RELS Religious Studies

RELS 2130 Introduction to Religion
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Introduction to definitions, perspectives, and methods used in religious studies, as well as, to the varieties of religious issues and expressions.
Cross Listing(s): RELS 2130H, RELS 2130S.

RELS 2130H Introduction to Religion
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Introduction to definitions, perspectives, and methods used in religious studies, as well as, to the varieties of religious issues and expressions.
Cross Listing(s): RELS 2130, RELS 2130S.

RELS 2130S Introduction to Religion
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Introduction to definitions, perspectives, and methods used in religious studies, as well as, to the varieties of religious issues and expressions.
Cross Listing(s): RELS 2130, RELS 2130H.

RELS 3030 Selected Topics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Selected Topics in Religious Studies.
Cross Listing(s): RELS 3030S.

RELS 3030S Selected Topics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Selected Topics in Religious Studies.
Cross Listing(s): RELS 3030.

RELS 3131 World Religions
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The teachings concerning people and their relations to God and the world found in the major world religions. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Confucianism, Jainism, and Buddhism are among the religions studied.
Cross Listing(s): PHIL 3131.

RELS 3134 Introduction to Asian Religions
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is an introduction to the religious traditions of Asia. Traditions covered include Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Daoism, and Confucianism.

RELS 3135 Introduction to Hinduism
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is an in-depth exploration of the Hindu traditions, and the beliefs, rituals, and cultural expressions of those who practice them.

RELS 3136 Introduction to Global Islam
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is an in-depth exploration of Islam around the world, and the beliefs, rituals, and cultural expressions of those who practice it.

RELS 3137 Introduction to Christianity
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will introduce students to the academic study of diverse social, intellectual, and political movements that have been classified as Christian.

RELS 3139 History of Religion in the U.S.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A survey and analysis of the major religious patterns in the United States with special attention given to belief systems, institutional forms, social composition, and historical development.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3139.

RELS 3231 Psychology of Religion
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An introduction to the literature of the psychology of religion, including the functions of religiousness, types of religious experiences, religious motivation, and the relationship between religion and mental health.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1101.
Cross Listing(s): PSYC 3231.

RELS 3233 The Early Church
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
How did Christianity turn from an illegal, persecuted cult into the official religion of the Roman empire? The course will focus on the first five hundred years of the Christian church: its development, doctrine, and especially its relationship with the ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean world (Greece, Rome, and the Near East).
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3233.

RELS 3235 Male, Female, and Religion
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course explores an understanding and appreciation of the complex and varied roles of males and females in the context of Religion. We will examine a variety of situations found in religious texts, ancient and contemporary interpretations and in everyday life. While an essential part of the course will take the form of lectures, a major component will consist of discussion and co-inquiry.

RELS 3237 Genesis and Human Relations
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will focus on a detailed and careful reading of the text of the book of Genesis, with two primary aims in mind: 1) an understanding of the narratives, within the historical context and more importantly the theological nexus of the narrative; and 2) the implications and applications for contemporary society and the issues we face.

RELS 3238 The Hebrew Prophets
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will introduce the student to the major themes of the Hebrew Prophets. We shall examine the various historical and cultural contexts of the prophets as much as this is possible, and explore the prophets’ message with a particular emphasis on textual analysis and implications for contemporary society.

RELS 3239 Human Suffering and the Bible
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will help students explore, interpret, and understand the many and varying contexts in which human suffering is presented in the Bible. The course treats questions such as the role God plays in human suffering, freedom of choice, the causes and effects of suffering, and the concept of "theodicy" -- how human beings strive to reconcile suffering and the notion of a loving, merciful God. Students will look at personal, communal, and national suffering in the Bible and in present-day society.

RELS 3250 The Muslim World to Tamerlane
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of the rise of Islam in the seventh century and of the various Muslim societies that arose prior to the fifteenth century from the Iberian Peninsula to South Asia.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3250, INTS 3250.

RELS 3251 The Muslim World Since Genghis Khan
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of the global reach of Islam since the thirteenth century. The focus is on how Muslim societies have dealt with the precipitous decline in their well-being since their pinnacle of influence in the seventeenth century.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3251, INTS 3251.
RELS 3330 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is designed to introduce the student to the fundamental ideas, themes, and trajectories in the Hebrew Bible. We shall examine the various historical, cultural, and religious contexts of the Hebrew Bible as far as this is possible, and seek to broaden our understanding of the various claims of the text, and in turn to stimulate questions and reflections on contemporary relevance. Close attention will be paid to the reading and interpretation of the text.

RELS 3331 Great Moral Philosophers
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
RELS 3334 Christian Europe 450-1750
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The major theme of this course is the development of various Christian traditions in Europe from the early middle ages to the Enlightenment. Topics include the spread of Christianity, formation of distinct Christian churches, and the many wars fought in the name of Christianity.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3334.

RELS 3335 Introduction to the New Testament
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course introduces the fundamental ideas, themes, and trajectories represented in New Testament texts. We shall examine the historical, cultural, and religious contexts of the New Testament and broaden our understanding of the various claims of its texts. We shall also question and reflect upon the New Testament's contemporary relevance. Close attention will be paid to the texts.

RELS 3336 Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will focus on humanistic and transpersonal approaches to psychology, those “third” and “fourth” forces that offer a view of the person which goes beyond that offered by positivistic behavioral theory or by classical psychoanalytic theory.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1101.
Cross Listing(s): PSYC 3336, PSYC 3336H.

RELS 3430 Religion and Politics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will examine the production of religion and politics from a global perspective. Students will learn about political theories of religion as well as consider the intersection of religion and politics in different national and international contexts.

RELS 3635 Existentialism
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of the existentialist movement in philosophy from its origins to the present, showing how and why the movement began, what its authors advocate, and how it has been assessed by contemporary critics. Readings will include selections from Kierkegaard, Jaspers, Heidegger, Sartre, and others.
Cross Listing(s): PHIL 3635.

RELS 4336 Science and Religion
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines the interactions between science and religion from ancient times to the present.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 4336.

RELS 4632 Philosophy of Religion
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An in-depth examination of religious teachings and basic philosophical problems associated with them. Topics considered will include creation, salvation, life after death, the origin of evil, religious experience, and God.
Cross Listing(s): PHIL 4632.

RELS 4890 Seminar in Religious Studies
1-9 Credit Hours. 1-9 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Seminar in Religious Studies.