RELS - RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELS120 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. Also offered as: HIST120.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST120 or RELS120.

RELS170 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. Also offered as: CLAS170.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS170 or RELS170.
Additional Information: This course cannot be taken for language credit.

RELS216 What is Religion? (3 Credits)
What is religion, and what approaches best allow us to understand it? Students will explore a variety of approaches to religion (possibly including sociology, psychology, phenomenology, gender studies, and cognitive approaches, among others) in the course of exploring five to eight major religious traditions. Close attention to religious diversity will provide students with a context for asking what really counts as "religion" and why.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST216, or RELS216. Formerly: HIST216.

RELS219 Special Topics in Religious Studies (3 Credits)
Special topics in Religious Studies
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.

RELS236 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. Also offered as: PHIL236.
Credit Only Granted for: PHIL236 or RELS236.

RELS250 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. Also offered as: JWST250, PHIL234.
Credit Only Granted for: JWST250, PHIL234, or RELS250.

RELS264 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.

RELS269 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.

RELS289 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.

RELS319 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.

RELS340 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. Also offered as: HIST330.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST330 or RELS340.

RELS341 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. Also offered as: HIST331.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST331 or RELS341.

RELS342 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 economics 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: HIST112 or HIST111; or permission of instructor required. Also offered as: HIST332.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST332 or RELS342.

RELS343 The European Reformation (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: HIST112 or HIST111; or permission of instructor. Also offered as: HIST333.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST333 or RELS343.

RELS346 History of Religion in America (3 Credits)
A history of religion, religious movements, and churches in America from the early Colonial period to the present, with special attention to the relation between church and society. Prerequisite: HIST255, HIST211, HIST156, HIST254, HIST213, HIST157, or HIST210; or permission of instructor. Also offered as: HIST306.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST306 or RELS346.

RELS369 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.

RELS370 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. Also offered as: CLAS330.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS330 or RELS370.
RELS371 Roman Religion: From Jupiter to Jesus (3 Credits)
Survey of the major institutions of Roman state and private religion and of the diverse religions, including Judaism and Christianity, practiced in the Roman empire. Also offered as: CLAS331.
Credit Only Granted for: CLAS331 or RELS371.

RELS384 Anthropology of Religion (3 Credits)
Comparative study of religion in social, cultural, political, and economic context. Combines the history of schools of interpretation with a survey of theoretical alternatives and a focus on selected case studies.
Prerequisite: ANTH260; or permission of instructor.
Restriction: Must not have completed ANTH364. Also offered as: ANTH364.
Credit Only Granted for: ANTH364, ANTH688R, or RELS384.

RELS400 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. Also offered as: RELS600.
Credit Only Granted for: RELS400, RELS419T, RELS600, or RELS619T.
Formerly: RELS419T.

RELS419 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: RELS216.
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 Scroll (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.
Credit Only Granted for: JWST429Q, RELS419Q, or RELS430.
Formerly: RELS419Q.

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.