

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELS)

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**RELS 131 World Religions/Religious Worlds Units: 6.00**

Introduces religion in India, China and Japan; also the movements of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Humanism. NOTE Also offered online. Consult Arts and Science Online. Learning Hours may vary.

LEARNING HOURS 228 (48L;24T;156P)

**Requirements:** Prerequisite None.

**Course Equivalencies:** RELS131; RELS131B

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 137 Religion and Film Units: 3.00**

This course will explore how religion is portrayed in film, noting particularly the depiction of religious belief, practices, practitioners, and institutions, and the use of religious symbols and metaphors.

LEARNING HOURS 126 (12L24G;90P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite None. Equivalency RELS 237.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 140 Religion and Science Units: 3.00**

This course examines the categories of both science and religion and attempts to explore the possible relationships between them. Case studies involve: medicine and health, relationships with other animals, concepts of human nature, super/natural ontologies, and science-and-technology-based religions.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (24L;12T;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite None.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 161 Contemporary Problems in Religion and Culture Units: 6.00**

Explores religious issues in culture, literature, politics and social ethics.

LEARNING HOURS 228 (48L;24T;156P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite None.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 162 Religion, News and Media Units: 3.00**

This course will identify and describe characteristics of religion as they appear in news reports of social, political, and economic aspects of public life and analyze how the news presents, shapes, and creates perceptions of religion in public discourse.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (24L;12T;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite None.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 163 Religion and Popular Culture Units: 3.00**

This course will identify and describe characteristics of religion as they appear in popular culture (e.g. fashion; comics; movies; art; music; novels; sitcoms; dramas; video games) and analyze how such depictions present, shape, and create perceptions of religion in public discourse.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (24L;12T;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite None.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 200 Religion and Global Development Units: 3.00**

This course will examine the vital role that different religious ideas and groups play in major development organizations and initiatives. Students will look at how religious ideas and groups have influenced issues around global poverty, pandemics, child welfare, economics and debt relief, education, etc.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;9G;75P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above and 6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 201 Topics in Religious Studies I Units: 3.00**

A topic of current interest in Religious Studies not covered in other available courses.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 202 Traditions in Religious Studies Units: 3.00**

A topic of current interest in Religious Studies not covered in other available courses.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 209 Radical Jews Units: 3.00**

This course examines the life and work of Jewish radical thinkers: analysts, anarchists, communists, feminists, environmentalists, and anti-nationalists. We will be interested both in the ways they created difficulties for dominant cultural and political institutions, and traditional Jewish authorities.

LEARNING HOURS 126 (12L;12T;12O;90P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above and 6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 210 Hebrew Bible Units: 3.00**

Introduction in the light of the political, cultural, and religious history of ancient Israel and Judah.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 212 Mythology of the Ancient Near East Units: 3.00**

Similarities and differences in the myths of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia will be explored on the basis of material remains (e.g., the pyramids and temple architecture) and texts.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 214 The New Testament Units: 3.00**

As religious literature expressing the witness to Jesus; and as source for the history, trends and problems of early Christianity.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 218 Christianity Units: 3.00**

Introduction to Christianity as a religious tradition through its texts, its history and its contemporary forms.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 221 New Religious Movements Units: 3.00**

All religions were once new, small, and unusual to the cultures around them - often therefore attracting suspicion. This course examines the practices, beliefs, and histories of several NRMs, and why some gain legitimacy while others get derided as "cults." Doing so illuminates broader processes like mythmaking, Othering, and (de)secularization.

LEARNING HOURS 126 (24L;12G;6O;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 222 The Hindu World Units: 3.00**

Developments through 3,000 years of Indian history; the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, Yoga and Vedanta, mythology of Vishnu and Shiva, and recent Hindu thinkers (e.g., Tagore, Aurobindo).

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 223 Buddhism Units: 3.00**

Buddhism in India, the life and teaching of Gautama the Buddha, and the growth of the Theravadin and Mahayanist traditions.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 224 Taoism Units: 3.00**

The philosophy, worldview, spirituality and ethics of Taoism, China's organized indigenous religion, in Chinese history and in the contemporary world.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 226 Islam Units: 3.00**

Historical and topical survey of Islam, its development through the study of its rise, institutionalization of its beliefs and practices, formation of its theology, law, mysticism; as well as its modern interpretations and practices.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 227 Indigenous Tradition in North America Units: 3.00**

Introduction to the study of Indigenous traditions in North America.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 228 Sages, Scholars and Rabbis Units: 3.00**

The religious institutions produced by the Jews from the second to the seventh centuries. This course will explore in critical fashion the principal areas of rabbinic activity including: topics on jurisprudence, philosophy, social and political thinking, the role of tradition and scriptures.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 229 Confucianism Units: 3.00**

The philosophy, worldview, spirituality and ethics of Confucianism in its classical, modern and contemporary forms.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 232 Religion and Social Movements Units: 3.00**

This course will examine the field of social movements studies, with a particular focus on how religion has played a role in the rise of social movements, how religious communities have been influenced by social movements, and how mobilization and activism around social justice issues is coloured by religion and culture.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;9G;75P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 234 Judaism Units: 3.00**

An introduction to the self-definition of Judaism through an analysis of the concepts of God, Torah and Israel past and present. Also, a preliminary study of the struggles facing Jews in Europe, the State of Israel and North America.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 235 Religion and Environment Units: 3.00**

Examines how religious traditions shape human values and behaviours towards the environment and how environmental problems are shaping the evolution of religious and spiritual traditions.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 236 Religion and Sex Units: 3.00**

Views of and attitudes toward sexuality in selected world religions; the place of sexuality in religious traditions; relationship between sex and the sacred; specific topics such as marriage, gay and lesbian issues, contraception will be chosen.

LEARNING HOURS 126 (36L;12G;6O;72P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 239 Religion and Sport Units: 3.00**

This course will provide an overview of the relatively new and expanding body of research that examines the relationship between sport, spirituality and religion. Topics including play, games, flow, ritual, prayer, sports stars as role models, doping, fandom and miracles in sport will be explored.

LEARNING HOURS 129 (36L;93P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 240 Magic, Witchcraft, and the Supernatural Units: 3.00**

Studies the differences between the categories of religion, magic, witchcraft, the supernatural, etc., as constructed in scholarship, popular culture, and practice. Focuses on examples such as New Religious Movements, depictions of magic in film and TV, and moral panics over alleged occult practices, and the histories that let us make sense of them.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (24L;6G;12O;78P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 250 Mythology of Heroes, Heroines and Saints Units: 3.00**

Their place in religious consciousness with a variety of examples.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 252 Mysticism Units: 3.00**

The academic study of mysticism; mystical movements; and mystics.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 255 Research Methods in Religious Studies Units: 3.00**

An investigation into the techniques of critical reading and writing for research in Religious Studies.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36S;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level). Equivalency RELS 355.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 266 Religion and Social Ethics Units: 3.00**

Moral problems and religious responses: e.g., sexual morality; violence; civil disobedience.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science



**RELS 296 Islam in Canada Units: 3.00**

This course examines the historical and contemporary expressions of Islam in Canada. Starting from early Muslim migrants to Canada to current issues of media representations, Islamophobia, and gender and sexuality, as they are unfolding in Canadian contexts for Muslims. LEARNING HOURS 138 (18L;18S;12G;90P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 301 Themes in Religious Studies Units: 3.00**

A topic of current interest in Religious Studies not covered in other available courses.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 302 Traditions in Religious Studies Units: 3.00**

A topic of current interest in Religious Studies not covered in other available courses.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 312 Christian Feminist Theology Units: 3.00**

Issues raised by the feminist critique of traditional Christian theology and feminist attempts at theological reconstruction. LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 321 Greek and Roman Religions Units: 3.00**

A study of the development and organization of non-civic religious associations in the Greek and Roman empires using inscriptions, papyri, and literary texts. Insight into religious practices of the Greco-Roman period comes through exploration of groups organized by deity, cult, occupation, or ethnic identity, and the so-called mystery religions.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 322 Yoga in India and the West Units: 3.00**

Surveys the history and philosophy of yoga in India and the West.

NOTE Yoga practicum: estimated cost \$85.

LEARNING HOURS 128 (36L;80C;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 326 Religion and Politics in Muslim Societies Units: 3.00**

Explores the role of religion in the politics of Muslim societies with particular attention to the modern period.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 328 Interpretation of Apocalyptic Literature Units: 3.00**

The primary focus of the course will be the theological perspectives and social functions of apocalyptic in select religious traditions. The course will also survey the appropriation of apocalyptic themes throughout history in artistic forms such as art, fiction, and film, with particular attention to our modern times and cultures.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 331 Religion and Violence Units: 3.00**

Links between violence and religious beliefs, practices and institutions; for example, sacrifice, holy wars, scapegoating, and suicide.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 332 Race, Ethnicity, and Religion Units: 3.00**

The course will explore the intersection of race, ethnicity, and religion, alongside gender, sexuality, culture and more. It will challenge students to think about how racial identities, theories, and movements implicate(d) the way religious communities construct their own systems and worldviews.

LEARNING HOURS 128 (18L;18S;12G;80P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 334 Jewish Views of the Other Units: 3.00**

A study of the tensions that come into play as Jews formulated views of the Other to balance co-existence with them. Source materials include authoritative writings of Jewish commentary and law and social scientific views of them.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 340 Religion and Democracy Units: 3.00**

Deals with the role of religion in the public sphere and its relation to liberal democracy. It examines the (in)compatibility of some tenets of certain religions with modern democratic principles.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 341 Spirituality, Secularity, and Nonreligion Units: 3.00**

A study of concepts intended to summarize positions which are necessarily defined in reference to religion but considered to be other than religious. We explore the origins and presents of perspectives and experiences including the secular, spiritual-but-not-religious, atheistic, and other forms of imitation, indifference, and hostility to religion.

LEARNING HOURS 126 (24L;6G;12O;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 345 Religion and Art Units: 3.00**

An examination of discursive, historiographical, and affective aspects of a variety of historical and contemporary artistic expressions (e.g., painting, sculpture, video) through the lens of Religious Studies.

NOTE Field trip: estimated cost \$38.

LEARNING HOURS 126 (12L;24G;90P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 353 Interpretation Of Religion Units: 6.00**

**Requirements:** (RELS2### AND 99999999)

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 354 Theory in Religious Studies Units: 3.00**

An introduction to major theoretical approaches to the study of religion.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above and 6.0 units in RELS at the 200-level. Exclusion A maximum of 6.0 units from RELS 353; RELS 354; RELS 355.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 367 Religion and Biomedical Ethics Units: 3.00**

The aim of this course is to provide an overview of some ethical issues that arise at the intersection of biomedicine and religion. These ethical issues include moral distress, consent, beginning of life issues, indigeneity and healing, medically assisted death, gene editing, and anti-aging interventions.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (18L18S;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level). Equivalency RELS 268.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 368 Religion and Business Ethics Units: 3.00**

Students will develop background knowledge and analytic skills necessary to identify and negotiate religious commitments in business relationships and resolve ethical issues around the role of religion in business contexts. We will analyze case studies to explore various ways in which business practitioners can and do address questions arising in everyday interactions in the business world.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 385 Religious Fundamentalisms Units: 3.00**

Religious fundamentalism is a modern phenomenon not exclusive to any religion. In the past few decades, religious fundamentalist movements have been shaping new social, cultural and political norms in a predominately secular age. The course explores theoretical aspects and examines specific case studies across various religions and cultures.

LEARNING HOURS 126 (36L;20O;70P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 393 Buddhism in the Modern World Units: 3.00**

Encounter between Buddhism and the West, major movements and thinkers, and socio-politically engaged Buddhism.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science





**RELS 394 Religion and Politics in Contemporary China Units: 3.00**

Examines Chinese and foreign religions in mainland China from 1949 to the present day. Topics include the status of established religions, the political control of new religious movements and the resurgence of traditional Chinese religions and ideologies including Daoism and Confucianism. LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 396 Islam in the Modern World Units: 3.00**

Exploration of Islamic developments since the 19th century: major thinkers, trends of thought, and contemporary movements as responses to modernity. LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 398 Judaism in the Modern Age Units: 3.00**

The development of modern Jewish thought and practice, including the Reform, Orthodox, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements. The consequences of the Holocaust and the establishment of the modern State of Israel.

LEARNING HOURS 132 (36L;96P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above or (6.0 units in RELS at the 100-level).

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 401 Honours Seminar Units: 3.00**

Advanced seminar providing detailed reading of one contemporary theme or thinker in religious studies.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (6L;30S;120;72P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 4 or above and registration in a (RELS Major or Medial Plan) and a (minimum GPA of 2.60 in 24.0 units in RELS). Corequisite (RELS 354 and [RELS 255 or RELS 355]) or RELS 353.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 451 Contemp Religious Situation Units: 6.00**

**Requirements:** RELS353

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 452 The Contemporary Religious Situation Units: 3.00**

Religion in modernity; traditional groups, newer religious movements, contemporary ideologies and social trends of religious significance.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;84P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 3 or above and registration in a (RELS Major or Medial Plan). Corequisite (RELS 354 and [RELS 255 or RELS 355]) or RELS 353. Exclusion RELS 451.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 501 Directed Special Studies I Units: 3.00**

Reading courses on topics not covered in other available courses, arranged with individual members of the Department.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (12I;108P).

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 4 or above and registration in the RELS Major Plan and permission of the Department.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**RELS 502 Directed Special Studies II Units: 3.00**

Reading courses on topics not covered in other available courses, arranged with individual members of the Department.

NOTE RELS 502/3.0 may be taken independently or as a continuation of RELS 501/3.0.

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 4 or above and registration in the RELS Major Plan and permission of the Department.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science