

Religious Studies

Course Offerings – Spring 2016

RELI 1000-01	Introduction to Religion – CHG <>H	Byron
MWF 10:00-10:50 am	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 1000-40-42	Introduction to Religion – CHG <>H	Outreach
Online	Refer to on-campus course description.	
RELI 1101-01	FYS: Worlds of Religion – <>FYS	Fall
TR 1:20-2:35 pm	"This First Year Seminar explores religion over both time and space as it has been lived, written about, imagined, experienced, and criticized."	
RELI 2050-40	Religions of Asia – CHG <>H	DeNapoli
Online	This course introduces the four major Eastern religions of South Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. The course is designed to familiarize students with the key analytic categories in religious studies and the indigenous categories of the four Eastern religions.	
RELI 2150.40	Introduction to the New Testament	Neely
online	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 11:00-11:50 am	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 2252-40	American Religion 2 (1865-1945) - CHD <>H	Heise
Online	Traces American religious history from the Civil War through WWII. Focuses on how race/ethnicity, class, gender, and national origin affected religion, and explores how Americans used religion in oppressing and liberating people, making and erasing difference; and exporting values abroad as well as reforming society at home.	
RELI 2315-01	History of Non-Western Religions: Hinduism – CHG <>H	DeNapoli
TR 11:00-12:15 am	Hinduism is one of the oldest living religions. This course explores Hinduism by examining the concepts, practices, people, and institutions that have contributed to its emergence and development as a global religion. We will consider the plurality of Hindu expressions and the patterns that unify the religion. We will also consider the institutions of morality and ethics, social organization, asceticism and liberation, and gender and sexuality that have characterized the Hindu religion since the beginning of its history.	
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.	
RELI 2320-40	History of Islam - CHG <>C2	Ward
Online	The Media gives the impression of Islam as a religion of "angry young men" who hate. Learn how Islam is a religion of love of God and family, as well as respect for others. Learn how Islam has been practiced through time and what events shaped it. <i>Cross-listed with: HIST 2320</i>	
RELI 3220-01	Modern Middle East – G <>	Ward
TR 11:00-12:15 pm	Surveys the Middle East from 1700 to 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. <i>Cross-listed with: HIST 3220.</i>	
RELI 3245-01	Christianity Since Darwin - <>C2	Utterback
T 2:45-5:15	Christianity has faced many challenges since the mid-nineteenth century, including the thought of Darwin, Marx and Freud, to name a few. Christianity has faced those challenges in various ways and its practitioners continue to re-examine its understandings of a vastly changed and continually changing world. <i>Cross-listed with: HIST 3245.</i>	
RELI 3260-40	African Spirits in the New World – CHG <>H	Keller
Online	Begins with Yoruba roots in Africa and travels with the African Diaspora focusing on spirit possession in Haitian Vodou, Cuban Santeria, Jamaican Revival Zion, Jamaican Rastafarianism, Brazilian Candomblé, and "Black Church" in the United States using ethnography and postcolonial theory of religious studies. <i>Cross-listed with: AAST 3260.</i>	
RELI 3400-01	Religion in the American West - CHD <>	Heise
MWF 9:00-9:50	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 4100-40	African American Religious Culture – DWC <>	Keller
Online	This mid-level writing-intensive seminar compares African American religious celebration, primarily in the context of Afro-Christianity, but touching on Islam, Candomblé, "Voodoo," Santeria, and Rastafarianism. <i>Cross-listed with: AAST 4100.</i>	
RELI 4160-01	Moses, Jesus & Muhammad - CH <>	Ward
TR 1:20-2:35 pm	As "founders" of the religious communities of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, these remarkable leaders left a broad mark on the history and philosophy of humankind. Examine each one's biography within historical context, in sacred literature and "sacred histories," in scholarly debate and popular culture. Explore several perspectives to illuminate how the narratives about each have shaped our world.	
RELI 4310-01	Sem. Asian Religions: Singers, Saints, and Storytellers: Gender & Renunciation in South Asia	DeNapoli
W 3:10-5:50pm	This seminar explores the phenomenon of gender and renunciation in South Asian religions. Special attention is paid to the analytical categories of sainthood, singing, and storytelling as cultural mechanisms through which religious holy figures construct what sacredness is all about and the power, authority, and leadership that come with that designation.	
RELI 4335-80	Women and Islam	Kamp
Video Conferencing M 7:50-9:50 pm	Examines women's lives in Islamic societies from the seventh century to the present in the Middle East and throughout the world. Themes include women's position in Islamic law, society and culture, Western images of Muslim women, veiling and Islamist movements, theoretical readings on power, gender and agency. <i>Cross-listed with: HIST/WMST 4335-5335</i>	
RELI 4500-01	Topics: Religion & Science in Dialogue	Palmer
M 6:00-8:45 pm	Einstein said "Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind." Therefore, this course is about dialogue with a focus on "the power of limits" in an ever-shrinking world. Co-taught by a process theologian and an evolutionary biologist, it will emphasize proportional harmonies, or balance, in science and three religions: Native American, Christianity, and Judaism. NO PREREQUISITES.	
RELI 4500-02	Topics: Milton	Croft
MWF 1:10-2:00 pm	This course will examine the religious underpinnings of Milton's Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained, Comus, and Samson Agonistes. We will also gauge Milton's influence upon the Star Wars films of George Lucas, in terms of their shared religious themes. <i>Cross-listed with: ENGL 4190</i>	