

Religious Studies (R S)

R S 302 History of the Religions of Asia 3 Hours

Eastern religions: an introduction to the basic forms and the historical development of the religious traditions of India, China, and Japan.

R S 304 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: An Introduction 3 Hours

Examines the intertwined historical developments of the religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and explores the principal beliefs and practices of Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

R S 304G Jews, Pagans, and Christians 3 Hours

Investigate, using a range of primary and secondary readings, how religious identity was imagined and expressed in the 4th-6th centuries CE. Examine the complex interactions of, in particular, Jews, Christians, and Pagans.

R S 305 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion 3 Hours

A critical examination of various conceptions of God and of the relationship of the human and the divine.

R S 306C Comparative Religious Ethics 3 Hours

R S 306D The Roots of Religious Toleration 3 Hours

Examines how freedom of conscience and religion crystallized in western and central Europe, both as a pragmatic practice and as a matter of principle.

R S 306E Ethics of Space Exploration 3 Hours

Examine cultural and ethical questions related to the exploration of space and the emerging field of astrobiology.

R S 307 Introduction to Interreligious Dynamics 3 Hours

Introduction to the diverse dynamics of interreligious encounters, from armed conflicts to interreligious dialogue.

R S 307F Gods and Goddesses of India 3 Hours

Explore a variety of gods and goddesses who have dominated the sacred landscapes of India and beyond, especially North America, from the past until now. Examine various issues relating to patriarchy, power, gender, sexuality, social hierarchy, and devotion.

R S 309C Medieval Material Culture 3 Hours

Explore the history of medieval Europe primarily through the lens of material culture.

R S 310 Introduction to the Study of Religion 3 Hours

Introduction to scholarly methods in the study of religion.

R S 310R Introduction to Middle East Religions 3 Hours

Introduction to the religious landscape of the Middle East including the various expressions of Eastern Christianity, Islam, and Judaism as well as Zoroastrianism.

R S 310S Introduction to Yoruba Religions 3 Hours

Introduction to the cosmological world of the Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria, covering history, societal organization, myths, legends, customs, and cultural traditions.

R S 311 Topics in Religious Studies 3 Hours

R S 311E Religion and the Environment 3 Hours

Explore the relationship between religions and the environment from multidisciplinary perspectives.

R S 311F Ethical Food Systems 3 Hours

Examine the environmental impact of industrial agriculture from the ethical perspectives of religious and secular traditions that promote sustainable and equitable food production.

R S 312C Introduction to Buddhism 3 Hours

A structural and historical overview of Buddhism through the examination of various schools, doctrines, biographical narratives, and contemporary ethical issues.

R S 312E Yoga Past and Present 3 Hours

Survey yogic practices in South Asian civilization and trace the development of yogic thought and embodied practices in Hindu, Buddhist, and tantric traditions from early history to the modern-day's social and legal complexities and controversies.

R S 313C Introduction to the Old Testament 3 Hours

Introduction to the many interpretations of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) and its meaning in the context of its historical and cultural setting in the ancient Near East.

R S 313D Introduction to Jewish Studies 3 Hours

R S 313E Introduction to Jewish Latin America 3 Hours

Historical and cultural analysis of how Jews constructed lives and communities in predominantly Hispanic, Catholic countries of Latin America.

R S 313M Jewish Civilization: Beginnings to 1492 3 Hours

Introduction to the history, culture, and religion of the Jewish people from around 1000 BC to the end of the medieval period. Subjects may include ancient Israel, late Second Temple sectarianism, the rise of Christianity, rabbinic Judaism, medieval Jewish philosophy, Jewish mysticism, and Hebrew poetry.

R S 313N Jewish Civilization: 1492 to the Present 3 Hours

Subjects may include trends toward secularization, the emancipation of European Jewry, the emergence of American Jewry, the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

R S 314K Introduction to the Middle East: Religious, Cultural, and Historical Foundations 3 Hours

A survey of the history and civilization of the Middle East from the sixth to the fourteenth century.

R S 315C The Bible and Its Interpreters 3 Hours

Seeks to develop a wide-ranging familiarity with the Jewish and Christian Bibles and with the dominant modes of ancient, medieval, and early modern biblical interpretation. Readings include an extensive range of primary sources, including both the Scriptures themselves and some of their most influential exegetes.

R S 315J The Conversion of Pagan Europe 3 Hours

Examine the familiar and unfamiliar fragments of what remains from pre-Christian European culture—the limited written records, the artifacts, and the folklore—as well as the more plentiful anti-pagan writings of early Christian missionaries. Test many of the popular claims about how Europe's pre-Christian inhabitants lived, what they believed, and how Christianization impacted their lives against the limits of what we can actually know, using the tools from the study of history, cultural studies, and religious studies.

R S 315K Russian Icons and Propaganda 3 Hours

R S 315M Luther's World 3 Hours

R S 315N Introduction to the New Testament 3 Hours

Examines representative examples of the texts found in the Christian New Testament and selected noncanonical writings. Focuses on historical setting and systematic methods of interpretation.

R S 315O The Faust Legend: From the Magus to Today 3 Hours

Examine a broad selection of the (re)tellings of the Faust legend, i.e., the "bargain with the Devil," to reveal how this particular narrative forms a pillar of the cultural heritage of the European Christendom.

R S 316C History of Religion in the United States 3 Hours
Explores instances of religious dominance and religious diversity in United States history. Moving from the pre-colonial period to the present, it examines the changing circumstances of several religious communities, including American Indians and Puritans, Protestant evangelicals, Mormons, Roman Catholics, Jews, Muslims, and Hindus.

R S 316E American Jews: The Yiddish Experience 3 Hours
Focuses on over a century of Yiddish-based contributions to American literature, music, and film, including works by Isaac Bashevis Singer, Michael Chabon, Woody Allen, and the Marx Brothers.

R S 316L Introduction to Religions of Latin America 3 Hours
Examine a survey of religious practice across Latin America and the Caribbean.

R S 316M Early Mesoamerican Religions 3 Hours
Introduction to the study of indigenous religions in Mesoamerica, a geographic and cultural area spanning north-central Mexico through western Honduras, from approximately 250 BC - AD 1700. Examine the role of religion and ritual in daily life, as well as the lines of evidence available today for understanding them.

R S 317N Introduction to Modern North Africa 3 Hours
Introduction to the major themes of North African history from the sixteenth century to the present.

R S 318 The Rise of Christianity 3 Hours
Introduction to the origins and development of Christianity.

R S 319 Introduction to Islam 3 Hours
The beliefs, theology, history, and main social and legal institutions of Islam, including the concept of God and society, the role of women, and Islamic government and movements.

R S 119S, 219S, 319S, 419S, 519S, 619S, 719S, 819S, 919S Topics in Religious Studies 1-9 Hours
This course is used to record credit the student earns while enrolled at another institution in a program administered by the University's Study Abroad Office. Credit is recorded as assigned by the study abroad adviser in the Department of Religious Studies. University credit is awarded for work in an exchange program; it may be counted as coursework taken in residence. Transfer credit is awarded for work in an affiliated studies program.

R S 320 Introduction to Research Methods in the Study of Religion 3 Hours
Introduction to research methods in the study of religion, including, historical, social scientific, cultural studies, and digital humanities approaches.

R S 320J The Bhagavad Gita: Interpretation and Ethics 3 Hours
Explore one of the most influential books in Indian and global contexts, the Bhagavad Gita, through interpretations, commentaries, and scholarly materials. Navigate ethical dilemmas in the Bhagavad Gita and real-life situations.

R S 321 History of Hindu Religious Traditions 3 Hours
History of major doctrines, practices, and institutions that shaped the development of Hinduism; how religions adapt to social and cultural change and often provide the catalyst for change.

R S 322 History of Indian Buddhism 3 Hours
The institutional, social, economic, and doctrinal history of Buddhism in India.

R S 325 Prophet of Islam: His Life and Times 3 Hours
A detailed study of the prophet Muhammad's life and message, and of the means by which his life was recorded and popularized.

R S 325C Russia's Soul: Spiritual Traditions 3 Hours
Explore complex history of Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism in Russia. Examine important worship sites, including monasteries and pilgrimage destinations. Have discussions with Russian scholars of religion and practitioners of different faiths.

R S 325G The Qur'an 3 Hours
Explore the history, language, style, and themes of the Qur'an.

R S 326 History of Religion in America since 1800 3 Hours
Introduction to the history of religion in the United States of America from the nineteenth century to the present. Focuses on how diverse peoples imagined and transformed the landscape, interacted with one another at different sites, and moved within and across national borders.

R S 129S, 229S, 329S, 429S, 529S, 629S, 729S, 829S, 929S Topics in Religious Studies 1-9 Hours
This course is used to record credit the student earns while enrolled at another institution in a program administered by the University's Study Abroad Office. Credit is recorded as assigned by the study abroad adviser in the Department of Religious Studies. University credit is awarded for work in an exchange program; it may be counted as coursework taken in residence. Transfer credit is awarded for work in an affiliated program.

R S 330G Food and Religion in Asia 3 Hours
Use the lens of food to approach study of religious communities, values, and identity formation in Asia's past and present, covering South Asia, China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and Southeast Asia. Explore questions involving what is eaten and what is not, taboo, hunger, anomaly, gender, food security, and recent ethical problems regarding bio-engineered foods (GMOs).

R S 335 Jesus in History and Tradition 3 Hours
Critical issues, scholarly debates, and historical methods in studying the development of the Christian tradition regarding the figure of Jesus.

R S 335C Political Ideologies and Manifestos 3 Hours
Survey major political ideologies like socialism, capitalism, and fascism; as well as the more recent so-called "Fourth Political Theory of Russian ideologue Aleksandr Dugin, (variable) popular ideologies, and internet manifestos. Explore each ideology through original texts and utopian/dystopian representations in popular culture (e.g., literature, film, music, graphic art, architecture, design).

R S 335D Queering Black Religions 3 Hours
Explore the ways Africana religion practitioners disrupt and reframe dominant western discourses of gender and sexuality. Examine concepts of temporality, spirit manifestation, subjectivity, corporeality, and Africana religious epistemologies.

R S 337 Religion and Society 3 Hours
The growth and decline of religious groups and traditions; "cults" and new religions; comparative sociology of religion; the United States religious landscape; religion and individual health and well-being; spirituality and other aspects of social life.

R S 340C Shrines and Sanctuaries 3 Hours
Survey Greek and Roman religious architecture and sacred space from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic and Roman Empires.

R S 341C Gandhi and Gandhism 3 Hours
Explore Gandhi's life, work, philosophy, and influence, as well as his historical and cultural context.

R S 341E The Taj Mahal and the Diversity of Indian Art 3 Hours
Examination of the period when Islamic dynasties controlled much of the subcontinent and how a unique mix of forms and cultural practices shaped the development of monuments such as the Taj Mahal.

R S 341F Jainism: Religion of Non-Violence 3 Hours
Survey of the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of Jainism from its origins to the present.

R S 341I Formation of Indian Art 3 Hours

Examine the artistic traditions of South Asia up to the fifth century C.E., with an emphasis on social and religious factors shaping its development.

R S 341K Karma: Ethical Theories of India 3 Hours

R S 341M Gender, Sexuality, and the Family in Indian Religions and Cultures 3 Hours

A comprehensive historical overview of gender issues as they are represented in the textual traditions of South Asia.

R S 341P Indian Poetry and Religions 3 Hours

Explores the intersections of religion and poetry in the history of Indian literature as expressed in multiple settings and variations including hymns, chants, bhajans, poetic narratives, and new poetic conventions that deal with caste and gender identities.

R S 341T Buddhist Art 3 Hours

Explores the development of Buddhist art in South Asia, the land of its origin as well as its spread elsewhere. Focus on the question of "what is" Buddhist art.

R S 341U Devotional Literature of India 3 Hours

Discuss the songs of major saints. Examine how holy men and women expressed their religiosity through the medium of songs and poetry over the centuries and consider the role these songs had in shaping the religious communities of India. All works will be studied in translation.

R S 341V Indian Philosophies 3 Hours

Investigate the theories and arguments of major Indian philosophers, considering both their historical positioning and contemporary relevance.

R S 342C Major Islamic Texts 3 Hours

Introduction to key religious, philosophical, and political ideas from part of the Islamic world through sustained readings of core texts.

R S 342F Buddhist Thought and Practice 3 Hours

Explore important themes in Buddhist thought, various ways in which Buddhists practice their religion, and the relationships between religious concepts and practices.

R S 343D Muslim Travelers and Traders 3 Hours

Introduction to modern Middle Eastern and Islamic history in the broader context of globalization, with a primary focus on the nineteenth century to the present.

R S 344 The Age of Reformation 3 Hours

Examines late medieval religion, the rise of Protestant movements, and the Catholic response in their cultural, political, and social contexts.

R S 345 Islamic Spain and North Africa to 1492 3 Hours

An introduction to the impact of Islam on Spain and North Africa, with emphasis on social, economic, and cultural development.

R S 346C Religion and Visual Culture in the United States 3 Hours

Focuses on artifacts or "visual culture," and considers how religion mediates artifacts and how artifacts mediate religion.

R S 346D Native American Religions 3 Hours

Examination of religious developments in Native American communities from the precolonial period through the present day. Focus on the changing forms of ritual practice and the relationship between religion and community life.

R S 346E Religion and Film 3 Hours

Survey of representations of religious beliefs, practices, persons, and institutions in popular film. Examination of film as a vehicle to reflect how a shared religious imagination shaped the way Americans understand themselves.

R S 346F United States Catholic History 3 Hours

Examine how Catholicism and national identity work for Catholics in the United States, with an emphasis on Catholic women and Latino/as.

R S 346G Religion in the American West 3 Hours

R S 346I Unbelief in America 3 Hours

Examine the history of unbelief and the role that it has played in US history.

R S 346J Evangelical Christianity 3 Hours

An introduction to the intellectual and social sources of evangelical Protestant traditions in the United States, their varieties of belief and practice, and their role in the wider Christian community and American society.

R S 346K The Black Church in African American Politics 3 Hours

Explore the political role of the Black church in the African American experience.

R S 346L Representation of Jews in the American Public Sphere 3 Hours

Examines how Jews have been represented and constituted in American public culture as a race, religion, and/or nation through distinct institutions and display practices.

R S 346M Music and Religious Identities in the US 3 Hours

Examine religious music in Christianity and Judaism in relation to communities in religious context of Europe and the United States.

R S 346N American Jewish Material Culture 3 Hours

Examines the interplay between material culture and Jewish identity and thought in contemporary America.

R S 346O Religion and Food 3 Hours

Examine the material relationships between religion and food, by comparing the ritual functions of food in religious traditions and the collective constructions of religious identities in traditional foodways.

R S 346P Religion in American Political Thought 3 Hours

Explore religion and politics in the United States through reading of mostly primary sources addressing religious arguments taking positions on historical and contemporary issues.

R S 346R Religion and Social Justice in United States 3 Hours

R S 346S Debating the Bible in the Twenty-First Century 3 Hours
Examine the ways in which individuals, primarily in the United States, have regarded the Bible as relevant or irrelevant to contemporary life. Discuss contemporary controversial issues in which the Bible has played a role and how these relate to earlier controversies, such as the position of the Bible on slavery.

R S 346U The History of Islam in the United States 3 Hours

A brief introduction to Islam. Defines the role of Islam and views of Muslims in the early history of the United States, and introduces students to major issues concerning contemporary American Muslims.

R S 346V African American Religions 3 Hours

Survey the history and variety of religion as practiced by Americans of African descent. Examine the social construction of African religion, black religion, and the black church, within the cultural context of the United States.

R S 352D Japanese Religion and Western Imagination 3 Hours

Examines Japanese religious traditions, with a focus on Zen, through the perspective of people living in non-Japanese societies since the end of World War II. Explores different ways in which non-Japanese have imagined Japanese religious and ethical ideas and both explained Japanese behavior and adopted ideas about Japan into their writings about philosophy and life.

R S 352E Confucianism 3 Hours

Explore the philosophical and historical context of Confucianism, from its origins in ancient China through the early empire and beyond.

R S 352F Religion and Family in Japanese Society 3 Hours
Explores the structures of family, kinship, and religion in Japan since 1868 and their roles in the creation and expression of national and individual identities.

R S 352G Shamanism and the Primitive 3 Hours

R S 352R Ritual and Religion in Korea 3 Hours
Examine major religious traditions of Korea; focus on the recent history and contemporary practice, and the relation between religion and politics during Korea's colonial (1910-1945) and postcolonial eras.

R S 352S Japanese Concepts of Body and Self 3 Hours
Exploration of anthropological literature describing Japanese conceptions of self and body, and analysis of the intersection of these conceptions of self with Japanese ideas about religion, morality, aging, and medicine.

R S 353C Angels, Demons, and Magic in Early Christianity 3 Hours
Examine angelology, demonology and magic influence on the lives of early Christians and Christianity.

R S 353D The Dead Sea Scrolls 3 Hours

R S 353E Beyond the New Testament 3 Hours
Study of early Christian writings that were not included in the Christian Bible. Examines issues such as the effect of narrative, religion and violence, gendered expectations for women and men, the uses of fantasy literature, and religious authority. Emphasis on systematic methods for disciplined interpretation.

R S 353F Interpretation of Jesus' Death and Resurrection 3 Hours
Examine the narratives of Jesus' death and resurrection and their subsequent interpretation over the last two thousand years. Analyze historical Christian and Islamic texts, contemporary debates and cultural context.

R S 353G Abraham and Abrahamic Religions 3 Hours
Examines the figure of Abraham as portrayed in the Bible and the reception of that portrayal in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

R S 353I Ancient Mediterranean Religion and Astrology 3 Hours
Explore the role of astrology in ancient Mediterranean religious life.

R S 353J Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature 3 Hours
Examine the Book of Revelation in the context of early Christian and Jewish literature. Study other apocalyptic texts, methods of textual analysis, and the ongoing effects of Revelation in modern American culture.

R S 353K Law and Justice in the Bible 3 Hours
Examine the legal traditions of the Torah (Pentateuch) and what they reveal about the practice of law and justice in ancient Israel and the wider biblical world.

R S 353L The Sacred and the Secular in Contemporary Jewish Literature 3 Hours

R S 353M Debating Genesis 3 Hours

R S 353N Biblical Prophecy 3 Hours
An introduction to the diversity of prophetic literature in the Old Testament, its historical development, social context, and Near Eastern parallels.

R S 353P Paul and His Social World 3 Hours
Examine the life and letters of the first-century Jewish missionary Paul by interpreting his writings within the context of diaspora Judaism and the broader Greco-Roman world. Explore his legacy within the context of early church history.

R S 353R The Five Books of Moses 3 Hours
Study the socio-historical circumstances that gave shape to the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Examine how these five books achieved the status of sacred literature.

R S 353U Slavery and the New Testament 3 Hours
Examine slavery in the New Testament.

R S 353V Archaeology of Jesus's World 3 Hours
Explore archaeological methods in examining texts and artifacts from first century CE.

R S 354D The Bible and History 3 Hours
The critical uses of biblical and extrabiblical data in the reconstruction of the history of the biblical period.

R S 354J History of Jewish Thought 3 Hours
Examine major thinkers and movements in both Jewish philosophy and Jewish mysticism since the Middle Ages, with a focus on the importance of modern Jewish thought in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

R S 355 The Bible as Literature 3 Hours
In-depth literary study of the Bible, with emphasis on the formal features of narrative, hymn, prophecy, apocalypse, gospel, and epistle.

R S 355K The Bible in British and American Literature 3 Hours
The reading of biblical masterpieces as literature; consideration of different versions of the Bible and their influence on British and American literature.

R S 356C Italian Renaissance, 1350-1550 3 Hours
Survey of political, socioeconomic, religious, and intellectual trends during the Italian Renaissance.

R S 356D Satan and the Idea of Evil 3 Hours
Explore the history and breadth of Satan's role as a character (or background presence) in literature while developing close-reading techniques for literary analysis that can be applied across diverse eras, forms, and genres.

R S 356F Twelfth-Century Renaissance: 1050-1200 3 Hours
An examination of social, cultural, and intellectual developments in eleventh- and twelfth-century Europe.

R S 356J Northern Renaissance: Religion, Magic, and Humanism 3 Hours
Explore Northern Europe's transition from medieval to Early Modern in and through the northern Renaissance. Examine humanist culture and its many tensions with the Church, technological breakthroughs and their social and economic consequences, the connections between the discovery of new lands and the recovery of ancient learning, and the formation of the early modern state.

R S 356M Christian Quest for Meaning 3 Hours
Study classic Christian texts throughout history.

R S 356P People of the Midnight Sun - Sami Culture and Civilization 3 Hours
Examine the indigenous people of Scandinavia, the Sami, including their history, culture, and self-expression. Explore issues of indigeneity, decolonization, and religious repression.

R S 356R Ritual and Belief in Ancient Greece 3 Hours
Investigate the practices, premises, and cultural contexts of ancient Greek religion through direct study of ancient sources informed by modern critical approaches.

R S 357C Machiavelli: Politics and Culture 3 Hours
Through Niccolò Machiavelli's chief writings, consider the local, regional, Mediterranean, European, and global aspects of his work.

R S 357D Heresy and the Inquisition 3 Hours

R S 357E Jews of Eastern Europe 3 Hours
Explores the history and culture of Jews in Eastern Europe.

R S 357F Heretics and Freedom Fighters, 1350-1650 3 Hours
Explores the theologies, politics, and personal identities that emerged and passed away in this era.

R S 357G Geography of Religion in Eastern Europe and Russia 3 Hours
A comprehensive overview of major religious culture regions in the former Eastern bloc countries.

R S 357I Byzantine Art 3 Hours
Examination of the medieval art and architecture of the eastern Roman empire, including related traditions (Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Crusader, Norman).

R S 357J Northern Renaissance Art, 1350-1500 3 Hours
Northern European art from the International Style to van Eyck and Hieronymus Bosch.

R S 357K Northern Renaissance Art, 1500-1600 3 Hours
Art and cultural development in the sixteenth century; artists include Durer, Gruenewald, Holbein, and Brueghel.

R S 357L The Spanish Inquisition 3 Hours

R S 357M Spinoza and Modernity 3 Hours
Introduction to the core of Spinoza's writings and the diverse reactions they have elicited. Examines Spinoza's refusal of mind-body dualism, as well as a transcendent god or ideal as a way of understanding Spinoza's concepts and ideas.

R S 357N Northern Gods, Northern Faiths: The Conversion of Scandinavians, Finns, Northern Slavs and Shamans 3 Hours
An introduction to the basic source texts for several pre-Christian belief systems evolving in geographic proximity and their influence on one another including pre-Christian Slavic; pre-Christian Scandinavian; pre-Christian Sami and Finnish; and ancient and modern Siberian shamanism.

R S 357O The Church and the Jews 3 Hours
Examination of the complex relationship between the Western Church and Jews over two millennia.

R S 357P Jewish Folklore 3 Hours

R S 357Q Gothic Cathedral: Amiens 3 Hours
An examination of the cathedral at Amiens, its meaning, structure, political and financial contexts, and sculptural programs, as well as its influence on other buildings in France and Germany.

R S 357R The Age of Rembrandt and Rubens: Northern Baroque Art 3 Hours
Northern European art in the seventeenth century, stressing the Netherlands and Flanders.

R S 357S The Sacred and the Secular in Modern European Thought 3 Hours
Introduces key themes and methodologies of intellectual history and social theory by exploring the dueling approaches to secularization and sacralization in modern European thought.

R S 357T Introduction to Germanic Religion and Myth 3 Hours
Survey of the sources and main features of Germanic religion and of the transition from paganism to Christianity in northern Europe and the Germanic territories of western Europe. Subjects include cosmogonic myths; the origin of man and of society; the concept of the soul; gods and goddesses and their mythology; and the organization of worship.

R S 357U Medieval Women Mystics 3 Hours
The life and writings of Saint Birgitta of Sweden, fourteenth-century visionary, religious reformer, and pilgrim, examined and compared with her predecessor Hildegard of Bingen (Germany), her successor Margery Kempe (England), as well as Margery's mentor, Julian of Norwich. Social and historical contexts for all four of these women mystics will be explored in depth.

R S 357V Holocaust Aftereffects 3 Hours
Explores the historical, political, psychological, theological, and cultural fallout of the Holocaust, as well as literary and cinematic responses in Europe and the United States.

R S 357W Russian Orthodox Religion and Culture 3 Hours
Examine the role and force of the Orthodox Church in Russian history, from the Christianization of the pagan Slavs in the 10th century, through the Russian Revolution into the Soviet era, and up to the present, while considering the prescriptive tenets of the Orthodox faith (religion) alongside descriptive experiences of life within and under Russian Orthodoxy (religiosity).

R S 358C Islam and Politics 3 Hours
An introduction to Islamic political thought.

R S 358D Muslim Women in Politics 3 Hours

R S 358F French Empire: The West and Islam 3 Hours
The development of regions within the Mediterranean, variously called the West and East or Europe and Islam, with an emphasis on the role of modern France and France's Mediterranean empire.

R S 358G Gender Politics in the Islamic World 3 Hours
Study of the Islamic world and major sociological concepts such as gender, social organizations, culture, and politics. Examines how culture is mediated by politics, resulting in diverse interpretations of Islam and in different policies with respect to women's rights.

R S 358I Sufism: Islamic Thought and Spirituality 3 Hours
Explore Sufism and other Islamic mystical traditions that color cultural milieus spanning four continents and fourteen centuries. Focus on the historical developments in the Islamic theosophical tradition, as well as the relationship between Sufism and poetics, colonialism, and post-colonial resistance movements.

R S 358J Sex and Sexuality in the Muslim World 3 Hours

R S 358K Islamic Law 3 Hours
Designed to give students a foundation in the substantive teachings of the shariah, which comprises not only what we normally think of as law, but also ethics and etiquette.

R S 358L Rule of Law in the Middle East 3 Hours

R S 358O Origins of Monotheism 3 Hours

R S 358P History of the Pilgrimage to Mecca, Hajj 3 Hours
Survey of the Hajj, Islam's major pilgrimage to Mecca and the nearby Holy Places. It will examine the Islamic pilgrimage from its beginnings in the seventh century C.E. through today.

R S 358Q Supervised Research 3 Hours

R S 358R Islamic Ethics 3 Hours

R S 358S Saints and Shrines in Islam 3 Hours

R S 358U Islamic Theology 3 Hours

R S 358V Veiling in the Muslim World 3 Hours

R S 358W Gender and Art in the Muslim World 3 Hours

R S 359C Graffiti and Poster Art in the Islamic World 3 Hours

R S 359D Islam in the Early Modern World: Religion and Culture 3 Hours

Examine a history of the religious and cultural development across the Islamic world between the thirteenth and eighteenth centuries, stemming from the rise of the Mongols and the end of the caliphate. Explore the early modern Muslim empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and the Mughals.

R S 359E Shia Islam 3 Hours

Examine how the first century of Islamic history inaugurated debates concerning authority, piety, and justice and how these debates have continued to the present. Explore the social forces and ideologies that shaped Shiism.

R S 359J Multiculturalism in Jordan 3 Hours

Explore how past, present, local, and regional events inform current Jordanian culture and identity.

R S 359K The Shock of Modernity in the Middle East 3 Hours

Explore cross cultural contacts between the East and the West during the modern period. Analyze Islamic civilization in the Middle East of the modern era by addressing the development of religion, law, government, and morality during and after the colonial period.

R S 359L Myths and Legends of the Ancient Near East 3 Hours

Explore myths and legends contained in a variety of ancient sources, including texts from Israel, Greece, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.

R S 359M Arts of Islam, 650-1500 3 Hours

Early Islamic art and architecture, with an emphasis on interconnections between the Islamic world and Europe. Examines unique ways Islamic visual culture developed out of the classical and late antique world. Artworks will be contextualized within early Islamic history, religion, and culture.

R S 359N Arts of Islam 1500-Present 3 Hours

Later Islamic art and architecture, beginning with the world empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals, and extending into the modern and contemporary periods. Subjects include the social and historical context of Islamic art in these periods and its unique visual culture.

R S 359O Minorities in the Middle East 3 Hours

Explore the diversity of ethnic and religious minorities found in the Middle East through their history, languages, beliefs, and cultures.

R S 359P Religions in the Ottoman Empire 3 Hours

Examine Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities in the Ottoman Empire (fourteenth to twentieth centuries), with a focus on dynamics both within and between the communities.

R S 359Q Art and Architecture of Late Antiquity 3 Hours

Examination of early Christian and late Roman art and architecture, including related traditions, such as Jewish, Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Persian, and Syriac.

R S 359R Material Cultures of Coexistence 3 Hours

Discuss Muslims living in regions where non-Islamic socio-political systems and infrastructures predominate, exploring the material cultures produced in places where Islam did not originate as, or is not, the dominant authority.

R S 360C African Religious Culture and Creativity 3 Hours

Examine religion as an aesthetic practice and explore the inventiveness of the imagination that underlines African religious practices. Study religious practices spanning from the pre-colonial and post-colonial eras to the contemporary period particularly in urban centers.

R S 361 Topics in Religious Studies 3 Hours

R S 362 Independent Research in Religious Studies 3 Hours
Faculty-directed research.

R S 365D Hermits, Monks, and Saints in Early Christianity 3 Hours
Examine individual and communal forms of Christian monasticism from the first through fifth centuries CE. Explore the social, economic and religious factors that may have made a life of self-denial attractive to many early Christians and the role of authority in these movements.

R S 365G Death and the Afterlife in Graeco-Roman Antiquity 3 Hours
Explore the afterlife from Near Eastern myths and Homer through Greek and Roman antiquity to the early Church Fathers.

R S 365J The Book of Job 3 Hours

R S 365K Contemporary Jerusalem 3 Hours

Explore what life is like in today's contested, rapidly growing, and increasingly diverse Jerusalem.

R S 366C The Bible in the Colonial Americas 3 Hours

Varied perspectives on the central role played by the Old Testament in the construction of colonial cultures in the Americas.

R S 366D Religions of the Caribbean 3 Hours

Examine the histories and politics of religious practices in the Greater Caribbean, encompassing the islands and Central American coasts as well as the continental diasporas, from Vodou and Rastafari to popular Hinduism.

R S 366E Jewish Cuba 3 Hours

R S 366M Colonial Encounters in Mesoamerica 3 Hours

Study European-indigenous encounters in Mesoamerica, a geographic and cultural area spanning north-central Mexico through western Honduras, between approximately 1450-1750. Examine strategies of contact, accommodation, and resistance that indigenous communities and European colonizers used to communicate with each other and negotiate the conduct of daily life in colonial society.

R S 366N African Religion in the New World 3 Hours

Explore the contributions of scholars and artists who engage African diaspora religions in their work through multiple conceptual approaches.

R S 368C When Christ was King 3 Hours

The history of Catholicism in twentieth-century Mexico, often seen as Latin America's most "Catholic" nation.

R S 368D Church and State in Latin America 3 Hours

History of Church-state relations and religious politics in modern Latin America, with emphasis on the nineteenth to early twentieth-century periods.

R S 368F Religion, Conquest, and Conversion in Colonial Latin America 3 Hours

Focuses on the histories of the Catholic Church and religious devotion in colonial Latin America between 1521 and 1821.

R S 373C Religious Ethics and Human Rights 3 Hours

Examine the grounds for human rights, and the relations between rights and religions.

R S 373D The History of Christmas 3 Hours

A historical and cross-cultural examination of the evolution of the modern Christmas holiday, beginning with the birth stories of Jesus in the New Testament and concluding with the supposed "War on Christmas" in the 21st Century America.

R S 373E Anthropology Of Religion 3 Hours

Examine a genealogy of the anthropology of religion around the globe from the nineteenth century to the present.

R S 373G Goddesses in World Religions and Cultures 3 Hours

Historical and cross-cultural overview of the relationship between feminine and religious cultural expressions through comparative examinations and analyses of various goddess figures in world religions.

R S 373I Race, Gender, Sex, and Religion 3 Hours

Use an intersectional feminist framework to examine the construction and maintenance of normative categories of race, gender, sex, and sexuality within United States religious discourse.

R S 373J Creation and Evolution: Human Origins in Scientific and Religious Discourses 3 Hours

Examines evolutionary theory, intelligent design, and creationism, and how they interact.

R S 373K Extraterrestrial Intelligence: Culture, Religion, and Imagination 3 Hours

Focusing primarily on the 20th and 21st Centuries, explores the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) and considers how these ideas have intersected with other aspects of society, particularly religion, including recent arguments that SETI itself has developed into a religion. Examines meanings and motivations behind issues such as Percival Lowell's quest to prove the existence of canals on Mars and the development of Scientology.

R S 373L Science, Magic, and Religion 3 Hours

Historical and cross-cultural overview of the constructed concepts of magic, science, and religion through comparative examinations of cultural contexts from the Islamic world, western Europe, the Caribbean, the U.S., and Mozambique.

R S 373M Biomedicine, Ethics, and Culture 3 Hours

Examines ethical questions such as the allocation of medical resources, stem cell research and cloning, organ transplantation, abortion, human experimentation, prolonging life and the right to die, suicide, euthanasia, and diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, explored from a global perspective.

R S 373N Religions in Contact 3 Hours

Critically examine the theories (religious othering, conversion, reinterpretation, appropriation, etc.) of how one religion responds to contact with another. Explore the ways in which religious actors grapple with religious plurality, draw or ignore boundaries, and form religious identities.

R S 373S Sport, Religion, and Society 3 Hours

Explore sport as it relates to ritual and religious practice and examine the meaning and nature of sport in cross-cultural perspectives.

R S 373T Talk, Text, and God 3 Hours

Introduction to the anthropological study of Christianity, particularly in colonial and post-colonial settings.

R S 375S Topics in Advanced Seminars in Religious Studies 3 Hours

Discussion and research-based study of topics in religious studies. Includes theoretical approaches to the study of religion.

R S 375S.1 What is Religion? 3 Hours

Examines classic theories about religion from the last 150 years of academic study: psychological, sociological, economic, phenomenological, and anthropological.

R S 375S.11 Space, Time, and Religion 3 Hours

Examine religions through the concepts of space and time.

R S 375S.12 Death and the Afterlife in Ancient China 3 Hours

Investigate ancient Chinese beliefs and practices surrounding death and the afterlife from the Neolithic era to the arrival of Buddhism. Explore tombs, burial objects, and funeral rites; philosophical essays and historical accounts; medical practices; religious relics, tokens, and talismans; ghost stories; poetry; and paintings.

R S 375S.2 Comparing Religions 3 Hours

A discussion of major comparative approaches in the study of religion.

R S 375S.4 Radical Religion: Ascetics and Holy Persons 3 Hours

Explores asceticism and the concepts, practices, and goals associated with this radical way of life through case studies from various religions. Subjects include theories of the body and of culture, as well as issues of social status, gender, devotion, and violence.

R S 375S.5 Religion, the Supernatural, and the Paranormal 3 Hours

Examination of extraordinary events, such as miracles, exorcisms, ghosts, psychic abilities, UFOs, and other related phenomena. Discussion of the similarities and dissimilarities between religious and non-religious contexts for such happenings, as well as possible explanations for them.

R S 375S.6 Religion in the American South 3 Hours

Examines the social construction and cultural meaning of southern religion using fictional characterizations, philosophical reflections, historical accounts, and theoretical comparisons.

R S 375S.7 Religions Of No Religion 3 Hours

Examine religious practices that are not religion and critical analysis of the category of religion and its contested borders.

R S 375S.8 The Crusades 3 Hours

An exploration of the religious encounters between eastern and western Christians, Christian heretics, Jews, Muslims, and polytheists; political, military, and cultural changes of the high middle ages; and the ways that crusading ideas and symbols have been reused in contemporary politics and popular culture.

R S 375S.9 Religion in the Workplace 3 Hours

Examine the role of religion in the formation of the workplace in the United States. Survey a range of case studies in order to explore how religion has shaped how Americans understand the relationship between human labor and moral community.

R S 679H Honors Tutorial Course 6 Hours

Supervised individual reading for one semester, followed by research and writing to produce a substantial paper on a specific topic in religious studies, to be completed during the second semester.

R S 180 Topics in Proseminar 1 Hour

An introduction to the research methodology and ancillary disciplines used in current religious studies.

R S 380R Topics in Readings in Religious Studies 3 Hours

R S 381 Conference Course in Religious Studies 3 Hours

R S 383C Topics in Comparative Religion 3 Hours

Advanced treatment of selected problems, topics, or themes concerning comparative approaches to the study of religion.

R S 383C.1 Violence, Sovereignty, and Religion 3 Hours

Explore the relationships among violence, sovereignty, and religion.

R S 383E Ethnographic Methods for the Study of Religion 3 Hours

Explore the use of ethnographic research methods for the study of religion.

R S 383M Theory and Method in the Study of Religion 3 Hours

Introduction to the history of the discipline, discussion of classical interpretative works, and examination of current theoretical and methodological developments in the field.

R S 383T Topics in Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Religion 3 Hours

Advanced treatment of selected problems, topics, or themes concerning theoretical approaches to the study of religion.

R S 383T.3 Reading Arabic Literature 3 Hours

Examine the canons of Arabic literature through readings in translation.

R S 384D Doctoral Seminar in Religious Studies 3 Hours
Advanced seminar designed to introduce students to the profession of religious studies. Includes development and preparation of a dissertation proposal, placing scholarship within a broader theoretical context, and pedagogical issues in teaching religious studies at the undergraduate college level.

R S 385K Early Jewish and Christian Literature I 3 Hours
A survey of major categories of early Jewish and Christian literature by genre in light of comparative historical research.

R S 385L Early Jewish and Christian Literature II 3 Hours
A survey of major categories of early Jewish and Christian literature by genre in light of comparative historical research.

R S 386C Topics in Critical Issues in Christian Origins 3 Hours
Studies of key scholarly works in and critical approaches to the study of Christian origins in their historical, social, and cultural contexts.

R S 386H Topics in Critical Issues in the Hebrew Bible 3 Hours
Advanced studies of critical issues in research on key areas of study in the Hebrew Bible and its environment.

R S 386M Topics in Critical Issues in Ancient Mediterranean Religions 3 Hours
Studies of key scholarly works in and critical approaches to the study of ancient Mediterranean religions in their historical, cultural, and archaeological contexts.

R S 386M.1 Religion and Economics in Ancient Mediterranean 3 Hours
Study the intersections of religion and economics in the ancient Mediterranean through the advanced treatment of primary sources and scholarly approaches.

R S 386M.3 Critical Problems in Second Temple Judaism 3 Hours
Examine the literature and material culture of Second Temple Judaism (circa 520 BCE to circa 135 CE) in dialogue with recent scholarship on Jews and Judaism in Persian, Hellenistic, and early Roman contexts.

R S 386M.4 Critical Problems in Judaism in Late Antiquity 3 Hours
Examine the literature and history of Judaism from the destruction of the Second Jewish Temple in 70 CE to the early Middle Ages, with a primary focus on classical Rabbinic Judaism as well as mystical and other writings beyond the canon.

R S 386M.5 Critical Problems in New Testament 3 Hours
Study foundational and emergent scholarly works and critical approaches in the study of Christian origins and the books of the New Testament in their ancient Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts.

R S 387M Topics in Seminars in Ancient Mediterranean Religions 3 Hours
Advanced treatment of selected problems, topics, or themes in the study of the religions of the ancient Mediterranean world.

R S 387M.2 Seeing Gods 3 Hours
Examine textual and theoretical accounts of the religious phenomenon of epiphany across various belief systems.

R S 387M.3 Art, Gender, and Religion in Late Antiquity 3 Hours
Examine the gendered experience of religion in Late Antiquity using the evidence of artistic record, with a primary focus on the Mediterranean world.

R S 389R Topics in Research Seminars on Religion in Europe and the Middle East 3 Hours

R S 390R Research and Grant Proposal Writing for Social Sciences and Humanities 3 Hours
Draft and revise proposals for dissertation research or write-up grants with peer review, learn about research design, methods, data collection, and analysis, as well as strategies for presenting one's project within the genre of grant proposal within the scope of social science and humanities research areas.

R S 390T Topics in European and Middle Eastern Religion 3 Hours
Advanced treatment of selected problems, topics, or themes concerning religion in Europe and the Middle East.

R S 390T.1 Islamic Studies: Discipline Intro 3 Hours

R S 390T.2 Sovereignty in Islam: Theory Practice 3 Hours
A historical and comparative survey of the concepts and rituals of sovereignty in Muslim societies across the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia, with an emphasis on the pre-modern era.

R S 390T.4 The Arabic Humanities 3 Hours
Explore the traditions formed in pre-modern Islamic humanities.

R S 390T.5 Gender, Islam and Representation in the Modern Middle East 3 Hours
Examine representations of women across majority Muslim countries and explore how women producers and consumers navigate within the framework of regulations set by religious and governmental bodies.

R S 390T.6 The Qur'an and Its Interpretations 3 Hours

R S 390T.7 Law and Religion in the Modern Middle East 3 Hours
Examine the laws that govern religion and religious expression in Middle Eastern national constitutions, with a special focus on both the free exercise and establishment clause of Islam as the religion of the state.

R S 391L Approaches to the Study of Religion in Latin America 3 Hours
An introduction to the history of scholarship about religion in Latin America and the Caribbean.

R S 391N Approaches to the Study of Religion in the United States 3 Hours
An introduction to the history of scholarship about religion in the United States, including recent research on the Atlantic world, the Pacific world, and the Western Hemisphere.

R S 392T Topics in Religion in the Americas 3 Hours
Advanced treatment of selected problems, topics, or themes concerning religion in the Americas.

R S 393F Topics in the Foundations of Asian Religions 3 Hours
Introduction to and analysis of primary sources for the study of religion in Asia.

R S 394T Topics in Religion in Asia 3 Hours
Advanced treatment of selected problems, topics, or themes concerning religion in Asia.

R S 394T.1 The Body in Indian Medicine and Myth 3 Hours
Examines issues of embodiment in South Asia in various life stages, including conception, infancy, childhood, adulthood, and death drawn from various historical periods, medical traditions, religious narratives, and sociological and anthropological studies.

R S 394T.2 Intellectual History of Indo-Iranian Islam 3 Hours

R S 396E, 696E, 996E Examination Preparation 3,6,9 Hours
Designed for religious studies doctoral students preparing for qualifying examinations.

R S 396P, 696P, 996P Dissertation Prospectus 3,6,9 Hours
Designed for Religious Studies doctoral students preparing a dissertation proposal.

R S 698 Thesis 6 Hours

R S 398R Master's Report 3 Hours
Preparation of a report to fulfill the requirement for the master's degree under the report option.

R S 398T Supervised Teaching in Religious Studies 3 Hours
Weekly group meetings with the supervising instructor, individual consultations, and reports.

R S 399W, 699W, 999W Dissertation 3,6,9 Hours