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.

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.

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.

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.
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, 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 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 1620. Religion and Globalization. 3 Credits.

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 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 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 2550. Christianity. 3 Credits.
Historical study of the Christian tradition examining major religious movements of early, medieval, and Reformation Christianity, and the spirituality of Christians during these periods. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

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: ENVS 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: 9 credit 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.
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.