

UNC CHARLOTTE – RELIGIOUS STUDIES

FALL 2026 COURSES • EARLY ENTRY M.A. PROGRAM

**FALL 2026 RELIGIOUS STUDIES
COURSES**

RELS 1502 – WORLD RELIGIONS

Instructors: Eric Hoenes, Tina Katsanos, Joanne Maguire, Janna Shedd, William Sherman
Face to Face, Hybrid, ONLINE Asynchronous
Times: Varies
Please see below for details

RELS 1512 – AMERICAN INDIAN LIFEWAYS

Instructor: Tina Katsanos
11:30–12:45 | 1:00–2:15 T/Th
An introduction to the various dimensions of American Indian religiosity in the US and Canada: myth and orality; sacred space, time, and objects; embodied lifeways and ceremonies; notions of personhood.

RELS 2000 – EXPLORING THE BIBLE

Instructor: Davina Lopez
ONLINE Asynchronous, second half term
The major contours and contents of the Bible as a canon, its various socio-historical contexts and afterlives, and its continuing social power as a foundational document for making history, culture, laws, ethics, and meaning.

**RELS 2000 – History of American
Christianity & Charlotte**

Instructor: Julia Moore
ONLINE Asynchronous
An examination of the history of American Christianity in the city of Charlotte.

RELS 2000 – SHINTOISM

Instructor: Janna Shedd
1:00–2:15 T/Th
This course is a historical and cultural exploration of Japanese religious ideas and practices in the Shinto religion. A study of Shinto mythology, ritual, and its cultural significance.

**RELS 2000 – RELIGION, LAW, AND
SLAVERY IN THE AMERICAS**

Instructor: Danielle Boaz
ONLINE Asynchronous
9:05–9:55 M/W
This course will explore the relationship between religion, law and slavery through case studies from the 15th century to 19th century.

RELS 2109 – DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE

Instructor: Janna Shedd
10:00–11:15 M/W
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.

RELS 2246 – JESUS AT THE MOVIES

Instructor: Kent Brintnall
4:00–5:15 T/Th
A study of cinematic portrayals of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection in the language of film

RELS 2600 – WHAT IS RELIGION?

Instructor: Davina Lopez
1:00–2:15 T/Th
Examine basic concepts, theories, and approaches that are involved in the critical, academic study of religion.

**RELS 3000 – NEW RELIGIONS & CULT
CONTROVERSIES**

Instructor: Sean McCloud
1:00–2:15 T/Th
A study of new religions and debates about “cults.”

RELS 3125 – THE DEVIL

Instructor: Eric Hoenes
2:30–3:45 T/Th
This course is a cross-cultural investigation of personifications of evil and moral corruption—namely, the Devil and related figures such as demons and witches.

RELS 3134 – RELIGION IN THE CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES

Instructor: Julia Moore
ONLINE Asynchronous
An examination of selected topics and issues concerning contemporary American religion and culture.

RELS 3260 – BUDDHISM IN THE MODERN WORLD

Instructor: Alexandra Kaloyanides
11:30–12:45 T/Th
Buddhism a philosophy? A mind science? An ancient mystical path? A modern construct? This seminar will explore ways that Buddhism has been understood in the modern era.

RELS 3400 - INTERNSHIPS

Instructor: Sean McCloud
Research and in-service training in business or community-based organizations.

RELS 4790 – HONORS THESIS PROPOSAL & CANDIDACY

Instructor: Julia Moore
Preparation for the undergraduate honors thesis.

RELS 4791 – HONORS THESIS

Instructor: Julia Moore
Completion of the undergraduate honors thesis.

RELS 4800 – INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Instructor: Alexandra Kaloyanides
Student-designed research under faculty supervision.

RELS 6101 – APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Instructor: William Sherman
5:30–8:15 PM
This seminar will engage a number of representative recent texts in the interdisciplinary field of religious studies to help students develop the skills of analyzing, evaluating, and crafting arguments and identifying the role of method and writing in the articulation and persuasiveness of arguments. Students will also work to develop their own research proposals in furtherance of their specific degree programs.

RELS 6800 – DIRECTED READINGS/RESEARCH

Instructor: William Sherman
Graduate-level independent research.

RELS 6999 – THESIS

Instructor: William Sherman
Graduate thesis research and writing.

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Learn more: religiousstudies.charlotte.edu

RELS 1502 OFFERINGS FOR FALL 2026

RELS 1502-001 – WORLD RELIGIONS

Instructor: William Sherman

2:30-3:45 T/TH Prospects for Success Course

This Prospect For Success (PFS) course fulfills a general education requirement and is for incoming CHES Freshmen only. This section is titled: "World Religions." The course invites students to explore how religions work in people's everyday lives across cultures, history, and the modern world. Through the study of religions such as Buddhism, Islam, and Afro-Caribbean traditions, students will both understand specific traditions and also learn how the concept of "religion" must be critically examined. By analyzing texts, images, and lived practices, students investigate how religion shapes identity, politics, and culture, and learn to recognize the importance of religion both historically and in their own present-day communities. The course emphasizes critical thinking, effective communication, and scholarly research. PFS courses are designed to help new students transition to college and develop skills needed for success at UNC Charlotte.

RELS 1502-002 – WORLD RELIGIONS

Instructor: Eric Hoenes

Online Asynchronous, second half term

A survey of major world religions and the academic study of religion. How do religions help people understand their place in the world, form transregional and even trans-dimensional connections, and create senses of what is "local" and what is "universal"? How do people remake religion in new places and how are those places remade in the process?

RELS 1502-003 AND 004 – WORLD RELIGIONS

Instructor: Tina Katsanos

Online Asynchronous

This version of RELS 1502 is an introduction to the various dimensions of Indigenous religiosity across the globe: myth and orality; sacred space, time, and objects; embodied lifeways and ceremonies; notions of personhood. A key component of the course is an analysis of how Indigenous traditions have changed during points of contact with non-indigenous peoples. Adaptation, revitalization, and resistance are cast as vital functions of a living religion. Special emphasis is placed on how Indigenous responses to climate change and other forms of environmental degradation are often rooted in religious sensibilities.

RELS 1502-005 AND 006 – WORLD RELIGIONS

Instructor: Joanne Maguire

Online Asynchronous, second half term

A study of the historical origins, central teachings, and devotional practices of the major global religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism.

RELS 1502-007 AND 008 – WORLD RELIGIONS

Instructor: Janna Shedd

Hybrid

10:10-11:00 M/W plus online

11:15-12:05 plus online

This version of RELS 1502 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.