RELIGION (RELG)

RELG 100 # - Religions of the World 3 Credits
The major religious traditions, with emphasis on basic beliefs and on the nature and diversity of religious awareness. Meets Gen Ed 2002 - Philosophical and Religious Perspectives. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 101 # - Introduction to Religion 3 Credits
An inquiry into our deepest religious questions and expressions, their implications, and their critical appreciation and assessment. Meets Gen Ed 2002 - Philosophical and Religious Perspectives. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 102 # - Religious Ethics 3 Credits
The nature of ethical judgments, the meaning of moral concepts, the conditions of moral responsibility and the methodological presuppositions of ethical theories in philosophy and religion. Meets 2002 Gen Ed - Philosophical and Religious Perspectives. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 200 # - Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. The evolution of the ancient Hebrew worldview as developed in the collection of books that are commonly called the Old Testament. The course examines the literary, historical, social, and religious understandings of these sacred texts. It also compares Hebrew culture and scriptures with those of other Middle Eastern religions in the ancient world. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 204 # - New Testament/Christian Scriptures 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Literary and historical analysis of selected books from the Christian scriptures, from the gospels to the letters of Paul. The course explores the relationship between these sacred texts and those of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. It looks at questions about the historical Jesus, the relationships among the gospel traditions, and the development of the early Christian tradition as visible in the letters of Paul and others. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 207 # - American Religious Texts 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. This course examines original texts of American religious movements and traditions, such as Native American narrative and folklore, Evangelicalism, Mormonism, Westward missionary expansion, African-American narratives, hymns, sermons, and exhortations. Emphasis will be on the ways religion has served as an acceptable means of expression for women and minorities. May be repeated for a maximum of 6.0 credits. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 208 # - The Qur'an 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. This course is designed to introduce students to Islam’s holy book, the Qur’an. Students will be acquainted with the structure and meanings of the Qur’an in addition to studying different schools of interpretation of this text, past and present. The course focuses on investigating the role of the Qur’an in shaping Islamic beliefs and religious practices. It also provides a comparison between some Qur’anic themes and those in other religious writings, especially the Bible. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 209 # - Introduction to Greek and Roman Religion 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100. A survey of religious thought and practices as they applied to individual, family and society among the Greeks and Romans, and how these items contributed to the religious life of the modern Western world. Cross listed with GNHU 209. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 213 # - Buddhism 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. The exploration of Buddhist teachings, practices, history, and religious art in various Asian countries, notably India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and Tibet (may vary). No prerequisites, but RELG 100, Religions of the World, is suggested. Meets World Cultures Requirement. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 214 # - Asian Texts 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. This course emphasizes critical analysis and interpretation of primary textual sources. Students will read and examine primary documents from each of the Asian religions, their traditional interpretations and recent understandings and applications of these texts. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 215 # - Hinduism 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. An introduction to Hindu religious traditions, including philosophy, yoga practice, ritual workshop, and sacred art. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 217 # - Taoism 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. An introduction to Taoist religious texts and traditions, including Tao Te Ching and Chuang Tzu; Taoist connections with traditional Chinese medicine and martial arts; Taoist ritual traditions; and sacred art. No prerequisites, but RELG 100 Religions of the World is recommended. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 218 # - Death, Dying and Afterlife 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. This course is designed to give students the opportunity to study cross-cultural religious practices and attitudes toward death, dying and the afterlife. The course will cover the grieving process, rituals of death, and various cultural attitudes toward death, including symbolic "deaths" (initiations), and belief in limbo states, soul survival, ghosts, heaven, hell, and karma and reincarnation. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 220 # - Religion and Ethical Issues 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. An examination of religious perspectives on classic and contemporary ethical issues. Topics addressed include violence and war, biomedical issues, environmental issues, education, censorship, and marriage/family issues. Previous course RELG 205 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 221 # - Religion and Culture 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. The interrelation of religion and culture in the formulation of human values and views, life-styles and institutions. Meets Gen Ed 2002 - Philosophical and Religious Perspectives. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 223 # - Religion in North America 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. The growth and development of various religious movements—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and sectarian minorities—from colonial times to the present. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 225 # - Religion and Social Activism 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. The impact of economic, social and political movements on religious belief and the ways in which religion has served as a catalyst for social change. 3 hours lecture.
RELG 230 # - Wicca and Neopaganism 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106; RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. An examination of the many new religions in Europe and the United States that focus on nature worship and the practice of magic and frequently claim to be recreating ancient, pre-Christian religions. This course will introduce students to the variety of religions co-existing under the Wicca and Neopaganism labels, examine their shared beliefs and practices, and debate the many controversies that arise around them. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 240 # - Asian Religions 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. The cultural and theological bases for the faith and practice of major Eastern religions—Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Taoism. Meets World Cultures Requirement. Meets Gen Ed 2002 - Global Cultural Perspectives. Previous course RELG 212 effective through Winter 2013. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 246 # - Islamic Religious Traditions 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. The course will start by examining the rise of Islam through the eyes of two fundamental Islamic texts, the Qur'an and the biography of Prophet Muhammad. It will then explore the history of Islam's formative and classical periods (632-1258 CE) in terms of theology, philosophy, jurisprudence, and mysticism, while emphasizing diversity of perspectives. The heart of Islam will be approached through the teachings of the Qur'an, hadith and the Islamic intellectual tradition. The encounter between Islam and other religious traditions will also be traced briefly. Major trends in contemporary Islam (traditionalism, liberalism, revivalism, etc.) will be identified and discussed through the writings of their major proponents. Meets Gen Ed 2002 - Global Cultural Perspectives. Previous course RELG 116 effective through Winter 2013. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 250 # - African Religions 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. An introduction to the indigenous cosmological concepts, ritual practices, and value systems of the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa. Variations on African religious beliefs and practices in the West Indies, such as Voodoo in Haiti, Santeria in Cuba, and Candomba in Brazil will also be examined. Meets Gen Ed 2002 - Global Cultural Perspectives. Meets World Cultures Requirement. Previous course RELG 106 effective through Winter 2013. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 252 # - African-American Religion 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. The course will aim at engaging students in an active examination of the role of religion in the life of African-Americans from the period of slavery to the present. Students will be expected to read extensively from a list of the recommended texts and to write critical analyses on assigned topics. The style of instruction will combine lecture with discussion, thereby encouraging students to develop skills in critical thinking as well as the art of verbal expression. Meets World Cultures Requirement. Previous course RELG 108 effective through Winter 2013. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 254 # - Native American Religion 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. An introduction to the religious traditions and spirituality of the Native American peoples. The course recognizes the value of oral tradition and ritual practices in Native American religions and cultures as well as the variety that exists within this set of traditions. Meets Gen Ed 2002 - Global Cultural Perspectives. Meets World Cultures Requirement. Previous course RELG 110 effective through Winter 2013. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 256 # - Religion in Latin America 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): WRIT 105 or HONP 100 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. A survey of the ways religion, both indigenous and Western, has interacted with culture and society in Latin America. Particular emphasis is given to the diversity of religious expressions, including indigenous religions (Mayan, Aztec, and Quechua), syncretic religions (i.e., Voodoo and Santeria), alternative and evangelical forms of Christianity, contemporary popular religious expression, and liberation theology. Meets Gen Ed 2002 - Global Cultural Perspectives. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 258 # - Christian History and Thought 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. A survey of the history of the development of the Christian world-view, the evolution of Christian institutions and doctrines, and the triumphs and failures of Christianity through the period of the Reformation. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 262 # - Philosophy of Religion 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. A philosophical examination of religion. It includes the nature and shape of religious experience: criteria for meaning within religious thought and language, metaphysical and epistemological implications of such questions as the nature and existence of God, and the possibility of life after death. 3 hours lecture. Offered as RELG 262 through Fall 2017. To become RELG 362 effective Winter 2018.

RELG 263 # - Religion and Psychology 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106; RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. The views of faith and the religious person reached by such major psychological approaches as the Freudian, neo-Freudian, analytic-ego, existential and Jungian. The implications of such psychology for Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant believers and religious thinkers. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 267 # - Women and Religion 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. This course focuses on women's role and influence within their religious traditions, particularly in regard to beliefs and customs related to women in a range of religions. The course deals with questions such as the nature of women; gender and spirituality; and patriarchy, religion, and power. Meets the University Writing Requirement for majors in Religious Studies. Meets World Cultures Requirement. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 273 # - The Holocaust: Religious Perspectives 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. A study of Nazi extermination of 6,000,000 Jews during World War II and the moral and religious issues raised by this event. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 275 # - Interreligious Encounters 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102. This course explores problems, teachings, and outcomes connected with encounters between different religious communities and their practitioners. Through examination of particular religious groups in history and the present, and specific teachings or practices, students will investigate the causes of interreligious distrust or violence, as well as efforts to promote interreligious dialogue. Meets the University Writing Requirement. 3 hours lecture.
RELG 280 # - Study in World Religions 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100, PHIL 102, PHIL 106, RELG 100, RELG 101 or RELG 102 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Topics announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9 credits. Previous course RELG 350 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 282 # - Study in Religious Texts 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106 or RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Topics announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9 credits. Previous course RELG 300 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 284 # - Religion and Society 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106, RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Topics announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9.0 credits. Previous course RELG 355 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 286 # - Study in Religious Issues 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): PHIL 100 or PHIL 102 or PHIL 106, RELG 100 or RELG 101 or RELG 102 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Topics announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9.0 credits. Previous course RELG 357 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 301 # - Spirituality and Mysticism 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267 or RELG 280 or RELG 282 or RELG 284 or RELG 286 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. This course explores the spiritual ideals and mystical practices of individuals and communities who seek to transcend everyday experience. It examines how practices like chanting, prayer, meditation, contemplative or ecstatic movement, self-denial, or service to others serve as paths to self-realization and/or spiritual enlightenment. The focus will vary each time the course is offered. May be repeated one time for a maximum of 6 credits. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 304 # - Feminist Views of Religion 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267. This course examines religious texts and traditions in light of recent feminist interpretations of these texts. It considers feminist criticisms of religious thought as it relates to women. It also explores recent developments in feminist religious thought, such as female-centered religious ritual and practice and eco-feminist/creation spirituality. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 320 # - Religious Ethical Thinkers 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267. An introduction to the theological efforts of Jews, Christians, and Muslims to wrestle out "the meaning of" their communal faith in rational, speculative, critical, and creative ways. Includes study of the most influential Jewish and Christian theologians shaped Western culture, and of how recent and contemporary criticism challenges theological approaches. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 324 # - Religious Experience 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 223 or PHIL 212 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267 or PHIL 233 or PHIL 239 or PHIL 262 or PHIL 270. How atheism fits into various philosophical traditions; the difference between agnosticism and atheism; what has motivated atheists to deny the existence of God at different cultural moments; why atheism is gaining ground today; how some types of atheism function much as religions do; what the role of science is in accelerating atheism in technologically-advanced societies; how atheists position themselves vis-a-vis theists; and additional related topics. This class is open to theists, atheists, and the undecided. 3 hours seminar.

RELG 326 # - Theology 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267. An introduction to the theological efforts of Jews, Christians, and Muslims to wrestle out "the meaning of" their communal faith in rational, speculative, critical, and creative ways. Includes study of the most influential Jewish and Christian theologians shaped Western culture, and of how recent and contemporary criticism challenges theological approaches. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 328 # - Jihad, Just War and the Prospect of Peace 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 220, RELG 221, RELG 225, RELG 246, RELG 262, RELG 263, RELG 267 or RELG 273. This course focuses on the study of jihad in the Islamic tradition. The course will first present to students the historical development of the idea of jihad since its inception in Islam's holy book, the Qur'an and collections of teachings attributed to the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (570-632 CE). Based on this study, students will learn the definition and types of jihad as primarily a religious struggle at the personal and social levels to achieve inner peace, communal and inter-communal harmony. The class will proceed to highlight the role of what is traditionally called "the lesser jihad," namely a necessary struggle to combat acts of aggression against the Muslim community. Here, students will learn the religious views on peacemaking and rules that govern the justification and conduct of war in the Islamic tradition as expressed in pre-modern and modern works on the subject. The course also aims to introduce students to Western scholarship on the topic of jihad. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 332 # - Myth, Meaning and Self 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267. Selected psychological investigations and/or theories of religious phenomena; the implications for constructive theology and positive religious response. 3 hours lecture.
RELG 380 # - Study in World Religions 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267 or RELG 280 or RELG 282 or RELG 284 or RELG 286 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Topic announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9.0 credits. Previous course RELG 460 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours seminar.

RELG 382 # - Study in Religious Texts 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267 or RELG 280 or RELG 282 or RELG 284 or RELG 286 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Topics announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9.0 credits. Previous course RELG 352 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours lecture.

RELG 384 # - Religion and Society 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267 or RELG 275 or RELG 280 or RELG 282 or RELG 284 or RELG 286 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Topic announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9.0 credits. Previous course RELG 465 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours seminar.

RELG 386 # - Study in Religious Issues 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 221 or RELG 240 or RELG 246 or RELG 250 or RELG 252 or RELG 254 or RELG 256 or RELG 267 or RELG 275 or RELG 280 or RELG 282 or RELG 284 or RELG 286 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Topic announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9.0 credits. Previous course RELG 467 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours seminar.

RELG 400 # - Seminar 3 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 301, RELG 304, RELG 328, RELG 320, RELG 322, RELG 324, RELG 325, RELG 332, RELG 380, RELG 382, RELG 384 or RELG 386 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Cooperative research seminar in major movements, problems, theologians. Topic announced each semester. May be repeated two times for a maximum of 9.0 credits. Previous course RELG 462 effective through Spring 2016. 3 hours seminar.

RELG 405 # - Engaged Learning Project 3-6 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 301 or RELG 304 or RELG 320 or RELG 322 or RELG 324 or RELG 325 or RELG 332 or RELG 380 or RELG 382 or RELG 384 or RELG 386. This is a capstone course that provides students with the option to do faculty-guided project-based work related to the role of religion in everyday life. Such work may take two primary forms: [1] field study/ethnographic research in religious communities and institutions, or [2] program and research assistance in (nonsectarian) non-profit, charitable, or community organizations that are engaged in work pertaining to religion. Students’ engaged learning in this course will be paired with academic readings and writing assignments related to the impact of religion on individuals and in society, as assigned by the instructor. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.

RELG 490 # - Independent Study in Religion 1-6 Credits
Prerequisite(s): RELG 301, RELG 304, RELG 328, RELG 320, RELG 322, RELG 324, RELG 325, RELG 332, RELG 380, RELG 382, RELG 384 or RELG 386 may be taken as prerequisite or corequisite. Directed independent study and research in religious studies. Open to students with a minimum of 3.0 cumulative average in at least 9 semester hours of Religious Studies courses.