

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELIGST)

## Courses

### RELIGST 111 INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN RELIGIONS 3 Units

An introduction to major Asian religious traditions and the power dynamics that shape stereotypes and misconceptions about them in the United States.

### RELIGST 112 INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN RELIGIONS 3 Units

An introduction to the major religious traditions that have shaped Near Eastern and Western culture; especially Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

### RELIGST 135 HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATIONS 3 Units

This course examines emergence and evolution of Islamic Civilizations from the seventh century through the modern era. It covers the birth and spread of Islam, the rise and fall of Muslim Empires, religious and political institutions, scientific and cultural achievements, and the position of women and religious minorities.

### RELIGST 222 INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM 3 Units

A basic introduction to Judaism, this course explores Jewish traditions from their origins in ancient Israelite religion; Rabbinic Judaism; Jewish philosophy and mysticism; contemporary Jewish movements; the primary texts of Judaism; and the religious experience, values, beliefs, practices, and symbols of a variety of "Judaisms" throughout the world.

### RELIGST 232 BUDDHISM: THE MIDDLE WAY 3 Units

This course introduces the wide range of Buddhist ideas and practices, with a focus on how traditional forms of Buddhism (Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana) differ from the exoticized stereotype of Buddhism as "more a philosophy than a religion" that is common in the United States.

### RELIGST 242 NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIONS 3 Units

This course explores the historical development and manifestations of Native American religions from before European contact to the present. The course examines the diverse experiences of Native Americans, analyzes the changing roles of Native American religions, and questions traditional conceptions of Native Americans and Native American religions throughout American history.

### RELIGST 252 THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE 3 Units

This course will survey the Bible and some other related Near Eastern literature, focusing on the development of genres, motifs, and other literary forms that have influenced the form and content of Western literature, including the parable, the proverb, the loss of Eden, exile and return, origin stories, and hero stories.

PREREQ: ENGLISH 100 OR ENGLISH 101 OR ENGLISH 105

### RELIGST 262 HINDUISM IN CONTEXT 3 Units

Hinduism is often misunderstood in the United States as a polytheistic religion, even though over 90% of Hindus identify as monotheists. This class will explore Hinduism by looking at how Hindu identity is formed in conversation with other South Asian religious identities, including Buddhist, Jain, Muslim, and Sikh.

### RELIGST 301 CRITICAL ISSUES IN MODERN RELIGION 3 Units

An introduction to selected critical issues relating to contemporary academic concerns and modern culture. A variety of intellectual and religious positions will be analyzed and discussed.

### RELIGST 302 RELIGIOUS ETHICS 3 Units

The comparative study of the ethical dilemmas and discourse within religious narratives and traditions. The course presents selected ethical dilemmas and raises questions requiring students to analyze the positions embedded within religious narratives, and develop their own informed ethical positions. Topics include war, human rights, ecology, economic justice, and sexuality.

PREREQ: SOPHOMORE STANDING OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR

### RELIGST 303 ASIAN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT 3 Units

A study of selected texts and religious thought from India, China, and Japan in relation to their impact on personal spiritual development and cultural integration.

PREREQ: SOPHOMORE STANDING OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR

### RELIGST 304 CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC THOUGHT AND PRACTICE 3 Units

This course will explore - thematically rather than chronologically - major trends in contemporary Islamic thought and practice through a study of key thinkers and a close reading of their works. Such trends include modernism, reformism, fundamentalism, nationalism, centrism, liberalism and feminism.

### RELIGST 330 RELIGION, SEXUALITY AND GENDER 3 Units

This course will trace changing conceptions of gender roles and the functions of women in various religious traditions. Feminine and masculine images of divinity will be compared and recent scholarship in feminist theology on questions such as the nature of divinity, immortality, and religious devotion will be examined.

PREREQ: MINIMUM SOPHOMORE STANDING OR INSTRUCTOR CONSENT

### RELIGST 333 GEOGRAPHY OF RELIGION 3 Units

This course examines the role of religion in contemporary American society and in communities around the globe from a geographic perspective. Significant places and spatial patterns associated with religions will be investigated along with the relationship between religion and the political landscape. Students will be expected to identify, visit, and analyze two religious sites in their community.

### RELIGST 340 EVIL AND RELIGION 3 Units

This course presents a variety of ways of examining the problem of evil in several of the world's religious traditions--as a philosophical and theological problem for understanding the relationship between God and human beings in monotheistic religions, but also in broader comparative perspective through the confrontation of evil in polytheistic and non-theistic religions.

### RELIGST 351 RELIGION IN AMERICAN CULTURE 3 Units

An examination of the significant role played by religious ideas and traditions in American society from colonial times to the present in historical and cultural perspectives.

PREREQ: SOPHOMORE STANDING OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR

### RELIGST 353 SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION 3 Units

A study of the function and forms of religious groups in primitive and contemporary societies; a theoretical examination of religion as a basic social institution.

PREREQ: SOPHOMORE STANDING OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR

**RELIGST 365 RELIGIOUS AND PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON DEATH AND DYING 3 Units**

A critical examination of philosophical and religious materials dealing with death and dying. Issues such as the nature of death, the fear of death, the possibility of an afterlife, the concept of immortality, ethical and legal problems raised in the dying process, the ethics of hospice care, and the morality of euthanasia will be considered.

PREREQ: SOPHOMORE STATUS OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR

**RELIGST 371 MODERN RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS 3 Units**

Modern Religious Movements will introduce students to the historical development and contemporary manifestations of various religions or religious traditions throughout the world from the early modern era to the present. It explores both those religious forms born within the modern era and those religious movements that are shaping religious expression today.

**RELIGST 388 THE HOLOCAUST: NAZI GERMANY AND THE GENOCIDE OF THE JEWS 3 Units**

This course will examine the origins, implementation, and legacies of the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews. It is intended to help students gain an appreciation of the importance of the Holocaust to the Jewish experience, while understanding that other groups also were victimized.

PREREQ: MINIMUM SOPHOMORE STANDING

**RELIGST 490 WORKSHOP *Repeatable* 1-3 Units**

Variable topics. Group activity oriented presentations emphasizing 'hands on' and participatory instructional techniques. Repeatable

**RELIGST 494 SEMINAR *Repeatable* 1-3 Units**

**RELIGST 496 SPECIAL STUDIES *Repeatable* 1-3 Units**

Variable topics. Group activity. Not offered regularly in the curriculum but offered on topics selected on the basis of timeliness, need, and interest, and generally in the format of regularly scheduled Catalog offerings. Repeatable

**RELIGST 497 EXCHANGE STUDY *Repeatable* 1-12 Units**

Variable topics.

**RELIGST 498 INDEPENDENT STUDY *Repeatable* 1-3 Units**

Study of a selected topic or topics under the direction of a faculty member. Repeatable