

Religious Studies Course Offerings

SPRING

2026

REL 1000: RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

This course introduces students to the world's religions, including major traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, along with smaller indigenous traditions. The approach of the course is objective and academic; it is not designed to advocate any particular religious perspective or ideology. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

Section	Instructor	Time
002	Yohong Roh	M W F 9:30-10:20am
003	Claire Hautot	100% Asynchronous Online
004	Claire Hautot	100% Asynchronous Online
005	Yohong Roh	100% Asynchronous Online
006	Claire Hautot	T Th 6:00-7:20pm

REL 1004: OLD TESTAMENT

This course is a broad survey that covers most of the literature of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and addresses literary, historical, archaeological, and theological issues. We will employ historical-critical methods to examine the religious ideas and practices of ancient Israel against the background of the cultures of its near eastern neighbors, including Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Syria. To prepare for each topic of lecture/discussion, we will read numerous narratives from the Bible, related passages from the required textbook, and selected articles by modern scholars.

Section	Instructor	Time
001	Stuart Irvine	M W F 9:30-10:20am

Religious Studies Course Offerings

SPRING

2026

REL 1005: NEW TESTAMENT

This course will introduce you to the history, literature, and religion of the earliest period of Christianity (from about 30 to 150 CE). Students will examine the New Testament writings, along with historical issues like the emergence of Christianity from Judaism in the Greco-Roman world. Students will also become familiar with the historical-critical methods that scholars use to study these writings as sources for our knowledge of the origins of Christianity. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit.**

Section	Instructor	Time
001	Bradley K. Storin	T Th 1:30-2:50pm
002	Delbert Burkett	50-75% Web-Based

REL 2001: FAITH AND DOUBT

This course considers how religious faith is challenged or supported by various factors, such as reason, morality, organized religion, and the experience of suffering. The course uses a selection of readings from Paine, Hume, Clifford, James, Kierkegaard, Hesse, Weil, Kushner, and others to address the following questions of religious faith and skepticism: (1) Is belief in God compatible with reason? (2) Is it valid to evaluate religious faith by critical reason? (3) What are the limits, if any, of religious knowledge? (4) To what extent is religious belief validated by the existence of moral norms? (5) To what extent does an individual's faith depend upon or come into conflict with organized religion? (6) How has traditional theistic belief and language been challenged or modified by modern religious thinkers? (7) Is religious faith compatible with the experience of suffering and evil?

Section	Instructor	Time
001	Madahuri Yadlapati	T Th 12:00-1:20pm

Religious Studies Course Offerings

SPRING

2026

REL 2027: ASIAN RELIGIONS

Asian civilizations have a long history with far-reaching impact and influence on our global community today. One does not need to travel to Asia to be affected by Asian people, economic and political activities, cuisine, arts and entertainment, health treatment options, and religious orientations. The religious landscape of Asia is crucial to understanding Asian civilizations. This course focuses on a variety of Asian religious traditions, including fundamental teachings of the Hindu, Confucian, Taoist, Shinto, and Buddhist traditions of India, Tibet, China, and Japan. We explore how religious values influence decision-making processes in personal and public spheres. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is also one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

Section #	Instructor	Time
002	Yohong Roh	M W F 10:30-11:20am
003	Yohong Roh	M W F 12:30-1:20pm

REL 2029: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM

This course introduces students to the histories, teachings, beliefs and practices of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to engage with guest speakers, take field trips to synagogues, churches, and mosques, and watch a number of videos pertaining to contemporary issues (e.g., women's roles, waging war) within these religions. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Mari Rethelyi	T Th 10:30-11:50am

Religious Studies Course Offerings

SPRING

2026

REL 3000: CHRISTIANITY

This course introduces students to Christianity as a living religious tradition with deep historical roots. We will learn about the main lines of Christian thought and practice across the world. In addition to the lives of Christian saints, leaders, prophets, mystics, and reformers, topics will include the construction of orthodoxy, the development of church leadership, the emergence of Christian artistic traditions, the rise of monasticism, the relationship(s) between Christianity and secular governments, and Christian interaction with other religious traditions. Our scope will be global: we'll see Christianity emerge in the ancient Mediterranean basin and move to Europe, Africa, the Middle East, East Asia, and the Americas. There are no prerequisites for the course, and no prior knowledge is assumed.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Bradley K. Storin	T Th 10:30-11:50am

REL 3010: RELIGION AND SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES

This course explores the complicated relationship between religion and slavery from the earliest days of European settlement in the Americas through the Civil War. Part one examines the way essential categories developed alongside each other as the transatlantic slave trade was established in the colonial Americas. Who could be a citizen? A Christian? A slave? Part two focuses on the ways enslaved persons experienced and navigated religion. How did both the experience of enslavement and contact with Christianity shape diasporic African religions? The third section focuses on the relationship between religion and abolitionist movements in the lead up to the Civil War.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Claire Hautot	T Th 4:30-5:50pm

Religious Studies Course Offerings

SPRING

2026

REL 3230: RELIGION AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY

This course explores the role of the paranormal in the history of religions, and in the history of scholarly thought about religion. Perhaps most importantly, this course takes seriously alternate ways of understanding the nature of reality and human experiences that fall outside the norms and methods of contemporary thought and science.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Emily Cogburn	M W F 1:30-2:20pm

REL/INTL 3786: THE RELIGION OF ISLAM

This course examines the development of Islam from its origins in sixth-century Arabia to the modern world. After delving into the sacred biography of the Prophet Muhammad and reading selections from the Quran, we will study the rise of an Islamic Empire over much of Asia and Africa. We will explore classical Islamic civilization through examples of theological debates, mystical music, and art. We will then study Islam in non-Arab societies. Finally, we will address Islam's encounter with modern Europe and the emergence of Political Islam.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Mark Wagner	T Th 3:00-4:20pm

REL/HIST 4011: THE AGE OF THE REFORMATION

This course will examine European religious changes, ca. 1400- 1650. Subjects covered include the reforming movements of Martin Luther, John Calvin and the Anabaptists, as well as Catholic reform and the end of Medieval Latin Christendom. We will examine theology as well as the political, social, and cultural changes in Europe and abroad brought about the splintering of European Christianity.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Christine Kooi	M W F 10:30-11:20am

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SPRING

2026

REL/HIST 4191: RELIGIONS OF CHINA AND JAPAN

This course overviews the belief systems and ideologies of China, Japan, and Korea. East Asian history cannot be explained without examining the role of religion. This course will explore the major religious traditions in China, Japan, and Korea: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, popular religion like Shinto and Shamanism, Christianity, and other East Asian religious movements from ancient times to the present. Through reading primary and secondary source texts in translation, supplemented by overview lectures on history and philosophy, this class will examine religious traditions in close relationship with the social, economic, political, and cultural environments of East Asian society.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Yohong Roh	M W F 1:30-2:20pm

REL/ENGL 4236: LITERATURE OF EXISTENTIALISM

Great literature presents the most exciting and imaginative explorations of the big questions of human existence. If you enjoy reading fiction and analyzing issues of meaning and value, this is the course for you! This course will reflect on select existentialist themes including, for example, moral choice, how we navigate questions of meaning and value, conceptions of the sacred, and the development of the individual self. We will read a variety of fiction from different periods of history to consider these questions, including the following possibilities: Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Nathaniel Hawthorne's short stories, Goethe's *Faust*, Sophocles' *Antigone*, Flannery O'Connor's short stories, Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*, and Herman Hesse's *Demian*. This course depends heavily on class discussion of readings and written communication.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Madhuri Yadlapati	T Th 1:30-2:50pm

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REL 4301: THEORIES OF RELIGION

This seminar is a learning space where students will critically engage with the concept of religion and academic approaches to the study of religion. Here we will not be learning about specific religious traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and so forth), but rather the different ways to talk and think about religion in an academically responsible way. We will focus on a set of interrelated questions: What is religion? What kinds of approaches have scholars adopted as they study religion? How have we come to talk about it in an academic setting? What are productive ways to analyze religious traditions, communities, beliefs, practices, and texts now? We will consider issues of sex and sexuality, embodiment, gender, race, law, theology, secularity, ritual, social organization, and culture. As a result, the theories of religion we read will come from a wide range of academic disciplines, such as anthropology, sociology, law and politics, psychology, race studies, economics, gender studies, colonial studies, and, of course, religious studies. **This course fulfills the capstone requirement for the Religious Studies major.**

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Mari Rethelyi	T Th 9:00-10:20am

REL/HIST 4507: APOCALYPSE THEN AND NOW

This course examines apocalyptic literature, that is, literature that predicts the end of time, whether the end of the age or the end of the world. We will consider representative examples from ancient times to the present. Highlights of the course include the Book of Daniel from the Hebrew Bible and the Book of Revelation from the New Testament. We will consider modern authors who use these works to predict the coming of the Antichrist and the return of Jesus. We will also read two novels that incorporate apocalyptic themes: *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco and *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Delbert Burkett	W 6:00-8:50pm

Religious Studies Faculty Directory



Maria Rethelyi

Ph.D., University of Chicago

Modern European Judaism

112 Coates Hall

Yohong Roh

Ph.D., Temple University

East Asian Buddhism

231 Coates Hall



Lauren Horn Griffin

Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara

Religion, Media, Tech, & Nationalism

109 Coates Hall

Stuart Irvine

Ph.D., Emory University

Old Testament & Ancient Israelite Literature

114 Coates Hall



Bradley K. Storin

Ph.D., Indiana University

History of Christianity

113 Coates Hall

Madhuri Yadlapati

Ph.D., Yale University

World Religions & Modern Religious Thought

105 Coates Hall



Claire Hautot

ABD, University of Chicago

American Religion & the Neoconfederacy

105 Coates Hall

Delbert Burkett

Ph.D., Duke University

New Testament & Christian Origins

123 Coates Hall



Kenny Smith

Ph.D., Emory University

American Religion, New Religious Movements, & Alternative Spiritualities

122 Coates Hall

Michael Pasquier

Ph.D., Florida State University

American Catholicism & Religion in the U.S. South

210A Coates Hall



Religious Studies Major Requirements

Pick Two Core Courses!

- ☐ **REL 1000: Religions of the World**
- ☐ **REL 2000: What is Religion?**
- ☐ **REL 2027: Asian Religions**
- ☐ **REL 2029: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

Take two electives at any level!

- ☐ **REL ******
- ☐ **REL ******

Take any three upper-level electives!

- ☐ **REL 3*** / 4*****
- ☐ **REL 3***/4*****
- ☐ **REL 3***/4*****

Take any 4000-level elective!

- ☐ **REL 4*****

Take the senior capstone!

- ☐ **REL 4301: Theories of Religion**