

RELIGION (REL)

REL 500 Selected Topics (1-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Exploration of a topic (to be determined) not covered by the standard curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester. Repeatable

REL 551 Ethics and the Health professions (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with PHI 593

Ethical theories in professional, organizational, and political-economic fields in health care. Specific issues: assisted suicide, professional codes, ethics of "cost-cutting" and justice with respect to care.

Shared Competencies: Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

REL 586 Topics in Buddhism (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

REL 595 Religion, Art, and Aesthetics (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Intersection between religion, art, and philosophy. Sources culled from Western religious thought and philosophy.

REL 600 Selected Topics (1-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Exploration of a topic (to be determined) not covered by the standard curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester. Repeatable

REL 601 Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Introduction to "classic" literature and issues in the field of religion.

REL 602 Gnosticism (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Gnosticism as a structure of religious belief; as sectarian movement within "mainline" traditions of late antiquity (Judaism, Christianity, paganism); as a literary-critical perspective on religious texts and traditions in antiquity and contemporary thinking.

REL 603 Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion II (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Introduction to "classic" twentieth-century literature and issues in the field of religion.

REL 605 Religion and the Body in Late Antiquity (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with WGS 605

History of the human body as history of its modes of construction in Graeco-Roman antiquity. Problems that arise when the body becomes a topic for religious inquiry. Readings in ancient texts and contemporary theory.

REL 607 Ancient Religious Rhetoric (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Rhetoric of ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean religious texts, including parts of the Bible; role of persuasion in ancient religion and its effects on literature, power, and on conceptions of knowledge and text in antiquity.

REL 610 Textual Practices in the Study of Religion (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

A theoretical and practical exploration of different textual practices and ways of approaching and interpreting them, focusing on an extended consideration of a single religious text or a single genre of religious texts. Repeatable 3 times for 9 credits maximum

REL 611 The Idea of Scripture (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

The religious, literary, and political factors that affected the development and canonization of Jewish and Christian scriptures and shaped the idea of authoritative scripture in Western religious traditions.

REL 619 Ritual Theory and Religious Practice (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with ANT 619

Survey and evaluation of major ritual theories, tested against a particular set of religious and cultural practices, such as those involving purification and pollutions, or holidays and festivals.

REL 620 Textual Scripts in the Study of Religion (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Theories and descriptions of how texts shape people's words, actions and experiences, both religious and secular, and how people use and perform texts for spiritual and social effects on religious objects, cultures, traditions and themselves.

Repeatable 2 times for 9 credits maximum

REL 621 Teaching World Religions in Theory and Practice (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

The complexities of teaching introductory courses in world religions, especially in the context of recent debates on comparison as well as the very concept of "religion." Graduate standing.

REL 622 Sacrifice (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

An investigation of "sacrifice" as a name for ritual and non-ritual practices in contemporary and historical societies and in academic discourse about religions and cultures.

REL 625 Pluralism in Islam (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Historical development of multiple discourses within the Muslim world. Role of Islamic texts, institutions, and contexts on intra-Islamic politics of identity, representation, and religious authority. Hybridity and syncretism of Islams in contemporary local contexts.

REL 626 Beyond the Veil: Gender Politics in Islam (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with MES 626

Double-numbered with REL 465, WGS 465, SAS 465, MES 465

Politics of gender, religious identities, and resistance in the Islamic world. Gender scripts in Qur'anic scripture and Shariah laws. Contemporary realities of Muslim women living in different parts of the world. Additional work required of graduate students.

REL 627 Globalization and Religion: Processes and problems (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Sophisticated works in globalization theory emerge from sociology, economics, political history, and contemporary cultural studies with broad significance for the study of religion. Bringing these into conversation with religious studies is the project of this seminar. Graduate standing.

REL 628 Muslim Rituals, Practices, and Performances (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with ANT 628

Historical, cultural, and sociological analysis of pan-Islamic festivals and rituals. Local, culturally-specific, unofficial practices in Islam.

REL 629 Islamic Metaphysics and Epistemology (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with PHI 629

In-depth study of the main epistemological systems and theories of metaphysics developed in Islamic intellectual tradition. Explores the systems of interpretation of the Qur'an and Sunnah developed by legal scholars, mystics and philosophers.

REL 630 Textual Bodies in the Study of Religion (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

An exploration of the intersections of texts and bodies within religious cultures texts as bodies (from literary corpus to material object), bodies as texts (inscribed and read), and above all bodies in texts.

Repeatable 3 times for 9 credits maximum

REL 640 The Philosophical Foundations of Religion (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Philosophic and religious heritage highlighted by Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Augustine, and Aquinas. Focus varies from year to year.

Repeatable

REL 642 Critical Issues in the Study of Native Americans (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with ANT 691

Methodological issues related to studies of indigenous traditions and develops interpretive strategies for using literature about Native American religions.

REL 644 Feminist Theology (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with WGS 644

Feminist theology as a global religious movement from its roots in U.S. feminism to its current political and philosophical battles.

REL 650 Themes in 19th Century Religious Thought (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Religious thought in 19th century Europe and America. Themes may include God, freedom, and selfhood; Romanticism and religion; and religion, freedom, and slavery. Figures examined may include Kierkegaard, Kant, Douglass, Emerson, and others.

Repeatable 2 times for 6 credits maximum

REL 651 Classics in the Sociology of Religion and Morals (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with SOC 651, ANT 651

Classical sociological writings of Emile Durkheim and Max Weber and their contemporary significance.

REL 652 Psychoanalysis and Religious Ethics (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Psychoanalysis and its implications for religious ethics.

REL 653 Postmodern Ethics (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Selected philosophical and religious perspectives on postmodern ethics. Readings from Rorty, Stout, Kristeva, Wyschogrod, MacIntyre, Nussbaum, and others.

REL 654 Religious Corporealities (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Ways in which corporealities are shaped by and shape religious texts and traditions, philosophically and practically. Potential topics include nudity, body, flesh, skin, and sensuality, with attention to sexuality and biopolitics.

REL 656 Christianity and the Enlightenment (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Theological responses of representative thinkers to the challenges of the new science, natural religion, Deism, and the philosophies of the European Enlightenment.

REL 658 The Other in Ethics (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

The significance of the Other in contemporary religious and philosophical ethics. Readings in Levinas, Lacan, Derrida, Kristeva, Critchley, Caputo.

REL 659 Kierkegaard Seminar (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

This seminar examines a wide array of themes and issues in Kierkegaard's religious thought which may include Kierkegaard and Romanticism; Kierkegaard on Love, God and Selfhood; Kierkegaard and Politics; Kierkegaard's Existential Aesthetics.

Repeatable 3 times for 9 credits maximum

REL 660 Continental Philosophy of Religion (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with PHI 640

Continental philosophers such as Husserl, Heidegger, Levinas, Derrida, Foucault, Deleuze, Irigaray, and Marion. Their influence on theology, religious theory. Topics include overcoming onto-theology; phenomenology, deconstruction and theology; return of religion.

Repeatable 2 times for 6 credits maximum

REL 661 Self, Body, Transcendence (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with WGS 661

Examines Continental and American feminist and gender theory for intersections between religion, subjectivity, and bodily practice.

REL 662 Marx and Foucault (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Texts from Marx and Foucault are read for their implications for Religion scholars.

REL 663 Religion and Revolution (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Texts from theology and political theory that examine their mutual terms, themes, and concerns.

REL 665 Religion and Mass Culture (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Twentieth-century theories of mass culture are read for their use and implications for religion scholars. [Effective spring 2009]

REL 667 Postmodern Theology (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Philosophical background of postmodernism and its theological and cultural expressions. Content varies.

Repeatable

REL 668 Critical Theory in Theology (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Theories of discourse formation and textual production in theology in relationship to the critique of ideologies of theory.

REL 670 Experience Credit (1-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Participation in a discipline or subject related experience. Student must be evaluated by written or oral reports or an examination. Permission in advance with the consent of the department chairperson, instructor, and dean. Limited to those in good academic standing.

Repeatable

REL 671 Religion and Post-Freudian Depth Psychologies (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Contemporary psychoanalytic theories and their implications for interpreting religious phenomena: Melanie Klein, Jacques Lacan, D.W. Winnicott, Erick Erickson, Hans Leowald, Heinz Kohut, Christopher Bollas, and others.

REL 676 Religion and Jewish Literature (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 676

Readings in Jewish literature, with emphasis on allegorical, hasidic, neohasidic, and anti-hasidic writing by Nahman of Bratslav, Joseph Perl, I.L. Peretz, Franz Kafka, Isaac Babel, and S. Y. Agnon.

REL 680 Textual Archives in the Study of Religion (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Historical research into religions, including archival research, and also theories and examples of how archives, scriptures, oral traditions and academic histories function as repositories of collective memory and religious identity.

Repeatable 3 times for 9 credits maximum

REL 685 Buddhism, Culture, Modernity (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Explores the diversity of adaptations by Buddhist adherents to the global condition of modernity and the ways in which modernity has created what we think of as Buddhism today.

REL 686 Zen Master Dogen (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Selected writings of the thirteenth-century Japanese Zen master Dogen Zenji. Related Mahayana Buddhist texts.

REL 687 Global Hinduism (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Double-numbered with REL 487

Exploring how mobile middle-class Hindus re-create and re-define religion in new urban and global environments as a context for rethinking the place of religion(s) within rapid world-wide urbanization, migration, globalization, and increasing cultural (dis)integration. Additional work required of graduate students.

REL 689 Memory, Culture, Religion (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with ANT 689

Collective memory and constructions of the past as cultural phenomena; the roles religious identities, values, and institutions play as individuals, communities, and nations recollect particular moments, eras, crises, and localities.

REL 690 Independent Study (1-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Exploration of a problem, or problems, in depth. Individual independent study upon a plan submitted by the student. Admission by consent of supervising instructor(s) and the department.

Repeatable

REL 691 Approaches to the Study of Religion (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Introduction to classic texts, methods and approaches used in the field of religion and in this department. Must be enrolled in the Religion Department M.A. or Ph.D. programs.

REL 692 Other People's Religions (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Explores the ways that Western studies of non-Western religions have dealt with difference. Central aim is to understand the politics of knowledge and the arts of interpretation involved in research and writing about other people's religious traditions.

REL 693 Materiality of Religion (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Methodological issues related to the interpretation of diverse religious phenomena including architecture, the body, and land.

REL 696 Gender and Religion: Theory and Practice (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Focus on the intertwining of gender and religion; emphasis on gendered visions of power in mythic, symbolic, and ritual phenomena. Readings in feminist and anthropological theory as well as cultural cases in ethnography and history of religions.

REL 698 Anthropology of Religion (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Surveys contributions to theories by anthropologists on the role of religion in societies from the founding of the discipline to the present day.

REL 699 Writing Religions and Cultures: Ethnographic Practice (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with ANT 699

A range of aims and strategies for writing ethnographies of religion in the multiple contexts of culture, history, and politics.

REL 709 Res&Writng in Methodology (3-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences***REL 719 Research and Writing in the History and Thought of the New Testament (3-6 Credits)***Arts & Sciences***REL 739 Research and Writing in the History and Thought of Israel (3-6 Credits)***Arts & Sciences***REL 749 Research and Writing in Religion and Society (3-6 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Repeatable

REL 759 Research and Writing in Religious History and Thought (3-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences***REL 769 Research and Writing in Philosophy of Religion and Theology (3-6 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Repeatable

REL 779 Research and Writing in Religion and Culture (3-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences***REL 780 Seleted Topics (1-6 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Exploration of a topic (to be determined) not covered by the standard curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester.

Repeatable

REL 789 Research and Writing in History of Religions (3-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

REL 790 Independent Study (1-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Exploration of a problem, or problems, in depth. Individual independent study upon a plan submitted by the student. Admission by consent of supervising instructor(s) and the department.

Repeatable

REL 799 Research and Writing in Methodology (3-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

REL 997 Master's Thesis (1-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Repeatable

REL 999 Dissertation (1-15 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Repeatable