Religious Studies

Chair

- David Cunning

Undergraduate major: religious studies (BA)

Undergraduate minors: religion and media; religious studies

Graduate degrees: MA in religious studies; PhD in religious studies

Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/religion/people/faculty

Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/religion/

Religious studies is an invaluable aspect of a liberal arts education, whether students take select courses or aim for a degree. The Department of Religious Studies helps students gain competency in global religious diversity, which is essential for successful interactions with others in daily life and in the modern workplace, at home or abroad.

Students in religious studies courses develop a critical understanding of the important role of religious diversity and change in the world we inhabit. Students learn to analyze religion's profound influences on people and societies around the world. Religious studies courses also investigate religions' complex relationships with social justice, especially related to matters of race, class, and gender.

The broad geographical range of religious studies courses enables students to better understand global events, as they unlock religious wisdom and understanding of the past and present from the United States, Asia, Europe, and Africa. The faculty encourages a multidisciplinary inquiry into religious ideas, experiences, philosophies, cultural expressions, and social movements.

Religious studies courses further help students hone their essential analytical writing and reading skills while gaining cross-cultural communication strategies and new ways to critically analyze historical and current events. Many of the departmental courses (prefix RELS) are approved for the GE CLAS Core.

Employers in private industry, government, education, law, public policy, social work, the nonprofit sector, entertainment, and journalism value the ability of religious studies students to research and analyze pressing problems and social and political behavior, and to express significant ideas with clarity and sensitivity.

Faculty and students in the department participate in many of the university's interdisciplinary departments and programs, including the departments of American Studies; Classics; Communication Studies; Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies; and History; and the African American Studies and Latina/o/x Studies programs.

The Department of Religious Studies has a commitment to diversity including race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, religion, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Community Engagement

In addition to the many courses the department offers, faculty and students often participate in a variety of programming activities each semester. The department regularly organizes lectures on important themes such as race and religion, indigenous religion, and human rights.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Major

- Major in Religious Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

Minors

- Minor in Religion and Media
- Minor in Religious Studies

Graduate Programs of Study

Majors

- Master of Arts in Religious Studies
- Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Studies

Courses

Religious Studies Courses

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.

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: Diversity and Inclusion.

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:1060 Journey Through World Religions 3 s.h.
What makes a religion work, where do they come from, why and how religion(s) become structured in the lives of individuals and cultures, and how different cultures define and inhabit the religions that are practiced on their soil.

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 Culture.

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 Culture.

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; Values and Culture. 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 Culture. Same as AFAM:1250.

RELS:1400 Biblical Archaeology 1,3 s.h.
Introduction to the science of archaeology and the archaeology of the lands of the Bible to understand historical, cultural, economic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds of the Bible and biblical periods. Same as CLSA:1400.

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

RELS:1430 The Bible Matters: Biblical Studies for Our Modern World 3 s.h.
Curious about what the Bible is or how it was created, the biblical character that your friends keep referencing, where ideas like Satan and the apocalypse come from, or how the Bible influences our world today? Introduction to the Bible and its influences on Western culture; course format organized by question types to allow flexibility in learning.

RELS:1470 Contemporary Science Fiction: Beyond the Usual 3 s.h.
A different perspective on fantasy and science fiction; focus on authors "beyond the usual"; issues of race, gender, societal injustice, and reimagining tomorrow as depicted in speculative fiction by authors writing from more diverse perspectives.

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 Culture. 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 Culture. 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 Culture.

RELS:1765 U.S. Latina/o/x Religions 3 s.h.
Beliefs and practices of U.S. Latina/o/x, ways that their beliefs and practices are unique and where they overlap with mainstream U.S. society; beliefs, symbols, and practices among U.S. Latina/o/x on national and local level; field visits to local churches and religious sites; class visitors share insights. Same as LATS:1765.

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 Culture.

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 Culture.

RELS:1997 Harry Potter and the Religion of Fandom 3 s.h.
Exploration of the cultural impact of the Harry Potter series, particularly as it relates to fandom; opportunity to question religious significance of fandom and interpretation (e.g., are fandoms religious, how fandoms and religion intersect with consumerism, how fans reinvent the series, what is an author's responsibility to their fans); students delve into the wizarding world through excerpts from novels, fan-created media, and scholarly articles to explore these questions about religion and popular culture.

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: Diversity and Inclusion.

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.

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:2087 Narnia and Beyond: The Writings of C.S. Lewis 3 s.h.
Exploration of C.S. Lewis's use of fantasy to describe the indescribable, his efforts to empathize with human suffering while hoping in possibility of miracles, and his jargon-free narration of Christian beliefs for a war-weary country; Lewis's works that continue to attract attention, ranging from children's literature to science fiction to autobiography and nonfiction; as a professor of medieval and renaissance literature, Lewis's unique perspective on Christianity that led him to make use of imagery, metaphors, and narratives previously neglected by Christian thinkers.

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.

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 Culture. Same as CLSA:2482.

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 most people's thinking about life and death. 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; interactive course. 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 fulfil 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: Diversity and Inclusion.

RELS:2353 Love: Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, and Art 3 s.h.
Idea of love from influential texts of the past to various aspects of contemporary culture and experience (e.g., romantic love, mystical experience, digitally mediated friendships, family relationships); idea of universal human rights; cybersex.

RELS:2361 Middle East and Mediterranean: Alexander to Suleiman 3 s.h.
GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as CLSA:2461, HIST:2461.

RELS:2420 Almost Human: Exploring Identity in Science Fiction 1,3 s.h.
What does it mean to be human? What distinguishes humans from other sorts of entities, such as cyborgs and robots? What are the ethical implications of a post-human future? Students pursue these questions through exploration of science fiction in books, short stories, film, and television.

RELS:2444 Cities of the Bible 2 s.h.
Survey of the history and archaeology of key biblical cities and the contributions they made to the formation of the Bible. Same as CLSA:2444.

RELS:2475 Islam in America 3 s.h.
Survey of Islam in America; exploration of the roots of Islam in the Atlantic world and antebellum America to the current day; urban-based African American Muslim communities; interactions between African American Muslim women and South Asian Muslim women around issues of gender; focus on Islamic political experiences and artistic expressions to explore the connections between the civil rights movement, Black Power movement, and African American music genres such as jazz; creative ways in which Muslim Americans have engaged with hip hop culture—including rap, poetry, and protest—in the wake of 9/11.

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: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as CLSA:2620.

RELS:2674 Food, Body, and Belief: 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: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. Requirements: sophomore or higher standing. 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; Values and Culture. 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 Culture.

RELS:3003 Classical and Hellenistic Periods I 3 s.h.
Readings in Greek literature of the Classical and Hellenistic periods. Prerequisites: CLSG:2002. Same as CLSG:3003.

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: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:3267 Dissent and Rebellion in Islamic Societies: Was There an Arab Spring? 3 s.h.
The year 2021 is the 10th anniversary of the protest movement that started in Tunisia and impacted countries in Southwest Asia and North Africa (and beyond); students review, explain, and analyze these transformative events.

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.

RELS:3385 Early Modern Catholicism 3 s.h.
Same as HIST:3485.

RELS:3431 Gender and Sexuality in East Asia 3 s.h.
Examination of historical construction of gender and sexuality in East Asia from mid-19th century to present. Same as ASIA:3431, GWSS:3131.

RELS:3520 Religious Violence and Nationalism 3 s.h.
Study of religious ideologies that lead to violence in the name of nationality throughout history and in modern times. Same as CLSA:3520.

RELS:3550 Social Justice, Religion, and Spirituality: Faith and Belief Ignited 3 s.h.
Examination of some distinctively American traditions of religion, spirituality, and social justice, including women and men who have channeled their religio-spiritual beliefs into social justice in their communities; historical and anthropological focus; examination of U.S. movements (e.g., the Catholic Worker movement, the United Farm Workers movement, the civil rights movement, iterations of the feminist movement); direct involvement with the communities. Same as GWSS:3550, SJUS:3550.

RELS:3580 Religion and Healing 3 s.h.
Historical evidence of religious healing in Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Native American, and Shaman traditions. Same as ANTH:3113, ASIA:3561, GHS:3113.

RELS:3645 Buddhist Philosophy 3 s.h.
Theories and arguments concerning the Buddhist path to enlightenment. Same as PHIL:3845.

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.

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: Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter 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:4001 Biblical Hebrew I 3-4 s.h.
Same as CLSA:4901.

RELS:4002 Biblical Hebrew II 3 s.h.
Same as CLSA:4902.

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: (4 of the following are required: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170), (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130), (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174), COMM:1305, COMM:1306) and (2 of the following are required: COMM:1816, COMM:1818, COMM:1819, COMM:1830, COMM:1840, COMM:1845, COMM:1898, COMM:2010, COMM:2011, COMM:2020, COMM:2030, COMM:2040, COMM:2041, COMM:2042, COMM:2044, COMM:2045, COMM:2048, COMM:2053, COMM:2054, COMM:2057, COMM:2060, COMM:2064, COMM:2065, COMM:2069, COMM:2070, COMM:2072, COMM:2075, COMM:2076, COMM:2077, COMM:2078, COMM:2079, COMM:2080, COMM:2083, COMM:2085, COMM:2086, COMM:2088, COMM:2089, COMM:2090, COMM:2091, COMM:2248). Same as COMM:4154.

RELS:4155 Religious Conflict: Early Modern Period 3 s.h.
Religious conflict among European Christians (Catholics, Lutherans, Calvinists, and Radicals), as well as between Christians and non-Christians from the Late Middle Ages through the Reformation of the 16th century and beyond. Same as HIST:4455.

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.

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:5001 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:5903.

RELS:5002 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:5904.

RELS:5100 Teaching and Public Engagement 1-3 s.h.
Critical importance of educating people about religion within increasingly globalized and digitized contexts; preparation to excel as classroom teachers and facilitators of cross-religious dialogue in public sphere.

RELS:5200 Asian Religions in the Modern World for Graduate Students 3 s.h.
Introduction to religious traditions of Asia; framework for further studies in Asian religions; preparation to design and teach a world religions course; for Asian studies and religious studies graduate students.

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 The Politics of Everyday Life 3 s.h.
Introduction to concepts of "everyday life" as a mainstay of cultural studies and a theoretical frame useful in diverse fields.

RELS:6040 Tiberius to Trajan arr.
Authors and topics from the first and second centuries C.E. Same as CLSL:6013.

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 HMP:6360, 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. Requirements: for HMP:6365—HMP:6360 or MGMT:9150. Same as HMP:6365, 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: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:6350 Gender and Religion 3 s.h.
What contemporary religious and spiritual groups and their members believe about sex, sexuality, and gender; how they define and redefine what it means to be a "man" and a "woman"; exploration of contemporary "conservative" and "progressive" cosmologies and theologies; underlying beliefs that construct these perspectives and the impact on individual and group practices; broader implications of individual and group beliefs and practices on national and global policies. Same as GWSS:6350.

RELS:6475 Seminar: Reformation Culture arr.
Culture and thought of 16th-century Europe. Same as HIST:6475.

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.