RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELGST 0017  OLD TESTAMENT  3 cr.

Introduction to the religion conveyed in the Hebrew scriptures/Old Testament through an historical and literary examination of important narratives, events, and personalities of the scriptures.

Prerequisite: None.

RELGST 0105  RELIGIONS OF THE WEST  3 cr.

A historical introduction to the religious traditions that developed in ancient Near East and the Mediterranean. Our major emphasis is on the history of the religious traditions that emerged in late antiquity in this area and which continue to be major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will also touch on Zoroastrianism. We focus on key concepts, historical developments, and contemporary issues. Throughout the course, we also examine interactions among these religious traditions. In the last part of the course we examine the issue of globalization and the spread of these religions around the world as well as the presence of "non-Western" religion in the "West." The course also serves as an introduction to the academic study of religion and provides a foundation for further coursework in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. No prior knowledge of any of the religions studied is expected or assumed.

Prerequisite: None.

RELGST 0405  WITCHES TO WALEN POND  3 cr.

Why did the prosecution of witches become a priority for the Puritan rulers of New England? What religious ideals convinced Henry David Thoreau to lead a life 'off the grid' in Walden Pond? How did non-Protestant immigrants make their way in the new nation? And how did religious rhetoric undergird the debates over slavery that led to the civil war? These are some of the questions that we will explore in this course, which traces the religious history of the United States from the era of colonization to through the Civil War.

Prerequisite: None.

RELGST 0455  INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION  3 cr.

Aims to introduce students to Islamic and Middle Eastern History from the time of the Prophet (ca. 600 C.E.) to the Iranian Revolution in 1979. We will proceed chronologically, focusing mainly on political events. However, a special emphasis will be given to the formation of the Islamic tradition, its evolution across different regions and cultures in time, and its interaction with other traditions. In the modern era, we will particularly explore the Islamic societies' political, cultural, and military encounter with the rising power of the West in the Middle East. In addition to the several historical processes and developments such as modernization, nation-building, Islamic fundamentalism and globalization, which have shaped the history of
the Middle East in the last two centuries, our class discussions will also touch on the main theoretical perspectives that have stamped the studies of Islam and the Middle East. Here, concepts such as orientalism, defensive development, and modernity will constitute our main focus.

*Prerequisite: None.*

**RELGST 1015 ANTIQUE & MEDIEVAL CHURCH HISTORY 3 cr.**

Survey of the background and development of the Christian church from subapostolic times through the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation. Major developments in the life and thought of the church will be addressed through key persons and events.

*Prerequisite: None.*

**RELGST 1025 REFORMATION & MODERN CHURCH HISTORY 3 cr.**

Survey of the Christian church history from the reformations of the 16th century to the 20th century. Major developments in the life and thought of the church will be addressed through key persons and events.

*Prerequisite: None.*

**RELGST 1105 LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF CHRIST 3 cr.**

Study of the person, work, and teachings of Christ as they are presented in the gospels. A survey of modern historical critical investigation regarding dating, miracles, parables, the synoptic problem, and the current state of Jesus research will be included.

*Prerequisite: None.*

**RELGST 1116 BOOK OF REVELATION 3 cr.**

Examines the contents and theology of the New Testament book of revelation in the context of biblical apocalyptic literature. Includes discussions of authorship, date of writing, historical context, theological value, apocalyptic genre, the history of interpretation and the major methods of interpretation.

*Prerequisite: None.*

**RELGST 1120 ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY 3 cr.**

Presents a historical-critical investigation of Christian origins. Special attention is paid to varieties of 1st century Hellenistic and Palestinian Judaism within the Greco-Roman world. Primary readings include selected Biblical passages and apocrypha, 1st century historians and philosophers (Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, and Philo), the New Testament corpus (including Paul and the Pastorals), and selected readings from the Dead Sea Scrolls. In addition there will be assignments from various modern New Testament critics, historians, and theologians.

*Prerequisite: None.*
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELGST 1460</td>
<td>SPECIAL TOPICS</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>Detailed analysis of a particular topic not covered by regularly scheduled courses.</td>
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<td>Prerequisite: None.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELGST 1500</td>
<td>RELIGION IN INDIA 1</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>Few countries can boast such an extensive and diverse religious heritage as can India. It is the birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, home to a large Muslim community, as well as, small, but ancient, communities of Syrian Christians, Parsis, and Jews. The course gives a brief historical overview of these religious traditions, introduces students to basic concepts related to each of them, and illustrates their rich practices through primary and secondary readings, films, art, and music.</td>
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<td>Prerequisite: None.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELGST 1901</td>
<td>INDEPENDENT STUDY</td>
<td>1-3 cr.</td>
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<td>A variety of individual reading and research projects may be undertaken by students under the close supervision of a senior faculty member.</td>
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