



UNC
GREENSBORO
Religious Studies

FALL 2024
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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**REL 100 Introduction to World Religions (2 Online Sections)
7-Week Async First Session,
GEC: Philosophical/Religious/Ethical Perspectives (GPR)
MAC: Global and Intercultural
David McDuffie**

This course is an introduction to the academic study of several world religious traditions. Entailed in this study will be an attempt to arrive at a better understanding of the meaning attributed to the concept of religion and to assess the ways in which religious traditions, communities, and individuals function within and consequently influence human culture. Furthermore, the course will consist of an examination of the ways in which cultures influence various conceptions of religious faith and practice. During the semester, we will explore a variety of beliefs, rituals, and concepts associated with a diversity of religious traditions and expressions in order to evaluate the significance of religion and religious thought, both historically and in a contemporary context.

**REL 101 Introduction to Religious Studies
7-Week Async First Session
MAC: CritThink Hum and Fine Art
Greg Grieve**

Inquiry into religion through consideration of forms, patterns, categories, symbols, and practices which characterize various religious experiences.

**REL 108 Religion & Food
7-Week Async First Session
MAC: Health and Wellness
Ashlee Andrews**

This course will explain and compare Hindu, Jain, Christian, Jewish and Muslim foodways and evaluations of food. In the process of this comparative study, we will appraise how each of tradition conceptualizes wellness, and evaluates eating, feeding, overeating, dieting and fasting to promote or impede upon wellness.

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REL 113 Supernatural Encounters

7-Week Async First Session

MAC Foundations

Rohit Singh

Concepts of the “supernatural ” have shaped religious imaginaries of cultures/societies throughout history. To gain insights into historical/cultural contexts of these concepts, this course surveys beliefs/practices associated with supernatural beings and forces. The scope of this survey will include, but not be limited to Eastern, Western, and Indigenous Religions. *Must have fewer than 60 credits to enroll or can enroll by Written Permission.*

REL 202 Hebrew Bible

7-Week Async First Session

MAC Global and Intercultural, IGS Credit

Jewish Studies Minor

Ellen Haskell

Government, covenant, prophecy, prayer, doubt, and love! Explore the origins of Western culture through the Hebrew Bible and the religion of ancient Israel. Selections from biblical literature (not the whole Bible!) will investigate the relationship between history, spirituality, and ideology in these ancient writings.

REL 204 New Testament & the Origins of Christianity

Face to Face, Tuesday Thursday 9:30-1045

MAC Global and Intercultural

Chesley Kennedy

Study of the New Testament texts in their historical, sociological, and literary contexts.

REL 215 Judaism

7-Week Async Second Session

MAC Global and Intercultural, IGS Credit

Jewish Studies Minor

Ellen Haskell

From the ancient world through the 21st century, Judaism has adapted to diverse environments. This course surveys Jewish literature, culture, thought, and practice in its historical settings and offers a look at Jewish identities and rituals as they are lived today.

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REL 224 Yoga: Theory and Practice
7-Week Async Second Session
MAC Health and Wellness
Ashlee Andrews

This course will introduce the broad array of mental and bodily disciplines and philosophies that fall under the term “yoga”. Exploring foundational texts and contemporary yoga communities, we will identify and compare how various strands of yoga understand, define and pursue holistic wellness through bodily and mental disciplines.

REL 225 Islam
7-Week Async First Session
MAC Global and Intercultural
Rohit Singh

Introduction to origins of Islam and its development as a world religion focusing on doctrine, ritual practices, and community structures.

REL 230 Introduction to the Cultural Study of Videogaming
Face to Face, Tuesday Thursday 11:00 - 12:15
Video Game Minor
John Borchert

This course analyzes video gaming and esports cultures and values, as well as how they interact with society in general. This course teaches students the history, methodology, and theoretical approaches to videogaming and esports from various fields and disciplines.

REL 231 Religion in American
7-Week Async First Session
MAC Diversity and Equity
Dana Logan

Native American religions, Mormonism, and Malcolm X! This course explores the relationship between religion and the state from the colonial era to the present. By focusing on key events such as the Mormon practice of polygamy, the Native American Ghost Dance, and the role of the Nation of Islam in the fight for civil rights, this course looks at how American religious freedom has allowed for a wide range of religious experiments.

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REL 233 Witches, Spirits, and Metaphysicalism in America
7-Week Async Second Session
MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art, CIC College Writing
Dana Logan

What is an American witch? This course focuses on the traditions of paganism, the occult, and esotericism in the US. We will learn about New England witch trials, Black conjure, spiritualist seances, and the flowering of "sex magic" and Neopaganism in the twentieth century. We will also consider how people think about and practice "spirituality."

REL 245 Video Games and the Problem of Evil
7-Week Async Second Session
MAC CritThink Hum and Fine Art
Video Game Minor
Greg Grieve

Using a wide range of topics, analytical theories and methods, as well as ethical perspectives, the course introduces students to the concept of evil, digital media, networked society and consumer culture through the critical interpretation of video gaming.

REL 298:01 Thinking About Religion
Face to Face, Tuesday Thursday 11:00 - 12:15
CIC College Writing
Ashlee Andrews

Critical reflection on the academic study of religion. Evaluation of theories of religion drawn from the social sciences, humanities, and religious traditions themselves through their application to case studies.

REL 298:01 Thinking About Religion
Async Full Semester
CIC College Writing
Ashlee Andrews

Critical reflection on the academic study of religion. Evaluation of theories of religion drawn from the social sciences, humanities, and religious traditions themselves through their application to case studies.

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REL 250 Religious Traditions and Care of the Earth
7-Week Async Second Session
MAC Diversity and Equity
David McDuffie

This course is a study of the relationship between religion and the natural environment. Major topics to be covered will include the relationship between religion and ecology, the potential problems that certain religious worldviews pose for valuing non-human nature, and the emerging role of religious perspectives in addressing issues of ecological concern. We will also assess various definitions of the terms religion, spirituality, and nature including ways in which these terms have been employed in both a historical and contemporary context as well as the ways in which interpretations of these terms lead to understandings of the human-nature relationship. The question that will serve as our orientation throughout the semester is the following: In a time of widespread ecological degradation, what is the potential for religion or the religious to offer a significant contribution toward the attainment of sustainable human cultures? This question will be explored with reference to conceptions of the natural environment from existing religious traditions as well as through an examination of whether concern and care for natural environments can be understood as a form of religious expression.

REL/WGS 312 Judaism and the Construction of Gender
Face to Fact, Tuesday Thursday 12:30 - 1:45
CIC College Writing, IGS Credit
Jewish Studies Minor
Ellen Haskell

Did you know that ancient Judaism recognized at least 4 sexes? Or that US Jewish women are fighting anti-abortion laws as violating their religious freedom? That medieval Jews considered God multi-gendered? That Conservative Judaism has offered an inclusive guide for trans Jewish ritual life since 2017? These are just a few of the topics we'll explore as we discuss how the Jewish tradition constructs gender and sexuality



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REL 323 Sex, Drugs, Magic
7-Week Async First Session
CIC College Writing
Rohit Singh

This course explores secret societies, occult specialists, and esoteric religious movements in Asia, Europe, and North America.

REL 334 American Cults
Face to Fact Tuesday Thursday 2:00 - 3:15
CIC College Writing
Dana Logan

This course will explore the history of schismatic religious groups, anti-cult hysteria, and controlling religious authority in American history by focusing on Jonestown, Waco, and NXIVM. This course asks who gets to call a religion a cult, and whether the term is a useful category for cultural analysis.

MAS 633 Science Environment and Media
7-Week Async First Session
CIC College Writing
David McDuffie

Apply a systemic view of historic and current global environmental issues to deepen understanding and critical evaluation of media.

IGS 200 Introduction to International and Global Studies
Face to Face Monday Wednesday Friday 1:00 - 1:50
MAC Global and Intercultural
Rohit Singh

An interdisciplinary course introducing students to terms, concepts and approaches employed in discussing, analyzing, and responding to today's international and global issues, with an emphasis on the non-Western world.

"In fact, if I went back to college today, I think I would probably major in comparative religion because that's how integrated [religion] is in everything that we are working on and deciding and thinking about in life today."

--John Kerry

MEET THE FACULTY



ASHLEE ANDREWS



JOHN BORCHERT



ELLEN HASKELL



GREG GRIEVE



DANA LOGAN



DAVID MCDUFFIE



ROHIT SINGH



CHESLEY KENNEDY



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