RELST 2204  Intro to Quranic Arabic  (ASRC 2106/ NES 2204)  @ (LA-AS)  4 credits
Younes, M  MWF 9:05-9:55

Prerequisite: Knowledge of the Arabic alphabet. This course is designed for students who are interested in reading the language of the Qur'an with accuracy and understanding. The first week (4 classes) will be devoted to an introduction of the history of the Qur'an: the revelation, collection, variant readings, and establishment of an authoritative edition. The last week will be devoted to a general overview of “revisionist” literature on the Qur’an.
In the remaining 12 weeks, we will cover all of Part 30 (Jus’ ‘Amma, suuras 78-114) and three suaras of varying length (36, 19, and 12). We will start with the shortest suaras and move gradually to longer ones. The Suuras will be presented and analyzed, and new vocabulary and grammatical structures will be discussed, explained, and practiced systematically. Each lesson will include, in addition to the text of the suura, word-building exercises devised to facilitate the acquisition and retention of new vocabulary. At the end of the semester, the successful student will have mastered a working vocabulary of between 1500-2000 words, correct pronunciation, and the most commonly used grammatical structures. In addition, the course will provide the student with a firm foundation on which to build advanced study of Classical Arabic.

RELST 2250  Introduction to Asian Religions  (ASIAN 2250)  3 credits
Law, J.M.  MW 12:20-1:10
Discussions: 201  W 1:25-2:15
202  W 2:30-3:20
203  W 1:25-2:15
204  W 2:30-3:20

This course will explore a range of religious traditions in South Asia (Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka) and East Asia (China and Japan) including Hinduism, Buddhism (South and East Asian), Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto. We will concentrate on these religions in traditional times in order to understand better the historical foundations that have influenced much of what these cultures are today.

RELST 2277  Meditation in Indian Culture  (ASIAN 2277)  @ # (CA-AS)  3 credits
Gold, D.  MWF 11:15-12:05

This course probes the truths behind traditional claims of the priority of internal practice in Indian traditions. We will examine both practices themselves - techniques of meditation and contemplation - religious ways of using intellect, forms of chant and ritual, and the dynamics through which these have left a wider mark on South Asian civilization. These dynamics include not only the evident reverberations of practice in philosophical reflection and socioreligious institutions, but also wide-ranging processes of stylization, elaboration, and popularization found throughout South Asian culture. In order to get a sense of the experiences treated in classical religious texts, students will be expected to experiment with some basic meditation practices. At least as important for the work of the course (and much more important for the grade) will be the ways in which students situate these practices within larger South Asian world views as suggested by doctrines, rituals, iconic forms, and literary texts. To keep the interaction between internal practice and broader world views central, we will examine both Hindu and Buddhist sources, consistently examining the ways in which similar practices are given distinct shapes by the two religious traditions.
RELST 2556 Introduction to the Quran (JWST/NES 2556) 3 credits
Toorawa, S. TR 11:40-12:55
In this course, a literary, historical and religious introduction to the Qur'an—a book that has become a source of spiritual guidance and law for a billion and a half people the world over—we explore: the circumstances of the Qur'an's revelation; its written compilation (or redaction); its narrative structure; its rhetorical strategies; its major themes; its connections to and departures from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament; Qur'an commentary and exegesis; translation and the problems associated with it; the impact of the Qur'an on political and religious thought; and the influence of the Qur'an on literature. All material in English. No prerequisites.

RELST 2630 Religion and Reason (also PHIL 2530) (KCM-AS) 4 credits
Chignell, A. TR 1:25-2:40
Discussions:
201 R 3:35-4:25
202 F 11:15-12:05
203 F 11:15-12:05
204 R 3:35-4:25
205 W 2:30-3:20
An introduction to some of the main issues in philosophy of religion. Topics may include the existence and nature of God, the problem of evil, the nature of faith, and the epistemology of religious belief. Readings are drawn from the history of philosophy and contemporary philosophical debates.

RELST 3260 Christianity and Judaism (COML 3260) 4 credits
Carmichael, C. TR 8:40-9:55

RELST 3344 Introduction to Indian Philosophy (ASIAN 3344) @# (KCM-AS) 4 credits
McCrea, L. MWF 1:25 - 2:15
This course will survey the rich and sophisticated tradition of Indian philosophical thought from its beginnings in the speculations of Upanishads, surveying debates between Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and materialistic philosophers about the existence and nature of God and of the human soul, the nature of knowledge, and the theory of language.

RELST 3420 Myth, Ritual, and Symbol (ANTHR 3420) @ (CA-AS) 4 credits
Holmberg, D. TR 11:40-12:55
Discussions:
201 W 3:35-4:25
202 W 7:30-8:20pm
Examines how systems of thought, symbolic forms, and ritual practice are formulated and expressed in primarily non-Western societies. Focuses on anthropological interpretations of space, time, cosmology, myth, classificatory systems (e.g., color, totems, food, dress, kinship), taboos, sacrifice, witchcraft, sorcery, and rites of passage (birth, initiation, marriage, death). Examines both the roles of specialists (e.g., spirit mediums, curers, priests, ascetics) and nonspecialists in producing these cultural forms.
RELST 3588  Biblical Archaeology (ARKEO/JWST/NES 3588) 4 credits
Monroe, L.  TR  10:10-11:25
The purpose of the course is to place the Bible within the context of a larger ancient world that can be explored by systematic excavation of physical remains. Students will become familiar with archaeological excavations and finds from ancient Syria-Palestine from 10,000 BCE to 586 BCE. We will explore this archaeological evidence on its own terms, taking into consideration factors such as archaeological method and the interpretive frameworks in which the excavators themselves work, as well as the implications of this body of evidence for understanding the complexity and diversity of biblical Israel.

RELST 3677  Search for the Historical Muhammad (NES/HIST 3677) 4 credits
Powers, D.  TR  1:25-2:40
Unlike Moses or Jesus, Muhammad is said to have been born in the full light of history. The earliest extant biography of the Prophet, the Life of Muhammad by Ibn Hisham (d. 833), contains a full account of the Prophet’s career, from his birth ca. 570 to his death in 632. In this seminar, we will read the Life of Muhammad and analyze selected episodes from a critical historical perspective.

RELST 3710  Language of the Quran (NES 3710) 4 credits
Powers/Younes  TR  8:40-9:55
Certain verses in the Qur'an have been the subject of intense debate among Muslim scholars since the first century of Islamic history. In some cases, words and phrases do not seem to fit the surrounding context. In others, the language of the Qur'an appears to violate the standard rules of Arabic grammar. How are these problems to be explained? In an attempt to answer this question, students study a dozen or so Qur'anic cruxes and the explanations that have been given for them by both Muslim and non-Muslim scholars. Then they apply the tools of modern linguistics to these same problems and compare the results with those of earlier scholarship. The linguistic analysis of the Qur'an is informed by a survey of early Islamic history, particularly as it relates to the revelation, transmission, and codification of the Qur'an and the development of Arabic writing.

RELST 4100  Latin Philosophical Texts (PHIL 4002) 1-4 credits, variable
MacDonald, S.  TBA
Reading and translation of Latin philosophical texts.

RELST 4102  Biblical Hebrew Prose: the Joseph Story (JWST/NES 4102) 4 credits
Monroe, L.  R  2:30-4:25
From the Broadway production, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” and Hollywood’s “The Prince of Egypt,” to the Hellenistic tale of Joseph and Asenath, the Joseph story has captured the imagination. In this class we will “go back to the source,” reading the biblical novella in its original Hebrew. We will consider the story from an array of perspectives, including literary, literary historical, archaeological and socio-historical, in order to develop a better understanding of its resonance as an ancient Near Eastern literary composition, its history of development, and position within the literary traditions of ancient Israel. Along the way students will develop a better understanding of the mechanics of biblical Hebrew, and learn to translate with greater sensitivity to the particular nuances of biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax. At least one year of biblical Hebrew, two years of Modern, or special permission from this instructor is required.
**RELST 4260  Biblical Seminar II  (COML 4260) # (HA-AS)  4 credits**

Carmichael, C.  W  2:30- 4:25

Discussing attitudes to sexuality in the Bible, we will examine in Old and New Testament texts the clash between ancestral behavior and subsequent laws, as well as the contrast between legal and religious ideas. Topics will include: marriage and divorce, incest, intermarriage, gender discrimination, guilt and shame, homosexuality, women and purity, sexual language and symbols. It should be possible to say something new about the topics and also, because of the perennial nature of the issues, to say something that is relevant to contemporary life.

**RELST 4449  History & Methods of the Academic Study of Religion  (ASIAN 4449)  4 credits**

Law, J.M.  T  2:30- 4:25

Prerequisite: 2 RELST courses or permission of instructor.

Provides advanced students in religious studies or the humanities familiarity with important methodological issues in the academic study of religion. Following a brief historical outline, major approaches to the academic study of religion currently used and discussed in religious studies are examined. Students read works from the following approaches to the study of religion: anthropology, philosophical hermeneutics, phenomenology, history of religions, the sociology of religion and critical ideological studies. In the final segment, the course focuses on recent developments in the field of religious studies.

**RELST 4730  Film and Spiritual Questions  4 credits**

Fredericksen, D  MW  7:30 – 10:30

Limited to 20 students. The use of film as a medium for the expression of spiritual questions. Special attention is given to the work of Andrey Tarkovsky, the Russian film director and theorist.

**RELST 4750  Archaeology of Greek Religion: Theory, Method, and Practice  4 credits**

Barrett, C.   W  1:25 - 4:25

Prerequisites: Some background in Classics, archaeology, or related disciplines is recommended, but not required.

Religious behavior is one of the few near-universal features of human societies, yet the term “religion” is notoriously controversial to define. This course takes an anthropological approach to ancient Greek religion, investigating ancient religious beliefs and practices from three different angles: (1) Theory: We will compare and critique the most influential anthropological and archaeological schools of thought on the definition, origins, and social significance of religious behavior. (2) Methods: The course surveys a variety of tools that scholars may use to reconstruct ancient rituals and beliefs, ranging from the most traditionally humanistic (e.g., textual analysis) to the most scientific (e.g., faunal analysis of feasting remains). We will assess these methodologies’ varying applicability to cultures across a spectrum of social complexity. (3) Practice: Drawing on both archaeological and textual evidence, we will investigate a range of special topics within Greek religion and explore the roles that specific religious behaviors play within their broader cultural context. We will look at ritual artifacts, cult sites, and other aspects of religious material culture, as well as primary textual sources (in translation). We will also put the course’s concepts into action through trips to museums; workshop sessions; and fieldwork at contemporary religious sites.
RELST 4991  Directed Study  2-4 credits
Staff
For majors in Religious Studies; permission of director required.

RELST 4996  Senior Honors Essay  4 credits
Staff
Requirement for honors in Religious Studies.

RELST 6020  Latin Philosophical Texts (LATIN 7262, PHIL 6020)  1-4 credits, variable
MacDonald, S.  TBA
Reading and translation of Latin philosophical texts.

** ® = Indicates course counts towards the research
seminar requirement for NES majors.
# = Historical breadth
@ = Geographical breadth
(LA-AS) = Literature & the Arts
(HA-AS) = Historical Analysis
(CA-AS) = Cultural Analysis
(SBA-AS)= Social & Behavioral Analysis
(KCM-AS) = Knowledge, Cognition & Moral Reasoning