# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELS)

See Course Description Symbols and Terms ([link](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.

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<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<th>Grade Basis</th>
<th>Typically Offered</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
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<td>RELS 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GE</td>
<td>Graded</td>
<td>Fall and spring</td>
<td>You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 3 hours supervision. (020369)</td>
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<td>RELS 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Spiritual Traditions of Asia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GC, GE</td>
<td>Graded</td>
<td>Fall and spring</td>
<td>You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units</td>
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<td>GC, GE</td>
<td>Graded</td>
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<td>You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units</td>
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<td>RELS 198</td>
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<td>Graded</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units</td>
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<td>RELS 204W</td>
<td>The Stories of Judaism (W)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GE, USD, W</td>
<td>Graded</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units</td>
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<td>RELS 205</td>
<td>Antisemitism and Islamophobia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GE, USD</td>
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<td>Spring only</td>
<td>You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units</td>
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**Course Attributes:**
- Lower Division
- Global Cultures
- Humanities (C2)
- Lower Division; US Diversity
- Writing Course
RELS 224W 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 lecture. (021964)
General Education: Humanities (C2)
Course 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

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 (C2)
Course 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; 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 (C2)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; Global Cultures; Sustainable Course; Writing Course

RELS 264D Dying, Death, and Afterlife 3 Units GC, GE
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
A study of the religious, ethical, spiritual, psychological, and socio-cultural
dimensions of dying, death, and afterlife. Reading and discussion of
issues surrounding dying (dying as one's last career, patient-centered
approaches, spirit/body relationships); death (definitions, religious
meanings, ritual practices); and afterlife (religious conceptions, relation to
the human quest for meaning). 3 hours seminar. (021321)
General Education: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; Global Cultures

RELS 264W Dying, Death, and Afterlife (W) 3 Units GC, GE, W
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
A study of the religious, ethical, spiritual, psychological, and socio-cultural
dimensions of dying, death, and afterlife. Reading and discussion of
issues surrounding dying (dying as one's last career, patient-centered
approaches, spirit/body relationships); death (definitions, religious
meanings, ritual practices); and afterlife (religious conceptions, relation to
the human quest for meaning). 3 hours seminar. (004443)
General Education: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; Global Cultures; 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 (C2)
Course 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

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 (C2)
Course 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; 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
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
Typically Offered: Fall only
This course explores the development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam 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. (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
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
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)
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
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
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 (UDC); Global Studies Pathway
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Global Cultures; Sustainable Course

RELS 339 Confronting the Animal: Theory, Culture, and Practice
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 (UDC); 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 Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.
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 (UDC); 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 Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.
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 Sciences (UDD); 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

RELS 357W  End of the World (W)  3 Units GE, W
Prerequisite: GE Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.
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 (UDC); California Studies Pathway, Sustainability and Climate Change 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 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 359W  Religion and Film  3 Units GE, W
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 365  Religion and Film  3 Units
Typically Offered: Fall only
This course examines interreligious conflict and cooperation in a variety of historical and contemporary contexts. It explores beliefs and identities around religious “others” and the social, political, and cultural constructions 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
RELIS 391 Reading in Religious Studies  
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  

RELIS 398 Special Topics  
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  

RELIS 399 Special Problems  
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  

RELIS 402 Religion, Sex, and Gender  
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  

RELIS 403 Religion and the Arts  
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  

RELIS 408 Theories and Criticisms of Religion  
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  

RELIS 482W Capstone: Religion, Public Life, and the Professions  
Prerequisite: GE Written Communication (A2) requirement.  
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  

RELIS 489 Internship in Religious Studies  
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  

RELIS 498 Special Topics  
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  

RELIS 499 Special Problems  
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 Written Communication (A2) requirement, RELS 480 (may be taken concurrently).

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

To provide students accepted for "Honors in the Major" an opportunity to prepare and write a research paper on topics germane to their interests developed during the first three years of work in religious studies. Research and writing will be done under supervision of a staff 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