

RELIGION

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Director: Barbara Sproul

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Web Site: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/religion>

Associate Professor: Sproul

Assistant Professors: Long

Coordinating Committee:

Green (Classical and Oriental Studies), Long (Religion), Sproul (Religion), Welter (History)

HEGIS Code: 1510

Majors Offered	Number Credits	Major Requirements	Recommended/Required GER	Prereq	Recommended Minor
BA in Religion	24	At least 18 credits are to be taken from the following four categories: I. Introduction to the field of religion; II. Theoretical studies in religion; III. Issues in religion; and IV. Religious traditions. Both introductory courses (REL 110, 111) must be taken and followed by at least one course in theoretical studies, one in religious issues, and one in religious traditions. In consultation with Religion advisers substitutions are permitted and modifications allowed to maximize the scholastic preparation of each student. No more than two courses from Category V (related courses) may be applied toward the major.	See Adviser	ENGL 120	Religion majors may minor in any area of study in the college leading to the BA

In the program in Religion, students examine the nature of religion and the forms its various expressions have taken. Religion is studied as an academic discipline and the program's approach reflects no doctrinal bias. The purposes of the program are to introduce the field of religion in general; to present the thoughts, documents and history of major religious traditions (both Eastern and Western, ancient and modern, missionary and tribal); and to give students insight into specific religious issues and thinkers.

The program in Religion consists of a series of core courses taught by specialists in the field, augmented by other religion courses offered by faculty in 10 participating departments or divisions: Anthropology, Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies, Chinese, Classics, English, Geography, Hebrew, History, Philosophy and Sociology.

The program is divided into five categories of courses: Introduction to the field of religion (basic introductory courses); Theoretical studies in religion (courses focusing on different methodological approaches to the study of religion); Issues in religion (courses dealing with religious experience, faith, ethics, religion and the arts); Religious traditions (courses in major religious traditions); Related courses.

MAJOR

(24 cr)

At least 18 credits are to be taken from the following four categories:

- I. Introduction to the field of religion;
- II. Theoretical studies in religion;
- III. Issues in religion;
- IV. Religious traditions. Both introductory courses (REL 110, 111) must be taken and followed by at least one course in theoretical studies, one in religious issues and one in religious traditions; and
- V. Related courses. No more than two courses may be applied toward the major.

On becoming a major the student, in consultation with the director, will select one member of the program in Religion staff as his or her major adviser. Each religion major is required to consult with this adviser at least twice a year.

Minor

Religion majors may minor in any department or program at Hunter leading to the BA degree.

Minor for Non-Majors

A minor in Religion consists of 12 credits. It is suggested that these be made up of the two introductory REL courses plus two other REL courses. If the major department recommends a minor in Religion, the student must meet with a Religion program adviser in order to select appropriate courses.

Honors

To qualify for departmental honors, a student must take either REL 450 or REL 490 completing either with a grade of B or above and achieving a final GPA in religion major courses of at least 3.5 and a final cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

COURSE LISTINGS

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE FIELD OF RELIGION

REL 110(W) Nature of Religion GER 2/C

Study of basic facets of religion: God, ethics, worship, faith, myth, ritual, symbolism, etc.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 111(W) Approaches to Religion GER 2/C

Different understandings of religion: sociological, anthropological, psychological, philosophical, theological.
*prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.*

II. THEORETICAL STUDIES IN RELIGION

ANTHC 307 Anthropology of Religion PD/A

Emphasis on non-Western societies; theories of religion; magic; functions and symbolic meanings.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 262(W) Philosophy of Religion GER 3/A

Philosophical examinations of some religious questions and beliefs.

*prereqs: ENGL 120, one course in philosophy or religion
3 hrs, 3 cr.*

REL 270(W) Religion and Psychology
GER 2/C PD/D

An examination of ways in which psychology understands, describes, values (or devalues) religion using the media of text, story and film.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

SOC 205 Sociology of Religion

Comparative study of religion in human societies. Analysis of beliefs, myths and sacred attitudes.

prereq: SOC 101
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 390(W) Modern Theories in Religion
GER 3/A PD/D

An advanced methodology course surveying key issues and main approaches under discussion in the current study of religion when standard methods of interpretation are being subjected to exhaustive critique and revision and new theories are being proposed.

prereqs: ENGL 120, REL 111 or equiv; at least one other course in religion or a theoretical course offered by participating department, such as ANTHRO 307, PHILO 262 or SOC 205; perm instr.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 260 Special Topics: Theoretical Studies in Religion

Specialized study of a methodological approach to the study of religion. Different topic each time offered.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 360 Special Topics: Theoretical Studies in Religion

Specialized study of a methodological approach to study of religion. Different topic each time offered.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

III. ISSUES IN RELIGION**REL 204(W) Religious Experience**
GER 2/C

Cross-cultural analysis of religious experiences: Biblical, ancient Greek, Asian, modern Western.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 205(W) Faith and Disbelief
GER 2/C PD/D

Examination of questions of faith and disbelief in modern Western thought.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 206(W) Ideas of God in Contemporary Western Thought
GER 2/C PD/D

Survey of representative schools of current Western religious thought: Christian theism, "metaphysical protest," process theology, feminist theology, liberation theology, "beyond theism" thought.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 207(W) Religious Sources for Morality
GER 2/C

Religious reasons for determining good and evil; religious sources for ethical decisions.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 208(W) Religion and Social Justice
GER 2/B PD/D

An exploration into religious perspectives on such social issues as war, race, the economy and gender relations.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 307(W) Religious Ideas in Modern Literature
GER 3/A

Exploration of religious themes in modern lit.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 308(W) Religion and the Arts
GER 3/A

Examination of religious themes in art, music, theatre, cinema, or literature. Different topics each time offered.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 309(W) The Religious Meaning of Love and Sex
GER 3/A

Interdisciplinary investigation of the major ways humankind has understood the relation between the sexually erotic and religious realities.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 310(W) The Religious Meaning of Death
GER 3/A

Consideration of the meaning of death in major world religions.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 311(W) Women and Religion
GER 3/A PD/C

An examination of the role of women and the concept of the feminine in world religions.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 312(W) Religion and Politics
GER 3/A

The role of political ideology in the shaping of religious belief and theology's influence on politics in Western and non-Western traditions, both conservative and radical.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 313(W) Spirit and Nature
GER 3/A

An exploration of the ideas of "nature" and "animal life" in a representative sampling of the religious traditions of the world, inquiring into the implications for environmental policy and the treatment of animals.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 315(W) The Problem of Evil
GER 3/A

Exploration of the religious meaning of "evil" in different cultures.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 334(W) Mysticism
GER 3/A

Cross-cultural exploration of mystical experience and mystical doctrines, as well as an exploration of the various methods of studying them.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 335(W) Myth and Ritual
GER 3/A

Cross-cultural exploration of myth and ritual and their place in various cultures; methodologies for analysis.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 340(W) Homosexuality in World Religions
GER 3/A PD/C

A survey and analysis of typical ways in which homosexuality has been understood, evaluated and in some cases institutionalized in a variety of religious traditions, attending especially to implicit constructions of gender.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 261 Special Topics: Issues in Religion

Study of particular religious topics or thinkers. Different subject each time offered.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 361 Special Topics: Issues in Religion
GER 3/A

Study of particular religious topics or thinkers. Different subject each time offered.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

IV. RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS**REL 251(W) Eastern Religions**
GER 2/C PD/A

Study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Taoism and Confucianism.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 320(W) Hinduism
GER 3/A PD/A

Study of Hinduism, its development, history, literature, philosophy and religious practices.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 321(W) Buddhism

Study of Buddhism, its development, history, literature, philosophy and religious practices.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 336(W) Zen

GER 3/A PD/A

An inquiry into the teachings of Chinese and Japanese Zen in light of their Buddhist and Daoist backgrounds.

prereq: ENGL 120
3 hrs, 3 cr.

PHILO 219 Asian Philosophies
PD/A

Readings from classics of Indian, Chinese and Japanese philosophy drawn from the traditions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and Confucianism.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 256(W) Afro-Caribbean Religions

GER 2/C PD/B

An introduction to the diversity of African-based religions in the Caribbean and beyond.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

AFPRL 220 African Spirituality in the Diaspora

GER 2/C PD/A or B

The nature and expressions of the spiritual ethos enabling the survival of classical African human values in dehumanizing circumstances during and after enslavement in North America, South America and the Caribbean.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

AFPRL 322 African World View: Philosophy and Symbolic Thought

GER 3/A PD/A

Examination of African religious systems, metaphysical conceptions and philosophy.

prereq: AFPRL 222 or perm instr.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

*offered every other sem.***AFPRL 323 Islam and Christianity in Africa**

GER 3/A

Examination of relationship of Islam and Christianity to primary African religions and their political role in African history.

prereq: AFPRL 201, 202, 222 or perm instr.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

AFPRL 362 Puerto Rican and Caribbean Religious Practices

GER 3/A PD/A or B

Reading knowledge of Spanish suggested. Analysis of roots of folk religion in Indian, African and Spanish cultures. Religious syncretisms, popular imagery and ritual practices.

prereq: AFPRL 141 or 243

3 hrs, 3 cr.

AFPRL 420 The Black Church and Social Change

In-depth study of socio-political role of Black church in political struggle of Black people, with special emphasis on America.

prereq: AFPRL 203, 204, 205 or perm instr.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 252(W) Ancient Near Eastern Religions

GER 2/C

Study of Egyptian religion, religions of Sumer and Babylonia, religion of the early Hebrews (including the Old Testament).

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 253(W) Western Religions

GER 2/C PD/D

Survey of major Western religions — Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism and Islam.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 255(W) Religions of Two Gods

GER 2/C PD/A

A survey of historical varieties of dualistic religion — both classical and modern — which inquires into the moral grounds for their recurring appeal.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HEBR 240 Introduction to the Old Testament

GER 2/C PD/A

Survey of the books of the Old Testament, their form, content and cultural background.

Introduction to the tools and methods of modern biblical criticism.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HEBR 259 Old Testament Religion

GER 2/C PD/A

Comprehensive survey of ancient Israelite religious practice, expression and thought as reflected in Hebrew Bible.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HEBR 286(W) Ancient Near Eastern Literature and the Bible

PD/A

Comparative study of Ancient Near Eastern literature and Hebrew Bible.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HEBR 292 The Hebrew Prophets

GER 2/C PD/A

Study of phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel and its contribution to historical, ethical and religious thought.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HEBR 294(W) Job, Ecclesiastes and the Human Predicament

GER 3/A PD/A

Study of form, content and religious significance of these two enigmatic masterworks.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HIST 210 History of Judaism

Survey of Jewish religious tradition with attention to interactions between Judaism and other religions and to role of Judaism in formation of Christianity and Islam.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HIST 309 Jewish History in the Ancient World

Not open to freshmen. Jewish people from origins to late antiquity; social and intellectual developments from Biblical to Talmudic eras.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HIST 319 Jewish History in Medieval and Early Modern Periods

Not open to freshmen. Jewish people from late antiquity to 17th century; social and legal status under Islamic and Christian rulers; religious and intellectual movements.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HIST 320 Jewish History in Modern World

PD/D

Not open to freshmen. From 18th century to present: Enlightenment, emancipation, nationalism and Jewish State; anti-Semitism and Holocaust; recent trends.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

CLA 303 Religion of Ancient Greece

Ancient Greek religious experience: official rites, mystery cults, oracles, personal religious belief and practice.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

CLA 304(W) Pagans and Christians

GER 3/A PD/D

Transformation of classical culture in late antiquity: religion, philosophy, mysticism, magic, astrology.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 330(W) New Testament Religion

GER 3/A

Scholarly consideration of religion of New Testament: the mystery of Jesus Christ, Paul's message, ethics, relation to the Law of Judaism, salvation theology, apocalyptic thinking.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 323(W) Christianity

GER 3/A PD/D

Analysis of the Christian religion which employs methodologies of the academic study of religion and which aims to uncover the unity of Christian faith embodied in its various expressions.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 333(W) Christian Theology

GER 3/A PD/D

An examination of key doctrines in Christian thought such as trinity, incarnation, existence of God and grace.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HIST 314 Ancient and Medieval Christianity

PD/D

The development of Christianity from Jesus to Luther; theology and mysticism, lay and monastic spirituality; the papacy and dissidents; gender and sexuality; relations with Judaism and Islam.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HIST 315 Christianity in Modern Times

Not offered to freshmen. Transformation of Christianity since the Reformation, Enlightenment and modern political and intellectual challenges.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HIST 316 History of Religion in the United States

Changing European churches and indigenous American sects: their architecture, leaders and ideas.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 322(W) Islam

GER 3/A PD/A

Study of Islam, its development, history, literature, philosophy and religious practices.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 324(W) Islam and Buddhism

GER 3/A

Study of Islam and Buddhism, their founders, development, beliefs, rituals and interaction.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 337(W) Sufism

GER 3/A PD/A

A course on the esoteric or "mystical" dimension of Islam, known among Muslims as *ta'awwuf*, attending to the history, doctrine and metaphysics of the Sufi path.

prereq: ENGL 120

3 hrs, 3 cr.

REL 254(W) Tribal Religions: From Australia to the Americas

GER 2/C PD/A or B

Study of indigenous religions of Pacific Islanders and North American Indians.

prereq: ENGL 120
*3 hrs, 3 cr.***REL 262 Special Topics: Religious Traditions**

Specialized study of specific religious traditions or groups of traditions. Different topic each time offered.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***REL 362 Special Topics: Religious Traditions**

GER 3/A

Specialized study of specific religious tradition or groups of traditions. Different topic each time offered.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***REL 410 Independent Study in Religion**

Open to majors only. Individual research and writing on topic in religion under supervision of a religion professor.

prereq: perm chair
*hrs TBA, 1-6 cr.***REL 450 Honors Seminar in Religion**

Specialized study in religion. For religion majors or other advanced religion students. Different topic each time offered. May be taken a second or third time with another subject. One topic offered under REL 450 or 490 satisfies the course requirements for departmental honors.

prereqs: five courses in religion or a major/CUNY-BA focus in religion and perm instr. or program director
*3 hrs, 3 cr.***REL 490 Honors Tutorial in Religion**

Open to majors only. Individual research and writing on topic in religion under supervision of Religion Honors Committee. REL 490 or one topic offered under REL 450 satisfies the course requirements for departmental honors.

prereq: perm chair
*hrs TBA, 3-6 cr.***V. RELATED COURSES****AFPRL 141 Puerto Rican Folklore**

GER 2/C PD/A or B

Study of Puerto Rican folklore: traditional beliefs, legends, religious rites and typical music.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***AFPRL 222 African Civilization**

GER 2/C PD/A

Introduction to study of African civilization from Afro-centric perspective.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***CHIN 111 Chinese Culture I**

GER 2/C PD/A

Introduction to Chinese culture with emphasis on classical tradition. Lectures and readings in English.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***CHIN 112 Chinese Culture II**

GER 2/C PD/A

Emphasis on modern transformation against background of classical tradition. Lectures and readings in English.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***CLA 101 Classical Mythology**

GER 2/C PD/D

Greek and Roman myth as represented in ancient art and literature, with emphasis on modern interpretations and theories.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***CLA 302(W) Comparative Backgrounds of Classical Mythology**

GER 3/A PD/D

Mythological systems that bear on classical myth, including Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Hittite, Ugaritic and Celtic myths.

prereqs: CLA 101, ENGL 120
*3 hrs, 3 cr.***HEBR 214(W) Maimonides' Guide to the Perplexed**

GER 3/A PD/D

Study of the work in English, with reference to Maimonides' influence on development of medieval Aristotelianism.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***HEBR 281(W) Masterpieces of Ancient Hebraic Literature in Translation**

GER 3/A

Study of Hebrew classics and collateral works against background of Jewish history and ancient civilization.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***HEBR 284 Images of Women in the Old Testament, in Translation**

PD/C

Depiction of women in ancient Israelite prose and poetry. Close reading and analysis of texts in terms of literary techniques, cultural background and ideological implications.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***HEBR 288 Ancient Hebraic Folklore**

GER 2/C PD/A

Analysis and comparative study of folk beliefs, practices and literature reflected in Hebrew Bible, apocryphal literature and Rabbinic Aggadah.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***HEBR 290 Biblical Archaeology**

GER 2/C PD/A

Study of Biblical sources in translation in relation to major archaeological discoveries in Israel and Near East.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***HEBR 295 Ancient Hebraic Law**

GER 2/C

Historical and comparative study of Biblical and rabbinic law.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***HEBR 296(W) The Dead Sea Scrolls in English**

GER 3/A PD/A

Readings in the various genres of the scrolls; historical background of Qumran sect; significance of the scrolls for study of Judaism and Christianity.

*3 hrs, 3 cr.***ANTHC 306 Folklore and Myth**

Cultural and psychological functions and symbolic meanings.

3 hrs, 3 cr.