RELS - RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELS 120 Islamic Civilization (3 Credits)
Introduction to society and culture in the Middle East since the advent of Islam: as a personal and communal faith; as artistic and literary highlights of intellectual and cultural life; and as the interplay between politics and religion under the major Islamic regimes. Cross-listed with HIST 120.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST 120 or RELS 120.

RELS 170 Greek and Roman Mythology (3 Credits)
An introduction to the mythology of ancient Greece and Rome. This course is particularly recommended for students planning to major in foreign languages, English, history, the fine arts, or journalism. Taught in English. Cross-listed with CLAS 170.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS 170 or RELS 170.

Additional Information: This course cannot be taken for language credit.

RELS 219 Special Topics in Religious Studies (3 Credits)
Special topics in Religious Studies
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

RELS 236 Philosophy of Religion (3 Credits)
A philosophical study of some of the main problems of religious thought: the nature of religious experience, the justification of religious belief, the conflicting claims of religion and science, and the relation between religion and morality. Cross-listed with PHIL 236.
Credit Only Granted for: PHIL 236 or RELS 236.

RELS 250 Fundamental Concepts of Judaism (3 Credits)
A conceptional introduction to Judaism, analyzing its fundamental concepts from both analytical and historical perspectives. Discussion of "normative" Judaism as well as other conceptions of Judaism. Topics include: God, the Jewish people, authority, ethics, the sacred and the profane, particularism and universalism. Cross-listed with JWST 250, PHIL 234.
Credit Only Granted for: JWST 250, PHIL 234, or RELS 250.

RELS 264 Introduction to the New Testament (3 Credits)
A historical and literary introduction to the New Testament focusing on the context of the authors and the development of earliest Christianity.

RELS 269 Special Topics in Study Abroad II (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.

RELS 289 New Explorations in Religious Studies (3 Credits)
Investigation of critical and innovative responses in Religious Studies. Although the topic will vary, the course will encourage intellectual exploration by students of fundamental problems and critical methods.

RELS 319 Special Topics in Religious Studies (1-3 Credits)
Special topics in the study of religious history, literature, culture, and thought.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.

RELS 340 Europe in the Making: The Early Medieval West (A.D. 300-1000) (3 Credits)
From one empire to another: Rome to Charlemagne. This period is approached as a crucible in which classical, Christian, and Germanic elements merged, yielding new experimental syntheses. This course will deal with issues of authority, cultural trends, and the formation of group solidarity. Cross-listed with HIST 330.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST 330 or RELS 340.

RELS 341 Europe in the High Middle Ages: 1000-1500 (3 Credits)
Medieval civilization in the 11th through 15th centuries. Emphasis on cultural and political developments of the high Middle Ages with study of the principal sources of medieval thought and learning, art and architecture, and political theory prior to the Renaissance. Cross-listed with HIST 331.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST 331 or RELS 341.

RELS 342 Renaissance Europe (3 Credits)
Intellectual developments in Italy and Northern Europe from 1300 to 1550 and their influence on the arts and religion; social and economic trends, including the rise of the commercial economy in cities; the family and the role of women in society; expansion of Europe overseas and the beginnings of colonization; emergence of the state and consequent changes in political theory.
Prerequisite: HIST 112 or HIST 111; or permission of instructor. Also offered as: HIST 332.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST 332 or RELS 342.

RELS 343 The European Reformations (3 Credits)
Examination of developments in European religion between 1450 and 1700; the late-medieval Church and its critics; rise of Protestant thought in Germany and its spread throughout Europe; reform efforts in the Catholic Church; religious wars and violence and their impact on state and society; consequences of religious reform in society and its impact on the family and women.
Prerequisite: HIST 111; or permission of instructor. Cross-listed with HIST 333.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST 333 or RELS 343.

RELS 346 History of Religion in America (3 Credits)
A history of religion, religious movements, and churches in America from the early Colononal period to the present, with special attention to the relation between church and society.
Prerequisite: HIST 200, HIST 201, HIST 210, HIST 211, HIST 213, HIST 254, or HIST 255; or permission of instructor. Cross-listed with HIST 306.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST 306 or RELS 346.

RELS 369 Special Topics in Study Abroad III (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.

RELS 370 Ancient Greek Religion: Gods, Myths, Temples (3 Credits)
Survey of Greek religious ideas and practices as they evolve from the Bronze Age to the early Christian period. Cross-listed with CLAS 330.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS 330 or RELS 370.

RELS 400 Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion (3 Credits)
An exploration of scholarly approaches to the study of religion. The modern history of the secular study of religion, social dynamics, textual formations, and ritual practices. Jointly offered with RELS 600.
Credit Only Granted for: RELS 400, RELS 419T, RELS 600, or RELS 619T. Formerly: RELS 419T.

RELS 419 Advanced Topics in Religious Studies (3 Credits)
The contemporary study of religion in which topics may address specific religious traditions, regional or historical developments, or methodological and theoretical issues.
Recommended: RELS 216.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.
RELS429 Advanced Topics in Religious History (3 Credits)
Advanced study of religious history in a particular setting, with attention
to particular themes, texts, events, or communities.
Recommended: RELS216 or RELS289.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

RELS430 Dead Sea Scrolls (3 Credits)
A study of the Dead Sea Scrolls in their ancient and modern settings,
and in terms of contemporary scholarly interpretations of their meaning.
Interpretations of the historical significance of these documents,
their connections to ancient Jewish sectarian movements, and their
implications for our understanding of Judaism, Christianity, and the
history of the Bible.
Prerequisite: Must have completed one JWST course or one RELS
course; or permission of ARHU-Meyerhoff Program & Center for Jewish
Studies. Cross-listed with JWST430.
Credit Only Granted for: JWST430 or RELS430.

RELS439 Advanced Topics in Religious Thought (3 Credits)
Advanced study of religious thought in a particular setting, with attention
to particular themes, texts, events, or communities.
Recommended: RELS216 or RELS289.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

RELS499 Independent Study in Religious Studies (1-3 Credits)
An advanced independent research project for qualified students,
supervised by a faculty member, on a topic not ordinarily covered in
available courses.
Prerequisite: Permission of ARHU-Meyerhoff Program & Center for
Jewish Studies.
Repeatable to: 6 credits if content differs.