A major and minor are sponsored by the Department of Religion.

For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Major in Religion

E-mail: religion@illinois.edu

A minimum of 30 hours of coursework is required for the major. This includes (a) REL 230 or REL 231, and (b) completing a Capstone course, as explained below.

At least 15 of the 30 hours must be at the 300 or 400 level, and no more than 9 hours may be at the 100 level. Twelve hours of 300 or 400-level courses in your major must be taken on this campus.

Each student must complete two courses in any of the following: Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese and Japanese Religions, or indigenous American religious practices, chosen from a list maintained in the departmental adviser’s office. And each student must complete two courses in any of the following: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, or religious practices of the ancient Near East, chosen from a list maintained in the departmental adviser’s office.

Additionally, each student will establish a primary and secondary field of study. For the primary area of study, a student must complete a minimum of three courses (nine credit hours), and for the secondary area two courses (six credit hours) are required. An individual course may not be counted twice toward fulfilling the requirements of the primary and secondary areas of interest. (Students are encouraged to complete more than the minimum of three courses in the primary area of study.)

The following are the areas of study: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Philosophy of Religion, Religion in America, or individually designed area of study chosen with the approval of the departmental adviser.

Capstone Experience

Research paper for one 400-level course in Religion (REL): Each major must make special arrangements with a professor teaching a 400-level REL course to conduct a significant research project that results in a research paper of 20 pages (minimum). The goal of this requirement is to ensure that each Religion major has conducted a significant research project. REL 493 can be used to satisfy this requirement.

Students considering graduate study in Religion are urged to consult with professors on the necessary preparation for graduate study in their area of interest.

General education: Students must complete the Campus General Education (https://courses.illinois.edu) requirements.

Language Requirements: The major in Religion does not require any language study beyond meeting the University’s general education language requirement. However, majors are strongly encouraged to learn the languages relevant to their primary field of study and to begin that course of study as soon as possible. Please consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Religion or a professor in your area of interest about appropriate language study.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction: To be considered for departmental distinction a student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.5. Distinction is granted on the basis of a senior thesis written in the context of REL 493. The level of distinction is based on evaluation of the thesis.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum of 30 hours of Religion courses including:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL/REL 230 Philosophy of Religion Intro</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or REL 231 Religion and Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution Requirement: Courses taken must include:</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Two courses in the following: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, or religious practices of the ancient Near East, chosen from a list maintained in the departmental adviser’s office and</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Two courses in the following: Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese and Japanese Religions, or indigenous American religious practices, chosen from a list maintained in the departmental adviser’s office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three courses in a primary area of study</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two courses in a secondary area of study</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capstone Experience: a 400-level REL course in which a research project is undertaken and a 20 page research paper is written. This course can be REL 493 and can also be used to fulfill part of the distribution or primary or secondary area of study requirement.</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 Areas of study include: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Philosophy of Religion, Religion in America, or an individually designed area of study approved by the departmental advisor. Courses chosen to fulfill the primary area of study cannot also be used to fulfill the secondary area of study.

Minor in Religion

E-mail: religion@illinois.edu

www.religion.illinois.edu (https://religion.illinois.edu)

The Minor in Religion is designed to give students the opportunity either to gain a broad knowledge of a number of religious traditions or to emphasize one field in the academic study of Religion. Completion of the minor requires 6 courses selected by the student in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Six REL courses, at least 6 hours at the 300- or 400-level, no more than 6 hours at the 100-level</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 18
Courses

REL 101 Bible as Literature credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/101)
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: Humanities - Lit Arts

REL 104 Asian Mythology credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/104)
Introductory survey of the mythologies of India, China, and Japan. Same as ASST 104.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 106 Archaeology and the Bible credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/106)
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: Advanced Composition
Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 108 Religion & Society in West I credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/108)
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, JS 108, PHIL 108, and SOC 108.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 109 Religion & Society in West II credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/109)
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: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 110 World Religions credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/110)
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 satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 111 Elementary Greek I credit: 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/111)
Same as GRK 101. See GRK 101.

REL 112 Elementary Greek II credit: 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/112)
Same as GRK 102. See GRK 102.

REL 115 Language and Culture in India credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/115)
Same as HNDI 115 and LING 115. See LING 115.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 116 Faith & Self in Global Context credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/116)
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 world's major religions.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Cultural Studies - Western

REL 120 A History of Judaism credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/120)
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 and JS 120.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Advanced Composition
Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 121 Introduction to Christianity credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/121)
Typological and historical approaches to major forms of Christianity: Eastern Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Protestantism.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 122 History East Asian Religions credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/122)
Same as EALC 122. See EALC 122.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 127 Introduction to Catholicism credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/127)
Introduction to the academic study of Catholicism in its historical, philosophical and religious dimensions with an emphasis on its historical diversity.

REL 130 Jewish Customs and Ceremonies credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/130)
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.

REL 132 Zen credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/132)
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: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Non-West
REL 160 Ancient Greek & Roman Religion  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/160](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/160))
Same as CLCV 160. See CLCV 160.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 170 Nature Religion  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/170](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/170))
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.

REL 191 Freshman Honors Tutorial  credit: 1 to 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/191](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/191))
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.

REL 199 Undergraduate Open Seminar  credit: 1 to 5 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/199](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/199))
Undergraduate Open Seminar. May be repeated.

REL 200 Classical & Koine Greek I  credit: 4 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/200](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/200))
Same as GRK 201. See GRK 201.

REL 201 Hebrew Bible in English  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/201](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/201))
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: Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 202 New Testament in English  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/202](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/202))
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.

REL 203 History of the Bible  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/203](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/203))
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.

REL 204 Classical & Koine Greek II  credit: 4 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/204](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/204))
Same as GRK 202. See GRK 202.

REL 205 Intensive Biblical Hebrew  credit: 5 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/205](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/205))
Acquisition of reading knowledge of biblical Hebrew and a familiarity with all major aspects of biblical Hebrew grammar. Same as HEBR 205.

REL 208 Cultures & Literatures of South Asia  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/208](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/208))
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: Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 212 History of Antisemitism  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/212](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/212))
Same as JS 201. See JS 201.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 213 Intro to Islam - ACP  credit: 4 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/213](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/213))
Course is identical to REL 214 except for the additional writing component. See REL 214. Same as SAME 213. Credit is not given for both REL 213 and REL 214. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Advanced Composition
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 214 Introduction to Islam  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/214](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/214))
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 REL 213 and REL 214.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 215 African Muslim Cultures  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/215](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/215))
Same as AFST 213 and HIST 213. See HIST 213.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 220 Jewish Storytelling  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/220](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/220))
Same as CWL 221, ENGL 223, JS 220, and YDSH 220. See YDSH 220.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 221 American Judaism  credit: 3 Hours. ([https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/221](https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/221))
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: Advanced Composition
REL 223 The Qur'an (Koran) credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/223)
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 and SAME 223. Prerequisite: REL 213 or REL 214.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 224 Chinese Thought Confucius to Mao credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/224)
Same as EALC 222 and HIST 222. See EALC 222.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 230 Philosophy of Religion Intro credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/230)
Same as PHIL 230. See PHIL 230.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 231 Religion and Philosophy credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/231)
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:
Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 232 Ancient Greek Sanctuaries credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/232)
Same as ARTH 218, and CLCV 232. See CLCV 232.

REL 235 History of Religion in America credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/235)
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 ins and outs of dialogue that have been a part of America's religious history. Same as HIST 289.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 236 Religion, Violence & America credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/236)
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:
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 242 Holocaust Religious Response credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/242)
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, Berkowitz, Reuther, and Wiesel.

REL 251 Viking Mythology credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/251)
Same as CWL 251, MDVL 251, and SCAN 251. See SCAN 251.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 258 Muslims in America credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/258)
Same as AAS 258 and LLS 258. See AAS 258.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci
Cultural Studies - US Minority

REL 260 Mystics and Saints in Islam credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/260)
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:
Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - Non-West

REL 269 Jewish History Since 1700 credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/269)
Same as HIST 269 and JS 269. See HIST 269.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 270 Religion, Ethics, Environment credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/270)
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 satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 283 Jewish Sacred Literature credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/283)
Literary study of the major post-biblical sacred texts of Judaism; includes readings in translation from Mishnah, Tosefta, Talmudim, midrashim, pinyutim, 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:
Humanities - Lit Arts
REL 284 Modern Jewish Literature credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/284)
Same as ENGL 284 and CWL 284. See ENGL 284.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Lit Arts

REL 286 Introduction to Hinduism credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/286)
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: Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 287 Introduction to Buddhism credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/287)
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: Humanities - Hist Phil

REL 291 Hinduism in the United States credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/291)
Introduction to the historical, religious, and socio-cultural aspects of Hinduism in the US. The role of Hinduism in the maintenance of the ethnic identity of Indians in the US will be examined in the context of the rituals, languages, temples, family, and other social organizations. The maintenance and/or shift of the features of traditional (Indian) Hinduism in the transplanted counterpart in the US will be examined. Same as AAS 291. Prerequisite: REL 104 or REL 286 or consent of instructor.

REL 308 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/308)
Same as PSYC 308. See PSYC 308.

REL 320 Lit Responses to the Holocaust credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/320)
Same as CWL 320, ENGL 359, JS 320, and YDSH 320. See YDSH 320.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Lit Arts

REL 332 Interfaith Service and Theory credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/332)
Students will work for a semester with a partner organization and study academic issues that pertain to interfaith studies and interfaith activities.

REL 335 Religion in Contemp America credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/335)
Examines 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.

REL 340 Love & Sex in Hebrew Lit credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/340)
Same as CWL 341, JS 341, and SAME 341. See CWL 341.

REL 341 Native People and Christianity credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/341)
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. Same as ANTH 341. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor.

REL 342 Archaeology of Religion credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/342)
Same as ANTH 340. See ANTH 340.

REL 343 Islamic Philosophy credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/343)
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.

REL 344 Medieval Jewish Thought credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/344)
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 JS 344 and MDVL 344.

REL 345 Medieval Civilization credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/345)
Same as HIST 345 and MDVL 345. See HIST 345.

REL 346 The Age of the Renaissance credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/346)
Same as HIST 346 and MDVL 346. See HIST 346.

REL 347 Protestant & Catholic Refs credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/347)
Same as HIST 347. See HIST 347.

REL 350 South Asian Goddesses credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/350)
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.

REL 390 Independent Study credit: 1 to 6 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/390)
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.
REL 393  The World of Jewish Sepharad  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/393)
Same as ANTH 393 and HIST 393. See ANTH 393.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 401  Gender and Hinduism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/401)
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.

REL 403  Women in Muslim Societies  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/403)
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.

REL 408  Islam & Politics in Mid. East  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/408)
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.

REL 409  Transnational Islam, Europe-US  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/409)
Same as ANTH 402 and ASST 402. See ANTH 402.

REL 412  Readings in Sanskrit I  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/412)
Same as SNSK 403. See SNSK 403.

REL 413  Readings in Sanskrit II  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/413)
Same as SNSK 404. See SNSK 404.

REL 414  Advanced Biblical Hebrew  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/414)
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: REL 205, or demonstrated proficiency at the 205 level.

REL 415  Intro Readings of the Talmud  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/415)
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.

REL 416  Readings in Rabbinic Midrash  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/416)
Seminar on the foundational text of Judaism- the Midrashic collections (3rd c. - 8th C.E.). We will consider the distinctiveness of Midrashic form and content, and also reflect upon the central methodological issues and problems for the study of this classic corpus. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours.

REL 420  Jewish Life-Writing  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/420)
Same as CWL 421, HIST 436, SLAV 420, and YDSH 420. See YDSH 420.

REL 424  Philosophy of Religion  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/424)
Same as PHIL 424. See PHIL 424.

REL 434  History of Jews in Diaspora  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/434)
Same as HIST 433. See HIST 433.

REL 435  Revivalism and Evangelicalism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/435)
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.

REL 436  Religion in America: 1900-1941  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/436)
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: REL 235 or REL 236.

REL 437  Religion in American Cinema  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/437)
By using films from the 1940s-2010s we will examine the changing religious dynamics of modern American society. We will also use the conceptual tools of religious studies to describe Americans' changing relationships to cinema. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Course work in the religious history of the United States or in film studies.
REL 440 Early Christian Thought  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/440)
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: REL 121 or REL 202, or consent of instructor.

REL 442 History of Early Judaism  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/442)
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 and JS 442. 3 undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Credit in one course in religion at the 200-, 300-, or 400-level, or consent of instructor.

REL 447 Modern Catholic Thought  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/447)
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: REL 127 or consent of instructor.

REL 458 Christians and Jews 1099-1789  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/458)
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.

REL 461 Indigenous Traditions  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/461)
Interdisciplinary seminar on indigenous religious traditions, focusing especially on the study of native North American religions. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

REL 462 Ecological Criticism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/462)
The scientific, political, and economic policy debates about global environmental crisis have tended to ignore its religious, historical, and literary dimensions. This interdisciplinary seminar in the environmental humanities redresses that omission by focusing attention on the emerging fields of religion and ecology, environmental history, and literary ecocriticism. Same as CWL 460 and ESE 462. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

REL 463 Religion and Society  credit: 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/463)
Same as ANTH 463. See ANTH 463.

REL 464 Theories & Theologies of Liberation  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/464)
Same as AAS 464, ANTH 464, and GWS 464. See GWS 464.

REL 472 Kierkegaard and the Self  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/472)
Same as CWL 472, PHIL 472, and SCAN 472. See SCAN 472.

REL 478 19thC US Intel & Cultr Hist  credit: 2 to 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/478)
Same as HIST 479. See HIST 479.

REL 479 20th Century US Culture Wars  credit: 2 to 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/479)
Same as HIST 481. See HIST 481.

REL 480 Islamic Law  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/480)
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.

REL 481 Muslim Ethics in Global Age  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/481)
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.

REL 482 Muslim-Christian Interactions  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/482)
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.

REL 483 Salvation in Islamic Thought  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/483)
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.

REL 484 Buddhist Meditation  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/484)
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: REL 287 or consent of instructor.

REL 488 History of Chinese Buddhism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/488)
Same as EALC 488. See EALC 488.

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 05/2018
REL 493  Honors Senior Thesis  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/493)
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 religion who are eligible for graduating with distinction from the program.

REL 494  Topics in Religious Thought  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/494)
Various topics in religious thought. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated as topics vary.

REL 495  Topics in Asian Religions  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/495)
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.

REL 496  Topics in History of Judaism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/496)
Examination of two or three of the most important practices, beliefs, icons, texts, myths, and spiritual encounters that have and continue to shape Judaism as a religion. Same as JS 496. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours.

REL 498  Topics in Biblical Studies  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/498)
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.