Philosophy Department

RELS—RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELS 201  Religion, Dialogue, and Society (4) GE D3
The way in which interactions between religious traditions shape society at various levels. Case studies drawn from eastern and western religious traditions during the ancient and modern periods. 4 lectures.

RELS 301  Religions of Asia (4) GE C4
Comparative study of the religions of Asia, particularly Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China. Topics include historical continuities/discontinuities, worldviews, sacred texts, practices, responses to modernity, the place of women across the traditions. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and PHIL 230 or PHIL 231.

RELS 302  Monotheisms: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (4)
(formerly RELS 309) GE C4
The monotheistic traditions of Christianity and Islam, with focus on their origins from Judaism. Topics include: Jewish history, the Hebrew Bible, the Christian New Testament, formation of the Church, the Quran and Mohammad. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and C2.

RELS 304  Judaism (4) GE C4
Origins, beliefs and practices of Judaism and central themes in the Hebrew Bible. The development of Judaism in the post-biblical and Talmudic period. Jewish philosophy, life, rituals and customs. The emergence of modern Judaism, Zionism and post-Holocaust philosophy. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and PHIL 230 or PHIL 231.

RELS 306  Hinduism (4) GE C4
Origins, beliefs and practices of Hinduism from the Veda and the Upanishads through the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita and the Puranas. Modern Hindu institutions, saints and sages, and social philosophy contrasted with the ancient. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A, and PHIL 230 or PHIL 231.

RELS 307  Buddhism (4) GE C4
Buddhist origins, viewpoints and practices will be seen in their development in India, Tibet, China, Japan, South Asia and America. Life of Buddha, Gautama, the rise of Theravada, Mahayana and Tantra. Encounters with Shinto and Confucianism. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A, and PHIL 230 or PHIL 231.

RELS 310  Christianity (4) GE C4
The development of the Christian religion from the story of Jesus, the New Testament, Church formation, the role of St. Paul, dissenting ideas, Protestant and Catholic views, and contemporary issues of conscience, such as the Social Gospel and liberation theologies. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and PHIL 230 or PHIL 231.

RELS 311  Islam (4) GE C4
The development of Islamic civilization from the inspiration of the Qur’an and the Prophet Muhammad and the Sunni-Shi‘i split to contemporary political and social issues. Emphasis of Sufi literature, art, architecture, and philosophies of Islam. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and PHIL 230 or PHIL 231.

RELS 370  Religion, Gender and Society (4) GE C4 USCP
(formerly RELS 336)
Critical examination of religious ideas and institutions in America in relation to gender, race and politics. Focus on women and religion, the religious experience of minorities, and on politics. 4 lectures. Prerequisite:

RELS 372  Spiritual Extremism: Asceticism, Mysticism, and Madness (4) GE C4
Shaping influence of ascetics, mystics and the insane on global religious traditions. Topics may include the relationship between spiritual extremists and society, cultural construction of holiness and insanity, and literary depictions of spiritual extremists. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and PHIL 230 or PHIL 231.

RELS 374  Religion and Violence (4) GE C4
Historical and contemporary case studies of how various religions have condoned, motivated and justified violence. The place of sacrifice, martyrdom, self-injury and forced conversion in religious doctrines. Representations of religious violence in the media. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A and PHIL 230 or PHIL 231.

RELS 378  Religion and Contemporary Values (4) GE C4
Descriptive analysis of how diverse religious traditions construct moral decisions about a variety of contemporary issues including sexuality, ecology, and justice. Challenges for religious value systems in secular and pluralistic societies. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. New course – Effective Spring 2009; see Updates

RELS 400  Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates (1–2)
Individual investigation, research, studies or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 4 units, with a maximum of 2 units per quarter. Prerequisite: Consent of department chair.

RELS 470  Selected Advanced Topics (1–4)
Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. The Schedule of Classes will list topics selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1–4 lectures. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.