RELS - RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELS)

RELS 211/HUMA 211 Hebrew Scriptures
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Philosophical concepts of the Hebrew Scriptures as they relate to the
development of religious and ethical ideas.
Cross Listing: HUMA 211/RELS 211.

RELS 213/HUMA 213 New Testament
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
The origin and development of the religious and philosophical concepts
of the New Testament.
Cross Listing: HUMA 213/RELS 213.

RELS 220 History of Christianity: Origins to the Reformation
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
History of Christian doctrine, ecclesiastical organization, and religious
practice, origins through Reformation, with emphasis on religion and
society; life and teachings of Jesus; apostolic church; patristic period;
Christianization of Roman Empire and northern Europe; monasticism;
medieval church; Gregorian reform; heresy; papal monarchy; schism and
conciliarism; reformation of the sixteenth century.
Cross Listing: CLAS 220 and HIST 220.

RELS 221/HIST 221 History of Islam
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to the history of Islam, from the origins of the religion to the
present; development of Islamic law; gender issues; expansion of Islam
to Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia; globalization.
Cross Listing: HIST 221/RELS 221.

RELS 251/CLAS 251 Classical Mythology
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to the most important myths of Greeks and Romans; ancient
and modern methods of interpreting myths; the role of myths in ancient
literature; readings in English.
Cross Listing: CLAS 251/RELS 251.

RELS 257 Communication, Religion and the Arts
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to artistic, religious communication; survey of
communication art and media art practices across religious contexts;
consideration of communication aesthetics that mediate religious
experience.
Cross Listing: COMM 257.

RELS 285 Directed Studies
Credits 0 to 3.0 to 3 Other Hours.
Readings and/or assigned projects for specific needs of students
minoring in religious studies; directed independent or individual study in
an identified area of religious studies.
Prerequisite: Approval of coordinator of religious studies.

RELS 289 Special Topics in...
Credits 1 to 4.1 to 4 Lecture Hours.
Selected topics in an identified area of religious studies. May be repeated
for credit.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

RELS 291 Research
Credits 0 to 3.0 to 3 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of a faculty member in Liberal
Arts.
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of
instructor.

RELS 302 Women and Religion
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of women's position in religious institutions historically
and/or currently, religion's influence on women's roles and status, and
women's attempts to define their own religious perspectives; draws on
sociological and philosophical insights and methods.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: SOCI 302 and WGST 302.

RELS 303/HUMA 303 Near Eastern Religions
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Beliefs and practices of Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam
with particular attention to their philosophical presuppositions.
Cross Listing: HUMA 303/RELS 303.

RELS 304/HUMA 304 Indian and Oriental Religions
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Beliefs and practices of Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism,
Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto with particular attention to their
philosophical presuppositions.
Cross Listing: HUMA 304/RELS 304.

RELS 312 Contemplation in the Modern World
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Interdisciplinary approach to examining contemplative practices:
origins in philosophy and religious traditions, goals and techniques of
contemplation, contemplation in relation to cultural and social problems
or needs.

RELS 317/ANTH 317 Introduction to Biblical Archaeology
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Application of archaeology in biblical research; basic overview of the
material cultures that are the setting for the biblical narratives.
Cross Listing: ANTH 317/RELS 317.

RELS 321 Political Islam and Jihad
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Interaction between Islamic movements and politics in various Middle
Eastern countries; the meaning and evolution of jihad; the role of Islam as
a tool for political and social mobilization.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: HUMA 321 and INTS 321.

RELS 326/SOCI 326 Sociology of Religion
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Institution of religion and religious-related behavior; relationship between
dynamic and structural religion and contemporary society.
Prerequisite: SOCI 205.
Cross Listing: SOCI 326/RELS 326.

RELS 331/PHIL 331 Philosophy of Religion
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Philosophical problems of western religion such as the existence of God,
the problem of evil, types of theism, rational, empirical, and mystical
approaches to God.
Cross Listing: PHIL 331/RELS 331.
RELS 340/ANTH 340 Folklore and the Supernatural
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Traditional expressions of the supernatural such as superstition, belief
and divination classified as folklore genres and their relationships
to the cultures in which they develop; theories drawn from anthropology,
folklore and related social sciences.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

RELS 347/HIST 347 Rise of Islam, 600-1258
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to Islamic civilization from the rise of Islam to the Mongol
conquests; examination of pre-Islamic poetry, the Qur’an, early Islamic
laws on prayer, the ethical conventions of jihad, the lives of Muslim
women, and the relation of Islam to Judaism and Christianity.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.
Cross Listing: HIST 347/RELS 347.

RELS 360/ENGL 365 The Bible as Literature
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Narrative, structural, and thematic study of the Hebrew and Christian
Scriptures in English translation.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.
Cross Listing: ENGL 365/RELS 360.

RELS 365/HIST 365 Religion in Early America
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Religion in North America from colonial beginnings to eve of Civil War;
relations between European Christianity, Native Americans and African
Americans; religious pluralism, reform movements, social and political
change.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.
Cross Listing: HIST 365/RELS 365.

RELS 366/HIST 366 Religion in Modern America
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Religion in America from the Civil War to contemporary period;
relationship of religion and racial formation, capitalism, gender, sexuality,
immigration; religious pluralism; evangelicalism; role of religious politics
and social movements.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.
Cross Listing: HIST 366/RELS 366.

RELS 392/ENGL 392 Studies in Literature, Religion and Culture
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Studies in literature, religion, and culture. Exploration of literature
treating significant religious topics in the context of cultural setting;
features current faculty research on such topics as Tolkien and the
making of myth, C.S. Lewis, texts and cultures of the Middle East and
Victorian women writers and religion. May be repeated one time for
credit.
Prerequisites: 3 credits of literature at 200-level or above; junior or senior
classification.
Cross Listing: ENGL 392/RELS 392.

RELS 403/ANTH 403 Anthropology of Religion
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Anthropological theories of the relationship of religious behavior to social
structure and cultural change, with particular reference to non-Western,
pre-industrial societies.
Cross Listing: ANTH 403/RELS 403.

RELS 405 Psychology of Religion
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Review of world’s religions and the psychological study of the religious
experience; religion within the context of personality; religious
development through social interactions; religion in psychological
research and therapy.
Prerequisites: PSYC 306 and PSYC 330 or approval of instructor.

RELS 418 European Intellectual History from Ancient Greece to the Early
Middle Ages
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Political and social history of selected major figures and important
movements in political theory, literature, sociology, art, economics and
philosophy from Pre-Socratic Greece through the formative stages of the
Christian Middle Ages.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: CLAS 418 and HIST 418.

RELS 419/HIST 419 European Intellectual History from the High Middle
Ages to the 17th Century
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Political and social history of selected major figures and important
movements in political theory, literature, sociology, art, economics and
philosophy from the founding of Scholasticism and the University System
to the New Philosophy and science of 17th century.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: HIST 419/RELS 419.

RELS 436/ANTH 436 Ancient Egypt
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Archaeology and history of ancient Egypt from earliest times to the end
of the New Kingdom period.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: ANTH 436/RELS 436.

RELS 464/PHIL 464 Modern Jewish Thought and Philosophy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
An overview of modern Jewish thought and philosophy spanning Jewish
European thinkers from the 18th century to the 20th century.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.
Cross Listing: PHIL 464/RELS 464.

RELS 471/HISP 471 Hispanic Religions
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Exploration of the history and practice of Hispanic religion, including
spirit possession, evil eye, consumption of sacred substances, healing
traditions, ex-votos, relics, prophecy, omens, monsters, astrology,
witchcraft, the Inquisition, festivals, pilgrimage, mystics and religious
contributions of diverse ethnic groups.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: HISP 471/RELS 471.

RELS 474/HISP 474 Diversity Lessons from Medieval Spain
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Crucible of cultures–Christian, Jewish, and Muslim–that was medieval
Spain and modern implication of the experience in diversity.
Prerequisites: ENGL 104 and junior or senior classification or approval of
instructor.
Cross Listing: HISP 474/RELS 474.
RELS 480/COMM 480 Religious Communication
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The role of religious communication as manifested in speeches, sermons, debates, campaigns, and social movements throughout history. May be taken two times for credit.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: COMM 480/RELS 480.

RELS 485 Directed Studies
Credits 0 to 6. 0 to 6 Other Hours.
Readings and/or assigned projects for specific needs of students minoring in religious studies; directed independent or individual study in an identified area of religious studies.
Prerequisite: Approval of coordinator of religious studies.

RELS 489 Special Topics in...
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.
Selected topics in an identified area of religious studies. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

RELS 491 Research
Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of a faculty member in Liberal Arts. May be taken 3 times for credit.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification and approval of instructor.