

# Department of Religious Studies

## Summer 1 - 2021 Undergraduate Courses

**NOTE: All courses below are fully online.**

**Some considerations about online classes:**

- Online courses require students to be independent learners.
- Students need to be strongly motivated to work independently.
- Students will need reliable internet access.



### RELS 1200-081

#### World Religions

*Online/Will Sherman*

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 "religion" while using that knowledge to analyze the "world religions" as they're found in Charlotte's own cityscape.

- *Cultural, Textual, or Historical Analysis*



### RELS 1201-081

#### Introduction to Religion

*Online/James Tabor*

This course is an introduction to the academic study of religion. Whether one holds 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.

- *Cultural or Textual Analysis*



### RELS 2000-080

#### The Supernatural and American Culture

*Online/Sean McCloud*

Cross-listed with AMST 2050-080 Despite claims that modernity is a realm of disenchantment, contemporary American culture

continues to be haunted by ghosts, possessed by demons, and visited by alien others. In this course, we examine some of the multiple appearances and meanings of the supernatural in American culture. In this course, we will not be interested in assessing the "reality" of any supernatural entities. Instead, we will focus intensely on trying to unveil the "work" that such entities do in cultural, political, individual, and social spheres.

- *Cultural or Textual Analysis*



### RELS 2000-081: Intro to Asian Religions

*Online/Janna Shedd*

An introduction to Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, 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. - *Cultural or Textual Analysis*

**Liberal Studies Courses:** Religious Studies faculty teach the following courses for the General Education Program.



### LBST 2102-R81: Globalizing Asian Religions

*Online/Janna Shedd*

This course examines changes in practices, beliefs, and presentations of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism in the modern age. We will trace the impact of major historical figures, immigration, shifting worldviews, and popular culture on these religions as they are lived and imagined both in their home countries and beyond.

### LBST 2102-R82: Witchcraft in Africa

*Online/Letha Victor*

Explores the globally-situated importance of witches, spirits, and other magical beings across societies, religions, and time periods in Africa. Special attention is paid to understanding experiences of witchcraft, witch doctors, and healing in post-Apartheid South Africa.



### LBST 2301-R83: Sustainability, Environmentalism, and Identity

*Online/Tina Katsanos*

A study of sustainability as part of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. We will examine the ethical dimensions of citizenship and sustainability in political, social, and religious contexts. This course also includes a critical thinking and communications component which will be used to examine the ways in which citizenship and various religious identities have evolved to include environmental responsibilities. In particular the class examines the possibilities and the limits of sustainability in dealing with environmental degradation and global climate change.

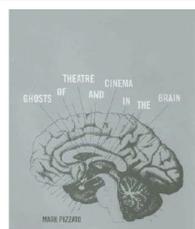
# Department of Religious Studies

## Summer 2 - 2021 Undergraduate Courses

**NOTE: All courses below are fully online.**

**Some considerations about online classes:**

- Online courses require students to be independent learners.
- Students need to be strongly motivated to work independently.
- Students will need reliable internet access.



### **RELS 4000-080/5000-080 Spirits Onstage, Onscreen and Inside the Brain**

*Online/Mark Pizzato*

*Cross-listed with Theater and Film*

This course explores connections between our brain's "inner theatre" and various cultural manifestations of spirits in drama and film. We will consider a variety of films, including student picks, related to the vengeful ghosts in Aeschylus' *Oresteia* (an ancient Greek trilogy), the romantic spirits in Kanami/Zeami's *Matsukaze* (a Japanese Noh play), the demanding patriarchal ghost in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (an early modern touchstone), and the communal spirits in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* (a modern American classic).

**Liberal Studies Courses:** Religious Studies faculty teach the following courses for the General Education Program.

### **LBST 2101-R81: Racism and Religion**

*Online/Julia Moore*

An examination of the constructed nature of religion and racism through a close examination of the institution of slavery and its impact on American Protestantism and Catholicism today.



### **LBST 2102-R83: Globalizing Asian Religion**

*Online/Janna Shedd*

This course examines changes in practices, beliefs, and presentations of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism in the modern age. We will trace the impact of major historical figures, immigration, shifting worldviews, and popular culture on these religions as they are lived and imagined both in their home countries and beyond.

**Liberal Studies Courses:** Religious Studies faculty teach the following courses for the General Education Program.



### **LBST 2102-R84: Witchcraft in Africa**

*Online/Letha Victor*

Explores the globally-situated importance of witches, spirits, and other magical beings across societies, religions, and time periods in Africa. Special attention is paid to understanding experiences of witchcraft, witch doctors, and healing in post-Apartheid South Africa.

### **LBST 2301-R80: A Good Life**

*Online/Celia Sinclair*

Examination of the inquiry: A Good Life—What is it? How does one live it?



### **LBST 2301-R82: Sustainability, Environmentalism, and Identity / Online/Tina Katsanos**

A study of sustainability as part of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. We will examine the ethical dimensions of citizenship and sustainability in political, social, and religious contexts. This course also includes a critical thinking and communications component which will be used to examine the ways in which citizenship and various religious identities have evolved to include environmental responsibilities. In particular the class examines the possibilities and the limits of sustainability in dealing with environmental degradation and global climate change.



## Summer 2021 Full Term Undergraduate Courses

### **RELS 3400-001: Internships**

*Departmental Approval / Celia Sinclair*

Research and in-service training 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. For more information, contact Celia Sinclair at [cbsincla@uncc.edu](mailto:cbsincla@uncc.edu)