

# RELIGION (REL)

## REL 100 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 101 Religions of the World (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

The nature and significance of religion within human culture and existence as evidenced in various religions of the world both past and present.

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

## REL 102 Religion Today in a Globalizing World (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

Consideration of the globalization of religions and the rise of worldwide trends: spirituality, fundamentalism, new religious movements, and major changes in established religions.

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

## REL 103 Religion and Sports (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

The religious/ceremonial origins of sports; importance of sports in human culture; issues of identity, gender, race, ethnicity as defined by sports. Special emphasis on lacrosse.

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

## REL 104 Religion and Science (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

Historical and conceptual overview of the relations of religions and science in Christian and Islamic cultures. Engagement with current high profile debates, e.g. evolution and stem cell research.

## REL 108 Religion and Its Critics (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

A study of modern critics and critiques of religion and their contemporary significance, especially in relation to current media as modes of critique.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

## REL 114 The Bible in History, Culture and Religion (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with JSP 114

Jewish and Christian scriptures in their ancient Near Eastern and Hellenistic contexts, with particular attention to their literary forms, the history of their composition, and their role in the development of Western religions and cultures. Credit is not given for REL/JSP 114 and either REL/JSP 215 or REL 217.

University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible  
Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

## REL 120 Introduction to the Study of Religion (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

Introduces students to the academic study of religion as a complex field given shape through a diversity of academic disciplines and questions. Terms, concepts, and ideas will be discussed.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

## REL 123 Religious Auto/Biography (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with SAS 123

A cross-cultural exploration of religious autobiographies. Understanding multiple dimensions of religious life through narratives of the self, the sacred, and society.

## REL 125 Religion and Sexuality (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

Roles and significances of sexuality in religious traditions. Mutual influences of religions and sexualities. Case studies from multiple traditions and locations. Attention to intersections of religious and sexual identities and practices.

University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible  
Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

## REL 126 Transgression (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

An exploration of transgression as a limit-case for religion. Topics may include mysticism, madness, eroticism, passion, and sacrifice.

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

## REL 130 A Dramatic Introduction to Studying Religion (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

An introduction to studying religion by studying drama. Extended engagements with specific plays, using a variety of critical terms and a performance-based pedagogy.

## REL 131 Great Jewish Writers (3 Credits)

### Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with JSP 131, LIT 131

Introduction to fiction by Jewish authors. Topics include modernization, rebellion against authority, alienation, childhood, superstition, and the holocaust. Some films included.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 135 Judaism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 135

Survey of Judaic ideas, values, and cultural expressions as found in biblical, talmudic, medieval, mystical, and modern texts.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)**REL 142 Native American Religion (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with NAT 142

Religious beliefs and practices of native Americans; the diversity as well as similarity of religious expression.

Shared Competencies: Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)**REL 145 Introduction to African American Religion (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Introduction to the study of African American religious life. Theories and methods in race and religion will be discussed and particular African American religious traditions (Black Churches, Nation of Islam, Conjure, Humanism, and African Indigenous Orientations) will be explored.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)**REL 156 Christianity (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Christianity's institutional forms, sacred writings, ideas and beliefs, worship practices, cultural and creative expressions, ethical and political roles in society, from antiquity to the present. How Christianity addresses human needs, concerns, and desires.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)**REL 165 Discovering Islam (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with SAS 165, MES 165

Islam as a faith and a civilization. Understanding its origins, beliefs, rituals, and the historical development of its intellectual traditions in the pre-modern and modern eras, and its geographic, cultural and theological diversity today.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)**REL 180 International Course (1-12 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Offered through SUAbroad by educational institution outside the United States. Student registers for the course at the foreign institution and is graded according to that institution's practice. SUAbroad works with the SU academic department to assign the appropriate course level, title, and grade for the student's transcript.

Repeatable

**REL 185 Hinduism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with SAS 185

Religious life of contemporary Hindus in India: gods, goddesses, and other divines; worship; sectarian movements; and rituals in the home, at temples, and at other holy sites.

**REL 186 Buddhism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with SAS 186

Buddhism as a world religion: its origin in India, its spread to other parts of Asia, and consequent changes in doctrine and practice through the ages.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)**REL 191 Religion, Meaning and Knowledge (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Exploration of the age-old quest for meaning, knowledge and faith in the face of suffering and loss through art, philosophy, music and literature.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)**REL 200 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 205 Ancient Greek Religion (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Historical and systematic studies of Greek myth and cult (pre-Homeric Chthonic religion through Olympian polytheism to the decline of the polis). Interaction of religion with drama, art, architecture, philosophy, and politics.

Shared Competencies: Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)**REL 206 Greco-Roman Religion (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Various aspects of religious thought and experience in the Greco-Roman world. Variety of ways in which Greco-Roman people expressed the human situation, constructed their world, and viewed salvation through myth, symbol, and ritual.

**REL 215 The Jewish Bible/Christian Old Testament (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 215

The Jewish Bible (Tanakh), called the Old Testament by Christians: its literary form, its cultural context in the ancient Near East, the history of its development, and its role in Western religions and cultures. Credit is not given for both REL/JSP 114 and REL/JSP 215.

**REL 220 Religion Unbridled (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

An immersive introduction to studying religion by studying a single case: Peter Shaffer's *Equus*. Attention given to analyzing the category of "religion" and to exploring methods and critical terms for studying religion.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 221 Morality and Community (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with ANT 221

Examines how globally diverse religious groups create distinct moral systems in order to provide their members with the feeling of belonging to unique and meaningful communities.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

**REL 222 Atheism and Agnosticism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

This course surveys atheists and agnostics, from their emergence during the Enlightenment to the present day, including reasoning behind doubt or denial in God's existence, efforts to find meaning and purpose in a world without God, and struggles to find community with like-minded others.

**REL 224 Ritual (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

An examination of ritual, in theory and practice, and its significance for religion, with particular attention to specific rituals in particular contexts.

**REL 227 Gods: A Cross-Cultural Gallery (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Study of Gods in a cross-cultural context accenting forms of Gods perceived and experienced in embodied, visible, concrete form rather than as "transcendent" or "spirit."

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>)

**REL 231 Jewish Literature (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with LIT 231, JSP 231

Survey of major works in the Jewish tradition, including Hebrew and Yiddish prose in translation. Themes include nature, culture, exile, humor, satire, and talking takhlis.

**REL 235 Travel Narratives and Pilgrimages (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 235, LIT 235

Study of secular and spiritual travel narratives, both factual and fictional. Included are tales of exploration, shipwreck, and pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which played a key role in literary history.

**REL 237 Jewish Mysticism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 237, LIT 237

A literary and philosophical approach to Jewish mysticism (Kabbala), combined with close reading of Hasidic stories. In addition, students learn about meditation in the Judaic tradition and have an opportunity to experiment with contemplative techniques.

**REL 239 Jewish Humor and Satire (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 239, LIT 239

Introduction to Jewish humor and satire, focusing on American and Yiddish fiction and film. Informed by Freudian theories, analysis of literary works, stand-up comedy, early Yiddish movies, and American films.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>)

**REL 241 Religious Diversity in America (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Emergence of United States as unique, multi-faith society, with focus on Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and other faiths.

**REL 242 Religious Issues in American Life (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

How contemporary religious ideas, individuals, and organizations intersect with major political and cultural issues in the United States.

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

**REL 244 Indigenous Religions (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with ANT 273, NAT 244

The connections between material life and religious life in cultures throughout the world. The diverse ways that various cultures inhabit their landscapes.

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

**REL 246 Religion and Popular Culture (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Popular expressions of religion in and through cemeteries, holidays, music, film, media and sports.

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

**REL 252 Ethical Decision Making (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Ethical reflection and choice about selected moral dilemmas commonly encountered in contemporary life. Credit cannot be given for both PHI 398 and REL 252.

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

**REL 262 Islamophobia (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

An exploration of historical roots and contemporary forms of Islamophobia. Analyzes how Islamophobia is incorporated systemically in structures of violence and inequality, producing forms of racial exclusion and discrimination.

**REL 265 Muslim Women's Voices (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Examines the politics of dress, gender, and sacred texts in Islam. Covers critical and literary works by Muslim feminist scholars and activists that challenge Islamic patriarchal structures and Western stereotypes of Muslim women.

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

**REL 270 Experience Credit (1-6 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Repeatable

**REL 280 International Course (1-6 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Offered through SUAbroad by educational institution outside the United States. Student registers for the course at the foreign institution and is graded according to that institution's practice. SUAbroad works with the S.U. academic department to assign the appropriate course level, title, and grade for the student's transcript.

Repeatable

**REL 281 African Religions: An Introduction (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with AAS 241

Historical and comparative study of religious practice in Africa. Diversity of traditional beliefs, developments in Christianity and Islam, and political significance of religious identity and practice. African influence on western religious practices.

**REL 283 India's Religious Worlds (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with SAS 283

Inter-secting religious worlds of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, and Christians in modern India; focus on cosmology and morality in interaction with ritual practices, religious narratives, social life, media, and politics.

**REL 288 Mid. East Religious Persp. (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences***REL 290 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 294 Mythologies (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Mythologies of the world, ancient and modern, Eastern and Western, Northern and Southern. Issues of nature and function, historical development and diffusion of myth.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>)

**REL 295 Religion and Art (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Relationship between art, religion, and religious thought. May draw on classical religious sources, art history, literature, theology, or philosophy. Emphasis placed on Western religious/artistic traditions (Judaism, Christianity).

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 300 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 301 Ancient Near Eastern Religions and Cultures (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

The social contexts of ancient religious ideas and practices. Texts, art, and other artifacts from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and Israel.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 307 The Temple and the Dead Sea Scrolls (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 307

History and literature of Second Temple Judaism including the canonization of scripture, origins of the synagogue, apocalyptic literature, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and other developments leading to early Christianity and rabbinic Judaism.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>)

**REL 308 Ancient Judaism and the Origins of Christianity (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with MES 308, JSP 308

Offered only in Madrid. Social, cultural, intellectual, and historical conditions which surrounded the birth of this new world religion in its ancient Mediterranean cradle—from Mesopotamia and Egypt to Greece and ancient Rome.

**REL 316 The Torah/Pentateuch as a Scripture (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 316

How the Pentateuch became the Torah, the first Jewish scripture: its origins, rhetorical use, performance in various media, and ritual function as an iconic book.

**REL 320 Religion and Culture (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Religion as an expression of culture and also as a force that contributes to the formation of culture. Approaches and topics vary.

Repeatable 3 times for 9 credits maximum



**REL 321 Christians, Jews and Muslims (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HUM 321, MES 321, JSP 321

Offered only in Madrid. Key historic encounters between the three versions of monotheism, with reference to the richness of past cultural and religious legacy rooted in the Mediterranean region.

Shared Competencies: Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

**REL 324 Religions and Storytelling (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Religious teachings in narrative form. Traditions include Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Christian, African, and Native American religions. Topics include saints, miracles, gender, nature, identity, resistance, empowerment.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>)

**REL 325 Religion and Diversity in London (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 426

Offered only in London. This course examines London's perspective on global issues of religion, identity, and power. Using the city's unparalleled networks of diverse religious and faith communities, architecture and infrastructure, this class will explore the contrast between religious animosity and coexistence.

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

**REL 327 Yoga-Ancient Religion to Modern Practice (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with SAS 327

Consideration of yoga in the context of its origins in the Hindu tradition in India and then tracing the changes in the modern period when yoga developed anew in India and then Europe and America.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

**REL 328 Borders in Flux: Identities and Conflict in Ireland (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HST 464, PSC 464

Offered only in London. Students travel to Dublin, Derry, and Belfast to learn how Ireland's past is entangled with its present. Concepts of Irish and British national identities; religious conflict and peace-making attempts within Ireland; new tensions wrought by international migration and regional politics.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

**REL 331 European and American Jewish Literature (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 331

Readings of 20th-century fiction and drama, focusing on works by Schnitzler, Kafka, Wiesel, P. Levi, Yezierska, H. Roth, I.B. Singer, Malamud, P. Roth, and Ozick.

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

**REL 332 Jewish Textual Tradition (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 332

Students explore the Jewish textual tradition. Topics vary from year to year. Texts include Talmud, midrash, medieval philosophy and mysticism. Course can be repeated for credit.

Repeatable 3 times for 9 credits maximum

**REL 333 Yiddish Literature in Translation (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with LIT 333, JSP 333

Survey of Yiddish literature, with special attention to the classic Yiddish authors, Yiddish theater, modernism, and Yiddish women writers. Themes of minority culture, class struggle, hasidism, and the decline of the Shtetl.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 334 Modern Judaism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 334

The impact of modernity on Jewish life and thought. Issues and themes vary.

**REL 335 Israeli Literature and Culture (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 335, LIT 335, MES 335

Literary and cultural approach to the modern history of Israel, with special attention to conflicts that have arisen during the Zionist project.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

**REL 337 Shoah: Responding to the Holocaust (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 337

Historical, literary, and philosophical representations of, and responses to, the Nazi genocide. Philosophical, theological, and ethical challenges raised by the Holocaust.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 338 American Judaism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 338

Students explore the relation between culture and religion across a diverse range of American Jews and Jewish communities. Particular attention is paid to the process of acculturation and assimilation and to the reinvention of Judaism.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 341 Women, Abolition, and Religion in 19th Century America (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with WGS 341, HST 387

The role that religion may have played in women's understandings of themselves as abolitionists and social reformers. A selected group of women will be studied, with considerable attention given to Frances Harper.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 342 Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 342, MES 342, JSP 342

Considers the extent to which religion matters in an enduring ethno-nationalist conflict. Approaches the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from an interdisciplinary perspective that explores the intersection of religion and politics.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

**REL 345 African American Religious History (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with AAS 345

Historical significance of religion for Americans of African descent. African and western forces shaping religious identity. Religious practices, beliefs, organizations, imagery, literature, theories, and activism. Historical perspectives on meanings of religion.

**REL 347 Religion and the Conquest of America (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with NAT 347

The development of America through the contact between indigenous and colonial people's divergent religious understandings of land.

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

**REL 348 Religion and American Consumerism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with NAT 348

Interrogates the relationship of American religious and economic practices, as compared with Native American traditions, during the 19th and 20th centuries.

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

**REL 354 Kierkegaard and Nietzsche (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PHI 354

This course focuses on the similarities and differences of Kierkegaard's and Nietzsche's views on selfhood, society, and religion.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>)

**REL 355 Religion, Identity and Power (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 362, SOC 362

Examines ascendancy of religious movements; prominence of religious ideas; secularization and religion as a political force; conceptual and historical issues in relation to religious ideas and movements, including various Islamic revivals and the Christian right. Offered in London and Madrid only.

**REL 356 Religion and Conflicts in Contemporary Europe (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 456

Offered only in Strasbourg. Examines continent's long history of religious conflict, especially ways in which local and global religious tensions have developed in recent years.

**REL 357 Queerly Religious (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with QSX 357

Intersections and interactions of religions and sexualities in historical and contemporary contexts. Materials entwine case studies and queer theories. Particular attention given to religious and sexual desires, identities, and enactments.

University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

**REL 361 Islamic Law & Society (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 381, MES 381

This course introduces students to classical/modern Islamic law by analyzing Islamic constitutionalism, criminal laws, family laws, gender, political violence, and Islamic banking, through the examination of Middle Eastern and South Asian legal systems.

University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

**REL 362 Islamism and Islamist Movements Today (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 392, MES 392

A study of the historical, religious, social and political origins of Islamism and Islamist movements around the world today.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

**REL 363 The Politics of Islam (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

The course introduces students to the study of the Muslim world. It covers relations between religion and political and legal formations beginning with the early Islamic period through the colonial and post-colonial periods.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

**REL 364 Enchanting Words: Muslim Poets, Singers and Storytellers (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with SAS 364, MES 364

Understand the power of words and language in Muslim cultures expressed in oral and literary genres including poetry, humor, fables, folksongs and travel journals. Explore key themes such as virtue, reality, divine and human nature.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

**REL 365 Muslim Politics in Real Time (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Through individual research and lectures, students learn to place current events in the Muslim world in their historical context. This information literacy-driven course allows students to build their own syllabus.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

**REL 367 God and Beauty in Islamic Art (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with SAS 367, MES 365

Expressions of beauty, creativity and faith in Islamic calligraphy, ceramics, textiles, architecture, miniatures and music. Unity and diversity of the visual and performing arts of Muslims in different periods, cultures and regions.

**REL 380 International Course (1-6 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Offered through SUAbroad by educational institution outside the United States. Student registers for the course at the foreign institution and is graded according to that institution's practice. SUAbroad works with the S.U. academic department to assign the appropriate course level, title, and grade for the student's transcript.

Repeatable

**REL 381 Ghosts and Ghostbusters (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Critical survey of human claims to have encountered entities that formerly occupied corporeal, living forms. Also explores social roles of those who claim to communicate with those entities, including spirit mediums, paranormal investigators, and "ghostbusters."

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

**REL 384 Goddesses, Women and Power in Hinduism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with WGS 384, SAS 384

Interrelationship of power as female and female power in Hindu cosmology, mythology, and society. Complexities of mythic, domestic, and economic gender hierarchies.

**REL 385 Religion in Chinese Society (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Surveys the diversity of religious practice in mainland China and Taiwan focusing on the lived experiences of ordinary adherents both within institutionalized religions and through localized folk beliefs and practices. Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Scientific Inquiry and Research Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/scientific-inquiry-and-research-skills/>)

**REL 386 Studies in Buddhism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Selected topics in the thought and practice of Buddhism.

Repeatable 3 times for 9 credits maximum

**REL 390 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 395 Religions and the Natural Environment (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Interpretations of the natural environment in the mythologies, rituals, and practices of religious traditions, including religious responses to current ecological crises.

**REL 400 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 409 A History of Witchcraft (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with ANT 409, HST 409, WGS 409

History of witchcraft from various perspectives: its intellectual roots, the causes and dynamics of the witch-hunt, and the beliefs and self-perceptions of those who were called "witches". Offered only in Florence. Shared Competencies: Scientific Inquiry and Research Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/scientific-inquiry-and-research-skills/>)

**REL 421 Classical Mythology (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with CLA 421, LIT 421

Myths and rituals of Greek mythology and religion. Ancient poets/playwrights and important mythological themes found in later Western religious/artistic traditions. Offered only in Florence.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Information Literacy and Technological Agility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/information-literacy-and-technological-agility/>)

**REL 435 Modern Jewish Thought (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PHI 435, JSP 435

The influence of the intersection between reason, imagination, and emotion on ethics, politics, community, and religious thought within modern Judaism.

Repeatable 4 times for 9 credits maximum

**REL 439 Jewish Studies Seminar (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 439

Interdisciplinary study of special topics in the Jewish tradition.

Repeatable 3 times for 9 credits maximum

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

**REL 440 Modern Religious Thought (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Examines conceptions of human being in modern religious thought in Europe and America. Themes may include God and the self; God, art, and delight; and religion and despair. Figures examined may include Kierkegaard, Douglass, Dostoevsky, Dinesen, and Baldwin.

Repeatable 2 times for 6 credits maximum

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>)

**REL 449 Religious Dimensions of Whiteness (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Examines the creation and use of "whiteness" as a religious dimension in the formation of American identity.

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

**REL 451 Visual Culture Past and Present: Gender, Religion and Politics (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HST 451, WGS 451, CRS 451

Offered only in Florence. Contemporary visual culture; its representation of gender, religion, and politics and the origins of that representation in a pictorial language first codified in Italy and Europe between circa 1450 and 1650.

**REL 465 Beyond the Veil: Gender Politics in Islam (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with WGS 465, SAS 465, MES 465

Double-numbered with REL 626, MES 626

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

Participation in a discipline- or subject-related experience. Students must be evaluated by written or oral reports or an examination. Limited to those in good academic standing.

Repeatable

**REL 471 Religion and Society in Brazil (3-4 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with ANT 471

Role of religion in society; religions of Brazil, including Catholicism, liberation theology, afro-religions. Spring break field stay in Rio de Janeiro; methods of study; preparation of research proposal.

**REL 480 International Course (1-8 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Offered through SUAbroad by educational institution outside the United States. Student registers for the course at the foreign institution and is graded according to that institution's practice. SUAbroad works with the S.U. academic department to assign the appropriate course level, title, and grade for the student's transcript.

Repeatable

**REL 487 Global Hinduism (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Double-numbered with REL 687

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

In-depth exploration of a problem or problems. Individual independent study upon a plan submitted by the student. Admission by consent of supervising instructor or instructors and the department.

Repeatable

**REL 498 Thesis Preparation (3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Departmental distinction for majors who demonstrate exceptional achievement in the study of religion.

**REL 499 Honors Capstone Project (1-3 Credits)***Arts & Sciences*

Completion of an Honors Capstone Project under the supervision of a faculty member.

Repeatable 3 times for 3 credits maximum

**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.