

Department of Religious Studies

Spring 2025 Undergraduate Courses

Important Dates

First day of classes
January 13

**Holidays
(University Closed)**

- ◆ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 20

**Last day to add, drop
with no grade**
January 21

**Deadline to apply for
May 2025
Graduation**
February 13

**Fall 2025 schedule
available on web**
March 3

**Spring Recess
No classes**
March 3-8

**Last day to withdraw
from course;
grade subject to
Withdrawal Policy**
March 17

**Registration for
Summer and Fall
2025 begins**
March 31

Last day of classes
April 30

Reading day
May 1

Final examinations
May 2-8

Commencement
May 9-10



RELS 1120 (001)

The Bible and Its Interpreters

TR 11:30-12:45 / Trina Rumpfelt

This course provides an exemplification of the multiple ways 'Bible' has been produced, read, and manipulated by biblically allied religious communities up to roughly the end of the first millennium of the Common Era. We will illustrate and discuss the conceptual suppositions which flaw almost all scholarly work published on this topic to date. Within this course we will also discuss the diverse ways in which the Qur'an partakes in a shared 'biblical' universe of discourse. - *Historical or Textual Analysis*

RELS 1201 (001)

Introduction to the Study of Religion

MW(F Hybrid) 11:15-12:05 / Janet McDaniel

Religion influences all we think about everything. This course is an introduction to the academic study of religion. Whether one holds religious beliefs or not we are all living in historical, cultural, and social worlds that are largely constructed by religious ideas and assumptions. In this course we dig deeply to ask about the kind of "world constructions" that religions represent, examining the origins of our most basic assumptions about the meaning of life, gender and sexuality, moral values, and cultural and social norms. This is an introductory course intended for students of any major or subject area. - *Cultural or Textual Analysis*



RELS 1502 (001 & 002)

World Religions

Online Asynchronous / 8 weeks first half of the semester / Eric Hoenes

Online Asynchronous / 8 weeks first half of the semester / Joanne Maguire

A study of the historical origins, central teachings, and devotional practices of the major religious traditions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—alongside those of smaller and newer religious movements. - *Historical or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 1502 (003)

World Religions in London

M 12:00 / Eric Hoenes

Spring break study abroad program. Students will travel to the United Kingdom to observe the stunning array of religious diversity of London as experienced in everyday life. In the popular imagination, the city is dominated by Christian architecture, but we will see a city which Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and others have been claiming as home for generations. We will explore the concept of "religious diversity" in a globalizing world. - *Cultural or Historical Analysis*





RELS 1502 (004 & 005)

Religions & Cultures in Global Media

MWF 10:10-11:00 & 12:20-1:10 / Janna Shedd

This course explores a variety of

religions and cultures, and examines how they are portrayed in global media, such as films, documentaries, music videos, news stories, and online content. Students will learn about these religions through visuals, stories, and the voices of the people of the cultures themselves—and compare those voices to those of outsiders doing the describing. - *Cultural or Textual Analysis*

RELS 1512 - (001)

Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n' Roll: Means to a Religious Experience

MW (F Hybrid) / 1:25-2:15 / Janet McDaniel

This course examines American popular culture from the 19th century to the present through themes of “sex, drugs, and rock’n’roll.” In our study we will examine how people perceive(d) these avenues as means to access direct religious experiences: that is, as techniques of ecstasy or of transcending the personality. In this course we will examine American perceptions, attitudes, and reactions (scholarly and non-scholarly) of the ways in which people employ(ed) music, drugs, and sex as valid and effective means of accessing these experiences.

—*Textual or Historical Analysis*

RELS 1512 -002

Intro to the Black Church in America

TR / 4:00-5:15 / Julia Moore

This course is designed to introduce students to the historical beginnings of the Black Church within American Protestantism from the antebellum period up through the Modern Civil Rights Era. — *Cultural or Historical Analysis*



RELS 1512 (005 & 006)

and (007 & 008)

American Indian Lifeways

MWF 10:10-11:00; 11:15-12:05; 12:20-1:10; and 1:25-2:15 / Tina Katsanos

This course is an introduction to the various dimensions of American Indian religiosity in the US: myth and orality; sacred space, time, and objects; embodied lifeways and ceremonies; notions of personhood; and tradition and change. Special emphasis is placed on how American Indian responses to climate change and other forms of environmental degradation are rooted in religious sensibilities. - *Historical or Cultural Analysis*

RELS 2000-001

Building Bible: Uncovering its Blueprints

Wednesdays 2:30-5:15 / John Reeves

Who or what made the Bible? In this course, we will uncover and analyze the fingerprints left by biblical authors, compilers, and editors.

— *Historical or Textual Analysis*



Religious Studies, M.A., Early Entry

- ◆ Do you want to take Graduate level classes at Undergraduate level prices? You can take 12 hours of graduate credit as you work on your B.A.
- ◆ An MA in Religious Studies provides transferable marketable skills.
- ◆ Exceptional undergraduate students at UNC Charlotte may apply to this Early Entry Program to begin work toward a graduate degree before completion of the baccalaureate degree.
- ◆ Please visit religionsstudies.charlotte.edu for more information.

RELS 2000-002

Divination, Demons, and Conjury: Religion and Magic in the Ancient World

Online Asynchronous / 8 weeks first half of semester / Barbara Thiede

Ancient incantations and adjurations, spells and amulets, magic words, prophecy, divination – in what ways can and do religious practices, ideas and ritual intersect with magic? We'll begin by studying what "religion" and "magic" mean for scholars. We will discover why "magic" and "religion" did not exist as we understand them in ancient times and then explore how they became separate and opposing categories that profoundly influence our own time —*Textual or Historical Analysis*



RELS 2000-003

Qumran & its Literature

Thursday 2:30-5:15 / John Reeves

Intensive study of a series of important literary and religious texts that have been recovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls. —*Textual or Historical Analysis*



RELS 2109-001

Death and The Afterlife

TR 1:00-2:15 / Janna Shedd

This course will explore beliefs and practices relating to dying, death, and the afterlife (or afterlives!) as found in religions and cultures around the world. —*Cultural or Textual Analysis*



RELS 2154-001

Hinduism

TR 11:30-12:45 / Janna Shedd

This course introduces students to the wide variety of Hindu beliefs and practices in both India and the Hindu diaspora. In addition to learning about the texts, rituals, and philosophies of Hinduism, we will discuss the problems of defining



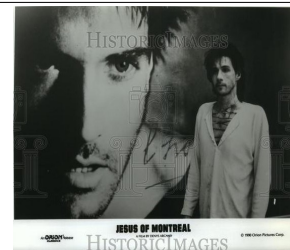
"Hinduism," the impact of colonialism, the international appeal of yoga and Aryurvedic medicine, the rise of Hindu nationalism, and role of guru movements in Hindu communities. —*Cultural Analysis*

RELS 2246-001

Jesus on the Silver Screen

TR 2:30-3:45/ Kent Brintnall
(Cross-lists with ENGL/FILM)

Any representation of Jesus is an argument about who Jesus is (or was) and what his life (and death) means. This course consists of a close, comparative reading of canonical and non-canonical gospels as well as a number of cinematic depictions of Jesus to think through how each reflects and responds to their historical, cultural, and political moment. —*Textual or Cultural Analysis*



RELS 3000-001

Ghosts, Demons, Fear, and Conspiracy in American Culture

Online Asynchronous / Sean McCloud (Cross-lists with AMST)



Recent polls show an increasing number of Americans believe in ghosts and demons, have heightened senses of fear, and that at least 75% believe in one or more false conspiracy theories. This asynchronous, online class analyzes these subjects and various scholarly explanations as to why so many Americans would currently hold clearly false conspiratorial beliefs and why they do at the same time that more Americans also believe in ghosts and demons. —*Cultural or Textual Analysis*

RELS 3113-001

Jesus

TR 10:00-11:15 / Trina Rumfelt

This course provides an examination of the representation of Jesus and the religion he taught from the point of view of the synoptic gospels. Through an academic perspective we will also discuss the relation of the social and political circumstances surrounding the significance of the historical Jesus by exploring his Jewish culture and historical context in the first-century Roman world. —*Historical or Textual Analysis*





RELS 4000-001
Religion, Heritage, and the Built Environment: Memory, Memorial, and the City of Charlotte

TR 1:00-2:15 / Julia Moore

(Cross-listed with ARCH)

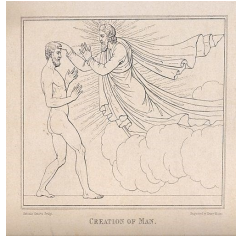
Explore how religion, heritage, and memorialization are reflected in the built environment. Learn about the religious history of Charlotte through some of its most historic cemeteries. - *Cultural or Historical Analysis*

RELS 4000-090

God's Bod: Divine Anatomy in Biblical Literature

Mondays 5:30-8:15 / Barbara Thiede

Yhwh is a world traveler who has engaged followers from every part of the globe; his character and nature touched up, redrawn, and repainted by diverse people groups. After centuries of such revision, Yhwh's body, Yhwh's emotions, and Yhwh's sexual nature have been obscured, hidden behind the evocation of a formless, unlimited, otherworldly being. This course will uncover God's Bod and explore the physical, emotional, and sexual life he leads in the pages of the Hebrew Bible. - *Textual or Historical Analysis*



RELS 4040-092
Sensory Cultures of Religion

Tuesdays 5:30-8:15 /
Alexandra Kaloyanides

(Cross-listed with ANTH, ARTH)

This seminar explores the roles that images, objects, and sensations play in religious expression. Together we will think about how religion is mediated, transformed, and made meaningful through vision, sound, touch, smell, and taste. - *Cultural Analysis*

Critical Thinking and Communication



CTCM 2530 (338-341)

A Good Life. What Is It?

Online Asynchronous / Celia Sinclair

This Critical Thinking and Communication course is a foundational course for the critical thinking and communication competency. In this course you will undertake an inquiry process and build towards the preparation of a polished product at the end of the semester. This particular section will deal with ways in which a "good life" has been understood in Western thought. What is a good life? How does one go about living it? How is happiness defined and understood? What are the problems we humans must address?

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