REL 101: Introduction to Religion
Maldonado | TR 11:00AM-12:15PM

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
- Social Institutions
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture

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
- Social Institutions
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture

REL 102: Problem of God
Maklakiewicz | R 5:00PM-7:40PM

Contemporary religious issues related to the concept of God. Foundational to this course is an examination of the religious dimension of human experience and consciousness in relation to a number of historical and contemporary problems and challenges. This course approaches the problem of God from the angle of human experience, focusing on the various historical, social, and existential determinants of belief. Topics include: globalized religion, the challenge of atheism and humanism, the impact of secularization on religion, and an exploration of the historical, social, and theological images of creation and the divine.
COUNTS TOWARD THE FOLLOWING COGNATES:
- Religious Issues in the Modern World
- The Philosophy of Religion
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
- Social Institutions

REL 105: ONE GOAL: TRANSFORMING THE SELF IN THE ASIAN RELIGIONS
Ritzinger | TR 2:00PM-3:15PM

A selective survey of some of the continent's major religious traditions that attempts to provide a sense of their diversity, including a hint of their internal diversity. We will encounter major figures, doctrines, and ethical precepts, but special attention will be paid to one key element shared that distinguishes them from their Abrahamic counterparts (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam): the one goal of self-transformation and the techniques for achieving it. Here we will find the differences among traditions thrown into stark relief even as we encounter surprising parallels and continuities. Along the way students will be exposed to major concepts and approaches to the academic study of religion.

COUNCTS TOWARD THE FOLLOWING COGNATES:
- Asian Religions: South and East Asia
- Social Institutions
- China Studies

REL 109: ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION
Tsang | TR 8:00AM-9:15AM

Through themes such as myth, word and text, symbol, gender, pilgrimage, embodiment, and ritual, students learn about lived religion through anthropological research and field methods. The course also exposes introductory-level students to diverse world religious traditions: Korean folk religion, Indonesian Islam, Hinduism in diaspora, Judaism across cultures, Japanese temple Shinto traditions, and more.

COUNCTS TOWARD THE FOLLOWING COGNATES:
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture
- Social Institutions

REL 121: INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
Walsh | MWF 11:15AM-12:05PM

What do we know about the beginnings of Christianity and how do we know it? This course is designed to introduce you to the historical circumstances that gave rise to the religious movement we now call Christianity. Through the close and careful reading of both New Testament literature and a variety of relevant ancient sources from outside of the Christian canon, we will work together to understand the world
of the first through third centuries CE. Beyond literary evidence, we will also use tools from other disciplines such as archaeology, art history, anthropology, the social sciences, and the cognitive sciences to help us understand how the Jesus movement took root and flourished in the Roman world. This course does not presuppose any prior knowledge of Christian, Roman or Jewish history. All texts will be read in translation.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- The Bible
- Social Institutions
- World of Early Christianity

**REL 131: Religion in America**  
Kling | TR 2:00PM-3:15PM

An introductory survey of the history of religion in America, including religions that have been most prominent (Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism), native to the land (Native American), and non-traditional (“cults,” Buddhism, Islam).

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Christianity
- Religion in the Americas
- Social Institutions

**REL 151: Religion and Moral Choices**  
Swanson | T 5:00PM-7:40PM

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
- Religion and Medicine
- Social Institutions
- Politics and Religion
REL 171: Introduction to Islam
Husayn | TR 12:30PM-1:45PM

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
- Social Institutions

REL 231: Jewish Civilization and Being Jewish
H. Green | TR 9:30AM-10:45AM

A survey of the development of Judaism from antiquity to modern times.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Judaism
- Social Institutions
- Religion, Law, and Civic Engagement
- The Evolution of the Jewish People in their Homeland and the Diaspora

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.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Social Institutions

REL 322: St. Paul and His Letters
Walsh | TR: 12:30PM-1:45PM

The heritage, writings, and legacy of the apostle Paul. Careful analysis of the Pauline corpus (especially Romans), with particular attention given to the radically different interpretations of Paul in both ancient and modern thought.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion, Myth, and Interpretation
- World of Early Christianity
• Social Institutions
• Christianity
• The Bible

**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 (Santeria), Voodoo, Espiritismo, Regla de Palo, and Obeah.

Counts toward the following cognates:

• Religion in the Americas
• Africa and the African Diaspora
• The Caribbean through Literature, History, and the Arts
• Latin American Art and Culture
• Social Institutions
• Exploring the Caribbean through the Social Sciences

**REL 343: Saints and Sinners: Introduction to Catholicism**  
Nickoloff | W 3:35PM-6:15PM

This course considers contemporary forms of Catholic piety, social ethics, political action, and theology.

Counts toward the following cognates:

• Religion in the Americas
• Christianity
• Social Institutions
• Religion, Law, and Civic Engagement

**REL 371: Islam and Gender**  
Husayn | TR 3:30PM-4:45PM

Gender issues such as homosexuality, masculinity, femininity, modesty, virginity, sexuality and its control, and veiling in Islam.

Counts toward the following cognates:

• A Cross-Cultural and Historic Examination of Sexuality
• Islam
• Social Institutions
• Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture
**Religion and the Body: Embodiment in Religious Beliefs and Practices**

**REL 384: Karma**  
Ritzinger | TR 11:00AM-12:15PM

Karma is one of the most central doctrines of Buddhism and by far the most viral. Through tip jars, pop songs, and TV shows, the concept has become familiar to many. But what is karma? How does it work? What does it mean to live in a karmic universe? This course will examine these questions through a consideration of Buddhist doctrine, ritual, ethics, and narrative.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Ethics in the Humanities: Religion, Philosophy, Politics
- Asian Religions: South and East Asia
- Social Institutions

**REL 391: Bollywood and Beyond: Religion, Gender and Politics in South Asian Film**  
Dutt | MWF 10:10AM-11:00AM

This course studies themes in Indian society through the lens of Indian cinema – both Bollywood and the regional film industry. The important themes covered are: the complex narratives of religious iconography, myths and faith, caste, gender, sexuality, and the challenges of tradition, customs, and “globalized” modernity in India.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Religion and the Body: Embodiment in Religious Beliefs and Practices
- Asian Religions: South and East Asia
- Social Institutions
- Religion, Identity, and Pop Culture

**REL 405: Special Topics in Religious or Historical Traditions - To Hell and Back with Dante**  
Park | MWF 11:15AM-12:05PM

The course treats the rise and development of the Western epic tradition from Homer, Lucretius, and Virgil in the classical world, through Dante in the Middle Ages, Milton in the Renaissance, and Wordsworth and Eliot in modernity.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Social Institutions
REL 499: Method and Theory in the Study of Religion

Callender | M 5:00PM-7:40PM

An examination of central issues and texts in the academic study of religion, with special focus on the rise of the discipline, its axioms, and its several schools of interpretation.

Counts toward the following cognates:
- Social Institutions