Religious Studies Courses (Classics and Religious Studies) (RELS)

RELS Courses

This is a list of courses with the subject code RELS. For more information, see Classics and Religious Studies (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) in the catalog.

RELS:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

RELS:1001 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam 3 s.h.
Introduction to sacred literature, beliefs, and rituals of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; historical and contemporary relationship between these three Abrahamic religions. GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as CLSA:1001, JSTU:1001.

RELS:1015 Global Religious Conflict and Diversity 3 s.h.
Origins, evolution, and history of indigenous and global religions; role of religion in causing conflict, promoting peace, and/or mitigating effects of conflicts; religious, cultural, and institutional systems, conceptual and otherwise, that produce and/or manage violence, peace, and social change. GE: Understanding Cultural Perspectives.

RELS:1030 Interrogating Artificial Intelligence: Exploring New Ancient Worlds 3 s.h.
Introduction to uses of artificial intelligence, machine learning and generative AI, in the understanding of past cultures; topics include the recovery of damaged writings, the evaluation and reconstruction of ancient art, buildings, and cities; understanding of patterns of trade, travel, and cultural exchange; study of ancient stories about artificial life and automatons in both ancient and modern contexts; consideration of the potential benefits and dangers of AI; exploration of applications of AI to the ancient world through a variety of creative exercises, for which no knowledge of coding is required.

RELS:1041 African American Religion and Popular Culture 3 s.h.
Examination of the role African American religions play in shaping 20th century and contemporary popular culture in the United States; students explore recent histories of Black Christianity, American Islam, and African diaspora religions; gender and race; cultural production in hip hop, jazz, rhythm and blues, literature, poetry, film, sports, cuisine, visual art, and style. Same as AFAM:1041.

RELS:1050 Big Ideas: Introduction to Information, Society, and Culture 3 s.h.
What is information? What does it teach us about societies and cultures? How is information used to shape societies and even personal preferences? What types of information are there and how can we understand and use them? Students work with faculty from multiple disciplines to investigate these questions using inquiry-based activities to build success in critical thinking and teamwork. GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning. Same as POLI:1050.

RELS:1070 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament 3 s.h.
History, religion, and thought of ancient Jews as recorded in their scripture. GE: Values and Society. Same as CLSA:1070.

RELS:1080 Introduction to the New Testament 3 s.h.
History, religion, and thought of early Christians as recorded in the New Testament. GE: Values and Society. Same as CLSA:1080.

RELS:1130 Introduction to Islamic Civilization 3 s.h.
Survey of texts, ideas, events, institutions, geography, communities, literature, arts, sciences, and cultures in Islamic communities and societies since the 7th century. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as HIST:1030.

RELS:1225 Medieval Religion and Culture 3 s.h.
Religion in Europe from classical antiquity to dawn of the Reformation; the religious element in traditions such as art, architecture, literature. GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as HIST:1025.

RELS:1250 Modern Religion and Culture 3 s.h.
European and American religious life from Renaissance to 21st century; focus on specific themes, such as secularism, regionalism, pluralism. GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as HIST:1050.

RELS:1350 Introduction to African American Religions 3 s.h.
GE: Values and Society. Same as AFAM:1250.

RELS:1401 Biblical Hebrew I 4 s.h.
Introduces students with no prior Hebrew experience to Biblical Hebrew, the language used to compose the bulk of the Hebrew Bible. Introduction to the Hebrew alphabet, vocabulary, and grammar, culminating with reading and comprehending passages from the Hebrew Bible. GE: World Languages First Level Proficiency. Same as CLSA:1401.

RELS:1402 Biblical Hebrew II 4 s.h.
Continues the language instruction sequence begun in CLSA:4901. Deepens understanding of Hebrew vocabulary and grammar, and the ability to read and comprehend passages from the Hebrew Bible. GE: World Languages Second Level Proficiency. Same as CLSA:1402.

RELS:1404 Introduction to Asian Religions 3 s.h.
Religious beliefs, practices in India, China, Japan. GE: Values and Society. Same as ASIA:1040, HIST:1610.

RELS:1415 Ancient Origins of Religious Conflict 3 s.h.
Examination of ancient origins of the world's modern religions, their diversity, and religious conflict worldwide; ancient Mesopotamian and Mediterranean religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; international events, fundamentalism, and protest movements. GE: Understanding Cultural Perspectives. Same as CLSA:1415.

RELS:1502 Asian Humanities: India 3 s.h.
Introduction to 4,000 years of South Asian civilization through popular stories. Taught in English. GE: Values and Society. Same as ASIA:1502, SOAS:1502.

RELS:1506 Introduction to Buddhism 3 s.h.
Development of Buddhism in India, its spread across Asia, and arrival in the West; exploration of diverse Buddhist philosophies, practices, and cultures; readings from India, Tibet, China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia. GE: Values and Society. Same as ASIA:1060, HIST:1612.

RELS:1606 Civilizations of Asia: South Asia 3-4 s.h.
Civilization of a vast region that includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. GE: Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues. Same as ASIA:1606, HIST:1606.

RELS:1670 Korea in the World 3 s.h.
Comprehensive and critical understanding of Korea's place in the world; emphasis on historical and sociocultural roots of various aspects of life on the contemporary Korean peninsula (both North and South Korea); comprehensive list of topics including cultural production (K-pop and film), religions, economy, gender relations, cuisine, politics, and prospects for reunification. Taught in English. Same as ASIA:1670, KORE:1670.

RELS:1702 Religion in America Today 3 s.h.
How American men, women, and children practice their beliefs in today's society. GE: Values and Society.

RELS:1810 Happiness in a Difficult World 3 s.h.
Religious backgrounds and unique spiritualities of Maya Angelou (an African-American Christian), Black Elk (a Lakota Sioux medicine man), and the Dalai Lama (a Tibetan Buddhist monk); forms of oppression that humans can experience as obstacles to happiness, and forms of liberation that are possible (social, political, economic, mental, emotional, spiritual). GE: Values and Society.

RELS:1903 Quest for Human Destiny 3 s.h.
Quests for destiny in terms of perceived options/goals and ability to recognize, pursue, achieve them. GE: Values and Society.

RELS:2000 Engaging Religious Diversity for Leadership and Entrepreneurship 3 s.h.
Practical skills in engaging religious diversity for workplace success; understanding religion's influences on perceptions and choices of business leaders, investors, customers, and coworkers; insight into how to build professional relationships with people from different backgrounds; clarity about your own ethical values. GE: Understanding Cultural Perspectives.

RELS:2068 Jews in Popular Culture 3 s.h.
Exploration of a wide variety of ways in which Jewish people represent themselves through production of cultural media. Same as CLSA:2068, JSTU:2068.

RELS:2080 Public Life in the U.S.: Religion and Media 3 s.h.
Examination of how the U.S. came into being through specific communication practices, how religion has helped and hindered that process; religious roots of the idea of the U.S., intertwined histories of print media and religion, role of religion and secularism in public discourse; U.S. pride as a nation in which diversity thrives in public discourse; communicative acts that created and sustained this country and also mark sites of discord, conflict, and confusion from the very beginnings of the U.S. to today; how religion has been a source of national identity and national division. Same as COMM:2080.

RELS:2122 The Place of Animals in the Hebrew Bible 3 s.h.
Why the biblical God permits humans to eat other animals' flesh; fundamental dietary differences between humans and the beasts. Same as CLSA:2122.

RELS:2152 The Gnostic Religion: Knowledge, Institution, and Salvation 3 s.h.
An introduction to Gnosticism, an early Christian heresy with a radical emphasis on salvation through knowledge, with ongoing influence and relevance for contemporary spirituality.

RELS:2153 Modern Jewish Cultures 3 s.h.
Cultures in diverse geographic settings as developed and expressed through media, entertainment, the arts, foodways, religion and ritual, and more. Same as HIST:2153, JSTU:2153.

RELS:2182 Ancient Mediterranean Religions 3 s.h.
Introduction to major religious traditions of ancient Mediterranean world; Mesopotamia, the Levant (Hebrew Bible), Egypt, Greece, and Rome; central aspects of mythology, ritual, and archaeology, individually and in comparative perspective; ancient Judaism and Christianity considered in their various cultural contexts; basic concepts for understanding cultural exchange; fundamental theories in the study of religion. GE: Values and Society. Same as CLSA:2482.

RELS:2240 Introduction to Jewish Studies 3 s.h.
Introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Jewish studies; topics include history from ancient origins to the present, sociology of Jewish life in the U.S. and internationally, ethical and religious principles and practices, Jewish embeddedness in non-Jewish societies, and controversies within and surrounding the Jewish world. GE: Understanding Cultural Perspectives. Same as HIST:2149, JSTU:2149, SJUS:2240.

RELS:2250 Jews, Judaism, and Social Justice 3 s.h.
Jewish frameworks for grappling with justice and ethics from ancient world to present day; emphasis on internal diversity of Jewish experience as well as interactions with dominant and other minority cultures. Same as GWSS:2050, HIST:2150, SJUS:2050.

RELS:2260 Hard Cases in Healthcare at the Beginning of Life 3 s.h.
Exploration of ethical impact that advances in biotechnology, including genetic, reproductive, and neonatal technology, are having in the medical arena and on humanity; consideration of the powerful influence that religion and spirituality have on people's ethical and medical decision-making. Same as GHS:2260.

RELS:2265 Hard Cases in Healthcare at the End of Life 3 s.h.
Preparation for future healthcare providers to make difficult ethical decisions regarding the end of life. Same as ASP:2265, GHS:2265.

RELS:2272 Gods and Superheroes: Mythologies for a Modern World 3 s.h.
Introduction to important roles that religious and cultural myths play in culture; their relevance through interpretation and adaptation to answer important questions like the meaning of life and what it means to be human; ancient myths behind modern superhero movies and how they are adapted to fit a new context; and how modern superhero movies fulfill functions similar to the way myths and religion reinforce or question religious ideas of the culture that creates them. Recommendations: some background in religious studies helpful.

RELS:2289 Jerusalem: The Holy City 3 s.h.
Religious, political, and cultural history of Jerusalem over three millennia as a symbolic focus of three faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; integration of several digital learning technologies, including digital reconstructions and Google Earth tours of Jerusalem. Same as CLSA:2489.

RELS:2330 Wealth, Inequality, and Islam 3 s.h.
Impacts of Islam and Islamic institutions on economic, religious, and political systems that produce wealth, use natural and human resources, design financial institutions, and structure business organizations. GE: Understanding Cultural Perspectives.

RELS:2361 Middle East and Mediterranean: Alexander to Suleiman 3 s.h.
Middle East and Mediterranean world from the era of Alexander the Great (d.323 BCE) to that of Suleiman I the Magnificent (d.1566); exploration of the ensemble of ancient, medieval, and early modern societies, cultures, and religions in their intersections in what was once termed "the Old World" the lands stretching from the ancient Persian Empire in the east to Morocco and Spain in the west. GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as CLSA:2461, HIST:2461.

RELS:2421 Coptic I 3 s.h.
Introduction to Coptic grammar and literature in several dialects, with introductory readings from the New Testament, monastic authors, and Gnostic and Manichaean texts. Same as CLSA:2421.

RELS:2422 Coptic II 3 s.h.
Continuation of CLSA:4911. Same as CLSA:2422.

RELS:2431 Biblical Aramaic 3 s.h.
This course introduces the basics of Biblical Aramaic grammar and syntax and provides an introduction to the Biblical lexicon. There will be extensive grammatical exercises, both in class and at home, as well as frequent opportunities to apply grammatical and lexical knowledge to the Biblical text. Recommendations: Biblical Hebrew recommended. Same as CLSA:2431, JSTU:2431.

RELS:2432 Targumic Aramaic 3 s.h.
Language used by Targums—Aramaic translations of the Hebrew Bible—for use in the study of interpretative traditions of later Jewish groups. Same as CLSA:2432, JSTU:2432.

RELS:2444 Cities of the Bible 3 s.h.
Survey of the history and archaeology of key biblical cities and the contributions they made to the formation of the Bible. GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as CLSA:2444.

RELS:2477 Ancient Apocalypses 3 s.h.
Exploration of the ancient origins of apocalyptic imagination; Jewish and Christian tradition of apocalypse—revelation or unveiling; apocalyptic versions ancient and modern; communities reckoning with crisis; imagining a world remade. Same as CLSA:2477, JSTU:2477.

RELS:2515 Introduction to Chinese Religious Thought: How Best to Live 3 s.h.
Overview of how different Chinese religious traditions are addressing central questions about human existence and the best ways to live. Same as ASIA:2515.

RELS:2550 Sacred Water: Tools for Climate 3 s.h.
Tools from religion/spirituality, art, literature, and history foster sustainability and resilience in time of water crisis; explore new ways to understand and repair relationships to water and environment amid intense storms, flooding, high water usage, and uneven drinking water access; introduction to religious/spiritual ways to know and relate to nature as a vital part of the community; experiential learning component focused on the Iowa River. Same as COMM:2550.

RELS:2620 Sex and the Bible 3 s.h.
Examination and analysis of the role of the Bible in contemporary culture; how different groups can read the exact same passages, yet reach different conclusions about how they and others should live. Recommendations: basic familiarity with the Bible or religion. GE: Understanding Cultural Perspectives. Same as CLSA:2620.

RELS:2674 Food, Body, and Mind: A Global Perspective 3 s.h.
Exploration of local, national, and global forces that shape food consumption, body image, and spiritual practices. Taught in English. Same as GHS:2674, GWSS:2674.

RELS:2725 Gender, Power, and Religion in Korean History 3 s.h.
Gender and religion as powerful forces in Korean polity, economy, and culture; exploration of how gender and various religious traditions, such as shamanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity, intersect within the context of historical upheavals as well as stability; diverse ways women, men, and LGBTQ individuals engaged with the doctrines, rituals, and everyday practice of religions to navigate constraints of life and carve out possibilities for empowerment. Same as ASIA:2725, KORE:2725.

RELS:2775 The Bible and the Holocaust 3 s.h.
Religious and philosophic implications of the Holocaust viewed through survivors' writings.

RELS:2834 Philosophy of Religion 3 s.h.
Historical to contemporary treatments of central issues; nature of faith, existence and nature of God, science and religion, ethics and religion, miracles, religious experience, interpretation of religious texts. Same as PHIL:2534.

RELS:2852 Women in Islam and the Middle East 3 s.h.
Women in the Islamic community and in non-Muslim Middle Eastern cultures; early rise of Islam to modern times; references to women in the Qur'an and Sunnah, stories from Islamic history; women and gender issues. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as GWSS:2052.

RELS:2877 Sport and Religion in America 3 s.h.
Sport as a religion; religiosity in sports; examination of religion and sport as connected in important ways in American society. Same as SPST:2077.

RELS:2930 Digital Media and Religion 3 s.h.
Influences of digital media on religion and spirituality today. GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as COMM:2079.

RELS:2947 Quest II: Sex, Love, and Death 3 s.h.
Examination of ancient and modern responses to horrors associated with death; includes films, readings from the Hebrew Bible, J.D. Salinger, and Ernest Hemingway.

RELS:2955 Human Rights and Islam 3 s.h.
Exploration of social forces, legal regimes, and cultural norms that have shaped discourse on human rights in a global context with reliance on a systems thinking framework; examination of intersections of rights, culture, society, and law in the last 2,000 years; consideration of interplay between institutional (formal) and societal (informal) powers that shape human rights norms; origins and evolution of discourse on rights across cultures and throughout history. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as IS:2955.

RELS:2980 Religion and Contemporary Popular Culture 3 s.h.
Varied topics on the intersection of religion and popular culture; may include film, television, music, and religions in North America or Asia.

RELS:2986 Religion and Women 3 s.h.
Sexism and its disavowal in biblical narrative, law, wisdom texts, Gospels, epistles; contemporary impact. GE: Values and Society. Same as CLSA:2986.

RELS:3055 Death, Dying, and Beyond in Asian Religions 3 s.h.
Survey of cultural and religious approaches to the dying process, post-death rituals, and conceptions about the afterlife in different religions in Asia. Same as ASIA:3055.

RELS:3145 Ancient Wisdom: Classical Islamic Medicine 3 s.h.
Explores the medical knowledge of ancient civilizations as transmitted and systematized in the Islamic Golden Age.

RELS:3190 Medieval to Modern: The Birth of Protestantism 3 s.h.
Same as HIST:3190.

RELS:3243 Pagans and Christians: The Church From Jesus to Muhammad 3 s.h.
Introduction to history of early Christianity, from time of Jesus to rise of Islam; focus on major movements, intellectuals, institutions in this period; growth of Christianity in different geographical areas including the Middle East, Greece, Western Europe, Africa; Christian relations with Jews, pagans, Muslims; conversion; orthodoxy, heresy, making of biblical canon; martyrdom; women and gender roles; asceticism, monasticism, sexuality; church and state; theological controversy and schisms; cult of saints; the Holy Land and pilgrimage. Same as CLSA:3443.

RELS:3245 Mythology of Otherworldly Journeys 3 s.h.
Examination of mythology of otherworldly journeys from earliest religions to Hellenistic period; historical context; comparison for common themes in their evolution over time; directed readings of mythological texts dealing with otherworldly journeys; ways in which past cultures confronted larger mysteries of life and death. Same as CLSA:3445.

RELS:3247 Banned From the Bible: Pseudepigrapha and Apocrypha 3 s.h.
Introduction to biblical Pseudepigrapha and Apocrypha; writings dating from third century B.C.E. to third century C.E. fictionally attributed to characters in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, or written as though they originated in the First or Second Temple periods, not included in Jewish or major Christian canons of scripture; English translations of documents from this period; key themes and interpretative techniques common throughout biblical texts that provide tremendous insight into the worlds that produced the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. Same as CLSA:3247.

RELS:3266 Angels and Demons 3 s.h.
History and development of angels, demons, and the devil in Jewish and Christian theology and literature. Same as CLSA:3666, JSTU:3666.

RELS:3267 Dissent and Rebellion in Islamic Societies: Was There an Arab Spring? 3 s.h.
Reviewing the so-called Arab Spring events that started in 2011 to understand and explain the uprisings and civil wars that transformed Southwest Asia and North Africa (SwANA) and influenced other wars in Africa, Ukraine, and elsewhere.

RELS:3325 Bioethics and Religious Diversity 3 s.h.
The impact of diverse ways of being religious on experiences of wellness, illness, and health care decision making.

RELS:3375 The Great Collision 3 s.h.
Major developments in architecture, sculpture, ceramics, and mosaics in Israel, Palestine, Syria, and Arabia from death of Alexander the Great to rise of Islam (4 B.C.E. to 8 C.E.); Greek and Roman influences versus local traditions; Roman Empire; growth of churches, synagogues, and mosques; identity and religion. Same as ARTH:3375, CLSA:3275.

RELS:3655 Zen Buddhism 3 s.h.
Same as ASIA:3655, HIST:3655.

RELS:3700 Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I 3 s.h.
Operational and financial aspects of nonprofit management; mission and governance of organization; strategic planning for effective management, including finance, budget, income generation, fund-raising. Same as ENTR:3595, MGMT:3500, MUSM:3500, NURS:3595, SSW:3500.

RELS:3701 Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness II 3 s.h.
Qualities for leadership of nonprofit organizations, including relationships with staff and volunteers; relationship of nonprofit and outside world; marketing, public relations, advocacy strategies for nonprofits. Same as MGMT:3600, NURS:3600, SSW:3600.

RELS:3704 Egyptian Art 3 s.h.
Survey of ancient Egypt over 3,500 years with emphasis on art and architecture in context; workshops, patrons, and audiences of Egyptian art; major principles, themes, and meanings of Egyptian art; relationship between writing and artistic representation; connections between art, kingship, and Egyptian view of the world; art and architecture of central elite and other social groups. Same as ARTH:3320, CLSA:3220.

RELS:3716 Greek Religion and Society 3 s.h.
From Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period, in context of Mediterranean culture; evidence such as choral hymn, inscribed prayers, magical curses inscribed on lead, architecture, sculpted offerings to the gods. Same as CLSA:3416.

RELS:3745 Twentieth- and Twenty-first Century African American Religion 3 s.h.
Twentieth- and twenty-first-century African American religious history; major political and cultural movements including civil rights, Black power, Black feminism/womanism, hip hop, and Black Lives Matter; their impact on Black Christianity and Islam in the United States. Same as AFAM:3245.

RELS:3808 Malcolm X, King, and Human Rights 3 s.h.
Religion and politics of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. in the context of U.S. civil rights and international human rights in West Africa and the Muslim world; emphasis on civil rights connections to Gandhi, the Nobel Peace prize, and other international experiences that have impacted Pan Africanists, such as Stokely Carmichael, who worked on human rights. Recommendations: international studies major or undergraduate standing. Same as AFAM:3500, HIST:3160.

RELS:3850 Perspectives on Migration 3 s.h.
Explores the origins and functions of migration in cultural, religious, political, and legal discourses over time from a plurality of disciplinary and experiential perspectives.

RELS:4154 Magic Machines: Technology and Social Change 3 s.h.
How media has altered culture, society, and human consciousness throughout history with focus on last two centuries (or modernity); how communication has been shaped by a variety of media (i.e., gesture, language, writing, printing, calendars, clocks, photography, telegraph, telephone, phonograph, film, radio, television, computers); 21st-century questions concerning technology and how few communicate today without aid of some kind of machine or technique. Prerequisites: 2 of the following are required: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170), (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174). Requirements: completion of two intermediate-level communication studies courses (prefix COMM) numbered 2000-2999. Same as COMM:4154.

RELS:4352 The Dead Sea Scrolls 3 s.h.
Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls; reading of the scrolls in English translation; examination of Qumran site archaeology; survey of broader sociopolitical context of Second Temple Judaism (586 B.C.E. to 135 C.E.) out of which the scrolls emerged. Same as CLSA:4452.

RELS:4893 Classical Arabic: Vocabulary, Syntax, and Grammar 1-3 s.h.
Arabic grammar, syntax, and reading fluency. Prerequisites: ARAB:2001. Corequisites: RELS:2955.

RELS:4930 Internship in Research on Rights and Remedial Justice 1-3 s.h.
Faculty supervised research experience in human rights remedial justice. Same as JSTU:4930.

RELS:4950 Senior Majors Seminar 3 s.h.
Issues central to academic study of religion.

RELS:4960 Individual Study: Undergraduates arr.

RELS:4970 Honors Tutorial 2-3 s.h.

RELS:4975 Honors Essay 2-4 s.h.

RELS:4990 Research With Faculty 3 s.h.
Research with a faculty member on a scholarly project; discussions of primary and secondary literature; regular small-group meetings. Requirements: religious studies major.

RELS:5115 Blue Humanities 3 s.h.
Exploration of tools from art, history, religion, and theory to navigate water crises; critical cultural approaches to understanding and repairing relationships with water and environment in time of intense storms, flooding, water usage, and unequal access to water; readings in vitalist and other religious/spiritual approaches to the world-in-becoming, including Indigenous and anti-extractivist epistemologies; emphasis on interdisciplinary and experiential learning centered on the Iowa River.

RELS:5200 Asian Religions in the Modern World for Graduate Students 3 s.h.
Introduction to religious traditions of Asia; addressing colonialism, racism, and orientalism in the study of Asia; framework for further studies; for graduate students interested in Asian cultures and religions.

RELS:5300 Genealogies of Religion 3 s.h.
Genealogies of the idea of religion, academic study of religion, and comparative study of religions; intellectual and ideological foundations of discipline; preparation to work skillfully across traditions.

RELS:5400 Colonial Knowledge Production and Its Discontents: Religion and the Academy 3 s.h.
An interdisciplinary approach to how religion has participated in creating “Western” ways of knowing and the modern epistemologies that undergird academia. Course topics include colonialism, post-and de-colonialism, epistemology, race, and gender.

RELS:6000 Advanced Greek Seminar arr.
Specific Greek authors, genres, and topics from the beginnings of Greek literature through fifth century C.E. Same as CLSA:6000, CLSG:6000.

RELS:6070 Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I 3 s.h.
Operational and financing aspects of nonprofit management; mission and governance of organization; strategic planning for effective management, including finance, budget, income generation, fund-raising. Same as MGMT:9150, PBAF:6278, SPST:6010, SSW:6247, URP:6278.

RELS:6075 Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness II 3 s.h.
Qualities for leadership of nonprofit organizations, including relationships with staff and volunteers; relationship of nonprofit and outside world; marketing, public relations, advocacy strategies for nonprofits. Same as MGMT:9160, PBAF:6279, SPST:6020, SSW:6248, URP:6279.

RELS:6125 Classical Arabic and Grammar 3-6 s.h.
Arabic alphabet, vocabulary, and syntax; poetry, legal texts, and media Arabic; converse in formal Arabic; for students with strong interest in classical Arabic, grammar, and original texts, or research students in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies or in professional programs.

RELS:6150 American Religious Histories 3 s.h.
Focused examination of the variety and vagaries of religious experiences in the Americas, 16th to 21st centuries. Same as HIST:6250.

RELS:6200 Seminar: Religious Ethics 3 s.h.

RELS:6300 Seminar: African American Religious History 3 s.h.
History of Black religions in the United States from the colonial times to the present, in relation to the African diaspora and how various forces of modernity have shaped Black religions and the cultures of Black people across centuries. Same as AFAM:6300, HIST:6200.

RELS:6343 Feminist Criticism 3 s.h.
Explore the rich terrain of feminist criticism within contemporary rhetorical and cultural studies; survey key interdisciplinary debates within contemporary feminist theory and criticism, trace significant trajectories within the history of feminist criticism, and consider how interdisciplinary feminist perspectives continue to shape humanities scholarship, including in communication studies and religious studies. Provides a strong foundation for exploring how feminism might meaningfully inform the art of academic inquiry and critical practice. Same as COMM:6343, GWSS:6343.

RELS:6345 New Materialisms 3 s.h.
Exploration of new strategies for rupturing persistent dichotomies of subject/object, representation/real, culture/nature, and active humans/passive things offered by theories of the vitality and agency of matter; introduction to origins of and developments in new materialisms; oriented to interdisciplinary inquiry and application to research in the humanities, broadly conceived; particular attention to actor-network theory, feminism, queer theory, infrastructuralism, and materialist theories of media. Same as COMM:6345, GWSS:6345.

RELS:6520 Seminar: South Asian Religion 3 s.h.
Topics in South Asian religions. Same as ASIA:6520.

RELS:6580 Seminar: Religion and Society 3 s.h.
Same as AFAM:6580.

RELS:6710 Seminar: Approaches to Human Rights 3 s.h.
Engagement with historical events, philosophical narratives, legal cases, institutional reports, lived experiences, and theoretical works to study origins, functions, and history of the discourse on human rights; application of a systems thinking framework to events involving treatment of women, Indigenous peoples, disabled persons, racial and ethnic groups, and other disempowered social groups across cultures and throughout history; examination of writings that attempted to explain key historical events and ideas relevant to human rights. Same as LAW:8575.

RELS:6723 Seminar on Islamic Law and Government 3 s.h.
Islamic legal and political legacy from formative period until modern time; critical analysis of logic and context of development; development of jurisprudential, legal, and political literature; overview of theories and practices of governance in Islam beginning with Caliphate system and ending with modern nation-state models. Same as LAW:9723.

RELS:7100 Readings in American Religions arr.

RELS:7200 Readings in Religious Ethics arr.

RELS:7400 Readings in Theology and Religious Thought arr.

RELS:7450 Readings in History of Christianity arr.

RELS:7500 Readings in Asian Religions arr.

RELS:7600 Readings in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies 1-3 s.h.
Advanced works and/or texts in primary languages (Arabic, Persian, etc.) in the broad field of Islamic and Middle Eastern studies. Requirements: proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic.

RELS:7650 Readings in Ancient Near Eastern Religions arr.
Ancient Near Eastern religious texts; focus on their place in ancient Near Eastern history and religious thought.

RELS:7900 Individual Study: Graduates arr.

RELS:7950 Thesis arr.