Department of Religious Studies

Although many students from all across the University of Alabama enroll in Religious Studies courses to fulfill the University’s Core Curriculum “Humanities” or “Writing” requirements, some choose to major, double major, or minor in the study of religion. Doing so allows them to examine in greater detail the histories and functions of a wide variety of texts, myths, rituals, symbols, and institutions. In the process, they take small upper-level classes, get to know professors with national and international scholarly reputations, and acquire skills that enable them to describe, compare, interpret, and explain—skills that they will use long after leaving the Religious Studies classroom. And, as home of both the Aronov Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies and the Director of the cross-disciplinary Asian Studies program, students can also pursue a minor either in studying Judaism or Asia—past and present.

Religious Studies—also known as Comparative Religion, the Science of Religion, the History of Religions, or just the academic study of religion—is part of the human sciences (such as sociology, anthropology, etc.). It was first established in Europe as an academic discipline in the late 19th century (at the same time as such other fields as Comparative Languages) and, since the mid-1960s, has also flourished in US public universities because it is a non-normative field. Much as Political Science constitutes the study of the political process itself rather than the promotion and participation in specific party politics, the descriptive and cross-culturally comparative study about religion as carried out in the publicly-funded university is to be distinguished from religious (theological) forms of study that seek to advance specific religious viewpoints. Instead, the academic study of religion aims to examine the history and contemporary forms taken by religion(s) as well as study the history and contemporary implications of using the category religion to name aspects of human behavior.

Apart from requirements that apply to all students in the College of Arts & Sciences, the only prerequisites for Religious Studies students are an interest in cross-cultural work in different historical periods and a curiosity about the many ways that human communities, past and present, have devised for creating worlds in which to live and act.

Learn more about REL on the web at religion.ua.edu or at our Vimeo site: http://vimeo.com/uareligiousstudies and you can find us on Facebook at "Department of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama" or on Twitter @StudyReligion.

Religious Studies Major

212 Manly Hall
religiousstudies@as.ua.edu

Degree Requirements

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in religious studies must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total 120 credit hours.

Admission into the Major

Students are encouraged to declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama. Prospective double-majors should contact the religious studies office for additional assistance.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Major Courses

The major in religious studies requires the successful completion of the following 30 semester hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 100 or REL 105</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 102</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 490</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL track requirement**</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar is offered only in the spring semester. Students are expected to enroll during the senior year, but may enroll as early as the junior year. The Department holds seats in this class for REL students so please contact the main office (8-5271) to learn how to enroll.

**Students must earn 12 hours in one of the following three tracks: Religion in Communication, Religion in Conflict or Religion in Context.

**Track I: Religion in Communication**

Courses in the Religion in Communication track focus on the ways people communicate about religion in arenas of popular culture as well as in academe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 110</td>
<td>Intro To The Hebrew Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 112</td>
<td>Intro To New Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 124</td>
<td>Religion &amp; Film in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 224</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 228</td>
<td>Hy Of Christian Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 231</td>
<td>Religious Existentialism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 237</td>
<td>Self Society &amp; Religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 240</td>
<td>Apocalypse In Contemporary Fil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 311</td>
<td>English Bible As Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 340</td>
<td>Nietzsche and Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 341</td>
<td>Theories of Myth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 420</td>
<td>Gospel Of Mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 430</td>
<td>Religion and Literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Track II: Religion in Conflict**

Courses in the Religion in Conflict track emphasize the various ways in which religion and conflict overlap and intersect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 220</td>
<td>Survey Of Asian Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 223</td>
<td>Holocaust Historical Perspect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 226</td>
<td>African Diaspora Religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 234</td>
<td>Women And Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 240</td>
<td>Apocalypse In Contemporary Fil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 241</td>
<td>American Religious History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 245</td>
<td>Honors Hist. Religions of Amer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 321</td>
<td>Rel &amp; Ident in South Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 347</td>
<td>Jewish-Christian Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 410</td>
<td>Religion and Genocide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 415</td>
<td>Religion in the American South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 419</td>
<td>Myth Ritual And Magic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Track III: Religion in Context**

Courses in the Religion in Context track focus on collections of beliefs and behaviors in relation to the social contexts in which they appear and operate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 110</td>
<td>Intro To The Hebrew Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 112</td>
<td>Intro To New Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 124</td>
<td>Religion &amp; Film in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 220</td>
<td>Survey Of Asian Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 226</td>
<td>African Diaspora Religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 228</td>
<td>Hy Of Christian Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 234</td>
<td>Women And Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 236</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 237</td>
<td>Self Society &amp; Religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 238</td>
<td>Philosophes Of Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 241</td>
<td>American Religious History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 245</td>
<td>Honors Hist. Religions of Amer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 311</td>
<td>English Bible As Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 321</td>
<td>Rel &amp; Ident in South Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 341</td>
<td>Theories of Myth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 415</td>
<td>Religion in the American South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 419</td>
<td>Myth Ritual And Magic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 420</td>
<td>Gospel Of Mark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Variable Topics Courses

Depending on the topic, the following courses may be counted toward any track. In addition, students can earn a maximum of nine hours for any variable topics courses that address different course content.

REL 360 Individual Research 3
REL 361 Individual Research 3
REL 370 Adv Study Religion In Culture 3
REL 371 Adv St American Religion 3
REL 372 Adv Styd Mid East European Rel 3
REL 373 Adv Stud Asian Religion 3
REL 460 Individual Research 3
REL 461 Individual Research 3
REL 480 Seminar Religion In Culture 3
REL 483 Seminar Asian Religion 3
REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar 3

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Ancillary Courses

This major does not require ancillary courses; however, students interested in graduate-level work in the study of religion are advised to take either French or German as part of the undergraduate program of study. Prospective graduate students in religious studies should consult with faculty members concerning additional language study appropriate to their particular scholarly interests.

Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

Including REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar, a minimum of 15 hours must be earned in 300- or 400-level courses; at least six of these upper-level hours (usually two courses) must be earned in courses offered by the religious studies department.

With department approval, the equivalent of up to 12 credit hours can be applied toward the major requirement from relevant coursework done outside the religious studies department. Consult the REL Advisor to discuss the possibility of counting courses done outside REL toward your REL major.

Students can count a maximum of six hours of online REL courses toward the major or minor.

For more information on degree requirements, visit as.ua.edu/rel/degree.html. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be cleared for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, College, and University requirements.

Prerequisites

Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300- and 400-level REL courses is junior standing or permission of the instructor.

Special Opportunities

The department annually awards both Silverstein Fellowships (providing the opportunity to work in the department for one or two semesters, assisting in the main office and assisting professors with their work) and Silverstein Scholarships (awarded by the faculty each Honors Day based on a student’s GPA [REL majors and Judaic Studies minors are eligible]). To learn more about these funding opportunities, visit as.ua.edu/rel/stdekskscholarships.html. The department also conducts four ongoing lecture and discussion series, supports an active Religious Studies Student Association and hosts the local chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honors society for the study of religion. Find us on Facebook: “Department of Religious Studies at The University of Alabama* and the “Religious Studies Student Association” or on Twitter @StudyReligion.

Religious Studies Minor

212 Manly Hall
religiousstudies@as.ua.edu

Admission into the Minor

Students are expected to formally declare a minor by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.
The Asian Studies minor provides an inter-disciplinary opportunity for study and research focused on the variety of cultural regions of Asia (past and present), particularly South Asia and East Asia. The Asian Studies minor can incorporate courses in a range of areas, including anthropology, art history, Asian languages, history, literature, political science, and religious studies. Courses also frequently address international and cross-cultural issues intersecting with Asia. Through courses and events, the Asian Studies minor promotes awareness and expertise about the region and its connections throughout the world.

## Admission into the Minor
Students are expected to formally declare a minor by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

## Grade Point Average
A 2.0 grade point average in the minor is required. Please see the Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

## Minor Courses
The minor in Asian studies requires the successful completion of the following 18 semester hours:

Select two of the following:

- **ARH 254** Survey Of Art III
- **HY 113** Asian Civilization to 1400
- **HY 114** Modern Asia since 1400
- **REL 220** Survey Of Asian Religion

**Asian related electives**

- **REL 230** Language I
- **JA 301** Third Year Japanese 3
- **JA 302** Third Year Japanese 3
- **JA 306** Traditional Japanese Lit Trans
- **JA 357** Japanese Literature & Film
- **JA 390** Topics Japanese Studies
- **JA 410** 4 Yr Read/Write Japanese
- **JA 411** 4th Year Spoken Japanese
- **JA 481** Directed Readings
- **ARH 482** Directed Readings
- **REL 220** Survey Of Asian Religion
- **REL 236** Islam
- **REL 321** Rel & Ident in South Asia
- **RAH 356** Traditional Japanese Lit Trans
- **REL 373** Adv Stud Asian Religion
- **REL 438** Seminar Asian Religion

**Total Hours**

18

*Should be chosen from:

- **ARH 254** Survey Of Art III
- **ARH 455** Topics In Asian Art
- **ARH 456** The Arts Of Buddhism
- **CHI 301** Third-year Chinese
- **CHI 302** Third-year Chinese
- **CHI 350** Traditional Chinese Lit Trans
- **CHI 351** Modern Chinese Lit Trans
- **CHI 353** Conversation/Composition
- **CHI 354** Conversation/Composition
- **CHI 401** Advanced Reading and Writing Chinese I
- **CHI 402** Advanced Reading and Writing Chinese II
- **HY 113** Asian Civilization to 1400
- **HY 114** Modern Asia since 1400
- **HY 403** Chinese Civ. to 1600
- **HY 404** Modern China since 1600
- **JA 301** Third Year Japanese I
- **JA 302** Third Year Japanese II
- **JA 356** Traditional Japanese Lit Trans
- **JA 357** Japanese Literature & Film
- **JA 390** Topics Japanese Studies
- **JA 410** 4 Yr Read/Write Japanese
- **JA 411** 4th Year Spoken Japanese
- **JA 481** Directed Readings
- **ARH 482** Directed Readings
- **REL 220** Survey Of Asian Religion
- **REL 236** Islam
- **REL 321** Rel & Ident in South Asia
- **REL 373** Adv Stud Asian Religion
- **REL 438** Seminar Asian Religion

## Upper-level Residency
A minimum of six hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the minor must be earned on this campus.

## Ancillary Courses
This minor does not require ancillary courses.

## Additional Minor Requirements
A minimum of nine hours must be earned in 300- or 400-level courses.

With department approval, the equivalent of up to six credit hours can be applied toward the minor requirement from relevant coursework done outside of the religious studies department. Speak with the Religious Studies adviser to discuss courses outside REL that might enhance your minor in the study of religion.

Students can count a maximum of six hours of online REL courses toward the minor.

For more information on degree requirements, visit as.ua.edu/rel/degree.html. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, college and University requirements.

## Prerequisites
Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300- and 400-level REL courses is junior standing or permission of the instructor.

## Special Opportunities
The department annually awards both Silverstein Fellowships (providing the opportunity to work in the department for one or more semesters, assisting in the main office and assisting professors with their work) and Silverstein Scholarships (awarded by the faculty each Honors Day based on a student's GPA [only REL majors and Judaic Studies minors are eligible]). To learn more about these funding opportunities, visit as.ua.edu/rel/stfundscholarships.html. The department also conducts four ongoing lecture and discussion series, supports an active Religious Studies Student Association and hosts the local chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honors society for the study of religion.

Find us on Facebook at "Department of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama" and the Religious Studies Student Association* or on Twitter @StudyReligion.

## Asian Studies Minor
212 Manly Hall
http://asianstudies.as.ua.edu/

**Program Description**

The Asian Studies minor provides an inter-disciplinary opportunity for study and research focused on the variety of cultural regions of Asia (past and present), particularly South Asia and East Asia. The Asian Studies minor can incorporate courses in a range of areas, including anthropology, art history, Asian languages, history, literature, political science, and religious studies. Courses also frequently address international and cross-cultural issues intersecting with Asia. Through courses and events, the Asian Studies minor promotes awareness and expertise about the region and its connections throughout the world.
Judaic Studies Minor

212 Manly Hall
religion.ua.edu/judaicstudiesminor.html

Program Description

The inter-disciplinary minor in Judaic Studies provides students with the ability to focus on the history and contemporary issues of relevance to the study of Judaism. House in the Department of Religious Studies, the degree requires the completion of four foundational courses but also allows students to select among a series of electives, as well as transfer in courses from other Departments (e.g., from history, modern languages, etc.) that are relevant to the study of Judaism. The Aronov Chair of Judaic Studies, a faculty member in Religious Studies, is the adviser for this degree.

Admission into the Minor

Students are expected to formally declare a Judaic Studies (JS) minor by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama. Consult with the Religious Studies adviser in the Department of Religious Studies, who also advises for the JS minor. The Department of Religious Studies is the home of the JS minor.

Note: students can major in REL and also minor in JS so long as they do not "double count" courses toward these two separate degrees.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the minor is required. Please see the Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Minor Courses

The minor in Judaic studies requires the successful completion of the following 21 semester hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 100</td>
<td>Intro To Religious Studies or</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 102</td>
<td>Intro to Religions of the World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 105</td>
<td>Honors Intro Relig Stdy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 110</td>
<td>Intro To The Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 224</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 238</td>
<td>Philosophies Of Judaism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 223</td>
<td>Holocaust Historical Perspecti</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 347</td>
<td>Jewish-Christian Relations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 410</td>
<td>Religion and Genocide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 490</td>
<td>Senior Capstone Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 21

*REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar is offered only in the spring semester. Students are expected to enroll during the senior year, but can enroll as early as the junior year. Seats are set aside for JS minors so contact the REL main office to learn how to enroll.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of six hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the minor must be earned on this campus.

Ancillary Courses

This minor does not require ancillary courses.

Additional Minor Requirements

Students majoring in religious studies may not apply the same religious studies courses toward both the religious studies major and the Judaic studies minor. They must earn 21 hours of REL courses for the minor and 30 hours of REL courses for the major.

With department approval, the equivalent of up to six credit hours can be applied toward the minor requirement from relevant coursework done outside the religious studies department.

Prerequisites

Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300- and 400-level REL courses is junior standing or permission of the instructor.

Special Opportunities

The department annually awards both Silverstein Fellowships (providing the opportunity to work in the department for one or more semesters, assisting in the main office and assisting professors with their work) and Silverstein Scholarships (awarded by the faculty each Honors Day based on a student's GPA [only JS minors and REL majors are eligible]). To learn more about these funding opportunities, visit as.ua.edu/rel/sdeskscholarships.html. The department also conducts four ongoing lecture and discussion series, supports an active Religious Studies Student Association and hosts the local chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honors society for the study of religion.

Find us on Facebook: "Department of Religious Studies at The University of Alabama" and the "Religious Studies Student Association" or on Twitter @StudyReligion.

Faculty

Chair
McCutchelon, Russell T.
Professor
Trost, Theodore L.
Associate Professors
Jacobs, Steven L.
Ramey, Steven W.
Assistant Professor
Altman, Michael
Finnegan, Eleanor
Loewen, Nathan
Simmons, K. Merinda
Touna, Vaia

Courses

REL 100. Intro To Religious Studies. 3 sem. hrs.
Various methodological approaches to the academic study of religion, with examples of religious life and thought drawn from a variety of cultures. This course is required of all majors and minors.

REL 101. The Violent and the Sacred: Religion and the Problem of Human Suffering. 3 sem. hrs.
This introductory course examines the question of how do we academically study the socio-cultural constructs that we call "religion" and "violence" by examining theories & theorists of each as well as academic disciplines that study them, all in order to examine their possibly common elements and intersections. The course therefore examines theories of evil, violence, and hatred, using historical and contemporary case studies on such topics as terrorism and genocide.

Prerequisite(s): N/A
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: N/A.

REL 102. Intro to Religions of the World. 3 sem. hrs.
This comparative study of religions highlights complexity in world religions. Topics, such as texts, practices, and deities, organize the study of different pairs of religions.

REL 105. Honors Intro Relig Stdy. 3 sem. hrs.
Honors version of REL 100.

REL 110. Intro To The Hebrew Bible. 3 sem. hrs.
Introduction to the books of the Hebrew Bible in their historical setting, with emphasis on textual analysis and on literary forms and their function and use in the past and present.

REL 112. Intro To New Testament. 3 sem. hrs.
Introduction to the Hellenistic world of early Christianity, examining the early traditions about Jesus that were organized into the Gospels and the letters of Paul.
REL 124. Religion & Film in America. 3 sem. hrs.
Uses film as the way into understanding the religious scene in America's broad set of ideas, symbols, social movements, and institutions that affect and are affected by the wider American culture.

REL 208. Hinduism. 3 sem. hrs.
This course comprises a broad, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary introduction to the practices and conceptions that people identify as Hinduism. Prerequisite(s); None; it is recommended that students have already taken REL 100 and REL 102 but this is not required.

REL 220. Survey Of Asian Religion. 3 sem. hrs.
Introductory survey of the major religious traditions of Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto.

REL 223. Holocaust Historical Perspecti. 3 sem. hrs.
Examination of this event, and scholarship on it, from various historical and critical perspectives.

REL 224. Judaism. 3 sem. hrs.
A study of some of the leading schools and interpreters of Judaism and a review of modern developments including the Holocaust and the state of Israel.

REL 226. African Diaspora Religions. 3 sem. hrs.
Examination of African influence throughout the Americas (e.g., Candolmé in Brazil, Vodou in the Caribbean, African-American religions in North America), focusing on the interplay between religion, culture and politics.

REL 228. Hy Of Christian Thought. 3 sem. hrs.
The major theological orientations that have shaped Christianity in various social and historical contexts.

REL 231. Religious Existentialism. 3 sem. hrs.
Examines answers offered by such writers as Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Buber, Weisel and Tillich, to such questions as: What is the meaning of existence? What is the meaning of my existence? What does it mean to exist authentically in religious terms?

REL 234. Women And Religion. 3 sem. hrs.
The role and place of women in several religious traditions, ancient and modern.

REL 236. Islam. 3 sem. hrs.
An introduction to the traditions of Islam, including their history, texts, intellectual debates, and contemporary practices.

REL 237. Self Society & Religions. 3 sem. hrs.
A survey of psychological and social theories used to study religion, drawing on different cultural and historical data of relevance to the approaches surveyed.

REL 238. Philosophies Of Judaism. 3 sem. hrs.
Survey of major philosophical formulations of the nature and role of Jews and Judaism, written by select Jewish thinkers.

REL 240. Apocalypse In Contemporary Fil. 3 sem. hrs.
Examines contemporary portrayals of the end times in popular films.

REL 241. American Religious History. 3 sem. hrs.
This course offers a survey of religious themes and movements in American culture from the period before European colonization to the present, reactivate.

REL 245. Honors Hist. Religions of Amer. 3 sem. hrs.
This Honors course offers a survey of religious themes and movements in American culture from the period before European colonization to the present.

REL 311. English Bible As Literature. 3 sem. hrs.
Analytical and critical study of a number of books of the Bible; each book is examined and evaluated as an example of a particular literary genre. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

REL 321. Rel & Ident in South Asia. 3 sem. hrs.
Investigates the intersections of various social divisions and identities with religious labels and practices by analyzing case studies from South Asia.

REL 322. Tales from Asia: Told and Retold in Film and Popular Culture. 3 sem. hrs.
Movies, comic books, and video games, among other aspects of popular culture, can present adaptations of various stories associated with Asia. Analyzing retellings within contemporary popular culture, this core writing course investigates versions of two specific stories, the Ramayana and Journey to the West, to address issues surrounding myths and cultural identity and the ways people adapt stories for various ideological purposes, including the politics of translation, adaptation, and classification. Prerequisite(s); None
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: None.

REL 340. Nietzsche and Religion. 3 sem. hrs.
Examines the major writings on religion of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), with special attention to the relationship between religion, rhetoric, language, culture, and power.

REL 341. Theories of Myth. 3 sem. hrs.
Examination of the history of differing theories of myth, conceived as a sub-type of narrative.

REL 347. Jewish-Christian Relations. 3 sem. hrs.
Critical examination of the 2,000-year-old relationship focusing on areas of commonality and difference.

REL 350. Religion in Colonial Empire. 3 sem. hrs.
The academic study of religion emerged during the age of European empire, established itself in the United States during the Vietnam era, and took on a new role in the wake of 9/11. This course will explore the role of colonial contact and the encounter between Europe and its others in the construction of religion as a category in the West. As a famous scholar once put it, "religion" is not a native category. So, whence religion? We will attempt an answer through a study of colonialism in America, Africa, and Asia using theories and histories from postcolonial studies, colonial history, religious studies, and critical theory. Prerequisite(s); none
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: none.

REL 360. Individual Research. 1-3 sem. hr.
Supervised research of the student’s choice. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics. Speak with the professor before registering.

REL 361. Individual Research. 1-3 sem. hr.
Supervised research of the student’s choice. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours for differing topics. Speak with the professor before registering.

REL 370. Adv Study Religion In Culture. 3 sem. hrs.
Specific context will be determined by faculty responsible for the course that semester. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics.

REL 371. Adv St American Religion. 3 sem. hrs.
Specific context will be determined by faculty responsible for the course that semester. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics.

Specific context will be determined by faculty responsible for the course that semester. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics.

REL 373. Adv Stud Asian Religion. 3 sem. hrs.
Specific context will be determined by faculty responsible for the course that semester. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics.

REL 410. Religion and Genocide. 3 sem. hrs.
Explores the phenomenon known as genocide by examining its relationship to the religion in both its institutional and theological frameworks.

REL 415. Religion in the American South. 3 sem. hrs.
This course will look at the roles and implications of myths and rituals in the American South, using the UA campus as its own case study and talking about how notions of “the past” come to be invented in different ways for different social purposes through memorials and monuments. Along with learning about specific religious groups and practices that find their homes in the region, students will tackle analytical classifications and contestations of “the South” as an identifiable geographical and cultural space. "Because the course carries the Core “W” designation, writing proficiency is required for a passing grade. An important component of the seminar is the mastering the steps in the writing process, which we will be utilizing throughout the semester. These steps include brainstorming, drafting, peer editing, and revising. This course is limited to 16 participants. Prerequisites include two courses in Religious Studies or permission of the instructor. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course.

REL 419. Myth Ritual And Magic. 3 sem. hrs.
Examination of the theories and methods used to study the relations between religious narrative and behavioral systems. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

REL 420. Gospel Of Mark. 3 sem. hrs.
Investigates the Gospel of Mark through the disciplines of contemporary biblical, literary, and cultural criticism. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.
REL 430. Religion and Literature. 3 sem. hrs.
This course will examine religion and literature in light of what both discourses rely heavily on: namely, canon formation. From a critical starting point that views these two categories as socio-cultural products, we will discuss problems of authorship, readership, and canonicity with a particular eye toward the questions and implications of decisions that are made regarding what “counts” in literary or religious traditions. To that end, we will read novels whose status in a literary and/or cultural canon was questionable and contested for one reason or another. In some cases, the texts prompted obscenity trials; in others, the texts were published posthumously or with some debate over authorship; and in others, the texts blur boundaries of genre. In every case, however, the legitimacy or importance of the narrative is subject to careful and often controversial legislation. We will read several novels but will also trace critical interventions into these issues of authority, voice, and identity, with readings from thinkers such as Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, Gayatri Spivak, John Guillory, and Toril Moi. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

REL 440. Theories of Religion. 3 sem. hrs.
Examines classic and contemporary theories of religion such as functionalism, structuralism, Marxism, and psychoanalysis. Emphasis may vary with each offering.

REL 460. Individual Research. 1-3 sem. hr.
Supervised research of the student’s choice. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours for differing topics. Speak with the professor before registering.

REL 461. Individual Research. 1-3 sem. hr.
Supervised research of the student’s choice. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours for differing topics. Speak with the professor before registering.

REL 480. Seminar Religion In Culture. 3 sem. hrs.
Specific context will be determined by faculty responsible for the course that semester. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics.

REL 483. Seminar Asian Religion. 3 sem. hrs.
Specific context will be determined by faculty responsible for the course that semester. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics.

REL 490. Senior Capstone Seminar. 3 sem. hrs.
A seminar offered spring semester of each year for seniors pursuing a major or minor in religious studies or minor in Judaic studies. The professor and subject of the seminar rotate through the four areas of the curriculum. Required of all majors and minors in the Department. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics.