

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELI)

## Faculty

**Professors:** Maria A. Antonaccio, Karlina M. McLain, Rivka Ulmer, Carol Wayne White

**Associate Professors:** Brantley Gasaway, John Penniman (Chair), Stuart Young

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The academic study of religion examines one of the most powerful, influential and contested forces in the world. It is critical to developing a deep understanding of different cultures and diverse perspectives necessary for living in a complex and interconnected world. Religious literacy is an integral component of a liberal arts education.

The religious studies curriculum is among the most interdisciplinary, international and multicultural at Bucknell. Our courses offer students opportunities to study a diverse array of the world's religions; to interpret how religion shapes and is shaped by cultural dynamics and personal practices; to grapple with enduring questions of human existence; and to develop capacities of ethical reasoning. Our courses also teach students effective research, reading, writing, oral communication and critical thinking skills that prepare them for work in a wide variety of fields.

## Course Areas

### Introductory Course

RELI 100	Introduction to Religion (Select one from a variety of sections.)	1
RELI 200	Buddhism	1
RELI 201	Islam	1
RELI 202	Hinduism	1
RELI 203	Hinduism and Film	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 214	God, Nature, and Knowledge	1
RELI 215	Essentials of Christian Thought	1
RELI 216	Philosophy of Religion	1
RELI 217	Catholicism	1
RELI 218	Christian Ethics	1
RELI 220	Comparative Ethics	1
RELI 221	God and Morality	1
RELI 222	Images of Jerusalem	1
RELI 223	History Western Religious Thought	1
RELI 224	Global Religions and the Politics of Pluralism	1
RELI 225	Religion and Literature	1
RELI 226	Environmental Ethics	1
RELI 227	Bioethics: Issues in Ethics, Medicine, and the Life Sciences	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 232	What is Religion? Theories and Methods	1
RELI 234	Issues of Religion and Culture	1
RELI 235	Religion and Popular Culture	1
RELI 236	Drinking Coffee, Tasting God	1
RELI 237	Judaism in Film	1
RELI 239		1
RELI 240	Perspectives in Religion and Science	1
RELI 241	Religion and the Loss of Traditional Faith	1

RELI 242	Religious Naturalism	1
RELI 243	Religions of South Asia	1
RELI 244	Ghosts, Gods, & Immortals: The Taoist Religion in China	1
RELI 245	Marketing Chinese Religions	1
RELI 246	Death of Religion in Japan	1
RELI 247	Epic India: Gods and Goddesses	1
RELI 249	Pilgrimage in South Asia	1
RELI 252	New Testament and Christian Origins	1
RELI 253	Dying for God: Martyrdom from Antigone to ISIS	1
RELI 254	Religious Radicalism	1
RELI 256	Islam in America	1
RELI 276	Judaism and Masculinity	1
RELI 279	Judaism and Law	1
RELI 280	Religion and Constitutional Law	1
RELI 281	Religion and American Politics	1
RELI 301	Ethics in/and the Anthropocene	1
RELI 302	Humanism, Naturalism, Atheism	1
RELI 305	The Male Body in Judaism	1
RELI 307	Post-biblical Literature	1
RELI 310	Topics in Religion and Law	1
RELI 311	On Being Spiritual, Not Religious	1
RELI 312	Digesting Divinity: Religion, Food and Diet	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 350	Honors Thesis	1

## Major in Religious Studies

The religious studies **major** consists of at least eight courses:

One 100-level course in Religious Studies	1
At least four 200-level courses in Religious Studies	4
RELI 232                      What is Religion? Theories and Methods	1
At least one 300-level course in Religious Studies	1
Completion of Culminating Experience <sup>1</sup>	1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Culminating Experience can be either another 300-level course, an independent study project with a faculty advisor in the department or a senior honors thesis.

RELI 232 and 300-level courses will address the writing, speaking and information literacy requirements of the CASCC.

Religious studies majors are encouraged to pursue off-campus study either abroad or in approved domestic programs 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 four elective courses, at least one of which must be a 300-level seminar.

The **learning goals** of the religious studies major include:

1. Majors have general competence in key approaches and concepts in the academic study of religion.
2. Majors have the written and oral communication skills necessary to articulate ideas effectively and persuasively in religious studies.
3. Majors have the information literacy and critical thinking skills necessary to conduct independent research in religious studies.
4. Students gain a critical foundation for religious literacy.

## Courses

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

**Offered Both Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course will introduce students to the academic study of religion to provide a foundation for religious literacy. Multiple sections of this course are offered every semester, under a variety of titles.

### **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 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 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. 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 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 232. What is Religion? Theories and Methods. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; 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 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 236. Drinking Coffee, Tasting God. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course is an introduction to the mystical path of Islam, Sufism, and its transformation across time and place. It will cover Sufism's major figures, institutions, genres, its global expansion and adaptation, as well as its use of art, music, and, most importantly, coffee.

**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 238. Alien Speedboats and Saffron Worlds: Fantasy, Sci-Fi, & Islam. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course is a broad introduction to the fantastic and the supernatural in relation to Islam, both in respect to premodern Muslim literature as well as contemporary science fiction and fantasy. Students will analyze and reflect on the social, political, religious, and psychological uses of these genres past and present.

**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. Ghosts, Gods, & Immortals: The Taoist Religion in China. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

To live as long as heaven and earth; to make the body indestructible; to master the transformations of the cosmos; to control legions of demons and deities. These are the aims of the Chinese religion known as Taoism. This course examines Taoist beliefs and practices from ancient to modern times. 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. Death of Religion in Japan. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3, Other:1**

Religion in Japan is dead. Or, the rumors of its demise are greatly exaggerated. But one thing's for sure, Japanese religion is the province of the dead. This course examines how Japanese religions, which are supposedly dead or dying, supply the primary means for coping with life and death. 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 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 252. New Testament and Christian Origins. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

An exploration of the earliest Christians through the writings that later became the New Testament. We will examine these sources in the context of their specific social and historical concerns and consider the complex process in which some writings were included in Christian scripture while others were rejected. Crosslisted as CLAS 252.

**RELI 253. Dying for God: Martyrdom from Antigone to ISIS. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Early Christians were attracted to dramatic narratives of suffering—whether about spectacular deaths in the arena or extreme self-denial in the desert. This course explores the world of martyrs and monks and considers how ancient ideals about pain, gender, and sexuality continue to influence Christian thinking about holiness and sainthood. Crosslisted as CLAS 235 and WMST 245.

**RELI 254. Religious Radicalism. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course will examine the history of religious radicalism in the United States, focusing especially on religious challenges to American capitalism, democracy, and social inequality since the nineteenth century. Crosslisted as HIST 206.

**RELI 256. Islam in America. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course introduces the history of Islam and Muslims in America starting from the first enslaved Muslims who were brought to the colonies to the present. It will also review US political and social relations with Muslim majority regions as well as Islam's role in the discourse of American power.

**RELI 257. Yoga: Religion, History, Culture. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Far from a new age health trend, yoga arose in the Indian subcontinent two millennia ago. This course explores the religion, history, and culture of yoga by reading classical yoga texts; examining the rise of guru-based yoga lineages and the development of postural yoga; and studying yoga's recent global spread.

**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 301. Ethics in/and the Anthropocene. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

The cumulative force of human impacts on the planet has led scientists to name our era the Anthropocene or Age of Humans. This course will explore the profound dilemmas of living in a time of increased responsibility and extreme uncertainty. How should we think about ethics in this new context?.

**RELI 302. Humanism, Naturalism, Atheism. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

Examination of the various factors that have resulted in a loss of traditional faith and exploration of new religious perspectives grounded in humanism, naturalism, and atheism. Topics include emerging views of humanity; the interplay of artistic creativity and religion; the role of science; ecology and religion; and atheistic, ethical perspectives.

**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. Prerequisite: 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 312. Digesting Divinity: Religion, Food and Diet. 1 Credit.****Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3**

This course considers the relationship between food, consumption, and the construction of religious identity. Students will read a wide range of sources from antiquity to the present, exploring the ways in which food customs structure human belief and function as a point of communication between humanity and divinity.

**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, Rabbinics, 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 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 and others by permission of instructor.