

Religion

DIVISION OF
HUMANITIES

RELIGION

In addition to the courses below, students in the Religion major are also required to take the following General Education courses (see pages 54-58).

- ENG 106 Argumentative Writing
 ENG 107 Academic Writing
 ENG 208 Sophomore Core –
 Social Responsibility
 CMP 102 Fundamental Computer
 Literacy I (0.5 c.u.)
 ECN 200 Introduction to Economics
 (0.5 c.u.)
 MTH 103 Understanding our Quantitative
 World
 or
 MTH 105 Abstract Reasoning
 or
 MTH 114 Precalculus
 AAC course Arts as Catalyst (1 c.u.)
 HUM GELS Humanities GELS (2 c.u.s)
 CAT/HUM GELS (1 c.u.)
 Creative Arts & Technology
 GELS or
 Humanities GELS
 NAT SCI GELS Natural Sciences GELS (2 c.u.s)
 SOC SCI GELS Social Science GELS (2 c.u.s)
 General Education Electives (2 c.u.s)

Many courses have prerequisites which are listed in the course description. Please be sure that necessary prerequisites have been taken before enrolling in any course.

MINOR IN RELIGION

A minor in Religion must successfully complete five courses in religion, including at least two courses at the 300 or 400 level.

Students wishing New Jersey Teaching Certification must be admitted into the B.A. in Education and satisfy the courses listed in the Religion co-concentration (see page 147). Should a student decide to major in the discipline exclusively, he/she will need to submit a change of major declaration and satisfy all the requirements listed below. Students who wish to double major must complete the requirements of both majors.

The courses required for the Religion major are:

REL 110 Ways of Understanding Religion and ten additional courses in Religion selected in consultation with the student's Advisor.

Courses will be chosen in consultation with the Discipline Coordinator of Religion.

Religion Courses

■ General Education Course (Primary Competency Addressed)

REL 110 WAYS OF UNDERSTANDING RELIGION

■ (Communication Skills)

This course will introduce the student to the academic study of religion and show how different world religions express their beliefs and values through culture. Students will consider how religions provide their followers with distinctive views of reality, and how those views can have a great influence upon art, literature and social values. 1 c.u.

Prerequisite: ENG 106 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 201 OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE, HISTORY AND RELIGION

■ (Multicultural Awareness)

A study of the Old Testament against the background of the ancient Near East emphasizing the history and religion of the Hebrew people. 1 c.u.

Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 204 NEW TESTAMENT LITERATURE, HISTORY AND RELIGION

■ (Multicultural Awareness)

The writings of the New Testament will be studied in terms of their historical context, literary style, purpose, authorship, and religious teachings. A variety of approaches to the reading and understanding of this literature will be considered. 1 c.u.

Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 208 RELIGION IN AMERICA

■ (Multicultural Awareness)

The history of religion in the United States from the colonial period to the present day. Topics will include: the religious situation in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries; immigration patterns of the colonists; frontier expansion and the industrial revolution; the growth of denominationalism; religion and science; liberal and conservative ends; civil religion; "cults" and other contemporary issues. 1 c.u.

Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 211 RELIGION AND SOCIETY

■ (Multicultural Awareness)

This course seeks to develop in the student an awareness of sociological approaches to the study and understanding of religion. It will consider the various ways of defining and articulating the sociological dimensions of religion. Included will be an exploration of how American and other societies have been influenced by religious factors as well as an investigation of how society itself can shape religion. The relationship of religion to politics, economics, class structures, sexual roles and other vital areas of human life will be examined. 1 c.u.

Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 212 RELIGION AND CULTURE

■ (Multicultural Awareness)

Religion is an integral part of human culture and society; as such, it has exerted an enormous influence upon the course of history, the formation of civilization, and the development of literature, art, music, and philosophy. The aim of this course is to acquaint the student with the diversity and complexity of religious phenomena in Western and selected non-Western cultures. The student will be introduced to the "language" of religion (mythology, symbolism, ritual) and will examine the influence of religion upon a range of humanistic concerns. These may include: art and architecture, music and dance, drama and literature, and philosophy. 1 c.u.

Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 227 RELIGION AND LITERATURE

(Also ENG 227)

■ (Multicultural Awareness)

One of the many ways in which religion has influenced culture can be found in its relationship to the creation of literature. This course will examine how essential themes from Judaism and Christianity have found expression in 19th and 20th century literary masterpieces. Selected readings from Blake, Tolstoi, Dostoyevsky, Beckett, Kafka, and Camus will be used to illustrate the interrelation of religion and artistic expression as well as the dual role of the writer as critic and creator of culture. 1 c.u.

Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 230 TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD**■ (Multicultural Awareness)**

This course will deal with the so-called "primitive" religious traditions of the Americas (e.g. Navaho), Polynesia, Australia, and Africa. The course will examine the basic beliefs, practices, world views, and mythologies of these disappearing societies. It will also reconsider the usage of terms such as "primitive," "advanced," etc. 1 c.u.
Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 232 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM**■ (Multicultural Awareness)**

This course will introduce the student to the basic beliefs and practices of Islam. It will also survey major historical, cultural, theological, and social developments. Special attention will be given to the Arabian origins of Islam and to its subsequent growth into a dynamic global tradition. The role of Islam in the modern world and its impact on American society will also be considered. 1 c.u.
Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 233 SPECIAL TOPICS IN RELIGION**■ (Multicultural Awareness)**

This course provides for the study of various religious traditions and topics not covered in the regular course offerings. Possible topics may include: contemporary issues in religion; "new" religious movements; religion and art; religion in ancient Egypt, etc. 1 c.u.
This course may be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: Announced with topic.

REL 236 RELIGIONS OF EAST ASIA**■ (Multicultural Awareness)**

An in-depth exploration of the major religious traditions of China, Korea, and Japan including Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shinto, and the "new" religions of Japan. The cultural and social dimensions of each tradition will be examined, as well as its beliefs, practices, mythology, and world view. The course will also consider the influence of China, Japan and Korea upon Western cultures. 1 c.u.
Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 237 INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM**■ (Multicultural Awareness)**

An in-depth exploration of the beliefs, practices, and social institutions of Buddhism. Students will explore the history of Buddhism from its origin in India through its developments in China, Japan, and more recently in Europe and North America. We will also consider increasing importance of Buddhism in modern America culture society. 1 c.u.
Prerequisite: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better.

REL 238 INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM**■ (Multicultural Awareness)**

An in-depth exploration of the beliefs, practices, and social institutions of Hinduism. Students will explore the history of Hinduism from its origin in India through its developments in recent centuries as Hindus have migrated around the globe. We will also consider the increasing importance Hinduism in modern American culture and society. 1 c.u.
Prerequisites: ENG 107 with a final grade of C- or better; REL 333.

REL 333 SPECIAL TOPICS IN RELIGION**■ (Multicultural Awareness)**

This course provides for an in-depth study of major issues in the history of religions, especially the academic study of religion. Possible topics may include: mythology; cosmology; theology; religion and science, etc. 1 c.u.
This course may be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: Announced with topic.

REL 451 SEMINAR IN SPECIAL PROBLEMS

A selected topic such as mysticism, scriptures of a world religion or of particular religious movements, leaders and thinkers. 1 c.u.