

# DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## SPRING 2023 CLASSES

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### UNDERGRAD LECTURES & SEMINARS

#### Introduction to Religious Studies

**REL 100.001 13262**

*Altman, TR 11:00-12:15 NL 2005*

**REL 100.002 14048**

*Szanto, TR 9:30-10:45 DO 104*

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 and how societies work. **HU**

#### Violence and the Sacred

**REL 101.001 14051**

*Loewen, TR 2:00-3:15 PRH 308*

Addresses the question “How do we study, academically, the socio-cultural construct we call ‘religion’ within the university?” & then applies it to the question of religion and the problem of human suffering by looking at such topics as theories of evil, violence, and hate. **HU**

#### Religions of the World

**REL 102.001 17848**

*Ramey, TR 12:30-1:45 NL 1015*

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

#### Honors Introduction to Religious Studies

**REL 105.001 13265**

*Kyselov, TR 9:30-10:45 PRH 207*

**REL 105.002 13264**

*Kyselov, TR 11:00-12:15 PRH 207*

Examines REL 100’s material in greater detail & in small classes for Honors/Honors eligible students. A 3.3 GPA is required, whether or not students are enrolled in the Honors College. **HU/Honors**

#### Judaism

**REL 224.001 17849**

*Jacobs, TR 11:00-12:15 PRH 308*

An introduction to Judaism that will examine history, philosophy, theology, holiday/festival and life cycles, as well as contemporary experiences including the Holocaust and the rebirth of the state of Israel. **HU**

#### African Diaspora Religions

**REL 226.001 17850**

*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 17851**

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

A broad, interdisciplinary introduction to the practices & conceptions within Islam and the various ways they’ve been interpreted and represented. Topics will include: narratives of Islamic origins, the literary, theological, and ritual nature of the Qur’an, contemporary practices within Islamic communities, historical developments, and Sufism. **HU**

#### REL Goes to the Movies

**REL 310.320 14053**

*Kyselov & McCutcheon, January 17, February 14, March 7, April 4 & 25 TH 116*

1 credit course with monthly films/discussions/brief writing assignments; repeatable up to 3 hours. **Open to all students;** RSSA members are also invited to attend all films.

#### Jewish-Christian Relations

**REL 347.001 17852**

*Jacobs, TH 3:30-5:50 PRH 210*

Historical study of the various points of contact and divergence between Judaism & Christianity, focusing on such topics as anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, the founding of the state of Israel, and diversity among Christian denominations. **W**

#### REL in Communication: Religion & Technologies

**REL 370.001 17878**

*Wieringa, T 3:30-5:50 PRH 210*

Examines the relationship between religion & communication technologies, from print to podcasting. Working with historical and contemporary data, students undertake a series of case studies to explore how the preferred communication medium of various (primarily American) religious groups has shaped cultural norms and practices.

## **Adv Studies in Religion & Conflict - Social Bodies: Doctrines, Virtues, Faith**

**REL 371.001 15122**

*Levine, M 12:30-2:50 PRH 210*

“A well-run [military] camp is a school of virtue”—so claimed the *Souldiers Catechisme* (1644), written in support of Cromwell’s ‘New Model Army’ which played a distinctive role in the emergence of ‘modern’ ways of doing politics & fighting wars, suggesting overlaps between the education of citizens and religious initiates. This seminar explores these overlaps, with an eye to contemporary politics: a moment in which the relations between temporal communities and spiritual ones appear once again to be in flux.

## **Capstone Senior Seminar**

**REL 490.001 13266**

*Simmons, W 3:30-5:50 PRH 210*

Capstone seminar required for all REL majors to graduate; explores the concept “identity,” especially the ways in which it gets featured and contested in work carried out in the academic study of religion. Permit required to register.

*Independent Study courses (REL 360/361/460/461) can be arranged with individual faculty members who agree to work with B.A. students; REL 400 Honors Thesis is also available to students with permission of an REL faculty supervisor. Permission to enroll is required for both.*

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## **SPRING ONLINE COURSES**

*Open to both main campus (sections 910 & 911)  
& distance learning students (section 920)*

**REL 100.910/911/920 Intro to REL (HU)**

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

**REL 104.910/911/920 REL and Pop Culture (HU)**

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## **GRAD SEMINARS**

*REL students obtain a permit from the main office to enroll*

### **Digital Methods in Religious Studies**

**REL 503.001 15128 (for REL MA students)**

*Wieringa, January 20 & 27, February 24,  
March 3 PRH 307*

**REL 503.002 15129 (for non-REL grad students)**

*Wieringa, February 3 & 10, March 24 & 31  
PRH 307*

1 credit hour (repeated up to 4 hours; different topics each semester), focusing this semester on: Databases and Project Management.

HU: Core Humanities Designation  
ASST: Asian Studies Credit

## **Identity & Place**

**REL 525.001 15131**

*Trost, T 1:30-3:20 PRH 210*

Focuses on how subjectivity emerges and evolves in relation to migration and displacement. When, why, and by what means are regional and national affiliations claimed, curated, disavowed, or imposed? How might a careful examination of this affect studies of religion? Drawing on migration theory, diaspora studies, and postcolonial studies, we will give special emphasis to the Middle Passage and African diasporas (with students also engaging with examples relevant to their own research interests).

## **Academic Writing in REL**

**REL 580.001 17926**

*Simmons, W 1:30-3:20 PRH 210*

Introduces MA students to the academic research and writing process, attending to matters of craft and form while taking students through the stages of brainstorming, drafting, editing, and revising scholarly prose, with a view toward either submission for possible publication or crafting a writing sample for future use.

## **Capstone Grad Seminar**

**REL 590.001 12810**

*McCutcheon, Th 1:30-3:20 PRH 210*

Required of all MA students to graduate; focusses on ways of approaching the study of religion and film that do reinforce old stereotypes in the field; uses *Representing Religion in Film* (Bloomsbury, 2022) as the basis for the course, pairing its chapters with the films they each discuss.

*BA & MA Independent Study courses (REL 560/561), MA Internships (REL 565), & MA Thesis (REL 599) are also available, in consultation with a faculty member or the BA or MA Directors.*



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INB: International Business Designation  
W: Core Writing Designation