

Religious Studies

Course Offerings – Fall 2009

RELI 1000-01 40, 41, 42	Introduction to Religion - CI/GI, CH/G (Meets non-Western certification for A&S)	Fall Garrett
Section 01 – TR 1:20-2:35	Religion is central in shaping culture. While cultural differences stem from religion, many similarities find their expression in religion. Learn about several world religions and the way each understands the world and influences its adherents.	
Section 40, 41, 42 Online		
RELI 2040-01 RELI 2040-40	Middle East Religions : Judaism, Christianity & Islam – CH,G	Ward
Section 01 -- TR 11:00-12:15	Since 9-11, the conflicts of our world have taken on a religious character, pitting members of Judaism, Islam and Christianity against each other. This is just the latest chapter in a history of alternatively working together and struggling against each other. Discover how these religions began and matured, and how they have been shaped by the modern world.	
Section 40 Online		
RELI 2225-01	History of Christianity – CI	Utterback
MWF 9:00 – 9:50	In its 2000 year history, Christianity has grown from a persecuted sect of Judaism whose leader was executed as a criminal by the Roman authorities to the largest religion in the world. Study its rise from obscurity to dominance, its attempts to maintain that dominance through many centuries, and its various struggles, both internal and external. Learn where the Church “got it right” and where it sometimes went terribly wrong. Consider why the church in the 21 st century is growing rapidly in Africa, South America and Asia, even as European churches stand largely vacant.	
RELI 3200-01	Religion & American Culture	Newell
TR 2:45-4:00	Explore the role of religion in the history of American culture. Consider how developments in American religious history reflect larger trends, and how those developments have helped shape American society and culture.	
RELI 3225-01	Apocalypse	Utterback
MW 2:10-3:30	The apocalyptic end time has become the subject of much speculation, especially since the beginning of the new millennium. In this course we will examine several ancient texts in order to uncover the foundation for apocalyptic thought as well as analyzing such millennial speculation as a religious phenomenon in both ancient and modern religions, including its social, cultural and personal impact.	
RELI 4000-01	Theory of Religion	Newell
T 9:35-12:05	Is religion an “illusion” or a “neurosis,” as Freud wrote? Is it anthropology’s “cultural system,” or society’s representation of itself, or...? Examine what some of the world’s most influential thinkers have said about what religion is and how it should be studied. Warning: this capstone course is not for the intellectually faint of heart.	
RELI 4100-40	Steal Away: African/American Religious Culture	Keller
Online	This mid-level writing-intensive seminar compares African American religious celebration, primarily in the context of Afro-Christianity, but touching on Islam, Candomble, “Voodoo,” Santeria, and Rastafarianism. Cross-listed with AAST 4100.	
RELI 4090-01	Film & Religion – CI	Flesher & Torry
R 6:30-8:45	Film is one of the most powerful media and use of religion helped make it so. Study how filmmakers use religious themes to depict ideals and promote social positions. Learn how religion provides the structure for films—making their plots clear and compelling. Cross-listed with ENGL 4090	
RELI 4500-01	Topics: Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism & Christianity	Flesher & Walker
M 6:00-8:45	By the end of the first century, Christianity was emerging from its Jewish roots as a religion for Greeks, and Judaism was learning how to live without Jerusalem, its religious center. The interpretation of scriptures was pivotal, leading up to these events, guiding their outcome, and shaping 2,000 years of subsequent religious belief and practices. Explore how diverse ways of interpreting scriptures yielded different religions.	
RELI 4500-02	Topics: Women in Judasim	Ward
TR 1:20-2:35	Women and issues facing women have played a key role in Judaism, from ancient Israelite religion to the present day, and central in any study of social history and contemporary directions in religion. Study women in Bible, in late antiquity (including Jewish perspectives on early Christianity), the middle ages, Jewish law and ethics, and modern times. This course helps chart the way and examine the context of social change, as women enter roles in religion and teaching unthinkable only a few generations ago. Crosslisted with WMST 4500	
RELI 4500-40	Topics: African Spirits – New World	Keller
Online	This course introduces students to the historical and geographical context of Yoruba traditional religion in Nigeria, and then draws from contemporary ethnographies to see the African roots at work in thriving religious communities in the Caribbean and South America, including Haitian Vodou, Brazilian Candomblé, Cuban Santeria, Puerto Rican Esperitismo.	

If you would like more information or want to pursue a Minor in Religious Studies,
contact the Religious Studies Advisor: Professor Quincy Newell, Hoyt Hall 309D, 766-2144.
Check out the Religious Studies homepage at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/RelStds>