

# Religion Courses (RELS)

---

## Courses

### **RELS 1020 (640:024). Religions of the World — 3 hrs.**

Living religions with emphasis on texts, beliefs, tradition, values, and practices. (Fall, Spring, Summer)

### **RELS 1030 (640:030). What is Religion? — 3 hrs.**

Basic forms and views of religious phenomena, such as encounter, tradition, ritual, community, divine law, meditation, mysticism, response to life-crisis, and personal growth and fulfillment. (Variable)

### **RELS 1510 (640:040). Religion, Ethics, and Film — 3 hrs.**

Introduction to study of religion through critical examination of a variety of contemporary films. Draws on student visual literacy as an approach to the study of religion. (Variable)

### **RELS 1540. Ethics in Business — 3 hrs.**

Application of ethical principles and analytic methods to contemporary issues in business. Topics include moral responsibility of corporations and their regulation; economic policy, business practices, and social justice; rights and obligations of employers and employees; meaningful work, motivation, and the worker; affirmative action and reverse discrimination; and environment and natural limits of capitalism. (Same as PHIL 1540) (Even Falls)

### **RELS 2001. Old Testament and Other Hebrew Scriptures — 3 hrs.**

Introduction to history and ideas of Old Testament and other Hebrew scriptures. (Fall)

### **RELS 2002. New Testament and Early Christian Writings — 3 hrs.**

Introduction to history and ideas of New Testament and early Christian writings. (Spring)

### **RELS 2100. Great Living Religions: Hinduism and Buddhism — 3 hrs.**

Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Islam. (Even Falls)

### **RELS 2110. Great Living Religions: Confucianism, Daoism, and Zen — 3 hrs.**

Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shintoism. (Odd Falls)

### **RELS 2120. Great Living Religions: Judaism and Islam — 3 hrs.**

Study of the doctrines and practices of Judaism and Islam in their cultural context with attention to historical development and current situation. (Odd Springs)

### **RELS 2130. Great Living Religions: Christianity — 3 hrs.**

Introductory survey of development, beliefs, practices, and varieties of Christianity. (Even Springs)

### **RELS 2140. Philosophy of Religion — 3 hrs.**

Examination of philosophical discussions on the nature and function of religion and religious language; special attention to how philosophical frameworks and methods shape understanding of religion and talk about God and human fulfillment. (Same as PHIL 2140) (Variable)

### **RELS 2220. Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages — 3 hrs.**

Traces the historical development of philosophical thought on the interrelation of religious faith and reason in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic philosophical traditions. (Same as PHIL 2220) (Even Springs)

### **RELS 2225. Meditation and Mystical Experience — 3 hrs.**

Examination of various techniques of meditation and their results, drawing from Yoga, Zen, Buddhist, Christian, and secular sources, including first-hand accounts of meditational practice and philosophic and psychological studies in the area of mysticism. (Variable)

### **RELS 2401. Tribal Religions — 3 hrs.**

Tribal Religions is designed to provide students with an introduction to the religions and spirituality of indigenous societies from around the world. Special attention is given to the relationships between religion and the environment, and between religion and the social, political and economic organizations of a society. (Same as ANTH 2401) (Fall)

### **RELS 2550. Environmental Ethics — 3 hrs.**

Introduction to and application of ethical theory to environmental issues, including responsibility for plants and animals, pollution, natural resources, and population growth. (Same as PHIL 2550) (Even Falls)

### **RELS 2570. Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality — 3 hrs.**

This course introduces students to a range of ethical perspectives (religious and non-) on what constitutes good sex, morally speaking. It then brings these perspectives to bear on a number of issues in the realm of sexual ethics including: homosexuality, casual sex, sex for sale, and abortion. [Same as PHIL 2570] (Even Springs)

### **RELS 3080/5080 (640:189g). Individual Readings in Religion — 1-3 hrs.**

Individually-arranged readings and reports from: (1) biblical studies, (2) history of religions, or (3) contemporary religious thought. Can be repeated for maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite(s): junior standing; consent of department head. (Fall and Spring)

### **RELS 3103 (640:161). Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft — 3 hrs.**

This course emphasizes a comparative and anthropological approach to the study of religion, magic and witchcraft. Course content includes the study of classical theoretical frameworks that explain religious beliefs and practices and in-depth discussions on diverse religious systems. Prerequisite(s): ANTH 1002 (990:011) and junior standing; or consent of instructor. (Same as ANTH 3103 (990:161)) (Spring)

### **RELS 3110 (640:194). Perspectives on Death and Dying — 3 hrs.**

Multidisciplinary study of death, dying, and bereavement across cultures, religious and ethnic groups, and historical periods, with attention to ritual and memoir, ethical dilemmas at the end of life, and psychology of mourning. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as CAP 3194 (CAP:194) and PHIL 3110 (650:194)) (Fall and Spring)

### **RELS 3120. Myth and Symbol — 3 hrs.**

Investigation of meaning and significance of religious myths and symbols, and theories used to study them. (Variable)

### **RELS 3140. Religion and Its Critics — 3 hrs.**

Issues raised by encounter between traditional Christian faith and modern concepts and methods of philosophy, science, history, sociology, and cultural criticism. Examination of positions of both 19th- and 20th-century theologians. (Variable)

### **RELS 3150. Women and Christianity — 3 hrs.**

Examination of history and function of gender in symbolization of Christian tradition; exploration of institutionalization of sex roles in Christianity; discussion of interaction between the Christian religion and cultural patterns that define the social role, status, and image of

## Religion Courses (RELS)

women. Interested students are encouraged to contact the instructor. (Variable)

### **RELS 3157. Monsters, Vampires, and Religion: An Awesome Alliance — 3 hrs.**

As they read *Religion and its Monsters* by Timothy Beal and *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, students enhance their knowledge of the role monsters play in religion and develop proficiency in recognizing and analyzing religious undercurrents in our contemporary fascination with monsters. Students draw on skills/interests from their majors to complete a project about monsters in a contemporary novel. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. [Same as CAP 3157] (Summer)

### **RELS 3160. Religion and Society — 3 hrs.**

Religious institutions and their social context; key issues located at the intersection of religion and society (e.g., violence), and social function of religion. (Variable)

### **RELS 3170. Why We Believe — 3 hrs.**

What do witches, monsters, and gods have in common? This course draws on psychology to explore the origins of human religious belief among children and to understand how we develop our capacity for religious belief. (Variable)

### **RELS 3180. Religion and Politics: (Topics) — 3 hrs.**

In this course, students will examine the relationship between religion and politics. Students will familiarize themselves with the ways religion shapes several aspects of political life, such as elections, public activism, policy-making, civil service, and civic discourse. Focusing on interactions within and among religious traditions, students will develop their knowledge of critical thinking methods in *Religious Studies* by analyzing the role of religion in political participation and political structures. Special emphasis will be given to understanding contemporary issues, rotating international and domestic topics each time it is offered. May be repeated for up to 6 hours. (Odd Falls)

### **RELS 3310 (640:138). Malcolm, Martin, and Justice — 3 hrs.**

How might religious leaders insert themselves in the struggle for justice and human rights? Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. represent the intricate involvement of black religious leaders in the African American struggle for social, political, and economic justice. (HUM 3138 (680:138)) (Variable)

### **RELS 3320 (640:140). Black Liberation and the Black Church — 3 hrs.**

Explores black liberation in America through advancing the understanding of black nationalism, the black church, and black liberation theology from an historical and social/political perspective. Some knowledge of African American culture and thought recommended. (Variable)

### **RELS 3340. Existentialism — 3 hrs.**

The unique contribution of existentialism to philosophy in its sustained focus on everyday life: the contradictions of human existence, the human body, the existence of others, and human freedom. (Same as PHIL 3340) (Variable)

### **RELS 3500 (640:171). Religion and Ethics — 3 hrs.**

Examination of key issues having to do with religion and ethics, including the moral function of religion, religious pluralism, war and peace, freedom and responsibility, religion and politics, religion and gender, and social justice. (Variable)

### **RELS 3510 (640:173). Bio-Medical Ethics — 3 hrs.**

Application of principles and analytic methods of ethical theory to contemporary issues in medical practice and research. Topics include

fundamental concepts of health and disease, life and death; rights and obligations of medical practitioners and their patients; informed consent and confidentiality; abortion and euthanasia; reproductive and transplantation technologies; and health policy and the provision and rationing of health care. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as CAP 3173 (CAP:173) and PHIL 3510 (650:173)) (Fall and Spring)

### **RELS 4186/5186 (640:186g). Studies in Religion — 3 hrs.**

Topics listed in Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Fall and Spring)

### **RELS 4230/5230 (640:117g). Religion in America — 3 hrs.**

Investigation of religious movements and beliefs from colonial times to present, with attention to religion and the U.S. Constitution. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as HISUS 4250/5250 (961:145g)) (Odd Springs)

### **RELS 4490. Senior Seminar — 3 hrs.**

Through reflection, integration, and professional discernment, majors in philosophy and the study of religion will bring their work in the major to critical integration, clarifying what they have done and linking their achievements with life goals. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as PHIL 4490) (Even Falls)

### **RELS 4550. Ethics Practicum — 1-3 hrs.**

Combines service-learning with study of theoretical and applied ethics. Students work 4-6 hours per week in a community agency and meet with instructor. May be repeated once. Prerequisite(s): one completed or concurrent ethics course; consent of instructor. (Same as PHIL 4550) (Variable)