

## COMPARATIVE RELIGION

**Jaye Cee Whitehead, Chair; Chuck Currie, Daniel Eisen, Aaron Greer, Adam Rafalovich**

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work offers the following programs: a major in anthropology-sociology; a major in sociology; a major in social work; and minors in sociology, anthropology, comparative religion, and indigenous studies. The program in comparative religion offers an interdisciplinary minor, which strives to enhance knowledge of religious traditions and histories and to teach the skills necessary for the analysis of religion. The goal of the minor is to explore religion as an important dimension of personal meaning, culture, social institutions, and social structure.

### Comparative Religion: Requirements for the Minor

The comparative religion minor must complete the following core courses with a grade of C- or better and maintain a 2.0 average in the minor.

REL 140/ANTH 140	Introduction to Comparative Religion	4 credits
PHIL 309	Philosophy of Religion	4 credits
Three additional courses with a REL prefix, or from the following list of electives (additional options to satisfy electives accepted by department approval). At least 4 elective credits must be 300 or 400-level.		
ANTH 340	Symbolism, Myth and Ritual	4 credits
SOC 313	Sociology of Religion	4 credits
HIST 113	Islamic Middle East	4 credits
HIST 301	The Medieval World	4 credits
HIST 305	History of Magic and Witchcraft	4 credits
PHIL 206	Medieval Philosophy	4 credits
ARTHI 270	Western Art I	4 credits
ARTHI 271	Western Art II	4 credits
REL 240/ANTH 240	Topics in Comparative Religion	4 credits
MUS/REL 341	Music in World Religions	4 credits

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TOTAL: 20 credits

## COURSES

### REL-140 Introduction to Comparative Religions

Comparative study of major world and selected regional religions with an emphasis on the analysis of beliefs, rituals, symbolism and social organization. Also listed as ANTH 140. Counts toward core requirement: Comparative Cultural, Social Sciences (2010 catalog), Diverse Perspectives, and/or International Perspectives. 4 credits.

### REL-211 Religion & Politics

Historical and conceptual survey of the relationship between political action and religious belief with primary emphasis on the variety of political/religious interactions across the ideological spectrum in the United States but also including a survey of religion and politics in the Muslim world as a secondary emphasis. Also listed as POLS 211. 4 credits.

### REL-217 The Bible in Historical Context

How did what we now know as "The Bible" come to be? Some traditions argue that the Bible is the literal word of God, but over the past two centuries a growing consensus has emerged among biblical historians that the scriptures evolved from oral traditions to the written word and were rewritten and reshaped as time went on. This course will expose students to a variety of historical, critical methods for understanding the Bible and for how the debates over its origins impact the social fabric of America today. Counts toward core requirement: Humanities. 4 credits.

### REL-240 Topics in Comparative Religion

A class on topics of current interest in comparative religions. See department for current course description. Also listed as ANTH 240. Counts toward core requirement: Comparative Cultural, Social Sciences (2010 catalog), Diverse Perspectives, and/or International Perspectives. May be repeated for credit. 4 credits.

### REL-255 Special Topics

See department for course description.

### REL-275 Internship

See department for details. Internship contract required. 1-4 credits.

### REL-341 Music in World Religions

This course will explore the use of music as an important expression of spiritual engagement. Students will engage in an examination of the various liturgical and musical practices found in five primary world religions including: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. The course will examine how music is used to enhance liturgy, "engage the mind and move the heart" of participants in worship. ENGW 201 and a basic ability to follow musical notation recommended. Also listed as MUS 341. Counts toward core requirement: Comparative Cultural or International Perspectives. 4 credits.

### REL-355 Special Topics

See department for course description.

### REL-395 Independent Study

See department for details. Independent study contract required.