

Department of Religious Studies

Fall 2021 Classes

Undergrad Lecture Courses

Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 100.001 44036

Simmons, TR 9:30-10:45 NL 1011

REL 100.002 44457

Szanto, TR 11:00-12:45 LY 328

Draws on a wide variety of examples to examine the definition of religion, insider/outsider problem, theories of religion, religion & law, etc.; ideal introduction to the study of religion in a public university. **HU INB**

Religions of World

REL 102.001 47543

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

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

Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 105.001 45828

Griffin, TR 9:30-10:45 PRH 207

REL 105.002 45829

Griffin, TR 11:00-12:15 PRH 207

REL 105.003 45830

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

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

Introduction to Ancient Greek Religion

REL 106.001 47546

Touna, TR 9:30-10:45 PRH 308

Introduction to the narratives & practices of what scholars call ancient Greek religion, examining the problem of translating specific ancient Greek terms as religion & the implications involved in this process. **HU**

Introduction to the New Testament

REL 112.001 44459

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

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

African Diaspora Religions

REL 226.001 45834

Newton, TR 12:30-1:45 PRH 207

Examines African influence throughout the Americas (e.g., Candomblé in Brazil, Vodou in the Caribbean, African American religions in North America), focusing on the interplay between religion, culture & politics. **HU**

Islam

REL 236.001 43398

Szanto, TR 2:00-3:15 PRH 207

Introduction to the traditions of Islam, including their history, texts, intellectual debates, & contemporary practices. **HU**

American Religious History

REL 241.001 47547

Altman, TR 11:00-12:15 PRH 308

Surveys religious themes and movements in American culture, from before European colonization to the present; of particular use for students interested in American history, law, American studies, religious studies, and cultural studies. **HU**

Undergrad Seminars

REL Goes to the Movies

REL 310.320 45836

*Griffin, Aug. 24th, Sept. 14th, Oct. 12th, Nov. 2nd,
Nov. 30th T 6:00-9:00 pm TH 105*

1 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.**

English Bible as Literature

REL 311.001 45837

Trost, T 3:30-5:50 PRH 210

Core writing course analyzes a number of books of the Bible, examining and evaluating each as an example of a particular literary genre. **W**

Tales From Asia

REL 322.001 47548

Ramey, M 3:30-5:50 PRH 210

Core writing course analyzes the retellings of ancient tales in contemporary pop culture (e.g., the *Ramayana* & *Journey to the West*), addressing issues surrounding myths and cultural

identity & the ways people adapt stories for various purposes (e.g., politics of translation, adaptation, & classification). **W**

Gendered Authority in American Religion

REL 372.001 47575

Wieringa, Th 3:30-5:50 PRH 210

Examines the role of gender within American religion, focusing on the way constructions of gender (along with race and class) ground & contest claims to authority, within groups and between them, also considering different frameworks to study gender within the study of religion.

Adv. Studies in Myth and Ritual

REL 419.001 47576

Touna, W 3:30-5:50 PRH 210

Core writing course examining the theories & methods used to study the relations between narrative & behavioral systems, with a focus on those known as myths and rituals. **W**

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

Undergrad Online Courses

REL 100.910/920 Intro to Religious Studies (HU)

REL 103.910/911/920 Religion in the News (HU)

REL 104.910/911/920 Religion in Pop Culture (HU)

Open to Distance Learning & Main Campus Students

Grad Seminars

Contact the main office to obtain a permit to enroll

Social Theory and Religious Studies

REL 501.001 43763

Newton, W 1:30-3:30 PRH 210

Required foundation seminar introduces students to critical terms & ideas from social theory, demonstrating their wide relevance to the academic study of religion.

Public Humanities and Religious Studies

REL 502.001 44091

Altman, Th 1:30-3:20 PRH 210

Required foundation seminar introduces students to public & digital humanities tools, learning methods for conducting digital research & ways to communicate religious studies research to wider audiences through digital media.

HU: Core Humanities Designation
ASST: Asian Studies Credit

Digital Methods in Religious Studies

REL 503.001 47603

Wieringa, Sept. 10-11 & Oct. 8-9 10:00-3:00 pm PRH 210

Recommended 1 credit hour course offered each semester (repeated up to 4 hours; different topics each semester), as part of the Digital Humanities Certificate, focusing this semester on two important skills: (i) designing and building content for the web and (ii) developing research questions for computational analysis.

Debates in Method and Theory

REL 512.001 47604

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

Examines contemporary debates & scholars, emphasizing a newer generation, to consider the tools scholars use, the contexts in which they work, & some of their implications.

Power and Persuasion

REL 522.001 47605

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

Examines instances of power and persuasion and their role in scholarship on religion, with examples drawn from the philosophy of religion's increasing efforts to address issues of cross-cultural relevance.

500-level independent study courses, REL 565 Internships (on or off-campus), and REL 599 Thesis always available, in consultation with your supervisor/Grad Director.

B.A. Students: make your advising appointment with Prof. Altman (Undergrad Director) prior to registering for Fall 2021 — more news soon.

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

Find REL on Vimeo & SoundCloud or at:



religion.ua.edu

INB: International Business Designation
W: Core Writing Designation