

Department of Religious Studies

Spring 2022 Classes

Undergrad Lectures & Seminars

Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 100.001 14101

Touna, TR 9:30-10:45 LY 328

REL 100.002 15318

Simmons, TR 11:00-12:15 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**

The Violent and the Sacred

REL 101.001 15321

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

Introduction to critical thinking about “religion” and “violence.” With the help of academic theories, the relations between these terms will be examined as social and cultural constructs across several geo-political contexts. **HU**

Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 105.001 14103

Griffin, TR 9:30-10:45 PRH 102

REL 105.002 14104

Griffin, TR 11:00-12:15 PRH 102

REL 105.003 14105

Griffin, TR 2:00-3:15 PRH 102

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 the New Testament

REL 112.001 13464

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

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**

Religion and Science

REL 120.001 17619

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

This course is a broad, interdisciplinary introduction to the ways in which “science” and “religion” have been defined and their interactions over the years. **HU**

Self, Society, and Religions: Authenticity

REL 237.001 17620

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

Analyzes the ways different people claim that something is real, genuine, and authoritative; draws on examples from popular culture (e.g. professional wrestling) and religious history (e.g. evangelicalism).

Philosophies of Judaism

REL 238.001 17621

Jacobs, TR 9:00-10:45 PRH 207

Survey of major philosophical formulations of the nature and role of Jews and Judaism, written by select Jewish thinkers.

REL Goes to the Movies

REL 310.320 15325

*Griffin, Jan 18th, Feb 8th, Mar 1st, Mar 22nd,
Apr 12th 6:00pm-9:00pm 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; RSSA members are invited to attend the films if unregistered.**

The Living and the Dead: the Politics of Souls

REL 371.001 17648

Levine, R 3:30-5:50 PRH 210

Examines the politics surrounding the presence or absence of the idea of a soul: who has a soul, what difference does it make, and how do we know? What is the relationship of souls to bodies? Does the presence/absence of souls change what it means to kill? Are souls immortal, and in what sense does this matter when thinking or acting politically?

Religion and Genocide

REL 410.001 17649

Jacobs, T 3:30-5:50 Garland 208

Explores the phenomenon known as genocide by examining its relationship to the religion in both its institutional and theological frameworks.

Theories of Religion

REL 440.001 17650

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

How we understand and explain religious phenomena relies on how we define “religion,” and thus the theory that drives that definition. This seminar examines in-depth scholarly theories that have influenced and shaped the field of Religious Studies and consequently the way scholars study religion.

Anti-Semitism and Anti-Jewish Racism

REL 461.013 17676

Levine, Tues 5:00-7:30pm PRH 210

Co-taught hybrid seminar involving students & faculty from universities across AL, studying anti-Semitism/anti-Jewish racism historically and comparatively. Circumstances permitting, students will be invited to present their research at a statewide undergrad event in Montgomery (on Apr. 19-20). Interested students should contact Dr. Levine (djlevine@ua.edu) for permission to enroll.

Capstone Senior Seminar (Required for Majors)

REL 490.001 14107

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

Focuses on “What comes next?” in three related ways: what comes next from reflecting on theory in the study of religion?; what comes next in the application of such theory?; what comes next in conveying our research to others? Students select the topic that they will study, analyze, and present. **Contact the REL main office for a permit to enroll.**

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 (920 sections) and Main Campus Students (910 and 911 sections)

Grad Seminars

Contact the REL main office for a permit to enroll

Digital Methods in Religious Studies

REL 503.001 17677 (Recommended for REL MA)

Wieringa, Jan. 28-29 & Mar. 11-12 10:00-3:00 PRH 210

REL 503.002 17678 (non-REL grad students)

Wieringa, Feb. 11-12 & Mar 25-26 10:00-3:00 PRH 210

1 credit hour course offered each semester (repeated up to 4 hours; different topics each semester), as part of REL’s Digital Humanities Certificate, focusing this semester on (1) Data management: strategies for organizing and structuring data for

analysis and (2) Data visualization: an overview of how to communicate with graphs and the standard tools used to create them.

History of Religious Studies

REL 511.001 17679

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

Surveys the origins, objects of study, and pivotal thinkers that scholars often highlight when outlining the historical development/current shape of Religious Studies

Identity and Place

REL 525.001 17680

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

Examines how subjectivity emerges and develops in relation to being displaced, drawing on migration theory, diaspora studies, and postcolonial studies—giving special emphasis to, among other examples, the Middle Passage and African diasporas.

Capstone Grad Seminar (Required)

REL 590.001 17696

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

Focuses on the problem of origins, i.e., using the past to authorize contemporary forms of social life; the course exhibit the manner in which the critical tools acquired in the degree have application and relevance.

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

B.A. Students: make your advising appointment with Prof. Newton (Undergrad Director) prior to registering for Spring 2022 classes — more news soon.

M.A. Students: speak with your supervisor and/or Prof. Ramey (Grad Director) prior to registering for Spring 2022 classes — more news soon.

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