# Religious Studies (RLST)

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<td>RLST 3000</td>
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**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

**Typically Offered:** Fall, Spring.

**Additional Information:** Denver Core Requirement, Humanities; GT courses GT Pathways, Arts Hum: Ways of Thinking.
RLST 3410 - Asian Philosophies and Religions (3 Credits)
We in the Western world encounter a vastly different world, a radically different “universe of meaning,” when we examine the traditions of the East. Even what we tacitly assume to be “real” is claimed by the Hindus and Buddhists of India to be a grand illusion. The world of China is, again, very different from India. An examination of Tibetan and Japanese religious forms will conclude our study of Asian thought. Cross-listed with PHIL 3410. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Additional Information: Denver Core Requirement, International Perspectives.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring.

RLST 3486 - Renaissance and Reformation (3 Credits)
Explores the late 13th through middle 17th centuries when European art and culture changed dramatically, and when Europe was torn by explosive ideological conflicts and religious upheaval. Cross-listed with HIST 3486. Term offered: fall. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 3500 - Religions of India (3 Credits)
Examines the transcendentalist philosophy of India, which rests at the foundation of the great Eastern religious traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism. The Indian ideas of God, the soul, time, the nature of the universe, and its ultimate goal are examined. Term offered: fall. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 3660 - Chinese Philosophy and Culture (3 Credits)
China is a fascinating world with its own characteristic orientation to philosophical questions. Chinese thinkers produced the “Flowering of a Hundred Schools of Thought” in the Axial Age, the same period of time in which philosophy was coming to birth in ancient Greece. Covers some of the Chinese schools, including Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism, Legalism, Chinese “Logic,” and the later schools of Neo-Confucianism, Neo-Taoism and Chinese Buddhism. Cross-listed with PHIL 3981. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 3720 - Religious Narratives (3 Credits)
Investigates the language and structure of religious discourse in Western literature. Welcomes interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives with a focus on cultural constructions of the sacred. Cross-listed with ENGL 3520. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 3740 - Biblical Traditions: Old Testament (3 Credits)
Investigates the history and nature of the Biblical text. Follows the tradition of critical scholarship beginning in the Enlightenment era and continued down to the present day, sometimes entitled “Secular Humanism.” Topics include theories of authorship of the Torah, its general nature and content; the historical books of the Bible, the Prophets, and the Wisdom literature. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 3760 - Biblical Studies: New Testament (3 Credits)
Examines the books of the New Testament from a scholarly, historically-critical perspective, which views it as a historically and culturally conditioned text, reflecting the beliefs and attitudes of the authors who produced it. The course covers the canonical gospels, letters, and other writings of the New Testament. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 3770 - Archaeological Discoveries Relating to the Bible (3 Credits)
Examines the revolutionary impact of archaeology on Biblical Studies. Among these discoveries are Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Canaanite texts, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Gnostic texts. Through these investigations, the Bible will be placed in its appropriate historical, literary and cultural context. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Spring.

RLST 3800 - Spirituality and Ecology in Global Societies (3 Credits)
This course will examine the historical and contemporary attitudes and actions of religion in responding to the societal impacts of environmental concerns. We will investigate four worldviews in particular: indigenous traditions, Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism, and also consider how these traditions interact with public policy debates and their position on social justice and environmental issues. Religions both create and mitigate conflict. This course will consider ethical and moral approaches, philosophical principles and social movements including ecofeminism and ethics to provide tools for dialogue and critical thinking around ecological challenges. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 4000 - Religion and Cultural Diversity (3 Credits)
Religion is one of the key elements which creates multiculturalism. This course explores issues in religion and religious identity in contemporary America, including Native American spiritual traditions, Jewish-American traditions, Muslim-American traditions, Asian-American traditions, the African-American Pentecostal movement, and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. Attention is also given to the question of gender issues, as the traditional model for gender roles was formulated, in part, from a religious basis. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 4002 - Race, Gender and Religious Nationalisms in Asia and the US (3 Credits)
This course investigates ideologies and practices of race, caste, ethnicity, and gender at the foundations of several contemporary religious nationalist movements in Asia and the US. The course focuses first on the ways that religious ideologies and practices of gender help to define and police the borders of race, caste, and ethnicity as social identities. We will examine how these ideologies emerge in religious texts and how they have been challenged in literature and practice, both historically and in the modern era, while privileging the works, voices, and perspectives of women and queer caste-oppressed and racialized philosophers, activists, and thinkers. The course then seeks to give students conceptual and theoretical foundations to understand the relationship between race/caste/ethnicity and gender in religious nationalisms, while presenting case studies from Asia and the US to reflect on and challenge these models. Students will have the opportunity to conduct further research into these issues in Asia, the US, and other parts of the world. Cross-listed with HIST 4002, CHIN 4002, ETST 4002, INTS 4002, and HIST 5002. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Typically Offered: Spring.

RLST 4002 - Race, Gender and Religious Nationalisms in Asia and the US (3 Credits)
This course investigates ideologies and practices of race, caste, ethnicity, and gender at the foundations of several contemporary religious nationalist movements in Asia and the US. The course focuses first on the ways that religious ideologies and practices of gender help to define and police the borders of race, caste, and ethnicity as social identities. We will examine how these ideologies emerge in religious texts and how they have been challenged in literature and practice, both historically and in the modern era, while privileging the works, voices, and perspectives of women and queer caste-oppressed and racialized philosophers, activists, and thinkers. The course then seeks to give students conceptual and theoretical foundations to understand the relationship between race/caste/ethnicity and gender in religious nationalisms, while presenting case studies from Asia and the US to reflect on and challenge these models. Students will have the opportunity to conduct further research into these issues in Asia, the US, and other parts of the world. Cross-listed with HIST 4002, CHIN 4002, ETST 4002, INTS 4002, and HIST 5002. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Typically Offered: Spring.
RLST 4010 - Comparative Religious Systems (3 Credits)
A cross-cultural analysis of religious belief and behavior. Emphasis is placed on religions found among non-Western cultural groups and includes consideration of how major religions of the world are manifested on local levels. Cross-listed with ANTH 4130, 5130, RLST 5010. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
RLST 4020 - Sociology of Religion (3 Credits)
This course introduces students to the nature and functions of religion in society, emphasizing western religions in the U.S. Students will develop and apply an understanding of classic and modern sociological theories of religion to current events and disciplinary developments. Cross-listed with SOCY 4610, SOCY 5610, RLST 5020. Prereq: Junior or Senior standing or permission from instructor. Term offered: fall. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
RLST 4030 - Race, Religion and Belonging in the United States (3 Credits)
Race/ethnicity and religion are conconstitutive social and cultural formations that have played a fundamental part in determining the boundaries of belonging of the United States. In this course, students will interrogate when, why and how race/ethnicity and religion have been used to delineate borders, determine citizenship, navigate legal classifications, dictate social mobility, and regulate economic possibilities. We will analyze both primary sources such as sermons, reality TV shows, court cases and graphic images as well as scholarly writing to explore how formations of race and religion have shaped notions of belonging in the US nation/state, thereby constructing the boundaries of the state itself. Cross-listed with ETST 4030, ETST 5030, RLST 5030, HIST 4209 and HIST 5029. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Fall.

RLST 4040 - Psychology of Religion (3 Credits)
Examines the theories developed by some of the great names in the field of psychology and their approaches to religion. Questions addressed include: why people become religious, how religion functions in their lives, religious experience and assessment of the validity of religious claims. Key theorists studied include: William James, Sigmund Freud, Carl G. Jung, Abraham Maslow and Erich Fromm. Cross-listed with RLST 5040. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Spring.

RLST 4060 - Questioning Religious Belief and Practice: Introduction to Philosophy of Religion (3 Credits)
Does God exist? Can the existence of God be proved? When is believing on faith acceptable? How or why is there a "problem of evil"? What are the attributes of a "god" and how can they be known, if at all? What is the relation of God to the world we experience? How does morality relate to religious belief and practice? The goal of the course is to broaden and deepen our understanding of key philosophical debates within religious traditions as we study prominent thinkers in the history of philosophy. Cross-listed with HUMN 5600, PHIL 4600, PHIL 5600, RLST 5060, and SSCI 5600. Term offered: summer. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Summer.

RLST 4070 - Western Religious Thought (3 Credits)
Focuses on philosophers and theologians who have contributed to the evolution of the three great religious traditions of the West: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Targets thinkers from three periods: the ancient or formative era, the medieval era, and the contemporary era. Note: Specific philosophers chosen may vary in different semesters. Cross-listed with PHIL 4710. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
RLST 4080 - Eastern Religious Thought (3 Credits)
Parallels the course in Western religious thought. The great religious traditions of the East, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism, are examined as they are presented in the writings of key philosophical representatives of each tradition. Cross-listed with PHIL 4720. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
RLST 4100 - Special Topics in Religion (3 Credits)
This special topics course allows for a variety of subjects to be explored in different semesters, including such issues as the nature of religious experience, communication with the divine, specific historical themes and events in religion. Term offered: spring. Repeatable. Max hours: 9 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Repeatable. Max Credits: 9.
Typically Offered: Spring.

RLST 4152 - Religion & Communication (3 Credits)
This course focuses on the dynamics between religion, culture, and communication and how these have led to intercultural peace, centuries of war, and/or different visions of belonging. This class addresses these dynamics to improve intercultural dialogue and conflict resolution processes, foregrounding the search for justice. Cross-listed with INTS 4152, COMM 4152, COMM 5152, INTS 5152, and RLST 5152. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 4160 - Mysticism (3 Credits)
Explores the mystical strains within the world’s great religious traditions. Jewish, Christian, and Islamic mystics did not always express the same beliefs and attitudes as mainstream adherents. When mystics are placed side-by-side, amazing similarities appear. One cannot always tell whether a given mystical statement is Hindu, Jewish, Sufi, or Christian. This class examines these mystical traditions, East and West. Cross-listed with RLST 5160. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Spring.

RLST 4300 - Myth and Symbol (3 Credits)
Approaches the field of classical Greek mythology and religion from the perspective of Jungian archetypal theory. The deities of the ancient Greeks are presented as archetypal patterns with universal correlates elsewhere in world religions. A foundation in C. G. Jung’s archetypal theory will be offered to ground the course material. Cross-listed with RLST 5300. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Spring.
RLST 4320 - Spirituality in the Modern World (3 Credits)
Examines the issue of spiritual currents in the modern world. Joseph Campbell claimed that Western culture long ago lost an active sense of the sacred and that the traditional religions have not been the spiritual center for the vast majority of moderns for centuries. This class looks at the modern spiritual awakening in Shamanism, Eastern thought, the New Age movement, the men's movement, paganism and Goddess religion, and the revival of traditional religious forms in recent decades. Max Hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 4340 - The Hero's Journey (3 Credits)
The myth of the hero's journey serves as a metaphor for the vicissitudes life puts each of us through. The hero or hera represents the ego-self who undertakes the journey—a grand adventure into the realm of the unknown—to seek the treasure. He or she is greatly transformed by the process, ultimately into the great self, who wins the boon to share with all humanity. Versions of the story are found all over the world, such as in the sagas of Gilgamesh, Odysseus, Psyche, King Arthur, Dorothy of Oz, and Luke Skywalker from a galaxy far, far, away. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 4360 - Freudian and Jungian Perspectives in Dream Analysis (3 Credits)
Focuses on the phenomenon of dreams in a way that differs distinctly from the traditional approach to the subject in the field of psychology. "Spiritual" approaches to dreams are examined, as well as some major theorists on dreams, especially the work of Sigmund Freud and C. G. Jung. Cross-listed with RLST 5360. Term offered: fall. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Fall.

RLST 4400 - Differing Concepts of God (3 Credits)
God, Gods, and Goddesses have been imagined in many different modes, forms, aspects, and guises throughout human history. This course investigates Paleolithic models of God, the Great Goddess of the Neolithic era, the Gods of mythological traditions, Biblical God, the abstract God of the philosophers, the God of the pantheists, the deists, and the God of the mystics. Cross-listed with RLST 5400, PHIL 4650 and 5655. Term offered: fall. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Fall.

RLST 4420 - Goddess Traditions (3 Credits)
Explores the many forms which Goddesses have assumed through history, including the Neolithic Great Mother and her heiresses in the ancient Mediterranean cultures, such as: Isis, Ishtar, Demeter, Hecate, Aphrodite, Artemis, Athena and others, and their parallels in India. Goddess traditions have encompassed a full spectrum from virgins to Great Mothers to dark underworld Goddesses of death and destruction. Cross-listed with RLST 5420 and WGST 4420/5420. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Spring.

RLST 4440 - Concepts of the Soul (3 Credits)
Asks the questions: What is the nature of the human being? What makes us "human"? Do humans have a "soul"? What is its nature? Is it different from the "spirit"? What is its ultimate fate? Examines the various theories put forward by philosophers of both Eastern and Western traditions. Cross-listed with RLST 5440 and PHIL 4470, 5470. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Spring.
RLST 4840 - Independent Study: RLST (1-3 Credits)
Various topics in religious studies pursued in independent research.
Note: Students must submit a special processing form completely filled out and signed by the student and faculty member, describing the course expectations, assignments and outcomes, to the CLAS undergraduate advising office for approval. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Repeatable. Max Hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Repeatable. Max Credits: 3.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

RLST 4850 - Family Systems Therapy, Religion and Spirituality (3 Credits)
This course examines how the intersection between different religious and spiritual frameworks affects family systems. A strengths-based ecological perspective, family therapy theories and family systems theories will be used to understand religious and spiritual frameworks in working with families in schools and communities. Cross-listed with HDFR 4850. Max hours: 3 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

RLST 4880 - Directed Research (1-6 Credits)
Students will engage in original research projects supervised and mentored by faculty. Students must work with faculty prior to registration to develop a proposal for their project and receive permission to take this course. Note: Students must submit a special processing form completely filled out and signed by the student and faculty member, describing the course expectations, assignments and outcomes, to the CLAS undergraduate advising office for approval. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Repeatable. Max hours: 6 Credits.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.