## Important Dates

- **August 22nd** - 1st day of classes
- **August 31st** - Last day to register, add, drop with no grade
- **August 31st** - Last day to submit grade replacement request
- **September 5th** - University Closed/No Classes
- **October 10th** - Spring 2017 schedule of classes available online
- **October 10th-11th** - No Classes/Fall Break
- **October 25th** - Last day to withdraw from course
- **October 31st** - Registration for Spring 2017 begins
- **November 23rd-25th** - Thanksgiving Break/No Classes
- **November 24th-25th** - University Closed
- **December 7th** - Last day of classes
- **December 8th** - Reading Day
- **December 9th-16th** - Final Examinations
- **December 16th** - Summer 2017 Schedule available online
- **December 17th** - Commencement

## Department of Religious Studies

### Fall 2016 Undergraduate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 1200-UOL</td>
<td>World Religions: Past Objects, Present Identities</td>
<td>Online/Julie Hawks</td>
<td>History is innately tied to the way a community understands itself. Individuals and communities define themselves through objects that they interact with on a daily basis. Students in this course will explore ways in which social groups (religions and nations) commemorate the past in order to shape collective memory and identity. Topics may include memorials, monuments, landscapes, temples and shrines, food, currencies, stamps, reenactments, and pilgrimages. - <strong>Historical or Cultural Analysis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS 2000-001</td>
<td>Daoism</td>
<td>MW 12:30-1:45/Janna Shedd</td>
<td>An overview of China's major indigenous religion from ancient classic texts, such as the divination manual the <em>Yijing</em> (<em>I-ching</em>) and the famous <em>Duò De Jīng</em>, to today's modern revival of temple festivals and monastic life. We will explore Chinese Daoist culture, major historical developments, ritual practices, and figures of myth and magic. Our learning emphasis will be on developing practical familiarity with symbols, figures, and ideas commonly seen throughout China and increasingly in Western popular culture. - <strong>Historical or Cultural Analysis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS 2000-002</td>
<td>Religion, Nationalism, and Violence</td>
<td>MW 9:30-10:45/Joe Albertson</td>
<td>Cross-Listed with HGHR 3050 This course focuses on the historical relationship between religion, nationalism, and violence in the US and South Asia. Throughout the semester we will examine the material culture and interpretations of religion and nationalism as well as the categorization and justifications of violence. What makes people commit violence in the name of a nation or a religious group? What shapes the way we categorize people as “freedom fighters” or “insurgents?” How are religious ideologies, practices, and institutions politically mobilized and how do such mobilizations transform or manipulate religious beliefs, communities, and historical memories? We will work towards answering these questions through a variety of cases including Hindu-Muslim conflict in twentieth-century India and the revival of the Ku Klux Klan in the American South. -<strong>Cultural Analysis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS 2000-003</td>
<td>Religion, Culture, and Dinosaurs</td>
<td>TR 11:00-12:15/Justin Mullis</td>
<td>With the record shattering success of last summer’s blockbuster hit Jurassic World, dinosaurs continue to retain their role as subjects of enduring cultural fascination, admiration, fear, desire and derision. This class will ask students to consider the ongoing relevance of dinosaurs, via their role in popular films and literature, by encouraging them to think about the historical and contemporary meaning of these prehistoric beasts and how they function as modern day “totem animals” symbolizing contemporary human issues like religion, science, culture, race, nationalism, sex and gender; showing how what we often understand to be objective “scientific facts” about dinosaurs differs in other historical moments and cultural locations, suggesting that dinosaurs occupy a unique and paradoxical existence straddling the border which separates myth and reality. - <strong>Historical or Cultural Analysis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS 2000-004</td>
<td>Demons, Ghosts, and Jinn in Indian Religious Traditions</td>
<td>MW 3:30-4:45/Ashley (Zulovitz) Bryan</td>
<td>An introduction to supernatural entities found on the Indian subcontinent. Throughout this course students will discover that demons, ghosts, and jinn are not mere peripheral religious figures in India but instead are powerful forces that inform and confront dominant religious orthodoxies. Topics will include material from ancient texts to modern folklore and will cover a wide range of topics including the historical and religious development of ghosts and demons; conceptions of the body and popular beliefs about what transpires after death; ritual practices used to beckon or repulse these entities; and possessions, exorcisms, and communalism. - <strong>Textual or Cultural Analysis</strong></td>
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### RELS 2000-005: Magic in the Middle Ages
**MW 2:00-3:15/Hugh Goforth**
Cross-Listed with HIST 2001
Magic is, in some ways, a modern concept. In Medieval Europe, many of the practices that we define as magical were nothing special or unusual. Indeed, defining the difference between magic, religion and science, remains difficult. On the other hand, certain practices during the Middle Ages did begin to fall under a common definition as magical and simultaneously evil. This course considers an emerging meaning and significance of magic through a survey of topics such as popular magic, medical magic; astrology; charms; spells; talismans; necromancy; illusions for entertainment; alchemy and witchcraft. - Textual or Cultural Analysis

### RELS 2000-006: Life in the Middle Ages
**Friday 11:00-1:45/Hugh Goforth**
Cross-Listed with HIST 2001
What was life like in the Middle Ages? This course will consider major social institutes and cultural themes of Europe from late Antiquity through the Middle Ages to try to understand what life was like in Medieval Europe for the noble and not so noble. Starting with the history of its leaders, this course will use the scholarship of everyday life to deduce the experience of ordinary men, women, and children. Some of the major themes we will explore are mythologies and religious practices; warfare; knighthood, chivalry, and courtly love; feudalism and manorialism; and life in the Medieval city. - Historical or Cultural Analysis

### RELS 2000-UOL: The Jerusalem Church and Jewish Christianity
**Online/Franklin Trammell**
This course will trace the distinctive features of early Jewish Christianity, associated with the Mother Church of Jerusalem and its Jewish Christian descendants, through various sources, both inside and outside of the New Testament, from the 1st through the 4th centuries. These sources include the letters of James and Jude, the Revelation of John, the 'kernel' of the Gospel of Thomas, fragments from three different Jewish Christian Gospels, an old Jewish Christian version of Acts, fragments from the Book of Elchasai, a Jewish Christian novel known as the Circuits of Peter, and others. The focus will be on the defining features of early Jewish Christianity as we see them emerge in the sources and in the various locales to which the Jewish Christian mission first spread. - Textual or Cultural Analysis

### RELS 2102-001: Introduction to Asian Religions
**MW 2:00-3:15/Janna Shedd**
An introduction to three South and East Asian religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Shinto. Our emphasis will be on gaining familiarity and a working understanding of the major figures, myths, symbols, ideas, and practices of these religions in their cultural and contemporary contexts. - Textual or Cultural Analysis

### RELS 2104-UOL: Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament
**Online/Barbara Thiede**
There is no such thing as "The Bible." But there is a fascinating story behind the creation of biblical literature. In this class, you will learn why you are visiting a library (rather than reading a book). We will look at the linguistic, historical, and archeological evidence that helps scholars understand who wrote biblical literature and why. We will learn about the Ancient Israelites to help us understand the texts they produced. This course will not be a survey of the Hebrew Bible, but it will teach students how to approach, analyze, and understand its texts in academic terms. - Textual or Cultural Analysis

### RELS 2105-001: New Testament and Christian Origins
**TR 9:30-10:45/David Clausen**
A survey of the New Testament within its historical, social, political, and geographical background. Various Greco-Roman, Jewish, and Christian sources will be employed to augment our understanding of Jesus and early Christianity while textual analysis of the gospels, Acts, and the letters of Paul will shed light on their formation and purpose. - Textual or Historical Analysis

### RELS 2216-001: The Modern Middle East
**TR 9:30-10:45/Kathryn Johnson**
Cross-Listed with HIST 2216
An introduction to the history of this important and dynamic region. The course focuses on the issues that have defined the Middle East in the recent past and provides students with the historical context needed to understand the region, its peoples, and its conflicts in greater depth. - Historical or Cultural Analysis

### RELS 2600-001: Orientation to the Study of Religion
**Wednesday 3:30-6:15/Eric Hoenes**
Writing Intensive Required of all majors as early in their program as possible. Examines basic concepts, theories, and approaches that are involved in the critical, academic study of religion. Attention given to basic research materials and to standard writing practices in the discipline.

### RELS 3000-001: Why God Lies: The Deity of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
**TR 12:30-1:45/Barbara Thiede**
Who and what is the deity of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible? Angry, vituperative, filled with rage? Or just the opposite: Loving, compassionate, and forgiving? Is the deity omniscient and omnipotent? Or do we find the character of God frequently fumbling, bumbling, and stumbling? In this course, we will explore difficult passages of Hebrew Bible in which the deity appears to fib, connive, or otherwise lie to patriarchs, prophets, and the people. Warning: This is not a class in theology, but one in which is will require an academic and secular approach. We'll work to understand the texts of Hebrew Bible in their cultural and historical context, so our class material will also include the study and comparison of other myths and narratives of the Ancient Near East. - Textual Analysis

### RELS 3000-002: Dharma and Same-Sex Relationships in Hindu Traditions
**MW 11:00-12:15/Dan White**
Through classical and modern literature, film, and the works of other scholars, this course will examine same sex relationships (male/male, female/female) in India and the pervasive notion of dharma in that cultural context. From the epics through dharma literature, poetry, modern fiction and film, the course will ask the question of relationships between two people in terms of what it means to be Hindu and to love someone in a context that is not always clear about what is dharma (right, proper, virtuous, etc.). - Textual or Cultural Analysis
RELS 3000-003: Qur’an in History
TR 12:30-1:45/Kathryn Johnson
Cross-Listed with HIST 3002
This course is a non-theological approach to the study of the Qur’an as a literary text and its role in the history of Islam. Topics explored will include the history of the text and how it has been interpreted within the Sunni and Shi’i traditions. - Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 3000-004: The Islamic State
TR 3:30-4:45/Kathryn Johnson
Cross-Listed with HIST 3002
This course will investigate the history and ideology of the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL). Topics explored will include the evolution of Sunni theories of jihad, the ideological conflict between al-Qa’idah and the Islamic State, and the role of the Islamic State in regional conflict. - Cultural Analysis

RELS 3000-005: Bollywood and Religion
MW 2:00-3:15/Ashley (Zulovitz) Bryan
Cross-Listed with FILM 3051
This course will examine how “Bollywood” – the world’s largest cinema industry – portrays and reveals key aspects of religious traditions found on the Indian subcontinent. Religious experiences and perspectives with regards to communalism, caste politics, gender constructs, and family structures are just some of the topics that will be analyzed. Knowledge of any South Asian language is not required as all films will have English subtitles. - Textual or Cultural Analysis

RELS 3000-006: Women in Islam
TR 11:00-12:15/Hadia Mubarak
Cross-Listed with WGST 3050
This course will explore a cross-section of religious texts, interpretations, and normative practices on women in Islam. It will examine the construction of gender in Islam’s primary religious texts, examining issues such as sexuality, marriage, divorce, segregation, public participation, violence, and adultery. It will trace the development of gender issues in Muslim societies, ranging from the early Islamic period (7th century) to the modern period, including the rise of secular and religious feminism and women's initiatives to reform patriarchal practices in contemporary Muslim societies. - Textual or Cultural Analysis

RELS 3000-007: Jerusalem
MW 2:00-3:15/Shimon Gibson
Cross-Listed with ANTH 3090 & HIST 3002

RELS 3000-008: Religion and the Constitution
TR 12:30-1:45/James Bolin
Cross-Listed with AMST 3050 & HIST 3000
This course will explore the legal history of “freedom of religion” in the United States from the colonial era to contemporary controversies over same-sex marriage and abortion. Our focus will be on the First Amendment, including its origins and the development of the constitutional concepts of free exercise and nonestablishment of religion. - Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 3000-009: Legacy of the Holocaust
Tuesday 5:00-7:45/Judy LaPietra
Cross-Listed with HGHR 3050
The historical meaning and significance of the Holocaust will be explored, with particular emphasis on oral testimony. Through readings and discussions, we will analyze and discuss the behavior and perspectives of victims, bystanders, and perpetrators—and also our own perspectives, as students of the Holocaust. After reading what historians have written about the Nazi genocide, student teams will research the USC Shoah Foundation Institute’s collection of survivor testimonies. - Cultural or Historical Analysis

RELS 3000-009: Reading the Greek New Testament
TR 9:30-10:45/James Tabor
This one semester course is geared to learning the basic Greek grammar and vocabulary necessary to begin reading the Greek New Testament. No prior knowledge of Greek is necessary. By the end of the course students will be able to read comfortably basic texts in Greek as well as have the skills to do more advanced work on their own. - Textual Analysis

RELS 3011-001: Jesus
TR 2:00-3:15/James Tabor
An investigation of what we know about the historical Jesus and how we know it? We will critically examine all available early sources, both inside and outside the New Testament, as well as the range of scholarly views, regarding Jesus of Nazareth. Our goal will be to view Jesus in his cultural and historical contexts as a first century Jewish figure in his own time and place. - Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 3113-001: Biblical Hebrew I
WF 12:30-1:45/John Reeves
This course is the first half of an introduction to biblical Hebrew which normally encompasses multiple semesters of study. We will master the ‘aleph-bet,’ build vocabulary, and learn the rudiments of classical Hebrew grammar. During the final weeks of the semester, we will begin reading some simple narrative and verse selections drawn from the Bible itself. - Textual Analysis

RELS 3140-001: Religion in the African American Experience
WF 11:00-12:15/Julia Robinson (Dr. Rob)
Cross-Listed with AFRS 3050 & HIST 3000
Designed to introduce students to the evolution of black religious thought and culture in America from 1865 to the present. The religious traditions of Voodoo, Santeria, Christianity, Islam and the Nation of Islam are points of emphasis in the course. Issues of race, class, gender, identity, and violence will be points of discussion in light of black religious life. - Cultural or Historical Analysis
RELS 4000-002: The Other Cheek: From Disdain to Destruction of Europe’s Jews
TR 3:30-4:45/Barbara Thiede
Jews as decide, ritual murderers, agents of Satan, international conspirators, conning Shylocks, financial manipulators, subhuman – is the western world’s collective mythology about Jews a deeply rooted cultural pathology? How does one distinguish prejudice, Jew-hatred, and anti-Semitism, and on what theoretical basis? Did anti-Semitism pre-date the emergence of Christianity? This course will address these questions (and more). In the process, students will assess – and perhaps co-create – theories about the nature of European anti-Semitism.
- Historical or Cultural Analysis

RELS 4000-090: Religion and Social Change in Latin America
Monday 5:30-8:15/Eric Hoenes
Cross-Listed with SOCY 4090, ANTH 4622
How has religion helped shape society in Latin America? What roles have various religious institutions—be they Catholic, Protestant, Afro-Brazilian, or Indigenous—played in the changing social, political, and economic landscape of the region? We will examine how people’s varying theological commitments and religious practices have shaped their engagement with the public sphere from the colonial period through the present, and ask what consequences this might have for Latin America’s future.
- Cultural Analysis

RELS 4600-001: Senior Seminar
Wednesday 3:30-6:15/Sean McCloud
Required of majors in final year of studies
In the course, you read, discuss, and write about six recently published books that somehow fit within or are relevant to religious studies. By the end of the course, you should be able to: 1) Identify and articulate the main arguments of each book. How does the author want you to think about the subject matter being examined? What is at stake for the author? What does he fear? How does the author develop her argument? What questions and concerns are being articulated in the text? 2) Identify the strengths and weaknesses, possibilities and limitations, in each author’s argument. 3) Identify the relationship between style, method, subject, and content. Why does each author choose to write in the style they have chosen and how does it relate to their topic and argument? In terms of methods, what, for example, do interviews and ethnographic research do for the author and reader that a more “historical” approach does not and vice versa? 4) Be able to articulate the three objectives above in both oral and written assignments.
**Liberal Studies Courses:** Religious Studies faculty teach the following courses for the General Education Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LBST 2101-335: Western History &amp; Culture</td>
<td>TR 11:00-12:15/Barbara Thiede</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2101-336: Western History &amp; Culture</td>
<td>MW 9:30-10:45/Francis Penkava</td>
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<td>LBST 2101-337: Western History &amp; Culture</td>
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<td>LBST 2101-339: Western History &amp; Culture: A Good Life: What is it?</td>
<td>Tuesday 3:30-6:15/Celia Sinclair</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2101-H72: Western History &amp; Culture: A Good Life: What is it?</td>
<td>Tuesday 12:30-3:15/Celia Sinclair</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-335: Global Connections: Globalizing Asian Religions</td>
<td>TR 2:00-3:15/Janna Shedd</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-336: Global Connections: Globalizing Asian Religions</td>
<td>TR 12:30-1:45/Janna Shedd</td>
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<td>LBST 2102-337: Global Connections: Indigenous Lifeways</td>
<td>MW 9:30-10:45/Dan White</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-338: Global Connections: Indigenous Lifeways</td>
<td>MW 11:00-12:15/Tina Katsanos</td>
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<td>LBST 2102-339: Global Connections: Indigenous Lifeways</td>
<td>MW 12:30-1:45/Tina Katsanos</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-340: Global Connections: Indigenous Lifeways</td>
<td>TR 11:00-12:15/Tina Katsanos</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-341: Global Connections: A Good Life: What is it?</td>
<td>Tuesday 3:30-6:15/Celia Sinclair</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-342: Global Connections: Religious and Cultural Expressions in Asian Cinema</td>
<td>MW 11:00-12:15/Ashley (Zulovitz) Bryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-343: Global Connections: Religious and Cultural Expressions in Asian Cinema</td>
<td>MW 11:00-12:15/Ashley (Zulovitz) Bryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-344: Global Connections</td>
<td>Wednesday 12:30-3:15/Celia Sinclair: Heroes and Warrior Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-345: Global Connections</td>
<td>Wednesday 3:30-6:15/Celia Sinclair: Heroes and Warrior Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-346: Global Connections</td>
<td>Hybrid/Tuesday 12:30-1:45/Marcy Goldstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-347: Global Connections</td>
<td>Hybrid/Tuesday 2:00-3:15/Marcy Goldstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2102-348: Global Connections</td>
<td>MW 12:30-1:45/Kathryn Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBST 2215-335: Citizenship: The Ecological Citizen</td>
<td>TR 12:30-1:45/Tina Katsanos</td>
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**Department Chair**
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