

Department of Religious Studies

Spring 2018 Schedule of Classes

Undergraduate Courses

Religions of the World

REL 102.001

Ramey, TR 12:30-1:45 TH 30

This Core course is an interdisciplinary introduction to the comparative study of practices and concepts identified as the world's religions, highlighting different ways individuals and groups across cultures organize lives and values; students will compare two different religions in relation to four selected elements. **HU IBA ASST**

Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 105.001

Ikeuchi, TR 11:00-12:15 GP 154

REL 105.002

Bagger, TR 9:30-10:45 MA 308

As the Honors/Core Humanities introduction to the academic study of religion, REL 105 examines the material in greater detail than REL 100, and in a smaller class setting. A minimum 3.3 GPA is required to register. **HU IBA**

Introduction to the New Testament

REL 112.001

Trost, TR 11:00-12:15 SHLB 1093

This Core course introduces the ancient Hellenistic world as the matrix in which Christianity appeared and examines the traditions about Jesus (that were variously framed and organized into the Gospels) and the writings of Paul. **HU IBA**

Religion and Science

REL 120.001

Bagger, TR 11:00-12:15 MA 308

This Core course is a study of the construction of "science" and "religion," focusing on the ways these concepts have been mutually defined throughout history, looking at the uses of the terms in the history of science and contemporary debates, examining the scientific revolution, nature, gender, science as religion, and cognitive science. **HU**

Judaism

REL 224.001

Jacobs, TR 12:30-1:45 MA 207

This Core course introduces Judaism and examines its history, philosophy, theology, holiday/festival and life cycles, as well as contemporary experiences including the Holocaust and the rebirth of the state of Israel. **HU**

Islam

REL 236.001

Bagger, TR 2:00-3:15 BC 260

This Core course comprises a broad, interdisciplinary introduction to the practices and conceptions within Islam and the various ways they have been interpreted and represented. Topics include narratives of origins, the literary, theological, and ritual nature of the Qur'an, contemporary practices within Islamic communities, historical developments, and Sufism. **HU IBA ASST**

Self, Society, & Religion

REL 237.001

Loewen, TR 2:00-3:15 MA 308

This course surveys the influential school of modern, Western religious thought called religious existentialism. We will review the major texts, authors, and themes of this eclectic movement, such as texts by Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Buber, Heidegger, de Beauvoir, Sartre, Fanon, Derrida, Cixous and Zizek.

American Religious History

REL 241.001

Altman, TR 9:30-10:45 BE 0009

This Core course offers a broad overview of changing conceptions of religion in American culture, history, & society, from the colonial period to today; emphasis will be placed on race, politics, immigration, & cultural power. **HU**

Religion & Identity in Southeast Asia

REL 321.001

Ramey, W 3:30-5:50 MA 210

This course critically analyzes how people identify themselves/draw boundaries to separate groups from each other, using South Asian case studies. While these divisions involve many elements, such as nationality, linguistic identity, gender, and class, aspects of human experience commonly identified as religious frequently intersect with these divisions and identities. **IBA ASST**

Jewish-Christian Relations

REL 347.001

Jacobs, T 3:30-5:50 MA 210

Historical study of the various points of contact and divergence between Judaism and Christianity, focusing on such topics as anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, the founding of the state of Israel, and diversity among Christian denominations.

Asian Religions in America

REL 351.001

Altman, M 3:30-5:50 MA 210

This Core Writing course introduces the history & development of Asian religions in American culture, examining immigration, US-born converts, and the ways Asian religions are represented & imagined in American culture (past & present). **W ASST**

Religion in Popular Culture

REL 360.001

Bagger, T 6:30-9:00 GA 203

This one credit hour course, offered each semester, involves monthly films, discussions, & either the Day or Aronov Lecture. Students will also write a small number of brief commentaries & blog posts on the films. Different films are used each semester, guest faculty show the films & lead discussions, and the course is repeatable for up to 3 credit hours. **Open to all students.**

Buddhism

REL 372.001

Ikeuchi, TR 2:00-3:15 MA 207

This course explores religious themes and movements related to Buddhism in various Asian countries, Europe, and North America, with a focus on modern and contemporary periods. The topics include historical narratives, interpretations of texts, transformations of rituals, diaspora and identity, nationalism and politics, and contemporary pop culture. **No previous knowledge of Buddhism is required. IBA ASST**

Capstone Senior Seminar

REL 490.001

McCutcheon, R 3:30-5:50 MA 210

This semester REL's Capstone Senior Seminar uses the work of one of our field's most noted modern scholars, the University of Chicago's Jonathan Z. Smith, to examine such field-wide issues as definition, description, comparison, and explanation—to reflect on the tools that scholars use when going about their work. **Required of all REL majors and only offered each Spring semester.** Contact the main office to obtain a permit to register.

Graduate Courses

Capstone Graduate Seminar

REL 590.001

Simmons, W 3:30-5:50 MA 200A

This required course, for MA students who are in their last semester and working on their thesis, is offered each Spring and is an opportunity for students to seek input

from the Graduate Director and their peers; students will present their research and receive feedback on drafts of their writing prior to their thesis defense. To enroll you must obtain a permit from the main office.

Special Topics in Religion in Culture

REL 504.001

REL Graduate Faculty

This variable topics course offers grad students a variety of opportunities to study religion in culture (can be taken for up to 9 credit hours); speak with your supervisor about possible topics and obtain a permit to register from the main office. Times and location to be determined.

Independent Study in Social Theory in REL

REL 560.001

REL Graduate Faculty

This graduate directed reading course can be taken for up to 9 credit hours; speak with your supervisor about possible topics and then obtain a permit to register from the main office. Times and location to be determined.

Independent Study in Social Theory in REL

REL 561.001

REL Graduate Faculty

This graduate directed reading course can be taken for up to 9 credit hours; speak with your supervisor about possible topics and then obtain a permit to register from the main office. Times and location to be determined.

Majors/Minors: Interested in the REL Honors Thesis Track? Talk to a faculty member about being your supervisor & then consult with the Undergrad Director.

Find us online...



And be sure to make your advising appointment with Prof. Trost prior to registering for Spring 2018.

REL advising begins Oct. 16