**Undergraduate Program**

**REL SEM**  
**Required Colloquium for Junior Majors**  
**Professor(s):**  
**Day/Time:**  
**Description:** First semester Junior Majors participate in a required workshop on research and writing that culminates in a five to seven-page JP proposal. The colloquium is a non-credit fifth course. The grade for the colloquium is factored into the final grade for the junior independent work. **Students do not need to add this course on SCORE.**

**REL 219 (EM)**  
Business Ethics and Modern Religious Thought  
**David W. Miller**  
Th 1:30 pm - 4:20 pm  
**Department Area Requirement:** Critical Thought  
The course objective is to learn basic ethics theory and develop practical tools for business ethics, with particular attention throughout the course to the role of religion and spirituality in ethical formation, frameworks, and decision making. This will be applied to contemporary business ethics case studies, and will include guest CEO visitors.

**REL 225 (HA)**  
The Buddhist World of Thought and Practice  
**Jacqueline I. Stone**  
M W 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm  
**Department Area Requirement:** Religions of Asia  
This course surveys the development of Buddhism from its beginnings in India through some of its later forms in East Asia, Tibet, and the West. Attention will be given to continuity and diversity within Buddhism, its modes of self-definition as a religious tradition, the interplay of its practical and trans-worldly concerns, and its transformations in specific historical and cultural settings.

**REL 237 (SA)**  
Contested Identities and Movie Muslims  
**Shaun E. Marmon**  
T Th 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm  
**Department Area Requirement:** Islam  
This course adds a new dimension to the study of Islamic societies through the medium of film. Students explore key issues in the study of cinema as a means for understanding religion and culture. Weeks two through four explore "Movie Muslims" in Western film. The following eight weeks focus on what we can learn from the diverse and changing "Movie Muslims" in the cinemas of Iran and Egypt. Topics include: religion in film, contested Islamic identities, visions of Islam in politics/society, stereotypes in Western/Middle Eastern films, cinema as resistance, gender and religious violence.

**REL 247 / JDS 247 (HA)**  
Rabbinic Literature: Law, Religion, and History  
**Moulie Vidas**  
T Th 1:30 pm - 2:50 pm  
**Department Area Requirement:** Ancient Mediterranean  
The Talmud and other classical rabbinic texts constitute the core of the traditional Jewish curriculum. Through engagement with these texts, students will learn to reconstruct and follow the legal logic of the rabbis; analyze law as a form of cultural production; identify the methods through which the rabbis understood scripture; place rabbinic texts in context with other contemporary and competing groups such as philosophers and Christians; and more generally decipher the outlook and purpose of texts that are written in a complicated and particular style.
REL 248 (HA)
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Origins and Religion in Mediterranean Antiquity
Moulie Vidas
T Th 10:00 am - 10:50 am
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean

The period studied in this course saw wide-ranging transformations that inform religion and culture to this day, such as the emergence of the traditions now called Judaism, Christianity and Islam, a spread in allegiance to a single God, and a decline in public animal sacrifice. The course will introduce students to a critical examination of these changes. We will learn to identify patterns across different traditions, uncover the ways these traditions shaped one another, trace the development of beliefs from their earliest forms, and analyze the social and political context of these changes.

REL 252 (HA)
From Jesus to Constantine: How Christianity Began
Elaine H. Pagels
M W 11:00 am - 11:50 am
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean

How did the movement that began with a few followers of Jesus of Nazareth become a world religion? We will investigate the earliest primary sources, gospels & historical accounts, Jewish & Roman, showing what was known about Jesus—including secret gospels; letters written to & from Roman emperors about whether to kill Christians to stop the movement; first hand accounts of trials, prison diaries, & martyrdoms; what Jesus & Paul said about sexual practices & gender; what converts wrote about why they chose Christianity, despite the dangers; how emperor Constantine--and, shortly after, Augustine--influenced what we know as Christianity today.

REL 256 / AAS 256 (HA)  No Audit
African American Religious History
Wallace D. Best
M W 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm
Department Area Requirement: Religion in America

This course will trace the origins and development of African American religion in the United States. It will begin with the important debate about "Africanisms" and an examination of "slave religion" in its various forms. We will also discuss urban religion and the rise of "The Black Gods of the Metropolis". In addition to Christian and quasi-Christian groups, we will also explore the rise of non-Christian groups such as Black Hebrews and the Nation of Islam. The course concludes with an examination of the contested role of black churches during the Civil Rights Movement.

REL 311 (EC)  na, npdf
Religious Existentialism
Leora F. Batnitzky
W 1:30 pm - 4:20 pm
Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought

An in-depth study of existentialist philosophies of, among others, Søren Kierkegaard, Simone Weil, Martin Heidegger, Hans Jonas, and Emmanuel Levinas. The course will focus on their respective arguments about the relations between philosophy and existence, reason and revelation, divine law and love, philosophy, religion, and politics, and Judaism and Christianity.

REL 324 (EC)  na, npdf
Mind and Meditation
Jonathan C. Gold
T 1:30 pm - 4:20 pm
Department Area Requirement: Religions of Asia

This course examines the philosophy, history, and methods of Buddhist meditation. Primary readings will be Buddhist works on the nature of the mind and the role of meditation on the path to liberation (nirvana). We will ask how traditional Buddhist views have been reshaped by modern teachers, and we will interrogate the significance of current research on meditation in the fields of neuroscience, psychology and the philosophy of mind. In addition to other coursework, students will be practicing meditation and keeping a log and journal. Some coursework in Philosophy or Religion is expected.
REL 343 / JDS 343 (HA)
Jewish Messianism from Jesus to Zionism
Alexander L. Kaye
W 1:30 pm - 4:20 pm
Department Area Requirement: Does NOT satisfy sub-field requirement; does NOT count as departmental. Majors may petition to count this as a cognate course (in addition to the 8 required courses for the major).
Since its origins in the Hebrew Bible, messianism has motivated Jews from ancient heralds of the apocalypse to modern Zionists. It has been reinterpreted by rationalists and mystics and has spawned sects in virtually every century of the past two millennia. Intellectual and social movements as diverse as Marxism and Iranian Mahdism have roots in Jewish messianism and Christianity began as a Jewish messianic sect. With an emphasis on a close reading of primary sources we will explore the unfolding of this idea in its vastly different historical moments and social contexts, providing a window onto 3000 years of Jewish history.

REL 363 (EM)
Religion and Ethical Theory
Jeffrey L. Stout
TH 1:30 pm - 4:20 pm
ENROLLMENT BY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW. DEPARTMENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED.
Department Area Requirement: Critical Thought
This seminar will examine philosophical accounts of what it means to live well, focusing mainly on works written in the last half century that are relevant to issues in religious ethics: whether morality requires a religious foundation, the ethical significance of divine commandments, and the concepts of virtue, goodness, evil, horror, holiness, sainthood, faith, and the sacred. Among the philosophers to be discussed are Richard Rorty, Elizabeth Anscombe, Alasdair MacIntyre, Iris Murdoch, Stanley Cavell, and Robert Merrihew Adams.

REL 365 (HA)
Catholics in America
Judith L. Weisenfeld
M 1:30 pm - 4:20 pm
Department Area Requirement: Religion in America
In this course we explore the institutional, devotional, cultural, and social history of Catholics in America focusing on such themes as church/state relations, religion and politics, gender, race, and sexuality, Catholicism in popular culture, relations between laity and hierarchy, and social reform.
Cross-listed Courses

AAS 321 / REL 321 (HA)
Black Power and Its Theology of Liberation
Eddie S. Glaude
M W 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm
Department Area Requirement: Religion in America
This course examines the various pieties of the Black Power Era. We chart the explicit and implicit utopian visions of the politics of the period that, at once, criticized established black religious institutions and articulated alternative ways of imagining salvation. We also explore the attempt by black theologians to translate the prophetic black church tradition into the idiom of black power. Our aim is to keep in view the significance of the Black Power era for understanding the changing role and place of black religion in black public life.

AAS 365 / REL 362 / ENG 394 (LA)
Migration and the Literary Imagination
Wallace D. Best
W 7:30 pm - 10:20 pm
Department Area Requirement: Does NOT satisfy sub-field requirement; does NOT count as departmental.
Majors may petition to count this as a cognate course (in addition to the 8 required courses for the major).
This course will explore the various meanings of the Great Migration and mobility found in 20th century African American literature. Through careful historical and literary analysis, we will examine the significant impact migration has had on African American writers and the ways it has framed their literary representations of modern black life.

ANT 354 / REL 394 (SA)
Cultural Politics of Religion and Secularism
Abou Farman
T TH 11:00 am – 12:20 pm
Total Course Enrollment: 30
Department Area Requirement: Does NOT satisfy sub-field requirement; does NOT count as departmental.
Majors may petition to count this as a cognate course (in addition to the 8 required courses for the major).
The resurgence of religion and spirituality worldwide in private and public life has led to critiques of secular analyses of religion, and of the assumptions of secularism. What is religion in a modern, scientific world? What are the boundaries of religion and how have they been shaped? What are new emerging forms of religion, and what's this thing called 'spirituality' that suddenly seems to be everywhere? Through theory and ethnography, the course will consider and challenge the relation between religious and non-religious domains, and consider the ways in which such a separation between domains is managed and at times broken down.

JDS 202 / REL 202 (HA)  No Audit
Great Books of the Jewish Tradition
Martha Himmelfarb
M W 3:00 pm - 4:20 pm
Department Area Requirement: Ancient Mediterranean
This course is intended to introduce students to the classical Jewish tradition through a close reading of portions of some of its great books, including the Bible, the rabbinic midrash, the Talmud, Rashi's commentary on the Torah, Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed, the Zohar, the prayer book, and the Haggadah. We will pay particular attention to the role of interpretation in forming Jewish tradition.

For more detailed information on each course, please visit:
http://registrar.princeton.edu/course-offerings/