

Department of Religious Studies

Fall 2021 Graduate Courses



RELS 5000-001

Religion and Language

TR 4:00-5:15 / Eric Hoenes

(Cross-listed with ENGL, ANTH & RELS 4320)

Introduces methods for analyzing language and communication in religion. Examines how different communities' uses of spoken and written language influence their religious experiences, identities, and practices.



RELS 5000-090

Religious Experience

Mondays 5:30-8:15 / Will Sherman

(Cross-listed with PHIL & RELS 4310)

How are we to understand accounts of extraordinary dreams, visions of angels, out of body sensations, and other religious experiences that may seem bizarre and impossible? This question has motivated a number of philosophers and scholars of religion, and the concept of "religious experience" has been central to a debate about how we define and think about religion. This course will introduce us to a number of approaches to religious experience: William James's pragmatism, phenomenology from Merleau-Ponty to Sara Ahmed, literary approaches, neuroscientific explanations, and historical critiques of the very notion of experience. Along the way, we will encounter a wide array of narratives of religious experiences, ranging from medieval mystical visions to contemporary sightings of UFOs.



RELS 6101-090

Approaches to the Study of Religion in the Humanities

Tuesdays 5:30-8:15 / Alex Kaloyanides

(Cross lists with MALS 6101-090)

How do social formations such as religion, or demographic variables such as race, class, and gender, work in individual lives and social groups? This course, which serves as the MA theory and methods course for Religious Studies and MALS, examines sociological, historical, anthropological, textual, and psychological approaches to humanities and social sciences subjects such as religion and provides the kind of interdisciplinary study that teach you to critically read across disciplines and to understand the research methods covered in humanities and social sciences generally.

For more information visit religiousstudies.uncc.edu