RELIGIOUS STUDIES (REL)

REL 2601 Introduction to World Religions  3 s.h.
A survey of the major world religions exploring their distinctive features and
common threads. A study of their founders, systems of thought, symbols, and
sacred literatures.
Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities, International Perspectives, Social and Personal
Awareness.

REL 2602 Introduction to Religious Studies  3 s.h.
Examines the religious features of doctrines, myths or practices and surveys
various methods by which religion is explored and scrutinized.

REL 2603 Myth, Symbol, and Ritual  3 s.h.
An introduction to the nature and function of myth, symbol, and ritual. Myth
interpretation, the relationship between societies and their myths, and the
cultural use of myths, symbols, and rituals in religious and spiritual contexts.
Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities.

REL 2604 The Examined Life  3 s.h.
Considers the nature of happiness and well-being, their relation to social
institutions, and the roles that civic and personal relations, morality, aesthetics,
education, and religion play in providing happiness, purpose, and meaning in
one's life. Cross listed as PHIL 2608.

REL 2605 Global Ethics  3 s.h.
Examination of morality and justice from a global perspective, including such
topics as war, terrorism, and states; poverty and the global economy; religion,
gender, and identity; globalization and the environment, and markets and
intellectual property. Cross-listed as PHIL 2610.
Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities.

REL 2606 Judaism Christianity and Islam  3 s.h.
Examines the origins, foundational texts, beliefs and practices, intellectual and spiritual dimensions, and cultural norms and values of each religion, as well as the structures of authority in the community founded by each religion and the factors that have promoted the survival of each.

REL 2607 Introduction to Asian Religions  3 s.h.
A survey of the religions of India, China, and Japan, their systems of thought,
moral values, and methods of personal transformation.
Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities, International Perspectives, Social and Personal
Awareness.

REL 2608 Religion and Moral Issues  3 s.h.
The relation of specific religious and moral issues to questions of personal
conduct and social policy.
Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities.

REL 2609 Introduction to Christianity  3 s.h.
Introduction to the Christian religion, exploring its origins, emergence as
the official religion of the Roman Empire, and global expansion into one of
the largest religions of the world. Attention is given to core beliefs, events,
and persons of significant impact, to the diversity of approaches available
within the Christian tradition, and to such contemporary issues as gender, the
environment, and war. No familiarity is presupposed with the Bible, Christianity,
or the academic study of religion.

REL 2610 The Life and Teachings of Jesus  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2611 Jesus and the Gospels  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2612 African-American Religion  3 s.h.
Development of African-American religion and theology from the days of
slavery to the present.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2613 African and Neo-African Religion  3 s.h.
A study of African religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation
of African civilizations and communities in the African diaspora, including their
adaptations of Islam and Christianity.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2614 History of Christian Thought  3 s.h.
The origin and development of Christianity; examination of the life and
teachings of Jesus; Christian theology, liturgy, and symbolism; and divisions of
contemporary Christianity.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2615 Global Ethics  3 s.h.
Examination of morality and justice from a global perspective, including such
topics as war, terrorism, and states; poverty and the global economy; religion,
gender, and identity; globalization and the environment, and markets and
intellectual property. Cross-listed as PHIL 2610.
Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities.

REL 2616 Jewish Christianity and Islam  3 s.h.
A survey of the religions of India, China, and Japan, their systems of thought,
moral values, and methods of personal transformation.
Gen Ed: Arts and Humanities, International Perspectives, Social and Personal
Awareness.

REL 2617 Hindu Traditions  3 s.h.
A study of Hindu religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation of
the largest religions of the world. Attention is given to core beliefs, events,
and persons of significant impact, to the diversity of approaches available
within the Hindu tradition, and to such contemporary issues as gender, the
environment, and war. No familiarity is presupposed with the Vedas, Hinduism,
or the academic study of religion.

REL 2618 The Life and Teachings of Jesus  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2619 Jesus and the Gospels  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2620 African-American Religion  3 s.h.
Development of African-American religion and theology from the days of
slavery to the present.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2621 African and Neo-African Religion  3 s.h.
A study of African religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation
of African civilizations and communities in the African diaspora, including their
adaptations of Islam and Christianity.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2622 History of Christian Thought  3 s.h.
The origin and development of Christianity; examination of the life and
teachings of Jesus; Christian theology, liturgy, and symbolism; and divisions of
contemporary Christianity.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2623 Buddhist Beliefs Practices and Debate  3 s.h.
An introduction to Buddhist traditions, their historical development in
countries like India, China, Tibet and Thailand, and Buddhist positions on
contemporary issues. Special attention to practices, beliefs, and ethics.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2624 Hindu Traditions  3 s.h.
A study of Hindu religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation of
the largest religions of the world. Attention is given to core beliefs, events,
and persons of significant impact, to the diversity of approaches available
within the Hindu tradition, and to such contemporary issues as gender, the
environment, and war. No familiarity is presupposed with the Vedas, Hinduism,
or the academic study of religion.

REL 2625 The Life and Teachings of Jesus  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2626 Jesus and the Gospels  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2627 African-American Religion  3 s.h.
Development of African-American religion and theology from the days of
slavery to the present.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2628 African and Neo-African Religion  3 s.h.
A study of African religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation
of African civilizations and communities in the African diaspora, including their
adaptations of Islam and Christianity.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2629 Hindu Traditions  3 s.h.
A study of Hindu religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation of
the largest religions of the world. Attention is given to core beliefs, events,
and persons of significant impact, to the diversity of approaches available
within the Hindu tradition, and to such contemporary issues as gender, the
environment, and war. No familiarity is presupposed with the Vedas, Hinduism,
or the academic study of religion.

REL 2630 The Life and Teachings of Jesus  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2631 Jesus and the Gospels  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2632 Buddhist Beliefs Practices and Debate  3 s.h.
An introduction to Buddhist traditions, their historical development in
countries like India, China, Tibet and Thailand, and Buddhist positions on
contemporary issues. Special attention to practices, beliefs, and ethics.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2633 Hindu Traditions  3 s.h.
A study of Hindu religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation of
the largest religions of the world. Attention is given to core beliefs, events,
and persons of significant impact, to the diversity of approaches available
within the Hindu tradition, and to such contemporary issues as gender, the
environment, and war. No familiarity is presupposed with the Vedas, Hinduism,
or the academic study of religion.

REL 2634 The Life and Teachings of Jesus  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2635 Jesus and the Gospels  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2636 African-American Religion  3 s.h.
Development of African-American religion and theology from the days of
slavery to the present.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2637 African and Neo-African Religion  3 s.h.
A study of African religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation
of African civilizations and communities in the African diaspora, including their
adaptations of Islam and Christianity.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 2638 Hindu Traditions  3 s.h.
A study of Hindu religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation of
the largest religions of the world. Attention is given to core beliefs, events,
and persons of significant impact, to the diversity of approaches available
within the Hindu tradition, and to such contemporary issues as gender, the
environment, and war. No familiarity is presupposed with the Vedas, Hinduism,
or the academic study of religion.

REL 2639 The Life and Teachings of Jesus  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

REL 2640 Jesus and the Gospels  3 s.h.
The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the
ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.
REL 3733 Women And the Bible 3 s.h.
A study of Biblical interpretation utilizing narratives that portray women in Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Students will learn analytical skills required for narrative interpretation and exegetical analysis.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 3740 Muslim Thinkers and Mystics 3 s.h.
Examination of the theological, philosophical, legal, and political writings and ideas of major Muslim thinkers and mystics from the classical through the modern period, covering the continuities and differences.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 3744 Islamic Culture and Literature 3 s.h.
Introduction to the diversity of Muslim culture and literature across the world. Emphasis on classical and premodern literature, art and architecture.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 3748 Islam and the West 3 s.h.
Examination of the historical relationship between the and Islamic and Western worlds, as well as their interaction in modern contexts.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 3751 Liberation Theologies and Revolutionary Change 3 s.h.
Study of liberation theologies in the Third World and in minority communities in the West, in relation to questions of underdevelopment, poverty, and oppression.
Prereq.: 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 3753 Religion and Violence 3 s.h.
Examines the various approaches to explaining religiously justified violence, focusing on examples from the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. A central element of the course explores the gap between religious ideals and practices and the importance of recognizing that distinction.
Prereq.: REL 2601 or POL 1550.

REL 3754 Feminism, Ecology and Religion 3 s.h.
Investigation of religious perspectives related to women and nature, the relationship of the sacred to the natural world, scriptural and theological influences, and deep ecology and other environmental movements from a feminist perspective.
Prereq.: REL 2601 or POL 1550.

REL 3756 Psychology of Religion 3 s.h.
Survey of developments in depth psychology that have shaped our understanding of religious experience and spirituality.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560 or one 2600-level REL course.

REL 3760 Sex and Religion 3 s.h.
Explores the tensions between religion and sex through the Western and non-Western lens. Divided into sections, this course covers attitudes toward sex by early modern Christians, a few non-Western religious traditions and contemporary Western religion.
Prereq.: h.

REL 3799 Intensive Individual Study in Religious Studies 1 s.h.
Intensive study of a religious studies problem, movement, thinker, or the relationship of religious studies to problems in other disciplines. Intended to be an independent study course with subject matter dependent upon approval of the faculty member and student. May be repeated up to 3 s.h.
Prereq.: One 3700 level REL course.

REL 4810 Directed Readings in Religious Studies 3 s.h.
Independent study course with subject matter dependent upon approval of the faculty member in consultation with student.
Prereq.: Any 3700 level REL course.

REL 4820 Special Topics in Religious Studies 3 s.h.
Selected topics in religious studies. Topic to be announced each time the course is offered. Prereq. 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

REL 4825 Methods and Study of Religion 3 s.h.
This course explores the principal methodological issues in the scholarly study of religion and enables students to expand and synthesize disciplinary knowledge.
Prereq.: REL 2601.

REL 4850 Seminar in Religious Studies 3 s.h.
Study in depth of a particular figure, topic or area in religious studies, as determined by the instructor; may be repeated once with different course content.
Prereq.: One 3700-level REL course.

REL 4850G Seminar in Religious Studies Stigma and Resilience 3 s.h.
Study in depth of a particular figure, topic or area in religious studies, as determined by the instructor; may be repeated once with different course content.
Prereq.: One 3700-level REL course.

REL 4860 On-Site Studies in Religion 3-9 s.h.
An on-site investigation of the beliefs and practices of a particular religion or sect through readings, lectures, interviews, and travel to locations vital to its origin or development.
Prereq.: Two 3700-level REL courses.

REL 4869 Capstone Cooperative Seminar 1 s.h.
The course aids capstone students in developing and following a schedule for timely completion of a major research project, provides general direction on effective methods for working on such a project, and encourages and facilitates cooperative work among advanced students by providing peers with whom to discuss their ideas, exchange drafts, and provide constructive comments on ongoing written work. Must be taken concurrently with REL 4871.

REL 4871 Senior Capstone Project 3 s.h.
Research and writing of a paper, or other committee approved project, on a topic in religious studies, under the supervision of a full-time faculty member and in consultation with a committee of at least two other members of the department.
Prereq.: Religious Studies major with senior standing and completion of at least 21 s.h. of REL courses.