

RELIGION

Course Search

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

[More Info](#)

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 ethnic, 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 3022 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 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.
- 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. (D)
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

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| REL 3213 Hebrew Bible as Literature | 3 Credits | REL 3335 Hindu Sacred Text/Social-Ritual Context | 3 Credits |
| Intensive introduction to the literary study of the Hebrew Bible within the context of ancient Near Eastern literature and history. | | Investigates the development, use, authority, and performance of sacred texts in ritual, drama, festival, and music within the Hindu tradition. (H and N) | |
| REL 3234 Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible | 3 Credits | Prereq: any course in Asian religion, Asian scripture or REL 4024 | |
| Examines ancient Israelite and early Jewish wisdom literature alongside similar literature from ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. | | General Education - Humanities | |
| REL 3249 The Christian Gospels | 3 Credits | General Education - International | |
| 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) | | REL 3336 Religion in Modern India | 3 Credits |
| Prereq: REL 2210 or REL 2240, or instructor permission | | 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 - Humanities | |
| WR6 | | General Education - International | |
| REL 3252 Acts, Paul and Early Christianity | 3 Credits | WR6 | |
| 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) | | REL 3344 Chinese Buddhism | 3 Credits |
| Prereq: REL 2210 or REL 2240, or instructor permission | | 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. | |
| General Education - Humanities | | REL 3370 Religions of Africa | 3 Credits |
| WR6 | | Religion and culture in Africa, the encounter of Islam and Christianity with indigenous religions, and diasporic reformulations. (H and N) (WR) | |
| REL 3291 Gender and the Hebrew Bible | 3 Credits | General Education - Humanities | |
| 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. | | General Education - International | |
| REL 3294 Apocalypticism | 3 Credits | WR6 | |
| 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) | | REL 3371 Islam in Africa | 3 Credits |
| General Education - Humanities | | Development of Muslim societies in Africa from the 7th to the early 20th century with a focus on the religious dynamics that led to the formation of a multitude of African Muslim cultures. | |
| REL 3318 Chinese Religions | 3 Credits | REL 3381 Religion in Latin America | 3 Credits |
| Comprehensive historical survey of the main religious traditions in China, with focus on Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. | | Main religious traditions in Latin America: native religions, Catholicism in its various forms, Protestantism, and African-based religions. (H and N) | |
| REL 3321 Early Judaism and Christianity | 3 Credits | General Education - Humanities | |
| 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 - International | |
| General Education - Humanities | | REL 3463 God: Beliefs, Concepts, Issues | 3 Credits |
| General Education - International | | 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) | |
| WR6 | | General Education - Humanities | |
| REL 3330 Religions of India | 3 Credits | REL 3492 Religion Ethics and Nature | 3 Credits |
| Historical look at the major religious traditions of the Indian subcontinent. (H and N) (WR) | | 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 | | General Education - Humanities | |
| General Education - International | | REL 3563 American Catholicism | 3 Credits |
| WR6 | | American Catholic experience from an historical and sociological perspective. (H) (WR) | |
| REL 3333 Gods, Sages and Kings: Mythology | 3 Credits | General Education - Humanities | |
| 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) | | WR4 | |
| General Education - Humanities | | 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**
Explores 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 4490 Special Topics in Religious Thought** **3 Credits**
Special topics in religious thought. (WR)
WR6
- 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 4611 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 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
- REL 4930 Special Topics in Religious Thought** **3 Credits**
Special topics in religious thought.

REL 4932 Thesis Seminar in Religion 3 Credits

Thesis preparation option for honors-level students.

REL 4933 The Comparative Study of Religion 3 Credits

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 3 Credits

Advanced study for those with proper preparation of selected topics involving one or more religious traditions. (WR)

WR6

REL 4956 Overseas Studies 1-18 Credits

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 4 Credits

First of a two-semester series that introduces the Sanskrit language through the Devanagari Script.

SRK 1121 Beginning Sanskrit 2 4 Credits

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 3 Credits

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 3 Credits

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 3 Credits

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 3 Credits

Continuation of advanced Sanskrit to further develop skills in reading and understanding texts.

Prereq: SKR 3410 with a minimum grade of C, or equivalent

SYO 4200 Sociology of Religion 3 Credits

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