REL 101: Introduction to Religion- URome Students ONLY
Callender, W. Green, Walsh, Husayn, H. Green, Stampino, Pals, Kling | Study Abroad

This course gives students an introductory exposure to various religions of the world as seen from the perspective of the academic study of religion. It takes an objective and non-sectarian approach and is intended to inform rather than to persuade. The course assumes that students are capable of understanding worldviews and value systems different from their own and that sympathetic exposure to such alternatives is both an integral part of a university education and an essential component of functioning as a responsible citizen of the 21st century.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Asian Religions: South and East Asia
- Christianity
- Islam
- Religion and Contemporary Identity

REL 101: Introduction to Religion
Callender | Online Course

An overview of religious perspectives concerning ultimate reality, humankind, and the world, with special attention to major Asian and Abrahamic religions.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Asian Religions: South and East Asia
- Christianity
- Islam
- Religion and Contemporary Identity

REL 103: One God: Judaism, Christianity, Islam
Maldonado, Husayn, W. Green | TR 11:00AM-12:15PM

Monotheism is one of the most important ideas in human history. This course examines how Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have lived it, understood it, and interpreted it, exploring their similarities, differences, and interactions.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Judaism
- Western Civilization: Historical Approaches
- The Philosophy of Religion
- Christianity
- Islam

REL 111: Introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures
Tyson | TR 12:30PM-1:45PM

An introduction to the content and background of the Hebrew Bible and to modern approaches to its study. The course will examine what some of these approaches have suggested about the origin and growth of the Hebrew Bible in its ancient Near Eastern context. The course will include a study of (a) the history of ancient Israel,
including its religious and social institutions, (b) the literary forms and themes of the Hebrew Bible, and (c) some of
the sociological forces involved in its formation.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Judaism
- The Bible
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
- A Survey of Jewish Literature
- The Evolution of Jewish People in their Homeland and the Diaspora

REL 151: Religion and Moral Choices
Vila | W 5:20PM-8:00PM

An introduction to major themes and important figures in religious and philosophical ethics. We will read,
discuss, and write about ethical issues ranging from abortion to war, including topics such as the death penalty,
environmentalism, and stem cell research.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion, Law, and Civic Engagement
- The Philosophy of Religion
- Religious Issues in the Modern World
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- God and Science
- Politics and Religion

REL 171: Introduction to Islam
Husayn | TR 2:00PM-3:15PM

An introduction to the religion, culture, and history of Islam, examining the context in which Islam
emerged, the Prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an, Muslim ritual and devotional practices, Islamicate aesthetics, law,
and issues of gender. Readings and lectures will focus on Islam as a diverse, lived tradition.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Islam

REL 232: A Global History of Christianity
Kling | TR 11:00AM-12:15PM

An introduction to the history, themes, and issues in the history of Christianity from the first century to the
present. Attention will be given to a variety of issues: theological (the formulation of beliefs); social (the formation
of Christian communities); political (the interaction between political structures and the Christian church);
biographical (the personal dimension of faith); and the role of Scripture.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Western Civilization: Historical Approaches
- Christianity
REL 236: Cults and New Religious Movements in America (January Intersession)
Kling | MTWRF 5:30PM-9:00PM & Sa: 10:00AM-12:30PM

Twentieth and twenty-first century religious groups in America, so-called “cults” or new religious movements (NRMs), located on the periphery of “mainstream” religion. An examination of the origins, beliefs, attraction, and interaction of the NRMs from a variety of disciplinary perspectives (historical, psychological, sociological) as well as from another variety of disciplinary perspectives (potential for violence, “brainwashing”, involvement of women, and charismatic leadership). The goal is to increase our understanding of certain aspects of contemporary religious activity and the general societal response to them, and hence, of religion in general.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion in the Americas

REL 242: Religion in Revolutionary History
Pals | Online Course

Explores the pivotal role of religion in the revolutions that have shaped the modern Western world: the Puritan Revolt in 17th-century England, the American/French Revolutions of 1776 and 1789, and the Russian (Communist) Revolution of 1917.

REL 307: Religion and Culture in Pre-Islamic Arabia
Graf | TR 9:30AM-10:45AM

A survey of religion and culture in Arabia from prehistory to the coming of Islam.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion in the Ancient World
- Islam

REL 308: The Greco-Roman Context of Early Christianity
Rodriguez | TR 2:00PM-3:15PM

The Greco-Roman world in which the first Christians lived, with particular emphasis given to the historical, moral, political, religious, rhetorical, and social contexts of early Christianity.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion in the Ancient World
- World of Early Christianity

REL 330: Caribbean Religion
Maldonado | Online Course

Caribbean Religion with an emphasis on African Diaspora and Creole religions. The religious traditions we will cover include: Rastafarianism, Regla de Ocha (Santería), Voodoo, Espiritismo, Regla de Palo, and Obeah.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion in the Americas
REL 334: The American Jewish Experience: Hollywood and Popular Culture  
H. Green | T 6:25PM-9:05PM

Analysis and interpretation of the image of the Jew and the Jewish experience in American cinema, with emphasis on how the experience and attitudes of Americans in general and the American Jewish community in particular have been reflected on the screen from the pre-World War II period until the present and on the tension between maintaining an ethnic identity and assimilating.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Popular Culture
- American Studies: Politics and Religion
- The Evolution of the Jewish People in their Homeland and the Diaspora

REL 335: American Religion in Modern Film  
Kling | R 5:00PM-7:40PM

A study of the role of religion in popular culture and the way in which religion becomes the vehicle for aesthetic, social, political, and other cultural purposes. Exploration of contemporary American religious life with special attention given to groups and issues depicted through the medium of film. We focus on how film uses religion rather than on how religion uses film. That is, we analyze how mainstream movies (both directly religious and essentially secular) appropriate religious imagery and themes, rather than how religions use film to communicate their beliefs and practices.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion in the Americas
- Christianity
- Popular Culture

REL 354: Religion and the Problem of Evil  
Swanson | W 5:00PM-7:40PM

Major religious perspectives on the origin and nature of evil and human suffering.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- The Philosophy of Religion
- Religious Issues in the Modern World
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation

REL 356: Myth and Religion  
Callender | TR 3:00PM-4:45PM

How humans use language to form and communicate conceptions of reality, focusing on the highly elusive concept "myth"; special attention to the concept's usefulness for thinking about religion.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- The Philosophy of Religion
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
REL 360: Religion and Bioethics  
Newell | TR 3:30PM-4:45PM

The implications of religious thought for contemporary problems of biomedical ethics.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion and the Body: Embodiment in religious Beliefs and Practices
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- God and Science

REL 362: The Sanctity of Life: Selected Themes from the Ancient World to the Present - URome Students ONLY  
Callender, W. Green, Walsh, Husayn, H. Green, Stampino, Pals, Kling | Study Abroad

This course examines the religious foundation of the idea that human life is “sacred” and considers a wide range of historical and ethical issues associated with this central concept of Western thought. It explores the meaning of the multi-faceted phrase “sanctity of life,” including its implications for such ethical and legal concerns as conception, birth, and termination of life; human dignity and human rights; the quality of life; and social justice. We will examine how “life” is defined and described in different cultures at different times in history, and how various religions have influenced these matters.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation

REL 363: Religion and Science Fiction: Dystopia, Faith, and the Future  
Newell | W 3:35PM-6:05PM

Issues surrounding “dystopia” and religion. We will study sustainability movements, authentic vs. synthetic nature, bioethics, technology, and their effects on modern spirituality and the future of religion. In order to discuss these topics, we will examine the intersections between the cultural significance of various dystopic science fiction novels, short stories, video games, television shows, and films with religion.

REL 406: Special Topics in Religious Issues or Problems  
McCullough, W. Green | M 5:45PM-8:15PM

This course titled “Religion, Mind, and Society” will explore cognitive scientific and cultural evolutionary approaches to and understandings of religion.

REL 409: Special Projects in Religious Issues or Problems  
H. Green | M 3:00PM-5:40PM

Since the end of World War Two, millions of people have been displaced from North Africa and the Middle East: Copts (Egypt), Jews (from the Atlantic Ocean to the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers), Sunni Muslims (Lebanon), Shia Muslims (Bahrain), and most recently, Kurds and Yazidis in Iraq and in Syria people of all stripes. Current migration of the displaced has created a crisis in Europe. This course examines the reasons why this has transpired and the plight of the refugees. Highlighting the International Declaration of Human Rights ratified by the United Nations in the wake of the Holocaust (1951), the course engages students in collecting and documenting the testimonies and stories of these refugees. The narratives include life in their countries of origin, their story of
leaving and their experience of resettling in a new country. Core themes such as transnational identity, exile, diaspora, migration and the “other” are central to the course.

Counts toward the following cognates:

- Religion, Law, and Civic Engagement
- Community Engagement and Social Change
- Study of Aspects of the Holocaust

**REL 505: Seminar in Ancient Studies - Alexander the Great in History and Myth**

Graf | M 6:25PM-9:05PM

Few individuals have had the impact that Alexander the Great had on the ancient world. Ironically, none of the more than twenty contemporary accounts chronicling his life are preserved intact, but only in later citations or excerpts called fragments that appear centuries later in Roman sources (e.g. Curtius, Plutarch and Arrian). From the earliest stages of the tradition, the tendency is to romanticize and embellish the tradition, including many letters and speeches attributed to Alexander that are clearly ancient forgeries and politically motivated. This course is designed to critically analyze and distinguish fact from fiction and history from myth. Discussion will center on the various sources and their interpretation. In addition, modern biographies have an array of portraits of Alexander ranging from the romantic world conqueror to a ruthless dictator. The primary function of the course is to expose how both ancient and modern authors transform the tradition in their attempt to “capture” the greatness of Alexander.