

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSES (RELG)**

**RELG 201      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 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 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 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 Intertestamental 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 397 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN RELIGION (1-3)** *Prerequisites: Approval of faculty sponsor and school dean; junior or senior standing.* This course provides students the opportunity to pursue individual study of topics not covered in other available courses. The area for investigation is developed in consultation with a faculty sponsor and credit is dependent on the nature of the work. May be repeated for no more than six credits.

**RELG 398 SPECIAL TOPICS IN RELIGION (1-3) [credit depends on topic]** *Prerequisite: A background of work in the discipline.* This course will focus on an aspect of the discipline not otherwise

covered by the regularly offered courses. The topic will vary according to professor and term; consequently, more than one may be taken by a student during his/her matriculation.

**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 410**      **SENIOR SEMINAR (3)** *Prerequisite: senior standing.* This capstone seminar is an intensive study and discussion of scholarly articles related to recent developments in three areas of study required for religious studies majors: Biblical Studies, World Religions, and Theological/Ethical Studies. Students will submit a paper in each of the three areas of study that demonstrates their critical engagement with contemporary scholarship.