

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RS)

RS-101 Introduction to the Bible (3 credits)

This course is a study of the sacred literature of the Jewish and Christian religions. Key concepts and great themes of both testaments are studied.

Course Types: Cultural Competence; Culture Comp/Glob Society

RS-102 Belief & Unbelief in the Brave New World (3 credits)

This introductory course in the phenomenon of religious faith examines the classic examples of the case for and against living in faith, with the view of enabling students to evaluate their own attitudes toward religion. Faith traditions of Western and Eastern cultures provide additional data for this evaluation.

Course Types: Critical Analysis; Thinking Process

RS-103 Ethics: Religious and Philosophical Perspectives (3 credits)

This course is an introduction to ethical reasoning, theories of morality, and questions related to the good life. Potential topics of discussion include moral duty, virtue, pleasure, and happiness, the religious ethic of St. Marie-Marguerite d'Youville, and contemporary ethical issues. Topics may be approached from religious/theological or philosophical perspectives. Crosslisted with PHI-103

Course Types: Ethical Reasoning and Act; Foundational Gen Ed; Global Learning; Humanities

RS-105 Living Justice I (4 credits)

This course introduces students to ethical theories, concepts of justice, and their applications, pursued through a theory-praxis-reflection methodology. Service learning is integrated, encouraging students to grapple with the application of theory to real-world settings. The course is divided into two parts—didactic and service placement—each bearing two credits. The didactic portion of the course introduces the intellectual foundation useful for framing the site placement experience. For the service placement portion of the course, students will be placed with an organization that addresses some form of injustice, and complete 100 hours of service, which will include orientation to the organization and any training necessary to serve on site. Students enrolling in RS-105 are expected to continue in RS-106 which also requires completion of 100 hours of service, typically with the same organization as in RS-105. Course may be approached from religious/theological or philosophical perspectives. Fulfills the General Education Topics in Critical Analysis requirement.

Course Types: Foundational Gen Ed; Humanities; Service Learning; Teamwork; Themed; Thinking Process

RS-106 Living Justice II (3 credits)

This course continues the theory-praxis-reflection methodology developed in PHI/RS 105, extending it to the continued experiences of the student in their service-learning placement. The course is divided into two parts, with the didactic portion bearing one credit and the service-learning portion bearing two credits. The didactic portion of the course will facilitate the ongoing interaction of ethical theory and concepts of justice with the student experience at service placement sites. For the service placement portion of the course, students will be placed with an organization that addresses some form of injustice, and complete 100 hours of service, which will include orientation to the organization and any training necessary to serve on site. The service site may be the same as or different from that of PHI/RS 106. Course may be approached from religious/theological or philosophical perspectives. Fulfills the General Education Ethics requirement. Prereq: PHI/RS 105.

Course Types: Cultural Competence; Ethical Reasoning and Act; Foundational Gen Ed; Humanities; Service Learning; Themed

Prerequisite(s): Take RS-105

RS-189 Topics in Critical Inquiry (3 credits)

Critical inquiry is the process of gathering and evaluating information, ideas, and assumptions from multiple perspectives to produce well-reasoned analysis and understanding, and leading to new ideas, applications and questions. This course is intended to introduce new students to intellectual inquiry at the university by engaging them in in-depth study of a single topic utilizing a variety of perspectives and methods. The course emphasizes the essential role of critical and creative thinking to their lives as students, citizens, future professionals, and productive members of their communities.

Course Types: Critical Analysis; Topics; Thinking Process

Corequisite(s): Take RS-189L

RS-189L Topics in Critical Inquiry Lab (1 credits)

Critical inquiry is the process of gathering and evaluating information, ideas, and assumptions from multiple perspectives to produce well-reasoned analysis and understanding, and leading to new ideas, applications and questions. This course is intended to introduce new students to intellectual inquiry at the university by engaging them in in-depth study of a single topic utilizing a variety of perspectives and methods. The course emphasizes the essential role of critical and creative thinking to their lives as students, citizens, future professionals, and productive members of their communities. The lab for the course is an interdisciplinary application lab, wherein students work in teams to demonstrate what they learned in the didactic portion of the course through the creation of a project, presentation, art object/installation, play, podcast, short film, co-authored reflection (debrief) on a simulation experience, etc. Faculty who design the didactic portion of the course together will design this portion as a 5-week experiential component of the course, which might include community partnerships or field trips. Students who take the course and lab will be invited to display their project results in a one-afternoon presentation at the end of each semester (to be arranged by college events personnel).

Course Types: Teamwork; Topics

Corequisite(s): Take RS-189

RS-202 Life of Christ (3 credits)

This is a study of the person of Jesus Christ in history and in faith including theories regarding his identity and his role, his impact on society from his day to ours.

Course Types: Cultural Competence; Culture Comp/Glob Society

RS-209 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (3 credits)

This course surveys the main elements of the history, thought and practice of the major religious traditions of the Western world: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Course Types: Culture Comp/Glob Society

RS-211 Catholicism Today (3 credits)

This is a systematic study of the foundational beliefs of catholicism; where they came from, how they have changed and how they are interpreted today.

Course Types: Written Communication

RS-214 Challenges of Death (3 credits)

This course examines the ways in which death challenges human meaning and action. Topics such as the meaning of suffering and death, challenges of death to morality, psychological spiritual processes of dying and bereavement are considered.

Course Types: Cultural Competence; Humanities; Culture Comp/Glob Society

RS-312 Bioethics Seminar (3 credits)

Ethical dilemmas and problems posed by developments in the biosciences are analyzed. Problems discussed include choices for life or death, allocation of resources, human experimentation, reproductive technologies, professional client relationships, etc.

Course Types: Humanities

RS-315 Spirituality in Human Experience (3 credits)

This course explores the history of spirituality in human experience. Traditional and non-traditional expressions will be investigated as well varied applications in life. Offered as needed.

RS-316 Catholic Social Teaching (3 credits)

This course provides a historical, theoretical and practical overview of the principles and themes of the Roman Catholic encyclical tradition. It explores views of christian social responsibility through classic texts and contemporary problems.

Course Types: Ethical Reasoning and Act

RS-350 The Holocaust (3 credits)

This seminar studies the Holocaust—the destruction of some 11 million "undesirables" in Germany during World War II—with special emphasis on its historical, religious, and ethical dimensions.

Course Types: Foundational Gen Ed; Global Learning; Humanities; Themed; Culture Comp/Glob Society

RS-351 Religion in American History (3 credits)

This course will explore the many important issues in American religious history over the past 400 years. Offered as needed.

Course Types: Cultural Competence; Culture Comp/Glob Society

RS-369 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality (3 credits)

This course will focus on understanding the purpose, development and experience of spirituality, religious thought and practice and its implication for individual and social behavior. Offered as needed.

RS-389 Special Topics (3 credits)

This is a variable topic seminar that deals with selected humanities themes as announced when the course is offered.

Course Types: Humanities

RS-411 Mysticism (3 credits)

This course defines mysticism, the history, theory, phenomena and practices of selected mystical school and the positive and negative aspects of the mystical experience.

RS-412 Special Studies in Religion (3 credits)

This course explores selected issues of concern to students and faculty in religious studies in seminar format. Topics are announced at the time of registration. Students follow a schedule of readings, discussion and research writing.

RS-420 Special Topics (3 credits)

This course examines interactions among individuals and groups within institutions. Attention is paid to the role of the state and the super-state in perpetuating social stratification in both North America and globally, and how unequal power relations organize society and shape identities. The ways in which individuals negotiate their lives in different social and economic contexts are also considered. Fundamental sociological concepts are investigated, such as culture, socialization, stratification, social structure, social institutions, and social interactions. This course meets the core requirements in sociology.

RS-444 Religious Studies Internship (3-12 credits)

Religious Studies majors complete an internship in line with their career aspirations. Internships can take place in a variety of institutional and business settings and are designed to build on and extend classroom learning with practical experience in a setting with a meaningful religious component. Possible placements include organizations that address social justice issues, healthcare, or the environment, and business settings that require religious literacy. Prerequisite: Religion major and permission of instructor; Offered as needed.