual sources for Muhammad’s biography, his emulation and veneration in Muslim societies; and the nature, compilation, reception history, and range of interpretations of the Qur’an.
Gen Ed: HS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

REL 322. Theories of Religion. 3 Credits.
This course addresses terms such as “the sacred,” “sacrifice,” “the dead,” “divinity,” and “possession” to explore the limitations and new potentials of religious studies for describing human experience.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

REL 322H. Theories of Religion. 3 Credits.
This course addresses terms such as “the sacred,” “sacrifice,” “the dead,” “divinity,” and “possession” to explore the limitations and new potentials of religious studies for describing human experience.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

REL 323. Social Theory and Cultural Diversity. 3 Credits.
Introduction to basic thinking about cultural difference (race, gender, nationality, religion, etc.). The course encourages students to examine the ways paradigms shape how we act, think, and imagine as members of diverse cultures in the United States.
Gen Ed: NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

REL 325. Religion, Magic, and Science. 3 Credits.
Critical exploration of the ways in which religion, magic, and science have been constructed as distinct domains of knowledge in the West since the late 19th century.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

REL 326. Premodern Japanese Religions. 3 Credits.
The course comes to provide students with historical and theological knowledge and conceptual tools that will enable them to understand the very rich and diverse Protestant tradition.
Gen Ed: NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 301.

REL 327. Modern Japanese Religions. 3 Credits.
The course comes to provide students with historical and theological knowledge and conceptual tools that will enable them to understand the very rich and diverse Protestant tradition.
Gen Ed: NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

REL 333. Religion in Modern Israel. 3 Credits.
Examines the major religious groups that operate in the state of Israel and influence its social and cultural development; analyzes the relationship among religion, state, and society in Israel.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 343.

REL 334. Religion in Modern Israel. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to Black Atlantic discourses from ethnographic and religious studies perspectives. Readings will privilege African-inspired performance and aesthetic forms as these are produced in religious practice.
Gen Ed: BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

REL 335. Black Atlantic Religions. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to Black Atlantic discourses from ethnographic and religious studies perspectives. Readings will privilege African-inspired performance and aesthetic forms as these are produced in religious practice.
Gen Ed: BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

REL 336. Anthropology of Christianity. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the anthropology of Christianity. Students will explore major themes of interest in the field. This course aims to familiarize students with the diversity of Christian religious experience and expression globally and to explore the mechanisms through which that diversity takes shape in various cultural contexts.
Gen Ed: GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 362. Mary in the Christian Tradition. 3 Credits.
In certain eras, Mary has been more central to Catholic devotion than Christ. This course explores doctrine, liturgy, and popular devotion centering on the Virgin in medieval European Christianity, her impact on colonial religion in the New World, and her roles in Protestantism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Islam.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: WGST 362.

RELI 362H. Mary in the Christian Tradition. 3 Credits.
In certain eras, Mary has been more central to Catholic devotion than Christ. This course explores doctrine, liturgy, and popular devotion centering on the Virgin in medieval European Christianity, her impact on colonial religion in the New World, and her roles in Protestantism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Islam.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: WGST 362H.

RELI 365. Studies in Christian Theologies and Theologians. 3 Credits.
An investigation of one writer or school in the history of Christian theology as an example of typical methods, positions, and problems within the tradition.
Gen Ed: PH, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 366. Medieval Religious Texts. 3 Credits.
In this course students will read major medieval religious texts (Christian, Jewish, and/or Muslim), that permit close study of religious life, culture, and thought during the Middle Ages (broadly defined). The works will be in English translation, but students with appropriate linguistic knowledge may read the texts in their original language.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 367. The Art of Devotion in Medieval and Early Modern Europe. 3 Credits.
This course examines creative expression at the service of religious belief from 1000 to 1700. Poetry, drama, art, architecture, and music will be the texts to understand the religious cultures of this rich period.
Gen Ed: VP, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 368. Race, Sexuality, and Disability in the History of Western Christianity. 3 Credits.
Over time, Christian institutions and traditions have helped constitute contemporary narratives of race, sexuality, and disability in society. This course examines shifting definitions and specific case studies from the premodern era through to contemporary discourses and polemics in America.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 368H. Race, Sexuality, and Disability in the History of Western Christianity. 3 Credits.
Over time, Christian institutions and traditions have helped constitute contemporary narratives of race, sexuality, and disability in society. This course examines shifting definitions and specific case studies from the premodern era through to contemporary discourses and polemics in America.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 371. Women Mystics. 3 Credits.
An investigation of the forms, characteristics, and variety of the mystical experiences of women in medieval and modern Christianity, with comparative consideration of women mystics and spiritual leaders in at least two other religious traditions.
Gen Ed: HS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: WGST 371.

RELI 375. Archaeology of Cult. 3 Credits.
This course examines the archaeological context of Greek religion, cults, and associated rituals from the Bronze Age until the Hellenistic period with emphasis on urban, rural, and panhellenic sanctuaries, and methods of approaching ancient religion and analyzing cult practices.
Gen Ed: HS, NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: CLAR 375.

RELI 381. Religions of South Asia. 3 Credits.
Exploration of the major religious traditions of South Asia. Focuses on the beliefs and practices associated with different traditions, and the ways that these relate to one another and to broader political, historical, and cultural formations. Also addresses questions of modernization, reform, communal violence, and other transformations of religious life.
Gen Ed: SS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 382. The Story of Rama in Indian Culture--Experiential. 3 Credits.
Explores Valmiki's Ramayana (story of the Hindu god Rama), alternate versions of the story, its performance in theater, and its role in politics. Students work outside of class to stage scenes from the Ramayana, open to the public. Students may not receive credit for both ASIA 332 and ASIA 382.
Gen Ed: LA, BN, EE-Performing Arts.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 382.

RELI 383. The Mahabharata: Remembered and Reimagined--Experiential. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the classical Mahabharata as well as modern retellings of the epic in contemporary literature, film, and theater of India. Students work outside class to stage scenes from the Mahabharata, open to the public. Students may not receive credit for both ASIA 333 and ASIA 383.
Gen Ed: LA, BN, EE-Performing Arts.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 383.

RELI 384. Religion and Globalization in Southeast Asia. 3 Credits.
How does globalization affect religious life? How do historical, cultural, and religious traditions mediate the experience of globalization in particular locales? This course analyzes the forces and practices associated with political-economic and cultural globalization in Southeast Asia and explores the religious transformations and innovations that these processes have inspired.
Gen Ed: SS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 384.
RELI 385. Modern Muslims and the Qur’an. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the multifaceted ways in which Muslims in the modern and contemporary periods have approached, experienced, and interpreted the Qur’an, including discussions of accessibility, hermeneutical methods, and exegetical themes.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 386. Dance and Embodied Knowledge in the Indian Context. 3 Credits.
In this theory-practice course focusing on religion, performance, and South Asian studies we will analyze the nature of embodied knowledge, aesthetic theory, and the creative power of dance performance in the Indian context. The course also includes a practical component involving embodied experience with Indian classical dance forms.
Gen Ed: VP, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 386, COMM 386.

RELI 390. Topics in the Study of Religion. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Subject matter will vary with instructor but will always be focused on a particular problem or issue.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate-level Courses

RELI 401. Introductory Biblical Hebrew I. 3 Credits.
The first part of a two-semester introduction to the grammar of biblical Hebrew.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 402. Introductory Biblical Hebrew II. 3 Credits.
The second part of a two-semester introduction to the grammar of biblical Hebrew.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 401; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 403. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I. 3 Credits.
A consolidation of the fundamentals of classical Hebrew grammar via readings of biblical texts of various genres (including both prose and poetry).
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 402; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 404. Intermediate Classical Hebrew II. 3 Credits.
Further readings of classical Hebrew texts, focusing on biblical poetry as well as early postbiblical material (e.g., nonbiblical texts from Qumran, Mishnah/Tosefta).
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 403; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 409. Greek New Testament. 3 Credits.
Requisites: Prerequisite, GREEK 222; Permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GREEK 409.

RELI 410. Aramaic/Rabbinic Hebrew. 3 Credits.
Reading texts in rabbinc Hebrew or in biblical and/or talmudic Aramaic, with appropriate grammatical instruction.
Requisites: Prerequisites, RELI 403 and 404; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisites.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 411. Advanced Akkadian. 3 Credits.
Readings in literary, epistolary, and juridical texts.
Requisites: Prerequisites, RELI 403 and 404.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 412. Ugaritic. 3 Credits.
Readings in the alphabetic texts of Ras Shamra and a study of the elements of Ugaritic grammar.
Requisites: Prerequisites, RELI 403 and 404.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 413. Biblical Coptic and Early Egyptian Monasticism. 3 Credits.
Coptic, the last stage of Egyptian, a living language in the Roman and Byzantine period. Thorough grounding in the grammar of the Sahidic dialect as a basis for reading biblical monastic and Gnostic texts.
Gen Ed: BN, FI, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 414. Syriac. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the grammar of Classical Syriac for the purpose of reading Syriac Christian texts from late antiquity. Knowledge of another Semitic language (e.g., Hebrew, Arabic) would be an asset but is not required.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 421. Religion and Science. 3 Credits.
This course explores the complex relation between religion and science in the modern world. Public disputes over teaching evolution in American schools serve as a central case study of this.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 423. Ethnicity, Race, and Religion in America. 3 Credits.
A theoretical inquiry into ethnicity, race, and religion as constituents of personal and communal identity. Emphasis on global migrations, colonial and postcolonial relations, diasporic communities, and issues of religious pluralism.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 140; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 424. Gender Theory and the Study of Religion. 3 Credits.
An examination of contemporary gender theory, with particular focus on its application to the study of religion.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: WGST 424.
RELI 425. Psychology of Religion. 3 Credits.
A critical exploration of the concept of religious experience as defined by such authors as William James and Sigmund Freud.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 425H. Psychology of Religion. 3 Credits.
A critical exploration of the concept of religious experience as defined by such authors as William James and Sigmund Freud.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 426. The Sacrifice of Abraham. 3 Credits.
This course examines philosophical interpretations of the attempted sacrifice by Abraham of his beloved son, offering a comparative approach. The incident in Genesis is remarkably succinct for its controversial subject matter. We will compare this event with representations in Greek drama, the New Testament, and the Qur’an.
Gen Ed: PH, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 426H. The Sacrifice of Abraham. 3 Credits.
This course examines philosophical interpretations of the attempted sacrifice by Abraham of his beloved son, offering a comparative approach. The incident in Genesis is remarkably succinct for its controversial subject matter. We will compare this event with representations in Greek drama, the New Testament, and the Qur’an.
Gen Ed: PH, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 427. Spirit Possession. 3 Credits.
This course explores the phenomenon of spirit possession and introduces students to various theoretical and methodological approaches to its academic study. In addition to critically engaging with accounts of spirit possession from around the world, students will explore various related themes of gender, power, and religious and cultural change.
Gen Ed: SS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 428. Religion and Anthropology. 3 Credits.
Religion studied anthropologically as a cultural, social, and psychological phenomenon in the works of classical and contemporary social thought.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 428, FOLK 428.

RELI 428H. Religion and Anthropology. 3 Credits.
Religion studied anthropologically as a cultural, social, and psychological phenomenon in the works of classical and contemporary social thought.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 429. Religion and Society. 3 Credits.
Sociological analysis of group beliefs and practices, both traditionally religious and secular, through which fundamental life experiences are given coherence and meaning.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SOCI 429.

RELI 438. Religion, Nature, and Environment. 3 Credits.
A seminar on concepts of nature within religions and a variety of world-wide spiritual traditions. Emphasis on sacred space, place, and pilgrimage as a vital intersection of religion and nature.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 438H. Religion, Nature, and Environment. 3 Credits.
A seminar on concepts of nature within religions and a variety of world-wide spiritual traditions. Emphasis on sacred space, place, and pilgrimage as a vital intersection of religion and nature.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 441. Religion in Early America. 3 Credits.
This course examines religion in America from precontact to the Civil War. We will chart the development of religious life, thought, and practice in North America, concentrating on areas later incorporated into the United States, but maintaining broad interest in other Americas.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 441H. Religion in Early America. 3 Credits.
This course examines religion in America from precontact to the Civil War. We will chart the development of religious life, thought, and practice in North America, concentrating on areas later incorporated into the United States, but maintaining broad interest in other Americas.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 442. History of Religion in America since 1865. 3 Credits.
An examination of primary sources in the history of American religion since the Civil War.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 443. Evangelicalism in Contemporary America. 3 Credits.
Juniors or seniors only. Examination of evangelicalism and its role in American society, politics, and culture. Exploration of its various subdivisions and its relation to such movements as fundamentalism, pentecostalism, revivalism, and premillennialism.
Gen Ed: SS, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 443H. Evangelicalism in Contemporary America. 3 Credits.
Juniors or seniors only. Examination of evangelicalism and its role in American society, politics, and culture. Exploration of its various subdivisions and its relation to such movements as fundamentalism, pentecostalism, revivalism, and premillennialism.
Gen Ed: SS, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 444. Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism. 3 Credits.
The seminar examines the developments in gender roles and in sexuality in contemporary Judaism.
Gen Ed: CI, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 444, WGST 448.

RELI 445. Asian Religions in America. 3 Credits.
A study of intercultural interaction and interreligious encounter focusing on Asian religions in America, 1784 to the present.
Gen Ed: GL, US.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 445.

RELI 446. Christian-Jewish Relations throughout the Ages. 3 Credits.
An exploration of the varied and complex relationships which have developed between Christianity and Judaism, from the first century to the 21st century.
Gen Ed: HS.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 448. Native and Christian: Indigenous Engagements with Christianity. 3 Credits.
This course examines diverse indigenous engagements with Christianity from earliest contacts to the present. Topics range from missionary contestations in colonial Mexico to the fight for religious freedom in 20th-century United States, from historical revitalization movements like the Ghost Dance to contemporary indigenous theologies in North and South America.
Gen Ed: US.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 450. Sexuality in Jewish Tradition and History. 3 Credits.
This course deals with various topics related to sexuality and marriage in Jewish tradition and history: sex outside of marriage, wedding ceremonies, regulations of marital sex, menstruation, homosexuality, and more.
Gen Ed: PH, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: WGST 450.
RELI 454. The Reformation. 3 Credits.
Examines a movement of religious reform that shattered Latin Christendom and contributed many of the conditions of early modern Europe. Emphases: religious, political, social.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: HIST 454.
RELI 465. Monotheistic Mysticism. 3 Credits.
In medieval Jewish Kabbalah, Christian mysticism, and Islamic Sufism, devotees attempt to express direct experiences of an infinite God. This course examines theories of mystical language, particularly the negation of language, the turn to the visual and the body, and the tension between communal and individual expressions of the divine.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 474. Buddhist Meditation, Mindfulness, and Modernity. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to a variety of ancient and modern approaches to Buddhist meditation, to their philosophical underpinnings, and to the various claims and purposes associated with mindfulness practices in the past and today. Students will be expected to practice the different types of meditation discussed.
Gen Ed: PH, EE-Field Work.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 480. Modern Muslim Literatures. 3 Credits.
Stresses the diversity of modern Islamic experience by examining the works of various Muslim authors. Genres may include travelogues, memoirs, novels, sermons, and treatises, among others.
Gen Ed: LA, BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 481. Religion, Fundamentalism, and Nationalism. 3 Credits.
An exploration of explosive combinations of religion and politics in the Iranian revolution, the Palestinian movement, Hindu nationalism in India, and Christian fundamentalism in America.
Gen Ed: SS, BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: PWAD 481.
RELI 482. Sex, Gender, and Religion in South Asia. 3 Credits.
This seminar draws on feminist and philosophical theory, including the works of Plato, Butler, and Foucault, as well as postcolonial theory, to explore the categories of sex and gender in South Asian religions. We also analyze the moral cultivation of the self in relation to gender identity in South Asia.
Gen Ed: PH, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: ASIA 482, WGST 482.
RELI 485. Gender and Sexuality in Islam. 3 Credits.
This course approaches constructions of gender and sexuality in Muslim societies in diverse historical and geographical contexts. It focuses on changing interpretations of gender roles and sexual norms. Themes include gender in Islamic law, sexual ethics, masculinity, homosexuality, marriage, and dress.
Gen Ed: BN, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 487. Mountains, Pilgrimage, and Sacred Places in Japan. 3 Credits.
This course explores the role that mountains and pilgrimage played in Japanese cosmology and how they relate to methodology of studying place and space.
Gen Ed: BN, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: ASIA 487.
RELI 488. Shinto in Japanese History. 3 Credits.
This course discusses the development of Shinto in Japanese history and covers themes such as myths, syncretism, sacred sites, iconography, nativism, religion and the state, and historiography.
Gen Ed: BN, CI, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: ASIA 488.
RELI 489. Animals in Japanese Religion. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. This course examines the cultural construction of animals in Japanese myth, folklore, and religion.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: ASIA 489.
RELI 501. The History of the Bible in Modern Study. 3 Credits.
This course will examine how the modern historical-critical enterprise of biblical scholarship arose, out of what historical circumstances, for what purposes, and to what effect. What are its major aspects? How does it relate to other forms of academic and theological inquiry? How has this enterprise fared in recent times?
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 502. Myths and Epics of the Ancient Near East. 3 Credits.
An examination of Babylonian, Canaanite, Egyptian, Hittite, and Sumerian texts from the prebiblical era, focusing on representative myths, epics, sagas, songs, proverbs, prophecies, and hymns.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 502H. Myths and Epics of the Ancient Near East. 3 Credits.
An examination of Babylonian, Canaanite, Egyptian, Hittite, and Sumerian texts from the prebiblical era, focusing on representative myths, epics, sagas, songs, proverbs, prophecies, and hymns.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 503. Exploring the Dead Sea Scrolls. 3 Credits.
A comprehensive introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the different Jewish groups connected with them.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 503.

RELI 504. Readings in Hebrew Bible. 3 Credits.
This course will examine a major corpus of the Hebrew Bible with attention to the full range of historical-critical issues. Attention will be paid as well to early forms of biblical interpretation and their use in the religious life of subsequent communities.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 512. Ancient Synagogues. 3 Credits.
This is a course on ancient synagogues in Palestine and the Diaspora from the Second Temple period to the seventh century CE.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 110; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: VP, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 511. Ancient Synagogues. 3 Credits.
This course will examine a major corpus of the Hebrew Bible with attention to the full range of historical-critical issues. Attention will be paid as well to early forms of biblical interpretation and their use in the religious life of subsequent communities.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 522. 19th-Century Critiques of Religion. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. An exploration of influential 19th-century critiques of religion, including texts by such thinkers as Feuerbach, Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Stanton, Douglass, and Freud.
Gen Ed: PH, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 524. Ethnographic Approaches to Contemporary Religion. 3 Credits.
Critical exploration of exemplary contemporary ethnographies of religion focusing on the ways that ethnographic methods and writing styles shape knowledge of religious and cultural life in various traditions and parts of the world. Topics considered include field work, culture, ethics, and the challenges of interpreting and representing religious experience.
Gen Ed: SS, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 525. Seminar in Religion and Literature. 3 Credits.
Seminar topic varies.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 527. Religious Metaphor and Symbol. 3 Credits.
This course explores the myriad and complex issues related to the function of metaphor and symbol in religious language.
Gen Ed: PH, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 528. Rituals and Rhetorics of Religion. 3 Credits.
An examination of ritual, allegory, and symbol as modes of religious expression in cultic and literary contexts.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 530. Genealogies of Religion. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the historical development of "religion" as a concept and object of academic scholarship through the critical study of key texts and foundational debates about religion in Western thought.
Gen Ed: PH, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 540. Mormonism and the American Experience. 3 Credits.
Exploration of the history, beliefs, and practices of Mormons. Will include visits to Latter-Day Saints services, guest speakers, and discussion of race and gender in the contemporary church.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 140; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 541. Evangelicalism from a Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
The course will examine the evangelical tradition from a global perspective, exploring the tradition from its early rise in Europe to its impact on the Americas, Africa, and Asia.
Gen Ed: GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 542. Religion and the Counterculture. 3 Credits.
The course examines the interaction between the values and messages of the counterculture and religious groups, ideas, and practices during the Vietnam War era. It also investigates the impact of countercultural norms and styles on the current American religious scene.
Gen Ed: US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 542H. Religion and the Counterculture. 3 Credits.
The course examines the interaction between the values and messages of the counterculture and religious groups, ideas, and practices during the Vietnam War era. It also investigates the impact of countercultural norms and styles on the current American religious scene.
Gen Ed: US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 545. Medieval Jews and the Bible. 3 Credits.
This course explores the Jewish interpretation of the Bible, focusing on important commentaries from influential medieval Ashkenazi and Sephardic thinkers.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 561. Islamic and Jewish Legal Literature. 3 Credits.
This course explores many aspects of the Halakhah, the Jewish traditional legal system, focusing on issues such as rituals, holidays, religious obligations and prohibitions, and laws regulating sexual activity.
Gen Ed: PH, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 569. Interfaith Marriages and Intimacy in World Religions. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the topic of intimate relations between people who consider themselves, or are considered by others, to be part of different religious groups. We will explore cases in which such relations achieve the social sanction of marriage and cases in which the relations are of a more temporary nature.
Grading status: Letter grade.
RELI 574. Chinese World Views. 3 Credits.
Explores the indigenous Chinese sciences and the cosmological ideas that informed them. Topics include astronomy, divination, medicine, fengshui, and political and literary theory. Chinese sources in translation are emphasized.
Gen Ed: SS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 574, ASIA 574.

RELI 580. African American Islam. 3 Credits.
An historical examination of African American Islam in the United States. Explores the intellectual, cultural, social, and political roots of black Islam in addition to its diverse doctrinal, ritual, and institutional manifestations.
Gen Ed: HS, GL, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 581. Sufism. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. A survey of Islamic mysticism, its sources in the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad, and its literary, cultural, and social deployment in Arab, Persian, Indic, and Turkish regions.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 581.

RELI 582. Islam and Islamic Art in South Asia. 3 Credits.
A survey of the formation of Islamic traditions in the subcontinent from the eighth century to the present, with emphasis on religion and politics, the role of Sufism, types of popular religion, and questions of Islamic identity.
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 582.

RELI 583. Religion and Culture in Iran, 1500-Present. 3 Credits.
Iran from the rise of the Safavid empire to the Islamic Republic. Topics include Shi’ism, politics, intellectual and sectarian movements, encounters with colonialism, art and architecture, music, literature.
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 583.

RELI 584. The Qur’an as Literature. 3 Credits.
A nontheological approach to the Qur’an as a literary text, emphasizing its history, form, style, and interpretation.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 584.

RELI 585. Religion and Culture of Turkey. 3 Credits.
This course will cover the history of Turkey from the Byzantine period until contemporary times. Key aspects of Turkish culture (architecture, music, poetry to arts) will be covered.
Gen Ed: BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 586. Women and Gender in Japanese Religions. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the roles of women in the religions of Japan (including Buddhism, Shinto, folk religions, pilgrimage, new religions movements, and new spirituality culture) from goddesses, shamans, nuns, and pilgrims to demons, temptresses, and lesser human beings. The course traces these themes across Japanese socioeconomic and religious history.
Gen Ed: SS, BN, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 590. Topics in the Study of Religion. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Subject matter will vary with instructor but will always be focused on a particular problem or issue.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 592. Religious Conflict and Literature in India. 3 Credits.
Historical causes of violence between Hindus and Muslims in modern India. Short stories, poetry, and novels in translation are used to explore how conflicts over religious sites, religious conversion, image worship, and language contributed to a sense of conflicting religious identity.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HNUR 592.

RELI 602. What Is Scripture? Formations of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Canon. 3 Credits.
The course traces the past and continued canonical processes that define what the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament has been and is today, with a focus on the history of biblical interpretation.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JWST 602.

RELI 603. The Bible and Its Translation. 3 Credits.
This course explores the translation of the Hebrew Bible in the West, with a view toward identifying religious and ideological trends.
Gen Ed: PH, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 607. Problems in Early Christian Literature and History. 3 Credits.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 104, 207, 208, 209, 217 or 413; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 607H. Problems in Early Christian Literature and History. 3 Credits.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 104, 207, 208, 209, 217 or 413; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 608. The Messiah and the Apocalypse. 3 Credits.
Ideas concerning the Messiah and the end of the world held by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Emphasis on the beginning of the Christian era.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 609. Christianity and Greco-Roman Culture. 3 Credits.
The seminar surveys the development of Christianity in the Roman empire and examines a variety of attitudes adopted by early Christians toward Greco-Roman philosophy, religion, education, and literature.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 104, 209, or 217; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: PH, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 610. Readings in the Apostolic Fathers. 3 Credits.
Reading of the Apostolic Fathers. Students must have completed two courses in New Testament/Early Christianity and two years of Greek.
Grading status: Letter grade.

RELI 617. Death and Afterlife in the Ancient World. 3 Credits.
Examinations of practices and discourses pertaining to death and the afterlife in the ancient civilizations of Near East, Greece, and Rome.
Gen Ed: PH, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.
REL 630. Religion and Medicine. 3 Credits.
This course will deal with various interactions of religion and health care in the past and present.
Gen Ed: PH, CI, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.
REL 662. Advanced Seminar in Contemporary Catholicism. 3 Credits.
This advanced seminar is for undergraduate and graduate students who have at least a basic knowledge about Catholicism. The range of topics to be discussed is open and will depend on students' interests and suggestions.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.
REL 665. Body and Suffering in Christian Mysticism. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Medieval Christians consistently focused on the suffering body as a means of reflecting on Christ's sacrifice. This course considers how medical theories of cognition, gender, and pain influenced the potential role of the body in medieval mystical experience.
Gen Ed: NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: WGST 664.
REL 668. Religion and the Spanish Inquisition: Abrahamic Traditions, Indigenous Religions, and Empire. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. This course on the "Atlantic World" studies Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the medieval Iberian kingdoms, then the religious "other" in the colonial expansion to Mexico, Peru, and the Philippines, by deploying theories concerning race, gender, sexuality, and postcoloniality.
Gen Ed: GL, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ARAB 681, ASIA 681.
REL 681. Readings in Islamicate Literatures. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Study of selected religious, literary, and historical texts in Arabic, Persian, or Urdu.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ARAB 681, ASIA 681.
REL 688. Observation and Interpretation of Religious Action. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Exercises (including field work) in learning to read the primary modes of public action in religious traditions, e.g., sermons, testimonies, rituals, and prayers.
Gen Ed: SS, EE-Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 688, FOLK 688.
REL 691H. Honors in Religious Studies. 3 Credits.
Permission of the director of undergraduate studies. Required of all students reading for honors in religious studies.
Gen Ed: EE-Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade.
REL 692H. Honors in Religious Studies. 3 Credits.
Permission of the director of undergraduate studies. Required of all students reading for honors in religious studies.
Gen Ed: EE-Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade.
REL 696. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Advanced undergraduate or graduate standing and permission of the instructor. Subject matter should be arranged with a specific instructor.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.
REL 697. Capstone: Undergraduate Seminar. 3 Credits.
Majors only. Concentrating on a different theme each year, this departmental seminar introduces the different areas and approaches in religious studies.
Gen Ed: CI.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

JWST—Jewish Studies

Undergraduate-level Courses

JWST 56. First-Year Seminar: Germans, Jews, and the History of Anti-Semitism. 3 Credits.
This course seeks to explore the historically difficult position of minorities in the modern world, using the situation of Jews in Germany from the 18th century to the Holocaust as a case study. Previously offered as GERM 56.
Gen Ed: HS, CI, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: GSLL 56.

JWST 60. First-Year Seminar: Israeli Culture and Society: Collective Memories and Fragmented Identities. 3 Credits.
The course explores selected themes and case studies pertinent to culture and society in modern Israel, with emphasis on debates about "Israeliness" in various cultural and social arenas.
Gen Ed: BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: ASIA 60.

JWST 100. Introduction to Jewish Studies. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the broad scope of Jewish history, culture, and identity, from biblical times to the 21st century and from the Middle East to the New World.
Gen Ed: HS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: RELI 123.

JWST 101. Elementary Modern Hebrew I. 3 Credits.
Introduces the essential elements of modern Hebrew structure and vocabulary and aspects of modern Israeli culture. Aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing are stressed.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: HEBR 101.

JWST 102. Elementary Modern Hebrew II. 3 Credits.
Continued instruction in the essential elements of modern Hebrew structure and vocabulary and aspects of modern Israeli culture. Aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing are stressed.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 101.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: HEBR 102.
JWST 103. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the various books of the Hebrew Bible and to the history and culture of ancient Israel, focusing on the formation of national identity, ancient conceptualizations of divinity, ritual practice, and modes of social regulation, all of which are set against the background of the ancient Near East.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 103.

JWST 106. Introduction to Early Judaism. 3 Credits.
This course surveys Jewish history and religion during the Second Temple and Rabbinic periods, from the destruction of the First Jewish Temple (Solomon’s Temple) in 586 BCE to the Muslim conquest of Palestine (640 CE).
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 106.

JWST 107. Introduction to Modern Judaism. 3 Credits.
The course offers a comprehensive understanding of the development of Judaism from the late Middle Ages to contemporary times.
Gen Ed: HS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 107.

JWST 110. The Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period. 3 Credits.
This course surveys the archaeology of Palestine (modern Israel and Jordan) from the Persian period (ca. 586 BCE) to the Muslim conquest (640 CE).
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 110, CLAR 110.

JWST 143. Judaism in Our Time. 3 Credits.
An examination of Judaism in its two major centers, demonstrating how different social and cultural environments shape very different interpretations and practices of the Jewish tradition.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 143.

JWST 153. From the Bible to Broadway: Jewish History to Modern Times. 3 Credits.
This class surveys the history of the Jews from ancient to modern times. It focuses on the development of Jewish religion, culture identity, and politics in Jewish communities in the Western, Atlantic and Middle Eastern Worlds. It also explores the development of antisemitism and anti-Jewish violence.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 153.

JWST 203. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I. 3 Credits.
Second-year instruction in the essential elements of modern Hebrew structure and vocabulary and aspects of modern Israeli culture. Aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing are stressed. An introduction to representative literary works is included.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 102.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 203.

JWST 204. Intermediate Modern Hebrew II. 3 Credits.
Continued instruction in the essential elements of modern Hebrew structure and vocabulary and aspects of modern Israeli culture. Aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing are stressed. An introduction to representative literary works is included.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 203.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 204.

JWST 206. Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah. 3 Credits.
An examination of prophecy and divination in the Israelite-Jewish traditions and in their environments, including an analysis of the major biblical prophets.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 206.

JWST 211. Classical Hebrew I: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the culture and history of ancient Israel through an exploration of the language of the Hebrew Bible. Students will learn the essentials for basic engagement with biblical Hebrew, then consider what this linguistic evidence reveals about the historical and cultural background of the Hebrew Bible.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 211.

JWST 212. Classical Hebrew II: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 3 Credits.
This course explores the linguistic background of the Hebrew Bible, giving special attention to the literary aspect of biblical interpretation. Specific topics include the forms of the Hebrew verb, prose and poetic genres in the Hebrew Bible, wordplay and repetition, narration and dialogue.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 211.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 212.

JWST 224. Modern Jewish Thought. 3 Credits.
This course examines how contemporary thinkers have considered philosophy, ethics, and theology from a Jewish perspective. Methodological points of inquiry include: the role of interpretation in Judaism, revelation and redemption, authority and tradition, pluralism and inclusion, suffering and evil, gender and Jewish philosophy, and 20th-century approaches to God.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 224.

JWST 225. Popular and Pious: Early Modern Jewish Literature. 3 Credits.
This seminar covers popular and pious literature written by and for Jews in the 15th to 18th century in German-speaking countries. Originally written in Old Yiddish, this literature preserved the popular European genres and nonfiction accounts of Jewish community and family life. Previously offered as GERM 225.
Gen Ed: LA, NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GSLL 225.
JWST 235. Israeli Cinema: Gender, Nation, and Ethnicity. 3 Credits.
The course explores major periods and trends in Israeli cinema. Focus is
given to issues pertaining to gender, ethnicity, and the construction of
national identity.
Gen Ed: VP, BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 235, PWAD 235.

JWST 239. German Culture and the Jewish Question. 3 Credits.
A study of the role of Jews and the "Jewish question" in German culture
from 1750 to the Holocaust and beyond. Discussions and texts (literary,
political, theological) in English. Previously offered as GERM 270.
Gen Ed: HS, GL, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GSSL 270, CMPL 270, RELI 239.

JWST 243. Introduction to American Judaism. 3 Credits.
Course provides a comprehensive introduction to American Judaism,
its various movements, institutions, theological, and liturgical
characteristics, as well as its standing within the larger framework of
religious life in America.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 243.

JWST 253. A Social History of Jewish Women in America. 3 Credits.
Course examines the history and culture of Jewish women in America
from their arrival in New Amsterdam in 1654 to the present and explores
how gender shaped this journey.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: AMST 253, WGST 253.

JWST 262. History of the Holocaust: The Destruction of the European
Jews. 3 Credits.
Anti-Semitism; the Jews of Europe; the Hitler dictatorship; evolution
of Nazi Jewish policy from persecution to the Final Solution; Jewish
response; collaborators, bystanders, and rescuers; aftermath.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 262, PWAD 262.

JWST 289. Jewish American Literature and Culture of the 20th Century. 3
Credits.
Through readings in a wide range of genres, this course will examine
major factors and influences shaping Jewish American literature and
culture in the 20th century.
Gen Ed: LA, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ENGL 289.

JWST 305. Advanced Modern Hebrew I. 3 Credits.
Third year of instruction in modern Hebrew with an emphasis on Israeli
culture, literature, and media.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 204.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 305.

JWST 306. Advanced Modern Hebrew II. 3 Credits.
Third year of instruction in modern Hebrew with an emphasis on Israeli
culture, literature, and media.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 305.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 306.

JWST 308. The Renaissance and the Jews. 3 Credits.
The Renaissance (1300-1600) is known as a time of great artistic,
scientific, and political renewal. But did Jews, the only religious minority
in Europe, get an opportunity to benefit from and participate in that
progress? This class studies the history of the Jews at a time of great
cultural change.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 308.

JWST 311. Ghettos and Shtetls? Urban Life in East European Jewish
History. 3 Credits.
The migration of Jewish populations from small towns to large cities in
Eastern Europe altered notions of Jewish community, space, cultures,
and identities. This course will explore the roles of ghetto and shtetl
in both history and memory of the Jewish past, drawing on memoirs,
literature, film, and photography.
Gen Ed: HS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 311.

JWST 330. Jesus and the Jews: From the Bible to the Big Screen. 3
Credits.
This class will study the history of the claim that the Jews are
responsible for Christ’s death. Students will examine the power of this
idea to travel through time and space and discuss how it is portrayed
differently and with different purposes throughout history.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 330.

JWST 330H. Jesus and the Jews: From the Bible to the Big Screen. 3
Credits.
This class will study the history of the claim that the Jews are
responsible for Christ’s death. Students will examine the power of this
idea to travel through time and space and discuss how it is portrayed
differently and with different purposes throughout history.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 330H.

JWST 343. Religion in Modern Israel. 3 Credits.
Examines the major religious groups that operate in the state of
Israel and influence its social and cultural development; analyzes the
relationship among religion, state, and society in Israel.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 343.

JWST 357. The Arab-Jews: Culture, Community, and Coexistence. 3
Credits.
This course is designed to examine Jewish life in Arab lands in the last
century by examining culture, language, and the communal life that the
Arab-Jews shared with their neighbors.
Gen Ed: GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 357, PWAD 362.

JWST 360. The Jewish Writer in American Life. 3 Credits.
This course will investigate, through literature, film, and song, the
encounter of Eastern European Jews and their descendants with Anglo-
Protestant America over four generations.
Gen Ed: LA, NA, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate-level Courses

**JWST 412. From Communism to Capitalism: 20th- and 21st-Century Polish Literature and Culture. 3 Credits.**
An overview of the literary and cultural movements in 20th and 21st century Poland as they relate to major historical changes of the century (World War I and World War II, Communism, Post-communism, accession to the European Union). All readings and discussions in English; readings available in Polish for qualified students.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PLSH 412.

**JWST 420. Post-Holocaust Ethics and Theology. 3 Credits.**
This course examines the challenges posed to ethics and theology by the Holocaust. We will address philosophical and moral issues such as the problem of evil, divine omniscience, omnipotence, suffering, theodicy, representation, testimony, and an ethics of memory.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 420.

**JWST 425. Beyond Hostilities: Israeli-Palestinian Exchanges and Partnerships in Film, Literature, and Music. 3 Credits.**
Focuses on the various collaborations, exchanges, and mutual enrichment between Israelis and Palestinians in the realm of culture, particularly literature and cinema. These connections include language (Israeli Jewish authors writing in Arabic and Palestinian writers who choose Hebrew as their language of expression), collaborating in filmmaking, and joint educational initiatives.
Gen Ed: BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 425, PWAD 425.

**JWST 436. Language, Exile, and Homeland in Zionist Thought and Practice. 3 Credits.**
Employing Zionist and post- and anti-Zionist documents, treatises, and mostly literary and cinematic texts, this class will focus on the relations between language, Jewish-Israeli identity, and the notion of homeland.
Gen Ed: BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 436.

**JWST 444. Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism. 3 Credits.**
The seminar examines the developments in gender roles and in sexuality in contemporary Judaism.
Gen Ed: CI, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 444, WGST 448.

**JWST 451. 1492: The Expulsion of the Jews from Spain. 3 Credits.**
The largest and most prosperous Jewry of Europe lived in medieval Spain. The 1492 expulsion, driven by the Inquisition and Catholic monarchy, not only ended Spanish Jewish life but also forced a traumatic redefinition of Jewish identity. This course focuses on the causes and consequences of the expulsion of 1492.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 451.

**JWST 454. Imagined Jews: Jewish Themes in Polish and Russian Literature. 3 Credits.**
Explores the fictional representation of Jewish life in Russia and Poland by Russian, Polish, and Jewish authors from the 19th century to the present. Taught in English; some foreign language readings for qualified students.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SLAV 464.

**JWST 456. Literature of Atrocity: The Gulag and the Holocaust in Russia and Eastern Europe. 3 Credits.**
Literary representation in fiction, poetry, memoirs, and other genres of the mass annihilation and terror in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union under the Nazi and Communist regimes. Taught in English; some foreign language readings for qualified students.
Gen Ed: LA, BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SLAV 465, PWAD 465.

**JWST 469. Coming to America: The Slavic Immigrant Experience in Literature. 3 Credits.**
Fictional and autobiographical expressions of the Slavic and Eastern European immigrant experience in the 20th century. Readings include Russian, Polish, Jewish, and Czech authors from early 1900s to present. Taught in English; some foreign language readings for qualified students.
Gen Ed: LA, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SLAV 469.

**JWST 476. Borderlands: Religion and Ethnicity in Modern East Central Europe. 3 Credits.**
The history of modern Eastern, East Central, and southeastern Europe has been shaped by the ethnic and religious diversity of the regions. This course examines experiences in the Russian, Habsburg, and Ottoman Empires and their successor states from the 19th century to the present day.
Gen Ed: HS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 476.

**JWST 481. The Changing Lives of Jewish Objects. 3 Credits.**
What makes an object “Jewish”? This seminar examines how we think about, animate, repurpose, and display “Jewish” objects in contemporary life – the public realm, cultural institutions, religious spaces, and the home. We consider how makers and users negotiate objects’ various meanings within the domains of prayer, performance, entertainment, and exhibition.
Gen Ed: VP, EE-Field Work, US.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: FOLK 481.

**JWST 485. Modern East European Jewish History. 3 Credits.**
Eastern Europe was one of the largest centers of Jewish civilization from premodern times to the Second World War, giving rise to important religious, cultural, and political developments in Jewish modernity. This course examines main developments of Jewish society from the late 18th century until the aftermath of the Holocaust.
Gen Ed: HS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 485.
JWST 486. Shalom Y'all: The Jewish Experience in the American South. 3 Credits.
This course explores ethnicity in the South and focuses on the history and culture of Jewish Southerners from their arrival in the Carolinas in the 17th century to the present day.
Gen Ed: HS, CI, US.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: AMST 486.

JWST 503. Exploring the Dead Sea Scrolls. 3 Credits.
A comprehensive introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the different Jewish groups connected with them.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 503.

JWST 505. Traditions in Transition: Jewish Folklore and Ethnography. 3 Credits.
This seminar examines Jewish stories, humor, ritual, custom, belief, architecture, dress, and food as forms of creative expression that have complex relationships to Jewish experience, representation, identity, memory, and tradition. What makes these forms of folklore Jewish, how do source communities interpret them, and how do ethnographers document them?
Gen Ed: VP, EE-Field Work, US.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: FOLK 505.

JWST 512. Ancient Synagogues. 3 Credits.
This is a course on ancient synagogues in Palestine and the Diaspora from the Second Temple period to the seventh century CE.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 110; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: VP, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 512, CLAR 512.

JWST 602. What Is Scripture? Formations of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Canon. 3 Credits.
The course traces the past and continued canonical processes that define what the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament has been and is today, with a focus on the history of biblical interpretation.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 602.

JWST 697. Capstone Course: Themes and Methodologies in Jewish Studies. 3 Credits.
Required of majors in religious studies with a concentration in Jewish studies; graduate students may enroll. Concentrating on a different theme each year, the course offers intensive grounding in key areas of and approaches to Jewish studies. Combines exploration of broad topics with scholarly rigor and specificity.
Gen Ed: CI.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.