RELIGION

Course Search

Not all courses are offered every semester. Refer to the schedule of courses for each term's specific offerings.

Courses at the University of Florida, with the exception of specific foreign language courses and courses in the online Master of Arts in Mass Communication program, are taught in English.

Courses

ANT 3153 North American Archaeology 3 Credits
Archaeological materials relating to prehistoric North American cultures. The origins of the North American Indian, Historic Indian and colonial materials. (H) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
WR6

ANT 3241 Anthropology of Religion 3 Credits
Cross-cultural survey of beliefs and practices dealing with the supernatural, magic, and religion. Conceptualization of the supernatural. Sacred specialists, their function, and social position. Theories of comparative religion in light of anthropological data. (S and D)
General Education - Diversity
General Education - Social Science

CLT 3371 Religions of the Graeco-Roman World 3 Credits
Development, importance and influence of Greek and Roman religion and cult practice. The main literary and epigraphical sources are read in translation. (H and N)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International

LIT 3173 Jewish Literature 3 Credits
Variable topics in the Jewish literary experience, from the biblical narrative and classical tales to Yiddish and Hebrew literature, the modern European novel, and American Jewish fiction. (H and N)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International

PHI 3700 Philosophy of Religion 3 Credits
Studies problems in philosophical theology, including the nature of God, arguments for God’s existence, the problem of evil and the relation between faith and reason, from both historical and contemporary perspectives. (H) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
WR6

POS 4291 Religion and Politics in the United States 3 Credits
Investigates the role of religious institutions, values and communities in contemporary American political life. (WR)
Prereq: refer to the department
WR6

REL 2000 Introduction to Religion 3 Credits
Introduces the historical underpinnings, geographical movement, development and current expression of a variety of religious traditions.
General Education - Humanities

REL 2071 Sustainability and Religion 3 Credits
Examines the relationship between religion and sustainability and explores how the worlds different religious traditions address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. Topics include social and environmental justice, sustainable consumption and sustainable agriculture. Case studies highlight multiple religious perspectives, especially in Latin America and south Asia. (H) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
WR2

REL 2104 Environmental Ethics 3 Credits
Explores competing secular and religious views regarding human impacts on and moral responsibilities toward nature and of the key thinkers and social movements in contention over them. (H) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
WR2

REL 2121 American Religious History 3 Credits
Historical inquiry into the ideological origins and social context of American religious life. (H and D)
General Education - Diversity
General Education - Humanities

REL 2166 Religion and the Environmental Crisis 3 Credits
Examines the relationship between religion, nature and ethics in different religious traditions. (H and N) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International
WR2

REL 2210 Hebrew Scriptures 3 Credits
History, literature, and beliefs of the Israelites from the Biblical text in the light of modern scholarship. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 2240 New Testament 3 Credits
Introduces various literary, social, and religious contexts of the books of the New Testament. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 2300 Introduction to World Religions 3 Credits
Origin, historical development, and key figures, concepts, symbols, practices and institutions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and East Asian traditions, including Taoism, Shinto, and Confucianism. (H and N)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International

REL 2301 Introduction to Hindu Culture 3 Credits
History, performing arts, and cultural expressions of the Hindu traditions of India and in the diaspora.

REL 2315 Religion in Asia 3 Credits
Studies the religious dimensions of human culture, focusing on Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto. (H and N) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International
WR2

REL 2341 Introduction to Buddhism 3 Credits
Introduces doctrines, practices, and institutions that shaped the essential identity of Buddhism as a pan-Asian religion that transcended ethic, cultural, and linguistic boundaries. (H)
General Education - Humanities
REL 2362 Introduction to Islam 3 Credits
Historical introduction to Islamic tradition. The foundational elements of the tradition, based on the life of Prophet Muhammad and the text of the Qur'an and on an examination of subsequent Islamic expressions. (H and N)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International

REL 2388 Indigenous Religions of the Americas 3 Credits
Religious values, attitudes, and norms of Native American peoples within the United States. (H) (WR)
General Education - Diversity
General Education - Humanities
WR4

REL 2502 Introduction to Christianity 3 Credits
Includes origins and development of Christianity, beliefs and rituals, global diversity, Christianity-inspired literature, and engagement with contemporary cultural issues.

REL 2600 Introduction to Judaism 3 Credits
Multidisciplinary approach to the Jewish experience from its Biblical origins to modern times.
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International

REL 2930 Topics in Religion 3 Credits
Variable topics at an introductory level. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 2932 Myth and Ritual 3 Credits
Theory and method in the anthropological and religious studies of myths, rituals, religious specialists, and religious movements using examples from cultures throughout the world.

REL 3022 Topic: Myth and Ritual 3 Credits
Includes origins and development of Christianity, beliefs and rituals, global diversity, Christianity-inspired literature, and engagement with contemporary cultural issues.

REL 3076 Cults and New Religious Movements 3 Credits
Investigates significant new religious movements such as the People's Temple and the Branch Davidians. The origins, internal structure, popularity, and functioning of these movements as well as claims of manipulation and discrimination. (S)
General Education - Social Science

REL 3082 Global Ethics 3 Credits
Explores ethical dimensions of global social, political, and environmental issues. Introduction to and application of diverse theoretical approaches in philosophical and religion ethics to contemporary global issues such as human rights, war and peace, climate change, and public health.
Prereq: sophomore standing

REL 3098 Religion Medicine and Healing 3 Credits
Non-conventional healers and healing practices in religious traditions around the globe.
Prereq: sophomore standing

REL 3103 Religion and Nature in North America 3 Credits
Investigates ways that religion and nature have evolved and influenced one another during the cultural, political, and environmental history of North America since European contact. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 3108 Religion and Food 3 Credits
Explores the relationship between food and religion by investigating food in the context of specific religious traditions, such as Hinduism, and examines food as a moral and ethical category in religious and secular contexts, e.g., organic and locavore. (D and H) (WR)
General Education - Diversity
General Education - Humanities
WR2

REL 3120 Religion and the American Immigrant Experience 3 Credits
Offers a survey of the roles that religion has played in some significant movements of people into and out of the U.S. from the pre-Colonial period to the present.

REL 3139 African-American Religion 3 Credits
Interdisciplinary study of African-American religious experience from its beginnings in the 17th century to the present. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 3140 Religion and Society 3 Credits
Interaction of religion and social institutions; the ways religious groups influence and are influenced by the socio-cultural environment. (S) (WR)
General Education - Social Science
WR6

REL 3148 Religion and Violence 3 Credits
Explores the problem of violence that springs from religious roots in Western, Asian, African, and Native American traditions. (H and N) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International
WR4

REL 3154 Gender and Nature 3 Credits
Examines the relationship between gender and nature as it is constructed in different religious traditions.

REL 3160 Religion and Science 3 Credits
Examines the relationship between religion, science, and philosophy in different religious traditions, focusing on the West. (H) (WR)
Prereq: sophomore standing
General Education - Humanities
WR4

REL 3169 Religion and Environmental Movements of the Global South 3 Credits
Explores the religious dimensions of environmental movements in the global South, including seed-saving campaigns in India and Mexico, Liberation Theology and the Green Belt Movement. Examines global environmental issues; e.g., loss of biodiversity, climate change and privatization of water that disproportionately affect the poor and marginalized.
Prereq: sophomore status minimum

REL 3171 Ethics in America 3 Credits
Examines ethical issues facing contemporary U.S. society, with a focus on cultural and religious diversity. Introduces major religious and philosophical frameworks as ways of understanding and addressing these issues. (O)
Prereq: sophomore standing or above
General Education - Diversity
General Education - Humanities

REL 3179 Race, Religion and Rebellion 3 Credits
Examines the interplay of religion, race, and rebellion in the various revolts, insurrections, and social movements of African Americans in the United States.

REL 3191 Death and the Afterlife: Perspectives from World Religions 3 Credits
Examines conceptions of death and the afterlife from the perspectives of various religious traditions and popular culture. Considers certain ethical issues related to death and how some American religious traditions engage with such issues.
Prereq: sophomore standing
REL 3213 Hebrew Bible as Literature 3 Credits
Intensive introduction to the literary study of the Hebrew Bible within the context of ancient Near Eastern literature and history.

REL 3234 Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible 3 Credits
Examines ancient Israelite and early Jewish wisdom literature alongside similar literature from ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt.

REL 3249 The Christian Gospels 3 Credits
Redaction-critical study of selected portions of the canonical Gospels with particular attention to the development of traditions about Jesus in the earliest church. (H) (WR)
Prereq: REL 2210 or REL 2240, or instructor permission
General Education - Humanities
WR6

REL 3252 Acts, Paul and Early Christianity 3 Credits
Examines the narrative of the beginning of Christianity according to the Book of Acts, especially as it describes the career of Paul. The second half focuses on the letters of Paul as an alternative source for understanding the earliest forms of Christianity. (H) (WR)
Prereq: REL 2210 or REL 2240, or instructor permission
General Education - Humanities
WR6

REL 3291 Gender and the Hebrew Bible 3 Credits
Critical examination of the literary representation and historical realities of gender and sexuality in ancient Israel through close readings of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible.

REL 3294 Apocalypticism 3 Credits
Explores Jewish and Christian apocalypticism through a survey of apocalyptic texts from the Hebrew Bible, Second Temple Jewish literature (including the Dead Sea Scrolls), and the New Testament. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 3318 Chinese Religions 3 Credits
Comprehensive historical survey of the main religious traditions in China, with particular attention to Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism.

REL 3321 Early Judaism and Christianity 3 Credits
Examines the Jewish-Christian encounter. The historical interaction between Judaism and Christianity including how each group symbolized the other, and the practical implications of the representations. (H and N) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International
WR6

REL 3330 Religions of India 3 Credits
Historical look at the major religious traditions of the Indian subcontinent. (H and N) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International
WR6

REL 3333 Gods, Sages and Kings: Mythology 3 Credits
Survey and analysis of important narrative genres and myth cycles of premodern India, featuring selections from the Vedas, Puranas, and the Indian epics, read in translation. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 3335 Hindu Sacred Text/Social-Ritual Context 3 Credits
Investigates the development, use, authority, and performance of sacred texts in ritual, drama, festival, and music within the Hindu tradition. (H and N)
Prereq: any course in Asian religion, Asian scripture or REL 4024
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International

REL 3336 Religion in Modern India 3 Credits
Studies religious traditions of India and their interpretation in relation to conditions of the modern world. (H and N) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International
WR6

REL 3344 Chinese Buddhism 3 Credits
Comprehensive historical survey of Chinese Buddhism. Explores the growth and transformation of the beliefs, doctrines, practices and institutions that shaped the historical trajectory of Chinese Buddhism.

REL 3346 God: Beliefs, Concepts, Issues 3 Credits
Investigates central issues connected with the concept of God in Western religious traditions. Topics include arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil, theodicy, faith, and reason. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 3350 Religion Ethics and Nature 3 Credits
Religious perspectives on nature and the environment that focus on different theological understandings of the natural world: approaches to using natural resources and efforts to understand human responsibility for the realm of nature. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 3355 American Catholicism 3 Credits
American Catholic experience from an historical and sociological perspective. (H) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
WR4

REL 3463 God: Beliefs, Concepts, Issues 3 Credits
Investigates central issues connected with the concept of God in Western religious traditions. Topics include arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil, theodicy, faith, and reason. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 3492 Religion Ethics and Nature 3 Credits
Religious perspectives on nature and the environment that focus on different theological understandings of the natural world: approaches to using natural resources and efforts to understand human responsibility for the realm of nature. (H)
General Education - Humanities

REL 3563 American Catholicism 3 Credits
American Catholic experience from an historical and sociological perspective. (H) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
WR4

REL 3693 Judaism and Nature 3 Credits
Surveys Jewish traditions about nature, the environment, and ecology.

REL 3931 Junior Seminar 3 Credits
Intensive introduction to the study of religion. Required of all religion majors during the junior year.

REL 3938 Special Topics in Religion 3 Credits
Special topics in religion. (H) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
WR6
REL 4092 Ethics, Utopias and Dystopias 3 Credits
Examines relationships between ethics and utopias in literature, religious communities, and millenarian movements. (H) (WR)
Prereq: instructor permission
General Education - Humanities
WR2

REL 4134 Religion in Southern Culture 3 Credits
Development of religious life in the South through its history, with particular reference to its interaction with regional culture. (H) (WR)
General Education - Humanities
WR6

REL 4141 Religion and Social Change 3 Credits
Investigates diverse relations between religion and processes of social change. Uses both theoretical and ethnographic case studies to explore issues raised by religion's social role in the U.S., Britain, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. (S) (WR)
General Education - Social Science
WR4

REL 4145 Women in Religion and Society 3 Credits
Provides an understanding of both the oppressive and liberatory aspects for women of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
Prereq: instructor permission

REL 4168 Religion, Nature and Social Change 3 Credits
Examines relationships between religion, nature, and society as a means to understand how these relationships reflect and shape social relations among people.
Prereq: junior standing or above

REL 4177 Special Topics in Religion and Ethics 3 Credits
Special topics in religion and ethics. (WR)
WR6

REL 4188 Special Topics in Religion and Ethics 3 Credits
Examines the ethical, religious, and political dimensions of the relationship between ideas and practices, including the divergence between expressed values and actual practices, and some possible reasons for this divergence.

REL 4209 Dead Sea Scrolls and Early Jewish Literature 3 Credits
Explores the varieties of literature that arose within Judaism from 250 BCE to 220 CE, including selections from the Dead Sea Scrolls, the OT Pseudepigrapha, Philo, and Josephus. (H)
Prereq: refer to the department
General Education - Humanities

REL 4221 The Pentateuch 3 Credits
In-depth study of the Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy) in light of modern biblical scholarship.
Prereq: instructor permission

REL 4337 Women in Hindu Tradition 3 Credits
Studies women in Hindu traditions, focusing on their participation in temple practices, religious scholarship, and practices of piety and austerity. Pays special attention to female poets, scholars, ascetics, and patrons in Hindu religions and society. (H and N) (WR)
Prereq: one course in Hinduism
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International
WR6

REL 4345 Chan/Zen Buddhism 3 Credits
Comprehensive inquiry of the history, doctrines, and practices of the Chan/Zen tradition of East Asian Buddhism.
Prereq: introduction to Buddhism, Chinese religions or instructor permission

REL 4349 Buddhist Meditation 3 Credits
Theory and practice of Buddhist meditation; focuses on the systems of meditation practice developed by the Theravada school in Sri Lanka and the main traditions of Chinese Buddhism.
Prereq: introduction to Buddhism or instructor permission

REL 4361 Women and Islam 3 Credits
Provides an interdisciplinary understanding of the history and role of women in Islam.
Prereq: instructor permission

REL 4367 The History of Islam in the Modern World 3 Credits
History of Muslims from the 18th century to the present with particular attention to certain critical issues and interpretations in relation to conditions of the modern world. (H and N) (WR)
Prereq: REL 2362
General Education - Humanities
General Education - International
WR6

REL 4382 Religion and Politics in Latin America 3 Credits
Relationship between religion and politics in Latin America from a variety of perspectives and approaches. Addresses millenarian movements, gender, ethnicity and class, as well as church-state dynamics. (S and N)
General Education - International
General Education - Social Science

REL 4393 Islam in the Americas 3 Credits
Provides knowledge of Islam in the Americas from the 15th century to the present. (H) (WR)
Prereq: instructor permission
General Education - Humanities
WR6

REL 4433 Religion and Existentialism 3 Credits
In-depth exploration of the main works of various existentialist thinkers with a particular emphasis on their views of religion.
Prereq: instructor permission

REL 4461 Israelite Religion 3 Credits
Comparative survey of literary, historical, ritual, and material aspects of ancient Israelite religion with evidence from Canaan, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome.
Prereq: instructor permission

REL 4491 Sacred Geographies: Place, Space and Pilgrimage in South Asia 3 Credits
Focuses on reading primary texts in translation, supplemented with recent ethnographies, to explore various conceptions of sacred space and place, including movement to, from and between them, in the Indic imagination.
Prereq: REL 2317, REL 2341 or REL 3022

REL 4905 Individual Work 1-5 Credits
Majors or other advanced undergraduates who wish to supplement regular coursework by individual studies under guidance may apply to a member of the faculty for individual work.
Prereq: 9 credits in religion or department permission
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 4930</td>
<td>Special Topics in Religious Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4932</td>
<td>Thesis Seminar in Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4933</td>
<td>The Comparative Study of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4936</td>
<td>Special Topics in Religious Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4956</td>
<td>Overseas Studies</td>
<td>1-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRK 1120</td>
<td>Beginning Sanskrit 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRK 1121</td>
<td>Beginning Sanskrit 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRK 2200</td>
<td>Intermediate Sanskrit 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRK 2201</td>
<td>Intermediate Sanskrit 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRK 3410</td>
<td>Advanced Sanskrit 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRK 3411</td>
<td>Advanced Sanskrit 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYO 4200</td>
<td>Sociology of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REL 4930 Special Topics in Religious Thought**
Special topics in religious thought.

**REL 4932 Thesis Seminar in Religion**
Thesis preparation option for honors-level students.

**REL 4933 The Comparative Study of Religion**
The history and major methods that have contributed to the modern study of religion. (H) (WR)
**Prereq:** junior or senior standing and department permission
General Education - Humanities
WR6

**REL 4936 Special Topics in Religious Studies**
Advanced study for those with proper preparation of selected topics involving one or more religious traditions. (WR)
WR6

**REL 4956 Overseas Studies**
Provides a mechanism by which coursework taken as part of an approved study abroad program can be recorded on the UF transcript and counted toward graduation.
**Prereq:** undergraduate advisor permission

**SRK 1120 Beginning Sanskrit 1**
First of a two-semester series that introduces the Sanskrit language through the Devanagari Script.

**SRK 1121 Beginning Sanskrit 2**
Second of a two-semester series that introduces the Sanskrit language through the Devanagari Script with an emphasis on reading, writing, grammar and oral recitation.

**SRK 2200 Intermediate Sanskrit 1**
Intermediate study of Sanskrit to increase knowledge of vocabulary by developing reading and translation skills.
**Prereq:** SRK 1121 with a minimum grade of C, or equivalent

**SRK 2201 Intermediate Sanskrit 2**
Continuation of intermediate Sanskrit to increase knowledge of vocabulary by developing reading and translation skills.
**Prereq:** SRK 2200 with a minimum grade of C, or equivalent

**SRK 3410 Advanced Sanskrit 1**
Advanced study of Sanskrit to further develop skills in reading and understanding texts.
**Prereq:** SRK 2201 with a minimum grade of C, or equivalent

**SRK 3411 Advanced Sanskrit 2**
Continuation of advanced Sanskrit to further develop skills in reading and understanding texts.
**Prereq:** SRK 3410 with a minimum grade of C, or equivalent

**SYO 4200 Sociology of Religion**
The sociological perspective on religions, including religious ideologies and rituals. Social aspects of the religious and religious aspects of the social. Organized religions and religions. (S and N)
**Prereq:** SYG 2000
General Education - International
General Education - Social Science