The Religion department’s undergraduate major is built to be as flexible as possible so that students may pursue individual interests and interdisciplinary goals. The major provides students with the opportunity to explore mainline religious traditions and marginal/repressed religious currents within multicultural and transnational contexts. Students will gain religious literacy while studying the historical, social, cultural, psychological, philosophical, and cognitive dynamics of religion and religious experience.

The department also offers an undergraduate minor for students who wish to master a core body of basic knowledge about the study of religion and have the opportunity to get a broad overview of the study of Religion as a field which is outside their major focus of study at Rice.

The department is well-known for its graduate program in the study of Religion which provides students with the opportunity to apprentice with premier faculty and tailor their program of study to their interests. While vibrant coursework in traditional religions is offered, the department is especially known for an emphasis on heterodoxy and multiculturalism. As part of its graduate program, the Religion department offers a Master of Arts and a PhD degree. Additionally, the Certificate in Gnosticism, Esotericism, and Mysticism (GEM) is an extra graduate-level credential the department offers to degree-seeking graduate students.

**Bachelor’s Program**
- Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Religion [Link](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/religion/religion-ba/)

**Minor**
- Minor in Religion [Link](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/religion/religion-minor/)

**Master’s Program**
- Master of Arts (MA) Degree in the field of Religion [Link](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/religion/religion-ma/)(thesis terminal master’s degree)
- Master of Arts (MA) Degree in the field of Religion*

**Doctoral Program**
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in the field of Religion [Link](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/religion/religion-phd/)

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**Certificate**
- Certificate in Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism [Link](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/ gnosticism-esotericism-mysticism/gnosticism-esotericism-mysticism-certificate/)
- Although students are not normally admitted to a Master of Arts (MA) degree program, graduate students may earn the MA as they work towards the PhD.

**Chair**
Elias K. Bongmba

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**
Niki Clements

**Directors of Graduate Studies (MA)**
Claire Fanger  
Brian Ogren

**Director of Graduate Studies (PhD)**
William B. Parsons

**Professors**
Elias K. Bongmba  
Marcia Brennan  
David Cook  
April D. DeConick  
Matthias Henze  
Anne C. Klein  
Jeffrey J. Kripal  
William B. Parsons  
Anthony B. Pinn  
John M. Stroup

**Associate Professors**
Claire Fanger  
Brian Ogren

**Assistant Professor**
Niki Clements

*For Rice University degree-granting programs:*
To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s [Course Catalog](https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)
To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s [Course Schedule](https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat)
Religion (RELI)

RELI 101 - INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION
Short Title: WHAT IS RELIGION?
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Comparative and interdisciplinary analysis of key elements (including scripture, religious experience, ideas of the divine, religious art and practices) of two Western and two non-Western religions, of the scholarly study of religion, and of the role of religion in the contemporary world.

RELI 104 - INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM
Short Title: INTRO TO JEWISH MYSTICISM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Surveys the historical development and central themes of Jewish mysticism. From the bible to ancient mysticism to medieval Kabbalah to modern expressions, we will critically reflect on the ideas such as divine presence in the world, the cultivation of insight and magical powers, contemplative and restorative practices, and charismatic authority. Cross-list: MDEM 103.

RELI 105 - INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN THOUGHT
Short Title: MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN THOUGHT
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Survey of major medieval Christian thinkers. Primary focus on high and late middle ages (12th-15th century), with some attention to spiritual and apocalyptic writings and dissenting thought in this period. Cross-list: MDEM 105.

RELI 108 - INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM
Short Title: INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Survey of post-biblical Judaism as reflected in the literature of the classical rabbinic tradition, mysticism, medieval biblical commentary, legal codes and philosophy, and modern movements such as Hasidism, denominational Judaism, Zionism, and feminist Judaism. Jewish material culture such as synagogue architecture, illuminated manuscripts and ritual artifacts will be included. Students will not receive credit for both RELI 108 and RELI 209. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 108 if student has credit for RELI 209.

RELI 109 - RELIGION AND LAW
Short Title: RELIGION AND LAW
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Law and religion: origins, differentiation, relation to legitimacy and stability of basic institutions. Law school, professional life, quest for a fitting career in the search for meaning and authentic selfhood. Required: willingness to share the personal roots of your interest in law and your take on the Big Picture.

RELI 111 - INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN RELIGIONS
Short Title: INTRO AFRICAN RELIGIONS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Introduction to the structures of African religions through readings. Topics include community, cosmology, ritual, ethical values, magic, witchcraft, spirit possession, contribution to nationalism, social change, religion and art, and transplantation of African Religions in the Americas.
REL 112 - COMPARING CHRISTIANITIES
Short Title: COMPARING CHRISTIANITIES
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the historical development of Christianity from its grassroots beginnings in a commune in Jerusalem to Rome and the conversion of Emperor Constantine. Different Christian movements include the Apostolic Christians, Ebionites, Marcionites, Thomasians, Montanists, Monarchians, Modalists, Arians, and a variety of Gnostic Christians will be studied comparatively as well as historically.

REL 113 - INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA
Short Title: INTRO TO CHRISTIANITY AFRICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: An introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

REL 114 - RELIGION AND THE ART OF HAPPINESS
Short Title: RELIGION & ART OF HAPPINESS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the historical development of mysticism in Western thought, placing the Christian experiential traditions in comparison with Jewish developments. Through mystical texts, we will explore key concepts, such as visions of God and spiritual journeys, as developed during late antiquity, the middle-ages, and into the early modern period. Cross-list: MDEM 116.

REL 116 - MYSTICISM THROUGHOUT THE AGES
Short Title: MYSTICISM THROUGHOUT THE AGES
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the historical development of mysticism in Western thought, placing the Christian experiential traditions in comparison with Jewish developments. Through mystical texts, we will explore key concepts, such as visions of God and spiritual journeys, as developed during late antiquity, the middle-ages, and into the early modern period. Cross-list: MDEM 116.

REL 122 - THE BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETERS
Short Title: THE BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETERS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level

REL 123 - INTRODUCTION TO WORLD CHRISTIANITY
Short Title: INTRO TO WORLD CHRISTIANITY
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course is designed to introduce students to world Christianity from historical and thematic perspectives. Readings and lectures for the course will draw from interdisciplinary research and scholarship to situate world Christianity as a dynamic spiritual, intellectual, cultural, and communal tradition. This course will introduce students to Christianity in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific using historical analysis to probe the history of the Christian movement, its global distribution, its sacred texts and practices, social engagement, and roles it has a place in a changing world. Interdisciplinary texts will be used to probe selected topics including but not limited to proselytization, leadership, the dynamic competitive relations between mainline churches, emerging Christian communities, and the social and political dimensions of world Christianity.

REL 125 - INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I
Short Title: INTRO TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: An introduction to Biblical Hebrew with emphasis on grammar and vocabulary. Cross-list: HEBR 125. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency. RELI 507. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 125 if student has credit for RELI 507.
REL 126 - INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW II
Short Title: INTRO TO BIBLICAL HEBREW II
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Continuation of RELI 125. We will finish the grammar in the second half of this semester and then read selections from the Hebrew Bible. Cross-list: HEBR 126. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 511. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 126 if student has credit for RELI 511.

REL 127 - INTERMEDIATE BIBLICAL HEBREW III
Short Title: INTERM BIBLICAL HEBREW III
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Prerequisite(s): RELI 125 and RELI 126
Description: Readings in the Hebrew Bible as well as in some unvocalized texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Review of grammar and vocabulary. Instructor Permission Required. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 512. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 127 if student has credit for RELI 512.

REL 157 - RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA
Short Title: RELIGION AND HIP HOP
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Hip Hop culture has changed how life is discussed and conducted. However, one of the under-explored dimensions of Hip Hop culture involves its religious sensibilities. Using lectures, discussions, films, and video presentations, this course explores Hip Hop culture's religious dimensions through its musical language-rap music. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 157 if student has credit for RELI 311.

REL 158 - LIBERATION THEOLOGIES
Short Title: LIBERATION THEOLOGIES
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course seeks to acquaint students with examples of liberation theology, as they relate to the following issues: racism, sexism, classism, and environmental destruction. Attention is given to the context, construction, form, and aims of Latin American liberation theology, Black theology, Feminist theology, and Theology in the Intersections. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 158 if student has credit for RELI 548.

REL 191 - STAR WARS AND RELIGION
Short Title: STAR WARS AND RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The Star Wars films contain one of the richest fictional universes of our time. In this course, we use the theories and methods of Religious Studies (e.g., comparison, psychology, the paranormal, religion and technology) to analyze the Star Wars universe as a modern mythology. Student can expect to gain a working knowledge of tools utilized in the humanities as well as a novel understanding of Star Wars films and fandom.

REL 203 - JUDAISM OF JESUS AND HILLEL
Short Title: JUDAISM OF JESUS AND HILLEL
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the history and literature of Judaism during the Second Temple period, which produced such religious leaders as Jesus and Hillel. Topics include: Jewish sectarianism, scribes and the growth of Scripture, temple worship and the first synagogues, diaspora religion, Jesus and the birth of Christianity, and the origin of Rabbinic Judaism. Counts for the Minor in Jewish Studies. Cross-list: HIST 201.
REL 213 - THE PROPHET JEREMIAH: THE BIBLICAL BOOK AND ITS RECEPTION IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY
Short Title: THE PROPHET JEREMIAH
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: A seminar on the book of Jeremiah and its reception. Topics to be explored: ancient Near Eastern prophecy and Israel’s cultures of revelation; the composition, production, and transmission of a biblical book; the life of the prophet; the transformation of Jeremiah’s message in later, post-biblical texts attributed to him.

REL 215 - MYSTIC CINEMA: KABBALAH IN FILM
Short Title: MYSTIC CINEMA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course explores uses by the film industry of ideas drawn from Jewish mysticism. We will examine themes such as monsters, spirits, numerology and the paranormal, as portrayed in classic film and through to contemporary Hollywood. Emphasis will be placed on the medieval textual and folkloric traditions behind such portrayals. Cross-list: FILM 215. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 215 if student has credit for FILM 114/FSEM 141/RELI 114.

REL 216 - RELIGION AND BLACK LIVES MATTER
Short Title: RELIGION & BLACK LIVES MATTER
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course explores the intersections of religion, politics, and social justice during the period of history marked by the emergence and activities of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

REL 217 - SHI’ISM: ASSASSINS AND AYATULLAH
Short Title: SHI’ISM: ASSASSINS & AYATULLAH
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Ranging from the violent disputes at the beginnings of Islam to the mysterious and misunderstood Assassins, Shi’ism is more than about Iran and Iraq. Ayatullahs rule, Alawis in Syria fight ISIS, Isalams in London are at the cutting edge of Muslim modernity—Shi’ism is much more than you would expect.

REL 219 - THE SUPERNATURAL AND RELIGION
Short Title: THE SUPERNATURAL AND RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will treat the history of the supernatural from the biblical materials on the miraculous "sign," through the birth of the "supernatural" in medieval Christianity and the canonization of saints, to the mediating categories of the "preternatural" and the modern "paranormal." Comparative categories and materials in other cultural and religious complexes will also be treated. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 219 if student has credit for RELI 519.

REL 221 - THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD
Short Title: LIFE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will examine the life of the Prophet Muhammad, focusing on its significance for Muslims and for non-Muslims. Readings in The Qur’an, Ibn Hisham, and Haykal. Cross-list: ASIA 221.

REL 223 - QUR’AN AND COMMENTARY
Short Title: QUR’AN AND COMMENTARY
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: A seminar on the book of Jeremiah and its reception. Topics to be explored: ancient Near Eastern prophecy and Israel’s cultures of revelation; the composition, production, and transmission of a biblical book; the life of the prophet; the transformation of Jeremiah’s message in later, post-biblical texts attributed to him.

REL 230 - ASIAN RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
Short Title: ASIAN RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Survey of the major themes of the Qur’an and selected types of commentary on it from the early Islamic period until the present day.

REL 230 - ASIAN RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
Short Title: ASIAN RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: A survey course on Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Jainism in America, from the colonial period to the present, with a special focus on American metaphysical religion, the counterculture, the New Age, and the history of Western colonialism, transcultural encounter, translation and immigration. Cross-list: ASIA 230.
RELI 231 - AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
Short Title: AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Beginning with a historical survey of the American metaphysical tradition, this course turns to a close study of the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, as a unique window into some of the different ways the tradition has appropriated Asian religions, psychological models of the unconscious, and contemporary scientific paradigms. Cross-list: ASIA 231. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 500. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 231 if student has credit for RELI 500.

RELI 232 - RELIGIONS FROM INDIA
Short Title: RELIGIONS FROM INDIA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will survey the religions of India, namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism. Emphasis will be placed on the study of scriptures of these traditions and their continuing global relevance, particularly in American history and culture. Cross-list: ASIA 232. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 500. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 232 if student has credit for RELI 500.

RELI 233 - INTRODUCTION TO TIBETAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE
Short Title: INTRO TO TIBETAN LANG & LIT
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Introducing the Tibetan alphabet and basics of grammar through reading section of a classic Tibetan text. In addition, readings in English in Indian and Tibetan Buddhist materials, also on the art, history, geography and /or modern era in those areas. Final includes a paper drawn from readings and class discussion. Cross-list: TIBT 233. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 502. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 233 if student has credit for RELI 502.

RELI 234 - INTERMEDIATE TIBETAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE
Short Title: INT TIBETAN LANG LIT & CULTURE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Continued training in Tibetan language-extending vocabulary and facility with grammar. Final includes a paper drawn from readings and class discussion. Cross-list: TIBT 234. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 504. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 234 if student has credit for RELI 504. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Lecture/Laboratory, Seminar, Independent Study
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 243 - THE BOOK OF GENESIS
Short Title: THE BOOK OF GENESIS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: A critical reading in English of the Book of Genesis with close attention to the narrative artistry and theological dimensions of the text. Compares pre-modern modes of interpretation and modern historical criticism.

RELI 270 - INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES
Short Title: INTRO BLACK CHURCH IN THE US
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Much of what has historically taken place within Black communities has been shaped by Black Christian churches. These churches are resources for those interested in understanding religious expression and activism within the Black community. This course provides an introduction into the history, thought, and worship of the major Black denominations.
RELI 294 - RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
Short Title: RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The sacred in interreligious, international, and interdisciplinary encounter, approached via social sciences, theology, theories of literature and mythology. Authors and directors can include Waugh, Mishima, Mann, Proust, Hesse, Percy, Gardner, Updike, Gibson, Sterling, Coupland, Ray, Resnais, Fellini, Bergman, Anderson, Bunnel, and Nutley. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 514. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 294 if student has credit for RELI 514.

RELI 300 - RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
Short Title: RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Examines the religions and religious practices of America from colonial encounter with native peoples to the contemporary period with a special focus on the morphing natures and historical complexities of American Christianities, religious pluralism and secularism. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 504. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 300 if student has credit for RELI 504.

RELI 301 - NIETZSCHE AND RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
Short Title: NIETZSCHE & RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Nietzsche's thought and background: his impact on religious thinkers and cultural critics; his influence on understanding of God, faith, values, society; his connection with Schopenhauer, Wagner, Tillich, Mann, Barth, Buber, Freud, Jung, D.H. Lawrence, Heidegger, antibourgeois cultural criticism, environmentalism, feminism, and postmodernism. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 515. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 301 if student has credit for RELI 515.

RELI 302 - PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: JUDAISM AND SCRIPTURE
Short Title: PEOPLE OF THE BOOK
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Examines Judaism as a "People of the Book," recognizing Judaism's dominant religious preoccupation for millennia to be the reading, study and performance of Jewish scripture, particularly the Torah or the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible: book culture, act of reading, canonization, revelation, and rabbinic, philosophical, mystical interpretations. All readings are in English. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 526. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 302 if student has credit for RELI 526.
REL 304 - JESUS AND THE GOSPELS
Short Title: JESUS AND THE GOSPELS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Explores the various portraits of Jesus in the New Testament and extra-canonical gospels (including the gospels of Thomas Philip, Mary and Judas) in order to reconstruct each gospel's Christological interpretation of Jesus as well as the "historical" Jesus himself.

REL 307 - BASIC COPTIC 1
Short Title: BASIC COPTIC 1
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: A first semester introduction to Coptic grammar and vocabulary. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 591. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for REL 307 if student has credit for RELI 591. Repeatable for Credit.

REL 308 - BASIC COPTIC 2
Short Title: BASIC COPTIC 2
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): RELI 307
Description: Second semester introduction to Coptic grammar and vocabulary, with selected readings from the Coptic New Testament, Nag Hammadi, and monastic literature. Prerequisite: Introduction to Coptic Language I. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 592. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for REL 308 if student has credit for RELI 592.

REL 309 - BASIC COPTIC 3
Short Title: BASIC COPTIC 3
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 1-3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Varied readings in original language to include the New Testament, Nag Hammadi, and monastic literature. Prerequisite: Coptic 1 and 2. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 593. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 309 if student has credit for RELI 593. Repeatable for Credit.

REL 311 - RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA
Short Title: RELIGION AND HIP HOP
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Hip Hop culture has changed how life is discussed and conducted. However, one of the under-explored dimensions of Hip Hop culture involves its religious sensibilities. Using lectures, discussions, films, and video presentations, this course explores Hip Hop culture's religious dimensions through its musical language-rap music. RELI 311 requires additional work above the RELI 157 counterpart, including a term paper, etc. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 311 if student has credit for RELI 157.

REL 312 - THE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT OF MARTIN L. KING, JR. AND MALCOLM X
Short Title: MLK AND MALCOLM X
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Although many figures played a prominent role during the Civil Rights Movement, Martin L. King, Jr. and Malcolm X made unique contributions. Their work sparked important conversation concerning the methods, goals, and consequences of struggle toward liberation. This course examines their religiosity, theological sensibilities, and the major themes which surface in their writings and public work. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 546. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 312 if student has credit for RELI 546.

REL 315 - GENDER AND ISLAM
Short Title: GENDER AND ISLAM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines their religiosity, theological sensibilities, and the major themes which surface in their writings and public work. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 546. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 315 if student has credit for RELI 546.

REL 316 - RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA
Short Title: RELIGION AND HIP HOP
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Hip Hop culture has changed how life is discussed and conducted. However, one of the under-explored dimensions of Hip Hop culture involves its religious sensibilities. Using lectures, discussions, films, and video presentations, this course explores Hip Hop culture's religious dimensions through its musical language-rap music. RELI 311 requires additional work above the RELI 157 counterpart, including a term paper, etc. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 311 if student has credit for RELI 157.

REL 317 - THE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT OF MARTIN L. KING, JR. AND MALCOLM X
Short Title: MLK AND MALCOLM X
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Although many figures played a prominent role during the Civil Rights Movement, Martin L. King, Jr. and Malcolm X made unique contributions. Their work sparked important conversation concerning the methods, goals, and consequences of struggle toward liberation. This course examines their religiosity, theological sensibilities, and the major themes which surface in their writings and public work. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 546. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 312 if student has credit for RELI 546.
**RELI 318 - THE BIBLE: A BRIEF INTELLECTUAL HISTORY**  
**Short Title:** BIOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** An investigation of how the reception of the Bible changed from antiquity to the 21st century. The course is structured chronologically. A close reading of the works of major thinkers from each period, together with specific examples of biblical exegesis. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 518. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 318 if student has credit for RELI 518.

**RELI 322 - INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM**  
**Short Title:** INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Buddhist ideas, art, and meditation. Exploration of the Buddhism in India, China, and Japan and their impact in the USA today. Readings include Buddhists classics and contemporary responses from mediators and scientists. Cross-list: ASIA 322. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 572. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 322 if student has credit for RELI 572.

**RELI 328 - RELIGION AND GLOBAL POVERTY**  
**Short Title:** RELIGION & GLOBAL POVERTY  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Advanced study of religion and poverty in global context. Course materials will address religious, ethical anthropological theories of development, analyze specific themes economic and social development, examine the role of Faith Based Organizations and do specific case studies. Students will be graded on short reflections papers and a final term paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 528. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 328 if student has credit for RELI 528.

**RELI 329 - THE BIBLE AS LIVED EXPERIENCE**  
**Short Title:** THE BIBLE AS LIVED EXPERIENCE  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Even in today's seemingly secular landscape, the Bible is a strong artistic, social, and political influence. We will explore ways in which the Bible is brought to life in contemporary culture by analyzing biblical references in music, film, art, and contemporary religious practice. We will show how American culture shapes understandings of the Bible and vice versa. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 329 if student has credit for RELI 529.

**RELI 332 - ADVANCED TIBETAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE**  
**Short Title:** ADV TIBETAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Prerequisite(s):** RELI 132 or TIBT 132  
**Description:** This class builds on RELI 232 and 234, now including more challenging material in Tibetan, and continuing the trajectory of gaining familiarity with Buddhist philosophical systems as these touch on epistemology, ontology, and contemplative practice. Cross-list: TIBT 332. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 532. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 332 if student has credit for RELI 532. Repeatable for Credit.

**RELI 333 - KNOWING BODY/GLOWING MIND: BUDDHIST ARTS OF CONTEMPLATION AND ANALYSIS**  
**Short Title:** KNOWING BODY/GLOWING MIND  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Buddhism is a performing art engaging both mind and body. Our course investigates Buddhist and other literature, epistemology and rituals with an eye to how they speak to contemplative practice. Contemplative practice itself, in class and out, supplements our exploration of the interplay between traditional Asian and contemporary Western perspectives. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 573. Recommended prerequisite(s): One course in Buddhism. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 333 if student has credit for RELI 573. Repeatable for Credit.
RELI 334 - PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION  
**Short Title:** PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** An overview of the basic approaches in the psychological understanding of religious belief and practice. Topics to be addressed in religious systems East and West include: sex, religious experience, ritual, myth, saintliness, guilt, God and meditation.  

RELI 337 - SHAMANS, SAINTS, & SAGES  
**Short Title:** SHAMANS, SAINTS, & SAGES  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** An overview of the basic approaches in the psychological understanding of religious belief and practice. Topics to be addressed in religious systems East and West include: sex, religious experience, ritual, myth, saintliness, guilt, God and meditation.

RELI 335 - MEDICINE AND THE MUSEUM: CLINICAL AESTHETICS AND THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON  
**Short Title:** MEDICINE AND THE MUSEUM  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Through weekly visits to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, this class develops key skills and engages relevant themes relating to medicine and caregiving, including observation and description, embodiment and motion, eros and suffering, vulnerable populations, grief and loss, human mortality and spiritual transcendence.  

RELI 336 - RELIGION & THE SOCIAL SCIENCES  
**Short Title:** RELIGION & THE SOCIAL SCIENCES  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Designated to introduce the student to classic and contemporary texts in the social scientific study of religion. Topics include: mysticism, the social construction of gender, the guru-disciple relationship, secularization, healing traditions East and West, cross-cultural debates. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 336 if student has credit for RELI 260/RELI 609.  

RELI 338 - THE CHURCH OF AFRICA  
**Short Title:** THE CHURCH OF AFRICA  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** An overview of the basic approaches in the psychological understanding of religious belief and practice. Topics to be addressed in religious systems East and West include: sex, religious experience, ritual, myth, saintliness, guilt, God and meditation.  

RELI 339 - APOCALYPSE THEN AND NOW  
**Short Title:** APOCALYPSE THEN AND NOW  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** A reading course designed to examine Christianit in Africa. Course materials and readings will address the development of the church from the Patristic era to the present, paying attention to theological developments, missionization, colonialism, nationalism, prophetic movements, race relations, the role of women, and social issues. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 540. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 338 if student has credit for RELI 540.  

RELI 340 - THEOLOGY IN AFRICA  
**Short Title:** THEOLOGY IN AFRICA  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Introductory readings on theological thinking in Africa. Course will address methodological issues as well as constructive theological work on enculturation, social and economic justice, gender, health, and liberation. Read 5 major texts, write a major review, lead class discussions, discuss texts used, and write 20 page research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 539. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 340 if student has credit for RELI 539.
RELI 341 - AMERICAN JUDAISM: RELIGION AND THOUGHT
Short Title: AMERICAN JUDAISM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course will examine the distinct character of Jewish religion and thought as it has taken shape in America, including its incorporation within secret societies and the occult. Topics to be examined are American Jewish denominationalism, interfaith relations, pluralism and individualism, and developments in American Jewish spirituality. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 542. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 341 if student has credit for RELI 542.

RELI 342 - NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA
Short Title: NEW RELIG MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Discusses new religious movements and the religious, sociological, and political factors leading to their rise, also missionary and colonial reactions to them. Examines their relationship to indigenous religions, political praxis, and their focus on this-worldly salvation in the wake of political and economic marginality. Cross-list: ANTH 343.

RELI 343 - SEMINAR ON LOVE
Short Title: SEMINAR ON LOVE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This seminar explores the themes of love, sex, and spirit from the classical era through the postmodern age. We will examine literary, philosophical, and artistic expressions in painting, sculpture, cinema, novels, poetry, psychoanalysis, religion, and culture. Cross-list: HART 347.

RELI 344 - SEMINAR ON THE END OF LIFE
Short Title: END OF LIFE SEMINAR
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines themes associated with death and dying from the historical through the contemporary periods. The class will adopt highly multidisciplinary approach that combines the critical perspectives of biomedicine, religious studies, art history, philosophy, anthropology, bioethics, and cultural studies as we consider life at the end of life.

RELI 348 - CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM IN AFRICA
Short Title: CHRISTIANITY & ISLAM IN AFRICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course will focus upon the history and conflict of Christianity and Islam in Africa, with emphasis placed upon indigenous African developments, cultural and artistic themes, and conversion narratives as well as exploring the co-existence and conflict of the two major faiths of the continent. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 348 if student has credit for RELI 536.

RELI 350 - DEMONS, MENTAL ILLNESS AND MEDICINE
Short Title: DEMONS/MENTAL ILLNESS/MEDICINE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Treats complex connections between religious beliefs/practices and formulation of human psychology in western tradition, through a historical reckoning with demonology. Consider the way demons are represented – from semi-corpooreal beings to marks of mental illness – by looking at texts from the ancient world to modern psychiatry. Cross-list: MDEM 350. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 350 if student has credit for RELI 605.
RELI 356 - MAJOR ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAM
Short Title: MAJOR ISSUES CONTEMPORARY ISLAM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course will focus on the major issues confronting contemporary Islam including Islamic unity, the place of the Qur’an and traditions, human rights, Islamic feminism, da’wa, education, science and Islam, globalization and medical ethics.

RELI 357 - WHAT'S RELIGIOUS ABOUT BLACK RELIGION?
Short Title: IS BLACK RELIGION RELIGIOUS?
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines two questions: How is religion defined within the study of lack religion? What constitutes the nature and meaning of blackness within black religion? These questions provide opportunity to explore how scholars explain what it has meant to be black and religious within the United States. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 547. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 357 if student has credit for RELI 547.

RELI 359 - RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE CRUCIBLE OF GLOBALIZATION
Short Title: RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Explores context and consequences of the concept of religious tolerance in the crucible of globalization politics. Background in settlement of Reformation-era religious wars; American attitudes; impetus for tolerance policies and their implementation, 1945 to present (including governmentality and surveillance); results for historically Christian populations, esp. in US and Europe. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 580. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 359 if student has credit for RELI 580.

RELI 361 - THE HUMANITIES OF CARE & END OF LIFE
Short Title: THE HUMANITIES OF CARE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Pairing the perspectives of medicine, bioethics, and the medical humanities with thematic case studies in art, literature, cinema, and visual culture, the class examines the humanities of care and the end of life.

RELI 362 - RELIGION AND SCIENCE
Short Title: RELIGION AND SCIENCE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This advanced seminar analyzes interdisciplinary efforts by scholars of religion to engage scientific research in the cognitive and neuro-sciences. We assess the possibilities for collaboration, as well as conflict, between humanistic and scientific disciplines, asking how the tools of interpretation and empiricism might enrich our understanding of religious phenomena. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 563. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 362 if student has credit for RELI 563.

RELI 363 - JEWISH PHILOSOPHY: GREAT THINKERS AND THEMES IN JEWISH THOUGHT
Short Title: JEWISH PHILOSOPHY
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: An introduction to the main figures and themes in Jewish philosophy. Topics to be discussed include reason versus faith and prophetic revelation; Israel’s chosenness versus human universalism; creation versus eternity; divine providence versus necessity versus free will; evil, justice, and divine omnipotence; prayer, contemplation, and divine and human perfection. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 567. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 363 if student has credit for RELI 567.
**RELI 365 - PAUL AND THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**Short Title:** PAUL & THE NEW TESTAMENT  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Examines the growth of Christianity from its origins as a Jewish group to a religion in the mid-second century that distinguished itself from Judaism. Includes discussion of Acts, Paul’s letters, Johannine corpus, Gospel of Thomas, Pastors, Catholic letters, Hebrews, and Revelation.

**RELI 366 - RISE OF THE NONES: HUMANISMS AND HUMANITIES**

**Short Title:** RISE OF THE NONES  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** This course will look at the rise of the “nones,” that is, individuals who affiliate with no religious tradition, through both a history of secular thought in the West and a close reading of key texts and figures. Atheism, humanism, secularism and the “spiritual but not religious” will all be treated as key categories. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 568. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 368 if student has credit for RELI 568. Repeatable for Credit.

**RELI 367 - REPRESENTING THE DEVIL IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND ART**

**Short Title:** REPRESENTING THE DEVIL  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** This course focuses on representations of the Devil, demons, and ambiguous spirits in Christian sources from the early medieval to early modern period. Students examine theological as well as ritual sources (blessings and exorcisms), and popular, narrative, dramatic, and artistic representations of evil. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 557. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 367 if student has credit for RELI 557.

**RELI 368 - RISE OF THE NONES: HUMANISMS AND HUMANITIES**

**Short Title:** RISE OF THE NONES  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** This course will look at the rise of the “nones,” that is, individuals who affiliate with no religious tradition, through both a history of secular thought in the West and a close reading of key texts and figures. Atheism, humanism, secularism and the “spiritual but not religious” will all be treated as key categories. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 568. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 368 if student has credit for RELI 568. Repeatable for Credit.

**RELI 369 - READING RICHARD WRIGHT: THEISM AND ATHEISM IN THE WRITINGS OF RICHARD WRIGHT**

**Short Title:** READING RICHARD WRIGHT  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Richard Wright’s fiction and nonfiction are important resources for understanding the nature of radicalized life in the United States. This course explores his writings for what they tell us about the role of religion in the development of identity and life meaning, and we will juxtapose the role of religion with Wright’s commentary on the nature and significance of atheism for countering injustice. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 606. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 369 if student has credit for RELI 606.

**RELI 370 - CHRISTIANITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH**

**Short Title:** CHRISTIANITY IN GLOBAL SOUTH  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Readings on Christianity in the Global South analyzing historical developments, mission and colonial encounters, growth and expansion; diversity of expression, the development of local initiated Churches, Pentecostalism, and public role of the Church. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 561. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 370 if student has credit for RELI 561.

**RELI 371 - READING RICHARD WRIGHT: THEISM AND ATHEISM IN THE WRITINGS OF RICHARD WRIGHT**

**Short Title:** THEISM AND ATHEISM IN THE WRITINGS OF RICHARD WRIGHT  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Richard Wright’s fiction and nonfiction are important resources for understanding the nature of radicalized life in the United States. This course explores his writings for what they tell us about the role of religion in the development of identity and life meaning, and we will juxtapose the role of religion with Wright’s commentary on the nature and significance of atheism for countering injustice. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 606. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 369 if student has credit for RELI 606.

**RELI 371 - CHRISTIANITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH**

**Short Title:** CHRISTIANITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Readings on Christianity in the Global South analyzing historical developments, mission and colonial encounters, growth and expansion; diversity of expression, the development of local initiated Churches, Pentecostalism, and public role of the Church. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 561. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 370 if student has credit for RELI 561.

**RELI 371 - PAUL AND THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**Short Title:** PAUL & THE NEW TESTAMENT  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Examines the growth of Christianity from its origins as a Jewish group to a religion in the mid-second century that distinguished itself from Judaism. Includes discussion of Acts, Paul’s letters, Johannine corpus, Gospel of Thomas, Pastorals, Catholic letters, Hebrews, and Revelation.
REL 378 - MIND AND ART, FILM AND LITERATURE IN BUDDHISM
Short Title: BUDDHIST ART AND LITERATURE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: A survey of the Dead Sea Scrolls as a window into the Second Temple period. A close reading of the scrolls will lead to a discussion of the theological and historical issues of the time, a period pivotal for the formation of Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 509. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 382 if student has credit for RELI 578.

REL 381 - THE MESSIAH
Short Title: THE MESSIAH
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Examines the historical origins of Messianism. The Hebrew Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and other ancient texts reflect a surprising diversity of Messianic expectations in early Judaism. These form the background of early Christian depictions of Jesus of Nazareth.

REL 382 - LOST JUDAISMS: THE APOCRYPHAL WRITINGS
Short Title: LOST JUDAISMS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: After the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament canon was closed, Jews and Christians continued to compose texts and attributed them to the biblical figures of the past. Seminar offers a close reading of some of these apocryphal/pseudepigraphic little known texts. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 509. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 382 if student has credit for RELI 509.

REL 383 - THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS
Short Title: THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: A survey of the Dead Sea Scrolls as a window into the Second Temple period. A close reading of the scrolls will lead to a discussion of the theological and historical issues of the time, a period pivotal for the formation of Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 553. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 383 if student has credit for RELI 553.

REL 384 - PILGRIMAGE AND CRUSADE
Short Title: PILGRIMAGE AND CRUSADE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Focus on the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Mecca by Jews, Christians, and Muslims within the context of the crusade period. Also covers the historical religious events of the crusades (approximately 1000-1300) from both a Muslim and a Christian perspective. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 384 if student has credit for RELI 608.

REL 385 - GOD, TIME AND HISTORY
Short Title: GOD, TIME AND HISTORY
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: How is the passage of time given meaning, and what role--if any--is assigned to divinity in shaping the direction of events? Course explores various forms of recording and interpreting events, drawing from ancient Mesopotamia, Israel, and the Greco-Roman world--the cultures in which modern ideas of history began. Cross-list: HIST 381. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 385 if student has credit for RELI 585.

REL 387 - WESTERN ESOTERICISM: METHOD AND THEORY
Short Title: WESTERN ESOTERICISM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course explores the relation between esoteric texts and the idea of "Western Esotericism." We will look at primary writings from Agrippa to Madame Blavatsky and consider the historical and methodological approaches emerging as Esotericism is constructed as an academic area. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 587. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 387 if student has credit for RELI 587.
RELI 388 - THE PSALMS
Short Title: THE PSALMS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: A seminar on biblical poetry. The Psalms have constituted a book of study, devotion, and prayer for Jews and Christians for two millennia. This course explores the psalms' poetic force, liturgical setting in ancient Israel, theology, and enduring significance today. Counts for the Minor in Jewish Studies. RELI 612: Additional readings and longer paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 612. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 388 if student has credit for RELI 612.

RELI 390 - SEARCH FOR GOD IN THE POSTMODERN WORLD
Short Title: SEARCH FOR GOD
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Explore forms of theistic religious experience, concentrating on the Western Christian tradition; past and present cultural and philosophical challenges to traditional religious belief; the possibility of Christian faith and the struggle for justice and meaning. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 390 if student has credit for RELI 280.

RELI 391 - THE REFORMATION & ITS RESULTS
Short Title: THE REFORMATION & ITS RESULTS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Theology and church-state issues from 16th-century Reformation to 17th-century; medieval background; Luther and Calvin, the Catholic Reformation; religious wars; Protestant orthodoxy; Pietist spirituality; Puritanism; and calls for toleration. Cross-list: MDEM 391. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 391 if student has credit for RELI 286.

RELI 392 - JERUSALEM: HOLY CITY IN TIME AND IMAGINATION
Short Title: JERUSALEM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3,4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: A course on Jerusalem's past and present, its religious meanings in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and its role in the modern conflict in the Middle East. Instructor Permission Required.
RELI 399 - CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE  
Short Title: CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Activity Course  
Credit Hour: 1  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: Literary and artistic creativity, religious experience, and textual interpretation often draw on focused states of consciousness made possible by contemplative practices. The practice will provide historical information about such practices and offer opportunities to participate in techniques ranging from meditation and observing breath to freeform writing and T’ai Chi. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 597. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 399 if student has credit for RELI 597. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 400 - SENIOR THESIS  
Short Title: SENIOR THESIS  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Independent Study  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: Consisting of the writing of a thesis of considerable length, depth, and research, this course will function as the capstone course on writing in the discipline. Required of all majors.

RELI 401 - INDEPENDENT STUDY  
Short Title: INDEPENDENT STUDY  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Independent Study  
Credit Hours: 1-6  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: Multiple sections of this course are offered. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 402 - INDEPENDENT STUDY  
Short Title: INDEPENDENT STUDY  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Independent Study  
Credit Hours: 1-6  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: Multiple sections of this course are offered. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 403 - SENIOR THESIS I  
Short Title: SENIOR THESIS I  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Independent Study  
Credit Hours: 1-6  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: For the duration of their senior year, qualified students can elect to write a senior thesis. To complete the thesis, the student elects RELI 403 "Senior Thesis I" in Fall semester and RELI 404 "Senior Thesis II" in Spring semester and works with a Religion faculty supervisor for the year. Instructor Permission Required.

RELI 404 - SENIOR THESIS II  
Short Title: SENIOR THESIS II  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Independent Study  
Credit Hours: 1-6  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Prerequisite(s): RELI 403  
Description: For the duration of their senior year, qualified students can elect to write a senior thesis. To complete the thesis, the student elects RELI 403 "Senior Thesis I" in Fall semester and RELI 404 "Senior Thesis II" in Spring semester and works with a Religion faculty supervisor for the year. Instructor Permission Required.

RELI 406 - CHRISTIANITY AND LATE ANTIQUITY  
Short Title: CHRISTIANITY & LATE ANTIQUITY  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: This advanced seminar treats the formation of Christianity as an institutional power in relation to the Roman Empire. Starting with the Edict of Milan in 313 CE, which put an end to persecution of Christians, and closing with the Council of Chalcedon in 451 CE, which established normative Christian doctrine, we will move through this development in seven roughly chronological units. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 506. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 406 if student has credit for RELI 506.
RELI 407 - ARCHIVES OF THE IMPOSSIBLE
Short Title: ARCHIVES OF THE IMPOSSIBLE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: After reading Prof. Kripal's Authors of the Impossible as a basic theoretical structure for the semester, this advanced archival research seminar will involve students engaging original historical documents contained in Rice University's archive on Paranormal Currents in American Culture toward the writing of a graduate or undergraduate thesis. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 607. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 407 if student has credit for RELI 607.

RELI 410 - CONCEPTS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION
Short Title: CONCEPTS IN RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course introduces useful concepts and key methodological problems in the discipline of religious studies. It aims to provide a theoretical toolkit for graduate students at the Masters level and advanced undergraduates, especially those contemplating or engaged in honors or MA theses in the Religion department. Graduate students must take a final exam and write an additional three to four thousand words. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 610.

RELI 415 - SECRET RELIGION
Short Title: SECRET RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Examines religious currents that operate in the margins of traditional religion: the gnostic, esoteric and mystical. Covers how these categories were theorized. Explores how they continue to identify contemporary religious currents that are considered transgressive and are rejected by conventional religious authorities. Class is grounded in antiquity and historical method. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 615. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 415 if student has credit for RELI 615.

RELI 416 - NEW TESTAMENT / CHRISTIAN ORIGINS
Short Title: NEW TESTAMENT/CHRISTIAN ORIG
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Covers the rise of Gnostic spirituality in American religion and culture, from the Colonial period to the present. Explores the alpha conduits (Boehme, Blavatsky, Jung, academia). Examines the roles of revelatory experience, artifact migration, historical criticism, secularization, hybridity, heresy, and popularization. Case studies vary depending on students' research goals. 5000-word research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 517. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 417 if student has credit for RELI 517.

RELI 419 - MYSTERY RELIGIONS
Short Title: MYSTERY RELIGIONS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Covers literature, practices, and archaeology of esoteric cults within the context of religion in Roman Empire (Demeter, the Great Gods, Cybele, Persephone, Dionysus, Isis, Mithras, Hermes, Qumran, Christianity, Gnostic groups). Case studies vary depending on students' research goals, including comparison with Renaissance and modern esoteric initiatory groups. 5000-word research paper; GRAD equivalent: 7500-word paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 619. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 419 if student has credit for RELI 619.
RELI 420 - ART OF INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
Short Title: ART OF INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Explores issues of history, historiography, and hermeneutics within the context of Biblical Studies. While traditional forms of Biblical criticism are covered, the bulk of the course focuses on intertextuality, reception history, sociological methods, feminist views, and cognitive approaches. Graduate students (7500 word paper, seminar leadership, and oral presentation); Undergraduate students (5000 word paper and oral presentation). Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 620.

RELI 421 - FOUCAULT & THE HERMENEUTICS OF SELF
Short Title: FOUCAULT & THE SELF
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Best known for analyzing domination and power, Michel Foucault shifts his attention to ethics and “technologies of the self” in 1976. In this advanced seminar, we study and critique Foucault’s turn to western antiquity through his lectures and volumes of foregrounding power through religion, politics and ethics. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 569. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 421 if student has credit for RELI 569.

RELI 423 - AFRICAN MYTHS AND RITUALS
Short Title: AFRICAN MYTHS AND RITUALS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Explore and analyze specific myths and rituals which provide legitimation for community ceremonies and that serve as a basis for the negotiation of power and ideology for members within that community. Readings from classic theorists: Durkheim, Levi-Strauss, Edmond Leach, Gennap and Turner, and contemporary theorists: Webner, Heusch, Comaroff, and Ray. Cross-list: ANTH 423. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 537. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 423 if student has credit for RELI 537.

RELI 424 - RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AFRICA
Short Title: RELIGION & POLITICS IN AFRICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Course explores interdisciplinary perspectives on religion and politics in Africa focusing on indigenous religious, Christianity, and Islam. Readings will reflect theoretical perspectives, historical developments, regional angels, and contemporary issues such as sharia, gender, and reconciliation as political options. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 534. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 424 if student has credit for RELI 534. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 426 - RELIGION AND LITERATURE IN AFRICA
Short Title: RELI AND LITERATURE IN AFRICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Analysis of the religious imagination and gender issues in postcolonial literature in Africa focusing on Islam, Christianity, indigenous religions and African Initiated Churches. Religious and gender issues addressed include identity crises, power, clash of cultures, modernity, cosmology, community, and socio-religious conflicts in a postcolonial world. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 426 if student has credit for RELI 538.

RELI 427 - HISTORY AND METHODS: NINETEENTH CENTURY
Short Title: HISTORY AND METHODS: 19TH CENT
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Focused discussion of the history and methods of the study of religion via close readings of classical texts and narratives of the field from 1800-1900. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 527. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 427 if student has credit for RELI 527.
RELI 428 - HISTORY AND METHODS: TWENTIETH CENTURY
Short Title: HISTORY AND METHODS: 20TH CENT
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Focused discussion of the history and methods of the study of religion via close readings of classical texts and narratives of the field from 1900-present. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 559. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 428 if student has credit for RELI 559.

RELI 430 - RELIGION, PSYCHOLOGY & CULTURE
Short Title: RELIGION, PSYCHOLOGY & CULTURE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: A survey of the historical development of the psychology of religion and its conversation with theology, comparative studies, gender studies, sociology, and anthropology. Topics include: mysticism, eroticism, conversion, feminism, psychobiography. Examples drawn from a variety of religious traditions. Readings include: Freud, Jung, Tillich, Erikson, Kristeva, Kakar. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 584. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 430 if student has credit for RELI 584.

RELI 431 - RELIGION AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE
Short Title: RELIGION AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Interdisciplinary approach founded on biological, cross-cultural, evolutionary, neurological and cognitive studies of religion. Explores extreme religious experiences, ritualized behaviors, shamanism and religious therapy, religious community, universality of religion, and transmission of religious ideas and practices. 5000 word research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 531. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 431 if student has credit for RELI 531.

RELI 433 - TIBETAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
Short Title: TIBETAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Readings in Tibetan texts -- debates, philosophical treatises of various kinds, meditation texts for contemplative practice -- accompanied by supportive readings in English and discussion of the thematic issues raised by the material, with an emphasis on cultural awareness. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 441 - MAGIC AND POPULAR RELIGION
Short Title: MAGIC & POPULAR RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Explores the ascetic and Sufi aspects of Islam from the middle Islamic period until the present day. Readings from al-Ghazali, Ibn al-Arabi, Sa’di, Hafiz and Rumi. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 522. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 440 if student has credit for RELI 522.

RELI 442 - CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ARABIC TEXTS
Short Title: ARABIC TEXTS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Study and read classical Arabic texts with the goal of learning the material as well as the syntax and grammar of Arabic. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 541. Repeatable for Credit.
RELI 444 - VISIONS AND VISIONARY PRACTICES: MEDIEVAL TO MODERN
Short Title: VISIONS & VISIONARY PRACTICES
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines accounts of visions, comparing medieval and modern visionary techniques and processes and relating visionary writings to cultural and personal contexts. Includes some Christian theology along with other theoretical frameworks, but emphasis on praxis. Cross-list: MDEM 444. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 644. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 444 if student has credit for RELI 644.

RELI 449 - EARLY CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIES
Short Title: EARLY CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIES
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Seminar examines controversies and debates among the early Christians as catholic Christianity emerged from a diversity of Christian movements. Literature reviewed will vary. Students will select to focus on one controversy and write a research paper (undergraduates, 5000 words; graduate students, 7500 words). Oral discussion and presentations will be required. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 549. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 449 if student has credit for RELI 549. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 458 - MYSTICISM: THEORIES AND METHODS
Short Title: MYSTICISM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: A history of the development of the modern category of "mysticism" from the seventeenth century to today, with side studies of cognate terms like "spirituality," "metaphysical religion," and the "paranormal," as these forms of extreme religious experience are by social-scientific and humanistic methods. RELI 558: Additional readings and writing. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 558. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 458 if student has credit for RELI 558.

RELI 470 - BUDDHIST WISDOM TEXTS
Short Title: BUDDHIST WISDOM TEXTS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Taught in English. Novels, and films, from North and West Africa, and the immigrant population in France, from 1960 to 2010. Emphasis on the tensions between narratives of political emancipation, modernity, secularism, and religious fundamentalism and mysticism. Extra reading for graduate students in theories of colonialism, postcolonialism, globalization. Cross-list: FREN 324, POLI 324. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 604. Recommended Prerequisite(s): Any 200 level course or above in English or French, or HUMA 101 or HUMA 102, or a FWIS course. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 476 if student has credit for RELI 604.

RELI 472 - KABBALAH SEMINAR
Short Title: KABBALAH SEMINAR
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This seminar will delve into literature known as "kabbalah." Through close readings of first-hand accounts of thinkers and mystics known as "kabbalists," will explore themes like secrecy and mystery, the nature of the divine, and religious ecstasy. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 582. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 472 if student has credit for RELI 582.

RELI 476 - FROM DECOLOZIZATION TO GLOBALIZATION
Short Title: FROM DECOLOZI TO GLOBALIZATION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Taught in English. Novels, and films, from North and West Africa, and the immigrant population in France, from 1960 to 2010. Emphasis on the tensions between narratives of political emancipation, modernity, secularism, and religious fundamentalism and mysticism. Extra reading for graduate students in theories of colonialism, postcolonialism, globalization. Cross-list: FREN 324, POLI 324. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 604. Recommended Prerequisite(s): Any 200 level course or above in English or French, or HUMA 101 or HUMA 102, or a FWIS course. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 476 if student has credit for RELI 604.
RELI 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar, Lecture, Laboratory, Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 477 if student has credit for RELI 353. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 481 - Gnosticism Seminar
Short Title: Gnosticism Seminar
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: In depth examination of one (or more) Gnostic texts within its literary, social, historical, and religious landscapes. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 581. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 481 if student has credit for RELI 581.

RELI 488 - The History of Religions Schools
Short Title: History of Religions Schools
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: An historical survey of the History of Religions School that emerged in the 1960s and 70s at the University of Chicago and came to play such an important role in the comparative study of religion. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 588. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 488 if student has credit for RELI 588.

RELI 490 - African American Literature and Religion
Short Title: AF/AM Literature & Religion
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: In this seminar students will read and analyze African American literature in order to explore the various ways in which African Americans have understood and articulated the nature and meaning of African American religious experience and practice. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 590. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 490 if student has credit for RELI 590.

RELI 500 - Religions from India
Short Title: Religions from India
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An historical survey of the History of Religions School that emerged in the 1960s and 70s at the University of Chicago and came to play such an important role in the comparative study of religion. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 531: write a paper approximately one-third longer than the undergraduate equivalent (RELI 233) and complete a more substantial presentation. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 233. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 502 if student has credit for RELI 233.

RELI 503 - Losing Your Religion in Film & Fiction & Music
Short Title: Losing Your Religion in Film
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An historical survey of the History of Religions School that emerged in the 1960s and 70s at the University of Chicago and came to play such an important role in the comparative study of religion. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 531: write a paper approximately one-third longer than the undergraduate equivalent (RELI 233) and complete a more substantial presentation. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 233. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 502 if student has credit for RELI 233.

RELI 504 - Religions in America
Short Title: Religions in America
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An historical survey of the History of Religions School that emerged in the 1960s and 70s at the University of Chicago and came to play such an important role in the comparative study of religion. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 531: write a paper approximately one-third longer than the undergraduate equivalent (RELI 233) and complete a more substantial presentation. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 233. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 502 if student has credit for RELI 233.
RELI 505 - AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
Short Title: AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An introduction to American metaphysical traditions, focusing on the development of thought from the 19th to early 20th centuries. Taught by faculty from Amherst College. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 294. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 505 if student has credit for RELI 294.

RELI 506 - CHRISTIANITY AND LATE ANTIQUITY
Short Title: CHRISTIANITY & LATE ANTIQUITY
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This advanced seminar examines the overlap between Christianity and other religions in the late Roman Empire. Taught by faculty from the Institute in Big Sur, CA, as a unique window to some of the different ways tradition has appropriated Asian religions, psychological models of the unconscious, and contemporary scientific paradigms. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 231. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 506 if student has credit for RELI 231.

RELI 507 - INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I
Short Title: INTRO TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Beginning with a historical survey of the American metaphysical tradition, this course turns to a close study of the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, CA, as a unique window to some of the different ways tradition has appropriated Asian religions, psychological models of the unconscious, and contemporary scientific paradigms. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 231. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 507 if student has credit for RELI 231.

RELI 508 - PRAGMATIC RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY
Short Title: PRAGMATIC RELIG PH
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An interdisciplinary encounter, approached via social sciences, theology, and science. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 339. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 508 if student has credit for RELI 339.

RELI 509 - APOCALYPSE THEN AND NOW
Short Title: APOCALYPSE THEN AND NOW
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: A close reading of some early Jewish and Christian apocalypses, a discussion of the apocalyptic worldview, and an examination of America’s fascination with the Apocalypse in media and science. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 339. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 509 if student has credit for RELI 339.

RELI 510 - AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
Short Title: AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An introduction to American metaphysical traditions, focusing on the development of thought from the 19th to early 20th centuries. Taught by faculty from Amherst College. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 294. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 510 if student has credit for RELI 294.

RELI 511 - INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW II
Short Title: INTRO TO BIBLICAL HEBREW II
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Continuation of RELI 507. We will finish the grammar in the second half of this semester and then read selections from the Hebrew Bible. Write an exegetical paper on a Hebrew text of your choice. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 126. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 511 if student has credit for RELI 126.

RELI 512 - INTERMEDIATE BIBLICAL HEBREW III
Short Title: INTERM BIBLICAL HEBREW III
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Prerequisite(s): RELI 125 and RELI 126
Description: Readings in the Hebrew Bible as well as some unvocalized texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Review of grammar and vocabulary. Write an exegetical paper on a Hebrew text. UG/GR Equivalent: RELI 127. Instructor Permission Required. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 127. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 512 if student has credit for RELI 127.

RELI 513 - RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
Short Title: RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: The sacred in interreligious, international, and interdisciplinary encounter, approached via social sciences, theology, theories of literature and mythology. Authors and directors can include Waugh, Mishima, Mann, Proust, Hesse, Percy, Gardner, Updike, Gibson, Sterling, Coupland, Ray, Resnais, Fellini, Bergman, Anderson, Bunel, and Nutley. Term paper twice as long as undergraduate requirement. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 294. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 513 if student has credit for RELI 294.

RELI 514 - RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
Short Title: RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Prerequisite(s): RELI 125 and RELI 126
Description: Readings in the Hebrew Bible as well as some unvocalized texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Review of grammar and vocabulary. Write an exegetical paper on a Hebrew text. UG/GR Equivalent: RELI 127. Instructor Permission Required. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 127. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 514 if student has credit for RELI 127.

RELI 515 - RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
Short Title: RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: The sacred in interreligious, international, and interdisciplinary encounter, approached via social sciences, theology, theories of literature and mythology. Authors and directors can include Waugh, Mishima, Mann, Proust, Hesse, Percy, Gardner, Updike, Gibson, Sterling, Coupland, Ray, Resnais, Fellini, Bergman, Anderson, Bunel, and Nutley. Term paper twice as long as undergraduate requirement. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 294. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 515 if student has credit for RELI 294.
REL 515 - NIETZSCHE AND RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
Short Title: NIETZSCHE & RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An investigation of how the perception of the Bible changed from antiquity to the 21st century. The course is structured chronologically. A close reading of the works of major thinkers from each period, together with specific examples of biblical exegesis. Graduate students will have one extra reading assignment per week and complete a 14-15 page paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 417. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 515 if student has credit for RELI 417.

REL 517 - GNOSTIC AMERICA
Short Title: GNOSTIC AMERICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Covers the rise of Gnostic spirituality in American religion and culture, from the Colonial period to the present. Explores the alpha conduits (Boehme, Blavatsky, Jung, academia). Examines the roles of revelatory experience, artifact migration, historical criticism, secularization, hybridity, heresy, and popularization. Case studies vary depending on students' research goals. 7500-word research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 417. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 517 if student has credit for RELI 417.

REL 518 - THE BIBLE: A BRIEF INTELLECTUAL HISTORY
Short Title: BIOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An investigation of how the perception of the Bible changed from antiquity to the 21st century. The course is structured chronologically. A close reading of the works of major thinkers from each period, together with specific examples of biblical exegesis. Graduate students will have one extra reading assignment per week and complete a 14-15 page paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 318. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 518 if student has credit for RELI 318.

REL 521 - ADVANCED STUDY OF ISLAM
Short Title: ADVANCED STUDY OF ISLAM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: The purpose of this course will be to give graduate students a working knowledge of Islam historically and religiously.

REL 522 - ISLAM'S MYSTICAL AND ESOTERIC TRADITION
Short Title: ISLAM'S MYSTICAL TRADITION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course will examine the popular religion in the Middle East from Late Antiquity until the 19th century, focusing on healing practices, astrology, protection, amulets, seasoned/life-cycle rituals, and other popular beliefs common to Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 441. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 522 if student has credit for RELI 441.

REL 525 - MAGIC AND POPULAR RELIGION
Short Title: MAGIC & POPULAR RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course will examine the popular religion in the Middle East from Late Antiquity until the 19th century, focusing on healing practices, astrology, protection, amulets, seasoned/life-cycle rituals, and other popular beliefs common to Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 441. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 525 if student has credit for RELI 441.

REL 526 - PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: JUDAISM AND SCRIPTURE
Short Title: PEOPLE OF THE BOOK
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Examines Judaism as a "People of the Book," recognizing Judaism’s dominant religious preoccupation for millennia to be the reading, study and performance of Jewish scripture, particularly the Torah or the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible Topics: book culture, act of reading, canonization, revelation, and rabbinic, philosophical, mystical interpretations. All readings are in English. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 302. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 526 if student has credit for RELI 302.
RELIGION AND METHODS: 19TH CENTURY
Short Title: HISTORY AND METHODS: 19TH CENT
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Focused discussion of the history and methods of the study of religion via close readings of classical texts and narratives of the field from 1800-1900. Graduate course will require reading of more books and a longer paper to write. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 427. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 527 if student has credit for RELI 427.

RELIGION AND GLOBAL POVERTY
Short Title: RELIGION & GLOBAL POVERTY
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Advanced study of religion and poverty in global context. Course materials will address religious, ethical anthropological theories of development, analyze specific themes economic and social development, examine the role of Faith Based Organizations and do specific case studies. Students will be graded on short reflections papers and a final term paper. Graduate students taking the course will be assigned 4 additional texts, do a major review of one of the texts, and do two class presentations on one of the texts. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 328. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 528 if student has credit for RELI 328.

PEDAGOGY PRACTICUM
Short Title: PEDAGOGY PRACTICUM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 2
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: As an integral part of the department’s apprenticeship program, this is a semester-long practicum through which a graduate student apprentices with a faculty member teaching an undergraduate course in order to be trained in all aspects of course design, lecturing, advising, and grading. Required of all graduate students. Repeatable for Credit.

RELIGION AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE
Short Title: RELIGION AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Interdisciplinary approach founded on biological, cross-cultural, evolutionary, neurological and cognitive studies of religion. Explores extreme religious experiences, ritualized behaviors, shamanism and religious therapy, religious community, universality of religion, and transmission of religious ideas and practices. GR: seminar leadership, 7500 word research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 431. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 531 if student has credit for RELI 431.

ADVANCED TIBETAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
Short Title: ADV TIBETAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Prerequisite(s): RELI 131
Description: This class builds on RELI 500 and 564, now including more challenging material in Tibetan, and continuing the trajectory of gaining familiarity with Buddhist philosophical systems as these touch on epistemology, ontology, and contemplative practice. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 332. Recommended Prerequisite(s): Basic reading ability in Tibetan. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 532 if student has credit for RELI 132/RELI 332. Repeatable for Credit.

RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AFRICA
Short Title: RELIGION & POLITICS IN AFRICA
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Course explores interdisciplinary perspectives on religion and politics in Africa focusing on indigenous religious, Christianity, and Islam. Readings will reflect theoretical perspectives, historical developments, regional angels, and contemporary issues such as sharia, gender, and reconciliation as political options. RELI 534 requires additional reading, review a book on the subject, and write a 25 page research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 424. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 534 if student has credit for RELI 424.

AFRICAN MYTHS AND RITUALS
Short Title: AFRICAN MYTHS AND RITUALS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Course explores interdisciplinary perspectives on religion and politics in Africa focusing on indigenous religious, Christianity, and Islam. Readings will reflect theoretical perspectives, historical developments, regional angels, and contemporary issues such as sharia, gender, and reconciliation as political options. RELI 534 requires additional reading, review a book on the subject, and write a 25 page research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 424. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 534 if student has credit for RELI 424.
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**Description:**

RELIS 539: read 5 major texts, write a major review, lead class discussions, discuss texts used, and write 10 page research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 340. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 539 if student has credit for RELI 340.

RELIS 540: write 5 reflection papers; lead at least two class discussions; complete a 30-page research paper; and complete additional readings. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 340. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 540 if student has credit for RELI 340.

RELIS 541: read classical Arabic texts with the goal of learning the material as well as the syntax and grammar of Arabic. Graduate students will have an additional assignment of a paper (15-20 pgs) analyzing their text. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 442. Repeatable for Credit.

RELIS 542: This course will examine the distinct character of Jewish religion and thought as it has taken shape in America, including its incorporation within secret societies and the occult. Topics to be examined are American Jewish denominationalism, interfaith relations, pluralism and individualism, and developments in American Jewish spirituality. Grad students will write a 25-30pp research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 341. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 542 if student has credit for RELI 341.

RELIS 543: Write 5 reflection papers; lead at least two class discussions; oral discussion and present original research. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 383. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 543 if student has credit for RELI 383.

RELIS 544: Write 5 reflection papers; lead at least two class discussions; oral discussion and present original research. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 383. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 544 if student has credit for RELI 383.

RELIS 545: Read 5 major texts, write a major review, lead class discussions, discuss texts used, and write 10 page research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 340. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 545 if student has credit for RELI 340.

RELIS 546: Read 5 major texts, write a major review, lead class discussions, discuss texts used, and write 10 page research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 383. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 546 if student has credit for RELI 383.
RELI 555 - HISTORICAL ANTHROPOLOGIES OF RELIGION  
**Short Title:** HISTORICAL ANTHROPOLOGIES  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** This course will address the study of the religious past through conjunctions of anthropology and history. Readings will include books and selections by Max Weber, Marshall Sahlins, Victor Turner, Jacques Le Goff, Aron Gurevich, and others. Cross-list: ANTH 550.

RELI 557 - REPRESENTING THE DEVIL IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND ART  
**Short Title:** REPRESENTING THE DEVIL  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** This course focuses on representations of the Devil, demons and ambiguous spirits in Christian theological, ritual, and narrative sources from the early medieval to early modern period. Graduate work includes added reading (30-50 pp weekly above undergraduate requirements), article length essay (8 to 10 thousand words) and two presentations. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency. RELI 367. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 557 if student has credit for RELI 367.

RELI 558 - MYSTICISM: THEORIES AND METHODS  
**Short Title:** MYSTICISM  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** A history of the development of the modern category of "mysticism" from the seventeenth century to today, with side studies of cognate terms like "spirituality," "metaphysical religion," and the "paranormal," as these forms of extreme religious experience are by social-scientific and humanistic methods. RELI 558: Additional readings and writing. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 458. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 558 if student has credit for RELI 458.

RELI 559 - HISTORY AND METHODS: TWENTIETH CENTURY  
**Short Title:** HISTORY AND METHODS: 20TH CENT  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** Focused discussion of the history and methods of the study of religion via close readings of classical texts and narratives of the field from 1900-present. Graduate course will require reading of more books and a longer paper to write. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 428. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 559 if student has credit for RELI 428.

RELI 560 - ADVANCED READINGS IN TIBETAN TEXTS  
**Short Title:** READING TIBETAN TEXTS  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 1-4  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** This course is to accommodate Grad students' requests to read more widely in Tibetan texts and genres. Our focus is reading and disciplined discussion of the texts. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 561 - CHRISTIANITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH  
**Short Title:** CHRISTIANITY IN GLOBAL SOUTH  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** Readings on Christianity in the Global South analyzing historical developments, mission and colonial encounters, growth and expansion; diversity of expression, the development of local initiated Churches, Pentecostalism, and public role of the Church. Graduate students will lead class on a church in a country of their choice. Each graduate student will prepare and lead a seminar on one aspect of the region or country. Each graduate student will also present in class an in-depth study of a selected theme. Graduate students will read additional books selected from a list of texts discussed with instructor. They will also write a 25 page research paper on any topic in Global Christianity. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 371. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 561 if student has credit for RELI 371.

RELI 563 - RELIGION AND SCIENCE  
**Short Title:** RELIGION AND SCIENCE  
**Department:** Religion  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Graduate  
**Description:** This advanced seminar analyzes interdisciplinary efforts by scholars of religion to engage scientific research in the cognitive and neuro-sciences. We assess the possibilities for collaboration, as well as conflict, between humanistic and scientific disciplines, asking how the tools of interpretation and empiricism might enrich our understanding of religious phenomena. Graduate students will lecture one course session and will engage additional secondary literature throughout the semester. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 362. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 563 if student has credit for RELI 362.
RELI 564 - INTERMEDIATE TIBETAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE
Short Title: INT. TIBETAN LANG LIT & CULTUR
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Continued training in Tibetan language-extending vocabulary and facility with grammar. Final includes a paper drawn from readings and class discussion. RELI 564: Write a paper approximately one-third longer and complete a more substantial oral presentation. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 234. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 564 if student has credit for RELI 234. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 567 - JEWISH PHILOSOPHY: GREAT THINKERS AND THEMES IN JEWISH THOUGHT
Short Title: JEWISH PHILOSOPHY
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: An introduction to the main figures and themes in Jewish philosophy. Topics to be discussed include reason vs faith and prophetic revelation; Israel's chosenness vs human universalism; creation vs eternity; divine providence and necessity vs free will; evil, justice, and divine omnipotence; prayer, contemplation, and divine and human perfection. Graduate students are required to write a research paper (25-30 pp.) and to prepare and lead at least one class. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 363. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 567 if student has credit for RELI 364. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 568 - RISE OF THE NONES: HUMANISMS AND HUMANITIES
Short Title: RISE OF THE NONES
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course will look at the rise of the "nones," that is, individuals who affiliate with no religious tradition, through both a history of secular thought in the West and a close reading of key texts and figures. Atheism, humanism, secularism and the "spiritual but not religious" will all be treated as key categories. RELI 568 will require additional readings, 3 additional papers plus a longer research paper, leading discussions and teaching. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 368. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 568 if student has credit for RELI 368. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 569 - FOUCAULT & THE HERMENEUTICS OF SELF
Short Title: FOUCAULT & THE SELF
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Best known for analyzing domination and power, Michel Foucault shifts his attention to ethics and "technologies of the self" in 1976. In this advanced seminar, we study and critique Foucault's turn to western antiquity through his lectures and volumes of foregrounding resistance to power through religion, politics and ethics. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 421. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 569 if student has credit for RELI 421.
RELI 578 - MIND AND ART, FILM AND LITERATURE IN BUDDHISM
Short Title: BUDDHIST ART AND LITERATURE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: What is mind? What is self? What can a human being become? Drawing on a wealth of Buddhist-related art, film, and literature, this course introduces you to Tibetan and other Buddhist approaches to these crucial questions. RELI 578 requires additional readings and research papers. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 378. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 578 if student has credit for RELI 378.

RELI 580 - RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE CRUCIBLE OF GLOBALIZATION
Short Title: RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Explores context and consequences of the concept of religious tolerance in the crucible of globalization politics. Background in settlement of Reformation-era religious wars; American attitudes; impetus for tolerance policies and their implementation, 1945 to present (including governmentality and surveillance); results for historically Christian populations, esp. in US and Europe. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 359. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 580 if student has credit for RELI 359.

RELI 581 - GNOSTICISM SEMINAR
Short Title: GNOSTICISM SEMINAR
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: In depth examination of one (or more) Gnostic texts within its literary, social, historical, and religious landscapes. RELI 581 requires preparation and delivery of public presentations. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 481. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 581 if student has credit for RELI 481.

RELI 582 - KABBALAH SEMINAR
Short Title: KABBALAH SEMINAR
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This seminar will delve into literature known as “kabbalah.” through close readings of first-hand accounts of thinkers and mystics known as “kabbalists,” will explore themes like secrecy and mystery, the nature of the divine, and religious ecstasy. RELI 562 requirements: Additionally write a lengthy research paper and lead a session. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 472. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 582 if student has credit for RELI 472.

RELI 583 - WESTERN ESOTERICISM: METHOD AND THEORY
Short Title: WESTERN ESOTERICISM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course explores the relation between esoteric texts and the idea of “Western Esotericism.” We will look at primary writings from Agrippa to Madame Blavatsky and consider the historical and methodological approaches emerging as Esotericism is constructed as an academic area. Extra readings and writing a longer essay is required in RELI 583. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 387. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 583 if student has credit for RELI 387.

RELI 584 - RELIGION, PSYCHOLOGY, AND CULTURE
Short Title: RELIGION, PSYCHOLOGY & CULTURE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This is a course about the deep historical and conceptual connections between the histories of science fiction, the paranormal, and social transformation around race, gender, sexuality, and the human. We will see that such events tend to erupt in the “gaps” or “fractures” of society and within both personal and historical traumatic contexts in order to both deconstruct the reigning social formations, epistemologies, and ontologies—usually of an objectivizing, colonizing, and scientistic nature—but also supply the numerous foundations for the imagining of new humanities, or what queer theorist Ramzi Fawaz calls our emerging “mutancy.” Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 393. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 584 if student has credit for RELI 393.
RELI 590 - AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND RELIGION
Short Title: AF/AM LITERATURE & RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: In this seminar students will read and analyze African American literature in order to explore the various ways in which African Americans have understood and articulated the nature and meaning of African American religious experience and practice. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 490. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 590 if student has credit for RELI 490.

RELI 591 - BASIC COPTIC 1
Short Title: BASIC COPTIC 1
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: A first semester introduction to Coptic grammar and vocabulary. Select a Coptic text, read in its original language, and prepare a commentary or an exegesis on that text (5,000 words). Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 307. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 591 if student has credit for RELI 307.

RELI 592 - BASIC COPTIC 2
Short Title: BASIC COPTIC 2
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Prerequisite(s): RELI 307
Description: Second semester introduction to Coptic grammar and vocabulary, with selected readings from the Coptic New Testament, nag Hammadi, and monastic literature. Pre-requisite: Introduction to Coptic Language I RELI 592: Select a Coptic text, read in its original language, and prepare a commentary or an exegesis on that text (5,000 words). Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 308. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 592 if student has credit for RELI 308.

RELI 593 - BASIC COPTIC 3
Short Title: BASIC COPTIC 3
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 1-3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Varied readings in original language to include the New Testament, Nag Hammadi, and monastic literature. Pre-requisite: Coptic 1 and 2. RELI 593: Students will select a Coptic text, and in addition to reading it in its original language, prepare a commentary or an exegesis on that text (5,000 words). Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 309. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 593 if student has credit for RELI 309. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 595 - PENTECOSTALISM
Short Title: PENTECOSTALISM
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Graduate study and analysis of introduction to Pentecostalism in a global context focusing historical developments, expansion in Europe, North America, Africa, Latin America and Asia. Graduate students will read 4 additional texts one from East, Central, West, and Southern Africa. Graduate students will write weekly reflections on the reading to the braded satisfactory or unsatisfactory. They will do two presentations during the semester. Each student will write a research paper that will be at least 25 double spaced pages. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 396. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 595 if student has credit for RELI 396.

RELI 596 - THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE
Short Title: LEGAL FRMWK RELI TOLERANCE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: The American Constitution embodies a complex experiment in religious tolerance, including the promise of "free exercise of religion" and the prohibition of laws "respecting an establishment of religion". In this class we will primarily seek a critical understanding of our tolerance-rich legal invocations of religious freedom and address fundamental issues such as how can we distinguish "religious" actions and commitments from other morally important beliefs and activities. RELI 596: Write additional paper and more readings. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 596 if student has credit for RELI 320.

RELI 597 - CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE
Short Title: CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Activity Course
Credit Hour: 1
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Literary and artistic creativity, religious experience, and textual interpretation often draw on focused states of consciousness made possible by contemplative practices. The practice will provide historical information about such practices and offer opportunities to participate in techniques ranging from meditation and observing breath to freeform writing and T'ai Chi. Graduate students would be expected to write a longer paper and/or to include a segment on contemplative practice in connection with whatever course they are taking. In either case this will involve readings and issues beyond what the undergraduates are responsible for, and which will be developed with each graduate student on an individual basis. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 399. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 597 if student has credit for RELI 399. Repeatable for Credit.
RELI 600 - GEM RESEARCH FORUM  
Short Title: GEM RESEARCH FORUM  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory  
Course Type: Research  
Credit Hour: 1  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
Course Level: Graduate  
Description: The GEM Research Forum meets regularly throughout the academic year to share and engage the ongoing research of the GEM faculty and students. The annual capstone experience of the Forum features an invited speaker. Evaluation is based on student participation, research and presentations. Repeatable for Credit.

RELI 604 - FROM DECOLONIZATION TO GLOBALIZATION  
Short Title: FROM DECOLONI TO GLOBALIZATION  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
Course Level: Graduate  
Description: Taught in English. Novels, and films, from North and West Africa, and the immigrant population in France, from 1960 to 2010. Emphasis on the tensions between narratives of political emancipation, modernity, secularism, and religious fundamentalism and mysticism. Extra reading for graduate students in theories of colonialism, postcolonialism, globalization. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 476. Recommended Prerequisite(s): Any 200 level course or above in English or French, or HUMA 101 or HUMA 102, or a FWIS course. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 604 if student has credit for FREN 324/POLI 324/RELI 476.

RELI 606 - READING WRIGHT: THEISM AND ATHEISM IN THE WRITINGS OF RICHARD WRIGHT  
Short Title: READING RICHARD WRIGHT  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
Course Level: Graduate  
Description: Richard Wright's fiction and nonfiction are important resources for understanding the nature of radicalized life in the United States. This course explores his writings for what they tell us about the role of religion in the development of identity and life meaning, and we will juxtapose the role of religion with Wright's commentary on the nature and significance of atheism for countering injustice. RELI 606 requires additional reflection papers, longer research paper and class presentations. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 369. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 606 if student has credit for RELI 369.

RELI 607 - ARCHIVES OF THE IMPOSSIBLE  
Short Title: ARCHIVES OF THE IMPOSSIBLE  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Research  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
Course Level: Graduate  
Description: After reading Prof. Kripal's Authors of the Impossible as a basic theoretical structure for the semester, this advanced archival research seminar will involve students engaging original historical documents contained in Rice University's archive on Paranormal Currents in American Culture toward the writing of a graduate or undergraduate thesis. Graduate students will be responsible for a much more extensive engagement with Whitley Strieber's corpus. They will be required to read examples of Stieber's nonfiction (particularly COMMUNION and THE AFTERLIFE REVOLUTION) and fiction, including WOLFEN, THE GRAYS, and THE HYBRIDS. Each of these books bears directly or indirectly on the content of the Anne and Whitley Strieber Collection. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 407. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 607 if student has credit for RELI 407.

RELI 610 - CONCEPTS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION  
Short Title: CONCEPTS IN RELIGION  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
Course Level: Graduate  
Description: This course serves as an advanced introduction to useful concepts and key methodological problems in the discipline of religious studies. The primary aim of the course is to provide a theoretical toolkit for graduate students at the Masters level and advanced undergraduates, especially those contemplating or engaged in an honors or MA thesis in the department of Religion. Graduate work includes extended writing assignments and exam. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 410. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 610 if student has credit for RELI 405.

RELI 611 - READINGS IN MEDIEVAL LATIN  
Short Title: READINGS IN MEDIEVAL LATIN  
Department: Religion  
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.  
Course Level: Graduate  
Description: Guided readings in Latin from a range of medieval genres, including medicine, theology, visionary literature. Repeatable for Credit.
RELI 612 - THE PSALMS
Short Title: THE PSALMS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: A seminar on biblical poetry. The Psalms have constituted a book of study, devotion, and prayer for Jews and Christians for two millennia. This course explores the psalms’ poetic force, liturgical setting in ancient Israel, theology, and enduring significance today. Counts for the Minor in Jewish Studies. RELI 612: Additional readings and longer paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 388. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 612 if student has credit for RELI 388.

RELI 614 - THE RICE/LEIPZIG SEMINAR ON EARLY JUDAISM AND CHRISTIAN ORIGINS
Short Title: THE RICE/LEIPZIG SEMINAR
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Graduate seminar on Early Judaism and Christian Origins taught jointly by Dr. Matthias Henze (Rice) and Dr. Jens Herzer (University of Leipzig, Germany). Participation is by invitation only. Instructor Permission Required.

RELI 615 - SECRET RELIGION
Short Title: SECRET RELIGION
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Examines religious currents that operate in the margins of traditional religion: the gnostic, esoteric and mystical. Covers how these categories were theorized. Explores how they continue to identify contemporary religious currents that are considered transgressive and are rejected by conventional religious authorities. Class is grounded in antiquity and historical method. RELI 615: Write 7,500-10,000 word research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 415. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 615 if student has credit for RELI 415.

RELI 616 - NEW TESTAMENT/CHRISTIAN ORIGINS
Short Title: NEW TESTAMENT/CHRISTIAN ORIG
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: How did Christianity emerge as a new religious movement in the Roman Empire? Covers the history and literature of the first generations of Christians, focusing on Post-Temple developments, issues of authority and leadership, rise of regional forms of Christianity, and formation of distinct Christian identities. Graduate requirements: additional readings and presentations. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 416. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 616 if student has credit for RELI 416.

RELI 619 - MYSTERY RELIGIONS
Short Title: MYSTERY RELIGIONS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Covers literature, practices, and archaeology of esoteric cults within the context of religion in Roman Empire (Demeter, the Great Gods, Cybele, Persephone, Dionysus, Isis, Mithras, Hermes, Qumran, Christianity, Gnostic groups). Case studies vary depending on students’ research goals, including comparison with Renaissance and modern esoteric initiatory groups. 7500-word research paper; UG equivalent 5000-word research paper. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 419. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 619 if student has credit for RELI 419/RELI 491.

RELI 620 - ART OF INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
Short Title: ART OF INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Explores issues of history, historiography, and hermeneutics within the context of Biblical Studies. While traditional forms of Biblical criticism are covered, the bulk of the course focuses on intertextuality, reception history, sociological methods, feminist views, and cognitive approaches. Graduate students (7500 word paper, seminar leadership, and oral presentation); Undergraduate students (5000 word paper and oral presentation). Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 420.

RELI 644 - VISIONS AND VISIONARY PRACTICES: MEDIEVAL TO MODERN
Short Title: VISIONS & VISIONARY PRACTICES
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course examines accounts of visions, comparing medieval and modern visionary techniques and processes and relating visionary writings to cultural and personal contexts. Includes some Christian theology along with other theoretical frameworks, but emphasis on praxis. Graduate work includes 10 additional readings (200 pp), double the pages to be written, 30 more minutes presentation time. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: RELI 444. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for RELI 644 if student has credit for RELI 444.

RELI 677 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Religion
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Independent Study, Lecture/Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate or Visiting Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.
Graduate Degree Descriptions and Codes

- Master of Arts degree: MA
- Doctor of Philosophy degree: PhD

Graduate Degree Program Description and Code

- Degree Program in Religion: RELI

Graduate Degree Program Option Description and Code

- Degree Program Option - Thesis Terminal Master’s Degree: MA-RELI

Graduate Certificate Description and Code

- Certificate in Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism: GEM

CIP Code and Description

- RELI Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 38.0201 - Religion/Religious Studies
- RELM Minor: CIP Code/Title: 38.0201 - Religion/Religious Studies
- GEM Certificate: CIP Code/Title: 38.0299 - Religion/Religious Studies, Other

* Systems Use Only: this information is used solely by internal offices at Rice University (such as OTR, GPS, etc.) and primarily within student information systems and support.

1 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/