

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELI)

## 100 Level Courses

**RELI 100:** *The Human Religious Experience*. 3 credits.

Examines main forms of religious expression as embodied in several important religious traditions in contemporary world. Investigates religious experience; myth and ritual; teachings and scripture; ethical, social, and artistic aspects of religion; and nature and function of religion in human society. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

## 200 Level Courses

**RELI 211:** *Religions of the West*. 3 credits.

Focuses on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from historical, comparative, and cross-cultural perspectives. May also include modern developments of those faiths such as Mormonism and Baha'ism, as well as Zoroastrianism and religions of ancient Near Eastern cultures. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 212:** *Religions of Asia*. 3 credits.

Focuses on the traditional religions from Asia, particularly Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism from historical, comparative, and cross-cultural perspectives. May also include Jainism, Sikh, Shinto, native shamanism, and others as well as modern developments after European colonialism and growth as global religions. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 235:** *Religion and Literature*. 3 credits.

Explores the relationship between religion and literature in different times and cultures, the influence of religion on literary works, and how literature

expresses major religious themes such as death and immortality, divine will and justice, suffering and human destiny, and religion and state. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Literature (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 240:** *Death and the Afterlife in World Religions*. 3 credits.

Explores how selected world religions address the universal experience of death and express their beliefs in an afterlife. Focuses on the scriptures, beliefs, rituals and customs of selected world religions as they reflect each tradition's response to the most basic question about human destiny - how human beings face death and attempt to transcend it. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 271:** *The Bible as Literature*. 3 credits.

Analyzes the Bible as a collection of literary texts. Course readings will include selections from the Jewish Tanakh and from the Christian New Testament. Students will become familiar with contemporary scholarship on the Bible and sample the Bible's impact on the art and literature of the last millennia. Students will become conversant with concepts such as scripture, canon, source criticism, historical criticism, genre, and reception history. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Literature (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 272:** *Islam*. 3 credits.

Introduces basic religious beliefs and practices of Islam, with view to diverse manifestations of Islamic culture in different ethnic and social contexts. Provides overview of essential rituals of Islamic life, mystical practices of Sufis, certain popular forms of religious practice, sources and application of Islamic law, and distinctive Islamic artistic and literary forms. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**300 Level Courses**

**RELI 300:** *Theories and Methods in Religious Studies*. 3 credits.

Basic introduction to interdisciplinary methods, theories, definitions, and thinkers in the academic study of religion. Provides foundation for further comparative studies of religions, concentrated studies of a particular religion, and the understanding of engagement between religion and wider culture. Prerequisite for upper-level courses on religious studies theory and method, such as the writing intensive and synthesis courses in Religious Studies. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Corequisite:** RELI 100, 211, and/or 212

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 313:** *Hinduism*. 3 credits.

Introduces Hindu religion and thought, beliefs, rituals, ethics and religious practices. Emphasis on classical Hinduism, but also covers Hinduism and modernity, modern Hindu movements, and Hinduism as a global religion. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 314:** *Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions*. 3 credits.

Surveys major religious traditions and philosophical themes of China including Confucianism, Taoism, and Chinese Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism. Examines foundation of Chinese world view and spirituality by investigating diverse religious traditions that have created tensions and harmony among them. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Recommended Prerequisite:** RELI 212 or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 315:** *Buddhism*. 3 credits.

Surveys Buddhist religious traditions. Includes historical development of Buddhism in India, China, and Japan, examining both Theravada and Mahayana traditions; philosophical and religious significance of

Buddhism; and social and political implications of Buddhist traditions in South Asian and East Asian countries. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 316:** *Modern Christian Thought*. 3 credits.

Examines influential Christian thinkers and Christian intellectual trends of the modern period, from the Enlightenment through the present. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 317:** *Daoism*. 3 credits.

Daoism is one of the most influential philosophical and spiritual traditions in East Asia and especially in China. This course explores philosophical ideas, spiritual orientation, religious practice, and social and political values in Daoist tradition reading classic Daoist texts including Dao De Jing, Chuang-tzu, and other sources. Students will analyze Daoism in light of comparative and cross-cultural studies for global understanding of issues on concepts of nature, human nature, and good and evil. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 318:** *Korean Philosophy and Religions*. 3 credits.

Survey of the religious traditions and philosophical systems of Korea including Shamanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity. The course will explore the Korean development of the religious traditions and philosophical ideas introduced to Korea in relationship to native Korean spirituality and thought pattern. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 320:** *Religion and Revolution in Latin America*. 3 credits.

Explores the intersection between Christian and revolutionary thought, such as Marxism and existentialism, in Latin America after the 1960s

that formed liberation theology. Emphasis on historical, philosophical and interdisciplinary issues. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 322: *Religions of Africa*.** 3 credits.

Explores traditional religious practices and world views in Africa south of the Sahara, the spread of African religions to the Caribbean and the Americas, the forms that religions imported or imposed from the north have taken in Africa south of the Sahara, and the interaction among the religious cultures of Africa, European Christianity and Islam. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 330: *Religion, Fantasy and Imagination*.** 3 credits.

Explores the worlds of religion, fantasy and imagination, presented in selected writings of 20th century fantasy authors, including Lewis, Tolkien, Pullman, Rowling. Covers ideas of quest for enlightenment, redemption or salvation, conflict between good and evil, worlds of the supernatural, parallel dimensions and their inhabitants. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 331: *Religion in America*.** 3 credits.

Religious heritage in American culture, growth of denominations and sects, and interrelationship of religion and sociopolitical life. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 332: *Mormonism*.** 3 credits.

Examines the origins and development of Mormonism, as embodied in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other related churches. Introduces students to a critical analysis of Latter-day Saint scriptures, rituals, and history. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

[catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/](http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/)). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 333: *Spiritual Autobiography*.** 3 credits.

Investigates the genre of autobiography as employed by religious authors, both classical and modern. Introduces students to personal, historical, and religious doctrinal contexts that shape the autobiographical literature. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Literature (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 334: *American Scriptures*.** 3 credits.

In this course, students will analyze texts that Americans have treated as "scripture." Students will read texts that present themselves as scripture, such as selections from the Book of Mormon and a Holy Sacred and Divine Roll and Book (a Shaker text). They will also read texts that have attained a sort of canonicity within American culture, such as the Declaration of Independence and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail." Students will thus gain more than a valuable familiarity with a variety of American religious traditions. They will also reflect on the way that, even in a digital age, texts continue to shape American identity. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts. Equivalent to HIST 334.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 335: *Paul and His Letters*.** 3 credits.

This course will focus on the oldest known Christian literature, the letters by Saint Paul. The course will explore these letters in their first-century historical and literary contexts, while also surveying some of the most relevant contemporary theoretical approaches to the letters (e.g., feminist, queer, affective, African American, and economic approaches). Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** RELI 271, RELI 356, RELI 381

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 337: *Mysticism: East and West*.** 3 credits.

Comparative treatment of major expressions of mysticism in East and West through exploration of various ways of understanding mystical experience. Readings and discussion emphasize one or more of the

Eastern (Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Zen) and Western (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) traditions. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 341:** *Global Perspectives on Spirituality and Healing*. 3 credits. Cross-cultural investigation of human understandings of relationship between spirituality and health. Beliefs about spiritual causes of sickness and health and spiritual techniques of healing in variety of world cultures placed in context of religious beliefs of those cultures. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding, Encore: Well-Being (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 30 credits or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 350:** *Religion and History of Ancient Israel*. 3 credits. Examines religion and history of ancient Israel from origins around 1250 BCE to Babylonian Exile in 587 BCE. Topics include debate on historical value of biblical narratives, extra-biblical texts mentioning Israel, move from polytheism to monotheism, archaeology and artifacts, and development of Israel's unique religious and historical self-understanding. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 352:** *Judaism from Exile to Talmud*. 3 credits. Examines Jewish religion, history, and literature from the Babylonian Exile to third century C.E. Special attention to development of Hebrew Bible, Apocalyptic and Apocryphal literature, belief in resurrection and final judgment, Dead Sea Scrolls, Jewish sects, and emergence of Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 353:** *Jewish Political Tradition*. 3 credits. Explores Jewish thinkers' attitudes towards politics and state. Topics include traditional sources, theological and political crisis of modern

times, liberal Jewish thought, Zionist ideology, Israel as a separate state, relationship between religion and politics in modern Israel. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** RELI 211, 251 or 252, or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 355:** *Sufism*. 3 credits. Examines the tradition of Islamic mysticism, Sufism, through an exploration of the literature produced by Sufis themselves. Provide general introduction to Sufism and its spiritual perspective and investigates various genres of Sufi literature, including hagiography, symbolic scriptural exegesis, spiritual autobiography, didactic allegory and love poetry. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 356:** *Jesus and the Gospels*. 3 credits. Examines Gospel accounts of Jesus in context of first-century Christianity. Applies variety of historical and literary methods to gain understanding of Jesus and history and theology of early church. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 357:** *Gender and the Body in Judaism*. 3 credits. Explores distinctively Jewish approaches to questions of gender, sexuality, and the body as described in the legal, religious, ethical, and literary material in the Jewish tradition. Topics include the "body of God," circumcision, laws of purity, rites of passage, the synagogue, feminist theology, and masculine and feminine stereotypes. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 360:** *Religion and Politics*. 3 credits. Explores the roles of religion in contemporary political life in the United States and abroad. Emphasizes religion in current political debates. Includes history, political theory, sociology, and theology to present a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 361:** *Evangelical America*. 3 credits.

Introduces the intellectual and social sources of evangelical Protestant traditions in the United States. Examines varieties of evangelical beliefs and practices. Surveying a range of themes, including science, sexuality, politics, and environmentalism, students examine how evangelicals have defined themselves in opposition to secular society but also have engaged the secular in an effort to convert souls, manage personal behavior, and transform American society in their image of Christian community. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 362:** *Religion and Film*. 3 credits.

Surveys representations of religious beliefs, practices, persons, and institutions in popular film. Focuses on the media consumption of box office movies in the United States. Examines how religion is imaged in film and how that religious imagination relates to social constructions of national, ethnic, racial, gender, and sexual identities. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 363:** *Catholicism*. 3 credits.

Focuses on the beliefs of the over one billion Roman Catholics in today's world. Probes the history, doctrine, symbols, rituals, practices, and material culture of the world's largest church. Considers Catholicism's dialog with secularism and discusses controversies and challenges facing the church today. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 3 credits in religious studies or philosophy or permission of instructor

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 364:** *Religion and Law in the United States*. 3 credits.

Explores issues relating to law and religion. Focuses on the legal doctrines that have arisen in cases under the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment. Topics include religion and public schools, government aid to religious institutions, including school vouchers, government endorsement of religious symbols, freedom of religious expression, and freedom of religious practice. Offered by

Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 365:** *Muhammad: Life and Legacy*. 3 credits.

Examines life and character of the founder of Islam, as remembered and understood by Muslims, as well as explores influence of his paradigmatic life and teachings on Islamic religious discourse and culture. Addresses Western critical studies of the accounts of Muhammad's life and contemporary controversies regarding Muhammad. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 370:** *Judaism*. 3 credits.

Studies Judaism from origins to present. Includes origins of Judaism B.C.E.; Rabbinic Judaism; Jews in the Middle Ages; Hasidic and Mystical Judaism; Enlightenment; persecution and Holocaust; contemporary American Judaism; and Jewish, Christian, and Muslim relations. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 372:** *American Judaism*. 3 credits.

Surveys Jewish religious life focusing on various types of American Judaism such as orthodox, conservative, reform, reconstructionist, as they have developed historically and continue to evolve. Emphasizes issues and challenges facing contemporary Judaism. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 3 credits in RELI or PHIL or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 374:** *Islamic Thought*. 3 credits.

Examines Islamic views on fundamental issues in religious thought, such as nature of God, nature of man, and relationship between God and man as reflected in both divine revelation and human religious vocation. Investigates intellectual approaches to these problems within Islamic tradition, including those of theological, philosophical, and mystical

thinkers. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Recommended Prerequisite:** RELI 211, 3 credits in religious studies, or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 375:** *Qur'an and Hadith*. 3 credits.

Explores two primary sources of Islamic belief and practice: Qur'an and Hadith. Discusses thematic structure and literary quality, and examines theological and moral issues. Also introduces various methods of interpretation and critical analysis applied to texts in both Islamic and Western scholarship. Lecture and discussion. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 3 credits in philosophy and religious studies, or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 376:** *Special Topics in Religious Thought*. 3 credits.

Selected topics from a philosophical perspective. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May be repeated within the term for a maximum 12 credits.

**Specialized Designation:** Topic Varies

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 3 hours of Religious Studies or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 379:** *Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics*. 3 credits.

Introduces foundational sources and principles of Islamic Law or shariah. Examines the historical development and application of Islamic law, its role in Muslim societies, and its relationship to Islamic social ideals and ethical discourse. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 381:** *Beginnings of Christianity*. 3 credits.

Examines early Christian church from time of Jesus to 700 C.E. Covers internal development of Christianity as it formed official doctrines and institutions, and external relations of Christians with followers of other religions in Roman Empire. Special attention to reasons for success of Christianity in Roman world. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 3 credits of religious studies, RELI 252, or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 384:** *Global History of Christianity*. 3 credits.

Explores the history of Christianity around the world in the context of political and social structures as well as religious beliefs and practices. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 386:** *Islam in the Modern Age*. 3 credits.

Covers the study of the Islamic tradition and its peoples during the last two centuries-the period of Islamic reform in the wake of Western hegemony-and the efforts of the community to readjust itself in light of Westernization and modernization, as well as the broader challenges of the secular, liberal, and technical age. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 387:** *Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights*. 3 credits.

Evaluates the political and religious goals of Muslim societies and governments, and whether these goals are conducive to the development of democratic institutions to promote democratic cultures and explicit support for human rights, as well as to these societies' full integration in an international order founded upon secularism and modernism. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

## 400 Level Courses

**RELI 403:** *Scripture and Authority in World Religions*. 3 credits.  
Examines origins, development, and role of Scripture (religious texts) in world religions, concentrating on issues of divine inspiration, authority, authenticity, and canon. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 60 credits including 6 credits of Religious Studies or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 405:** *Religion, Values, and Globalization*. 3 credits.  
Explores diverse value systems, ethical norms, and teaching found in different religious traditions and cultures. Examines assumption that globalization is attempt to universalize Western culture. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 60 credits, including 6 credits in Religious Studies or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 407:** *Women in the World's Religions*. 3 credits.  
Seminar course offering theoretical and comparative study of role of women in six of the major religious traditions of the world?Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Chinese religions. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 60 credits; 6 credit hours in Philosophy or Religious Studies.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 420:** *Seminar*. 3 credits.  
Senior seminar on a specific topic of relevance to religious studies. Content varies. Notes: May be repeated when topic varies. Students with other majors may be take the course if the topic is sufficiently close to their field of study. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May be repeated within the term for a maximum 12 credits.

**Specialized Designation:** Writing Intensive in Major

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Major in religious studies with 60 credits including 9 credits or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 425:** *Directed Readings in Religious Studies*. 1-3 credits.  
Individual readings and research in religious studies on a topic selected in consultation with instructor. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May be repeated within the degree for a maximum 6 credits.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Major in religious studies with 60 credits including 9 credits in religious studies.

**Schedule Type:** Independent Study

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 426:** *Religious Studies Internship*. 3 credits.  
Course rubric to be used for acquiring academic credit in Religious Studies for religious studies related internships. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** The completion of 60 undergraduate credits and 12 credits toward the Religious Studies major or minor.

**Schedule Type:** Internship

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 490:** *Comparative Study of Religions*. 3 credits.  
Cross-cultural examination of comparative aspects of religious phenomena. Examines significance of religious phenomena from diverse religious and cultural perspectives, and investigates patterns of religious phenomena that have appeared in world cultures and civilizations. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). Limited to three attempts.

**Mason Core:** Synthesis (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>)

**Specialized Designation:** Non-Western Culture

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 9 credits in religious studies including RELI 211 and RELI 212, or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

## 500 Level Courses

**RELI 591:** *Special Topics in Religious Studies*. 3 credits.  
Topics in religious studies selected by importance in the field and pertinent to the role of religion in society and culture. Emphasis on historical, interdisciplinary, and cross-cultural issues. Notes: May be repeated when topic is different with permission of department. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/>)

humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/). May be repeated within the term for a maximum 12 credits.

**Specialized Designation:** Topic Varies

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

## 600 Level Courses

**RELI 600:** *Interdisciplinary Pathways in the Study of Religion*. 3 credits.

A co-taught course by Religious Studies faculty that introduces students to the graduate study of religion through a survey of different lines of inquiry in the field and different methodological approaches in the discipline. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 630:** *Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion*. 3 credits.

Examines study of religion as academic discipline. Evaluates various intellectual approaches and methods used in study of religious phenomena. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 632:** *Interreligious Dialogue*. 3 credits.

Examines the philosophical and theoretical foundation for religious pluralism and dialogue and different approaches to interreligious

dialogue and understanding among leading interreligious thinkers.

Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 633:** *Issues in Religious Ethics*. 3 credits.

Examines how perceptions of ultimate reality shape ethical values and behaviors of various religious traditions. Addresses problems in interpretation of authoritative foundational teachings in contemporary contexts. Special attention to non-Western religions. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May be repeated within the degree for a maximum 9 credits.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 634:** *Topics in American Religion*. 3 credits.

Examines key issues related to religion in North America and the United States. Topics may include evangelicalism/revivalism; religion and the American founding; religious conversion; the intersection of religion and race; new religious movements; religion and immigration. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)



**RELI 635: *World Religions in Transition and Transformation*.** 3 credits.  
Explores transitions and transformations in selected world religions as they respond to and influence forces of cultural change, social values, and the crises of history. Fresh or modified constructions of the sacred and their relationship to world and humans will be examined. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May be repeated within the degree for a maximum 6 credits.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 636: *Religion and the Natural Environment*.** 3 credits.  
Explores contemporary religious thought on the morality and ethics of environmental responsibility. Begins with an exploration of this issue in Western Christian thought and examines religious approaches to the environment in the traditional and contemporary thought of other major world religions, including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and the Chinese traditions. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 637: *Religion and Secularity in State and Society*.** 3 credits.  
Examines the relationship between religion, state, society, and law in modern contexts, and across the global and religious spectrum, through the lens of different theoretical approaches to this issue. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 640: *Religion and Law*.** 3 credits.

Focuses on United States Supreme Court decisions on religion clauses over the last 50 years. Provides a close reading of court's opinions and considers material from religious legal traditions. Covers contemporary political debates on issues like prayer in public schools, displays of religious symbols, ceremonial references to God, and public aid to religious schools. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 644: *Islamic Texts and Contexts*.** 3 credits.  
Introduces foundational Islamic texts; scholarly traditions of commentary, criticism and analysis on these texts; and application and significance of these texts in contemporary Islamic discourses. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 645: *Muslim Comparative Theologies: Sunni-Shi'i Religious Thought*.** 3 credits.  
Compares and analyzes Sunni and Shi'ite theologies, with particular attention to the historical development of Muslim creed in the context of social and political conditions, and the essential differences between the Sunni and Shi'ite schools of thought. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 646: *Islam and Human Rights*. 3 credits.**

Compares the conception of human rights in international human rights documents and accords with conceptions of human rights in classical Islamic theological, legal, and ethical texts. Examines various relevant issues, including but not limited to religious and gender discrimination, slavery, freedom of religion and belief and apostasy, and questions of punishment. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)

**RELI 660: *Islamic Biomedical Ethics*. 3 credits.**

Examination of the foundations of religious ethics and ethical principles developed by Muslims to solve bioethical problems. Relates ethical principles to the moral experience of contemporary Muslims, and explores the role of human experience and intuitive reasoning in deriving ethical decisions. Offered by Religious Studies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/>). May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Grading:**

This course is graded on the Graduate Regular scale. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/>)