### Important Dates

- **January 8**: First day of classes
- **January 15**: Last day to add, drop with no grade
- **January 20**: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day / university closed
- **February 12**: Deadline to apply for May 2020 graduation
- **March 2, 2020**: Fall 2020 schedule available on web
- **March 2—March 7**: Spring recess no classes
- **March 16**: Last day to withdraw from course; grade subject to policy
- **March 30**: Registration for summer and fall 2020 begins
- **April 10—April 11**: Spring weekend no classes
- **April 28, 2020**: Last day of classes
- **April 29**: Reading day
- **May 1 – 2, 4-7**: Final examinations
- **May 8 – 9**: Commencement

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### RELS 1101-001 Intro to Religion

**T/R 10:00-11:15/James Tabor**

Religion influences all we think about everything. Whether an individual holds to religious beliefs or not we are all living in historical, cultural, and social worlds that are largely constructed by religious ideas and assumptions. In this course we dig deeply to ask about the kind of “world constructions” that religions represent, examining the origins of our most basic assumptions about the meaning of life, gender and sexuality, moral values, and cultural and social norms. This is an introductory course intended for students of any major or subject area. Understanding religion is one of the most important components of a good solid college education. - *Cultural or Historical Analysis*

### RELS 1200-001 Introduction to World Religions

**Online/Prea Persaud**

This course reviews the historical origins, central teachings, and devotional practices of some of the world's major religious traditions. Students will analyze the social, political, and cultural factors that come into play in the formation and understanding of religious traditions. - *Cultural or Historical Analysis*

### RELS 2000-001 Mexico: Culture, Religion, Food, and Environment in Oaxaca


*Spring break study abroad program.* Students will explore the intersections of culture, food, environment, and religion from the ancient past to the present in Oaxaca, Mexico. Using historical and anthropological approaches to religious and culinary traditions and practices, students will learn how culture shapes experiences of daily and ritual lives and feasts, and how different parts of life are connected through culture and environment. Students will immerse themselves in the sights, sounds, and flavors of Mesoamerica. - *Historical or Cultural Analysis*

### RELS 2000-002 Callaloo Nation: History, Culture, and Religion in Trinidad

**TR 11:30-12:45/Prea Persaud (Cross-listed with LBST 2102-342)**

*Spring break study abroad program.* This course introduces students to the indentureship trade, a labor system put in place after the abolishment of slavery. The indentureship trade in Trinidad brought workers from China and India to Africa, Mauritius, and the Caribbean where workers faced conditions akin to slavery. Students will examine the impact of this labor system in Trinidad, and the resulting mix of culture and hyphenated identities. - *Cultural or Historical Analysis*

### RELS 2000-003 World Religions in London

**TR 11:30-12:45/Will Sherman (Cross-listed with LBST 2102-341)**

*Spring break study abroad program.* Students will travel to the United Kingdom to observe the stunning array of religious diversity of London as experienced in everyday life. In the popular imagination, the city is dominated by Christian architecture, but we will see a city which Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and others have been claiming as home for generations. We will explore the concept of “religious diversity” in a globalizing world. - *Cultural or Historical Analysis*

### RELS 2000-004 Elementary Biblical Hebrew II

**TR 11:30-12:45/John Reeves (Cross-listed with LACS 1202-001)**

This continuation course is the second half of an introduction to biblical Hebrew encompassing two semesters of study. Although we will continue to study grammar and build vocabulary, we will concentrate this spring on the reading and translation of some simple narrative and verse selections drawn from the Bible. - *Textual Analysis*
RELS 2000-005
The Apostolic Fathers
MWF 12:20-1:10/David Clausen
Historians have assigned the term ‘Apostolic Fathers’ to authors of early Christian texts that date from the first and second centuries CE written by leaders of the early church. They wrote several texts that are as old as the writings of the New Testament itself. The Apostolic Fathers wrote a variety of different literary genres including letters, an apocalypse, a church order, and a matyrology. We will critically examine texts in the Apostolic Fathers collection and place them in their historical and social contexts within the wider early Christian world.
- Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 2000-006
Sugar Slaves
MWF 1:25-2:15/Pree Persaud
This course introduces students to the indentureship trade established after the abolition of slavery. This system brought workers from China and India to Africa, Mauritius, and the Caribbean where workers faced conditions similar to slavery. Students will examine the construction of this labor system, the effects it had on the groups of people who emigrated, the communities they developed, and their cultural and religious practices.
- Cultural or Historical Analysis

RELS 2000-007
Religions of China
MWF 12:20-1:10/Janna Shedd
An introduction to China's religious traditions from ancient oracle bone divination practices to the modern day cult of Mao and the rapid growth of Christianity. This course will explore the cultural and historical developments of many interconnected topics, including ancestral veneration, Chinese Buddhist schools, Daoism (Taoism), folk traditions, health practices, and popular devotion to China's many gods and immortals.
- Cultural or Historical Analysis

RELS 2000-008
Magic and Religion
Online/Barbara Thiede
Ancient incantations and adjurations, spells and amulets, magic words, prophecy, divination – in what ways can and do religious practices, ideas and ritual intersect with magic? To answer these questions (or, at least, try to), we'll begin by studying what “religion” and “magic” mean for scholars. Then we’ll explore how magic and religion overlap in both ancient and modern societies – including some of our own time.
- Cultural or Historical Analysis

RELS 2000-009
Life in the Middle Ages
MWF 9:05-9:55/Hugh Goforth
(Cross-listed with HIST 2231-001)
Discussion of the socio-economic underpinnings of the medieval world, with a focus on the daily life of and interactions between nobles and commoners. Topics include war, chivalry, feudalism, manorialism, law, justice, organized and folk religion, arts, education, and the rise of the city.
- Cultural or Historical Analysis

RELS 2000-010
Magic in Medieval and Early Modern Europe, 500-1700
MWF 12:20-1:10 /Hugh Goforth
(Cross-listed with HIST 2231-001)
As Christianity gradually took its place as a dominant cultural force, many common practices fell under suspicion as “superstitious”, sinful, dangerous, and diabolical. This course examines the processes through which “magic” develops into an increasingly feared and persecuted category.
- Historical or Cultural Analysis

RELS 2000-011
Creationism, the Bible, and Human Origins
MWF 11:15-12:05/Joanne Maguire
(Cross-listed with ANTH 2040-011)
Creation stories help us to understand our place in the universe, and evolution is our scientific origin story. In this course we explore the recurrent rejection of human evolution in favor of biblical literalism over the last century and a half. We will discuss various interpretations of Genesis and of evolution, what constitutes science, what constitutes religion, and their contested zones of overlap.
- Historical & Textual Analysis

RELS 2101-001
Introduction to Western Religions
MWF 10:10-11:00/Tina Katsanos
This course will examine the historical origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and the impact of globalization on their pre-modern, modern, and post-modern articulations. Special emphasis is placed on each tradition's response(s) to global environmental degradation and climate change. - Historical or Cultural Analysis

RELS 2104-001
Hebrew Scripture/Old Testament
Online/Barbara Thiede
There is no such thing as "The Bible." But there is a fascinating story behind the creation of ancient biblical literature. In this class, we will look at the linguistic, historical, and archeological evidence that helps scholars understand who wrote biblical literature and why. We explore the writers’ sense of humor and political agendas and discover how later readers reinvented biblical texts. - Historical or Textual Analysis
This course is an introduction to Hinduism, Buddhism, and Shintoism. Emphasis on the myths, stories, symbols, rituals, ideas, and ethical practices of these religions in their classical formulations and in their contemporary practices. - Cultural or Textual Analysis

**RELS 2105-001**  
**New Testament & Christian Origins**  
*MWF 1:25-2:15/ David Clausen*  
Our earliest written sources about the Christ-faith are contained in the 27 books of the New Testament. We will conduct historical and textual investigations of the gospels, Acts, and the letters of Paul and others in order to reveal the various ways in which they understood the Christ-event. We will consider such questions as: Why are the gospels so similar in some respects and yet so different in others? What are the obstacles for rediscovering the historical Jesus? What was Paul’s real message and why was it so often challenged?  
-Historical or Textual Analysis

**RELS 2131-001**  
**Islam**  
*MWF 12:20-1:10/ Kathryn Johnson (Cross-listed with HIST 2215-001)*  
An introduction to the practices and doctrines shared by the world’s 1.6 billion Muslims and the history of Muslim societies. Subjects explored include the development of the Sunni and Shi’i traditions, modern Islamist reform movements, and Islam in the United States.  
- Cultural or Historical Analysis

**RELS 2600-001**  
**Orientation to the Study of Religion**  
*Wednesday 2:30-5:15/Prea Persaud*  
This course examines the animating theoretical and methodological questions in the academic study of religion. We will consider the emergence and history of the field as well as prominent themes such as myth, experience, and culture. This course pays close attention to the particular research, reading, and writing practices that shape the field. - Oral and Writing Intensive.

**RELS 2120-001**  
**Christianity**  
*TR 4:00-5:15/Eric Hones*  
What is Christianity? How has the idea of what being Christian means changed over time and across cultures? This course will survey the global development of the Christian tradition from antiquity to the present, paying special attention to the diversity of Christian communities’ beliefs and practices. - Cultural or Historical Analysis

**RELS 3000-001**  
**Why God Lies: The Difficult Deity of Hebrew Scriptures**  
*TR 11:30-12:45/Barbara Thiede*  
Who is the God of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible? Is the deity omniscient and omnipotent? Or does God fumble, bumble, and mumble? In this course, we will explore difficult passages of Hebrew Bible in which the deity appears to fib, connive, or outright lie to patriarchs, prophets, and the people. We'll work to understand the texts of Hebrew Bible in their cultural and historical context and consider how western cultures have “read” the character of God.  
- Textual or Historical Analysis

**RELS 3000-002**  
**Buddhism in the Modern World**  
*TR 10:00-11:15/Alex Kaloyanides*  
Is Buddhism a philosophy? A mind science? An ancient mystical path? A modern construct? This seminar will explore how Buddhism has been understood in the modern era. Our primary source materials will range from Orientalist poetry to Zen essays to Insight Meditation manuals to 21st-century films to contemporary academic critiques as we discuss one of today’s most popular religions.  
- Cultural or Textual Analysis

**RELS 3000-003**  
**Legacy of the Holocaust**  
*Online/Judy LaPietra*  
(Cross-listed with HGHR 3050-003)  
The historical meaning and significance of the Holocaust will be explored, with particular emphasis on oral testimony. We will analyze and discuss the behavior and perspectives of victims, bystanders, and perpetrators—and also our own perspectives. After reading what historians have written about the Nazi genocide, student teams will research the USC Shoah Foundation Institute’s collection of survivor testimonies.  
- Historical or Textual Analysis

**RELS 3000-004**  
**Religion and Healing**  
*Thursday 2:00-4:45/Letha Victor (Cross-listed with HLTH 3000 & ANTH 3020)*  
What counts as illness? Who decides which modes of healing are legitimate? This course introduces students to encounters between religion and medicine, both broadly defined. Students will examine the ways that ethnographic methods can be employed to make sense of medicine, magic, illness, spiritual affliction, and healing across diverse social, cultural, and political contexts.  
- Cultural or Historical Analysis
RELS 3000-005
History of Witchcraft
TR 10:00-11:15/Pipkin
(Cross-listed with HI ST 3001-A02)
This course will help students develop an understanding of the history of witchcraft and magic in Western civilization from Antiquity to the modern era, with an emphasis on the era of the witch-hunts of the early modern period (1450-1750). We will explore broader cultural, societal, and political themes as they relate to attempts to understand the phenomena of witch beliefs. We will engage critically with primary documents as pieces of historical evidence. - Historical or Textual Analysis

RELS 3001(W)-001
New Technologies and Research in the Humanities
MWF 4:00-5:15/Kathryn Johnson
This class will focus on issues related to the integration of new technologies into research in the humanities. Students will be able to further explore the subject by participating as researchers in our ongoing human trafficking project during the semester. -Cultural Analysis and Writing Intensive

RELS 3115-001
Jesus
TR 2:30-3:45/James Tabor
An examination of what we know about Jesus and how we know it based on a historical examination of our earliest primary textual sources, particularly our New Testament gospels traditions. We will also examine the more important texts that have survived that are not included in the New Testament. - Historical or Textual Analysis

RELS 3129-001
Christian Controversies
MW 2:30-3:45/David Clausen
The medieval Christian church from the time of Constantine until the seven Catholic Crusades was replete with religious, political, and cultural controversy. What were the issues regarding the Trinity and Christ’s nature that drove wedges between the bishops and led to charges and countercharges of heresy? What were the controversies between kings and popes that led to mutual excommunication? What were the effects on Christendom from both the great barbarian invasion of the 5th c. and the Muslim conquests of the 7th? -Historical or Textual Analysis

RELS 3400-001
Applied Research/Field Work
Celia Sinclair
Internships in business or community-based organizations. Specific content based on contract between student, supervising professor and cooperating organization. Fulfills the [C], [H], or [T] requirement. Approximately 120 contact hours for the semester.

RELS 3210-001
Religion and Popular Culture
TR 1:00-2:15/Sean McCloud
(Cross-listed with AMST 3050)
This course examines some of the many ways that religion and popular culture interact and intertwine in the contemporary United States. We engage a series of case studies on topics such as ghost reality television, music and religion, fan subcultures, contemporary legends, and representations of religion in media. We will think about the boundaries of what counts as “religion,” what counts as “popular culture,” and what kinds of work such labels and activities do. We will explore how religion and popular culture shape and are shaped by issues of identity, community, nostalgia, memory, commercialism, capitalism, power, and meaning. -Cultural Analysis and Writing Intensive

RELS 4000-003
Jewish Fantasy Literature
TR 1:00-2:15/John Reeves
(Cross-listed with RELS 5000-003)
Rebel angels. A red-headed monster born from a rock. Wizards who fly through the air. A seductive succubus. Outwitting the Angel of Death. What connects these different fabulous characters, objects, and motifs? They all are part of the constructed dreamscape of Jewish imaginative literature emanating from late antiquity and the Middle Ages. This course studies a representative sampling of the tales and treatises that foreground the fantastic, the monstrous, and the uncanny in a variety of postbiblical Jewish texts. - Historical or Textual Analysis

RELS 4000-090
Religion & Social Change in Latin America
Tuesday 6:30-9:15/Eric Hoenes
(Cross-listed with RELS 5010, ANTH 4622/5622, LTAM 5000)
This course examines the roles that religion has played in the changing social, political, and economic landscape of Latin America. By reading historical and ethnographic case studies we will look at the ways that religious institutions have sought to address material and spiritual development throughout the region in the wake of social and political instability. -Cultural or Textual Analysis

RELS 4000-091
Religion in the Contemporary US
Monday 5:30-8:15/Sean McCloud
(Cross-listed with RELS 5000, AMST 4050)
An examination of topics that includes religion and capitalism, religion and the paranormal, the rise of people who identify with no religion, the entangling of religion and media, the growth of Neopaganism and Pentecostalism, and the persistent influence of social locations such as class, race, and gender on modern American religious practices - Cultural or Textual Analysis
Religious Studies faculty teach the following courses for the General Education Program:

**LBST 2102-335: Global Connections - The Middle East in the 21st Century**  
MWF 8:00-8:50 / Kathryn Johnson

**LBST 2102-336: Global Connections - The Middle East in the 21st Century**  
MWF 10:10-11:00 / Kathryn Johnson

**LBST 2102-337: Global Connections - Buddhism Across Borders**  
TR 2:30-3:45 / Alex Kaloyanides

**LBST 2102-338: Global Connections - Globalizing Asian Religions**  
Online / Janna Shedd

**LBST 2102-339: Global Connections - Globalizing Asian Religions**  
Online / Janna Shedd

**LBST 2102-340: Global Connections - Islam Around the Globe**  
TR 8:30-9:45/Will Sherman

**LBST 2102-341: Global Connections - World Religions in London**  
TR 11:30-12:45/Will Sherman

**LBST 2102-342: Global Connections - Callaloo Nation: History, Culture, and Religion in Trinidad**  
TR 11:30-12:45/Prea Persaud

**LBST 2301-335: Critical Thinking and Communication: Identity & Environment**  
MWF 9:05-9:55/Tina Katsanos

**LBST 2301-337: Critical Thinking and Communication: Identity & Environment**  
MWF 11:15-12:05/Tina Katsanos

**LBST 2301-338: Critical Thinking and Communication: Identity & Environment**  
MWF 12:20-1:10/Tina Katsanos

Monday 4:00-6:45/Celia Sinclair

Wednesday 2:30-5:15/Celia Sinclair

**LBST 2301-R91: Critical Thinking and Communication: A Good Life. What Is It?**  
Wednesday 5:30-8:15/Celia Sinclair

For more information visit religiousstudies.uncc.edu

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**Religious Experience**

**Tuesday 5:30-8:15/Will Sherman**

*Cross-listed with RELS 5000, PHIL 4590/5050*

When a friend tells you of a dream—or describes a mystical feeling, a vision, or a drug trip that they had—what do you make of that? This course examines different approaches to narratives of religious experience in order to practice how we may use these narratives to understand religion in society. We will consider a range of literary, historical, psychological, and phenomenological approaches, and examine accounts of "religious experience" that range from medieval mystical poetry to contemporary narratives of UFOs.

"Cultural or Textual Analysis"

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**Religious Studies**

**Tuesday 5:30-8:15/Kent Brintnall**

Born out of engagements with the AIDS crisis and struggles for LGBTQ equality in the 1980s and 1990s, queer theory uses the insights of feminism, critical race theory, trans* theory, Foucault, and psychoanalysis to understand the operation of power, particularly the power of moralizing and normalization. Scholars associated with queer theory have generated some of the most incisive, trenchant, radical, and influential critiques of gender, sexual, racial, and national identity.

"Cultural or Textual Analysis"