

Course: REL 131
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisite: None

Course Title: Religion in America
Department: Religious Studies

General Education Area:

HUMAN CULTURES - Social & Behavioral Sciences (*GEC 110*)

Information submitted by a department representative on 4/8/2021 3:26:17 PM – Compiled by Darren Wienberg, Academic Advising & Transfer Center

Typically Offered During:

Fall Full Semester:	YES	Fall 1 st Block:	NO	Fall 2 nd Block:	YES
Spring Full Semester:	YES	Spring 1 st Block:	NO	Spring 2 nd Block:	YES
Summer:	NO				

Typical Instructional Modality:

Traditional (seated):	YES	Blended:	YES	Internet:	YES
Online Video:	NO	Web Conference:	NO		

May Also Count Toward Department Offering:

Major:	YES	Minor:	YES	Certificate:	YES
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Please see online published semester class schedule and undergraduate catalog for detailed course offering information.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (Without using the catalog description)?

REL 131 investigates the historical and contemporary influence of diverse religious attitudes and values on American culture, politics, and society. It examines the influence of religion during the founding of the United States and investigate new religious movements of the nineteenth century, including Mormons and Christian Scientists. It considers how religion was used both to defend and protest slavery, and how religion was transformed by the Civil War. In the twentieth century, it examines how religious communities continued to be affected by interactions with a constantly changing modern world, including developments in science, medicine, media, and migration.

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?

- 1) Explore the diversity of America’s religious people and institutions past and present, from the many different Protestant denominations, to Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, and other groups, comparing their beliefs and practices and the ways they have responded and adapted to each other
- 2) Investigate the historical and contemporary influence of diverse religious attitudes and values on American culture, politics, and society, including the close relationship of religion to class, race, ethnicity, and gender
- 3) Demonstrate the impact of globalization, immigration, and transnationalism in American religious history.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?

History, Education, English, Communication, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, Art, Art History

Catalog Description (Fall 2022 Undergraduate Catalog)

A historical survey of different religious groups in America and their contributions to American identity and values. Includes the connections between religious affiliation and race, ethnicity, gender, politics, the media, and other aspects of U.S. society and culture.