

COMPARATIVE RELIGION AND HUMANITIES

Comparative Religion and Humanities Department (<https://www.csuchico.edu/academics/college/humanities-fine-arts/departments/comparative-religion-humanities/>)
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Insight

The Department of Comparative Religion and Humanities is devoted to the scholarly interpretation of religion, the appreciation and analysis of cultural traditions, and the interdisciplinary study of arts and ideas over time. Our outstanding faculty and intellectually rich course offerings empower graduates with a deep foundational knowledge of the histories, beliefs, and customs of diverse people and traditions so that they can act as literate guides in our complex contemporary society.

Interdisciplinary work is at the core of our department's vision providing students an unparalleled opportunity to study a wide range of exciting material that expands their knowledge of both the world and themselves.

Experience

Our department is relatively small which ensures student interaction with our faculty and each other. Other highlights for students include:

Student Society. The Comparative Religion and Humanities Student Society organizes relevant activities such as quiz games, paint parties, and outings, in an informal, stimulating, and fun environment. Membership is open to all and is a great way to meet others with similar interests.

Foreign Languages. Our faculty are widely published experts in their respective fields and speak over a dozen languages between them in order to conduct their primary research. Humanities majors are required to study a language, and many students link language study to a study abroad program.

Study Abroad. Our students commonly spend a semester or year abroad at one of our partner campuses. Overseas study and experiences solidify a student's appreciation of other cultures, reinforce language study, and provide students with friendships, contacts, and other career-oriented resources that last a lifetime.

Internships. A number of our programs involve an internship that allows students to gain hands-on experience.

Honors. Motivated students are invited to complete an honors project that will better prepare them for graduate school or any career in which writing will be important. Top students have the option of joining the Theta Alpha Kappa, an honors society dedicated to recognizing academic excellence in religious studies.

Outlook

Religious studies majors are prepared for careers involving critical thinking, analytical skills, oral and written communication, and the ability to reflect on questions of meaning and value in a pluralistic context. From here, you might proceed to a field such as law, teaching,

counseling, social work, journalism, film studies, political science, public administration, anthropology, history, philosophy, English, psychology, or sociology. While a few majors go on to graduate work in the academic study of religion, many find themselves prepared for work in public service, not-for-profit endeavors, or international affairs, all of which increasingly demand multireligious competencies.

With a humanities degree, you receive a classic liberal arts education that builds your capacities for critical thinking, sensitivity, imagination, oral and written communication, and research. You also develop your intellectual skills and the adaptability and nimbleness that come from a broad cultural and intellectual foundation. Our majors have pursued careers in public and private administration, teaching, medical school, journalism, performance, and museum work, among other fields. The humanities program also constitutes excellent preparation for law school or graduate study in classical civilization, Renaissance and medieval studies, film studies, art history, cultural studies, comparative literature, and modern Jewish and Israel studies, particularly when combined with a relevant minor.

In most jobs today, you will be working with people from a variety of different religions and cultures, so a degree from our department gives you an advantage in the diverse environment of today's world.

Programs

Undergraduate Bachelor's

- Humanities BA (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/humanities-ba/>)
- Humanities BA Online (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/humanities-online-ba/>)
- Religious Studies BA (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/religious-studies-ba/>)
- Religious Studies BA Online (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/religious-studies-online-ba/>)

Minors

- Cinema Studies Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/cinema-studies-minor/>)
- Classical Civilization Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/classical-civilization-minor/>)
- Comparative Religion Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/comparative-religion-minor/>)
- Humanities Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/humanities-minor/>)
- Medieval and Renaissance Studies Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/medieval-renaissance-studies-minor/>)
- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/modern-jewish-and-israel-studies-minor/>)

arts/comparative-religion-humanities/modern-jewish-israel-studies-minor/)

Certificates

- Interreligious and Intercultural Relations Certificate (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-humanities-fine-arts/comparative-religion-humanities/interreligious-intercultural-relations-certificate/>)

See Course Description Symbols and Terms (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/academic-standards-policies/course-description-symbols-terms/>) for an explanation of course description terminology and symbols, the course numbering system, and course credit units.

Humanities

HUMN 198 Special Topics 1-3 Units

Typically Offered: Inquire at department

This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours lecture. (004816)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course more than once

Course Attributes: Lower Division

HUMN 201 Beginning Ancient Languages 3 Units

Typically Offered: Fall only

The course introduces students to the grammar, script, and basic lexicon of an ancient language, such as Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, or Biblical Hebrew depending on the semester. 3 hours lecture. (022462)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Lower Division

HUMN 202 Intermediate Ancient Languages 3 Units

Prerequisite: HUMN 201.

Typically Offered: Spring only

The course continues the study of an ancient language with an aim to provide students with basic reading and comprehension skills. 3 hours lecture. (022463)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Lower Division

HUMN 220 Ancient and Medieval Art and Literature 3 Units GE

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

An overview of the artistic and intellectual heritage of the cultures of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, India, China, Greece, Rome, Byzantium, Medieval Europe, and Islam from their origins to 1500 C.E. Comparative analysis of music, art, architecture, and primary texts (theatre, philosophy and religion, literature, history, and political science). 3 hours lecture. (015843)

General Education: Arts (3A)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Lower Division

HUMN 222 Arts and Ideas: Renaissance to the Present 3 Units GE

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

An overview of Western Culture from the Renaissance to the present. Serves as a broad introduction to the major forms and types of artistic expression: sculpture, architecture, painting, philosophy, literature, drama, dance, film, and music, and includes comparative analysis of primary texts (theatre, philosophy and religion, literature, history, and political science). 3 hours lecture. (015845)

General Education: Arts (3A)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Lower Division

HUMN 222W Arts and Ideas: Renaissance to the Present (W) 3 Units GE, W

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

An overview of Western Culture from the Renaissance to the present. Serves as a broad introduction to the major forms and types of artistic expression: sculpture, architecture, painting, philosophy, literature, drama, dance, film, and music, and includes comparative analysis of primary texts (theatre, philosophy and religion, literature, history, and political science). 3 hours lecture. (021452)

General Education: Arts (3A)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Lower Division; Writing Course

HUMN 224W Asian Film and Literature (W) 3 Units GC, GE, W

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

An introduction to Indian, Chinese, and Japanese film and literature beginning with Hindu epic. Special attention is given to gender relations between men and women. 3 hours discussion. (020684)

General Education: Humanities (3B)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Lower Division; Global Cultures Course; Writing Course

HUMN 254 Chicana/o Arts and Ideas 3 Units GE, USD

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

An overview of Chicana/o art, literature, and ideology. The course examines the trajectory of the Chicano Movement and follows the development of artistic and intellectual culture down to contemporary times. We explore how Chicano literature asks enduring and universal questions and at the same time reflects a specific historical and cultural reality that is fundamental to the United States experience. Reading, discussions, and reports are in English (with some code-switching in Spanish). 3 hours lecture. (021205)

General Education: Arts (3A)

Cross listing(s): CHLX 254, LANC 254

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Lower Division; US Diversity Course

HUMN 281 Food and Film**3 Units GC, GE****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course explores themes about food in international cinema, with special attention to the social, cultural and historical context for food as depicted in film, the cultural issues regarding national, ethnic and gender identity, and how the art and history of cinema have presented the many roles that food plays in our lives. 2 hours discussion, 3 hours laboratory. (021324)

General Education: Arts (3A)**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; Global Cultures Course**HUMN 281W Food and Film (W)****3 Units GC, GE, W****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course explores themes about food in international cinema, with special attention to the social, cultural and historical context for food as depicted in film, the cultural issues regarding national, ethnic and gender identity, and how the art and history of cinema have presented the many roles that food plays in our lives. 2 hours discussion, 3 hours laboratory. (021204)

General Education: Arts (3A)**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; Global Cultures Course; Writing Course**HUMN 300 Conservatives and Liberals****3 Units GE, USD**

Prerequisite: GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

Through essays, literature, and art, we study the conservative and classical liberal/libertarian traditions as intellectual and cultural movements and aesthetic and moral dispositions. Students will be equipped to understand their ideas and tastes in larger historical and psychological context, as well as those of differently-minded people. 3 hours lecture. (021104)

General Education: Upper-Division Arts/Humanities (UD3); Equity, Ethics, and Policy Pathway**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; US Diversity Course**HUMN 300W Conservatives and Liberals (W)****3 Units GE, USD, W**

Prerequisite: GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

Through essays, literature, and art, we will study the conservative and classical liberal/libertarian traditions as intellectual and cultural movements and aesthetic and moral dispositions. Students will be equipped to understand their ideas and tastes in larger historical and psychological context, as well as those of differently-minded people. 3 hours lecture. (021359)

General Education: Upper-Division Arts/Humanities (UD3); Equity, Ethics, and Policy Pathway**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; US Diversity Course; Writing Course**HUMN 312 Digital Humanities****3 Units****Typically Offered:** Spring only

This course introduces students to the methods, theories, and applications of the digital humanities. It looks at how digital approaches can be used to both display and analyze texts of all kinds, including linguistic, visual, and aural. It investigates the advantages and challenges of digital approaches and places them in the context of their history and assesses future possibilities. It helps students identify and develop good digital research plans, and alerts them to what is and is not appropriate for these methods. The difference between qualitative and quantitative data will be explored, and basic programming skills for statistical text analysis will be covered. 3 hours lecture. (022414)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**HUMN 320W Seminar: Ancient and Medieval Art and Literature (W)****3 Units W****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

A symposium-style investigation of works of literature and art from ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, Greece, Israel, and Rome, and medieval Christianity and Islam. In addition to sampling works from multiple literary genres and artistic media, the course explores influential and innovative scholarly writings on these topics. 3 hours seminar. (022458)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course**HUMN 322W Seminar: Arts and Ideas from the Renaissance to the Present (W)****3 Units W****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This upper-division writing course situates integral ideas and artistic endeavors in Western thought and culture from the Renaissance to the present through the interdisciplinary lenses of literature, art, geography, politics, religion and philosophy in order to illuminate the cultural and historical contexts in which we now live. 3 hours seminar. (022460)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course**HUMN 324W Seminar: Asian Film and Literature (W)****3 Units W****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

In this course students learn the elements of narratology and film studies in order to interpret, discuss, and write about major works of Indian, Chinese, and Japanese fiction. Students advance significantly in cultural literacy, sophistication in analyzing and composing stories, elegance in conversation, and ease in writing cogent prose that commands attention. 3 hours seminar. (022461)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course**HUMN 398 Special Topics****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 0 hours lecture. (004822)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Upper Division

HUMN 399 Special Problems 1-3 Units**Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (004823)

Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**HUMN 400W Seminar in Humanities (W) 3 Units W, GW****Prerequisite:** GE English Composition (1A).**Typically Offered:** Spring only

In this seminar devoted to interdisciplinary research in the humanities students will write and present a research project on an approved topic of their choice. Required for Humanities majors. 3 hours seminar. (004824)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course; Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement Course**HUMN 402 Research Tools and Methods in the Humanities 1 Unit****Corequisites:** HUMN 400W for Humanities majors.**Typically Offered:** Spring only

In-depth studies of the techniques and skills used in doing research, interacting with primary and secondary sources, writing papers, and preparing presentations in the Humanities. Topics include sources of information using the library's electronic tools to gather information, assessing internet resources, citation formats, copyright laws, and ethical standard in research and writing. Advanced skills in the use of standard research tools, including library catalogs, online databases, and references materials as a way to discover resources applicable to developing a research topic, a thesis, an annotated bibliography, an abstract, and a well-organized seminar essay. 1 hour lecture. (021805)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 1 unit**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**HUMN 489 Internship in Humanities 1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is an internship offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 0 hours supervision. (004827)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**HUMN 499 Special Problems 1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 3 hours supervision. (004828)

Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**HUMN 499HW Senior Honors Research Paper (W) 3 Units W, GW****Prerequisite:** GE English Composition (1A), faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

Students in the Honors in the Major program prepare and write a research paper on a topic germane to those interests developed during the first three years of work in Humanities. Research and writing are done under the supervision of a faculty advisor for a total of 6 units in two semesters. 9 hours supervision. (004829)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course; Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement Course**HUMN 699P Master's Project 1-6 Units****Prerequisite:** Department Permission.**Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (015957)

Grade Basis: Report in Progress: CR/NC**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division**HUMN 699T Master's Thesis 1-6 Units****Prerequisite:** Department Permission.**Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (004830)

Grade Basis: Report in Progress: CR/NC**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division

Modern Jewish and Israel Studies

MJIS 204W The Stories of Judaism (W) 3 Units GE, USD, W**Typically Offered:** Fall only

This course introduces students to the beliefs and practices of Judaism and the experiences of Jews in history through the lens of scriptural and literary narratives. The course surveys biblical narratives, Rabbinic and Hasidic stories, and modern works by writers such as Sholem Aleichem, Franz Kafka, Isaac Babel, S. Y. Agnon, and Cynthia Ozick. 3 hours discussion. (005860)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Cross listing(s):** RELS 204W**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; US Diversity Course; Writing Course**MJIS 205 Antisemitism and Islamophobia 3 Units GE, USD****Typically Offered:** Spring only

This course traces the interrelated historical development of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim persecution. It explores accusations against Jews arising in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome as well as under Christian and Muslim rule, together with the development of modern racial theories about Jews, political forms of anti-Jewish hatred, the Holocaust, and enduring myths of Jewish conspiracies. It also investigates the idea of a "clash of civilizations," the impact of the Crusades, colonialism, and Islamic resurgence, and the treatment and persecution of Muslim minorities in Western Europe, Russia, Bosnia, China, Israel, Myanmar, India, and the United States. 3 hours discussion. (020675)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Cross listing(s):** RELS 205**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; US Diversity Course

MJIS 398 Special Topics**1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Department permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours lecture. (005863)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**MJIS 399 Special Problems****1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (005864)

Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**MJIS 489 Internship****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is an internship offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (005866)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**MJIS 498 Special Topics****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This is a special topics course offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically, topics are offered on a one-time-only basis. Topics vary from term to term and from section to section. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours lecture. (005867)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**MJIS 598 Special Topics****1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Department permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours lecture. (020151)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**MJIS 697 Independent Study****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

6 hours supervision. (020052)

Grade Basis: Report in Progress: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division**Religious Studies****RELS 100 Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam 3 Units GE****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

An analysis of the religions of the West: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. 3 hours lecture. (008129)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division**RELS 110 Introduction to Spiritual Traditions of Asia 3 Units GC, GE****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course covers key health and wellness practices in Asian religions including medical traditions, breathing techniques, mental wellness, meditation, diet, exercise, sexual practices, yoga, Qigong, Tai Chi, and Martial Arts. It seeks to place these practices and forms of knowledge in their historical and cultural context and to examine them in light of modern scientific advances in our knowledge of mental and physical health. Through providing context for these traditions of health and wellness, the course also provides an introduction to the religions of Asia such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Daoism. 3 hours lecture. (008128)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; Global Cultures Course**RELS 180 Introduction to Spirituality and Religion in California****3 Units GC, GE****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

In this course we study the ways in which the world's religious traditions and spiritual movements have been shaped by, expressed in and emerged from the California context. In addition to covering indigenous religions, this course presents the histories, beliefs, and traditions of the world religions that traveled with immigrants to California. This course will be structured around guest experts and site visits/field trips to where religion and spirituality are lived and practiced. 3 hours lecture. (008130)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; Global Cultures Course**RELS 198 Special Topics****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

Special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. 3 hours lecture. (008134)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Lower Division**RELS 199 Special Problems****1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 3 hours supervision. (020369)

Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division

RELS 202 Islam and the World**3 Units GC, GE****Typically Offered:** Fall only

Introduces students to the history, faith, practice, and cultures of Islam, starting with the Late Antique Near Eastern milieu from which it emerged and tracing its development and geographic spread around the world to the present day. 3 hours lecture. (004515)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Cross listing(s):** HIST 261, MEST 261**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; Global Cultures Course**RELS 204W The Stories of Judaism (W)****3 Units GE, USD, W****Typically Offered:** Fall only

This course introduces students to the beliefs and practices of Judaism and the experiences of Jews in history through the lens of scriptural and literary narratives. The course surveys biblical narratives, Rabbinic and Hasidic stories, and modern works by writers such as Sholem Aleichem, Franz Kafka, Isaac Babel, S. Y. Agnon, and Cynthia Ozick. 3 hours discussion. (005860)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Cross listing(s):** MJIS 204W**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; US Diversity Course; Writing Course**RELS 205 Antisemitism and Islamophobia****3 Units GE, USD****Typically Offered:** Spring only

This course traces the interrelated historical development of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim persecution. It explores accusations against Jews arising in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome as well as under Christian and Muslim rule, together with the development of modern racial theories about Jews, political forms of anti-Jewish hatred, the Holocaust, and enduring myths of Jewish conspiracies. It also investigates the idea of a "clash of civilizations," the impact of the Crusades, colonialism, and Islamic resurgence, and the treatment and persecution of Muslim minorities in Western Europe, Russia, Bosnia, China, Israel, Myanmar, India, and the United States. 3 hours discussion. (020675)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Cross listing(s):** MJIS 205**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; US Diversity Course**RELS 224 Religion and Ethnic Diversity in America****3 Units GE, USD****Typically Offered:** Fall only

This course covers the religions that inform America's various ethnic groups, and the historical, cultural, and social experiences and values of Native American, Hispanic-American, Arab-American, African-American, and Asian-American cultures. 3 hours seminar. (021198)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Cross listing(s):** MCGS 224**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; US Diversity Course**RELS 224W Religion and Ethnic Diversity in America (W)****3 Units GE, USD, W****Typically Offered:** Fall only

This course covers the religions that inform America's various ethnic groups, and the historical, cultural, and social experiences and values of Native American, Hispanic-American, Arab-American, African-American, and Asian-American cultures. 3 hours lecture. (021964)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Cross listing(s):** MCGS 224W**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; US Diversity Course; Writing Course**RELS 247W Religion, Ethics, and Ecology (W)****3 Units GC, GE, W****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

An introduction to ways that religious and secular world views and ethics influence attitudes, behaviors, and policies toward the environment, society, and economy. The course considers alternative views of self and society, the relationship between human beings and the natural world, and issues of lifestyle, justice, and sustainability. 3 hours lecture. (021720)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; Global Cultures Course; Sustainable Course; Writing Course**RELS 264 Dying, Death, and Afterlife****3 Units GC, GE****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course examines religious, spiritual, historical, cultural, psychological, and ethical dimensions of death, dying, and afterlife beliefs. Topics covered include perspectives on death, the afterlife, grief, mourning, and funeral practices in different religious and cultural traditions; ethical debates surrounding issues such as euthanasia and medical assistance in dying; and the ways individuals and cultures cope with the psychological and spiritual challenges caused by human mortality. 3 hours seminar. (021321)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; Global Cultures Course**RELS 264W Dying, Death, and Afterlife (W)****3 Units GC, GE, W****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course examines religious, spiritual, historical, cultural, psychological, and ethical dimensions of death, dying, and afterlife beliefs. Topics covered include perspectives on death, the afterlife, grief, mourning, and funeral practices in different religious and cultural traditions; ethical debates surrounding issues such as euthanasia and medical assistance in dying; and the ways individuals and cultures cope with the psychological and spiritual challenges caused by human mortality. 3 hours seminar. (004443)

General Education: Humanities (3B)**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division; Global Cultures Course; Writing Course

- RELS 275 Women and Religion** 3 Units GC, GE
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
 Analysis of the images, roles, and experiences of women in world religions in historical and contemporary contexts. 3 hours discussion. (021806)
General Education: Humanities (3B)
Cross listing(s): WMST 275
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; Global Cultures Course
- RELS 275W Women and Religion (W)** 3 Units GC, GE, W
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
 Analysis of the images, roles, and experiences of women in world religions in historical and contemporary contexts. 3 hours discussion. (021201)
General Education: Humanities (3B)
Cross listing(s): WMST 275W
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; Global Cultures Course; Writing Course
- RELS 299 Special Problems** 1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Faculty permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
 This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 3 hours supervision. (020370)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division
- RELS 300 Religions of East Asia** 3 Units
Typically Offered: Fall only
 This discussion-centered, project-directed course is a complement to RELS 310 (Religions of South Asia). It introduces elementary concepts of comparative religion and the basics of East Asian history. Afterward, it provides basic knowledge of major traditions and important developments of East Asian religions from the Axial Age to modern times. 3 hours discussion. (021959)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
- RELS 300W Religions of East Asia (W)** 3 Units W
Typically Offered: Fall only
 This discussion-centered, project-directed course is a complement to RELS 310 (Religions of South Asia). It introduces elementary concepts of comparative religion and the basics of East Asian history. Afterward, it provides basic knowledge of major traditions and important developments of East Asian religions from the Axial Age to modern times. 3 hours discussion. (021568)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course
- RELS 302 Muhammad and the Qur'an** 3 Units
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
 This course introduces students to the sacred scripture and prophet of Islam. Students study the biography of Muhammad (570-632) and the text of the Qur'an by situating it within the context of Muhammad's life and career. By the end of the course, students are able to appreciate how devout Muslims view Muhammad and the Qur'an, as well as ask critical questions raised by modern scholars of religion. 3 hours lecture. (020263)
Cross listing(s): HIST 361, MEST 302
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
- RELS 306 Roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** 3 Units
Typically Offered: Fall only
 This course introduces students to the formation and early history of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam with a special focus on the scriptural traditions of those three religions. 3 hours seminar. (021561)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
- RELS 308 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam since the Crusades** 3 Units
Typically Offered: Spring only
 This course explores the development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from the crusades to the modern era. Major topics include the teachings of each tradition on war, peace, and conflict; religious diversity among the three traditions, especially in response to modernity and globalization; and the role of ritual in the three traditions. 3 hours lecture. (021416)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
- RELS 310 Religions of South Asia** 3 Units
Typically Offered: Fall only
 This course provides an introduction to the religions of South Asia from the earliest times until the present, and provides basic sociological, psychological, philosophical, and anthropological perspectives from which to study them. The main religions explored are Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism with some discussion of Islam in the Indian region as well. All of these religions have deeply influenced Indian society and students are exposed to the literature, art, ideas, and practices of these faiths. 3 hours seminar. (022180)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
- RELS 322W Religion in America (W)** 3 Units W
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
 Religion plays a role in the most contentious social issues of our era: religious freedom, abortion, evolution, racism, and gay rights, among others. The course explores the historical roots of American religions and religious trends such as pluralism and fundamentalism. We pay particular attention to media representations of religious "others" and use case studies to explore the intersections of religion and gender, race, class, and ethnicity. The course uses historical documents, religious texts, films and other media, and also introduces students to basic research methods for religious studies. 3 hours discussion. (000405)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course

RELS 323 Religion and Nature **3 Units****Typically Offered:** Spring only

What is the place of human beings in the natural world? Do humans have a responsibility to other species? Are human beings primarily of nature or above or apart from nature? Is the proper role of humans to manipulate and control the natural world or to harmonize and conform their lives to the ways of nature? How have different beliefs about the existence or non-existence of divine or supernatural beings influenced human attitudes and behaviors toward the natural environment? What are some of the ways in which religions have shaped attitudes towards nature in specific historical and cultural contexts? What kinds of ritual practices do different cultures engage in concerning the natural world? This course considers a variety of religious and secular perspectives on these questions as well as responses to contemporary environmental issues, such as pollution and climate change. Special attention is given to the perspectives and practices of indigenous cultures. 3 hours seminar. (021621)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Sustainable Course**RELS 332 World Religions and Global Issues** **3 Units GC, GE**

Prerequisite: GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

An introduction to major religions of the contemporary world (Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Chinese religions) with particular emphasis on their relationship to pressing global issues, including economics and poverty, environmental issues, war and peace, and human rights. Explores a number of religious traditions that are closely identified with specific ethnic groups in this country. 3 hours lecture. (008190)

General Education: Upper-Division Arts/Humanities (UD3); Global Studies Pathway**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Global Cultures Course; Sustainable Course**RELS 339 Confronting the Animal: Theory, Culture, and Practice****3 Units GE**

Prerequisite: GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

Draws on religion, philosophy, ethics, cultural analysis, and science to explore the nature and roles of the animal in religious, cultural, scientific, and ethical beliefs and practices. 3 hours lecture. (021122)

General Education: Upper-Division Arts/Humanities (UD3); Agriculture, Food, and Environment Pathway; Equity, Ethics, and Policy Pathway**Cross listing(s):** PHIL 339**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**RELS 339W Confronting the Animal: Theory, Culture, and Practice (W)****3 Units GE, W**

Prerequisite: GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

Draws on religion, philosophy, ethics, cultural analysis, and science to explore the nature and roles of the animal in religious, cultural, scientific, and ethical beliefs and practices. 3 hours lecture. (021362)

General Education: Upper-Division Arts/Humanities (UD3); Agriculture, Food, and Environment Pathway; Equity, Ethics, and Policy Pathway**Cross listing(s):** PHIL 339W**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course**RELS 341 Science, Technology, and Religion****3 Units GC, GE**

Prerequisite: GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

This course looks at the relationship between science and religion in specific cultural contexts, including Asia, Europe, and North America. It examines the different ways that theologians, sociologists, philosophers, and scientists have approached this relationship and highlights points of conflict as well as agreement with respect to knowledge claims, moral outlooks and other issues. In addition, the course explores the impact of scientific developments on the beliefs and practices of a variety of religions as well as the ways technology has been deployed by religious practitioners. 3 hours lecture. (022282)

General Education: Upper-Division Social Behavioral Sciences (UD4); Science, Technology, and Society Pathway**Cross listing(s):** SOCI 341**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Global Cultures Course**RELS 357 End of the World** **3 Units GE**

Prerequisite: GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

This course introduces students to the ways in which historic and contemporary religious communities interpret catastrophes and how religious worlds explain and provide humans with tools to cope with catastrophes and with making meaning out of suffering and death. Focus is on visions of the end of the world (apocalypticism, environmental destruction), interpreting the meaning of disasters (natural, human-induced), and personal and global annihilation (epidemics, nuclear destruction). 3 hours lecture. (021323)

General Education: Upper-Division Arts/Humanities (UD3); California Studies Pathway; Sustainability and Resilience Pathway; Science, Technology, and Society Pathway**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Sustainable Course

RELS 357W End of the World (W)**3 Units GE, W**

Prerequisite: GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

This course introduces students to the ways in which historic and contemporary religious communities interpret catastrophes and how religious worlds explain and provide humans with tools to cope with catastrophes and with making meaning out of suffering and death. Focus is on visions of the end of the world (apocalypticism, environmental destruction), interpreting the meaning of disasters (natural, human-induced), and personal and global annihilation (epidemics, nuclear destruction). 3 hours lecture. (008166)

General Education: Upper-Division Arts/Humanities (UD3); California Studies Pathway; Sustainability and Resilience Pathway; Science, Technology, and Society Pathway

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division; Sustainable Course; Writing Course

RELS 358 Religion in American Public Schools**3 Units**

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

An introduction to the major world religions and an analysis of legal, intellectual, and educational issues that arise in connection with the study of religions in American public schools. 3 hours lecture. (008168)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 365 Religion and Film**3 Units**

Typically Offered: Inquire at department

An examination of the representation of religious concerns and meaning in modern film. Utilizing resources developed in religious traditions and in the field of religious studies, the course examines themes central to the human condition such as selfhood, religious conviction, despair, redemption, and race and ethnicity. 2 hours discussion, 3 hours laboratory. (008149)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 368 Interreligious Conflict and Cooperation**3 Units**

Typically Offered: Fall only

This course examines interreligious conflict and cooperation in a variety of historical and contemporary contexts. It explores belief systems regarding religious "others" and the social, political, and cultural circumstances that shape interactions of religious groups. Emphasis is placed on developing skills for effective participation in a religiously diverse world. 3 hours lecture. (021719)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 381 Sociology of Religion**3 Units**

Typically Offered: Inquire at department

This course explores the impact of religion on the individual and society, and surveys the major developments in the field. This includes interactive relationships between religion and other social institutions, and debates on controversial issues. 3 hours lecture. (008184)

Cross listing(s): SOCI 327

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 391 Reading in Religious Studies**1-3 Units**

Prerequisite: Faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Inquire at department

This course is a special topic offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 3 hours supervision. (008192)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 398 Special Topics**1-3 Units**

Typically Offered: Inquire at department

Special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. 3 hours seminar. (008196)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course more than once

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 399 Special Problems**1-3 Units**

Prerequisite: Faculty permission.

Typically Offered: Inquire at department

This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (008197)

Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 402 Religion, Sex, and Gender**3 Units**

Typically Offered: Spring only

This course studies the many ways religion shapes gender and sexuality in different cultures and historical periods. It examines how religion affects the social expectations and experiences of women, men, and other genders as well as how religion helps define and regulate sexual behavior, sexual identities, and sexual possibilities. 3 hours seminar. (021634)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 403 Religion and the Arts**3 Units**

Typically Offered: Fall only

This course is designed to examine the ways religion helps shape artistic expression and how various art forms-music, architecture, visual arts, storytelling, and film-serve as means of religious expression. We explore both traditional "sacred" art (e.g. temples, mosques, churches) as well as popular art (novels, movies, etc.) that have been shaped by religious themes. We explore the role of the arts in a number of different religious traditions. 3 hours seminar. (021622)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

RELS 480 Theories and Criticisms of Religion**3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall only

A study of the history, theories, and methods of religious studies as a scholarly and academic discipline, with emphasis on the biographical and historical contexts of significant contributors to the discipline and their classic works. Topics include secular vs. religious approaches to the study of religion and the contrast between religious insiders' and outsiders' perspectives; alternative theories of the origins and functions of religion; and debates over whether religion is a positive or negative influence in the lives of individuals and social groups. 3 hours seminar. (008191)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**RELS 482W Capstone: Religion, Public Life, and the Professions (W)****4 Units W, GW****Prerequisite:** GE English Composition (1A).**Typically Offered:** Spring only

This capstone equips students to analyze the role of religion in public life, including issues of religious freedom and the relationship between religion and American social institutions (government, education, health care, the criminal justice system, etc.). Following a study of the U.S. context, the course explores comparative cases in other countries. Focus is on the position(s) of religion in public space; the shifting boundaries of religious and non-religious activity, and the implications of these arrangements. One unit of credit for this course involves an internship, a research project, or prior learning portfolio assessment/experiential learning essay. 4 hours seminar. (008200)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 4 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course; Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement Course**RELS 489 Internship in Religious Stud****1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

Enrollment will be determined by permission of the Department of Religious Studies. 3 hours supervision. (008208)

Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**RELS 498 Special Topics****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

Special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. 3 hours lecture. (008210)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**RELS 499 Special Problems****1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 3 hours supervision. (008211)

Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**RELS 499HW Senior Honors Research Paper (W)****3 Units W, GW****Prerequisite:** GE English Composition (1A), RELS 480 (may be taken concurrently).**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

Students in the Honors in the Major program prepare a research paper on a topic germane to their interests developed during the first three years of work in religious studies. Research and writing are done under the supervision of a faculty advisor for a total of 6 units in two semesters. 9 hours supervision. (008212)

Grade Basis: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course; Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement Course

Comparative Religion and Humanities Department

The Faculty

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Professor

Doctor of Philosophy Harvard Univ

Gregory S Cootsona 2014

Lecturer

Doctor of Philosophy Graduate Theological Union

Sarah G Gagnebin 2014

Lecturer

Master of Arts Pacific School Of Religion

Patricia M Lennon 2000

Lecturer

Master of Arts Indiana Univ Bloomington

Laura E Nice 2007

Lecturer

Doctor of Philosophy University of York, York, North Yorkshire, England

Daniel M Veidlinger 2002

Chair

Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Chicago

Jed D Wyrick 1999

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Emeritus Faculty

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