

# Religious Studies (RELI)

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## Faculty

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**Associate Professors:** Brantley Gasaway, Karline M. McLain (Chair)

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At Bucknell University, the academic study of Religion focuses on the human quest for meaning, purpose, and value. Religious Studies courses explore the myriad ways humans have raised perennial questions about their own existence and their place in the wider compass of life, such as: Who am I? What is the good life? What is of greatest value to us collectively? What is my destiny? What is ultimately real? What constitutes truth and how do we know of it? To whom are we accountable? This academic approach also exposes students to the diverse ways humanity has sought to understand some of its most profound experiences and ideas (good and evil, suffering and redemption, beginnings and endings, personal and collective transformation). The exploration of these and other issues reveals different ways of experiencing the world; diverse religious expressions (mythic, symbolic, ritualistic, ethical, doctrinal) in various geographical, historical, and cultural contexts; transformative effects on the lives of individuals and on the patterns of common life; and distinct cosmologies and systems of value.

Religious Studies contributes to the formation of global citizens by giving them fundamental capacities of intercultural literacy. The skills and capabilities that students develop in the academic study of religion are therefore broadly applicable and are intimately related to the goals of other areas of study at Bucknell, not only in the humanities but also in management, the sciences, and engineering. Religious Studies offers close alignment with the general Bucknell goal of preparing students for a world that is both globally interconnected and interdependent, yet divided.

The curriculum of the Religious Studies department helps students acquire the skills needed for fuller reflection on and comprehension of human nature, human history, and human existence in relation to diverse notions of the sacred. Students also learn about and assess institutional formations associated with traditions and world religions as well as the interrelation of religion with social, cultural, and political developments. This curriculum reflects the strengths of the faculty of the department in both broad periodization and diverse subjects of concentration.

A major in Religious Studies provides the context for historical and conceptual engagement with some of the most profound ideas, thinkers, and questions that challenge humanity. Students develop a critical understanding of the diverse religious intentions, motivations, and inspirations of local communities as they respond to globalizing forces. Coursework in the discipline serves to provide students with an understanding of key approaches, concepts, and practices in the study of religion. Such study helps students acquire the skills needed for reflection upon the human quest for transformation and meaning.

## Course Areas

### Introductory Courses

RELI 100	Introduction to Religion	1
RELI 105	Introduction to the Bible	1
RELI 110	Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam	1
RELI/EAST 115	Introduction to Asian Religions	1
RELI 125	Introduction to Ethics	1
RELI 180	Introduction to Religion in America	1

### "Western" Religious Traditions

RELI 205	Hebrew	1
RELI 207	Holocaust: Event and Reception	1
RELI 209	Israel: Land, People, and Tradition	1
RELI 210	Judaism	1
RELI 212	Christianity	1
RELI 213	God, Suffering, and Evil	1
RELI 215	Essentials of Christian Thought	1
RELI 217	Catholicism	1
RELI 218	Christian Ethics	1
RELI 221	God and Morality	1
RELI 222	Images of Jerusalem	1
RELI 223	History Western Religious Thought	1

RELI 237	Judaism in Film	1
RELI 241	Religion and the Loss of Traditional Faith	1
RELI 242	Religious Naturalism	1
RELI 279	Judaism and Law	1
RELI 280/POLS 247	Religion and Constitutional Law	1
RELI 281	Religion and American Politics	1
<b>"Non-Western" Religious Traditions</b>		
RELI 200/EAST 251	Buddhism	1
RELI 201	Islam	1
RELI 202	Hinduism	1
RELI 203	Hinduism and Film	1
RELI 243	Religions of South Asia	1
RELI/EAST 244	Religions of East Asia	1
RELI 245/EAST 252	Marketing Chinese Religions	1
RELI 246/EAST 253	Religions of Japan	1
RELI 247	Epic India: Gods and Goddesses	1
RELI 249	Pilgrimage in South Asia	1
<b>Religion, Culture, and Theory</b>		
RELI 211	Women In Judaism	1
RELI 214	God, Nature, and Knowledge	1
RELI 216/PHIL 223	Philosophy of Religion	1
RELI 219	Contemporary Religion: Race, Gender, and Sexuality	1
RELI 226/ENST 236	Environmental Ethics	1
RELI 228	Religions in the Modern World	1
RELI 229	The Ethics of Consumption	1
RELI 230	End of Nature, Posthuman Future	1
RELI 233	Global Feminism and Religion	1
RELI 234	Issues of Religion and Culture	1
RELI 235	Religion and Popular Culture	1
RELI 239	Queering (Christian) Theology	1
RELI 240	Perspectives in Religion and Science	1
RELI 276	Judaism and Masculinity	1
<b>Individual and Specialized Study of Religion</b>		
RELI 305	The Male Body in Judaism	1
RELI 306	Messianism and Madness	1
RELI 307	Post-biblical Literature	1
RELI 310	Topics in Religion and Law	1
RELI 311	On Being Spiritual, Not Religious	1
RELI 315	Topics in American Religion	1
RELI 316	Topics in Religion and Culture	1
RELI 317	Cultivating the Self	1
RELI 318	Jewish Thought	1
RELI 320	Individual Studies In Religion	.5-1
RELI 321	Introduction to Jewish Law	1
RELI 325	Major Religious Thinkers	1
RELI 326	Major Religious Movements	1
RELI 330	Theories of Religion	1
RELI 350	Honors Thesis	1
RELI 400	Senior Seminar - Culminating Experience	1

## Major in Religious Studies

The Religious Studies **major** consists of eight courses:

One or two introductory courses		1-2
At least one “Western” Religious Traditions course		
At least one “Non-Western” Religious Traditions course		
At least one Religion, Culture, and Theory course		
RELI 330	Theories of Religion <sup>1</sup>	1
A second 300-level course		1
RELI 400	Senior Seminar - Culminating Experience	1

<sup>1</sup> RELI 330 Theories of Religion and the CE senior seminar will address the writing, speaking, and information literacy requirements of the CCC. Requests for exemptions from one or more of these requirements will be considered by the department chair upon petition by the student major.

Religious Studies majors are encouraged to pursue off campus study either abroad or in approved domestic programs in order to broaden their understanding of religious pluralism both globally and in the United States. No more than two religion courses earned off campus may be used to meet the major requirements. Transfer students may appeal this restriction by writing to the chair of the department.

The Religious Studies department encourages majors to consider honors candidacy by completing an honors thesis in their final academic year. Students wishing to undertake an honors thesis should consult with their adviser in the fall semester of their junior year and declare their intentions and their thesis topic in the spring semester of their junior year.

## Minor in Religious Studies

The **minor** in Religious Studies consists of any four courses, at least one of which must be an introductory course. Set forth below is a list of 100-level courses. All other applicable classes are found in the course list.

Select one or two of the following:

RELI 100	Introduction to Religion
RELI 105	Introduction to the Bible
RELI 110	Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
RELI 115	Introduction to Asian Religions
RELI 125	Introduction to Ethics
RELI 180	Introduction to Religion in America

1. Students can write, reason, and speak effectively.
2. Students can analyze the interaction of religion with cultural institutions, groups, and individuals.
3. Students can assess religion as an expression of meanings and values in the context of what is perceived as ultimate.
4. Students can interpret truth claims and assess ethical norms of particular religions and traditions.
5. Students can appreciate the diverse ways humans understand ourselves, our communities, and the universe.
6. Students can address religious ideas historically, critically, and reflectively.
7. Students can relate religious ideas and concepts to other forms of knowledge and interpretive frameworks.
8. Students can recognize and appreciate the variety and diversity of religious expression among peoples of the world.

## Courses

**RELI 100. Introduction to Religion. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course will introduce students to religious studies, and will examine such basic religious categories as history, myth, ritual, and text.

**RELI 105. Introduction to the Bible. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Critical, literary, and historical analysis of Hebrew (Tanak) and Christian scriptures.

**RELI 110. Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A comparative survey of the three major monotheistic traditions, including their histories, scriptures, beliefs, and practices. Attention also will be paid to issues that each tradition has faced in the modern world.

**RELI 115. Introduction to Asian Religions. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A comparative study of the basic teachings and practices of Asian religions through lectures, discussions, readings, and films; inquiry into similarities and differences.

**RELI 125. Introduction to Ethics. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This introductory course in ethical reflection draws from a variety of religious and philosophical perspective to address a range of contemporary moral issues.

**RELI 180. Introduction to Religion in America. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course will examine the ways in which a wide variety of Americans have articulated and practiced their religious commitments.

**RELI 200. Buddhism. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3,Other:1**

An interdisciplinary introduction to Buddhism, including basic teachings of liberation from suffering, impermanence, no-self, ethics, and meditation. Also explores the historical development of various streams of Buddhism in Asia and the West, with attention to the mutual influence between Buddhism and society, politics, and material culture. Crosslisted as EAST 251.

**RELI 201. Islam. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

An overview of the many cultural expressions of Islam, which emerged in the 6th century and spread from Arabia to the larger world. The course will cover Muhammad as prophet, Qur'an as scripture, Hadith as religious narrative, and tensions between law, modernity, and mysticism.

**RELI 202. Hinduism. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A historical survey of Hindu religious traditions. This course traces the development of Hindu scriptures, rituals, philosophies, and ethics from the ancient to the contemporary world. Concepts such as karma, yoga, and reincarnation will be put in the broader contexts of Hindu dharma (religious law), theism, and ritual.

**RELI 203. Hinduism and Film. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A survey of Indian cinema and Hinduism, exploring early Hindu mythological films, the underlying religious messages of popular "secular" films, and the influence of Hindu worship practices on Indian cinema.

**RELI 205. Hebrew. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Essentials of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew. Includes readings of narrative portions of the Hebrew Bible and additional texts in Hebrew.

**RELI 207. Holocaust: Event and Reception. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

During the Holocaust more than six million Jews, one third of the Jewish population of the world, were systematically killed. We study the event, reflections by major thinkers and scholars, and the aftermath of the Holocaust.

**RELI 209. Israel: Land, People, and Tradition. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Study of the complex relationship between Judaism and the sacred traditions of the Jews as related to the Land of Israel including the cultural situation and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**RELI 210. Judaism. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A survey of Jewish religious traditions, addressing major historical developments (e.g., biblical, rabbinic, and modern periods) and basic rituals and theological issues (e.g., "chosenness", covenant, salvation).

**RELI 211. Women In Judaism. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Survey of Jewish texts and films that focus specifically on women or use feminine imagery; considers feminist and historical-critical interpretations of the evolving role of Jewish women. Crosslisted as WMST 211.

**RELI 212. Christianity. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A broad introduction to Christianity, including a survey of Christian scripture, various Christian doctrines and beliefs, and major traditions of thought and practice within Christianity.

**RELI 213. God, Suffering, and Evil. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

An investigation into the problem suffering and evil pose for western religious and Christian reflection on the existence and nature of God.

**RELI 214. God, Nature, and Knowledge. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Study of various philosophical, religious, and scientific theories regarding the concept of divine nature, human nature, and non-human nature.

**RELI 215. Essentials of Christian Thought. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A survey of major topics in Christian thought, including God, creation, human nature, sin, salvation, the Christian life, the church, the status of other religions, and the future of human history and the world.

**RELI 216. Philosophy of Religion. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Problems for rational inquiry arising from the claims and practices of religious faith, e.g., the nature of religious language, arguments for the existence of God, the concept of evil. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. Crosslisted as PHIL 223.

**RELI 217. Catholicism. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A broad survey of Roman Catholicism, including its main beliefs and practices, within the larger context of the history of Christianity and the history of Christian thought.

**RELI 218. Christian Ethics. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Major trends in Christian ethics, with particular attention to the diversity of sources and methods used by Christian thinkers to reflect on moral issues.

**RELI 219. Contemporary Religion: Race, Gender, and Sexuality. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Through historical, political, and sociological analysis, this course will study how sexuality, race, and gender issues are affecting contemporary religious thought. Crosslisted as WMST 219.

**RELI 220. Comparative Ethics. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

An examination of the symbols, concepts, beliefs, and practices of a variety of religious traditions and their role in providing ethical guidance for human life. Special attention will be given to critical methods of comparative analysis and their application to diverse traditions.

**RELI 221. God and Morality. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

An overview of Western religious ethics, focusing on the relation between religion and morality, the connection between ideas of human selfhood and moral goodness, and the uses of argument to justify religious and moral claims.

**RELI 222. Images of Jerusalem. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This is a writing class (W2) focusing on Jerusalem (Israel), its history, as a pilgrimage site, and the three Western religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) in the city.

**RELI 223. History Western Religious Thought. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A survey of the major religious ideas and problems which have shaped the Western intellectual tradition. Topics to be explored include conceptions of God, theories of human nature, and the relation between religious belief and cultural values.

**RELI 224. Global Religions and the Politics of Pluralism. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Explores the presence and practice of global relations and analyzes the cultural and political challenges of religious pluralism. Students will examine a wide variety of religious traditions, assess how minority religions negotiate issues of acculturation, and evaluate the political problems often created by religious diversity. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

**RELI 225. Religion and Literature. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Examination of the religious, philosophical, and ethical quandaries confronting human beings through the study of literary works. Themes may include autobiography and the construction of identity; the nature of human freedom, love, and aspiration; the problems of evil, suffering, and alienation; the experience of moral conflict; and other topics.

**RELI 226. Environmental Ethics. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

A survey of the major theories of environmental ethics, with particular attention to the challenge of developing an ethic commensurate with increasing human power. Crosslisted as ENST 236.

**RELI 227. Bioethics: Issues in Ethics, Medicine, and the Life Sciences. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Systematic study of the moral and social implications of practices and developments in medicine and the life sciences including abortion, human experimentation, genetic intervention, behavioral control, death and dying.

**RELI 228. Religions in the Modern World. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

An examination of how religious communities respond to contemporary issues such as nationalism, secularism, atheism, culture and history of a group. The formation of religious identities and institutions in contexts of cultural diversity and pluralism will be discussed.

**RELI 229. The Ethics of Consumption. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Analysis of ethical issues related to human consumption, such as world hunger, poverty, environmental destruction, and the effects of consumerism on human values and interactions.

**RELI 230. End of Nature, Posthuman Future. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Analysis of ethical issues related to human technological interventions (both environmental and medical), and their implications for our changing conceptions of nature and human nature.

**RELI 233. Global Feminism and Religion. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course examines the relationship between developments in feminist thought and movements in various parts of the world and the array of religious ideologies and practices in those societies. Crosslisted as WMST 233.

**RELI 234. Issues of Religion and Culture. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3,Other:1; Repeatable**

Focus on interdependence of religion and cultural phenomena: ideology; alienation; formation of world view; understandings of time and space; relation between church and state; faith and science.

**RELI 235. Religion and Popular Culture. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course examines the relationship of religion to contemporary popular culture, both in how religion is portrayed (in music, movies, sports, and consumer culture) and how it is replicated (in ritual, myth, and morality).

**RELI 237. Judaism in Film. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This is an introduction to Judaism in Film. Judaism has been characterized as a culture, a civilization, a philosophy, a nation, an ethnic group, and a religion. In this introductory class we will discuss ritual, ethical and historical issues.

**RELI 239. Queering (Christian) Theology. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course explores the relationship between queer theories, sexuality studies, and Christian theology. In addition to the concepts of gender, race and sexuality, it offers a survey of major topics in Christian thought, including God, love, justice, sin, and salvation. Crosslisted as WMST 239.

**RELI 240. Perspectives in Religion and Science. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Survey of theories, topics, and problems involved in understanding the historically evolved and complex relationship between western religion and science and their respective truth claims.

**RELI 241. Religion and the Loss of Traditional Faith. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Examination of new approaches (linguistical, philosophical, and hermeneutical) that challenge traditional Western religious ideas and the role of faith in contemporary world. Emphasis is on intersection of religion and critical theory.

**RELI 242. Religious Naturalism. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course will examine some of the diverse perspectives and ideas associated with religious naturalism. Students will explore the ways religious naturalists reconceptualize traditional concepts (God or supernatural theism), and examine their various approaches to understanding evil, morality, human nature, and humans' connectivity to nature.

**RELI 243. Religions of South Asia. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Focused study of one or more South Asian religious traditions. This course centers on South Asian religions and on topics that may include, but will not be limited to: Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam in Pakistan and India, and Buddhism in Tibet, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

**RELI 244. Religions of East Asia. 1 Credit.**

**Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Focused study on one or more East Asian religious traditions. This course centers on religions and on topics that may include, but will not be limited to: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Shinto, and new East Asian religious movements. Crosslisted as EAST 244.

**RELI 245. Marketing Chinese Religions. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Focus on the economic dimensions of Chinese religious institutions in modern and contemporary periods, with attention also paid to premodern precedents. Economics here indicates not only mechanisms of monetary exchange, but also negotiations of spiritual capital (ledgers of [de]merit) and of religious identities amidst rampant consumerism and commodification of sanctity. Crosslisted as EAST 252.

**RELI 246. Religions of Japan. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3,Other:1**

An introduction to the religious traditions of Japan through study of their origins, basic beliefs, practices and values, historical development, as well as their interaction and involvement with politics, culture, society, and each other. Focus on Shinto and the various forms of Japanese Buddhism. Crosslisted as EAST 253.

**RELI 247. Epic India: Gods and Goddesses. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Survey of the great Indian religious epics, focusing on the stories of the gods and goddesses and their interactions with humankind; and the place of these stories in classical India and throughout time as they are retold in new times and places as they are recast in new media.

**RELI 248. Religions of the African Diaspora. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

This course examines the historical development of African-derived or African-inspired religions in the African diaspora, including in the United States. It also examines the expansion and appropriation of major world religions into particular African diaspora communities. Crosslisted as WMST 248.

**RELI 249. Pilgrimage in South Asia. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

An exploration of the sacred spaces of South Asia and the religious journeying practices of Hindus and others throughout the Indian subcontinent.

**RELI 276. Judaism and Masculinity. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Theories of Judaism, masculinity and maleness applied to the bodies of athletes; Jewish/Black bodies; the body of soldiers; stereotyping; human and divine bodies; Jewish feet, nose, ideal bodies.

**RELI 279. Judaism and Law. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Explores the cultural and ethical complexities of Jewish Law in the U.S., Europe, and the unique legal system of the state of Israel.

**RELI 280. Religion and Constitutional Law. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course explores the developing relationship between religion and American constitutional law, focusing on historic documents and Supreme Court decisions relating to the First Amendment. Crosslisted as POLS 247.

**RELI 281. Religion and American Politics. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course explores the historical relationship of religion and American politics, focusing on the impact of religion in both domestic and foreign policy.

**RELI 286. Imagining Sustainability. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

An Integrated Perspectives course covering critical understandings and applications of sustainability across the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences as integrative of environmental, social, economic, and cultural perspectives. Crosslisted as UNIV 286 and ENST 286.

**RELI 305. The Male Body in Judaism. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Investigates the male body from Jewish and comparative perspectives: the body of athletes; Jewish/Black relations; theories of masculinity; the body of soldiers; stereotyping; human and divine bodies. Prerequisites: sophomore, junior, or senior status and permission of the instructor.

**RELI 306. Messianism and Madness. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Judaism and Jewish sectarianism include numerous Messianic figures: from Jesus to Messiah Ephraim; Shabbetai Zvi; Zionism; kabbalistic, midrashic, philosophical, Hassidic, and contemporary ideas of redemption. Prerequisites: sophomore, junior, or seniors only. Others by permission of instructor.

**RELI 307. Post-biblical Literature. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Survey of Jewish post-biblical literature and thought which may include literature of the Second Temple period and rabbinic literature (Pseudepigrapha, Dead Sea Scrolls, Targum, Josephus, Mishnah-Tosefta, Midrash, Talmud, and contemporary phenomena) in religious, historical, literary, and cultural contexts.

**RELI 310. Topics in Religion and Law. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

This course will examine aspects of the relationship between religion and law in global, regional, tradition-based, and/or historical contexts. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior or senior status only. Open to others by permission of the instructor.

**RELI 311. On Being Spiritual, Not Religious. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Study of the nature, role and meaning of mysticism and spirituality for Western audiences, examining the social/cultural variables influencing mystical quests; truth, reality, and transcendence in diverse mystical experiences; the role of the body in spiritual practices. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior or senior only. Open to others by permission of instructor.

**RELI 315. Topics in American Religion. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

This course will examine specific topics in American religion including in-depth analyses of religious movements and traditions in America. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior or senior status only. Open to others by permission of the instructor.

**RELI 316. Topics in Religion and Culture. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

This course will examine the interrelation between religion and cultural phenomena in diverse contexts of human experience. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior or senior status only. Open to others by permission of the instructor.

**RELI 317. Cultivating the Self. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Study of self-cultivation as a central theme in religious and philosophical reflection. Students will explore different meanings of self-cultivation as a practice of training the self's energies to attain an ideal of human excellence in multiple traditions. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior or senior only. Open to others by permission of instructor.

**RELI 318. Jewish Thought. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Text-based class: cultural influences upon Jewish thought and practice in major Jewish books, traditional and contemporary Judaism, from Philo to Derrida: Human existence and identity. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior, or senior only. Open to others by permission of instructor.

**RELI 320. Individual Studies In Religion. .5-1 Credits.****Offered Both Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:Varies,Other:Varies; Repeatable**

Guided investigations. Open to qualified students with some previous study of religion who wish to pursue individual programs of study in the field. Prerequisite: Only by permission of the instructor.

**RELI 321. Introduction to Jewish Law. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3**

Jewish law: function, ethical and philosophical principles. Major sources: Bible, Rabbis, Interpretations (Commentaries Codifications), science. Applications to contemporary legal issues. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior, or senior only. Open to others by permission of the instructor.

**RELI 325. Major Religious Thinkers. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

The thought, historical setting, and influence of one or more classical religious thinkers, e.g., Paul the Apostle, Augustine, Kierkegaard, Confucius, Rosenzweig, Gandhi. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior, or senior only. Open to others by permission of the instructor.

**RELI 326. Major Religious Movements. 1 Credit.****Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Origins, beliefs, and significance of selected religious communities and movements, e.g., Mysticism, Modern Catholicism, Evangelicalism, Monasticism, Religious Socialism. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior, or senior only. Open to others by permission of the instructor.

**RELI 330. Theories of Religion. 1 Credit.****Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3**

Exploration of theoretical models and methods in religious studies. Readings from major texts may include sociological, psychological, anthropological, and phenomenological approaches, along with challenges to such theories from thinkers of feminist, postmodern, and postcolonial perspectives. Prerequisite: sophomore, junior or senior status only. Open to others by permission of instructor.

**RELI 350. Honors Thesis. 1 Credit.****Offered Both Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable**

Honors thesis. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

**RELI 400. Senior Seminar - Culminating Experience. 1 Credit.****Offered Spring Semester Only; Lecture hours:3**

The Senior Seminar is required for all majors in Religious Studies, and is designed to give majors an opportunity to integrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired, and to hone their research, writing, and oral skills. Prerequisites: Open to seniors in Religious Studies only.