LSU

Religious Studies

Course Offerings

Spring 2027

Religious Studies Course Offerings

SPRING 2027

REL 1000: RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

Instructor: Yohong Roh
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 001)
M W F 11:30am–12:20pm (Section 002)
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 003)

Instructor: Claire Hautot
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 004)
T Th 6:00–7:20pm (Section 006)
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 009)
T Th 4:30–5:50pm (Section 010)

Instructor: Angela Xia
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 005)
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 007)
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 008)

This course introduces students to the world's religions, including major traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, along with smaller indigenous traditions. The approach of the course is objective and academic; it is not designed to advocate any particular religious perspective or ideology. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

REL 1004: OLD TESTAMENT

Instructor: Stuart Irvine
M W F 9:30–10:20am (Section 001)

This course is a broad survey that covers most of the literature of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and addresses literary, historical, archaeological, and theological issues. We will employ historical-critical methods to examine the religious ideas and practices of ancient Israel against the background of the cultures of its Near Eastern neighbors, including Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Syria. To prepare for each topic of lecture/discussion, we will read numerous narratives from the Bible, related passages from the required textbook, and selected articles by modern scholars.

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REL 1005: NEW TESTAMENT

Instructor: Bradley K. Storin
T Th 1:30–2:50pm (Section 001)

Instructor: Delbert Burkett
50–74% Web-Based (Section 002)

This course will introduce you to the history, literature, and religion of the earliest period of Christianity (from about 30 to 150 CE). Students will examine the New Testament writings, along with historical issues such as the emergence of Christianity from Judaism in the Greco-Roman world. Students will also become familiar with the historical-critical methods that scholars use to study these writings as sources for our knowledge of the origins of Christianity. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit.**

REL 2000: WHAT IS RELIGION?

Instructor: Lauren Horn Griffin
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 001)
100% Asynchronous Online (Section 002)

What is a “religion,” how do you study it, and who gets to decide? We will explore these fundamental questions by reading three very different textbooks commonly used in introductory courses like this. We will think about how these types of books, the approaches of their authors, and even this type of course shape the concept of “religion” among the general public. While we will touch on the doctrinal and ritual dimensions of several global traditions, our task will be to figure out and articulate the assumptions, values, and goals that shape our thinking about “religions” (and other stuff!). In this course, I assume that we are all curious—curious about how we think, curious about what we normalize or take for granted, curious about how we use words to describe and navigate the world around us. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is also one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

REL 2027: ASIAN RELIGIONS

Instructor: Yohong Roh
M W F 10:30–11:20am (Section 002)

Instructor: Nick Tackes
T Th 3:00–4:20pm (Section 003)

Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Confucian, Taoist, Shinto traditions, oh my! You're not in Baton Rouge anymore—or are you? In "Asian Religions," you will investigate several religious traditions that first developed in Asia but have since become global phenomena. Historical introductions will offer a foundation for explorations of lived religious traditions, including field trips to religious sites close to campus. By the end of the term, you will be able to describe how practitioners of these religions have used their brains, hearts, courage, and more to address matters of shared human concern—including how to make Baton Rouge "home." **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is also one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

REL 2029: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, & ISLAM

Instructor: Yohong Roh
M W F 1:30–2:20pm (Section 001)

This course introduces students to the histories, teachings, beliefs and practices of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to engage with guest speakers, take field trips to synagogues, churches, and mosques, and watch a number of videos pertaining to contemporary issues (e.g., women's roles, waging war) within these religions. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

REL 3010: AMERICAN THERAPEUTIC CULTURE

Instructor: Angela Xia
T Th 4:30–5:50pm (Section 001)

This seminar surveys the rise of therapeutic culture in the United States, examining how religious ideas have shaped popular health movements from the late 19th century to the present. In studying therapeutic culture as a religious phenomenon, we ask: what counts as therapeutic and why? How has the pursuit of health changed over time? And to what degree have therapeutic movements challenged or reinforced wider processes of commodification, medicalization, or polarization in American history? Case studies include sanitariums, the “rest cure,” New Thought, yoga, meditation, and the contemporary wellness industry.

REL 3203: RELIGION & PARAPSYCHOLOGY

Instructor: Claire Hautot
T Th 3:00–4:20pm (Section 001)

This course explores the role of the paranormal in the history of religions and in the history of scholarly thought about religion. Perhaps most importantly, this course takes seriously alternate ways of understanding the nature of reality and human experiences that fall outside the norms and methods of contemporary thought and science.

REL 3500: DIGITAL RELIGION & POP CULTURE

Instructor: Lauren Horn Griffin
T Th 9:00–10:20am (Section 001)

How is “pop culture” not just the things we consume, but the objects that define how we express our political sentiments and social identity? How have things we call religious developed in the midst of, and adapted to the demands of, digital, mass-mediated culture? This course examines the ways that the beliefs and behaviors we call religious are part of everyday culture—in particular, the ways that they are produced by and (in turn) influence culture. We will take a critical approach to the classification of “religion” and “pop culture,” asking about those categories in dialogue with each other. We will also look at religion in pop culture, pop culture in religion, and pop culture as religion. Broadly, students will learn to analyze questions of values, ethics, or aesthetics as they are represented in religion, film, art, music, and online media. The course is broad in scope and takes a global perspective on religion and popular culture as well as the relationships between these subjects.

REL/HIST 4015: JEWISH THOUGHT

Instructor: Amber Nickell
M W F 1:30–2:20pm (Section 001)

This course surveys modern Jewish history from 1492 to the present, focusing on the diverse experiences of Jewish communities in Europe and beyond. Beginning with the expulsion of Jews from Spain, the course traces how migration, emancipation, modernization, nationalism, and political upheaval transformed Jewish life. Particular attention is given to the Haskalah, Zionism, antisemitism and anti-Jewish violence, the Holocaust, the creation of the State of Israel, and Jewish experiences in the modern diaspora. Throughout, the course explores changing ideas about identity, religion, citizenship, belonging, and what it meant to be Jewish in the modern world.

REL/HIST 4161: HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE US

Instructor: Lauren Horn Griffin
T Th 1:30–2:50pm (Section 001)

This course is a chronological and thematic survey of American religious history, with special consideration for the diversity of religion in the United States. The course begins with the European colonization of the Americas and moves through topics such as the Great Awakenings, slave religions, Mormonism, Native American religions, fundamentalism, Roman Catholicism, and Judaism, as well as new immigrant religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. Students will learn how religious groups influenced and were influenced by American culture. An assortment of reading materials, writing assignments, and creative projects will allow students to engage with a variety of religious issues and understand the significance and relevance of religion in the history of the United States.

REL/ENGL 4236: THE FOUR GOSPELS

Instructor: Delbert Burkett
W 6:00–8:50pm (Section 001)

This course will introduce you to the four gospels of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We will consider how each of these documents gives a unique portrait of Jesus of Nazareth. We will examine these documents from a literary perspective as works of literature with plots and characters. We will also examine them from a socio-historical perspective as windows revealing the concerns of the earliest Christian communities.

REL/HIST 4505: THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

Instructor: Bradley K. Storin
T Th 10:30–11:50am (Section 001)

This course covers the history, literature, and thought of Christianity from its beginnings in first-century Palestine to its establishment as the official religion of the Roman Empire in the sixth century (the period known as “late antiquity”). Through a close reading of ancient sources and scholarly literature, we examine the lives of several important Christians and topics central to nascent Christian traditions (e.g., martyrdom, monasticism, ritual diversity, Christian art and architecture, theological controversies, and ecclesiastical institutionalization).

REL/HIST 4507: MEDIEVAL HERESIES

Instructor: Sherri Johnson
M W F 1:30–2:20pm (Section 001)

This course will explore the development of Christian beliefs and traditions through examining the process of debate and disagreement as it occurred from the origins of the movement through the early Reformation. We will consider the intertwined nature of heresy and orthodoxy as well as the role of religious and secular authority. We will be guided by the idea that you can learn a lot about how a group develops over time by what issues it considers important enough to argue about, how it attempts to resolve those arguments, and how it decides who is in and who is out.

REL 4600: HINDUISM

Instructor: Nick Tackes
M W 3:30–4:50pm (Section 001)

Hinduism is better understood as multiple Hindu traditions. In this course, you will learn how Hindus of different times and places have sought good lives and salvation through a range of practices and points of focus. You will learn of three major Hindu devotional orientations—to Vishnu, to Shiva, and to the Goddess. You will learn how yoga, temple devotion, pilgrimage, astrology, and sacrificial ritual fit into the lives of Hindus, historically and today. To do so, you will encounter a range of media, including scriptures, comic books, Ayurvedic medicines, Bollywood films, and an in-person visit to a local Hindu temple.

Religious Studies Faculty Directory

Delbert Burkett

Ph.D. Duke University
New Testament & Christian Origins

123 Coates Hall

Mari Rethelyi

Ph.D. University of Chicago
Modern European Judaism

112 Coates Hall

Lauren Horn Griffin

Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara
Religion, Media, Tech, & Nationalism

109 Coates Hall

Yohong Roh

Ph.D. Temple University
East Asian Buddhism

122 Coates Hall

Claire Hautot

Ph.D. University of Chicago
American Religion

217 Coates Hall

Bradley K. Storin

Ph.D. Indiana University
History of Christianity

113 Coates Hall

Stuart Irvine

Ph.D. Emory University
Old Testament & Ancient Israelite Literature

115 Coates Hall

Nick Tackes

Ph.D. Columbia University
South Asian Religions

105 Coates Hall

Michael Pasquier

Ph.D. Florida State University
American Catholicism & Religion in the U.S. South

210A Coates Hall

Angela Xia

Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania
Religion & Medicine in the U.S.

118 Coates Hall

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DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (27 HOURS)

TWO OF THESE

- ○ REL 1000: Religions of the World
- ○ REL 2000: What is Religion?
- ○ REL 2027: Asian Religions
- ○ REL 2029: Judaism, Christianity, & Islam
- ○ REL ****
- ○ REL ****
- ○ REL 3***/4***
- ○ REL 3***/4***
- ○ REL 3***/4***
- ○ REL 4***
- ○ REL 4301: Theories of Religion