

RELIGION (REL)

REL 100 Introduction to Religion & Spirituality

Studies the origins and nature of religion, its relationship to cultures and spirituality, and modern religious issues. Meets departmental major requirement for core class.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 220 Survey of Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures

Surveys biblical literature with attention to literary types and their historical background. Emphasizes the Pentateuch and the prophets. Meets departmental major requirement for core course or SC (Scripture).

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 225 Sacred Texts

This course introduces students to a particular faith tradition's sacred texts. Each offering of the course will be tailored to focus on one selected religious group and provide a survey of the selected religious group under study, including the historical background, literary forms, concepts, ideas, views, content, and major figures of the tradition's sacred texts. Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 230 Survey of New Testament

Focuses on history of the literature as well as major theological motifs. Meets departmental major requirement for core course or SC (Scripture).

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 305 World Religions: East

Examines the origin and development of those religions, which undergird East, South, and Southeast Asian worldviews and societies. Meets departmental major requirement for NW (Non-Western Religion). Also SOC 311.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 307 Pathways to Peace

Prerequisite: Completion of Written Communication B

Explores the history and major beliefs of five religious traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and writings focused on peace and nonviolence drawn from each tradition. Additionally, the course examines the history of the Interfaith Movement. Special emphasis will be given to the way adherents of these religious traditions continue to practice their faith and the interfaith movement in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 311 Archaeology and the Bible

Surveys archeological discoveries relating to the Bible. Focuses on Israelite settlement of Palestine, the Romanization of Palestine, and Greco-Roman cities visited by Paul.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 312 Native American Religions

Prerequisite: Completion of RCS 111 or equivalent

Examines the variety of contemporary Native American religions and spiritual experiences, focusing on beliefs and practices relating to nature, sacred places, and communal well-being. Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 315 Religion in Film and Pop Culture

This course will utilize the lens of religious studies in order to explain, analyze, and critically think about the complex relationships between religion, film, and pop-culture. Students will engage with popular films and television shows/series, as well as social media phenomena and trends, that exemplify both traditional religious themes and new religious responses and challenges to today's pressing social and ethical issues. Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 325 Religion, Ethics, and Sustainability

Prerequisite: Completion of Written Communication B and Natural World: Life Science

This course is designed to examine the basic principles of ecology and environmental science and the fundamental concepts of various religions' eco-perspectives. It focuses on how religion shapes individuals' attitudes about the earth and influences how they interact with the environment. It explores both the implicit and explicit reasons why individuals make particular environmental decisions and examines the consequences of those decisions on the health of the earth and society. This course is not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 326 Religion, Science, and Consciousness

Examination of the structure and practice of scientific and mystical traditions, and how each discipline approaches the mind-body problem. Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 331 Jesus and His Teachings

Consults wide range of scholarship in doing close, firsthand study of Synoptic Gospels. Meets departmental major requirement for SC (Scripture).

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 335 The First Christians

Prerequisite: Completion of Written Communication B

Examines the first Christians within Roman Empire. Using archaeology and texts, examines early Christian practices and beliefs during the first two centuries. Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 346 Politics and Christian Theology

Examines the current religious and political polarization in America.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 349 Contemporary Themes in Christian Thought

Examines contemporary movements in Christian thought, such as liberation theology, process theology, and feminist theology. Meets departmental major requirement TH (Theology).

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 352 Latin American-Latinx Liberation Thought

This course focuses on the motif of liberation in the Latinx and Latin American culture. It traces its development through early religious and philosophical debates on the human rights and theological works on the human soul of indigenous peoples and those of African descent. The course explores the writings of key figures whose theological insights were influential in revolutionary or civic movements in Latin America and the United States. It seeks to study the development of a liberation consciousness from within the Latin American/Latinx milieu. Letter grade only. Not challengeable.

Semester Hours: 4

REL 390 Topics in Religion

Prerequisite: Completion of Written Communication B

Studies special areas in contemporary religion, such as spirituality and social action, religion in the city, and religious existentialism.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 1-4

REL 395 Religion and the City

Integrates methods and perspectives of Sociology and Religious Studies to explore the relationship between urban challenges and religiously based responses to these challenges.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 398 Topics in Urban Studies

Examines religious, ethnic, and economic diversity issues. Meets departmental major requirement for RS (Religion and Society). May be repeated with different topics. Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 4

REL 399 Independent Study

Student-designed courses approved by a faculty member. Prior approval of goals, objectives, procedures, and assessment plan as directed in the Independent Study Manual is required. May be taken multiple times with a different topic for credit. Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit, Audit

Semester Hours: 1-4

REL 401 Interfaith Reflection and Interfaith Action

This is the culminating experience for the Interfaith minor. In conversation with seminal thinkers and key historical events, students develop their own philosophy and/or theology of interfaith cooperation and then put that theory into practice as they plan and implement an interfaith project. Students choose their own philosophers, theologians, historical figures/events that will help them develop their theoretical perspective. Letter grade only. Not challengeable.

Semester Hours: 4

REL 490 Research Strategies

Meets departmental major requirement for core class.

Grade Mode: Letter, Audit

Semester Hours: 1

REL 497 Internship

Not challengeable.

Grade Mode: Letter, Credit/No Credit

Semester Hours: 1-4

REL 499 Senior Project

Culminating activity required by majors in all departments. Papers/theses/projects researched, prepared, and written under the guidance of a faculty member. Comprehensive exams or recitals required in some departments. Academically, Students must be in Good Standing to enroll in 499. Can be taken for letter grade only. Not challengeable.

Semester Hours: 1-4