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, and comparative religion. 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.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Will demonstrate an understanding of the beliefs, rituals, texts and figures related to a variety of religious traditions.

- Will demonstrate understanding of the basic teachings and practices of major religious traditions and will be able to compare and contrast principle similarities and differences between them.
- Will demonstrate understanding of how religion informs and is informed by other dimensions of human experience and knowledge, such as gender, race, politics.
- Will demonstrate understanding of how religions are used to both support and critique social structures and institutions.
- Will demonstrate an ability to read, analyze and interpret materials and texts related to the study of the world’s religions.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 140/ANTH 140</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Religion</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 309</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 313</td>
<td>Sociology of Religion</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 113</td>
<td>Islamic Middle East</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<td>HIST 301</td>
<td>The Medieval World</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 305</td>
<td>History of Magic and Witchcraft</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 206</td>
<td>Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 270</td>
<td>Western Art I</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 271</td>
<td>Western Art II</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 240/ANTH 240</td>
<td>Topics in Comparative Religion</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS/REL 341</td>
<td>Music in World Religions</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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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: Social Sciences (2010 catalog), Diverse Perspectives, and International Perspective. 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-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: Social Sciences (2010 catalog), Diverse Perspectives, and/or International Perspectives. May be repeated for credit. 4 credits.

REL-255  Special Topics
Go to https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/institutes-advising-center/new-topics-travel-class-descriptions or see the Advising Center.

REL-275  Internship
See department for details. Internship contract required. 1-4 credits.

REL-317  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 how the debates over its origins impact the social fabric of America today. Prerequisite: ANTH 140 or REL 140. Counts toward core requirement: Humanities. 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: International Perspectives. 4 credits.

REL-350  Religion & Social Health Policy
Introduces students to the ways in which religious traditions impact public health policies, mostly within the context of the United States. Students will become more familiar with public health as a concept and will review theological and policy statements on public health issues, mostly within the Abrahamic faith traditions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam), which display a remarkable diversity of thought. Also listed as PH 350. Prerequisite: ANTH 140, REL 140, or PH 101. 2 credits.

REL-355  Special Topics
Go to https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/institutes-advising-center/new-topics-travel-class-descriptions or see the Advising Center.
REL-395 Independent Study
See department for details. Independent study contract required.