

Department of Religious Studies

Spring 2021 Classes

Undergrad Lecture Courses

Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 100.001 14256

Touna, TR 11:00-12:15 Location: TBA

REL 100.002 15593

Szanto, TR 9:30-10:45 Location: TBA

Surveys that draws on a wide variety of examples to examine the 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 World

REL 102.001 17861

Ramey, TR 12:30-1:45 Location: TBA

Comparative study of practices and concepts identified as the world's religions; highlights ways individuals & communities across cultures organize lives and values. **HU INB**

Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 105.001 14258

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

REL 105.002 14259

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

REL 105.003 14260

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

Examines REL 100's material but in greater detail and in small discussion-based classes. 3.3 GPA required (Honors and Honors-eligible students). **HU INB**

Introduction to the New Testament

REL 112.002 17862

Trost, MW 2:00-3:15 Location: TBA

Introduction to the Hellenistic world of early Christianity, examining the early traditions about Jesus that were organized into the Gospels and the letters of Paul. **HU INB**

Religion and Science

REL 120.001 17863

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

Introduction to the ways in which "science" and "religion" have been defined and have historically interacted, with a focus on health and technology. **HU**

Religion, Politics, and Law

REL 130.001 14261

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

Examines how law, politics, and the nation-state create a domain known as religion and the role of religion in political theory; particularly helpful to students interested in religious studies, history, political science, law, and philosophy. **HU**

Judaism

REL 224.001 17864

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

Introduction to some of the leading schools and interpreters of Judaism and a review of modern developments including the Holocaust and the State of Israel. **HU**

Religious Existentialism

REL 231.001 17865

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

Challenges common understandings of "meaning" and "self" by surveying classics in this European intellectual movement and then turning to ancient and modern South & East Asian texts to complicate and problematize a variety of traditional existential problems and concepts. **HU**

Undergrad Seminars

REL Goes to the Movies

REL 310.320 15600

Griffin, Jan. 19th, Feb. 9th, Mar. 9th, Mar. 30th, Apr. 20th T 6:00-9:00 TH 30

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

Theories of Myth

REL 341.001 17866

Touna, Th 3:30-5:50 MA 210

Seminar that examines myths of the ancient Greco-Roman world by applying theories that modern scholars use to understand those stories as a sub-type of narrative. **W**

Jewish-Christian Relations

REL 347.001 15602

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

Seminar examining the complex 2,000-year-old relationship by focusing on areas of commonality and difference. **W**

Digital Texts and the Humanities

REL 370.001 17889

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

How does Google know the frequency of word use in 1850? How might scholars use machines to read differently? This course explores digital texts: how they're made/the questions we can ask with & about them. We'll assemble and analyze a digital corpus, learn some computer programming, and discuss the implications of treating words as data.

Faith, Anxiety, & Redemption

REL 480.001 17914

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

"The Lord is with me, I shall not fear"—or so many liturgies affirm, and yet we experience fear. Drawing on ancient, medieval & modern texts from a variety of religions we will explore that feeling, connect it to contemporary beliefs, possibilities and hopes. The course is reading and writing intensive. **Cross-listed with Political Science.**

Capstone Senior Seminar

REL 490.001 14262

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

Explores the authority of archives in scholarly renderings of the past, looking at how media studies and posthumanism complicate understanding archives as sets of stable artifacts. **Required for graduating REL majors (offered each Spr); contact the REL main office to obtain permission to enroll.**

300-level and 400-level independent study courses and REL 400 Honors Thesis are also available, in consultation with a faculty member.

Undergrad Online Courses

REL 100 Intro to Religious Studies (HU)

REL 103 Religion in the News (HU)

REL 104 Religion in Pop Culture (HU)

Distance Learning, Early College, & Main Campus

Grad Seminars

Contact the main office to obtain permission to enroll

History of the Study of Religion

REL 511.001 17915

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

Surveys the beginnings, objects of study, and pivotal thinkers often highlighted when outlining the development and current

HU: Core Humanities Designation
ASST: Asian Studies Credit

state of the modern field. **Recommended for all MA students.**

Discourse & Practice

REL 523.001 17916

Szanto, Th 1:30-3:20 MA 210

Introduces the terms & ideas related to discourse and practice and their relevance to the study of religion. Students will apply theories to analyze examples relevant in Religious Studies, either ancient or modern, or drawn from the study of Islam.

Academic Writing in REL

REL 580.001 17932

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

Seminar that, over the course of the semester, shapes a piece of each student's critical writing into publishable form; runs as a workshop, with the students' own writing as the primary material. **Recommended for all MA students.**

Capstone Grad Seminar

REL 590.001 13599

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

Adopting a journal in the field, students will be its expert, selecting past/current articles for the class to read/discuss, to develop a broad sense of work carried out in the study of religion. **Required for graduating students.**

500-level independent study courses, REL 565 Internships, and REL 599 Thesis are also available, in consultation with your supervisor/Grad Director.

B.A. Students: make your advising appt. with Prof. Trost (Undergrad Director) prior to registering for Spring 2021—more news soon.

M.A. Students: speak with your supervisor or Prof. Ramey (Grad Director) prior to registering for Spring 2021—more news soon.

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INB: International Business Designation
W: Core Writing Designation