

RELIGION (REL) - ROCK COUNTY

Courses

REL 101 Introduction to the Study of Religion 3 Units

This course Introduces students to various methods employed in the academic study of religion & will provide opportunity for students to apply these methods to diverse expressions of the religious life. This course is primarily a global awareness competencies course.

REL 201 Asian Philosophy 3 Units

(PHI 201 & REL 201 are the same course.) An exploration of philosophically significant topics pertaining to the traditions of Asia. Typically includes the traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Daoism, & Shinto. May include topics such as the nature of ultimate reality & its relationship to the self, liberation & enlightenment, ethical ideals & practices, social institutions, & the nature of government. Attention will be paid to arguments pertaining to these topics as well as careful analysis of such classic primary sources as the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Analects, Daodejing, & Zhuangzi.

REL 202 Introduction to Buddhism 3 Units

Selective Intro to prominent Buddhist traditions of Asia & contemporary West including basic Buddhist doctrines, practices, institutions, & material culture. Analysis of sacred Buddhist Lit. with attention paid to historical context & contemporary lived realities. Attention will be paid to acquiring overall Asian awareness competencies pertaining to these topics as well as the role these traditions play in the social fabric of Asian immigrant communities in the modern U.S..

REL 203 American Indian Philosophies 3 Units

(PHI 203 & REL 203 are the same course.) A study of philosophical aspects of American Indian world views & practices in contrast to those of the larger culture in the US. Attention will be given to historical & contemporary relations between American Indian cultures & the larger culture in the US.

REL 205 Introduction to Christianity 3 Units

This course is an Intro to the history, texts, beliefs, artistic expressions, & practices of the diverse panorama that is the Christian religious tradition. Special emphasis will be placed on the global nature of Christianity throughout the past two millennia. Thus, in addition to covering Christianity in West Europe & the U.S., there will be significant focus on varieties of the religion in the non-West world & in indigenous communities. The course does not presume a particular religious perspective but only requires a sympathetic & open mind.

REL 218 Religion and Politics 3 Units

(POL 218 & REL 218 are the same course.) An examination of the relationship between religion & politics within the U.S. & beyond. Topics include religion & the political history of the U.S., civil liberties & religion (establishment & free exercise), the role religion plays in the political process, from the perspective of both cooperation & conflict.

REL 258 Human Nature, Religion and Society 3 Units

(PHI 258 & REL 258 are the same course.) Study & critique of the views of theistic & secular writers concerning religion & its relationship to individual & social problems.

REL 261 Philosophy of Religion 3 Units

(PHI 261 & REL 261 are the same course.) An exploration & critical examination of philosophically significant topics pertaining to religion & its claims of knowledge of reality, divine or otherwise. Topics may include attempts to define religion, monotheism & its alternatives, God's existence, evil, the nature of faith, the status of sacred texts, religious experience, religious diversity, faith & reason, Sci. & religion, miracles, & life after bodily death. Attention will be paid to relevant arguments, both contemporary & historical (e.g., Aquinas, Hume, Kierkegaard, James). Various philosophical methods including but not limited to conceptual analysis, skepticism, & existentialist criticism are employed to better understand the rich & diverse cross-cultural phenomenon of religious experience.

REL 275 Sociology of Religion 3 Units

(REL 275 & SOC 275 are the same course.) A sociological approach to the study of religion, its institutional forms, aims, & impact on society. Attention is given to the theories of the Soc. of religion & to the interaction of religion & the social, political, & economic structures of society. Special emphasis is given to those religions which influence U.S. society. Not recommended for first-Sem. students, except with cons. instr.

REL 291 Selected Topics in Religious Studies 3 Units

A Surv. of selected readings from the primary & secondary Lit. on a particular aspect of religion, such as religious belief systems, religious practices, religious institutions, religious experience, history of religion & musical, artistic or literary expression in religion

REL 299 Independent Reading in Religious Studies 1-3 Units

Intensive study of a sacred text or of a secondary theological, literary, exegetic or other text within a religious tradition.

REL 302 Religion and Cultural Conflict 3 Units

This course offers an exploration into the nature & function of religion in the context of cultural conflict & change. The course will shed light on the rise of militant Jewish, Christian, & Islamic fundamentalism & the intensification in the current era of individuals & groups acting violently in the name of religion.

PREREQ: ENG 102 WITH A GRADE OF C OR BETTER AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: REL 101, PHI 101, SOC 101, OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR

REL 343 Religion, Magic and Witchcraft 3 Units

(ANT 343 & REL 343 are the same course.) Religion, magic & witchcraft are uniquely human means of reaching out to the supernatural realm in order to effect changes in the here & now. This course Introduces student to descriptions & interpretations of magico-religious beliefs & practices in a variety of cultures from an anthropological perspective, which does not attempt to judge the validity of such beliefs but to understand their origins & functions, among other things. It examines theories about religion & some of the conceptual issues regarding the interpretation of religion & related phenomena which have interested anthropologists over time.