

# DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## SUMMER 2023 COURSES

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### Full Summer Online Courses (May 30- Aug 2)

**REL 100.910/920 Intro to Religious Studies (HU)**

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

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

*Open to Distance Learning (920 sections) and  
Main Campus Students (910 & 911 sections)*

Find REL on Vimeo & SoundCloud or at:



[religion.ua.edu](http://religion.ua.edu)

## FALL 2023 COURSES

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### UNDERGRAD LECTURES & SEMINARS

#### Introduction to Religious Studies

**REL 100.001 42872**

*Szanto, TR 11:00-12:15 LY 132*

**REL 100.002 43279**

*Newton, TR 9:30-10:45 NL 1014*

**REL 100.003 47612**

*Kyselov, MWF 9:00-9:50 PRH 207*

**REL 100.004 48574**

*Kyselov, MWF 11:00-11:50 PRH 207*

**REL 100.005 48575**

*Kyselov, MWF 1:00-1:50 PRH 207*

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**

#### Violence and the Sacred

**REL 101.001 48576**

*Jacobs, TR 2:00-3:15 LY 228*

Examines the socio-cultural constructs called “religion” and “violence” with the help of academic theories and theorists in order to consider relationships between the two. The course introduces theories of evil, violence, and hatred, using historical and contemporary case studies on such topics as terrorism and genocide. **HU**

#### Religions of the World

**REL 102.001 44300**

*Ramey, TR 12:30-1:45 LY 132*

Comparative study of practices and concepts 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 43707**

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

**REL 105.002 45804**

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

Examines REL 100’s material in greater detail & in small classes for Honors/Honors eligible students. 3.3 GPA required. **HU**

### Self, Society, Religion

**REL 237.001 48578**

*Altman, TR 12:30-1:45 PRH 207*

Survey of psychological and social theories used to study religion, drawing on different cultural and historical data of relevance to the approaches surveyed.

### REL Goes to the Movies

**REL 310.320 45808**

*Kyselov, T 6:00-9:00 TH 116*

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

### English Bible as Literature

**REL 311.001 48579**

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

Analytical and critical study of a number of books of the Bible, examined and evaluated as an example of a particular literary genre. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course. **W**

## Scriptures in Comparative Religion

**REL 370.001 48580**

*Newton, TR 11:00-12:30 PRH 210*

In this exploration of texts, canons, media and discourse in the comparative study of religion, students will rethink the category of scriptures.

## Advanced Study in Myth and Ritual

**REL 419.001 48581**

*Jacobs TR 12:30-1:45 PRH 102*

Examination of the theories and methods used to study the relation between religious narrative and behavioral systems. Specific focus this go-round, after first examining what we mean when we use these three terms—myth, religion, and magic—will be on the three monotheistic religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. **W**

## Making Islam

**REL 436.001 48582**

*Szanto, R 3:30-5:50 PRH 210*

Studies how various agents (both Muslim and non-Muslims) construct, debate, and refute ideas about Islam in popular culture and academic sources. We will pay particular attention to how scholars attempt to make sense of such diverse accounts, the assumptions that they make, and the roles that they play in debates over the nature of Islam.

*Independent Study courses be arranged with individual faculty members who agree to work with B.A. students; REL 400 Honors Thesis is also to students with permission of an REL faculty supervisor. Permission to enroll is required for both.*

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## GRAD SEMINARS

### Social Theory (Required)

**REL 501.001 42725**

*Touna, M 1:30-3:20 PRH 210*

This graduate seminar introduces students to terms and ideas from social theory and their relevance to the academic study of religion. Throughout the course, students will apply

theories to analyze examples relevant in Religious Studies, both ancient and modern.

### Public Humanities (Required)

**REL 502.001 42894**

*Loewen, TR 1:30-3:20 PRH 307*

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.

### History of Religious Studies (Recommended)

**REL 511.001 48585**

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

This seminar critically examines the history of the academic study of religion from the nineteenth century to the present. The emphasis of the course is on the history of the field in the United States since the middle of the twentieth century.

### Power & Persuasion (Recommended)

**REL 522.001 48586**

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

This graduate seminar will examine workings of power and persuasion regarding subjectivity, as well as critiques of the same from post-humanism and queer theory.

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## REMINDER

*BA & MA Independent Study courses (REL 360, 361, 460, 461; REL 560, 561), BA Honors Thesis (REL 400), MA Internships (REL 565), & MA Thesis (REL599) are also available every semester, in consultation with a faculty member or the Undergrad or Grad Directors.*

*Some BA & MA REL classes are closed in the registration system, so we can prioritize REL students enrolling; contact the REL advisor or the main office for a permit to register.*



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA