

## Course Information Form (CIF)

**Course Code:** REL 101 (IAI H5 900)

**Course Title:** Introduction to Religion

**Department:** Humanities

**Effective Date:** Summer 2026

**PCS Code:** 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

**CIP Code:** 38.0201

**Repeatability:** 0

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### Credit Hours

**Catalog Notation:** 3-0-3

**Credit Hour Distribution:**

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

**Total: 3**

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### General Course Information

#### Catalog Description

Interdisciplinary study of the nature of religion; the variety of religious beliefs, practices, and experiences; and religious issues common to all religions. (Study Abroad programs only)

#### General Course Objectives

To enable students to explore and understand the nature, origins, and varieties of religion in the modern (secular) world.

#### Minimum Placement Levels

| English                  | Reading                  | Math |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Placement out of ENG 098 | Placement out of CCS 098 | None |

#### Prerequisites

None

#### Methods of Evaluation

Minimum of 2 exams and 3 out-of-class essays or projects, and 5-10 quizzes, OR, minimum of 3 take-home exams each of which include a minimum of 2 short essay questions (up to 2 pages each) and 3-5 short-answer writing assignments, and one 4-6 page essay assignment. Total out-of-class writing is 10-15 pages.

#### Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Introduction to Religious Studies, by Myhre

The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion, by Eliade (Recommended)

## Course Content

### General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.
- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

### Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

| Course Segment                                                                                                                                                              | Learning Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| What is Religion: Attempts at Definition                                                                                                                                    | 1. Distinguish between hermeneutic approaches to religion.<br>2. Appraise the relative adequacy of a variety of definitions of religious experience.                                                                                  | 6             | 0         | 0              |
| The Origin and Development of Religion: a) Anthropological approaches, b) Psychological approaches, c) Philosophical approaches, and d) Sociological approaches             | 1. Explain and critically analyze the social, scientific, and philosophical approaches to religion, and distinguish these from apologetics.                                                                                           | 15            | 0         | 0              |
| The Study of Religious Phenomena: a) The structure of belief, b) The description of religious belief, c) The morphology of belief, and d) The phenomenology of religion     | 1. Compare cross-cultural aspects of religious phenomena, including belief structures, the language of belief, and the types of religious belief.                                                                                     | 12            | 0         | 0              |
| Religions and Religious Traditions - The Comparative Study of Religions: a) Problems in comparative religion and b) The experience and function of religion across cultures | 1. Explain and categorize the major problems of comparative religion, the social-psychological aspects of belief across cultures, and the varieties of cultural contexts for religious practice, including civil religion in America. | 12            | 0         | 0              |

#### Total Contact Hours

| Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| 45            | 0         | 0              |