



Religious Studies Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Course Guide: Spring 2021 Preview

What is Religious Studies? Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary academic program that explores “what matters” to people and how beliefs, symbols, rituals, spaces, etc. serve as resources in a variety of contexts as human beings make sense of and live out their lives. It engages a variety of professional fields and provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally and personally in a complex, multi-dimensional world. For information about the RS major, certificate and courses, see our website or contact: Dr. Corrie Norman, Associate Director and Advisor, enorman@wisc.edu | <http://religiousstudies.wisc.edu>

NOTE: If you are interested in courses with schedule overlaps, please contact Dr. Norman (cenorman@wisc.edu) or course instructors. Some formatting flexibilities may allow you to take some overlapping classes. Please see online course listings for most accurate information regarding course offerings and format.

Elementary Level

RELIG ST 104: Sacred Places and Journeys – DuBois, Thomas; Remote, asynchronous, with synchronous discussion sections (RS Gateway Course)

RELIG ST 173: Consuming Happiness - Whelan, Christine; Remote, *MW 9:55-10:45am

Intermediate Level

RELIG ST 234: Genres of Western Religious Writing - Rosenhagen, Ulrich; Remote, synchronous, TTh 11:00am-12:15pm (Meets Comm B req)

RELIG ST 236: Asia Enchanted – Jones, Jamal; Remote, synchronous, MW 11:00-11:50am

RELIG ST 253: Dante’s Divine Comedy - Todorovic, Jelena; Remote, *MW 12:05-12:55pm

RELIG ST 306: Hinduism - Cerulli, Anthony; Remote, synchronous, MW 11:00am-11:50 am

RELIG ST 308: Introduction to Buddhism - Hansen, Anne; Remote, synchronous, MW 4:00-5:15pm

RELIG ST 309: The Crusades: Christianity and Islam - Lapina, Elizabeth; Remote, synchronous, TTh 9:30-10:45am

RELIG ST 328: Classical Rabbinic Literature in Translation - Rosenblum, Jordan; Remote, synchronous, TTh 11:00am-12:15pm

RELIG ST 333: Christian Literature: Matthew-Revelation (New Testament) - Norman, Corrie; Remote, synchronous, TTh 1:00-2:15pm

RELIG ST 340: American Jewish Life of DNA - Rock-Singer, Cara; Remote, synchronous, MW 2:30-3:45pm – **NEW COURSE!**
Explores the range of relationships between DNA and American Jewish life. It begins with the "prehistory" of the relationship between Jewishness and genetic science, from Biblical genealogies to early twentieth century racial science. It then turns to America in the second half of the twentieth century, when the discovery of the double helix and the atrocities of Auschwitz reinvigorated and reshaped American Jewish relationships to DNA.

RELIG ST 343: The Anthropology of Religion - Nesper, Larry; Remote *TTh 8:00-9:15am

RELIG ST 360: The Anglo-Saxons – Zweck, Jordan; Remote, synchronous, TTh 11:00am-12:15pm

RELIG ST 400-001 meets with 401-001: Religion, Global & Public Health – Norman, Corrie; Remote, synchronous, M 3:30-6:00pm – **NEW COURSE!**

Religion, Public and Global Health explores health issues and practices in religious communities and their interaction with public health concerns and programs in U.S. and international contexts. Employing a range of resources from public and global health, religious studies, anthropology, religious communities and popular culture, the course format will include some common seminar sessions and individual or small group research and consultation with the instructor. Topics range across religious expressions and locations from Madison to Hawaii, Ethiopia to Thailand and beyond. Contagion, aging, gender, mental health, religious marginalization and health disparity are among the focus issues. RS 102 is pre-requisite for this small seminar. Honors option. Students who desire SOC SCI credit should enroll in RS 401-001; students who desire HUM credit should enroll in RS 400-001. Please contact Dr. Norman for more information.



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RELIG ST 400-003: Islam in Africa & the Diaspora – Thompson, Katrina; Remote, synchronous, W 2:30-3:45pm – **NEW COURSE!**
In *New Muslim Cool*, African American Muslim anthropologist Su'ad Abdul Khabeer argues that Africa is rarely understood “as an archive for Islamic authenticity and authority.” This course asks how our understanding of Islam might change by exploring that under-examined archive. Focused on close readings of ethnographies, fiction, films, and other forms of cultural expression, we will examine the practice of Islam and representation of Muslims in Africa and the Diaspora. By pairing primary and secondary sources, we will explore themes of not just authenticity and authority but also related issues of representation, positionality, difference, otherness, essentialism, normativity, and queerness. Ultimately, you will come away with a deeper understanding of the diversity and complexity of Islam and Muslims.

RELIG ST 400-004: Moral Philosophy and the Holocaust – Stern, Adam; Remote, synchronous, TTh 9:30-10:45am

RELIG ST 400-005: Literature and the Problem of Evil – Zilbergerts, Marina; Remote, synchronous, TTh 9:30-10:45am

RELIG ST 400-006: Jerusalem: Conflict and Desire - Brenner, Rachel; Remote, synchronous, MWF 9:55am-10:45am

RELIG ST 406: The Amish - Louden, Mark; Classroom, MWF 11:00-11:50am

RELIG ST 410: Children and Religion - Ridgely, Susan; Hybrid (online, some classroom), MW 2:30-3:45pm

RELIG ST 430: Indian Traditions in the Modern Age - Buhemann, Gudrun; Classroom, TTh 1:00pm-2:15pm

RELIG ST 460: The History of Yoga - Buhemann, Gudrun; Classroom, TTh 11:00am-12:15pm

Advanced Level

RELIG ST 516: Religion and Public Education - Schweber, Simone; Remote, synchronous, T 4:00-7:00pm

RELIG ST 600: Religion in Critical Perspective- Ridgely, Susan; Remote, synchronous, W 4:00-6:30 (*Capstone for certificates/ majors; must be authorized to enroll; contact Dr. Norman*)

RELIG ST 601: Senior Capstone Research and Colloquium - Rock-Singer, Cara; Remote, synchronous, W 4:00-6:00 (*Capstone for majors; must be authorized to enroll; contact Dr. Norman*)

***= meeting pattern not confirmed**

Preview - Summer 2021

RELIG ST 403-001: Topics in Religious Studies-US Ethnic Studies

Topic: US Religions, Race & Gender, 3cr, HUM or Soc Sci; meets Ethnic Studies req. Term and Instructor TBA

Focuses on minority forms of religion in the US including African American Islam, Native American, LatinX Christianity and others with special attention to interrelations of race, gender, ethnicity and religion in identity formation.