# Department of Religious Studies

## Fall 2020 Classes

### Undergrad Lecture Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 100.001 44172</td>
<td>Introduction to Religious Studies</td>
<td>Survey of key issues and themes of religious studies in Judaism and Christianity.</td>
<td>NL 1015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 100.002 44616</td>
<td>Religions of the World</td>
<td>Introduction to the comparative study of practices and concepts of religions.</td>
<td>FA 214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 105.001 49515</td>
<td>Honors Introduction to Religious Studies</td>
<td>Study of main religious texts with emphasis on the historical development of religions.</td>
<td>MA 207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 105.002 46083</td>
<td>Introduction to the Old Testament</td>
<td>Introduction to the Hebrew Bible in its historical setting, emphasizing textual analyses.</td>
<td>MA 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 105.003 46085</td>
<td>Women and Religion</td>
<td>Study of the Bible in historical and cultural contexts.</td>
<td>MA 210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Undergrad Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL Goes to the Movies</td>
<td>English Bible as Literature</td>
<td>Core Writing course that critically studies the Hebrew and Christian Bible.</td>
<td>MA 205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 310.320 46091</td>
<td>Digital Humanities in REL</td>
<td>Study of religious texts in digital contexts.</td>
<td>MA 210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Honors History of American Religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 245.001 49110</td>
<td>Honors History of American Religion</td>
<td>Explores the history of religion and its impact on American culture and society.</td>
<td>LY 131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Other Classes

- Islam
  - REL 236.001 43526
  - Szanto, TR 9:30-10:45, MA 207
  - Introduction to the development, practices & modern conceptions within Islam and the various ways they have been interpreted and represented by different groups. HU

- Apocalypse in Popular Media
  - REL 240.001 49109
  - Trost, M 3:30-5:50, MA 207
  - Examines contemporary depictions of apocalypse and dystopia in popular media. HU

- English Bible as Literature
  - REL 311.001 46092
  - Trost, MW 1:00-2:15, MA 308
  - 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 46093
  - Wieringa, TR 11:00-12:15, 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.
Tales from Asia  
**REL 322.001 49111**  
*Ramey, W 3:30-5:50, MA 210*  
Core Writing course analyzes retellings of ancient tales within contemporary popular culture, investigating versions of two specific stories, the Ramayana and Journey to the West, to address issues surrounding myths and cultural identity and the ways people adapt stories for various ideological purposes, including the politics of translation, adaptation, and classification. W

**Antisemitism and the Crisis of Modernity**  
**REL 371.001 49132**  
*Jacobs, Th 3:30-5:50, MA 210*  
Addressing the problem of antisemitism, this seminar attempts to answer such questions as: what is antisemitism, is it different from other forms of hatred and prejudice, how has it manifested itself throughout history, and how can it be combatted?

**Making Islam**  
**REL 436.001 49133**  
*Szanto, MW 1:00-2:15, MA 207*  
Studies how various agents (Muslim & non-Muslim) construct/debate/refute ideas about authentic or authoritative Islam, in both popular & academic sources, asking how scholars make sense of such diverse accounts, the assumptions they make, and the roles they play in debates over the nature of Islam.

**Undergrad Online Courses**

REL 100 HU Intro to Religious Studies (Fall/Fall 2)  
REL 103 HU Religion in the News (Fall)  
REL 104 HU Religion in Pop Culture (Fall)

Distance Learning, Early College, and On Campus students can enroll; contact the main office more information.

**Grad Seminars**

**Social Theory Foundations (required)**  
**REL 501.001 43897**  
*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.

**Public Humanities Foundations (required)**  
**REL 502.001 44227**  
*Loewen, M 1:30-3:20, MA 210*  
Introduces students to a number of digital tools for research and the presentation of work to larger publics.

**Debates in Method & Theory (recommended)**  
**REL 512.001 49157**  
*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.

**Past and Present (recommended)**  
**REL 524.001 49158**  
*Touna, T 3:30-5:50, MA 210*  
Examines recent scholarship and discusses issues of anachronism, origins, and historiography in the study of the religion. Related to these issues students will be expected to find and present examples from their own research area.

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 2020

**M.A. Students:** speak with your supervisor & Prof. Simmons (Grad Director) prior to registering for Fall 2020

Look for our Interim and Summer 2020 courses.

*Find us on Vimeo & SoundCloud or at*

*Visit our website at: religion.ua.edu*