

## DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

<https://www.uvm.edu/cas/religion>

### RELIGION

The study of religion at UVM is a vital part of the wider study of human cultures, global affairs, and personal identities. The department's secular approach invites students to engage the study of religion free of ties to religious training or affiliation. Department faculty, trained in the humanities and social sciences, bring a uniquely transdisciplinary and integrative approach to their teaching. The department curriculum explores a wide array of specific historical traditions, including African and African diasporic religions, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and religions in North America, as well as broader religious dynamics shaped by ritual, race, gender, aesthetics, media, politics, and popular culture. Through their study of religion, students come to understand the complexity of religious communities in specific times and places and to appreciate diversity within particular religious communities. Students also gain an enhanced understanding of cultural diversity through the study of a variety of worldviews and behaviors and explore international and historical perspectives that provide the necessary context for understanding their own culture.

<https://www.uvm.edu/cas/jewishstudies>

### JEWISH STUDIES

Jewish Studies examines Judaism not only as a religion but as a civilization with deep roots, as well as a culture encompassing a rich tradition in language, literature, philosophy and religion, customs and ritual, art, music and film. Jewish Studies is by its nature interdisciplinary and cross-cultural, so UVM offers courses from religion, history, classics, literature (English, French, German, and Italian), Hebrew, sociology, and theater.

### MAJORS

#### RELIGION MAJOR

Religion B.A.

### MINORS AND CERTIFICATES

#### RELIGION MINORS

Jewish Studies

Religion

Religious Literacy in Professions - Undergraduate Certificate

### Jewish Studies Courses

#### JS 1010. Topics In: First-Year Seminar. 3 Credits.

Intensive first-year seminar focused on specific themes and/or disciplinary perspectives. Emphasis on developing critical reading and writing skills, substantive revision, information literacy, and analytical thinking. First-year seminars are frequently organized to meet one of the disciplinary Catamount Core requirements. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Catamount Core: WIL1.

#### JS 1020. Topics In: LASP Writing. 3 Credits.

Intensive course in a broad disciplinary area (humanities, social sciences, arts, or natural sciences). Part of an integrated first-year experience in which students take 2-4 classes exploring aesthetic, humanistic, social, linguistic, environmental, or scientific issues. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Co-requisite: Enrollment in the appropriate Liberal Arts Scholars Program. Catamount Core: WIL1.

#### JS 1025. Topics In: LASP Seminar. 3 Credits.

Intensive course in a broad disciplinary area (humanities, social sciences, arts, or natural sciences). Part of an integrated first-year experience in which students take 2-4 classes exploring aesthetic, humanistic, social, linguistic, environmental, or scientific issues. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Co-requisite: Enrollment in the appropriate Liberal Arts Scholars Program.

#### JS 1500. Jews and Judaisms. 3 Credits.

An introduction to Jewish history, religious thought and practice, ethics, and law. Cross-listed with: REL 1240. Catamount Core: AH3, D2.

#### JS 1610. Contemporary Israel. 3 Credits.

Addresses the modern nation-state of Israel through such topics as media, demographics, politics, religion, immigration, popular culture, and/or urban planning and systems.

#### JS 1990. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See schedule of courses for specific titles.

#### JS 2990. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See schedule of courses for specific titles.

#### JS 3990. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See schedule of courses for specific titles.

#### JS 3991. Internship. 1-18 Credits.

On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

#### JS 3993. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.

A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

**JS 3995. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.**

Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

**JS 4990. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.**

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

**JS 4994. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.**

Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

**Religion Courses****REL 1010. Topics In: First-Year Seminar. 3 Credits.**

Intensive first-year seminar focused on specific themes and/or disciplinary perspectives. Emphasis on developing critical reading and writing skills, substantive revision, information literacy, and analytical thinking. First-year seminars are frequently organized to meet one of the disciplinary Catamount Core requirements. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Catamount Core: AH3, WIL1.

**REL 1011. Topics In: FYS: Race in US. 3 Credits.**

Intensive first-year seminar focused on specific themes and/or disciplinary perspectives. Emphasis on developing critical reading and writing skills, substantive revision, information literacy, and analytical thinking. First-year seminars are frequently organized to meet one of the disciplinary Catamount Core requirements. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Catamount Core: AH3, D1, WIL1.

**REL 1012. Topics in: FYS: Div Human Exp. 3 Credits.**

Intensive first-year seminar focused on specific themes and/or disciplinary perspectives. Emphasis on developing critical reading and writing skills, substantive revision, information literacy, and analytical thinking. First-year seminars are frequently organized to meet one of the disciplinary Catamount Core requirements. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Catamount Core: AH3, D2, WIL1.

**REL 1014. Topics In: FYS: Sustainability. 3 Credits.**

Intensive first-year seminar focused on specific themes and/or disciplinary perspectives. Emphasis on developing critical reading and writing skills, substantive revision, information literacy, and analytical thinking. First-year seminars are frequently organized to meet one of the disciplinary Catamount Core requirements. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Catamount Core: AH3, SU, WIL1.

**REL 1020. Topics In: LASP Writing. 3 Credits.**

Intensive course in a broad disciplinary area (humanities, social sciences, arts, or natural sciences). Part of an integrated first-year experience in which students take 2-4 classes exploring aesthetic, humanistic, social, linguistic, environmental, or scientific issues. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Co-requisite: Enrollment in the appropriate Liberal Arts Scholars Program. Catamount Core: AH3, WIL1.

**REL 1021. Topics In: LASP: Race in US. 3 Credits.**

Intensive course in a broad disciplinary area (humanities, social sciences, arts, or natural sciences). Part of an integrated first-year experience in which students take 2-4 classes exploring aesthetic, humanistic, social, linguistic, environmental, or scientific issues. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Co-requisite: Enrollment in the appropriate Liberal Arts Scholars Program. Catamount Core: AH3, D1.

**REL 1022. Topics In: LASP: Div Human Exp. 3 Credits.**

Intensive course in a broad disciplinary area (humanities, social sciences, arts, or natural sciences). Part of an integrated first-year experience in which students take 2-4 classes exploring aesthetic, humanistic, social, linguistic, environmental, or scientific issues. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Co-requisite: Enrollment in the appropriate Liberal Arts Scholars Program. Catamount Core: AH3, D2.

**REL 1025. Topics In: LASP Seminar. 3 Credits.**

Intensive course in a broad disciplinary area (humanities, social sciences, arts, or natural sciences). Part of an integrated first-year experience in which students take 2-4 classes exploring aesthetic, humanistic, social, linguistic, environmental, or scientific issues. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Co-requisite: Enrollment in the appropriate Liberal Arts Scholars Program. Catamount Core: AH3.

**REL 1050. Religion, Politics, & Power. 3 Credits.**

Introduction to major themes in the study of religion, tracing their development over time. Special emphasis is placed on material effects of the category of religion, including case law, current events, analysis of social constructs (gender, race, sexuality, time), and engagement with key theoretical texts in the study of religion. Catamount Core: AH3, GC1.

**REL 1210. Introducing Hinduism. 3 Credits.**

Introduction to some of the major topics and themes in Hindu religious traditions, tracing their development from Vedic times to the present day. Catamount Core: AH3, D2, GC1.

**REL 1230. Introducing Islam. 3 Credits.**

Introduces Islam in the context of the study of religion, focusing especially on its variation over time and location, as evidenced by texts, rituals, festivals, and competing interpretations. Catamount Core: AH3, D2, GC1.

**REL 1240. Jews and Judaisms. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to Jewish history, religious thought and practice, ethics, and law. Cross-listed with: JS 1500. Catamount Core: AH3, D2.

**REL 1250. Topics in the Bible. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the historical study of religion and its relation to written texts through an examination of the creation of biblical and related writings of ancient Israel, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and the early Christian movement. Representative topics: What is the Bible; Literary and Historical Perspectives on the Bible. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Cross-listed with: ENGL 1305. Catamount Core: AH3, D2.

**REL 1310. Religions in Asia. 3 Credits.**

Study of the Hindu, Buddhist, and East Asian religious traditions as expressed in their basic symbolisms, writings, practices, and cultural forms. Catamount Core: AH3, D2.

**REL 1355. Topics in Rel & Race in US. 3 Credits.**

Exploration of themes in religion in the United States, with an emphasis on race. Representative topic: African American Religion. Credit not awarded for both REL 1355 and versions of the course offered as REL 1010 to 1029 or as CRES 1841. May be repeated for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Cross-listed with: CRES 1841. Catamount Core: AH3, D1.

**REL 1357. Histories of AfAm Religions. 3 Credits.**

Explores the history of African American religious experiences over the past four centuries, introducing some of the core beliefs, practices, individuals, institutions, communities, relationships, and experiences that have defined Black religious life in the United States. Introduces students to the varieties of African American religious experiences from the seventeenth-century Black Atlantic world to the present. Cross-listed with: CRES 1843. Catamount Core: AH3, D1.

**REL 1605. Comparing Religions. 3 Credits.**

Comparison of diverse practices and beliefs from selected religious traditions and cultures. Credit not awarded for both REL 1605 and versions of the course offered as REL 1010 to 1029. Catamount Core: AH3, D2.

**REL 1630. Religion & Popular Literature. 3 Credits.**

Examination of popular religious fiction published in the United States: literature that is both popular - on the bestseller list - and religious - engaging with explicitly religious themes and issues. Work with texts that engage with evangelical Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and the Nation of Islam, situating those texts in historical contexts and examining how they rethink religion. Catamount Core: AH2.

**REL 1650. Religion, Health, & Healing. 3 Credits.**

Comparative and cross-cultural exploration of the relationships between religion, health, and healing. Catamount Core: AH3, D2, GC1.

**REL 1670. Religion and Media Technology. 3 Credits.**

Religious groups have a reputation for being resistant to technology, but many religious groups and actors have been innovators in the use of technology. This course examines the relationship of religion and technology through topics like spirit photography and biblical films, by asking how technologies have shaped religious practice and examining how religious groups have experimented with communication technologies. Catamount Core: AH3, D2.

**REL 1700. Topics in Rel & Environment. 3 Credits.**

Exploration of themes involving religion and the natural environment. Credit not awarded for both REL 1700 and versions of the course offered as REL 1010 to 1029. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Catamount Core: AH3, SU.

**REL 1990. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.**

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

**REL 2050. Interpretation of Religion. 3 Credits.**

Examination of major theories and methods used in studying and interpreting religious phenomena. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3, GC1.

**REL 2060. Religious Literacy. 3 Credits.**

Religious literacy entails understanding the history and contemporary manifestations of religion, including the central texts, beliefs and practices as they are shaped within specific contexts. Introduces ways of thinking about the public expression of religion and profession-specific engagements with religion. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3, GC2.

**REL 2065. Religious Literacy Practicum. 1 Credit.**

Students pursuing the Religious Literacy in Professions certificate will develop research and reflection projects integrating theories of religious literacy with research methods specific to their disciplines. Pre/Co-requisites: REL 2060.

**REL 2220. Buddhist Traditions. 3 Credits.**

A survey of Buddhist beliefs and practices in a diversity of cultures, including some modern developments. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3, D2.

**REL 2235. Islam and Modernity. 3 Credits.**

An exploration of Muslims' responses to various challenges in the modern era. Examines the ways in which religious actors shaped and altered religious ideals, identities, and ideologies via theoretical texts and case studies. Prerequisites: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3, D2, GC1.

**REL 2245. Topics in Jewish Traditions. 3 Credits.**

Focus on the diversity of Jewish Traditions in the US and elsewhere, exploring subjects such as lived Jewish traditions, stories told in Jewish communities, and the diversity of Jewish experiences. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion or Jewish Studies. Catamount Core: AH3.



**REL 2310. Religion & Modernity in E Asia. 3 Credits.**

Examination of the role religions played in the emergence of the modern nation-states of China and Japan over the course of the last two centuries. It examines how religion shaped responses to imperialism, as well as the effort to establish a modern nation-state. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3.

**REL 2350. Religion in America. 3 Credits.**

Study of the relationship between religion, the cultural ethos, and identity in America. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3, D1.

**REL 2352. Radical Christianities. 3 Credits.**

Examination of American Christians and Christian groups who pushed back against large denominations, the American government, or American popular culture. Exploration of conflicts, people, and groups ranging from Richard Allen and the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination, to Ellen White and Seventh-Day Adventists, to Ida B. Robinson and the Mount Sinai Holy Church of America, to members of peace churches resisting conscription during the world wars. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3.

**REL 2355. Topics In Rel & Race in US. 3 Credits.**

Exploration of aspects of the relationship between race and religion in the United States. May be repeated for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Cross-listed with: CRES 2841. Catamount Core: AH3, D1.

**REL 2357. Religion & Spirit in AfAm Lit. 3 Credits.**

Examination of religious and spiritual elements in African American literature. Exploration of how literary texts embrace or push back against religious beliefs and communities, as well as how Black American writers used religion and spirituality to think through race and inequality in the United States. Prerequisites: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH2, D1.

**REL 2600. Topics in Problems in Religion. 3 Credits.**

Exploration of questions and debates in the field of religion. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3.

**REL 2625. Religion, Law, & Discipline. 3 Credits.**

While it is common for people in the United States to understand legal spheres as distinct from religious ones, they are in fact deeply entangled with one another. An examination of these entanglements by examining dynamics of freedom of religion and comparing secular and religious legal regimes. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

**REL 2630. Religion & Pop Culture in US. 3 Credits.**

Introduces concepts and theories developed in Religion about the intersection of religion and popular culture in contemporary America. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Catamount Core: AH3.

**REL 2652. Mystics, Mediums, Shamans. 3 Credits.**

Examination of how mystical religious experiences such as shamanism and spirit possession have been studied by scholars of religion. Topics covered include music and performance in contexts of healing, cultural conceptions of the body, and impact of globalization and colonialism on indigenous and non-majority religious communities. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

**REL 2654. Sacred Sounds. 3 Credits.**

Examines the sonic aspects of religious life, paying particular attention to musical phenomena. Prerequisite: Three hours of Religion.

**REL 2700. Topics in Rel & Environment. 3 Credits.**

Exploration of themes involving religion and the natural environment. May repeat for credit with different content. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years. Prerequisite: Three hours of Religion or Environmental Studies. Cross-listed with: ENV5 2270. Catamount Core: AH3, SU.

**REL 2990. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.**

Intermediate courses or seminars on topics beyond the scope of existing departmental offerings. See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

**REL 3620. Religion and Empire. 3 Credits.**

An exploration of the definitions of religion as they relate to, were impacted by, and fostered the expansion of empires and imperialism. Topics include: history & definitions of religion; race & racialization; gender; colonialism; imperialism. Prerequisite: Nine hours in Religion.

**REL 3625. Religion, Nation, and State. 3 Credits.**

Exploration of religion in the public life of the modern nation-state. Focusing on the relationship of nationalism and religion, examines how religion is both a source of mobilization by the state and a means of resistance to it. Prerequisite: Nine hours in Religion. Catamount Core: WIL2.

**REL 3630. Religion and Secular Culture. 3 Credits.**

Comparison of religious and secular systems of meaning, value, and practice. Prerequisite: Nine hours in Religion. Catamount Core: WIL2.

**REL 3990. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.**

See schedule of courses for specific titles.

**REL 3991. Internship. 1-18 Credits.**

On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

**REL 3993. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.**

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**REL 3994. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.**

Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

**REL 3995. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.**

Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

**REL 4050. Senior Colloquium. 1 Credit.**

Capstone course for Religion majors. Prerequisites: Religion major; Senior standing.

**REL 4990. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.**

Intermediate courses or seminars on topics beyond the scope of existing departmental offerings. See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

**REL 4996. Honors. 1-6 Credits.**

College honors thesis or other department/program honors, under the supervision of a faculty member. Offered at department discretion.