

2011-13 Cal Poly Catalog

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. Fulfills GE D3.

RELS 205 Jesus (4)

Exploration and analysis of the person of Jesus. Includes examination of our sources of knowledge about him, his self-understanding, and various interpretations of him in historical, comparative, and contemporary settings. 4 lectures.

RELS 270 Selected Topics (1–4)

Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

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 Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 302 Monotheisms: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (4) 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 Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

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 Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

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 Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

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. The life of Buddha, Gautama, the rise of Theravada, Mahayana and Tantra. Encounters with Shinto and Confucianism. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

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 Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

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 Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 344 Religious Studies: The Making of a Discipline (4) GE D5

Examination of religion from an academic perspective by surveying the various historical approaches employed within the discipline of religious studies to collect, analyze, and interpret religious phenomena cross-culturally. 4 lectures.

Pre-requisite: Completion of GE Area A, and D3 or D4. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE D5.

RELS 370 Religion, Gender and Society (4) GE C4 USCP

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: Completion of GE Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. *Crosslisted as RELS/WGS 370*. Fulfills GE C4 and USCP.

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 Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

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 Areas A and C2. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

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. Recommended: Junior standing. Fulfills GE C4.

RELS 380 Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (4)

The root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its current manifestation. Possibilities for solutions from the perspectives of religious studies and political science. 4 lectures. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area A. Recommended: Completion of one class in POLS or RELS. *Crosslisted as POLS/RELS 380*.

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 and instructor.

RELS 470 Selected Advanced Topics (1–4)

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1–4 lectures. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.