<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Dates</th>
<th>RELS 1200-001 thru 1200-008 World Religions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td><strong>Online Synchronous</strong> / Tuesdays / 10:00 / 11:30 / 1:00 / 2:30 and <strong>Online Asynchronous</strong> / Joanne Maguire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of classes</td>
<td>Understanding the news, deciphering memes, working with diverse groups of people, and analyzing history, politics, and ethics all require a grasp of the diversity of religions across the world. Students in this course will learn about a wide range of practices and concepts identified as &quot;religion&quot; while using that knowledge in weekly virtual problem-based discussion sections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td><strong>Cultural or Historical Analysis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to add, drop with no grade or change grade type (P/NC or Audit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>RELS 2000-002 Out of This World: Fantastic Journeys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline to apply for May 2021 graduation</td>
<td><strong>Online Synchronous</strong> / TR 11:30-12:45 / John Reeves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 01</td>
<td>This course provides an overview of a wide range of early visionary accounts that feature ascents to heaven, descents to hell, and voyages to utopias positioned in regions located on the other side of our world. All of the materials studied in this course stem from ancient Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Jewish, Christian, Zoroastrian, and Muslim religious literature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2021 schedule available on web</td>
<td><strong>Textual or Historical Analysis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>RELS 2000-003 Journey Into Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to withdraw from course(s); grade subject to withdrawal policy</td>
<td><strong>Online Asynchronous</strong> / Janna Shedd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29 - April 03</td>
<td>This class will survey the history, philosophies, and practices of Buddhism across Asia, with special emphasis on the religion’s cultural diversity. Topics will include the life of the historical Buddha; Buddhist theories of no-self and rebirth; applied morality; monastic lifestyles; practices such as meditation and ritual; and Buddhist supernatural beings. We will examine these and other topics in their local cultural contexts so that students will have the opportunity to compare regional differences in Buddhist beliefs and lived traditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring recess no classes</td>
<td><strong>Cultural or Textual Analysis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>RELS 2000-007 Magic and Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day of Remembrance</td>
<td><strong>Online Asynchronous</strong> / Barbara Thiede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 05</td>
<td>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? 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration begins for Summer and Fall 2021</td>
<td><strong>Cultural or Historical Analysis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 05</td>
<td>RELS 2102-001 Introduction to Asian Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
<td><strong>Online Asynchronous</strong> / Janna Shedd</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 06</td>
<td>An introduction to Hinduism, Buddhism, and Shinto. Emphasis on the myths, stories, symbols, rituals, ideas, and ethical practices of these religions in their classical formulations and in their contemporary practices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading day</td>
<td><strong>Cultural or Textural Analysis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 07 - 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examinations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14 - 15</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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</tbody>
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RELS 2104-001
Hebrew Scriptures
Online Asynchronous
Barbara Thiede
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. - Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 2105-001
Introduction to the New Testament
Online Synchronous / Fridays 11:15-12:05 / and Online Asynchronous / David Clausen
Our earliest written sources about the Christ-faith are contained in the 27 books of the New Testament. When were they written? Who wrote them? 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?
- Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 2120-001
Christianity
Online Synchronous / MW 12:20-1:10 / and Online Asynchronous
Janet McDaniel
This course takes you on a journey following the story of Christianity/Christianities. It begins with the Greco-Roman and Judean worldviews out of which it began, follows its growth over two millennia as it evolves, diverges, adapts, transforms, and syncretizes with the multitude of peoples it encounters and embraces. You will investigate not only the history of the tradition(s), but also its current, contemporary manifestations in a global, modern world.
- Cultural, Textual, or Historical Analysis

RELS 2301-001
The End of the World
Online Synchronous / TR 10:00-11:15 / James Tabor
A focus on how ancient views of the apocalyptic end of the world in the West and the East have fundamentally shaped and transformed religious traditions from ancient times into our own day. Special emphasis on how 20th and 21st century systems of contemporary millenarian and apocalyptic thinking function in our age of climate change, pandemics, and political unrest.
- Cultural or Historical Analysis

RELS 2600-090
Orientation to the Study of Religion
Online Synchronous / Tuesdays 5:30-6:45 / and Online Asynchronous
Alex Kaloyanides
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.
- Writing Intensive

RELS 3000-001
Ghosts, Demons, Fear, and Conspiracy in American Culture
Online Asynchronous
Sean McCloud
(Cross-listed with AMST 3050)
Recent polls show an increasing number of Americans believe in ghosts and demons, have heightened senses of fear, and that at least 75% believe in one or more false conspiracy theories. This class analyzes these subjects and various scholarly explanations as to why so many Americans currently hold these beliefs and fears.
- Historical or Textual Analysis
RELS 3114-001
Why God Lies: The Difficult Deity of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament
*Online Synchronous*
TR 11:30-12:45 / Barbara Thiede

Is the deity omniscient and omnipotent? Or does God fumble, bumble, and mumble? In this course, we will explore challenging passages of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible in which the deity appears to fib, connive, or outright lie to patriarchs, prophets, and Israelite people. We'll work to understand the bible's cultural and historical context and consider how the character of God is "read."

-Historical or Textual Analysis

RELS 3116-001
Paul
*Online Synchronous*
TR 2:30-3:45 / James Tabor

A careful consideration of Paul's letters in the New Testament, his message and mission in his own time, and his enduring influence on both the Church and society through the ages and into our modern era.

- Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 3115-001
Early Christianity
*Online Synchronous / Fridays 12:20-1:10*
and *Online Asynchronous / David Clausen*

The Christian church has been the most powerful religious, political, social, cultural, economic, and intellectual institution in the history of Western civilization. Yet the Christian movement did not start out as a culturally significant phenomenon; it began in a remote part of the Roman Empire as a small, lower-class group of followers of a Jewish apocalyptic preacher, crucified as an enemy of the state. How did Christianity become the preferred religion of a Roman emperor, and grow to embrace an empire? Trace the early centuries of Christianity from Christ to Constantine.

- Textual or Historical Analysis

RELS 3210-001
Religion and Popular Culture
*Online Asynchronous*
Sean McCloud
(Cross-listed with AMST 3050)

An examination of the interactions and intertwining of religion and popular culture. Topics may include, but are not limited to, popular literature, domestic rituals, material and visual cultures, space and place, fan cultures, media, and folklore. Emphasis on how religion and popular culture shape and are shaped by issues of identity, community, nostalgia, memory, commercialism, capitalism, power, and meaning.

-Textual or Cultural Analysis

RELS 3213-001
Jesus on the Silver Screen
*Online Synchronous*
TR 1:00-2:15 / Kent Brintnall
(Cross-listed with ENGL 3050 & FILM 3051)

An examination of cinematic representations of Jesus with attention to their relation to the historical, social and political circumstances of their production and to ongoing conversations about the character, meaning and significance of the Jesus story.

-Cultural or Textual Analysis

RELS 3225-001
Religion and Race
*Online Synchronous*
Wednesdays / 2:30-3:45
and *Online Asynchronous*
Julia Moore
(Cross-listed with AFRS 3050 & HIST3000)

An examination of the historical and theoretical influence of religion upon racial identity, discrimination, and stratification in society. A key focus in this course addresses the historical and religious legacies of Christianity in relationship to the racial constructions of white and non-white peoples.

-Historical or Cultural Analysis
RELS 3230-001
Religion, Race and Murder
Online Synchronous / Tuesdays 2:30-3:45 / and Online Asynchronous / Julia Moore
(Cross-listed with AFRS 3050 & HIST3000)
An introduction to the intersection of race, religion, and violence, this course explores how the religions of Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and various Asian traditions have been used to justify and even condone acts of violence. - Textual or Cultural Analysis

RELS 3235-001
Muslims in America
Online Synchronous
MW / 2:30-3:45 / Micah Hughes
A historical and thematic examination of Islam in America. Explores the intellectual cultural, social, and political roots of Islam as a central component of American religious history. Students will read about and discuss topics including race, slavery, autobiography, gender, civil rights, nationalism, and liberation in relation to Islam as a religious tradition.
- Cultural or Historical Analysis

RELS 3260-001
Buddhism in the Modern World
Online Synchronous / Tuesdays / 4:00-5:15 and Online Asynchronous / 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.
- Textual or Cultural Analysis

RELS 3400-001
Applied Research / Fieldwork
By approval / 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. Contact Celia Sinclair.

RELS 4000-090
Religion and Violence
Online Synchronous
Wednesdays 5:30-8:15
Micah Hughes
(Cross-listed with RELS 5000)
This course interrogates the critical interaction between religion and violence in modernity. It tests modern, secular assumptions that religion is inherently violent or is a particularly egregious "cause" of violence in the world. Students will read critical theories, study historical events, and engage case studies of violence and religion across geographical boundaries and religious traditions.
- Historical or Cultural Analysis

RELS 4107-001
Early Judaism
Online Synchronous / Thursdays 2:30-5:15 / John Reeves
(Cross-listed with RELS 5107-001)
Focuses upon the history and literature of the period during which rabbinic Judaism develops and evolves into the classical expression of Jewish religiosity; i.e., from roughly 450 BCE to the mid-600s CE.
- Historical or Textual Analysis

RELS 4600-001
Senior Seminar
Online Synchronous / Mondays 4:00-5:15 and Online Asynchronous / Letha Victor
This capstone course for majors develops students’ written and spoken communication skills and their ability to critically evaluate the content and form of scholarship broadly centered upon religion. Students learn to apply and synthesize scholarly approaches to new subjects and situations.
- Oral and Writing intensive
Western Civilizations

LBST 2101-336: Back to the Garden: Music Culture, and Faith
*Online Synchronous & Asynchronous / MW 10:10-11:00 / Janet McDaniel*

LBST 2101-337: The Cult of Horror
*Online Synchronous / TR 2:30-3:45 / Aman Agah*

LBST 2101-338: Magic and Religion
*Online Asynchronous / Barbara Thiede*

Global Connections

LBST 2102-335: Asian Religions and Culture in Global Media
*Online Asynchronous / Janna Shedd*

LBST 2102-336: Asian Religions and Culture in Global Media
*Online Asynchronous / Janna Shedd*

LBST 2102-337: Witchcraft and Haunting
*Online Synchronous & Asynchronous / Thursdays 11:30-12:30 / Letha Victor*

Critical Thinking and Communication

LBST 2301-335: A Good Life. What Is It?
*Online Asynchronous / Celia Sinclair*

LBST 2301-336: A Good Life. What Is It?
*Online Asynchronous / Celia Sinclair*

LBST 2301-337: A Good Life. What Is It?
*Online Asynchronous / Celia Sinclair*

LBST 2301-338: Sustainability and Identity
*Online Asynchronous / Tina Katsanos*

LBST 2301-339: Sustainability and Identity
*Online Asynchronous / Tina Katsanos*

LBST 2301-340: Sustainability and Identity
*Online Asynchronous / Tina Katsanos*

LBST 2301-341: Sustainability and Identity
*Online Asynchronous / Tina Katsanos*