

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Courses in religious studies are a vital part of a liberal arts education. The field involves the objective study of religious belief, literature and practice around the world. Opportunity is given for serious and objective study of these aspects in relation to major religions of past and present cultures. Special attention is given to the historical bases of world religions as well as to their effect upon present-day societies, in both the East and West. Courses are offered in several world religions, biblical studies, religious thought, and religion and culture.

Courses are open to all students without regard to personal views or affiliations. No attempt is made to promote a particular view. Emphasis is placed on the academic study of religion rather than the practice of a particular form of religion. Many of the undergraduate courses enable students to satisfy humanities requirements and also provide an excellent background for many types of graduate and professional programs.

Courses

REL 1103 Introduction to World Religions (HI)

Description: Major world religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam with a view to understanding the general nature of religion and its various dimensions.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities, International Dimension

REL 2013 Hebrew Scriptures (H)

Description: A study of the Hebrew Scriptures with emphasis upon content, historical background, the history of its study and the critical analysis and theological interpretation of selected passages. Previously offered as REL 3013.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 2023 The New Testament and Its Study (H)

Description: A study of the writings of the New Testament in their historical contexts and the methods used in their study. Emphasis interpreting selected New Testament passages. Previously offered as REL 3023.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 2113 Religion in Film (H)

Description: This course will examine how religious beliefs, practices, experiences and communities have been portrayed in film. Students will explore how film has used allegory, symbolism and other tropes to represent different religious traditions and their systems of beliefs.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 2413 Religion and the Body: Sports, Medicine and Sexuality (H)

Description: This course will explore the role of religious beliefs and practices as they relate to sports, medicine and sexuality. Topics will include the cultural influence of religion on sports, religiously-informed debates within the field of medicine, and conceptions of sexuality and gender from the perspective of various Eastern and Western religious traditions. More generally, this course will explore how different world religions view the human body.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 3113 Asian Religions (H)

Description: This course will examine the diverse histories, beliefs, and practices of major Asian religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shintoism, Shamanism, and modern-day religions.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 3213 Judaism: History, Culture and Beliefs (H)

Description: This course will explore the development of Judaism beginning with its roots in Ancient Israelite religion, the early biblical tradition, and moving through Assyrian and Babylonian conquests, Diaspora, Hellenistic occupation, Roman occupation, Byzantium, the Middle Ages, the Holocaust, the establishment of the state of Israel, up to present day.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 3223 Jesus: Teachings, History and Interpretation (H)

Prerequisites: REL 2023.

Description: This course will examine the teaching of Jesus, the historical context of the first century, and how Jesus' life and teachings have been interpreted through history.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 3243 Paul and the Early Church (H)

Prerequisites: REL 2023.

Description: The letters of Paul in their historical context with special emphasis on his theology and ethics.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 3313 Islam: History, Culture and Beliefs (H)

Description: This course will examine the history, culture and beliefs of Islam, from its seventh century origins to modern times.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 3423 Classic Christian Writings

Description: A study of the primary source material from representative Christian authors scattered throughout two thousand years of church history, focusing on understanding the backgrounds from which the writings emerged, and grasping the writers' key ideas. Course previously offered as REL 4413.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

REL 3513 Religious Experience (H)

Description: This course will explore the nature of religious experience and what role it plays within different traditions. Modes of religious experience to be explored range from meditation and prayer to conversion experiences and mystical states of consciousness.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 3543 Religion, Race and Social Justice (DH)

Description: This course examines the role of religion in the history and understanding of race, as well as how religion has been leveraged in relation to challenges of social justice.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Diversity, Humanities

REL 3573 The Religions of Native Americans (DH)

Prerequisites: REL 1103.

Description: Selected tribal worldviews, belief systems and religious ceremonies as depicted in oral traditions, songs, and literature. Emphasis on Northern and Southern Plains Indians.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

General Education and other Course Attributes: Diversity, Humanities

REL 3713 Religion, Culture and Society

Prerequisites: REL 1103, ANTH 2353, SOC 1113.

Description: An introduction to the scientific study of religion. Religious activity in both tribal and technological societies studied in the light of contemporary interpretations of culture and of social behavior. Same course as SOC 3713.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

REL 4033 American Christianity through the Colonial Period (H)

Description: A study of the planting, development and spread of Christianity in America, beginning with the European roots and continuing through the colonial period up to c.1800.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

REL 4050 Studies in Religion

Description: Independent studies, seminars and courses on selected topics in religion. Offered for variable credit, 1-6 credit hours, maximum of 9 credit hours.

Credit hours: 1-6

Contact hours: Contact: 1-6 Other: 1-6

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Independent Study

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

REL 4113 The World of Islam: Cultural Perspectives (HI)

Description: The cultural heritage of the world of Islam explored through its expression in the art, architecture, and literature of the Muslim peoples.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities, International Dimension

REL 4213 Understanding Global Islam (HI)

Description: A study of the history of Islam starting from Prophet Muhammad to the spread of the Islamic Empire. How Islam moved from Arabia to the world. Introduction to the Islamic divisions, where they are now, why they are similar and different in terms of laws, schools, countries, literature, sciences, Arabic script, the Shia, the Sunna, and different Islamic countries' practices. Also, debatable issues on Muslim women in American and other countries and why those are different from others.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities, International Dimension

REL 4223 Religion and Conflict in the Middle East (HI)

Description: This course will explore the religions of the Middle East, focusing on how they have shaped the region's recent history.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Dean of Arts & Science

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities, International Dimension

REL 4330 Seminar in Biblical Studies

Prerequisites: Two courses in Biblical studies.

Description: Selected topics in the academic study of the Bible. Offered for fixed credit, 3 credit hours, maximum of 9 credit hours.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Contact: 3 Other: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Independent Study

Department/School: Philosophy

REL 4423 Death and the Afterlife (H)

Description: This course will explore and critically analyze the varying perspectives on death and the afterlife as seen across world religions.

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: Lecture: 3 Contact: 3

Levels: Undergraduate

Schedule types: Lecture

Department/School: Philosophy

General Education and other Course Attributes: Humanities

Minors

- Religious Studies (REL), Minor (<http://catalog.okstate.edu/arts-sciences/religious-studies/religious-studies-minor/>)

Faculty

Director of Program and Professor: Lawrence Pasternack, Ph.D.

Teaching Assistant Professors: Jin Young Kim, Ph.D.; Matthew Pereira, Ph.D.; Justin Rice, M.A.

Visiting Assistant Professor: Glen Fairen, Ph.D.

Lecturers: Jessica Doyle, M.A.; Adam Soltani, M.A.