

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELIG)

**Any experimental courses offered by RELIG can be found at:**

registrar.iastate.edu/faculty-staff/courses/explisting/ (<http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/faculty-staff/courses/explisting/>)

**Courses primarily for undergraduates:**

**RELIG 205: World Religions**

(Cross-listed with WLC). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.

An introduction to religious studies – the academic study of religion. Religions from around the world will be discussed, including their myths, rituals, beliefs, values, and social forms. Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 210: Religion in America**

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.

Introductory study of the major beliefs, practices, and institutions of American Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism, and Islam with emphasis on the diversity of religion in America, and attention to issues of gender, race, and class. Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**RELIG 220: Introduction to the Bible**

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.

Basic overview of the contents of the Old and New Testament in light of their ancient socio-historical background, and with attention to a variety of interpretations and relevance to modern American society.

**RELIG 242: History of Christianity: Early to Medieval**

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.

A survey of the major historical developments in Christian thought and practice that shaped Christianity from the time of Jesus through the late medieval period. Attention given to significant persons and major events, including those involving relations with Judaism and Islam. Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 243: History of Christianity: Modern**

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.

A survey of the major figures, events, and issues that shaped the historical development of Christianity from the Reformation era to the present. Explores the diverse social, political, and cultural movements within Christianity as a global religion.

**RELIG 277: Religion and Society**

(Cross-listed with SOC). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: SOC 134*

Religion as a human construction, institution, activity, and identity. Connections between religion and other social institutions and processes.

**RELIG 321: The Hebrew Bible**

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.

An in-depth study of the literature and religion of ancient Israel in light of recent archaeological discoveries, research about the ancient Near East, and a variety of interpretations.

**RELIG 322: The New Testament**

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

A detailed survey of the sacred scriptures of Christianity in light of recent archaeological discoveries and historical research about their Greco-Roman and Jewish background.

**RELIG 328: Native American Religions**

Cr. 3.

An introduction to the beliefs and practices of Native American religious traditions, with attention to cultural, historical, and political contexts. Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**RELIG 332: Catholicism**

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.

An explanation of the beliefs, spirit, and practices of Roman Catholicism, including its understanding of God, sacramentality, the human person, and community, and its relationship to other forms of Christianity and other world religions.

**RELIG 334: Africana Religions**

(Cross-listed with AF AM). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

*Prereq: Prior course work in Religious Studies or African American Studies recommended.*

A focused study of the religious histories and cultures of West Africans and their descendants in the Americas. Topics include West African traditions, Christianity, Islam, and indigenous Afro-Caribbean religions, with attention to their gendered, theological, and cultural dimensions. Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**RELIG 336: Religion and Gender**

(Cross-listed with WGS). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

*Prereq: Any course in RELIG or WGS*

Gender and sexuality in the historical and contemporary contexts of various religious traditions. Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**RELIG 339: Goddess Religions**

(Cross-listed with WGS). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Focal study of selected global Goddess traditions in context, including American Goddess spirituality. Historical and cross-cultural images, identities, and discourses of female divinity.

**RELIG 340: Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion**

(Dual-listed with RELIG 540). (Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: ANTHR 201 or ANTHR 306*

Survey of global religious belief and practice from an anthropological perspective. Emphasis on myth and ritual, shamanism, magic, witchcraft, beliefs in spirits, conceptions of the soul, mind and body relationships, and healing and therapeutic practices. Discussion of religious response to dramatic political and social change; effects of globalization on religious practice.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 342: Religion and U.S. Latino/a Literature**

(Cross-listed with US LS). (3-0) Cr. 3. Alt. S., offered odd-numbered years.

A study of the religious behavior and attitudes expressed in the literature of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans and other groups of people living in the U.S. who trace their ancestry to the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**RELIG 348: Psychology of Religion**

(Cross-listed with PSYCH). (3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: Nine credits in psychology*

Survey of psychological theory and research investigating religious and spiritual attitudes, beliefs and practices.

**RELIG 349: Cognitive Science of Religion**

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: ENGL 250 and 3 credits in RELIG or PSYCH*

Using case studies from the world's religions, this course examines cross-culturally occurring forms of religious expression in light of humanistic and scientific researches in the cognitive science of religion (CSR). Topics may include beliefs in god and other supernatural beings, afterlife beliefs, morality, rituals, and religious experiences, among others.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 350: Philosophy of Religion**

(Cross-listed with PHIL). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

*Prereq: 6 credits in philosophy*

The value and truth of religious life and belief. Mystical experience; religious faith and language; arguments for God's existence; the problem of evil; miracles; and religion and morality. Historical and contemporary readings.

**RELIG 352: Religions of India**

(Cross-listed with WLC). (3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: Credit in ENG 250*

Study of texts, practices, beliefs, historical development, and mutual influence of a variety of the religious traditions of India. Emphasis on Vedic religion and the diversity of traditions of Classical Hinduism; survey of Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, and South Asian Islamic traditions.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 353: Buddhism**

(Cross-listed with PHIL, WLC). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: PHIL 201 or PHIL 230*

Central Buddhist positions and arguments on topics such as personal and social ethics, moral psychology, metaphysics, and the relationship between Buddhist thought and the sciences. Differences between Buddhist and Western approaches to philosophy.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 358: Islam**

(Cross-listed with WLC). (3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: Credit in ENG 250*

An introduction to Islamic religion, culture, and society from its origins to the present. Topics include the Quran, the Prophet Muhammad, Islamic theology and philosophy, Islamic history, and Islam in America.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 359: The Quran**

(Cross-listed with WLC). (3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: Credit in ENG 250*

A study of the Quran, the sacred text of Islam, with attention to its history, its major themes, and the diverse ways it is interpreted and applied.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 360: Religion and Ethics**

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Investigation of comparative religious ethical theories and approaches to contemporary moral issues. Exploration of the connections between religious belief, identity, and moral practice.

**RELIG 367: Christianity in the Roman Empire**

(Cross-listed with CL ST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

An historical introduction to the rise of Christianity in the Roman empire, with special attention to the impact of Greco-Roman culture on the thought and practice of Christians and the interaction of early Christians with their contemporaries.

**RELIG 368: Religions of Ancient Greece and Rome**

(Cross-listed with CL ST). Cr. 3.

Nature, origins and development of religious beliefs and practices in ancient Greece and Rome from earliest times up to the rise of Christianity. Roles of divinities and rituals in lives of individuals and families and the governing of city-states and empires. Emphasis on historical contexts of the Graeco-Roman world and influences of neighboring cultures in Africa and Asia. None.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 370: Religion and Politics**

(Cross-listed with POL S). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: Sophomore classification.*

The interaction of religion and politics in the U.S. from both an historical and contemporary perspective, as well as the role of religion in politics internationally.

**RELIG 380: Catholic Social Thought**

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Examines biblical roots of and major developments in Catholic social thought. Contemporary issues such as human rights, economic justice, the environment, and war and peace will be treated using principles of Catholic ethics, social analysis, official church documents, and contributions of notable theologians and activists.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**RELIG 384: Religion and Ecology**

(Cross-listed with ENV S). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Introduction to concepts of religion and ecology as they appear in different religious traditions, from both a historical and contemporary perspective. Special attention to religious response to contemporary environmental issues.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 475: Seminar: Issues in the Study of Religion**

(3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 times.

*Prereq: 6 credits in religious studies*

Topic changes each time offered. Closed to freshmen. Sophomores must have approval of instructor.

**RELIG 485: Theory and Method in Religious Studies**

(3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: 6 credits in Religious Studies or permission of instructor*

Examines the variety of theories and methods employed in the study of religion. Application of these methods to various religions of the world.

**RELIG 490: Independent Study**

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits.

*Prereq: 6 credits in religious studies and permission of instructor, approval of chairman.*

Guided reading and research on special topics selected to meet the needs of advanced students. No more than 9 credits of Relig 490 may be counted toward graduation.

**RELIG 490H: Independent Study: Honors**

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits.

*Prereq: 6 credits in religious studies and permission of instructor, approval of chairman.*

Guided reading and research on special topics selected to meet the needs of advanced students. No more than 9 credits of Relig 490 may be counted toward graduation.

**RELIG 491: Senior Thesis**

Cr. 3.

Written under the supervision of a Religious Studies faculty advisor.

**RELIG 494: Special Studies in Religious Research Languages**

Cr. 2-3. Repeatable.

*Prereq: 6 credits in Religious Studies and permission of instructor*

**Courses primarily for graduate students, open to qualified undergraduates:****RELIG 540: Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion**

(Dual-listed with RELIG 340). (Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: ANTHR 201 or ANTHR 306*

Survey of global religious belief and practice from an anthropological perspective. Emphasis on myth and ritual, shamanism, magic, witchcraft, beliefs in spirits, conceptions of the soul, mind and body relationships, and healing and therapeutic practices. Discussion of religious response to dramatic political and social change; effects of globalization on religious practice.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**RELIG 590: Special Topics in Religious Studies**

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable.

*Prereq: Permission of instructor, 9 credits in religious studies*