

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

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

The study of religion at UVM is a vital part of the wider study of human cultures, global affairs, and personal identities. Our 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.

MAJORS

RELIGION MAJOR

Religion B.A. (<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/artsandsciences/religion/religionba/>)

MINORS AND CERTIFICATES

RELIGION MINORS

Jewish Studies (<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/artsandsciences/religion/jewishstudiesminor/>)

Religion (<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/artsandsciences/religion/religionminor/>)

Religious Literacy in Professions (<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/artsandsciences/religion/religiousliteracyinprofessionscertificate/>) - Undergraduate Certificate

Jewish Studies Courses

JS 010. 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 050. Introduction to Jewish Studies. 3 Credits.

An introduction to Jewish history, religious thought and practice, ethics, and law. Cross-listed with: REL 050.

JS 090. Internship. 1-3 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 092. 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 096. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See schedule of courses for specific titles.

JS 190. 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 192. 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 196. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See schedule of courses for specific titles.

JS 197. 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.

JS 198. 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 290. 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 292. 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 296. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See schedule of courses for specific titles.

JS 297. 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.

JS 298. 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.

Religion Courses

REL 020. D2: Comparing Religions. 3 Credits.

Comparison of diverse practices and beliefs from selected religious traditions and cultures.

REL 021. D2: 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.

REL 023. D2: What is the Bible?. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the study of religion through an examination of the creation of biblical and related texts of ancient Babylon, Israel, and the early Christian movement. Investigate their diverse religious practices and our own assumptions about unfamiliar cultures.

REL 029. D2: Religion and Globalization. 3 Credits.

Study of the global dimensions of religion, including the impact of globalization on religious communities, and the effect of religious movements on global processes.

REL 030. D2: 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.

REL 031. D2: 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.

REL 032. LASP Religion Seminar. 3 Credits.

Seminar for students enrolled in the Liberal Arts Scholars Program for Humanities Scholars. Introduces students to the study of religion as part of the interdisciplinary work in the Humanities, in coordination with the annual HS theme. May be repeated for credit with different content. Co-requisite: Enrollment in Liberal Arts Scholars Program for Humanities Scholars.

REL 040. D2: Religion, Health, & Healing. 3 Credits.

Comparative and cross-cultural exploration of the relationships between religion, health, and healing. Cross-listed with: ANTH 076.

REL 050. Introduction to Jewish Studies. 3 Credits.

An introduction to Jewish history, religious thought and practice, ethics, and law. Cross-listed with: JS 050.

REL 080. D1: Religion & Race in America. 3 Credits.

Historical survey of forms of African-American religion in the U.S. in their relation to slavery, segregation, and civil rights; current issues in education and cultural diversity.

REL 085. On the Meaning of Life. 3 Credits.

An exploration of the ways in which different religious and philosophic thinkers, texts, and traditions have responded to questions concerning the meaning of human life.

REL 090. Internship. 1-3 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 095. Intro Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

REL 096. Intro Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

REL 100. Interpretation of Religion. 3 Credits.

Examination of major theories and methods used in studying and interpreting religious phenomena. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

REL 104. Mysticism, Shamanism & Possessn. 3 Credits.

Comparative study of ways in which the inward dimension of religious life finds expression. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

REL 105. 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.

REL 109. Ritualization:Rel,Body,Culture. 3 Credits.

A cross-cultural examination of ritual strategies for integrating personal and social experience, with attention to various theories and types of religious ritual. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

REL 110. Religion and Ways of Knowing. 3 Credits.

How do religious people know? How do we know about religion? Examines some of the diverse ways in which human beings, in a variety of cultural contexts, have claimed knowledge that transcends empirically gained and verifiable perceptions. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

REL 112. 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 105.

REL 124. 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 125. Women in Christianity to 1500. 3 Credits.

Women's roles in early and medieval Christianity, including women's religious orders, religious identities, mystical writings devotional practices, and their relationships to structures of ecclesiastical authority. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Cross-listed with: GSWS 114.

REL 128. D1: Religion in America. 3 Credits.

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

REL 129. Religion&Pop Culture in the 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.

REL 132. D2: 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.

REL 133. D2: 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.

REL 165. D1: Islam and Race. 3 Credits.

Islam is not a race (religions are not races) but Islam and religions are racialized. Examines how Islam and Muslims come to be seen as a race and the effects thereof in the North American context. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion.

REL 180. Moral&Rel Persp on Holocaust. 3 Credits.

A study of the Holocaust in relation to questions of moral responsibility, justice, guilt, and human suffering, focusing on Jewish responses. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion or Instructor permission. Cross-listed with: HS 180.

REL 190. 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.

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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 195. Intermediate 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.

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REL 197. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.

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REL 198. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.

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REL 202. Research in Religion Practicum. 1 Credit.

Research practicum taken concurrently with a 200-level seminar in the Religion Department. It is designed to support Religion majors in their development of effective research and writing skills as part of their work in the major. Prerequisites: Religion major; Junior/Senior standing. Co-requisite: Concurrent enrollment in a three-credit Religion 200-level course.

REL 203. Senior Colloquium. 1 Credit.

Capstone course for Religion majors. Participants substantially revise their REL 202 seminar paper and present their research to the colloquium. Prerequisites: REL 202; Religion major; Senior standing.

REL 224. Studies in Christianity. 3 Credits.

Examination of selected issues, movements, periods, or individuals within the Christian tradition. Prerequisites: Nine hours in Religion (REL 124 or REL 125 recommended). May be repeated up to six hours. Topics vary by offering; periodic offering at intervals that may exceed four years.

REL 234. Buddhism in Sri Lanka. 3 Credits.

An examination of Theravada Buddhist belief and practice in the context of Sri Lankan culture, with attention to lay and monastic interaction. Prerequisite: Nine hours in Religion with three hours at the intermediate level, or REL 132.

REL 254. 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 255. 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.

REL 259. Religion and Secular Culture. 3 Credits.

Comparison of religious and secular systems of meaning, value, and practice. Prerequisite: Nine hours in Religion, with three hours at the intermediate level.

REL 290. Internship. 1-18 Credits.

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