

Department of Religious Studies

Fall 2019 Schedule of Classes

Undergrad Lecture Courses

Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 100.001 45000

Altman, TR 12:30-1:45, FA 214

REL 100.002 45722

Touna, TR 9:30-10:45, LY 226

REL 100.003 48744

Newton, TR 11:00-12:15, NL 2008

Surveys debates in the history of the field, definition of religion, insider/outsider problem, theories of religion and religion & law; ideal intro to the study of religion in a public university. **HU INB**

Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 105.001 48752

Crews, TR 9:30-10:45, MA 207

REL 105.002 48753

Crews, TR 11:00-12:15, MA 207

REL 105.003 48754

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

Honors intro; examines material in greater detail than REL 100 and in a smaller classes. A min. 3.3 GPA is required. **HU INB**

Introduction to the Old Testament

REL 110.001 48755

Jacobs, TR 11:00-12:15, TH 347

Introduction to the books of the Old Testament (also known as the Hebrew Bible) in their historical settings, with emphases on textual analyses, literary forms and their function and use in the past and present in both the Jewish and Christian religious traditions. **HU INB**

Introduction to the New Testament

REL 112.001 45726

Trost, TR 2:00-3:15, LY 132

Introduction to the ancient Hellenistic world as the social matrix in which early Christianity appeared; examines the narrative traditions about Jesus that were variously framed and organized in 1966 Gospels and the writings of Paul. **HU INB**

Buddhism

REL 209.001 48757

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

Explores Buddhism in various Asian countries, Europe, and North America, with a focus on modern and contemporary periods, including: narratives, texts

& interpretations, rituals, nationalism & politics, and contemporary pop culture. **HU IBA ASST**

Judaism

REL 224.001 48758

Jacobs, TR 3:30-4:45, MA 207

Introduces Judaism and examines its history, philosophy, holiday/festival and life cycles, as well as the Holocaust and the rebirth of the state of Israel. **HU**

African Diaspora Religions

REL 226.001 48759

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

With case studies drawn from Hip Hop to archival finds and YouTube, this course explores the significance of Africa and religion in American culture. **HU**

Islam

REL 236.001 44139

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

A broad, interdisciplinary introduction to the development, practices & modern conceptions within Islam and the various ways they have been interpreted and represented. **HU INB**

Self, Society, & Religions

REL 237.001 48760

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

Using ancient Greek myths, the course explores the ways in which individuals and groups develop a particular sense of the self whether be it seen as religious, gendered, heroic, or individualistic.

Undergrad Seminar Courses

REL Goes to the Movies

REL 310.320 48761

Crews, T 6-9:00, GP 230

One credit course with monthly films, discussions, & either the Day or Aronov Lecture. Students write brief commentaries & blog posts on the films; repeatable for up to 3 credit hours. **Open to all students.**

English Bible as Literature

REL 311.001 48762

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

Core Writing course that critically studies the Hebrew and Christian Bible as literary and theological traditions. Stories will be examined in light of their

cultural/historical contexts, placing emphasis on the literary qualities of texts. **W**

Digital Humanities in REL

REL 315.001 48763

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

Students will learn a variety of digital tools and apply those to data drawn from religious studies. Students do not need a background in computing or religious studies.

Religion & Identity in South Asia

REL 321.001 48764

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

Examines how people identify themselves/draw boundaries to distinguish groups, using South Asian case studies—such as ideas of religion, nationality, language, gender, and class. **IBA ASST**

Religion in the American South

REL 415.001 48782

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

Using UA as a case study, this course focuses on how notions of “the past” are invented in different ways for different social purposes, tackling analytical classifications and contestations of “the South” as an identifiable geographical and cultural space. **W**

Undergrad Online Courses

REL 100 HU Intro to Religious Studies
REL 103 HU Religion in the News
REL 104 HU Religion in Pop Culture
REL 112 HU Intro to New Testament (Fall2)

Distance Learning, Early College, and On Campus students can enroll in various REL online courses; contact the main office for more info

Grad Seminar Courses

Social Theory Foundations (required)

REL 501.001 44626

Simmons, W 1:30-3:30, MA 210

Introduces students to terms and ideas from social theory and their relevance to the academic study of religion.

HU: Core Humanities Designation
ASST: Asian Studies Credit

Public Humanities Foundations (required)

REL 502.002 45082

Loewen, M 1:30-3:20, MA 210

Introduces students to a number of digital tools for research and the presentation of their research to a larger public.

Debates in Method & Theory (recommended)

REL 504.001 45734

McCutcheon, T 1:30-3:20, MA 210

Students will read several recent multi-authored works, all involving a new generation of scholars making contributions to the analysis of the tools scholars of religion use in their work.

500-level independent study courses are also available, in consultation with your supervisor.

B.A. Students: make your advising appt. with Prof. Altman (Undergrad Director) prior to registering for Fall 2019

Find us on Vimeo, SoundCloud or at



M.A. Students: speak with your supervisor & Prof. Simmons (Grad Director) about registering for Fall REL classes or about classes outside REL

Visit our website at: religion.ua.edu

INB: International Business Designation
W: Core Writing Designation