

## Religious Studies

**Erik W. Larson**, Associate Professor and Chairperson

**Iqbal S. Akhtar**, Associate Professor

**Daniel R. Alvarez**, Associate Teaching Professor

**Whitney A. Bauman**, Associate Professor

**Ana Maria Bidegain**, Professor

**Carlos W. Grenier**, Assistant Professor

**Steven Heine**, Professor

**Niurca Marquez**, Assistant Teaching Professor

**Tudor V. Parfitt**, President Yitzhak Navon Professor of  
Sephardic-Mizrahi Studies

**Chaitanya Pragiya**, Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor

**Jeanette Smith**, Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor  
and Undergraduate Program Director

**Oren B. Stier**, Professor

**Erin L. Weston**, Associate Teaching Professor

**Albert Kafui Wuaku**, Associate Professor and Graduate  
Program Director

### Affiliated Faculty

**Thomas A. Breslin**, Department of Politics and  
International Relations

**Kenton Harris**, Department of Philosophy

**Mohiaddin Mesbahi**, Department of Politics and  
International Relations

**Dennis W. Wiedman**, Department of Global and  
Sociocultural Studies

## Master of Arts in Religious Studies

FIU's Master of Arts in Religious Studies is designed to give students maximum flexibility in pursuing their research interests, while providing a firm foundation in both the general academic study of religion and the student's area of specialization.

The M.A. is a 36-credit hour program: 9 hours of core seminars, 12 hours of 'track' courses, and either 9 hours of electives and 6 hours of thesis work, or 15 hours of electives.

### Requirements for Admission

Application to the Master of Arts program in Religious Studies is made through FIU's Graduate Admissions Office. The usual minimum requirements for admission include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and:

1. A graduate degree in the humanities or social sciences from an accredited college or university  
or
2. A score of 156 or higher on the verbal portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)  
or
3. A UG 60 GPA of 3.25

A student who does not meet any of these three requirements may qualify for admission with a UG 60 GPA of 3.0 and either:

- a. A GPA of at least 3.0 in 9 or more hours of graduate study in departmental courses (as a special student, excluding Independent Study courses)  
or
  - b. A score of at least 152 on the verbal portion of the GRE.
4. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit

a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required.

Applications for admission are available from the FIU Office of Graduate Admissions and are evaluated by the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee.

### Degree Requirements

1. Prerequisite: undergraduate course REL 3308, Studies in World Religions, to be completed by the end of the first semester of graduate work.
2. Three core seminars: RLG 6935 "Seminar on Sacred Texts", RLG 6013 "Modern Analysis of Religion", and RLG 5038 "Advanced Fieldwork in Religious Studies".
3. A track of four related courses chosen in consultation with the Graduate Program Director.
4. *Either* 9 hours of elective courses and a thesis (involving either 6 hours of thesis credit or 3 of thesis and 3 of independent research), or 15 hours of electives and no thesis. Students must register with the Department's Graduate Committee for thesis track or non-thesis track during the semester in which they will complete 12 hours of credit in the program. Registration in the thesis track will require securing the agreement of a member of the Graduate Faculty to serve as Thesis Advisor.

All courses must be completed with a grade of "B" or above. The Department of Religious Studies does not regard the non-thesis track as appropriate preparation for further graduate study in Religious Studies.

## Combined BA/MA in Religious Studies Degree Pathway

To be considered for admission to the combined bachelor's/master's degree pathway, students must have completed at least 75 credits in the bachelor's degree program at FIU and meet the admissions criteria for the graduate degree program to which they are applying. Students need only apply once to the combined degree pathway; the application is submitted to Graduate Admissions typically before the student starts the last 30 credits of the bachelor's degree pathway. A student admitted to the combined degree pathway will be considered to have undergraduate status until the student applies for graduation from their bachelor's degree program. Upon conferral of the bachelor's degree, the student will be granted graduate status and be eligible for graduate assistantships. Only 5000-level or higher courses, and no more than the number of credits specified by the program catalog, may be applied toward both degrees.

### Admission Requirements

1. Current enrollment in the Bachelor's Degree program in Religious Studies, or any humanities major that allows at least 12 hours of electives.
2. Current GPA must be 3.4 or higher.
3. Two letters of recommendation.
4. Approval of the Graduate Committee.
5. Submission of acceptable writing sample, complete with bibliography, to Turnitin.com.

### Requirements

Completed BA at FIU including,	
REL 4931	Religious Studies Seminar
	or
REL 4030	Methods in the Study of Religion
<b>At least two of the following three core courses:</b>	
RLG 5038	Advanced Fieldwork in Religious Studies
RLG 6935	Seminar in Sacred Texts
RLG 6013	Modern Analysis of Religion

Three or six additional hours of graduate credit in Religious Studies (for majors, graduate level enrollment in three or six hours of Focus Courses) must also be taken as Graduate courses. The total number of graduate hours taken concurrently with the BA should be 12 credit hours.

#### Required for the MA:

The remaining core course (if not already taken).

- A four course track, either in one religious tradition, or one theme across religious traditions, approved by the Graduate Director.
- Six credits of electives selected from the Religious Studies Graduate Course Offerings.
- Six hours of thesis, or six additional hours from the Religious Studies Graduate Course Offerings.

### Combined M.A. in Religious Studies/Ph.D. in International Relations Degree Pathway

The combined M.A. in Religious Studies/Ph.D. in International Relations pathway allows qualified graduate students to pursue both degrees simultaneously. Students must fulfill the requirements for both programs, and up to 36 credits completed as part of the M.A. in Religious Studies will be counted toward the 75 credit Ph.D. in International Relations.

#### Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for admission.

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution for higher education (or equivalent);
2. Minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) for the last two years of undergraduate work and/or a GPA of 3.5 on any previous graduate work;
3. Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores;
4. Minimum 156 GRE verbal score or a minimum 3.5 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) for the last two years of undergraduate work.
5. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English and who have not obtained a degree from an English-speaking academic institution are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 90 on the internet-based TOEFL (equivalent to 575 on the paper-based version) or 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required.

Although admissions decisions typically are made in the spring, decisions for students who have not yet received their bachelor's degree will be conditional, pending confirmation of the B.A. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the

program. All applications are subject to review by the members of the Department of Politics and International Relations and the Religious Studies Department.

#### Admission Procedures

To be accepted into this pathway, students must submit an application to the Ph.D. in International Relations with a sub-plan for a M.A. in Religious Studies. This designation will appear in the menu of programs in the graduate application. The application must be submitted by January 15 in the year in which they wish to begin their studies.

The following documents must be submitted and will be reviewed by the Admissions Committees from both units.

The following must be submitted as part of the on-line application:

1. Online application and application fee;
2. Official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate coursework;
3. Official GRE scores;
4. Official TOEFL scores, if applicable;
5. A statement of research interests, including reasons for seeking the M.A./Ph.D., future career goals, and a summary of scholarly preparation for this pathway;
6. Three letters of reference from academic sources or others able to judge academic abilities and potential; and
7. A curriculum vitae.

### Masters of Arts in Religious Studies Degree Requirements (36 credits)

RLG 6935	Seminar in Sacred Sources	3
RLG 6013	Modern Analysis of Religion	3
RLG 5038	Advanced Fieldwork in Religious Studies	3
	12 credit hours of electives approved by the Graduate Program Director	12
RLG 6971	Thesis or 6 additional hours of elective credits	6
INR 5615	Research Design in International Relations	3
INR 5609	Contemporary Dynamics of International Relations	3
INR 6706	Political Economy of International Relations	3

Students who choose the thesis exit option must include at least one Politics and International Relations faculty member, though the majority must be from Religious Studies.

### Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations Degree Requirements

Students will begin study towards the Ph.D. in International Relations immediately following their satisfactory completion of M.A. in Religious Studies requirements. A minimum of 39 credits beyond the M.A. degree in Religious Studies will be necessary to satisfy the requirements of the Ph.D. Program in International Relations.

Degree Requirements beyond the M.A. in Religious Studies are the following:

#### 9 Core Course credits:

GEO 6473	Space, Place and Identity	3
INR 6604	International Relations Theory I	3
INR 6608	Contemporary International Relations	

Theory

3

**12 Major Field credits in either:**

1. Global Institutions and Issues,
2. Comparative Area Studies,
3. Foreign Policy and Security Studies, or
4. International Law.

With advisor approval, these may include 3 credits taken in satisfaction of the requirements for the M.A. in Religious Studies.

**9 Minor Field credits in either:**

1. a second field from the above major field list, or
2. a field offered within another Ph.D. program at FIU (with approval of the Graduate Program Director), or
3. a petition field (with approval of the Graduate Program Director).

With advisor approval, these may include 3 credits taken in satisfaction of the requirements for the M.A. in Religious Studies.

**Elective Credits:**

Elective credits necessary to bring total credits earned beyond the M.A. in Religious Studies to a minimum of 24.

**Dissertation Credits:**

15 credits of dissertation research.

**Comprehensive Exams**

After completing 60 hours of course work (or in the semester in which they expect to do so), students may take their written comprehensive examinations on the core sequence and in both of their fields. Students must sit for these examinations within 6 months of completing the minimum 60 hours of coursework unless granted an extension by the International Relations Graduate Program Director. Before advancing to candidacy, students must also demonstrate an ability to use a foreign language other than English for scholarly purposes.

**Dissertation**

Within 3 months of passing the comprehensive examinations, students should publicly present a dissertation proposal that is acceptable to a committee of at least four qualified scholars. Three members of the committee, including the dissertation supervisor, must be graduate faculty members of the Department of Politics and International Relations. One must be from outside the department, but inside FIU. Other members must be approved by the International Relations Graduate Program Director. To complete program requirements, Ph.D. degree candidates must enroll for a minimum of 15 dissertation credits and maintain enrollment for 3 credits every semester until the degree is awarded.

### **Combined M.A. in Religious Studies/Ph.D. in Global and Sociocultural Studies Degree Pathway**

The combined Religious Studies M.A./Global and Sociocultural Studies Ph.D. pathway allows qualified graduate students to pursue both degrees at the same time. Students can develop an expertise in Religious Studies while progressing towards a Ph.D in one of the three majors in the Global and Sociocultural Studies Ph.D. geography, sociology, or anthropology. The dissertation

may be directed by a qualified professor in either department

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for admission

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution for higher education (or equivalent)
2. Minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) for the last two years of undergraduate work and/or a GPA of 3.5 on any previous graduate work;
3. Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores,
4. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English and who have not obtained a degree from an English-speaking academic institution are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the internet based TOEFL (equivalent to 550 on the paper-based version) or a 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required.

**Admission Procedures**

To be accepted into this pathway, students must submit an application to the Ph.D. in Global and Sociocultural Studies with a sub-plan for a M.A. in Religious Studies. This designation will appear in the menu of programs in the graduate application. To be accepted into this pathway, students must submit an application by March 1 in the year in which they wish to begin their studies. The following documents must be submitted and will be reviewed by the Admissions Committees from both units.

The following must be submitted as part of the on-line application:

1. Online application and application fee;
2. Official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate coursework;
3. Official GRE scores;
4. Official TOEFL scores, if applicable;
5. Statement of purpose explaining their interest for enrolling in both the M.A. Religious Studies program in the Department of Religious Studies and in the Ph.D. program in GSS. The statement of purpose must clearly address the applicant's academic and professional objectives for enrolling in both fields of inquiry. The statement of purpose must also indicate the intended major (anthropology, geography, or sociology) the applicant plans to select while engaged in the Ph.D. in GSS;
6. Three letters of recommendation from university professors who are able to comment on the various aspects of the student's academic ability;
7. A curriculum vitae; and
8. Writing samples and other relevant professional work that may support their applications

**Degree Requirements for M.A. in Religious Studies**

The 36 credits earned for the M.A. in Religious Studies will count towards the 75 credits required for the Ph.D. in GSS.

**Religious Studies Core (9 credits)**

RLG 6935 Seminar in Sacred Sources

3

RLG 6013	Modern Analysis of Religion	3
RLG 5038	Advanced Fieldwork in Religious Studies	3

**Courses Required for GSS Track (12 credits)**

ISS 6346	Theory and Inquiry (Fall)
ISS 6306	Writing Research Proposals (Spring)
ISS 6305	Research Methods and Design (Spring)
ISS 6317	Social Research Quantitative Methods I (Fall)

**Electives (9 or 12 credits depending on exit option)**

9 or 12 credits or elective courses from within the Department of Religious Studies Department

**Religious Studies MA Exit Options (6 or 3 credits)**

Students may choose any of the exit options offered by the Religious Studies degree.

RLG 6971 Thesis (minimum 6 credits) See the Religious Studies program description for more information. The thesis is publicly defended and approved by a committee of three graduate faculty members

RLG XXXX (3 credits) Preparation of two directed research papers. Both papers require an oral presentation, defense and approval by a committee of three graduate faculty members;

RLG XXXX Internship and major research paper (3 credits). Supervised internship leading to a major research paper based upon the students work during the internship. The research paper requires an oral presentation and approval by a committee of three graduate faculty members.

**SIPA Language Requirement**

Students must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English according to the nature of their thesis or research paper/proposal and professional interests.

**Application for Graduation from Religious Studies program**

Students should apply for graduation for the Religious Studies degree as soon as they have completed all requirements for the degree – including the exit option. Ordinarily, the M.A. will be conferred before the student advances to candidacy for the Ph.D. in GSS.

**Matriculation to Ph.D. in GSS**

All students must undergo a successful M.A. review upon completion of the Religious Studies Program requirements in order to continue toward the Ph.D. in GSS. The GSS Graduate Committee, along with an appointee from Religious Department conducts these reviews. The purpose of the M.A. review is to determine the ability of the student to do Ph.D. level work with the department's faculty. Among the information considered during the review are a students overall performance, grades in courses, and faculty recommendations.

**Degree Requirements for Ph.D. in Global and Sociocultural Studies**

The doctorate in Global and Sociocultural Studies requires a minimum of 75 credits beyond the baccalaureate including a dissertation based on original research. A maximum of 36 credits of the Religious Studies Master program will count toward the 75-credit minimum. Thus, a minimum of 39 credits must be earned beyond the M.A.

**Major Requirements (33 credits)**

All doctoral students will choose a major in Anthropology, Geography, or Sociology. The following distribution of coursework is required.

- (a) Major theory (3)
- (b) Additional methods (3)
- (c) Major course electives (6 minimum)
- (d) Exam and dissertation credits
  - a. Doctoral Exam Preparation (6 maximum)
  - b. Doctoral Dissertation (15 minimum)

**General Electives (6 credits)**

GSS and non-GSS Department electives

**Ph.D. General Examination**

After successfully completing the common core requirements, the major's course requirements, and electives, a student prepares for the Ph.D. General Exam by enrolling in a maximum of six credits of exam preparation for their major. In preparation for the exam, a student forms a dissertation committee according to the regulations published on the University Graduate School web page (<http://gradschool.fiu.edu>). The Ph.D. General Exam addresses the student's anticipated dissertation topic, and is conducted according to the University Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual and the Department's Ph.D., General Exam guidelines.

**The Dissertation Proposal and Defense/Candidacy Exam**

After passing the Ph.D. General Exam, a student works under the guidance of the dissertation committee to prepare a dissertation proposal and defend it orally before the committee. The chair of the dissertation committee must hold Dissertation Advisor Status from the University Graduate School. The proposal defense serves as the doctoral candidacy exam for the Ph.D. program in Global and Sociocultural Studies. Upon passing the proposal defense, a student is admitted to candidacy status.

**The Dissertation and Dissertation Defense**

After successfully defending a dissertation proposal, a student conducts the proposed research and completes a dissertation under the guidance of a dissertation committee. Only after successfully defending the dissertation proposal may a student register for dissertation hours (ANG 7980, GEO 7980, or SYA 7980). The Ph.D. program requires a student to be continuously enrolled in a minimum of 3 hours of Doctoral Dissertation each semester from the time of advancement to candidacy until the completion of the dissertation, including summers. Upon completion of the dissertation manuscript and authorization by the committee, a student defends the dissertation before the committee and the University community. The University Graduate School's regulations governing the dissertation are described at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu>.

**Course Descriptions****Definition of Prefixes**

ASN-Asian Studies; RLG-Religion Graduate; SRK-Sanskrit Language

**ASN 5120 Religion and Society in Japan (3).** Examines the relation between religion and the state, the growth of new religious movements, the role of religion during times

of war and conflict, issues of religious freedom and legality, the impact of religious institutions on gender and ethnicity.

**ASN 5130 Zen and the Arts (3).** Examines the history, theory, and practice of Chado (Way of Tea), a Zen inspired art that has had, and still exerts, a long-lasting influence on Japanese society.

**RLG 5018 Religion, Literature, and Critical Theory (3).** Examines intersections between world religions and contemporary literature in light of modern theories of interpretation. Themes explored include scriptural rereadings and spiritual journeys. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5023 Religious Ritual (3).** Examines the critical relationship of ritual, religious practice and belief, and culture, while introducing the principles and methods of ritual studies. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5025 Myth and Religion (3).** Investigates the role, function, and meaning of myth in religious experience and practice through an examination of specific myths, mythic patterns, and critical theories. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5038 Advanced Fieldwork in Religious Studies (3).** Techniques of ethnography used in Religious Studies beginning with research design and including participant observation, interviews, surveys.

**RLG 5065 Latinas and Religion in the Americas (3).** This course will review the practices, beliefs, social and political activism, and theological and biblical reflections of Latinas in the Americas from a historical perspective to modern day.

**RLG 5106 Religions, Latino/as and Immigration (3).** The course will analyze the relationships between the complex phenomenon of Latinos/as immigration and religions. This area of study necessarily demands an interdisciplinary approach including gender.

**RLG 5122 African-American Religion (3).** Survey of development of African-American Religions with emphasis on North American experience during slavery, Jim Crow and contemporary eras. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5125 Religion and Public Life (3).** Examines the relationship of religion and government in the United States, with focus on the First Amendment and issues of separation of church and state. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5137 North American Religion (3).** Historical examination of religious groups and influences in North America, focusing on their contributions and cultural impact. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5138 Sects, Cults, and New Religions (3).** Explores and critically analyzes the multiplicity of new American religious movements and the unique combination of factors that has encouraged them. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5144 Women and Religion (3).** Examines the influence of religion on social construction of gender and

the definition of woman's nature and role, with a focus on Western developments. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5149 Religion, Violence, and Conflict (3).** Is religion peaceful or violent? Theoretical analysis of the role of religion in violent, social and political conflicts, such as the Crusades, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Haitian Revolution. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5165 Science and Religion (3).** Surveys the interaction between science and religion from conflict models to integration; special attention to specific natural sciences including cosmology and biology. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5182 Religion and Ethics (3).** Investigation of methods, resources for ethics in world religions, and some examples of issues. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5183 Religion, Nature, and Globalization (3).** Through exploring sources for contemporary attitudes and values about "nature", this course examines environmental ethical issues surrounding the process commonly referred to as globalization. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5184 Sexuality, Religion and Social Change (3).** Traces various religions' accommodation to and rejection of both new scientific research on sexuality and new economic and social trends. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5192 Seminar in Mysticism (3).** The issues of consciousness, language, and morality in mystical tradition of the East and west, including Kabbalah, Neoplatonism, Sufism, Yoga, Taoism, and Zen. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5193 Brazil: Religion and Liberation (3).** To study the genealogy of the Liberation Theology movement in Brazil as Second Vatican Council's resonance. The changes undertaken may be compared to the Reformation of the 16th century.

**RLG 5211 Bible I: The Hebrew Scriptures (3).** Extensive reading in the Hebrew Scriptures, how the various texts of the Hebrew Scriptures came to be written, and how they can be interpreted - both within the context of faith communities and within the cultural contexts out of which the texts were written. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5232 Hebrew Exegesis I (3).** Provides a comprehensive survey of the fundamentals of the language of the Hebrew Bible designed to equip the student for the task of exegesis. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5233 Hebrew Exegesis II (3).** A continuation of Hebrew Exegesis I emphasizing the reading of select passages of the Hebrew Bible to develop skills in translation and interpretation. Prerequisites: RLG 5232 and graduate standing.

**RLG 5242 New Testament and Qumran (3).** Detailed investigation of the possible contacts between the New Testament and Qumran in such areas as Biblical

Exegesis, Apocalypticism, Eschatology, and Messianism. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

**RLG 5244 Bible II: The New Testament (3).** History, theology, and interpretation methods of the New Testament. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5262 New Testament Greek Exegesis I (3).** A detailed overview of the principles of Greek grammar that shows the student how to use Greek in the study of the New Testament. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

**RLG 5263 New Testament Greek Exegesis II (3).** Careful reading of selected passages of the New Testament and early Christian literature designed or selected to develop skills in translation and interpretation. Prerequisite: RLG 5262 and graduate standing.

**RLG 5284 Studies of the Dead Sea Scrolls (3).** Overview of the Dead Sea Scrolls explores the new techniques being used in their study. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5331 Religions of India (3).** Topics include: religion in prehistoric and ancient India, classical Hindu texts and schismatic movements, medieval theism, the acculturation of extrinsic religions, Hindu-Muslim-Sikh syncretism, and the modern period. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5334 Studies in Diaspora Hinduisms (3).** Research methods and theory in the study of Hinduisms in the Diaspora, with a special focus on Hindu institutions in Florida.

**RLG 5338 Classical Hinduism (3).** A study of the textual and philosophic traditions of classical India, as well as theoretical and methodological issues pertinent to their study. Prerequisites: REL 3330 or REL 3333 or RLG 5331.

**RLG 5346 Seminar on Buddhism (3).** The central doctrines and rituals of the Buddhist tradition, including the views on causality, mindfulness, monasticism, salvation, purity, and ethics in the Theravada, Tantric, and Zen schools. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5352 Religions of East Asia (3).** The history, philosophy, and cultural impact of the major religious traditions of East Asia, including Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Shinto, and syncretic folk religions. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5360 Classical Arabic (3).** Introduces the grammar and vocabulary of classical Arabic necessary for developing the ability to read classical texts.

**RLG 5364 Advanced Topics in Islamic Mysticism (Sufism) (3).** Explores the depth and breadth of the mystical tradition of Islam (Sufism) through primary and secondary texts which look at the esoteric dimensions of mystical practice in the Islamic World.

**RLG 5366 Advanced Interpretation of the Quran: Gender and Jihad (3).** History, interpretation and translation of the Quran through a close examination of passages related to issues of gender and jihad.

**RLG 5369 Voice of the Prophet (3).** Familiarizes students with the position and history of prophetic traditions (Hadith) in Islam.

**RLG 5372 The Globalizing of African Spirituality (3).** Intensive investigation of select forms of traditional spirituality in sub-Saharan Africa, including ritual, sacrifice, and spirit possession, and Africanized Christian and Islamic devotion. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5384 Rasta, Vodou, Santeria (3).** Critical, sociological and phenomenological analysis of the history, beliefs, rituals, and social significance of Rastafarianism, Vodou, and Santeria on the Caribbean and the United States. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5385 Native American Religions (3).** An advanced study of Native American religions and the methods employed to investigate them. Attention will be given to traditional and contemporary expressions. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5387 Native Religions of Latin America (3).** Focuses on major culture areas, history of tribes, changes in religious practice through contact with Christianity.

**RLG 5388 Latinas' Religious Experience (3).** Focus on the diversity of religious experiences among women born and educated in Latin cultures such as: Brazil, Haiti and Hispanic American, including Hispanic in the U.S.

**RLG 5394 Jewish Mystical Texts (3).** A study of the major movements and figures in the development of Jewish mysticism through its significant texts, from biblical times up to the present. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5397 Yoga Theory and Practicum (3).** An in-depth graduate seminar addressing theory and practice of the eight limbs of yoga. Includes critical analysis of Patanjali's text, the Yoga Sutras.

**RLG 5435 Feminist Theory and Religion (3).** Surveys the development of feminist work in religion based in general feminist theory; includes work in major world religions. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

**RLG 5455 Seminar on Jain Sacred Sources (3).** In depth study of selected primary texts of Jainism, examining diverse scriptures, including prose, verse, philosophical conversations, and narrative stories of different Jain sects. Basic knowledge of Jainism necessary.

**RLG 5462 Religion and Philosophy (3).** Examines the use of philosophical reasoning to justify religious belief or its rejection. Such topics as natural theology, atheism and fideism will be examined. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5465 Karma and Ethics in Indian Philosophy and Religion (3).** Comparative examination of theories of karma and their relation to doctrines of ethical conduct and salvation in Indian religious and philosophical traditions. Comparison with Western ethics systems.

**RLG 5488 Theology and Liberation Movements (3).** Comparison of Latin American, feminist, and African American theologies of liberation, including methods, social analysis, social location, interlocutor, ecclesiology,

theology, eschatology and use of scripture. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5495 Interreligious Dialogue (3).** The intellectual basis, the classical formulations, and the contemporary practice of interreligious dialogue in a variety of cultural settings. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5501 History of Christianity I (3).** Christianity from its origins to the Middle Ages. Doctrinal and organizational development of the church and characteristic aspects of its spiritual life. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5502 Saints, Witches and Missionaries (3).** Survey of movements, reforms, divisions, and major ideas within institutional Christianity, 1400 to present. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5515 History of Early Christianity (3).** Origin and growth of Christianity from the first to the fifth century, and the adaptation of its message to the Greco-Roman world. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5520 Colonialism, Christianity, Globalization (3).** It analyzes the European expansion since the 15th to the 20th centuries and the interrelation between religion, economic and politics in western and colonial societies.

**RLG 5565 Modern Catholicism (3).** Theology and liturgical practice in the Roman Catholic Church from Trent (16th c) to the present, with primary and secondary sources. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5605 Studies in Judaism (3).** Historical overview of Jewish belief and practice, with special consideration of Jewish ritual life. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5606 Rabbinic Judaism (3).** The theology and ideologies of the 1700-year period in the history of Judaism known as Rabbinic Judaism. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5613 Religion, Culture and Politics in Israel (3).** Exploration of the history of modern Israel. Discussion of issues, state and religion, ethnic and denominational tensions, democratic characters of the state and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**RLG 5614 Ancient Judaism (3).** The history, literature and characteristic institutions of Judaism from the Persian period to Amoraic times. Attention given to developments in the land of Israel and the diaspora. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5615 Medieval Judaism (3).** The works of major thinkers in Medieval Judaism, including Maimonides, Nahmanides, Halevi, Luzatto, and such topics as Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah) and Hasidism. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5617 Jews and Muslims in the Middle Ages (3).** Study of Jewish culture from the rise of Islam in the 7th century -- usually considered the start of Jewish Medieval Era -- to the end of the Middle Ages.

**RLG 5618 Modern Judaism (3).** Explores the ways in which religious beliefs and traditional concepts of Jewish

self-identity have changed as a result of emancipation and participation of Jews in the modern Western world. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5619 Holocaust Representations: Religion and Remembrance (3).** Examines the symbolic and cultural representations of the Holocaust through its religious/theological discourse and its remembrance. Implications for Jewish life and thought are also explored. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 5620 Kabbalah and Gender (3).** Exploration of the theme of Gender within the context of Jewish mysticism. Analysis of central Kabbalistic texts pertaining to the issue of gender and sexuality.

**RLG 5628 Jewish Thought and Thinkers (3).** The principal of Sephardic and oriental thinkers since the Middle Ages includes philosophers, rabbis.

**RLG 5629 Kabbalah, Peace and War (3).** Study of the basic categories of Kabbalah as an esoteric doctrine and evaluate its unique approach to peace and war within the historical context of the Jewish mystical experience.

**RLG 5698 Sephardic and Oriental Jewry Colloquium (3).** In depth examination of important issues in the study of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry.

**RLG 5907 Independent Study in Sephardic and Oriental Jewry (1-6).** For advanced students who possess proven significant knowledge of the field of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry, to engage in a guided research on the topic of their choice within the field. Prerequisites: REL 4610, RLG 5617, REL 3695, SYD 4606.

**RLG 5911 Independent Research (1-5).** Topics are selected to meet the academic needs of the individual student. Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor is required.

**RLG 5932 Sacred Image, Sacred Space in Indian Religions (3).** Seminar on sacred images and architecture of South Asian religions-Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Muslim. Connects visual culture and devotional practices.

**RLG 5934 Graduate Pedagogy (1-3).** Advanced work in Religious Studies pedagogy, including classroom teaching, assignment development and grading, and seminar discussion of pedagogical issues.

**RLG 5937 Special Topics (3).** Topics will be selected to meet the academic needs of groups of students.

**RLG 5945 Internship in Sephardic and Oriental Jewry (1-3).** Work and study with the leadership of and research one of the Sephardic and Oriental communities in Florida. This serves as field study in which the classroom learning comes alive. Prerequisites: REL 4610, RLG 5617, REL 3695, SYD 4606.

**RLG 6013 Modern Analysis of Religion: Classic Texts in Religious Studies (3).** Surveys history of religious approaches to religion (Eliade, Otto), social scientific approaches to religion (Freud, Durkheim, Weber, Geertz), and postmodern / poststructuralist approaches (Foucault, de Certeau, Baumann, Braudillard, Butler etc.). Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6094 Seminar in Religious Fundamentalism (3).** Evolution of Fundamentalism from inception to our times as it began to encompass a wider umbrella of global organizations with a focus on the 3 Abrahamic traditions and advanced analysis of their texts.

**RLG 6096 Advanced Religious Fundamentalism: A Viewpoint for National Security (3).** Evolution of Fundamentalism from inception to our time as it began to encompass a wider umbrella of global organizations with a focus on the 3 Abrahamic traditions and advanced analysis of their texts.

**RLG 6097 Muslim Concepts of War: A Perspective for National Security (3).** Intended to acquaint students with the history and development of Muslim concepts of war prepare them to make meaningful contributions to policy deliberations.

**RLG 6175 Ethics and Development (3).** Examines problems in development programs, such as bribery and corruption, labor rights, child labor, gender justice, environmental sustainability, from both religious and secular justice traditions.

**RLG 6176 Religions and Human Rights (3).** Examines sources of human rights theory in the West and compares it to a variety of religious conceptions of the rights of human beings.

**RLG 6195 Sociological Approaches to Religion (3).** Sociological Method/Theory in religious studies scholarship on religious ritual around life cycle events. Individual and group projects. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6285 Biblical Archaeology (3).** Introduces the methods used in archaeological excavations. Finds from the Bronze Age to the Greco-Roman period are examined for the ways they bring new understanding to the texts of the Bible. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6319 Seminar in Asian Religions (3).** Asian religious traditions, texts, rituals, or artifacts. May be repeated with change in content. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6322 Seminar in Western Religions (3).** Similarities and differences in the three Western monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam during their historical development. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6332 Studies in Modern Hinduisms (3).** Research methods and theory in the study of modern Hindu movements and issues in contemporary Hinduism.

**RLG 6348 Seminar on Tibetan Buddhism (3).** Study of influential Tibetan texts in their historical contexts. Prerequisites: REL 4340 or REL 3344 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

**RLG 6349 Seminar on Pali Buddhism (3).** The "original" teachings of the Buddha as preserved in the Pali Tipitaka and its commentaries readings in translation. Students knowing Pali will work with instructor. Prerequisites: REL 4340 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

**RLG 6442 Religion in the Contemporary World (3).** Society and religion in processes of secularization and

pluralism. Attention to religious interpretations of sociocultural processes. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6697 Indian Judaism (3).** The stories, rituals, interactions and identities of four Indian Jewish communities and their implications for Indo-Israeli relations and contemporary American Judaism. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

**RLG 6921 Colloquium (1).** Students attend a minimum of three lectures, conferences, or professional presentations, with seminar report and discussion. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

**RLG 6930 Pedagogy Workshop (1).** Two-day teaching workshop offered by the Academy for the Art of Teaching. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

**RLG 6931 Pedagogy Seminar (1).** Provide Teaching Assistants with pedagogical skills, such as lecture preparation, exam preparation and grading, advising and small group work. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

**RLG 6935 Seminar in Sacred Texts (3).** Sacred texts with a common theme from several religions. Problems of interpretation are a central concern. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6938 Pedagogy Forum (1).** Students attend at least six (6) teaching forums for certificate offered by the Academy for the Art of Teaching. Prerequisite: AAT Summer Teaching Workshop.

**RLG 6940 Teaching Religious Studies (3).** Assist the instructor in an introductory course and attend seminar meetings. Topics: 'faith' vs 'objectivity' in the classroom; student diversity; religious studies as a profession; designing an introductory course. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6942 Teaching Internship (1-3).** Advanced work in Religions Studies pedagogy, including classroom teaching, assignment development and grading, and seminar discussion of pedagogical issues. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

**RLG 6946 Advanced Field Work in Jain Studies (3).** Supervised field work among Jain communities and institutions in India and in the Jain Diaspora. Prerequisites: Graduate standing, IRB project clearance, CU.

**RLG 6971 Thesis (1-6).** For students working on the thesis for the M.A. in Religious Studies. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of the instructor.

**RLG 6972 Thesis Proposal Development (3).** Elements of thesis construction, including thesis statement, feasibility research, bibliography, methodology. Initial 3 credits of thesis may be required for some students by GPD and thesis advisor. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

**SRK 5001 Sanskrit Exegesis I (3).** Application of both modern and traditional interpretations of selected readings from classical Sanskrit texts. Prerequisites: SRK 2101 or permission of the instructor.

**SRK 5002 Sanskrit Exegesis II (3).** Reading of extended classical Sanskrit text (such as the Bhagavad Gita) with attention to exegetical methods, philology and advanced



grammar. Prerequisites: SRK 5001 or permission of the instructor.

**SRK 5003 Sanskrit III: Reading Epic Sanskrit (3).** Sanskrit grammar, its rules of transliteration and translation. The pronunciation and reading skills will be trained. Prerequisites: SRK 5002 or instructor permission.

**SRK 5006 Sanskrit IV: Advanced Sanskrit Reading (3).** Introduces techniques to read advanced styles of Sanskrit literature such as court poetry or philosophy. May be repeated with change in emphasis. Prerequisites: SRK 5003 or instructor permission.

**SRK 5004 Introduction to the Prakrit Languages (3).** Phonology, morphology and grammar of the Prakrit languages with emphasis on building reading competency in Buddhist and Jain literatures. Prerequisites: SRK 3202 or SRK 5202 or permission of the instructor.

**SRK 5005 Advanced Prakrit Reading (3).** Intensive reading of a text in a selected Prakrit language with emphasis on cultivating advanced reading techniques and the development of a research project. May be repeated with change in content. Prerequisites: SRK 3202 or SRK 5202 and SRK 5004, or permission of the instructor.

**SRK 6106 Sanskrit II (3).** Sanskrit grammar rules, rules of tense, rules of transliteration and translation.