**RELIGION**

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

**Major in Religion**  
**Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum**

E-mail: religion@illinois.edu

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

A minimum of 30 hours of coursework is required for the major. This includes (a) RLST 230 or RLST 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.

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 RLST: Each major must make special arrangements with a professor teaching a 400-level RLST 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 RLST major has conducted a significant research project. RLST 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.

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 RLST 493. The level of distinction is based on evaluation of the thesis.

Students must complete the core courses and additional required courses described below and one concentration.

Minimum of 30 hours of Religion courses including:

| PHIL/RLST Philosophy of Religion Intro 230 | 3 |
| or RLST 231 Religion and Philosophy | 12 |

Distribution Requirement: Courses taken must include:

- (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  
- (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.

Three courses in a primary area of study  
Two courses in a secondary area of study  
Capstone Experience: a 400-level RLST course in which a research project is undertaken and a 20 page research paper is written. This course can be RLST 493 and can also be used to fulfill part of the distribution or primary or secondary area of study requirement.

| 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. |  |

Twelve hours of 300 or 400-level courses in your major must be taken on this campus.

Foreign Language Requirements: The major in Religious Studies does not require any foreign language study beyond meeting the University’s general foreign 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 foreign 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.

**Minor in Religious Studies**

E-mail: religion@illinois.edu

Web address for department: www.religion.illinois.edu (http://www.religion.illinois.edu)

| RLST 110 World Religions | 3 |
| One course in Ethics or Philosophy of Religion | 3 |

Recommended courses are as follows:

| RLST 230 Philosophy of Religion Intro |  |
| RLST 424 Philosophy of Religion |  |

Five additional courses: 15

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Two courses (6 hours) must be from an Asian religious tradition (Hinduism, Buddhism, or Islam, with at least one course in Hinduism and Buddhism)

Two courses (6 hours) must be from the Western religious traditions (Biblical Studies, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, with at least one course in Biblical Studies, Judaism, or Christianity)

Total Hours 21

No more than nine (9) hours may be selected from courses at the 100 level.
At least six (6) hours must be selected from courses at the 300 or 400 level.

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: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

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: HistPhilosoph Perspect

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: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Western Compartv Cult

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: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Western Compartv Cult

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: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures
UIUC: Western Compartv Cult

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: Advanced Composition
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect

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: HistPhilosoph Perspect

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: HistPhilosoph Perspect
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 130 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 132  Zen  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: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures

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

RLST 160  Ancient Greek & Roman Religion  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as CLCV 160. See CLCV 160.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
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.

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 Thght 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: Western Comp Artv Cult

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 Comp Artv 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 Comp Artv 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 satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures
UIUC: Western Comp Artv 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, pifyutim, 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 284  Modern Jewish Literature  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as CWL 284 and ENGL 284. See ENGL 284.
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 Comp Artv Cult
RLST 335  Religion in Contemp America  credit: 3 Hours.
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.

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 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.

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 12/2015
RLST 435  Revivalism and Evangelicalism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Examination of the history of revivalist 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 444  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. Prerequisite: RLST 127 or consent of instructor.

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 & Cultur Hist  credit: 2 to 4 Hours.
Same as HIST 478. 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 madhab, 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.