

LSU | Religious Studies



COURSE OFFERINGS

FALL 2026

Religious Studies Course Offerings

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2026

REL 1000: RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

This course introduces students to the world's religions, including major traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, along with smaller indigenous traditions. The approach of the course is objective and academic; it is not designed to advocate any particular religious perspective or ideology. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

Section	Instructor	Time
001	Claire Hautot	100% Asynchronous Online
002	Claire Hautot	100% Asynchronous Online
004	Yohong Roh	M W F 1:30–2:20pm
005	Yohong Roh	M W F 10:30–11:20am
006	Yohong Roh	M W F 12:30–1:20pm
007	Claire Hautot	T Th 4:30–5:50pm
009	Yohong Roh	100% Asynchronous Online

REL 1005: NEW TESTAMENT

This course will introduce you to the history, literature, and religion of the earliest period of Christianity (from about 30 to 150 CE). Students will examine the New Testament writings, along with historical issues like the emergence of Christianity from Judaism in the Greco-Roman world. Students will also become familiar with the historical-critical methods that scholars use to study these writings as sources for our knowledge of the origins of Christianity. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit.**

Section	Instructor	Time
001	Delbert Burkett	50–74% Web-Based
002	Bradley K. Storin	T Th 10:30–11:50am

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REL 2000: WHAT IS RELIGION?

What is a “religion,” how do you study it, and who gets to decide? We will explore these fundamental questions by reading three very different textbooks commonly used in introductory courses like this. We will think about how these types of books, the approaches of their authors, and even this type of course shape the concept of “religion” among the general public. While we will touch on the doctrinal and ritual dimensions of several global traditions, our task will be to figure out and articulate the assumptions, values, and goals that shape our thinking about “religions” (and other stuff!). In this course, I assume that we are all curious—curious about how we think, curious about what we normalize or take for granted, curious about how we use words to describe and navigate the world around us. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit.**

Section	Instructor	Time
001	Lauren Horn Griffin	100% Asynchronous Online

REL 2027: ASIAN RELIGIONS

Asian civilizations have a long history with far-reaching impact and influence on our global community today. One does not need to travel to Asia to be affected by Asian people, economic and political activities, cuisine, arts and entertainment, health treatment options, and religious orientations. The religious landscape of Asia is crucial to understanding Asian civilizations. This course focuses on a variety of Asian religious traditions, including fundamental teachings of the Hindu, Confucian, Taoist, Shinto, and Buddhist traditions of India, Tibet, China, and Japan. We explore how religious values influence decision-making processes in personal and public spheres. **This is an Integrative Learning Core (ILC) course that awards general education credit; it is also one of the basic requirements for the Religious Studies major.**

Section #	Instructor	Time
002	Yohong Roh	M W F 9:30–10:20am
003	Nick Tackes	T Th 1:30–2:50pm

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REL 2033: AMERICAN RELIGIONS

From puritans to pluralism, this course is designed to introduce students to the major themes, figures, and traditions in the religious history of America from the colonial period to the present. In addition to a general survey of religions in America, we will also focus on a series of case studies designed to illustrate major themes and help us better understand how religion has shaped this country. Special attention will be given to the role of race, gender, politics, and violence in America's religious history.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Claire Hautot	T Th 3:00–4:20pm

REL 3010: GURUS, GODMEN, & GODWOMEN

What leads people to place unwavering faith in others? What are the ramifications of relationships between everyday people and those they revere as semi-divine? This course explores issues of faith and charisma within weekly case studies of South Asian gurus, popularly referred to as “godmen” or “godwomen.” We will investigate how such figures gain, use, and sometimes lose popularity and power. Although the principal case materials for this course come from Hindu, Sikh, and Islamic contexts, we will also consider notable examples of gurus who have gained appeal in the US, including increasingly prevalent social media “influencers.”

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Nick Tackes	T Th 9:00–10:20am

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REL/ENGL 4236: THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The earliest account of the ministry and death of Jesus, according to most scholars, is the Gospel of Mark. Yet most people have never read this work in its entirety or as a work of literature. It may come as a shock to find that the Jesus in this gospel does not correspond to a more traditional image of Jesus. This course introduces students to the methods of academic biblical studies, such as genre criticism, narrative criticism, and socio-historical criticism, and applies them to the Gospel of Mark. Course requirements will emphasize helping students to develop their writing skills.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Delbert Burkett	W 6:00–8:50pm

REL 4301: THEORIES OF RELIGION

Students will critically engage with the concept of religion and how it structures our social world. Rather than learn about specific religious traditions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, etc.), we will ask how various cultural phenomena became known as “religions” at all. We will focus on a set of interrelated questions: What is religion? What approaches have scholars adopted to study it? How have those approaches participated in creating the very idea of religion, and to what social ends? We will consider theories from a wide range of academic disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, law and politics, psychology, economics, colonial studies, and, of course, religious studies. **This course fulfills the capstone requirement for the Religious Studies major.**

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Lauren Horn Griffin	T Th 10:30–11:50am

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REL/AAAS 4400: THE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT OF MLK JR. & MALCOLM X

This course explores the religious thought of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X through a close examination of their most significant writings and speeches.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Stephen C. Finley	T Th 3:30–4:50pm

REL/HIST 4507: BODY & SOUL IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

If there was one thing on which early Christians were continually focused, it was the health of the soul. But what is the soul? And how is it connected to the body? Do the condition, habits, actions, and disposition of the body affect the present and future condition of the soul? If so, why? Can soul-health lead to bodily health? This seminar will investigate some of the earliest Christian investigations of these questions by placing them in their ancient contexts. Our course will touch on subjects like psychotherapy, asectic discipline, spiritual exercises, monasticism, medicine and physiology, liturgy and ritual, philosophy, visions of the afterlife, and more. Students can expect to critically read primary sources from Greek and Roman antiquity as well as from late antiquity (ca 50-650 C.E.). We will also engage with modern scholarly analyses of texts.

Section #	Instructor	Time
001	Bradley K. Storin	T Th 1:30–2:50pm

Religious Studies Faculty Directory



Maria Rethelyi

Ph.D., University of Chicago

**Modern European
Judaism**

112 Coates Hall

Yohong Roh

Ph.D., Temple University

East Asian Buddhism

231 Coates Hall



Lauren Horn Griffin

Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara

**Religion, Media, Tech, &
Nationalism**

109 Coates Hall

Stuart Irvine

Ph.D., Emory University

**Old Testament & Ancient
Israelite Literature**

114 Coates Hall



Bradley K. Storin

Ph.D., Indiana University

History of Christianity

113 Coates Hall

Delbert Burkett

Ph.D., Duke University

**New Testament & Christian
Origins**

123 Coates Hall



Claire Hautot

ABD, University of Chicago

**American Religion & the
Neoconfederacy**

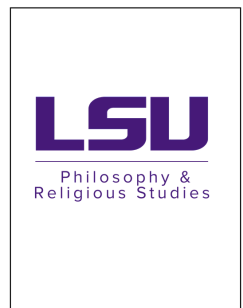
122 Coates Hall

Michael Pasquier

Ph.D., Florida State University

**American Catholicism &
Religion in the U.S. South**

210A Coates Hall



Nick Tackes

Ph.D., Columbia University

Religion in South Asia

TBA in Coates Hall

Religious Studies Major Requirements

Pick Two Core Courses!

- ☐ **REL 1000: Religions of the World**
- ☐ **REL 2000: What is Religion?**
- ☐ **REL 2027: Asian Religions**
- ☐ **REL 2029: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

Take two electives at any level!

- ☐ **REL ******
- ☐ **REL ******

Take any three upper-level electives!

- ☐ **REL 3*** / 4*****
- ☐ **REL 3***/4*****
- ☐ **REL 3***/4*****

Take any 4000-level elective!

- ☐ **REL 4*****

Take the senior capstone!

- ☐ **REL 4301: Theories of Religion**