RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELG)

RELG 101 - Introduction to World Religions (3 Credits)
Survey of the major religions of the world; including among others Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Daoism.

RELG 102 - Introduction to the Study of Religion (3 Credits)
Examination of the religious dimension of human life, the ways in which it is defined, and the methods by which it is studied.

RELG 103 - Jews, Christians, Muslims (3 Credits)
Introduction to the religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

RELG 104 - Podcasting Religious Studies (3 Credits)
In this course, we will use podcasts to examine how race, gender, class, and sexuality intersect in Religious Studies, sparking discussions on questions like "Who gets left out of 'religion'?" and "What is 'religious'?" and think critically about one of the most influential aspects of the human experience: religion.

RELG 108 - Peacefulness: Here and Now (3 Credits)
This course offers a theoretical, practical, and experiential introduction to contemplative studies, emphasizing introspection, mindfulness, equanimity, compassion, and loving-kindness. Students engage in daily meditation and examine contemplative practices across diverse cultural traditions through interdisciplinary lenses, including philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience, cultivating a deeper understanding and cultivation of inner peace. Cross-listed as CPRD 108.

RELG 201A - Judaism (3 Credits)
Historical and religious development of Judaism from biblical times to the present.

RELG 205 - Ancient Jewish Literature (3 Credits)
Study of the literature, history, and culture of ancient Israel within the broader context of the ancient Near East.

RELG 206A - Christian Beginnings (3 Credits)
Study of the literature, history, and beliefs of the first Christians within the broader cultural context of the Roman Empire.

RELG 208 - Christianity After the New Testament (3 Credits)
In this course, we will consider the interaction between Christianity and imperial power, the creation of a specifically Christian culture, the origins and development of the ascetic movement within Christianity, Christian conflicts with Jews and Hellenes, and the ways that Christian ritual and sacred space changed the landscape of the Mediterranean world.

RELG 210 - Islam (3 Credits)
This introductory course examines the Quran, the life of the prophet Muhammad, Islamic law, philosophy, theology, mysticism, and art.

RELG 211 - Greek and Roman Religion (3 Credits)
The public, personal, and mystery religions of the Greeks and Romans, and the development of classical religious ideas. Cross-listed with CLAS 211.

RELG 212 - Queering the Bible (3 Credits)
The primary purpose of this course is to explore the various theories and methods of interpretation in the field of biblical studies. Students will immerse themselves in the most innovative developments to issue from literary, queer, and cultural studies and to bring them into dialogue with biblical texts.

RELG 231 - Special Studies in Religion (1-3 Credits)
Among topics taught at different times: Current Theological Issues, The Roman Catholic Tradition, World Religions II. Different subjects taught under this course number count as different courses.

RELG 250 - African American Religions (3 Credits)
A study of the variety of African-American religious expression from colonial times to the present. Course will include slave religions, African-American interpretations of Protestant and Roman Catholic thought, Religion and the Civil Rights struggle, as well as Santeria and Voodoo.

RELG 251 - Native American Religions (3 Credits)
A study of the variety of Native American religious expression from pre-European contact times to the present. Course will explore the similarities and differences among the beliefs of the First Nations, as well as a discussion of how contact with European settlers influenced those faiths.

RELG 252 - Religion and Politics in Islam (3 Credits)
This course is designed to familiarize students with political aspects of Islam, in particular radical Islam and its major ideologies. The emphasis will be placed on modern and contemporary periods (1850-present).

RELG 277 - Religion in America Before the Civil War (3 Credits)
An examination of principal figures, trends, and issues in religion in America from the pre-contact era to the Civil War.

RELG 278 - Religion in America After the Civil War (3 Credits)
An examination of principal figures, trends, and issues in religion in America from the Civil War to the present day.

RELG 283 - Hinduism (3 Credits)
This course explores the diverse beliefs, rituals, and literatures of Indian religion that constitute Hinduism, the historical progression of their development, and their current expressions throughout the world. Cross-listed with PHIL 283.

RELG 284 - Buddhism (3 Credits)
An introduction to the thought and traditions of Buddhism. Readings from the Dhamapada as well as from various Theravada and Mahayana traditions.

RELG 298 - Ethics of Religion and Violence (3 Credits)
Compares Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Muslim constructions of the moral self, and explores provocative exemplars renowned for their response to violence, injustice and power in the modern world.

RELG 302 - Virgins, Monks, and Hermits (3 Credits)
In this course, we will explore some of the most influential early Christian ascetics, as well as their most extreme practices such as sexual renunciation, fasting, and poverty.

RELG 303 - Sex, Gender, Religion America (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: any 100- or 200-level RELG course or AMST 201 or WGST 101 or WGST 102 or permission of instructor. A historical and thematic examination of the ways in which sexual identity, gender identity, and religion have shaped each other in American culture and history.

RELG 305 - Religion and Politics in the United States (3 Credits)
A historical and thematic examination of the interaction of religion and politics in U.S. culture.

RELG 309 - Death and Dying in Early Christianity (3 Credits)
Students will examine how early Christians thought about, ritualized, and created theological principles around the various processes of and theories on the topic of death and dying.

RELG 310 - Gender and Sexuality in Early Christianity (3 Credits)
Study of the changing understanding and roles of gender and sexuality in the Early Christian

RELG 318 - Philosophy of Religion (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Any one 100-or 200-level religion course or the permission of the instructor. Philosophical examination of such topics as the relationship between faith and reason, the existence or non-existence of God, life after death, mysticism, and miracles. Cross-listed with PHIL 318.

RELG 331 - Special Studies in Religion (3 Credits)
Among topics taught at different times: Asceticism, Body, and Gender in Late Antiquity; 19th-Century Theology; Religion and Politics in Islam, Early Christian Monasticism. Different subjects taught under this course number count as different courses.

RELG 335 - Sacred Spaces (3 Credits)
An examination of the intersection of geography and religion with an emphasis on sacred spaces. The course explores how religions understand, create, and give meaning to sacred space, and includes a review of major theories and methods in the geographic study of religion. Cross-listed with GEOG 335.

RELG 341 - Major Religious Thinkers (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Any one 100-or 200-level religion course or the permission of the instructor. Among thinkers studied in some depth at different times: Paul, Augustine, Avicenna, al-Ghazzali, Dostoevsky, Kierkegaard, Wiesel. Different figures taught under this course number count as different courses.

RELG 350 - Happiness: Here and Now (3 Credits)
Explore the meaning and importance of happiness through everyday challenges and constructive dimensions. This multidisciplinary course examines happiness from religious studies, positive psychology, and social sciences perspectives, using a multicultural approach to address life's most meaningful questions. Students will learn to incorporate happiness and wellbeing activities into their daily lives. Cross-listed as CPRD 350.

RELG 353 - Islamic Philosophy and Theology (3 Credits)
Any 100 or 200 level RELG course. Central themes and topics in the Islamic theological and philosophical tradition will be discussed in some detail. Such topics include the existence of God, free will and determinism, eschatology, ontology and epistemology. References will be made between major Islamic philosophers and their medieval Christian counterparts. Cross-listed with PHIL 353.

RELG 400 - Research Seminar: Selected Religious Texts (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Junior or Senior status or consent of instructor. In-depth study of selected religious texts chosen by the instructor. Text selection will vary; examples include the Bhagavadigita, Kierkegaard's Philosophical Fragments and Augustine's Confessions.

RELG 401 - Guided Research (3 Credits)
Preparation of a senior thesis or project under the direction of the religion faculty. Choice of topic by student.

RELG 491 - Individual Study (1-3 Credits)
IIndependent work under the supervisionof a membe of the Religion faculty. Must have permission of instructor and department chair.

RELG 492 - Individual Study (1-3 Credits)
Independent work under the supervision of a member of the Religion faculty. Must have permission of instructor and department chair.

RELG 499 - Internship (1-6 Credits)
Supervised off-campus learning experience, developed in consultation with the religion faculty.