
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPRING 2023

Dawson RELI 1000 001 INTRO TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES MWF 10:00-10:50

(GE:HU)

In this course we introduce students to a critical understanding of various expressions of human religiosity, raising questions about how humans have created meaning for themselves through religion. We will explore common themes emerging in different religious expressions such as beliefs, ritual, symbolism, scriptures, and various traditions of social formation to learn about the nature of religion. We will also explore major historical and methodological approaches to the study of religion. Religious expressions are drawn from different religious traditions – Indigenous, Western and Eastern – to highlight the different components of religion as experienced in diverse contexts. The course can be used as a General Education (GE) Humanities elective and to help satisfy requirements for a Religious Studies major. For more information about the major, visit <https://religionprogram.ecu.edu/>.

**Dawson RELI 1000 601 INTRO TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2nd Block DE
(Asynchronous)**

(GE:HU)

In this course we introduce students to a critical understanding of various expressions of human religiosity, raising questions about how humans have created meaning for themselves through religion. We will explore common themes emerging in different religious expressions such as beliefs, ritual, symbolism, scriptures, and various traditions of social formation to learn about the nature of religion. We will also explore major historical and methodological approaches to the study of religion. Religious expressions are drawn from different religious traditions – Indigenous, Western and Eastern – to highlight the different components of religion as experienced in diverse contexts. The course can be used as a General Education (GE) Humanities elective and to help satisfy requirements for a Religious Studies major. For more information about the major, visit <https://religionprogram.ecu.edu/>.

Dawson RELI 1690 001 World Religions MWF 12:00-12:50

(GE:HU; GD)

This course is an introductory study of major living religions with particular attention to origins, historical developments, beliefs, practices, and contemporary status. We will explore the differing ways in which Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Indigenous Religions, and New Religious Movements interpret life and reality. We will pay particular attention to the various ways that these religions view the role and status of women, individual differences, and those who might be considered innovators or dissenters. This course can be used as a General Education (GE) Humanities elective, as a Global Diversity elective, and to help satisfy requirements for a Religious Studies major. For more information about the major, visit <https://religionprogram.ecu.edu/>.

Nyangweso RELI 1690 602 World Religions (12:30/ Online)

(FC: HU; GD)

wangilam@ecu.edu) In World Religions, we explore the origins, historical developments, teachings and contemporary practices of some major world religions including the lives, practices, and teachings of great religious leaders in religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism and Confucianism, Daoism and Indigenous religions. This course qualifies as general education humanity

elective and it also satisfies requirements for the Religious Studies major. The course qualifies for **Humanities (HU)** elective and **Global Diversity (GD)** requirements. Visit www.ecu.edu/religionprogram.

Maher RELI 2345 Religion and the Environment TR 11:00-12:15

Religious traditions play many roles in human affairs, including the provision of a worldview that helps adherents make sense of the universe and humanity's role in it. Sacred worldviews often communicate the origin story for physical reality, the animal realm, human beings, and nature itself. They entail moral codes, encourage approved conduct, and promise means of transcendence. This course will examine religious narratives from around the world and throughout time that provide diverse guidance to adherents about how to regard nature and how to live within it.

Nyangweso RELI 2360 001 Religion and Healthcare TR 12:30-1:45

This course will explore the intersection between religion and healthcare. Students will examine definitions and theories about health and healing, various religions view of health and healing, attitudes toward the sick, the aging, those with disability, reproductive health, mental health among other health conditions. The course will discuss strategies towards possible collaboration between faith-based institutions and medical specialists' in effort towards promoting effective healthcare such as curriculum enrichment and professional training of medical specialists to appreciate the common humanity that links patient and health care provider. The course fulfills the general Ed humanities elective and also satisfies Religious Studies major requirements. For inquiries, contact wangilam@ecu.edu or visit www.ecu.edu/religionprogram

Mercer RELI 2696 601 Introduction to the New Testament Online

In this course we will examine the major books of the New Testament, covering their contents, ethical implications, historical and social setting, authorship, date, and theology. In our investigation of the worlds (Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman) in which the earliest Christians lived, we will note issues of diversity and continuity within the various early Christian communities.

**Dawson RELI 3400 001 History of the Devil in the Jewish & Christian Traditions
MWF 1:00-1:50**

(GE:HU; DD)

In this course we investigate the conception of a single personification of evil, "Satan" or the "Devil," as it developed from ancient times to the twenty-first century. Attention will be given to the development of the concept: 1) in Second Temple Judaism, as it is reflected in the Hebrew Bible, intertestamental Jewish literature, and the Dead Sea Scrolls; and 2) in the Christian tradition, as it is reflected in the New Testament, non-canonical writings, apologetic literature, writings of the Church Fathers, popular depictions in the Middle Ages, and the writings of the Reformers. We will study the social, political, and cultural aspects that were prevalent in the communities that produced these sources. A large portion of the course will concentrate on the ways in which the Christian view of the Devil has been and can be used to demonize closely related, but marginalized groups, within and outside mainstream Christianity in the United States. This course can be used as a General Education (GE) Humanities elective, as a Domestic Diversity elective, and to help satisfy requirements for a Religious Studies major. For more information about the major, visit <https://religionprogram.ecu.edu/>.

Mercer

RELI 3698 601 MYSTICISM

Online Asynchronous

MYSTICISM: Men and women in many ages and cultures have testified to various versions of a transcendent reality as a result of a class of experiences commonly called mystical. While these experiences can occur spontaneously, apparently various practices and techniques (e.g., meditation) and contexts (e.g., monastic) are conducive to bringing them about. Representative mystics from the monotheistic religions and the karmic religions will be studied. Mysticism as studied in this course is distinct from what might be labeled paranormal or psychic experiences, such as extrasensory perception, psychokinesis, and clairvoyance. The course can be used as a Foundations Curriculum (FC) humanities elective and to help satisfy requirements for a Religious Studies major or double major. For more information about the major or double major, visit www.ecu.edu/religionprogram.