

Religious Studies

Fall 2107 Course Offerings

RELI 1000.01	Introduction to Religion – CHG <> H, A&S Core, A&S Non-Western	Fall
TR 1:20pm-2:35pm	Religion is central in shaping culture. While cultural differences stem from religion, many similarities find their expression in religion. Learn about several world religions and the way each understands the world and influences its adherents.	
RELI 1000.41-41	Introduction to Religion – CHG <> H, A&S Core, A&S Non-Western	Outreach Instructor
Online	Refer to on-campus course description.	
RELI 1101.01	FYS: Worlds of Religion – <> FYS	Fall
TR 2:45 - 4:00pm	"This First Year Seminar explores religion over both time and space as it has been lived, written about, imagined, experienced, and criticized."	
RELI 1101.40	Gilgamesh – <>FYS	Keller
Online	How have humans described the relationship between human governance and divine authority across time and cultures, and what does this tell us about our world today? This FYS begins with the stone tablets of the Epic of Gilgamesh, travels through the age of reason, and concludes with digital discussions of the "holy power" of atomic weaponry, helping students situate contemporary questions of religion and politics against the backdrop of human history.	
RELI 2070.40	Gender and Religion	Grether
Online	This course will examine discourses surrounding gender in Buddhism and Christianity over time. The primary goal is to understand how gendered discourse has helped produce and maintain limited leadership roles for women in both Buddhist and Christian contexts. The approach will be comparative and utilize a wide range of narrative, doctrinal, sociological, and anthropological sources. To the extent possible, the material will be organized chronologically in order to best consider historical context. (XL: WMST2070)	
RELI 2150.01	New Testament	Flesher
TR 9:35am-10:50am	Introduces academic study of the New Testament. Focuses on questions of history, religious and cultural context, occasion and purpose for writing the different books and theological development of early Christianity.	
RELI 2200.01	Contemporary American Religion - CHD <> C2	Heise
MWF 11:00 - 11:50am	The U.S. is home to more world religions and to more versions of those religions than any other nation on the planet. Examine how the U.S. has shaped these religions and the impact these religions have had on U.S. society and culture.	
RELI 2250.40	American Religious History - CHD <> H	Heise
Online	Traces the history of religion in America through the Civil War. We will pay particular attention to the intertwining of religion and colonialism; the tension between emerging Protestant hegemony and religious pluralism; and the roles religion has played in justifying oppression and pursuing liberty in American history. (XL: HIST2250)	
RELI 2315.40	History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism CHG <> H	Grether
Online	This course examines what Buddhism is about in the contexts of its doctrines and teachings; texts; practices; communities of practitioners; material and visual cultures; historical, institutional, and socio-political developments; and its migrations to the West. While this course addresses questions of what Buddhists believe and how Buddhism is practiced, it concentrates on questions of how Buddhist concepts and practices shape and constitute Buddhist worlds of meaning. (XL: HIST2315)	
RELI 2450.40	Traditional African Religion - CHG <> C2	Keller
	Just as Africa is a continent of many peoples, it is also a continent of many religions. These religions divide as well as unite the peoples. Focus on the traditional religions that originate in Africa while studying the importation and exploitation of outside religions-especially Christianity and Islam. XL: AAST2450	
RELI 2500.01	Intro to the Quran	Ward
TR 11:00 - 12:15 pm	Read Islam's Holy Book and a selection of its religious literature! Rich in tradition, history, law, and ethics, an appreciation of Muslim sacred texts is crucial for understanding today's world, and from separating truth from fiction. This course will compare Qur'an and Bible, and deepen your discourse about religion, politics, freedom and culture. Appropriate for Arabic students, but no knowledge of Arabic is necessary.	
RELI 3220.01	Modern Middle East	Ward
TR 1:20 - 2:35pm	Surveys the Middle East from 1700 to the present. Emphasizes the demise of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of domination by European colonial powers, transformations in political, social, religious and cultural life, the rise of nationalist movements, the influence of oil, the growth of Islamist political groups and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. (XL: HIST3220)	
RELI 3240.01	Reformation Christianity	Utterback
MW 3:10 - 4:25pm	The years between about 1500 and 1800 saw the permanent dismantling of Christianity in the West as a unified force, as Protestantism brought new ways of viewing the relationship between God and humanity. Once the fragmentation began, it accelerated rapidly as Enlightenment thinking challenged Christianity in new and complex ways. (XL: HIST3240)	
RELI 3400.01	Religion in American West – CHD <>	Heise
MWF 9:00 - 9:50am	People have conceived of the American West as exile and Promised Land, as New Babylon and New Jerusalem. This course examines the religious history of the complicated place that has been not only the west, but also the north (to Hispanics coming from New Spain and then Mexico); the south (to Russians moving down the coast from Alaska), the east (to Asian immigrants crossing the Pacific), and, of course, the center (to Native Americans who had lived in the region for centuries).	
RELI 4000.80	Theory of Religion- WC <> C3	Keller
TR 2:45 - 4:00pm Web Conference	Is religion an "illusion" or a "neurosis," as Freud wrote? Is it anthropology's "cultural system," or society's representation of itself, or...? Examine what some of the world's most influential thinkers have said about what religion is and how it should be studied. Warning: this capstone course is not for the intellectually faint of heart.	
RELI 40901.01	Film and Religion	Flesher
W 6:00 - 10:00pm	Film is one of the most powerful media and use of religion helped make it so. Study how filmmakers use religious themes to depict ideals and promote social positions. Learn how religion provides the structure for films—making their plots clear and compelling. (XL: ENGL4090)	
RELI 4500.01	Jewish Philosophy	Ward
T 6:00 - 8:45pm	Why be good? Why do bad things happen to good people? How to reconcile faith, spirituality and science? Experience and rational thought? Do mystic goals play a role in philosophy? Philo, Maimonides, Spinoza, Buber, and Heschel are only a few of the thinkers you will encounter in this fascinating expedition into history, texts, critical issues and critical analysis.	