

REL - RELIGION

REL Class Schedule (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/REL/>)

Courses

REL 101 Bible as Literature credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/101/>)

[IAI Code: H5901] 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.

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 JS 108, ANTH 108, and PHIL 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 and PHIL 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/>)

[IAI Code: H5904N] 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 - Non-West

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 worlds' major religions.

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.

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 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 134 Religion, Race, and Resistance credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/134/>)

Examination of religiously-informed responses to and rejections of racialized oppression in the history of North America, focusing on Native American, African American, and Muslim American experiences. Same as AFRO 134.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Cultural Studies - US Minority

REL 160 Ancient Greek & Roman Religion credit: 3 Hours. (<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/>)

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 199 Undergraduate Open Seminar credit: 1 to 5 Hours. (<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/>)

Same as GRK 201. See GRK 201.

REL 201 Hebrew Bible in English credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/201/>)

[IAI Code: H5901] 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/>)

[IAI Code: H5901] 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 204 Classical & Koine Greek II credit: 4 Hours. (<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/>)

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/>)

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/>)

Same as JS 201. See JS 201.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

REL 214 Introduction to Islam credit: 3 Hours. (<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 Societies credit: 3 Hours. (<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/>)

Same as CWL 221, ENGL 223, JS 220, and YDSH 220. See YDSH 220.

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 and Culture 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 225 Japanese Religions: Thought and Practice credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/225/>)

Same as EALC 225. See EALC 225.

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.

REL 231 Happiness and the Good Life credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/231/>)

Explores the foundational question of what it means to live well or to live a good, meaningful, and happy life. This course introduces students to resources and concepts from Western philosophical and theological traditions to explore this central question. Students will critically and charitably engage these traditions, determining what resources they might offer and what considerations they might neglect. 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 234 Black Religious Imaginations credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/234/>)

Considers Black religious groups whose origins are linked to an attempt to jettison racial categories, such as "negro," that were constructed as cultural productions aimed at undermining the dignity of Black people. Examines Black religious movements like the Nation of Islam, Black Spiritual Movements, Hebrew-Israelite organizations, and the Black Coptic Church, that respond to the problem of race via a performance of imaginations that point to the possibility of other worlds and other futures. Same as AFRO 234.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Cultural Studies - US Minority

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 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:
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 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.

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, 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.

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 CWL 284, ENGL 284, and JS 284. See JS 284.

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
Cultural Studies - Non-West

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
Cultural Studies - Non-West

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 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 CWL 320.

REL 322 Crime, Punishment, and Redemption in the U.S. credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/322/>)
The criminal-penal system in the United States is a complex web of mutually reinforcing institutions, practices, and moral values. This course fosters a deep analysis of the U.S. criminal-penal system with special attention to the role of religion and explores the religious concepts that have informed our moral imaginations regarding crime, punishment, redemption, and the socio-political resistance against our criminal-penal system.

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 333 Becoming Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/333/>)
Same as AFRO 345. See AFRO 345.

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 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 Jewish Intellectual History: Encounters with Islam and Christianity credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/344/>)
Study of the distinctive religious ideas, movements, and figures of pre-Modern Judaism [500 CE-1700 CE] with an emphasis on how Judaism's encounter with medieval Islam and Christianity influenced these new Jewish expressions. Topics include theology, philosophy, Biblical interpretation, mysticism, Jewish-Christian polemics, and law. 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 360 Sacred Spaces of India credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/360/>)
Introduction to sacred spaces through a study abroad experience in India. Students explore the holy sites of Hinduism, Jainism, Islam, and Buddhism and experience how the blend of geography, architecture, and art shapes the belief systems of South Asia, both past and present. Study abroad trip to India will take place between Fall and Spring semesters. Prerequisite: Instructor approval is required.

REL 380 Medicine and the Sacred: Healing Traditions Across Cultures credit: 3 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/380/>)
Explores the intersections of medicine, religion, and healing traditions across cultures. It examines Chinese, Indian, Greco-Islamic, and Western systems of medicine, highlighting their philosophical foundations, therapeutic practices, and ethical dimensions. Topics include etiology and pathology, humoral and energetic theories, divine healers and authority, pharmacology, mental health, and spirituality. Students engage in comparative analysis and conduct research on a chosen healing modality in conversation with modern biomedicine. Credit is not given toward graduation for: REL 494: Medicine and the Sacred and REL 380.

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 402 Gods Demons and Heroes in Hindu Literature credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/402/>)
An exploration of Hindu literature with a focus on representations of gods and goddesses, demons, and heroes in foundational texts such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas. Through close textual analysis, students will examine the philosophical, theological, and sociocultural dimensions of these narratives. Emphasis will be placed on the interplay between myth and history and the influence of these texts on South Asian literary and religious traditions through the modern period.

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, GLOBL 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 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 416 Readings in Rabbinic Midrash credit: 3 or 4 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 418 Afterlife in Early Judaism credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/418/>)

Examines Israelite and Jewish attitudes to death and the afterlife from Ancient Israelite belief until the rise of Islam. Topics include death, divine judgement, immortality of the soul, resurrection, and hell. We will also selectively compare Jewish afterlife traditions to those found in early Christianity. Particular attention will be paid to the transformations of belief over time, and to the changing contexts that gave rise to new Jewish soteriologies and eschatologies. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

REL 419 Jesus and Judaism credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/419/>)

Examines the ways Jews over the last two thousand years thought about, polemicized against, and celebrated, Jesus of Nazareth. The course will cover numerous types of Jewish literature including, but not limited to, folk stories and Talmudic teachings (from Late Antiquity), published letters, polemical treatises, law codes, philosophical tracts, and mystical writings (from the Middle Ages) and, lastly, works of Reform theology, ecumenical treatises, Zionist literature, and Jewish artistic expressions (in the Modern Period). 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Prior course in Religion, Jewish Studies, or consent of the Instructor.

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 432 Approaches to the Study of Religion credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/432/>)

Introduction to the principal themes and debates that have animated the academic study of religion since the late nineteenth century. The relationship of religion to society, the economy, the state, culture, tradition, colonialism, and secularism are all considered, drawing on several different disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, philosophy and history. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

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 439 Catholicism in the United States credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/439/>)

Examines Catholic experiences in America from the colonial period to the present day. Mindful of the institutions that make Catholicism a credibly global community and of the diversity that has always characterized Catholic thought and practice, we will seek to highlight distinctive features of Catholicism in the United States and to chart changes in "American" Catholicism over time. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

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 or 4 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. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Credit in one course in religion at the 200-, 300-, or 400-level, or consent of instructor.

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 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 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 481 Islamic Ethics credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/481/>)

Exploration of Islamic ethical thought from the Qur'an and Hadith to the present day. This course will consider both developments within Islamic intellectual circles and developments connected to non-Muslim thinkers and encounters with other religious communities. Same as SAME 481. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Previous coursework on Islam or the Middle East.

REL 485 Karma of Words: Buddhism, Language and the Literary Arts of Japan credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/485/>)

Same as EALC 485. See EALC 485.

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.

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.

REL 504 Genesis in History credit: 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/504/>)

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.

REL 510 Graduate Intro to Religion credit: 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/510/>)

Introduction for first semester graduate students to selected methods and techniques for conducting research in the area of Religion. 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.

REL 511 Seminar in Study of Religion credit: 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/511/>)

Intensive study of select topics or issues in the study of religion. May be repeated in the same or separates terms as topics vary.

REL 514 Islamic Theology credit: 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/514/>)

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.

REL 515 History of Jewish Theology credit: 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/515/>)

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.

REL 520 Hindu Pilgrimage, Power & Place credit: 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/520/>)

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.

REL 535 Historiography of Religion in America credit: 4 Hours.
(<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/535/>)

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.

REL 567 Mahayana Buddhism credit: 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/567/>)

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.

REL 568 Popular Religion in East Asia credit: 4 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/568/>)

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.

REL 590 Independent Study credit: 2 to 6 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/590/>)

Special topics not treated in regularly scheduled courses; for graduates. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Evidence of adequate preparation for such study and consent of staff member supervising the work.

REL 599 Thesis Research credit: 0 to 16 Hours. (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REL/599/>)

Researching and writing a thesis in consultation with a faculty adviser. The M.A. program in Religion allows students to receive a maximum of 8 hours for the M.A. Approved for S/U grading only. May be repeated in separate terms.