

**Program**

**BA in Religious Studies**  
**Minor in Religious Studies**  
**Minor in Ethics**

**What is Religious Studies?**

The field of Religious Studies, as an integral part of the humanities, educates students in the scholarly interpretation of religion. Through its study of the religious experiences, stories, symbols, rituals, doctrines, and institutions of human beings in different times and places, the academic study of religion makes an indispensable contribution to cultural and historical literacy.

Religious Studies is interdisciplinary by nature. Courses in the department approach the study of religion from the perspectives of history, textual studies of sacred writings, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and other disciplines. In addition to providing an understanding of the development of the major religious traditions of the world, the study of religion through these approaches equips students to explore the complex relationship of religion to other aspects of culture. Religious Studies probes the role of religion in ethics and law, psychology, gender constructs, literature, film, and a variety of contemporary social and political issues.

The cross-cultural and historical study of religions is a necessary part of education for citizenship in a pluralistic society. Respect for religious groups (or those who espouse no religious belief) is difficult to sustain without significant knowledge of those histories, beliefs, and customs of diverse peoples and religious traditions of the world.

**What can I do with a Religious Studies degree?**

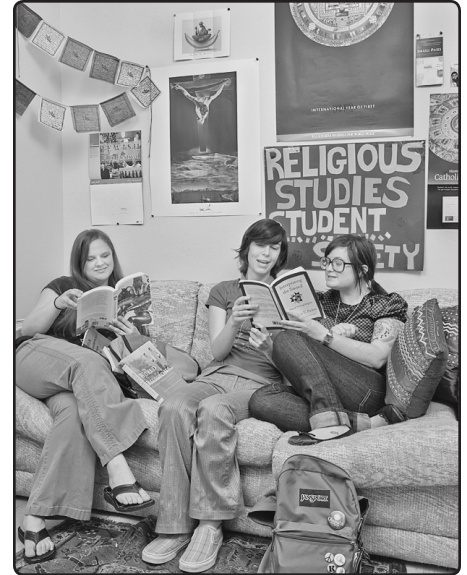
Religious Studies prepares both majors and minors for all careers that require critical thinking, analytical skills, and the ability to reflect on questions of meaning and value in a pluralistic context. The study of religion is excellent pre-professional preparation for such fields as law, teaching, counseling, social work, journalism, film studies, political science, public administration, anthropology, psychology, sociology, history, philosophy, and English. While some majors go on to graduate work in Religious Studies or related fields, others find themselves prepared for work in public service, international affairs, and not-for-profit endeavors.

**Should I consider the study of a foreign language or study abroad programs?**

Absolutely. You are invited to apply some classical and modern language preparation to your major program. The University offers various study abroad programs, and students interested in developing focused competence in various areas of Religious Studies are urged to consider a year abroad at one of our partner campuses.

**Honors in Religious Studies**

Motivated and capable students are invited to pursue honors in Religious Studies. This two-semester, 6-unit



research and writing opportunity allows students to prepare an undergraduate thesis for public defense. It is excellent preparation for graduate school or any career in which writing will be important.

**Internship Program**

The department offers a variety of exciting opportunities for learning beyond the classroom, both domestically and internationally. Internships offer a firsthand view of the role of religion in community life, and provide valuable career development experience.

**Center for Applied and Professional Ethics (CAPE)**

CAPE provides the University and professional communities with resources for the study of morality and applied social and professional ethics. CAPE also provides public forums where important and controversial issues are discussed and debated. Students who wish to emphasize ethics in their program may wish to enroll in the CAPE internship and pursue a minor in Ethics jointly offered by the Departments of Religious Studies and Philosophy.

**Religion and Public Education Resource Center (RPERC)**

RPERC promotes the academic study of religion in public schools in ways consistent with the First Amendment principles of the U.S. Constitution.

**Further Information is Available on our Website.**

Visit our website for introductions to our faculty, the Religious Studies Student Society (RSSS), course syllabi, overseas study, careers, graduate school, and other information. We are happy to answer any questions you have about our program.

# Religious Studies

College of Humanities and Fine Arts  
 Dean: Joel Zimelman

**Department of Religious Studies**  
**Trinity Hall 239**  
**530-898-5661**  
**email: [rels@csuchico.edu](mailto:rels@csuchico.edu)**  
**<http://www.csuchico.edu/rs/>**  
**Chair: Jed Wyrick**

## The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

### Total Course Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree: 120 units

See "Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree" in the *University Catalog* for complete details on general degree requirements. A minimum of 40 units, including those required for the major, must be upper division.

A suggested Major Academic Plan (MAP) has been prepared to help students meet all graduation requirements within four years. Please request a plan from your major advisor or view it and other current advising information at <http://em.csuchico.edu/aap/ProgramSearch>.

### General Education Requirements: 48 units

See "General Education Requirements" in the *University Catalog* and the *Class Schedule* for the most current information on General Education Requirements and course offerings. The course requirements marked below with an asterisk (\*) may also be applied toward General Education.

### Diversity Course Requirements: 6 units

See "Diversity Requirement" in the *University Catalog*. Most courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also apply to General Education.

### U.S. History, Constitution, and American Ideals: 6 units

See "U.S. History, Constitution, and American Ideals" under "Bachelor's Degree Requirements". This requirement is normally fulfilled by completing HIST 130 and POLS 155 or approved equivalents. Courses used to satisfy this requirement do not apply to General Education.

### Literacy Requirement:

See "Mathematics and Writing Requirements" in the *University Catalog*. Writing proficiency in the major is a graduation requirement and may be demonstrated through satisfactory completion of a course in your major which has been designated as the Writing Proficiency (WP) course for the semester in which you take the course. Students who earn below a C- are required to repeat the course and earn a C- or better to receive WP credit. See the *Class Schedule* for the designated WP courses for each semester. You must pass ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a C- or better before you may register for a WP course.

### Course Requirements for the Major: 37 units

Completion of the following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this degree.

### Major Core Program: 13 units

#### 5 courses required:

RELS 100	Judaism, Christianity, Islam	3.0	FS *
RELS 110	Asian Religions	3.0	FS * GC
RELS 281	Library Research Methods in RS	1.0	SP
RELS 322	Religion in America	3.0	FA
This course is also offered as AMST 322.			
RELS 480	Theories & Criticisms of Relig	3.0	SP
Prerequisites: RELS 100 or RELS 110 or faculty permission.			

### Writing Proficiency Course: 3 units

#### 1 course selected from:

RELS 482	Seminar in Religious Studies	3.0	FS WP
Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher; concurrent enrollment or prior completion of RELS 281 and RELS 480.			
RELS 497	Tutorial in Religious Studies	3.0	FS WP
Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher, faculty permission.			

Students must take RELS 497 for 3.0 units to meet the Writing Proficiency requirement.

RELS 499H	Senior Honors Research Paper	3.0	FS WP
Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher, RELS 480 (may be taken concurrently).			

### World Traditions: 6 units

#### 1 course selected from:

#### Western Traditions:

RELS 107	Bible Controversies	3.0	FS *
RELS 202	Islam	3.0	FS * GC
This course is also offered as HIST 261, and MEST 261.			
RELS 204	Judaism	3.0	FS * USD
This course is also offered as MJIS 204.			
RELS 205	History of the Jewish Peoples	3.0	FA * USD
This course is also offered as MJIS 205.			
RELS 207	Christianity	3.0	FS *
RELS 301	Greek Myth and Ritual	3.0	Inq
RELS 302	Muhammad and the Qur'an	3.0	Inq
This course is also offered as MEST 302.			

RELS 303	Hebrew Bible	3.0	Inq
This course is also offered as MJIS 303.			
RELS 305	Rabbinic Judaism	3.0	SP
This course is also offered as MJIS 305.			
RELS 307	New Testament	3.0	Inq
RELS 407	History of Christian Thought	3.0	Inq

#### 1 course selected from:

#### Asian Traditions:

RELS 210	Chinese Religions	3.0	Inq
RELS 211	Japanese Religions	3.0	Inq
RELS 212	Hinduism	3.0	FA * GC
RELS 213	Buddhism	3.0	FS * GC

### Religion, Society, and Culture: 6 units

#### 6 units selected from:

RELS 264	Dying, Death, and Afterlife	3.0	FS *
RELS 265	CS Lewis & JRR Tolkien	3.0	Inq
RELS 331	Applied & Prof Ethics Forum	1.0	FS
This course is also offered as PHIL 331.			
RELS 332	World Religions & Global Iss	3.0	FS *
RELS 334	Ethics & Environmental Sci	3.0	Inq
This course is also offered as PHIL 334.			
RELS 341	Religion/Ethics/Medicine	3.0	Inq
RELS 343	Wealth, Power, and Justice	3.0	SP *
RELS 345	The Problem of Evil	3.0	Inq
RELS 346	Ethical Conflicts & Rel Values	3.0	FS *
RELS 347	Cross-Cultural Environ Ethics	3.0	FS *
RELS 348	Jesus/Buddha/Marx	3.0	FA
RELS 357	End of the World	3.0	FS *
RELS 358	Rel in Amer Public Schools	3.0	FS
RELS 365	Religion and Film	3.0	SP
RELS 366	Mysticism: East and West	3.0	SP
RELS 369	Religion and Sexuality	3.0	FS
RELS 375	Women and Religion	3.0	FS *
This course is also offered as WMST 375.			
RELS 381	Sociology of Religion	3.0	Inq
This course is also offered as SOCI 327.			
RELS 392	Contemporary Religious Thought	3.0	Inq
RELS 475	Feminist Theology	3.0	Inq
Prerequisites: RELS 375 or WMST 375.			
This course is also offered as WMST 475.			
RELS 491	Contemporary Religious Thought	3.0	Inq

**Note: A maximum of 3 units of any modern foreign language study at the third-semester college level or beyond, or any 3 units of college-level ancient or classical language study, will be credited toward the 6-unit requirement for this category.**

### Religion and the Americas: 3 units

#### 1 course selected from:

RELS 304	Judaism in America	3.0	Inq
This course is also offered as MJIS 304.			
RELS 324	Religion/Amer Eth Minorities	3.0	FS * USD
This course is also offered as MCGS 324.			
RELS 325	Worldviews of American Indians	3.0	Inq USD
This course is also offered as AIST 325.			

### Electives: 6 units

#### 6 units selected from:

Choose 6 units from any Religious Studies (RELS) courses listed above or from the following electives.

ANTH 377	Anth of the Islamic World	3.0	Inq
RELS 180	Introduction to Religion	3.0	FS *
RELS 198	Special Topics	1.0-3.0	Inq
RELS 398	Special Topics	1.0-3.0	Inq
RELS 489	Internship in Religious Stud	1.0-3.0	FS
Prerequisites: Faculty permission.			
RELS 498	Special Topics	1.0-3.0	Inq

The following course may also be used as an elective in the RELS major:

PHIL 204	Reason and Religion	3.0	FS *
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### Supervision Courses

All supervision courses require faculty permission.

A maximum of 3 units of the supervision courses may be counted toward the major, though it is not necessary to take any. Additional units must be requested by petition. (If RELS 497 is taken to fulfill the writing proficiency requirement, a maximum of 6 units of supervision courses will be counted toward the major.)

RELS 391	Reading in Religious Studies	1.0-3.0	FS
Prerequisites: Faculty permission.			

RELS 497	Tutorial in Religious Studies	3.0	FS WP
Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher, faculty permission.			
RELS 499H	Senior Honors Research Paper	3.0	FS WP
Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher, RELS 480 (may be taken concurrently).			

**Electives Requirement:**

To complete the total units required for the bachelor's degree, select additional elective courses from the total University offerings. You should consult with an advisor regarding the selection of courses which will provide breadth to your University experience and possibly apply to a supportive second major or minor.

**Grading Requirement:**

All courses taken to fulfill major course requirements must be taken for a letter grade except those courses specified by the department as Credit/No Credit grading only.

**Advising Requirement:**

Advising is mandatory for all majors in this degree program. Consult your undergraduate advisor for specific information.

**Honors in the Major**

Honors in the Major is a program of independent work in your major. It requires 6 units of honors course work completed over two semesters.

The Honors in the Major program allows you to work closely with a faculty mentor in your area of interest on an original performance or research project. This year-long collaboration allows you to work in your field at a professional level and culminates in a public presentation of your work. Students sometimes take their projects beyond the University for submission in professional journals, presentation at conferences, or academic competition. Such experience is valuable for graduate school and professional life. Your honors work will be recognized at your graduation, on your permanent transcripts, and on your diploma. It is often accompanied by letters of commendation from your mentor in the department or the department chair.

Some common features of Honors in the Major program are

1. You must take 6 units of Honors in the Major course work. All 6 units are honors classes (marked by a suffix of H), and at least 3 of these units are independent study (399H, 499H, 599H) as specified by your department. You must complete each class with a minimum grade of B.
2. You must have completed 9 units of upper-division course work or 21 overall units in your major before you can be admitted to Honors in the Major. Check the requirements for your major carefully, as there may be specific courses that must be included in these units.
3. Your cumulative GPA should be at least 3.5 or within the top 5% of majors in your department.
4. Your GPA in your major should be at least 3.5 or within the top 5% of majors in your department.
5. Most students apply for or are invited to participate in Honors in the Major during the second semester of their junior year. Then they complete the 6 units of course work over the two semesters of their senior year.
6. Your honors work culminates with a public presentation of your honors project.

While Honors in the Major is part of the Honors Program, each department administers its own program. Please contact your major department or major advisor to apply.

**The Minor in Ethics**

**Course Requirements for the Minor: 21 units**

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this minor.

**2 courses required:**

PHIL 321	Ethics and Human Happiness	3.0	FS *
RELS 346	Ethical Conflicts & Rel Values	3.0	FS *

**1 course selected from:**

PHIL 201	History of Ancient Philosophy	3.0	FS *
RELS 100	Judaism, Christianity, Islam	3.0	FS *

**2 courses selected from:**

JOUR 460	Ethical Problems in Mass Media	3.0	FS
Prerequisites: JOUR 101, JOUR 260. For Option in News-Editorial: JOUR 321. For Option in Public Relations: JOUR 341.			
PHIL 326	Social Ethics	3.0	FA *
PHIL 327	Biomedical Ethics	3.0	FS *
PHIL 328	Business Ethics & Soc Policy	3.0	Inq
PHIL 332	Criminal Justice Ethics	3.0	FS
RELS 341	Religion/Ethics/Medicine	3.0	Inq

Note: You may count PHIL 327 or RELS 341, but not both.

**6 units selected from:**

GEOS 354	Science and Ethics	3.0	SP *
Prerequisites: Completion of the General Education Breadth Area B requirement, PHIL 321.			
PHIL 104	Personal Values	3.0	FS *
PHIL 320	Ethics	3.0	SP
PHIL 322	Science and Human Values	3.0	SP *
Prerequisites: BIOL 101 or BIOL 108. This course is also offered as BIOL 322.			
PHIL 322H	Science/Human Values: Honors	3.0	FA *
Prerequisites: Acceptance into the Honors Program, faculty permission. This course is also offered as BIOL 322H.			
PHIL 323	Moral Issues in Parenting	3.0	FS *
PHIL 329	Environmental Ethics	3.0	FS *
PHIL 331	Applied & Prof Ethics Forum	1.0	FS
This course is also offered as RELS 331.			
PHIL 334	Ethics & Environmental Sci	3.0	Inq
This course is also offered as RELS 334.			
PHIL 335	Regional Ethics Bowl	3.0	FA
Prerequisites: PHIL 320 or 321 or 326.			
PHIL 341	Justice and Human Rights	3.0	FS *
PHIL 420	Contemporary Moral Theory	3.0	FA WP
Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher.			
PHIL 435	National Ethics Bowl	3.0	SP
Prerequisites: PHIL 335 or faculty permission			
PHIL 489	Philosophy Internship	1.0-3.0	FS
Prerequisites: Junior standing or above and either 9 units of philosophy or have declared philosophy as a major or minor, faculty permission.			
RELS 331	Applied & Prof Ethics Forum	1.0	FS
This course is also offered as PHIL 331.			
RELS 332	World Religions & Global Iss	3.0	FS *
RELS 334	Ethics & Environmental Sci	3.0	Inq
This course is also offered as PHIL 334.			
RELS 343	Wealth, Power, and Justice	3.0	SP *
RELS 347	Cross-Cultural Environ Ethics	3.0	FS *
RELS 348	Jesus/Buddha/Marx	3.0	FA
RELS 489	Internship in Religious Stud	1.0-3.0	FS
Prerequisites: Faculty permission.			

**Note:** In fulfilling this requirement, you may count only one of the following sets of courses:

PHIL 329 or RELS 347;

GEOS 354, PHIL 322, or PHIL 322H.

If RELS 489 is selected, it must be taken for 3 units.

**The Minor in Religious Studies**

**Course Requirements for the Minor: 21 units**

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this minor.

**6 units required:**

RELS 100	Judaism, Christianity, Islam	3.0	FS *
RELS 110	Asian Religions	3.0	FS * GC

**15 units selected from:**

Any of the elective courses listed under the Religious Studies course offerings, 6 units of which must be upper division, with a limit of 3 units from the courses listed outside of the department.

**Written Notice**

Departmental approval is required before you begin course work for this minor. Approval can be obtained by providing written notice of your intention to declare this minor to the department office.

**The Faculty**

**James D. Anderson Jr.**, 1971, Lecturer B, EdD, Harvard U.  
**Jason T. Clower**, 2008, Assist Professor, PhD, Harvard U.  
**Michelle DeBeixedon**, 2000, Lecturer B, PhD, Graduate Theological Union.  
**Andrew M. Flescher**, 2000, Assoc Professor, PhD, Brown U.  
**Bruce E. Grelle**, 1989, Professor, PhD, U Chicago.  
**Patricia M. Lennon**, 2000, Lecturer B, MA, Indiana U.  
**Kate McCarthy**, 1994, Professor, PhD, Graduate Theological Union.  
**Mahan Mirza**, 2008, Assist Professor, MA, Yale U.  
**Thomas Parker**, 2006, Lecturer B, PhD, Syracuse U.  
**Sarah M. Pike**, 1996, Professor, PhD, Indiana U.  
**Daniel Veidlinger**, 2002, Assoc Professor, PhD, U Chicago.  
**Jed D. Wyrick**, 1999, Chair, Assoc Professor, PhD, Harvard U.  
**Joel A. Zimbelman**, 1987, Professor, PhD, U Virginia.

**Religious Studies Course Offerings**

Please see the section on "Course Description Symbols and Terms" in the University Catalog for an explanation of course description terminology and symbols, the course numbering system, and course credit units. All courses are lecture and discussion and employ letter grading unless otherwise stated. Some prerequisites may be waived with faculty permission. Many syllabi are available on the Chico Web.

**RELS 100 Judaism, Christianity, Islam 3.0 Fa/Spr**

This course is a comparative introduction to the three major Western monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The emphasis is on viewing basic questions of origin, community formation, religious identity, scripture, and theology across all three faiths in comparative perspective. By the end of the course, students are able to appreciate why Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are viewed as siblings of a single "Abrahamic" family and why they are called "Western" religious traditions. This is an approved General Education course. (008129)

**RELS 107 Bible Controversies 3.0 Fa/Spr**

This course considers the disputes over the interpretation of the Bible in Western culture. Did Moses and the prophets write the Hebrew Bible? Was the Bible intended as scripture, myth, or history? Why were books left out of the Bible? What are the differences between Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Protestant approaches to the Bible? In addition to examining books of the Bible in their original context, this course considers the Bible's role in ancient and contemporary disputes over the Sabbath, heaven and hell, the resurrection, the law, circumcision, divorce, the Trinity, salvation, slavery, polygamy, abortion, homosexuality, and feminism. This is an approved General Education course. (008131)

**RELS 110 Asian Religions 3.0 Fa/Spr**

An introduction to the religions of the East: Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved Global Cultures course. (008128)

**RELS 180 Introduction to Religion 3.0 Fa/Spr**

What is religion? How do we recognize it? Are there functions religions characteristically serve or questions they characteristically ask? Are there characteristic answers? Are there secular religions? How do various cultures approach the category of "religion"? This course explores diverse religious beliefs and practices in light of classic and contemporary analyses from several disciplinary fields. This is an approved General Education course. (008130)

**RELS 198 Special Topics 1.0-3.0 Inquire**

Special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. (008134)

**RELS 202 Islam 3.0 Fa/Spr**

An introduction to Islam as a religious and cultural system. Topics include pre-Islamic Arabia, the Prophet Muhammad and the first Muslims, the Qur'an and shari'a, basic ritual practices, mysticism, theology and philosophy, Shi'ism, the visual and musical arts, women, modernism, "fundamentalism," and Islam in the USA. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved Global Cultures course. This course is also offered as HIST 261, and MEST 261. (004515)

**RELS 204 Judaism 3.0 Fa/Spr**

History of Judaism from biblical to modern times. A study of the literature, faith, and events that shaped Jewish life. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved US Diversity course. This course is also offered as MJIS 204. (005860)

**RELS 205 History of the Jewish Peoples 3.0 Fall**

Traces the historical development of a variety of Jewish sects, denominations, and cultures found in the Middle East, northern Africa, Europe, and North America from antiquity to modernity, with special emphasis on contemporary Jewish communities in the United States. Rituals, beliefs, and textual traditions that relate to the history of Judaism are surveyed, and the phenomenon of secular Judaism is explored. This course is also offered as MJIS 205. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved US Diversity course. (020675)

**RELS 207 Christianity 3.0 Fa/Spr**

An introduction to the basic features of the Christian worldview through an analysis of its historical, ritual, doctrinal, ethical, and social-institutional dimensions. Special attention will be given to the diverse expressions of Christianity in different times and places and to christianity's impact on human history, society, and culture. This is an approved General Education course. (008145)

**RELS 210 Chinese Religions 3.0 Inquire**

An exploration of the religious dimension of Chinese culture, with special attention to such figures as Lao Tzu, Confucius, and Mencius. (008175)

**RELS 211 Japanese Religions 3.0 Inquire**

A discussion of the role of religions in Japanese culture and society, with special attention to Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism, folk religion, and contemporary religious movements in Japan. (008174)

**RELS 212 Hinduism 3.0 Fall**

A survey of Hinduism from its origins to the modern day, including philosophy, literature, popular temple worship, the role of feminine power, and modern fundamentalist and communal movements. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved Global Cultures course. (008181)

**RELS 213 Buddhism 3.0 Fa/Spr**

A discussion of the roots and transformation of the Buddhist teachings in India, China, Japan, and Tibet. Special emphasis will be given to major trends and problems in contemporary Buddhism. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved Global Cultures course. (008180)

**RELS 264 Dying, Death, and Afterlife 3.0 Fa/Spr**

A study of the religious, ethical, spiritual, psychological, and socio-cultural dimensions of dying, death, and afterlife. Reading and discussion of issues surrounding dying (dying as one's last career, patient-centered approaches, spirit/body relationships); death (definitions, religious meanings, ritual practices); and afterlife (religious conceptions, relation to the human quest for meaning). This is an approved General Education course. (004443)

**RELS 265 CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien: Theology and Myth 3.0 Inquire**

This course explores mythology and fiction through an analysis of the fantasy and science fiction works of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Do Judaism and Christianity have a mythology comparable to that of other cultures? What do the works of Lewis and Tolkien tell us about our own time and the issues our civilization faces? Topics include the nature and origin of evil, the seductions of technology and control, the place of the earth in the cosmos, the purpose and origin of humankind and the universe, and the nature of God in the face of evil. (008156)

**RELS 281 Library Research Methods in Religious Studies 1.0 Spring**

An introduction to the tools used in doing research, writing papers, and preparing presentations in religious studies. Topics include sources of information, using the library's electronic tools to gather information, assessing internet resources, citation formats, copyright laws, and ethical standards in research and writing. (008198)

**RELS 301 Greek Myth and Ritual 3.0 Inquire**

An introduction to Greek mythology and its ancient Near Eastern parallels. The course focuses on the analysis of ancient Greek art and literature (including epic, hymns, lyric poetry, tragedy, and historiography). Topics explored include dying and rising gods, athletics and warfare, hospitality and gift exchange, initiation rituals and the afterlife, and the sex and gender roles of men and women. In addition, students consider Roman, Jewish, and Christian approaches to Greek myth and explore the impact of myth on modern art and film. (008135)

**RELS 302 Muhammad and the Qur'an 3.0 Inquire**

This course introduces students to the sacred scripture and prophet of Islam. Students study the biography of Muhammad (570-632) and the text of the Qur'an by situating it within the context of Muhammad's life and career. By the end of the course, students are able to appreciate how devout Muslims view Muhammad and the Qur'an, as well as ask critical questions raised by modern scholars of religion. This course is also offered as MEST 302. (020263)

**RELS 303 Hebrew Bible 3.0 Inquire**

An introduction to the Hebrew Bible (also known as the Old Testament of Christianity and the Tanakh of Judaism) in English translation. Readings from the Pentateuch, the prophetic books, and the hagiographa. The course emphasizes the analysis of the biblical books in their ancient Near Eastern contexts, the documentary hypothesis, Israelite history and religion, the formation of the biblical canon, and early Jewish and Christian scriptural interpretation. This course is also offered as MJIS 303. (005858)

**RELS 304 Judaism in America 3.0 Inquire**

An exploration of the forces influencing, and the important events in, the emergence of Judaism in America. Attention is given to issues of community identity and the interaction of Judaism with the larger culture in the context of society and politics in America. This course is also offered as MJIS 304. (005859)

**RELS 305 Rabbinic Judaism: Talmud/Midrash 3.0 Spring**

An introduction to the thought, texts, and culture of Rabbinic Judaism in the first through sixth centuries. Students become familiar with the historical and cultural background of classical Rabbinic society, from its origins in the Pharisaic movement in Palestine (Eretz Israel) to its pinnacle in the academies of Sassanid Babylonia. This course explores the oral-literary tradition that produced the Talmud and Midrash while allowing students to experience the dialectical style of study associated with Rabbinic culture. This course is also offered as MJIS 305. (020503)

**RELS 307 New Testament 3.0 Inquire**

This course covers the books of the Christian New Testament in the context of ancient Judaism and the world of the ancient Mediterranean. Who wrote the gospels and the epistles? Is there anti-Jewish prejudice in the New Testament? This class explores how Jesus was depicted, inquires whether the new Testament promotes or opposes Gnosticism, explains why the Christian apocrypha are not accepted as scripture, and also considers the relationship between the early Christian movement and ancient Greek mystery religions, the Dead Sea Scroll sect, Hellenistic Judaism, and Enoch traditions. (008141)

**RELS 318H Altruism: Theory and Practice 3.0 Fall**

Prerequisites: Enrolling students must be in good standing in the Honors in GE Program. Open only to students working on Theme H: Honors  
Ethics has traditionally been characterized as a process of bridging the gap between how we are and how we would ideally be. One example of a moral ideal is love of neighbor. Because we labor under the pull of self-interest, loving one's neighbor is not common. In the light of this truism, examples of altruism cry out for explanation. Is there even such a thing as an "altruistic" behavior? If genuine altruism does exist, what motivates it? This course explores answers to these questions by looking at philosophical, biological, economic and sociological accounts of selfless behavior. This is an approved General Education course. This course is also offered as PHIL 318H, and PSYC 318H. (020767)

**RELS 322 Religion in America 3.0 Fall**

An introduction to the variety of religious expressions in the history of the United States. The course explores the impact of religion on American society and examines how religion has shaped and been shaped by American ideals, values, and institutions. Topics include the interplay of European and indigenous religious traditions, religious freedom, the historical roots of religious trends such as pluralism and fundamentalism, and the contributions of ethnic minorities to the contemporary religious landscape. This course is also offered as AMST 322. (000405)

**RELS 324 Religion and America's Ethnic Minorities 3.0 Fa/Spr**

An exploration of the religions which inform America's ethnic minorities. The historical, cultural, and social experiences and values of Native American, Hispanic American, African American, Pacific Islander, and Asian American ethnic minority groups will be examined. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved US Diversity course. This course is also offered as MCGS 324. (005643)

**RELS 325 Worldviews of American Indians 3.0 Inquire**

A description and analysis of selected American Indian religions and philosophies of American Indian peoples of North America. The course emphasizes the Indians' spiritual relationship with nature as depicted in ceremonies, music, literature, and oral traditions. This is an approved US Diversity course. This course is also offered as AIST 325. (000384)

**RELS 331 Center for Applied and Professional Ethics (CAPE) Forum 1.0 Fa/Spr**

An introduction to current ethical issues facing individuals, institutions, and society. Students attend regularly scheduled CAPE forums, symposia, and seminars and do appropriate reading and writing in conjunction with sessions. This course is also offered as PHIL 331. (007236)

**RELS 332 World Religions and Global Issues 3.0 Fa/Spr**

An introduction to major religions of the contemporary world with particular emphasis on their relationship to pressing global issues, including economics and poverty, environmental issues, war and peace, and human rights. The course explores a number of religious traditions that are closely identified with specific ethnic groups in this country. This is an approved General Education course. (008190)

**RELS 334 Ethics and Environmental Sciences 3.0 Inquire**

Discussion of the ethical issues that arise in the environmental sciences. Emphasis placed on examination of kinds of ethical dilemmas facing environmental scientists and policy makers, on development of tools for analyzing and resolving such dilemmas, and on views that have influenced attitudes about the environment and environmental ethics. Attention given to religious, philosophical, historical, and cultural origins of moral values and various approaches to moral deliberation and moral reasoning. This course is also offered as PHIL 334. (007272)

**RELS 341 Religion, Ethics, and Medicine 3.0 Inquire**

Exploration of the way that religious perspectives and values inform the practice of medicine and delivery of health care. Topics include interpretations of suffering, moral values, assisted suicide and euthanasia, genetic technologies and human experimentation, justice and health care, and HIV disease. (008164)

**RELS 343 Wealth, Power, and Justice 3.0 Spring**

What is the proper attitude toward wealth and poverty? Do the rich have an obligation to help the poor? How should we balance a commitment to human equality and to individual liberty? How are we to determine whether a society's distribution of wealth and power is just or unjust? What methods constitute legitimate means of achieving social change? This course explores alternative religious perspectives on these and other ethical questions that arise in connection with contemporary social, political, and economic life. This is an approved General Education course. (008167)

**RELS 345 The Problem of Evil 3.0 Inquire**

How are people to overcome the despair and suffering that characterizes human existence? This course examines the responses of several Western (Christianity, Judaism) and Asian (Buddhism, Taoism) religious traditions to the following sorts of issues: the nature of transcendence and self-transformation; free will and the justification of religious experience and belief; and the overcoming of despair and/or the self as a condition of religious commitment. (008151)

**RELS 346 Ethical Conflicts and Religious Values 3.0 Fa/Spr**

What role does religion play in contemporary debates about ethics and morality in modern pluralistic societies? Topics may include abortion, capital punishment, assisted suicide, war and peace, environmental destruction, sex, and world hunger and poverty, as well as the conflicts between secular and religious world views. This is an approved General Education course. (008158)

**RELS 347 Cross-Cultural Environmental Ethics 3.0 Fa/Spr**

A cross-cultural and historical investigation of the ways that religious and secular worldviews and ethics influence attitudes, behaviors, and policies toward the environment. Attention is given to biblical, Native American, Confucian, Taoist, and feminist perspectives on nature. Topics include an analysis of the modern consumer lifestyle and its impact on the environment, the value of wilderness, mainstream and radical environmentalism, and contemporary policy issues. This is an approved General Education course. (008159)

**RELS 348 Jesus, Buddha, and Marx: A Study in Comparative Ethics 3.0 Fall**

This course explores how Christians, Buddhists, and Marxists have sought to answer questions about the nature and goals of human life and about the methods of individual and social transformation. Attention will be given to the diversity of ethical perspectives in the traditions on such topics as the human good, the ideal society, political and economic life, war and peace, the family, the meaning of freedom, and the nature of salvation. (008165)

## Religious Studies

### RELS 357 End of the World 3.0 Fa/Spr

This course introduces students to the ways in which historic and contemporary religious communities interpret catastrophes and how religious worlds explain and provide humans with tools to cope with catastrophes and with making meaning out of suffering and death. Focus is on visions of the end of the world (apocalypticism, environmental destruction), interpreting the meaning of disasters (natural, human-induced), and personal and global annihilation (epidemics, nuclear destruction). This is an approved General Education course. (008166)

### RELS 358 Religion in American Public Schools 3.0 Fa/Spr

An introduction to the major world religions and an analysis of legal, intellectual, and educational issues that arise in connection with the study of religions in American public schools. (008168)

### RELS 365 Religion and Film 3.0 Spring

An examination of the representation of religious concerns and meaning in modern film. Utilizing resources developed in religious traditions and in the field of religious studies, the course examines themes central to the human condition, such as selfhood, religious conviction, despair, redemption, and race and ethnicity. (008149)

### RELS 366 Mysticism: East and West 3.0 Spring

A comparative study of mysticism from both historical and thematic perspectives. Major figures and traditions (including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) will be reviewed, as well as current theoretical debates in the study of mysticism. (008185)

### RELS 369 Religion and Sexuality 3.0 Fa/Spr

A cross-cultural study of the ways religious world views, institutions, and rituals shape views of human sexuality. Topics include sacred sexuality; religious asceticism; the regulation of reproductive sexuality; religious perspectives on homosexuality; the role of religion in constructing gender identity and the special ritual role of "third" genders in some cultural communities; and critiques of religious perspectives on sexuality from feminist and queer communities. (020224)

### RELS 375 Women and Religion 3.0 Fa/Spr

Analysis of the images, roles, and experiences of women in world religions in historical and contemporary contexts. This is an approved General Education course. This course is also offered as WMST 375. (008152)

### RELS 381 Sociology of Religion 3.0 Inquire

This course explores the impact of religion on the individual and society and surveys the major developments in the field. This includes interactive relationships between religion and other social institutions, and debates on controversial issues. This course is also offered as SOCI 327. (008184)

### RELS 391 Reading in Religious Studies 1.0-3.0 Fa/Spr

Prerequisites: Faculty permission.

This course is a special topic offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 3.0 units. (008192)

### RELS 392 Contemporary Religious Thought 3.0 Inquire

See description under RELS 491. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6.0 units. (008160)

### RELS 398 Special Topics 1.0-3.0 Inquire

Special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. (008196)

### RELS 407 History of Christian Thought 3.0 Inquire

Survey of major themes in Christian theology from the 2nd century to the present. Emphasis is on important figures and the circumstances under which major Christian doctrines, traditions, and ideas emerged and developed. Topics include the identity of Jesus, the Trinity, sin and salvation, and the nature of the church. (008143)

### RELS 475 Feminist Theology 3.0 Inquire

Prerequisites: RELS 375 or WMST 375.

A study of the development of feminist theology in Christian, Jewish, and other religious traditions over the past 30 years. Examines feminist theological analysis of religious symbols, texts, rituals, beliefs, and practices in the U.S. and international contexts. This course is also offered as WMST 475. (008199)

### RELS 480 Theories and Criticisms of Religion 3.0 Spring

Prerequisites: RELS 100 or RELS 110 or faculty permission.

A study of the history, theories, and methods of religious studies as a scholarly and academic discipline, with emphasis on the biographical and historical contexts of significant contributors to the discipline and their classic works. Topics include secular vs. religious approaches to the study of religion and the contrast between religious insiders' and outsiders' perspectives; alternative theories of the origins and functions of religion; and debates over whether religion is a positive or a negative influence in the lives of individuals and social groups. (008191)

### RELS 482 Seminar in Religious Studies 3.0 Fa/Spr

Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher; concurrent enrollment or prior completion of RELS 281 and RELS 480.

Readings and research on selected topics in religious studies. Content varies. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6.0 units. This is a writing proficiency, WP, course; a grade of C- or better certifies writing proficiency for majors. (008200)

### RELS 489 Internship in Religious Studies 1.0-3.0 Fa/Spr

Prerequisites: Faculty permission.

Enrollment will be determined by permission of the Department of Religious Studies. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 15.0 units. Credit/no credit grading only. (008208)

### RELS 491 Contemporary Religious Thought 3.0 Inquire

RELS 392 and RELS 491: Selected topics in contemporary religious thought. Content varies. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6.0 units. (008161)

### RELS 497 Tutorial in Religious Studies 3.0 Fa/Spr

Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher, faculty permission.

This course is an independent study offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. Individually directed projects in religious studies. This is a writing proficiency, WP, course; a grade of C- or better certifies writing proficiency for majors. (008209)

### RELS 498 Special Topics 1.0-3.0 Inquire

Special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. (008210)

### RELS 499H Senior Honors Research Paper 3.0 Fa/Spr

Prerequisites: ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher, RELS 480 (may be taken concurrently).

To provide students accepted for "Honors in the Major" an opportunity to prepare and write a research paper on topics germane to their interests developed during the first three years of work in religious studies. Research and writing will be done under supervision of a staff advisor for a total of 6 units in two semesters. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6.0 units. This is a writing proficiency, WP, course; a grade of C- or better certifies writing proficiency for majors. (008212)