RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RLST)

RLST Class Schedule (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/RLST)

Courses

RLST 101 Bible as Literature credit: 3 Hours. Themes and literary genres in the Bible, emphasizing content important in Western culture. Same as CWL 111 and ENGL 114. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Literature and the Arts

RLST 104 Asian Mythology credit: 3 Hours. Introductory survey of the mythologies of India, China, and Japan. Same as ASST 104. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Literature and the Arts

RLST 106 Archaeology and the Bible credit: 3 Hours. Examination of archaeological evidence, especially from Syria-Palestine, and discussion of its use in the interpretation of Biblical literature. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Advanced Composition UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective

RLST 108 Religion & Society in West I credit: 3 Hours. Introduction to classic writers and texts in Western religious and social thought from antiquity to the Enlightenment, with emphasis on their social and historical contexts. Same as ANTH 108, PHIL 108, and SOC 108. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective

RLST 109 Religion & Society in West II credit: 3 Hours. Introduction to classic writers and texts in Western religious and social thought from the Enlightenment to the present, with emphasis on their social and historical contexts. Same as ANTH 109, PHIL 109, and SOC 109. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective

RLST 110 World Religions credit: 3 Hours. Survey of the leading living religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; examination of basic texts and of philosophic theological elaborations of each religion. Same as PHIL 110. This course can be used to fulfill either Western or Nonwestern general education categories, but not both. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective

RLST 111 Elementary Greek I credit: 4 Hours. Same as GRK 101. See GRK 101.

RLST 112 Elementary Greek II credit: 4 Hours. Same as GRK 102. See GRK 102.

RLST 115 Language and Culture in India credit: 3 Hours. Same as HNDI 115 and LING 115. See LING 115. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 116 Faith & Self in Global Context credit: 3 Hours. Whether in fourth-century North African, tenth-century Japan, fourteenth-century Spain, or twentieth-century America, men and women have wrestled with the question of who they are and how they are to relate to the world. Through autobiographic writings, by reading the words of women and men attempting to make sense of the world and their place in it, we hope to focus attention on the personal dimensions of faith and of cross cultural contact at the same time that we provide an introduction to the worlds’ major religions. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Western Compartv Cult

RLST 120 A History of Judaism credit: 3 Hours. Examines the social, political, economic, and intellectual history of the Jews from Abraham to the present-day, with particular attention to Jewish thought and society. Same as HIST 168. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective

RLST 121 Introduction to Christianity credit: 3 Hours. Typological and historical approaches to major forms of Christianity: Eastern Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Protestantism. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective

RLST 122 History East Asian Religions credit: 3 Hours. Same as EALC 122. See EALC 122. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 127 Introduction to Catholicism credit: 3 Hours. Introduction to the academic study of Catholicism in its historical, philosophical and religious dimensions with an emphasis on its historical diversity.

RLST 120 Jewish Customs and Ceremonies credit: 3 Hours. The major festivals and life-cycle rituals of Judaism; focuses on sacred time, interaction of external and internal factors producing change and conservatism, relationship of ritual and theology, and the thematic development inherent in the rituals.

RLST 130 Jewish Customs and Ceremonies credit: 3 Hours. Introduces the history, teachings, and practice of Zen Buddhism in China and Japan. Same as EALC 132. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective

RLST 140 Native Religious Traditions credit: 3 Hours. Same as AIS 140. See AIS 140. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

RLST 140 Native Religious Traditions credit: 3 Hours. Same as CLCV 160. See CLCV 160. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: History andPhilosophy Perspective UIUC: Western Compartv Cult

RLST 170 Nature Religion credit: 3 Hours. Introductory survey of religious traditions that locate sacred realities in the natural world, and of ecological traditions that attribute spiritual significance to nature. Same as ESE 170.

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 03/2016
RLST 191  Freshman Honors Tutorial  credit: 1 to 3 Hours.  
Study of selected topics on an individually arranged basis. Open only to honors majors or to Cohn Scholars and Associates. May be repeated one time. Prerequisite: Consent of departmental honors advisor.

RLST 199  Undergraduate Open Seminar  credit: 1 TO 5 Hours.  
May be repeated.

RLST 200  Classical & Koine Greek I  credit: 4 Hours.  
Same as GRK 201. See GRK 201.

RLST 201  Hebrew Bible in English  credit: 3 Hours.  
Analyzes the critical issues in the interpretation of the literature of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament; surveys the history and religion of Ancient Israel with special reference to Israel's setting in the ancient Near East. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect

RLST 202  New Testament in English  credit: 3 Hours.  
Analyzes the literature of the New Testament in its social and religious setting, with special reference to the ministry and teaching of Jesus, the emergence of the church as a sect within ancient Judaism, and the development of Christian institutions in the Graeco-Roman world. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor.

RLST 203  History of the Bible  credit: 3 Hours.  
Broad historical survey of the formation and impact of Christian and Jewish Bibles through the centuries. Designed to give students an academic setting for investigating the complex (and ongoing) history of the Bible. Two guiding questions will be: How have historical developments informed different versions of the Bible: How have versions of the Bible informed cultural and political developments? Same as HIST 291.

RLST 204  Classical & Koine Greek II  credit: 4 Hours.  
Same as GRK 202. See GRK 202.

RLST 205  Intensive Biblical Hebrew  credit: 5 Hours.  
Acquisition of reading knowledge of biblical Hebrew and a familiarity with all major aspects of biblical Hebrew grammar. Same as HEBR 205.

RLST 208  Cultures & Lits of South Asia  credit: 3 Hours.  
Introduction to the literary traditions of South Asia from the beginnings to the end of the Mughal era. Students will read - in translation - selections from a wide range of texts beginning with the earliest Vedic Hymns to the seventeenth and eighteenth century Sufi poetry and songs. Provides students an understanding of the heterogeneous and rich literary and cultural past of the region. Same as ASST 208, CWL 208, and SAME 208. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Literature and the Arts  
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 213  Intro to Islam - ACP  credit: 4 Hours.  
Course is identical to RLST 214 except for the additional writing component. See RLST 214. Same as SAME 213. Credit is not given for both RLST 213 and RLST 214. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Advanced Composition  
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect  
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 214  Introduction to Islam  credit: 3 Hours.  
History of Islamic thought from the time of Muhammad to the present, including the prophethood of Muhammad, the Qur'an, theology and law, mysticism and philosophy, sectarian movements, modernism and legal reform, and contemporary resurgence. Same as SAME 214. Credit is not given for both RLST 213 and RLST 214. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:  
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect  
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 220  Jewish Storytelling  credit: 3 Hours.  
Same as CWL 221, ENGL 223, and YDSH 220. See YDSH 220. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Literature and the Arts  
UIUC: Western Compartv Cult

RLST 221  American Judaism  credit: 3 Hours.  
Forms of Judaism in America: Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Orthodox, and Hasidic Judaism; the American rabbi, Zionism in America; American Jewish communal life; national Jewish organizations; the American synagogue; and the secular Jew. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Advanced Composition

RLST 223  The Qur'an (Koran)  credit: 3 Hours.  
Introduction to the Qur'an (Koran), the holy scripture of Islam, examining its major doctrines, thematic development, literary style, and its relationship to pre-Qur'anic, especially Biblical, traditions. Special attention is given to various methods Muslims have used to interpret the Qur'an. Same as CWL 223, SAME 223. Prerequisite: RLST 213 or RLST 214. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: Literature and the Arts  
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 224  Chinese Thought Confucius to Mao  credit: 3 Hours.  
Same as EALC 222 and HIST 222. See EALC 222. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:  
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect  
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 230  Philosophy of Religion Intro  credit: 3 Hours.  
Same as PHIL 230. See PHIL 230. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect

RLST 231  Religion and Philosophy  credit: 3 Hours.  
Introduces students to philosophical and theological perspectives and methodologies by focusing on one or two key thinkers, books, or topics. Study and critical assessment will attend to the larger historical context. Same as PHIL 231. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect

RLST 232  Ancient Greek Sanctuaries  credit: 3 Hours.  
Same as ARTH 218, and CLCV 232. See CLCV 232.
RLST 235 History of Religion in America credit: 3 Hours.
Examines the religious history of the lands that have become the United States and the people who have become known as Americans through texts written by and about people of all races and creeds. From the precontact era through the twentieth century, this course emphasizes the diversity of American religion, the discord caused by and present in American religion, and the many instances of dialogue that have been a part of America's religious history. Same as HIST 289.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect

RLST 236 Religion, Violence & America credit: 3 Hours.
Examination of the interactions among religion, violence, and American culture from the colonial period to the twenty-first century. Using a wide range of primary and secondary texts, students will study the perspectives of the perpetrators and victims of religiously motivated and/or religiously justified violence, both in domestic and international affairs. Same as HIST 290.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect

RLST 242 Holocaust Religious Response credit: 3 Hours.
The theoretical foundation for ideas of national and racial superiority which attended the holocaust and responses to this phenomenon by major Jewish and Christian thinkers, including Rubenstein, Buber, Fackenheim, Berkowits, Reuther, and Wiesel.

RLST 251 Viking Mythology credit: 3 Hours.
Same as CWL 251, MDVL 251, and SCAN 251. See SCAN 251.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Western Compart Cult

RLST 258 Muslims in America credit: 3 Hours.
Same as AAS 258 and LLS 258. See AAS 258.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Social Sciences
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

RLST 260 Mystics and Saints in Islam credit: 3 Hours.
Examines mystical concepts and practices in Islam through the ages, through the lives and writings of important mystics and Sufi holy men and women, as well as the integration of mysticism and the Sufi Orders into Muslim society and Islamic orthodoxy. Same as SAME 260. No knowledge of Islam or foreign language is required.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Literature and the Arts
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 269 Jewish History Since 1700 credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 269. See HIST 269.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Western Compart Cult

RLST 270 Religion, Ethics, Environment credit: 3 Hours.
Introduction to various religious and philosophical perspectives on environmental ethics. Asks whether the religious traditions can provide us with any resources that can help us to deal with contemporary environmental problems. Religious and philosophical perspectives on these topics will be central to the course: attitudes to individual animals, to other species, and in general to non-human nature; the place of human beings in nature; the relative importance of human development and environmental protection; relations between rich and poor; whether we might need to change our conception of what it is to live successfully; and the concepts of stewardship and sustainability. This course can be used to fulfill either Western or non-Western general education categories, but not both.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures
UIUC: Western Compart Cult

RLST 283 Jewish Sacred Literature credit: 3 Hours.
Literary study of the major post-biblical sacred texts of Judaism; includes readings in translation from Mishnah, Tosefta, Talmudim, midrashim, piyyutim, and mystical treatises. Emphasizes nature, history, function, and development of literary patterns and forms and the relationships between form and content in these texts. Same as CWL 283, and ENGL 283.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Literature and the Arts

RLST 286 Introduction to Hinduism credit: 3 Hours.
Elements of Hindu thought and practice; selected topics presented in historical order and in the context of Indian cultural history (including the present).
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 287 Introduction to Buddhism credit: 3 Hours.
Thematic approach to the history of Buddhism from its origin in India to its spread throughout China and Japan; explores how the doctrinal and social development of Buddhism in East Asia is related to the process of cultural adaptation. Same as EALC 287.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

RLST 291 Hinduism in the United States credit: 3 Hours.
Same as AAS 291. See AAS 291.

RLST 320 Lit Responses to the Holocaust credit: 3 Hours.
Same as CWL 320, ENGL 359, and YDSH 320. See YDSH 320.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Literature and the Arts
UIUC: Western Compart Cult
RLST 335 Religion in Contemp America  credit: 3 Hours.
Examine the religious dynamics of the twenty-first century United States. Tasks will be to map the religious landscape of contemporary America, to learn something of the history of the many traditions being practiced and lived in our communities, and then to study a series of salient issues involving people of faith; the emergence of new religions, expressions of religious intolerance, religion and politics, race and religion, and religious interpretations of economics and the market.

RLST 340 Love & Sex in Hebrew Lit  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as CWL 341, JS 341, SAME 341. See CWL 341.

RLST 341 Native People and Christianity  credit: 3 Hours.
An interdisciplinary survey of the native religious experience, focusing on the native encounter with Christianity. Charts the cultural context for native religious history and explores native religious diversity in the contemporary period, particularly the relationship between tribal and Christian traditions in reservation and urban communities. Class discussions address the broader theoretical and practical questions raised by the intersections of religion, culture, and politics in a diverse and conflicted world, and are supplemented by audiovisual materials and guest speakers. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor.

RLST 343 Islamic Philosophy  credit: 3 Hours.
Survey of major developments within Islamic philosophy from the early classical to the early modern period. Focuses on the ideas and figures that have shaped Islamic philosophy through the centuries, as well as the contexts in which those ideas were produced. Topics covered include the transmission of Greek philosophy into Arabic. Islamic Peripatetic philosophy, Illuminationism, Shi’ite philosophy, and philosophical Sufism, including the great synthesis of Mulla Sadra.

RLST 344 Medieval Jewish Thought  credit: 3 Hours.
Study of the distinctive religious ideas, movements, and figures of Medieval Judaism [500 CE-1700 CE]. Topics include theology, philosophy, Talmudic and Biblical exegesis, mysticism, Jewish-Christian polemics, and law. Emphasis will be placed not only on content and form, but also on historical and social context. Same as MDVL 344.

RLST 345 Medieval Civilization  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 345, and MDVL 345. See HIST 345.

RLST 346 The Age of the Renaissance  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 346 and MDVL 346. See HIST 346.

RLST 347 Protestant & Catholic Refs  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 347. See HIST 347.

RLST 350 South Asian Goddesses  credit: 3 Hours.
Introduction to the most well-known Hindu goddesses, at both the pan-Hindu and local level, and explores their mythical narratives, associated powers, iconography, and rituals of worship. Presents different methodological approaches scholars employ in the interpretation of goddess worship in South Asia and abroad. Materials are drawn from textual, historical sources as well as contemporary ethnographic research, and seek to include representative figures from different regions throughout India and the Himalayan region. Same as CWL 350 and SAME 350.

RLST 390 Independent Study  credit: 2 to 6 Hours.
Special topics not treated in regularly scheduled courses; designed primarily for upperclassmen. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Evidence of adequate preparation for such study; consent of staff member supervising the work.

RLST 393 The World of Jewish Sepharad  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as ANTH 393 and HIST 393. See ANTH 393.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures
UIUC: Western Compartv Cult

RLST 401 Gender and Hinduism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Exploration of the traditional identities, role and expectations of Hindu women and men, as well as popular Hindu beliefs and lived practices informed by understandings of gender, from the ancient period through the present day. Further, the course assesses the way in which these normative ideologies and gendered practices are being perpetuated and/or challenged in the modern world. Sources will include traditionally authoritative texts and treatises, myths and other historical narratives, contemporary ethnographies, and film. Same as SAME 410. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

RLST 403 Women in Muslim Societies  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Examination of gender ideologies and social realities affecting the lives of women in various Muslim countries. Same as ANTH 403, GLBL 403, GWS 403, HIST 434, and SAME 403. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: A course in Islam or the Middle East, or consent of instructor.

RLST 408 Islam & Politics in Mid. East  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Examines the role of Islam in contemporary politics, the contemporary resurgence of Islam, and the articulation of Islamic approaches to the new economic order, nationalism, and the changing role of women. Same as PS 408 and SAME 408. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Junior standing or consent of instructor.

RLST 409 Transnational Islam, Europe-US  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as ANTH 402 and ASST 402. See ANTH 402.

RLST 412 Readings in Sanskrit I  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as SNSK 403. See SNSK 403.

RLST 413 Readings in Sanskrit II  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as SNSK 404. See SNSK 404.

RLST 414 Advanced Biblical Hebrew  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
In-depth study of the grammar and syntax of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible. Texts to be studied will change from year to year. Selections will cover the full range of biblical genres and styles, including prophecy, law, historical narrative, psalms, and wisdom literature. Same as HEBR 414. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours in separate terms. Prerequisite: RLST 205, or demonstrated proficiency at the 205 level.

RLST 415 Intro Readings of the Talmud  credit: 3 Hours.
The Talmud is one of the most important works of Jewish literature. For the last millennium, Talmud study has been a central part of Jewish religious and cultural practice. This course will explain the Talmud’s import and durability within Jewish culture while introducing students to the rigors of legal analysis that lie at the heart of most Talmudic passages. The course is ideal for those interested in religion, law, logic games and questions of textual interpretation. The course will study the Talmud entirely in English translation. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours.
RLST 416  Readings in Rabbinic Midrash  credit: 3 Hours.
Introduces students to the rhetoric, vocabulary, grammar, and argumentation of the Rabbinic Midrashic Collections, especially Mekhilta, Sifre Deuteronomy, and Bereshit Rabbah. The students will read, translate, and analyze portions of these collections daily in class. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite: Advanced knowledge of Hebrew, especially Hebrew grammar, and the consent of the instructor.

RLST 420  Jewish Life-Writing  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as CWL 421, HIST 436, SLAV 420, and YDSH 420. See YDSH 420.

RLST 424  Philosophy of Religion  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as PHIL 424. See PHIL 424.

RLST 434  History of Jews in Diaspora  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as HIST 433. See HIST 433.

RLST 435  Revivalism and Evangelicalism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Examination of the history of revivalistic and evangelical Christianities in North America from the colonial period to the twenty-first century. A combination of primary texts and scholarly studies will focus on religious, social, and political legacies, and the current shape of evangelical Christianity in America. Same as HIST 486. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

RLST 436  Religion in America: 1900-1941  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
An exploration of the religious lives and thoughts of Americans in the first four decades of the twentieth century and the many overlapping issues confronting American society and American religion during that time. Focuses on four themes: debates over the meaning of modernity, understandings of the relationship between religion and society, the gendering of faith, and the relationship between religion and American identity. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: RLST 235 or RLST 236.

RLST 440  Early Christian Thought  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Study of major developments in early Christian thought (first four centuries) through discussion of primary texts in translation. Same as MDVL 440. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: RLST 121 or RLST 202, or consent of instructor.

RLST 442  History of Early Judaism  credit: 3 Hours.
The history of Judaism from Ezra to the rise of Islam: Hellenism and Judaism, varieties of Judaism, Palestinian Judaism and its documents, Babylonian Judaism, the rabbis, and popular Jewish culture. Same as HIST 432. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Credit in one course in religious studies at the 200-, 300-, or 400-level, or consent of instructor.

RLST 447  Modern Catholic Thought  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Traces the history of Catholicism in its interaction with the modern world from the sixteenth century to the present, concentrating on the uneasy relationships that Catholicism has sustained with the modern world. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: RLST 127 or consent of instructor.

RLST 458  Christians and Jews 1099-1789  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Examines the complex relations between Christians and Jews in Europe from the high Middle Ages through the Enlightenment. Among our topics are the religious and social roots of medieval persecutions of Jews; the history of Jewish banishments; construction of myths to foment hostilities; Renaissance humanism (especially the Christian absorption of Jewish scholarship); the impact of the Christian reform movements, both Protestant and Catholic, on the status of Jews; mercantilism and the re-admission of Jews; and the emergence of a discourse of religious tolerance in the Enlightenment. Same as HIST 458. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

RLST 461  Indigenous Traditions  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Interdisciplinary seminar on indigenous religious traditions. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

RLST 463  Religion and Society  credit: 4 Hours.
Same as ANTH 463. See ANTH 463.

RLST 468  Religions of Africa  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as AFST 468 and ANTH 468. See ANTH 468.

RLST 478  19thC US Intel & Cultr Hist  credit: 2 to 4 Hours.
Same as HIST 479. See HIST 479.

RLST 479  20th Century US Culture Wars  credit: 2 to 4 Hours.
Same as HIST 481. See HIST 481.

RLST 480  Islamic Law  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Introduction to Islamic legal philosophy and the historical evolution of Islamic legal and jurisprudential system. Begins by studying the origins, nature, sources and interpretive methodologies of classical Islamic law, and the main institutions for upholding this law, the madhhab, or school of law, examining its development from the formative to the post-formative periods and highlighting important controversies generated along the way. Then looks at the early encounter of Islamic law with modernity. Followed by an exploration of several contemporary topics that have served as catalysts for new tensions and alternative approaches and interpretive theories. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Previous coursework on Islam or consent of instructor.

RLST 481  Muslim Ethics in Global Age  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Exploration of contemporary, often revisionist Muslim ideas on a broad range of ethical issues that face societies today, such as human rights, democracy, gender equality, just war, pluralism, and bioethics. Same as SAME 481. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Previous coursework on Islam or the Middle East.

RLST 482  Muslim-Christian Interactions  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Explores the complexity of Muslim-Christian interactions since early Islam, including theological and philosophical exchanges, debates, polemics, interfaith dialogue, perceptions of each other, Muslim minorities in the West, and Christian minorities in the Muslim world, and the relationship of religion to culture. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.
RLST 483  Salvation in Islamic Thought  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Introduction to salvation in Islamic thought, with emphasis on discussions of the fate of "Others" (i.e. non-Muslims). Begins with a study of the origins and sources of this discourse, followed by an examination of evolving orientations from the formative to the post-formative periods. Important controversies generated along the way, including exclusivist-inclusivist, universalist-anti-universalist, and Sufi-anti-Sufi debates, will be explored. This is followed by an assessment of the new approaches to salvation in modern Islamic thought, with particular emphasis on the contemporary pluralist-inclusivist debate. Finally, alternative approaches to the topic of salvation, including reincarnation, will be examined.
3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Previous coursework on Islam or consent of instructor.

RLST 484  Buddhist Meditation  credit: 3 Hours.
Examines classical systems of Buddhist meditation and their relation to Buddhist psychology and world view. Same as EALC 484. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: RLST 287, or consent of instructor.

RLST 488  History of Chinese Buddhism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as EALC 488. See EALC 488.

RLST 493  Honors Senior Thesis  credit: 3 Hours.
Two-term research project. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. May be repeated in separate terms for a total of 6 undergraduate hours. Prerequisite: Senior majors in religious studies who are eligible for graduating with distinction from the program.

RLST 494  Topics in Religious Thought  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated as topics vary.

RLST 495  Topics in Asian Religions  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Topics in Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and other Asian religious traditions. Same as EALC 495. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours as topics vary. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor.

RLST 496  Topics in History of Judaism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours.

RLST 498  Topics in Biblical Studies  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Detailed interpretation of selected books of the Bible. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours as topics vary.

RLST 503  Renaissance of the Bible  credit: 4 Hours.
Explores the cultural, intellectual, and, in several key instances, political circumstances of the Bible in the Renaissance. Topics include the impact of print technology, the biblical philology of Renaissance humanism, the function of biblical studies in the reform movements (including the Catholic Reformation), the Renaissance Bible and doctrine, translations of the Bible, the politics of the English-language Bible, and the artistic presentation of the Bible.

RLST 504  Genesis in History  credit: 4 Hours.
Survey of Jewish and Christian cultural reception of Genesis in the ancient and medieval worlds. Examines techniques of exegesis and strategies of interpretation in the ancient world, such as allegory, narrative expansion, and retelling. Engages with foundational studies of modern scholarship on biblical reception. While focusing on the initial chapters of Genesis, we will also explore the appropriation of Abraham traditions and the Joseph story. Same as MDVL 504.

RLST 509  Graduate Intro to Religion  credit: 4 Hours.
Introduction for first semester graduate students to selected methods and techniques for conducting research in the area of Religious Studies. Students will receive general guidance on strategies for conducting bibliographic research and designing research projects. Includes study of some currently salient issues and areas of inquiry in a number of disciplines pertaining to the study of religion. The course will be supervised by one professor and will offer a series of presentations on several methodologies and historical issues by experts in various fields.

RLST 511  Seminar in Study of Religion  credit: 4 Hours.
Intensive study of select topics or issues in the study of religion. May be repeated in the same or separates terms as topics vary.

RLST 514  Islamic Theology  credit: 4 Hours.
Study of the language, arguments and schools of classical Islamic theology, mainly through direct study of English translations of theological texts from two different theological schools. Same as SAME 514.

RLST 515  History of Jewish Theology  credit: 4 Hours.
Study of Israelite and Jewish thought from the biblical to modern period. Particular attention will be paid to theological matters and to the historical, cultural and intellectual challenges that engendered a re-thinking and re-conceptualization of the Jewish faith.

RLST 520  Hindu Pilgrimage, Power & Place  credit: 4 Hours.
This course undertakes a critical examination of the nature and practices of Hindu pilgrims, pilgrimages, and pilgrimage sites. We will examine central beliefs and practices of lived religion in the Hindu tradition and situate Hindu pilgrimage within the broader context of pilgrimage and related discussions of power and place. Same as SAME 520. 4 graduate hours. No professional credit.

RLST 535  Historiography of Religion in America  credit: 4 Hours.
Immerses students in major works of recent American religious history. Written from multiple disciplinary perspectives and wrestling with the knotty problems in which religion has been interwoven, these books will give the student a solid foundation in American religious history. Same as HIST 574.

RLST 562  Religious Diversity  credit: 4 Hours.
Intensive study of philosophical and theological responses to the phenomenon of religious diversity. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in one of the relevant fields, or consent of instructor.

RLST 564  Global Religion and Politics  credit: 4 Hours.
Same as SOC 564 and SAME 564. See SOC 564.

RLST 567  Mahayana Buddhism  credit: 4 Hours.
An investigation of Buddhist core notions as conceived from the point of view of the three Major Mahayana traditions with an examination of the ways in which these Mahayana traditions are presented in modern and early modern scholarship. At stake is the fundamental hermeneutic issue of the ways in which the "moderns" look at pre-modern thought, that is, the questions of the historical situatedness of thought. Prerequisite: At least one previous course in Buddhism or consent of instructor.
RLST 568  Popular Religion in East Asia  credit: 4 Hours.
Study of the history of East Asian religions through primary and secondary sources primarily focusing on Buddhism and indigenous faiths. Students will gain an understanding of the social and historical character of popular religion through East Asia. Same as EALC 567. Prerequisites: Graduate Students majoring in East Asian religions must be prepared to read some primary sources written in the original language; graduate students in the other majors are not required to read in the original language. Class Scheduled Information: Graduate Students.

RLST 590  Independent Study  credit: 2 to 6 Hours.
Special topics not treated in regularly scheduled courses; for graduates. 2 to 6 graduate hours. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Evidence of adequate preparation for such study and consent of staff member supervising the work.

RLST 599  Thesis Research  credit: 0 to 16 Hours.
Researching and writing a thesis in consultation with a faculty adviser. Approved for S/U grading only. May be repeated. The M.A. program in Religious Studies allows students to receive a maximum of 8 hours for the M.A.