Religious Studies

LOWER DIVISION
RS 104. Asian Religions: Exploring Buddhism (3). Introduction to Asian religions including how the life of Buddha impacted India, Tibet, China, Japan, and California. Myths, symbols, and rituals are included from Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana, and Zen. [LDC-C]

RS 105. World Religions (3). Examines six of the following traditions in light of human quest for transcendence: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, Zen, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Films augment lectures. [DCC-n. C-LD]

RS 120. Exploring Religion (3). Introduction to theory and method in the study of religion; examines religious elements, including such topics as faith, sacred time and space, ritual, tradition, devotion, meditation, and new religious movements.

UPPER DIVISION
RS 300. Living Myths (3). Examines how a culture’s “sacred stories” express worldview, guide behavior, and empower personal quests for meaning. Sections offered under the following themes: War and Peace, Quest for Self, Beyond the Hero. [C-UJD]

RS 301. Religion in America (3). Surveys American religious diversity exploring the formative role played by religion in American identity, values, and experience, including critical topical issues from politics, sexuality, environment, education, terrorism, etc. [DCC-d. C-UJD]

RS 304. Cultural & Religious Heritage of Africa (3). Study the cultural heritage of Africa through the themes of religion (traditional, Islam, Christianity), arts (music, dance, drums, cultural access), multilingualism, language and cultural identity, and the oral tradition. [Rec: completion of lower division general education. DCC-n. C-UJD]

RS 306/HIST 306. Gods & Kings in the Ancient Near East (4). History of the ancient cultures (Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Hebrew, Persian, Mycenaean) that provided the foundations for the emergence of classical Western civilization including writing, kings, myths, states, laws, and monotheism. [UDD]


RS 322. Sacred Texts: Buddhist Texts (4). Survey folk tales, philosophical treatises, poetry, tantras, and scriptures from early Buddhism to Zen. Attention to genre, canon, transmission, translation, hermeneutics, cultural transformation, function, message, and aesthetics.

RS 323. Sacred Texts: Hindu Texts (4). Indian literature ancient and modern: the Vedas, mythic visions, lives of saints, poetry, epics, philosophers, yogis, devotees, folk tales, and modern writers, such as Rushdie, Jhabvala, and Narayan.


RS 331. Introduction to Christianity (3). Doctrinal developments; literature; rites and rituals; history (including development of major branches). Issues of modernity and postmodernity (could include feminist perspectives, interreligious dialog)

RS 332. Introduction to Islam (3). Beliefs, institutions, sacred literature, history. Life of Muhammad, development of tradition in classical period, issues in modernity.

RS 340. Zen, Dharma & Tao (3). Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, and major forms of Buddhism in China and Japan. [DCC-n.]

RS 341. Spiritual Traditions of India (3). In this course, exploration of images, temples, myth, poetry, meditation, devotion, and philosophy are woven together in a multidimensional approach to the exquisite spiritual traditions of Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism.

RS 342. Buddhism in India and Tibet (3). The development of Buddhism in India and its transformation in Tibet, from the original Buddha to the Dalai Lamas with attention to diverse spiritual instincts of mystics, devotees, and philosophers.

RS 345. T’ai Chi Ch’uan (Taijiquan) (3). Learn detailed movements of Taiji longform. Emphasis: conceptuality as encoded in body movement and form. Readings from Chinese classics, with focus on how direct awareness influences textual understanding. [CR/NC]


RS 362. Wisdom and Craft (3). How persons communicate their spiritual wisdom, their awareness of living connectedness and place in the cosmos, through everyday tasks of crafting creative work. Compare/contrast traditions (Amish, Navaho, Shaker, etc.).

RS 364. Cinema and the Sacred (3). Studies “Movies” treatment of religion in their themes, content, and mythological underpinnings, and religious phenomenon through cult films, screen idols, and theatre as modern mythological temple.


RS 391. Religion in Tradition: Special Topics (3). Topics within religious tradition[s] with thematic focus or tradition overview. [Rep with different topics.]

RS 392. Sacred Literature: Special Topics (3). Survey selected works of sacred literature in Eastern or Western religious traditions. [Rep with different topics.]

RS 393. Religion in Myth, Culture & Experience: Special Topics (3). Thematic and/or comparative examination. [Rep with different topics.]


RS 395. Senior Seminar (3). Capstone for major. Professor determines thematic focus. Culminating project applies research skills, critical and experiential reflection, and methodologies within the discipline. [Prereq: completed 27 units required for the major.]

RS 399. Directed Study (1-3). Independent study of topic under supervision. Provides depth to specific area of student’s development. [Rep.]