

Department of Religious Studies

Fall 2020 Classes

Undergrad Lecture Courses

Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 100.001 44172

Touna, TR 12:30-1:45, NL 1015

REL 100.002 44616

Newton, TR 11:00-12:15, FA 214

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**

Religions of the World

REL 102.001 49515

Ramey, TR 9:30-10:45, FA 120

Introduction to the comparative study of practices and concepts often identified as the world's religions, highlighting ways individuals and communities across cultures organize lives and values. **HU INB**

Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 105.001 46083

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

REL 105.002 46084

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

REL 105.003 46085

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

Examines REL 100's material in greater detail and in smaller classes. Min. 3.3 GPA required. **HU INB**

Introduction to the Old Testament

REL 110.001 46086

Jacobs, TR 11:00-12:15, TH 109

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 Judaism and Christianity. **HU INB**

Women and Religion

REL 234.001 49108

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

Examines how certain social phenomena come to be identified as "religion" and "gender," looking especially at how these are naturalized and performed within racialized, sexualized, and economic frameworks. Debates related to the topics of nature, the body, and representation will receive particular attention. **HU**

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**

Honors History of American Religion

REL 245.001 49110

Newton, TR 2:00-3:15, LY 131

Explores how the history of religion shapes debates on American culture, memory, and institutions; focus will be placed on race, sexuality, class, and concepts of liberty in the US. **HU**

Undergrad Seminars

REL Goes to the Movies

REL 310.320 46091

Crews, Sept. 1st, Sept. 22nd, Oct. 20th, Dec. 1st

Location: Smith Hall 205

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 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