

RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSES (RELG)

RELG 201 **HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT (3)** This course is an introduction to literary and historical study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, a collection of religious literature central in the canons of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

RELG 202 **NEW TESTAMENT (3)** This survey of the literature of the earliest church pays special attention to its historical development and the major themes of its teachings.

RELG 205 **RELIGIONS OF ASIA (3)** This course presents the central features of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto within the framework of an historical survey of the religions from early times to the present. The course includes an introductory unit that seeks to construct a descriptive definition of “religion” through a study of the religions of prehistoric peoples and contemporary indigenous peoples.

RELG 206 **JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM (3)** This course considers those religions originating in the Near East in an historical perspective, looking at the main stages of their development. Relevant passages from the sacred writings are examined for their original meaning in their textual context and for their importance for religious faith and practice today.

RELG 260 **CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES–PRE-MINISTERIAL PRACTICUM 1 (1)** This course is designed to introduce pre-ministerial students to the practical skills needed to serve in a church-related setting. Students develop and practice basic ministry skills and have the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics from guest speakers.

RELG 261 **MINISTRY VOCATIONS - PRE-MINISTERIAL PRACTICUM 2 (1)** This course introduces students to a variety of ministry opportunities. Students explore chaplaincy, social service work, non-profit administration, and other ministry-related vocations. Students have the opportunity to meet with guest speakers who work in various areas of ministry.

RELG 262 **SEMINARY EXPLORATIONS – PRE-MINISTERIAL PRACTICUM 3 (1)** This course allows students to examine seminary options and further theological studies in the areas of religion and ministry. Students have the opportunity to meet with seminary representatives. Students also have the opportunity to “match” their individual needs with a specific seminary or divinity school.

RELG 263 **WOMEN IN MINISTRY – PRE-MINISTERIAL PRACTICUM 4 (1)** This course explores issues related to women serving in ministry settings. Men and women students have the opportunity to learn and discuss this topic in a classroom setting. Guest speakers share their experiences and explore ways of dealing with stereotyping in a variety of ministry settings.

RELG 303 **SEMINAR IN RELIGIONS OF ASIA (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 205, or 206.* The seminar examines Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism in South Asia and the spread of Buddhism into Southeast Asia, China, Korea, and Japan. Topics include the relationship of religious norms to those of the modern secular state and its obligations to society; “fundamentalism;” the role of women; and new religious movements which spring from Eastern teachings (TM, Meher, Baba, Sai Baba) and Western teachings with Eastern roots (e.g. Theosophy, Gurdjieff). Some attention will be given to the self-religions including Rajneeshism and “est” (Erhard Seminars Training), also known as “the forum.”

RELG 304 **SEMINAR IN ISLAM (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 205, or 206.* The seminar examines the development of Islam in seventh-century Arabia to the present. Topics will include the life and influences of Muhammad; the importance of the Quran, the Sunni and Shia split in Islam; the development of Islam as a coherent socio-religious system and the relevance of that system to the modern world; “fundamentalism;” the role of women in the Islamic world; and Islam in the United States.

RELG 305 **SEMINAR IN RELIGION IN AMERICA (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 205, or 206.* This course provides an investigation of significant individuals, movements, institutions, and ideas of the American religious experience.

RELG 308 **SEMINAR IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL HISTORY (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 205, or 206.* This course is a survey of the relevant archaeological discoveries in the Middle East and their relationship to the history of the Biblical period. Some sites examined include Ur, Jerico, Hazor, Shechem, Ashdod, Gibeon, Petra, Masada, Qumran, Jerusalem, Susa, Ecbatana, Nush-I-jan, Persepolis, Pasargadae, Ebla, Tell El Amarna, Ephesus, Athens, Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Rome.

RELG 316 **SEMINAR IN NEW TESTAMENT RESEARCH (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 205, or 206.* This seminar focuses on a selected issue in current New Testament research taken from the following and other relevant topics: the historical Jesus and the Christological formulations of the New Testament; the Pauline interpretation of Christianity; and the role and status of women in early Christianity. May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

RELG 317 **SEMINAR IN HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT RESEARCH (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 204, or 206.* This seminar focuses on a selected issue in current Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Inter-testamental research from the following topics: The Torah; the Prophets; the Wisdom Literature; the Apocrypha; the Dead Sea Scrolls; and other relevant topics that may be added. May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

RELG 322 **CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS THINKERS (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 205, or 206.* This course is a critical assessment of the contribution of representative theological thinkers based on readings in their major works. May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

RELG 328 **SEMINAR IN RELIGIOUS ETHICS (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 205, or 206.* This seminar focuses on the writings of selected ethical thinkers and on specific social and moral issues in present-day society.

RELG 329 **ANCIENT HISTORY: THE NEAR EAST (3)** *Prerequisite: HIST 101 or consent of instructor.* This course focuses upon the formative cultures from which Western civilization has sprung. Archaeological and historiographic studies are used in a detailed examination of the Ancient Near East with emphasis on the cultures of the ancient Tigris and Euphrates and the Nile river valleys.

RELG 376 **SPECIAL TOPICS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (3)** *Prerequisite: RELG 201, 202, 205, or 206.* This course explores special topics in religious studies not normally offered in regular courses. The course is taught in tutorial sessions and independent study.

RELG 399 **INTERNSHIP IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (1-3)** *Prerequisites: Juniors or seniors with a 2.25 minimum QPA; approval of written proposal by internship coordinator, and supervising faculty prior to registration.* Internships are open to a limited number of students and are arranged individually under the supervision of the Advisory Committee on Pre-Ministerial Education. (See "Internships.")

RELG 401 **INDEPENDENT STUDY IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (1-3)** In the senior year, qualified students may be approved for independent study of some major theme or area of investigation. This independent study is carried out in consultation with an appropriate faculty advisor and supervisory committee.

RELG 410 **SENIOR SEMINAR (3)** *Prerequisite: senior standing.* In this capstone course students explore issues within the study of religion and learn strategies for research culminating in the writing and presentation of a formal research paper.