

Religion, Study of

Program Director: Richard S. Cohen

FACULTY

John Blanco, *Associate Professor, Literature*
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Richard S. Cohen, *Associate Professor, Literature*
Stephen D. Cox, *Professor, Literature*
Thomas J. Csordas, *Professor, Anthropology*
Page A. duBois, *Professor, Literature*
John H. Evans, *Associate Professor, Sociology*
Amelia Glaser, *Assistant Professor, Literature*
David Goodblatt, *Professor, History*
Jack Greenstein, *Associate Professor, Visual Arts*
Marcel Hénaff, *Professor, Literature*
Matthew T. Herbst, *Lecturer with Security of Employment, Roosevelt College*
Deborah Hertz, *Professor, History*
Alan Houston, *Professor, Political Science*
Stephanie Jed, *Associate Professor, Literature*
David K. Jordan, *Professor Emeritus, Anthropology*
Benetta W. Jules-Rosette, *Professor, Sociology*
Dayna Kalleres, *Assistant Professor, Literature*
Hasan Kayali, *Associate Professor, History*
Lisa Lampert-Weissig, *Associate Professor, Literature*
Richard P. Madsen, *Professor, Sociology*
John A. Marino, *Professor, History*
Keith McNeal, *Assistant Professor, Anthropology*
Dana K. Nelkin, *Associate Professor, Philosophy*
Elizabeth Newsome, *Associate Professor, Visual Arts*
Kwai Ng, *Assistant Professor, Sociology*
Sheldon A. Nodelman, *Professor, Visual Arts*
Esra Özyürek, *Associate Professor, Anthropology*
Steven M. Parish, *Professor, Anthropology*
Michael Parrish, *Professor, History*
Patrick Patterson, *Assistant Professor, History*
William H. Propp, *Professor, History*
Babak Rahimi, *Assistant Professor, Literature*
Fred V. Randel, *Associate Professor Emeritus, Literature*
Joel Robbins, *Professor, Anthropology*
Natalia Roudakova, *Assistant Professor, Communication*
Gershon Shafir, *Professor, Sociology*
Kuiyi Shen, *Professor, Visual Arts*
Susan Smith, *Associate Professor, Visual Arts*
Teri Sowell, *Lecturer, Visual Arts*
Melford E. Spiro, *Professor Emeritus, Anthropology*
Tracy B. Strong, *Professor, Political Science*
Christena Turner, *Associate Professor, Sociology*
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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program engages in the academic study of religious phenomena in many regions of the world and within many different religious cultures and traditions; and it studies literature, history, and society in relation to religion. Faculty and students associated with the program give primacy to humanistic and social scientific methods of study that have become established in the academic community during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The location of the program in the Division of Arts and Humanities and its use of courses from a variety of departments and divisions imply that neither the study of religion nor its data are the privileged possession of a single discipline. The hallmark of the program is its interdisciplinary and interdepartmental structure. At UC San Diego, faculty from the Departments of Anthropology, History, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Visual Arts provide students with the opportunity to examine religious artifacts, texts, institutions, and communities within a particular cultural and historical context and in the context of comparable manifestations within the general history of religions.

A concentration in the Study of Religion aims at fostering a student's understanding of religion as one of the primary expressions of the human condition and as an historically powerful force in the shaping of human cultures; and it aims to foster an understanding of multiple religious traditions. It seeks to develop a student's appreciation of the difficulties and possibilities inherent in undertaking a critical, disciplined, cross-cultural study of religion.

Since the program endorses an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the study of religion, lower-division preparation should be wide and varied. Lower-division courses in which religion figures prominently (e.g., Introduction to Religion, The Making of the Modern World, or the Revelle College Humanities Program), as well as courses which focus on textual and contextual analysis and employ the analytical tools and conceptual categories of the human sciences, would all be useful in preparing the student for a major in the Study of Religion. The program strongly encourages foreign language study. The ability to read the languages of original sources and of modern scholarship is highly recommended, especially for students planning to attend graduate school in religion.

MAJOR

The major in the Study of Religion consists of twelve upper-division courses, achieving a balance between courses which focus on a single religious tradition or issue and those which explore various traditions and methodologies. These courses should include the following:

- Three required courses in the Study of Religion, (1) RELI 110A or B and (2) RELI 111 or 112 or 113 and (3) RELI 189, or one other seminar approved by the program director.
- Nine courses from the approved course list to be selected in consultation with the program director. Students should see the program coordinator for further details.

DOUBLE MAJOR

Students may choose to pursue the Study of Religion as their second major. In such cases, it may be possible for up to two courses to overlap with the other major. Students should consult the program coordinator for further information.

HONORS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION

The program for the Study of Religion offers an Honors Program for students who demonstrate excellence in the major. The minimum eligibility requirements for the Honors Program are stated below. In most cases students are completing their last two quarters (winter and spring) when they enroll in the Honors Program.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

- RELI 110A or 110B completed prior to honors project
- Junior or senior standing (completion of at least 90 units)
- GPA of 3.3 overall and a 3.5 in the major to enter or remain in the Honors Program
- Eight units of RELI 196H taken over two quarters (typically winter and spring)
- Research paper (at least twenty pages; most students write between thirty and fifty pages)

Students interested in the Honors Program should consult with the program coordinator for a detailed list of requirements and an application. Participation in the Honors Program is contingent upon the prior approval of the Honors Thesis research topic by the director. Honors proposals are due at the program office by the tenth week of the quarter (usually fall quarter of the senior year) prior to being enrolled. Final approval must take place before the first day of the quarter in which the student plans to enroll in RELI 196H.

The Honors student's faculty director must certify by the end of the first term that the student is making timely progress toward the completion of his or her project.

The notations "distinction," "high distinction," and "highest distinction" will be determined on the following basis: major GPA, the grade for the research paper, and the grade for the public presentation.

MINOR

The minor in the Study of Religion consists of seven courses, of which five must be upper-division. These seven courses must include two required courses in the Study of Religion as delineated under the major:

1. RELI 110A or 110B, and
2. RELI 111 or 112 or 113.

Some students may apply two lower-division college requirements to the minor (e.g., Revelle students may apply HUM 1 and HUM 2, and ERC students may apply MMW 2 and MMW 3).

Student Advising

All students are assigned a faculty advisor and are encouraged to meet with their advisor at least once

a quarter to develop their course of study. Additional advising information may be obtained from the program coordinator, Literature Building, First Floor, Room 139.

Study Abroad

Students are encouraged to investigate the University of California Education Abroad Program (EAP) and other options for foreign study through the Opportunities Abroad Program (OAP). By petition, credits earned through EAP/OAP can fulfill major and minor requirements. More information about studying abroad can be obtained in the Education Abroad section of the catalog.

Career Opportunities and Preparation for Graduate Study

Among its many aims, the major in the Study of Religion is designed to develop fundamental skills in critical thinking, comparative analysis, research, and written expression. As such, the B.A. degree is appropriate for careers in education, government, business, and non-profit agencies. It is also an excellent preparation for graduate study in a variety of fields and disciplines.

Students interested in earning a California teaching credential from UCSD should contact the Teacher Education Program for further information.

Students are encouraged to consult the program director for further information about career opportunities and graduate study. Information is also available on the program's Web site.

COURSES

For course descriptions not found in the UC San Diego General Catalog, 2010–11, please contact the department for more information.

RELI 1. Introduction to Religion (4)

An introduction to key topics in the study of religion through a comparative reading of religious texts and/or artifacts. The intent is to develop basic strategies of interpretation for undertaking a critical, disciplined study of religion.

RELI 110A. The Modern Study of Religion: Religion in Modernity (4)

This class examines the history of the term "religion," focusing upon the development of religion's contemporary significance within the Reformation and Enlightenment, and questioning what it means to be "modern." Topics change yearly. Special attention to contemporary culture and politics.

RELI 110B. The Modern Study of Religion: Social and Cultural Theories of Religion (4)

An introduction to basic strategies of interpretation in the study of religion, including issues of category formation, theory, and method. Special attention paid to prominent voices of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including Marx, Freud, Durkheim, Eliade, etc.

RELI 111. Texts and Contexts: The Holy Book in Judaism and Christianity (4)

This class examines the development of sacred scripture in Judaism and Christianity. Topics include the variety and use of texts in religious communities; the process of canonization; the formation and transformation of textual communities. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or department stamp.

RELI 112. Texts and Contexts: The Holy Book in Islam (4)

An overview of the history and thematic issues in the study of Quran. It will focus on historical events, issues, and various interpretive practices in the development of Quran as a sacred text. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or department stamp.

RELI 113. Texts and Contexts: Textual Communities in South Asia (4)

This class considers important texts belonging to one or more of the following South Asian Traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, or Sikhism. It introduces students to the ways in which religious identities are formed and contested within a pluralistic society.

RELI 130. Religion, Science, and Magic (4)

Religion, science, and magic provide scholars with a set of analytic categories for the comparative study of cultural forms and modes of thinking. What are the ideological underpinnings and political implications of these categories? This class addresses this question using comparative avenues involving literary sources. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

RELI 131. Topics in Religion and Sexuality (4)

How does religiosity as a significant cultural component help mold gender and sexuality identities? The class offers topical investigations into this question. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

RELI 132. Topics in Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy (4)

Religious dogmas often develop in dialogue with alternative viewpoints that ultimately are rejected by heterodox by the dominant group. This class presents case studies in the interpretation of such ideological and sociological pairings using scriptural, literary, and analytic sources. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

RELI 134. Topics in American Religion (4)

Topical studies in the history of religion in American society, ranging from the Puritans to the New Age. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

RELI 140. Death and Religion (4)

This interdisciplinary course uses literary sources to explore the relationship between death and religion on a historical and global scale; the relationship between political religious rituals and symbolism of rebirth; examination of carnival, death pollution, and symbolism of gender. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

RELI 141. Public Sphere and Religion (4)

This interdisciplinary course will explore the historical and theoretical relationship between public sphere and religion, particularly focusing on the manifestation of religious power, public ritual, and sacred theatricality in everyday spaces of life. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

RELI 142. Secularization and Religion (4)

Surveys the relationship between religion and modernity, in particular the problematic of the secularization theory; covers cases such as Catholic liberation theology and Islamic fundamentalism, with particular focus on the "deprivatization of modern religion." **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

RELI 143. Topics in Performing Religion (4)

This course explores religion as a system of bodily practices, rather than one of tenets or beliefs. How do day-to-day activities as well as significant rituals express and inform people's religious lives? Why is doctrine an insufficient basis for understanding religion? May be taken up to three times as topics vary. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

RELI 188. Special Topics in Religion (4)

Students in this lecture will investigate important problems in the study of religion or the history of particular religions. May be repeated for credit up to three times when topics vary. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing.

RELI 189. Seminar in Religion (4)

This seminar requires the intensive analysis of critical problems in the study of religion or the history of particular

religions. May be repeated for credit up to three times when topics vary. **Prerequisites:** upper-division standing; RELI 110A or 110B or consent of instructor.

RELI 196H. Honors Thesis Research (4)

Honors thesis research for students accepted into the Honors Program. Research is conducted under the supervision of a program faculty member. **Prerequisite:** program approval into the Honors Program.

RELI 197. Directed Advanced Readings (4)

A faculty member will direct a student in advanced readings on a topic not generally included in the Program for the Study of Religion's curriculum. Students must make arrangements with the program and individual faculty. May be repeated for credit up to three times for credit. **Prerequisites:** upper-division standing; RELI 110A or 110B; overall GPA of 2.5.

RELI 199. Independent Research Study for Undergraduates (2–4)

Independent research in religion under the supervision of a faculty member affiliated with the Program for the Study of Religion. This course may be repeated three times with program approval. (P/NP grades only.) **Prerequisites:** upper-division standing, with 2.5 GPA (overall); program stamp.

APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSES

The following lower- and upper-division courses are offered on a regular basis, although not every course is available every year. Please contact the program coordinator for approved courses in any given quarter or visit the program's Web site, <http://religion.ucsd.edu>. Students may petition other courses, including independent study and Education Abroad Program courses when appropriate.

LOWER-DIVISION

ANTH 1. Introduction to Culture

HUM 1. The Foundations of Western Civilization: Israel and Greece

HUM 2. Rome, Christianity, and the Middle Ages

MMW 2. The Great Classical Traditions

MMW 3. The Medieval Heritage

PHIL 14. Introduction to Philosophy: Metaphysics

PHIL 31. History of Philosophy: Ancient Philosophy

RELI 1. Introduction to Religion

SOCI 1A, B. The Study of Society

UPPER-DIVISION

METHODOLOGICAL

ANSC 120. Anthropology of Religion

ANSC 167. Rituals and Celebrations

RELI 110A. The Modern Study of Religion: Religion in Modernity

RELI 110B. The Modern Study of Religion: Social and Cultural Theories of Religion

RELI 143. Topics in Performing Religion

RELI 189. Seminar in Religion

SOCI 100. Classical Sociological Theory

SOCI 156. Sociology of Religion

GENERAL COMPARATIVE

ANSC 104. Anthropology of Fantasy

ANSC 134. Global Islam
 ANSC 160. Nature, Culture, and Environmentalism
 LTWL 100. Mythology
 RELI 130. Religion, Science, and Magic
 RELI 131. Topics in Religion and Sexuality
 RELI 132. Topics in Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy
 RELI 134. Topics in American Religion
 RELI 140. Death and Religion
 RELI 188. Special Topics in Religion
 RELI 196H. Honors Thesis Research
 RELI 197. Directed Advanced Readings
 VIS 117I. Western and Non-Western Rituals and Ceremonies

RELIGION IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

ANAR 142. The Rise and Fall of Ancient Israel
 ANAR 143. Archaeology, Anthropology, and the Bible
 ANAR 154. Aztecs and their Ancestor
 ANSC 130. Hinduism
 ANSC 137. Chinese Popular Religion
 ETHN 161. Black Politics and Protest Since 1941
 ETHN 188. African Americans, Religion, and the City
 HIEA 120. Classical Chinese Philosophy and Culture
 HIEA 121. Medieval Chinese Culture and Society
 HIEA 126. The Silk Road in Chinese and Japanese History
 HIEA 136. History of Thought and Religion in China: Daoism
 HIEA 168. Topics in Classical and Medieval Chinese History (when topic covers religion)
 HIEU 101. Greece in the Classical Age
 HIEU 105. The Early Christian Church
 HIEU 113. Rule, Conflict, and Dissent in the Middle Ages
 HIEU 115. The Pursuit of the Millennium
 HIEU 132. Germany from Luther to Bismark
 HIEU 147. Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe
 HIEU 158. Why Hitler? How Auschwitz?
 HIEU 159. Three Centuries of Zionism, 1648–1948
 HIEU 163. Special Topics in Medieval History (when topic covers religion)
 HIEU 171. Special Topics in Twentieth-Century Europe (when topic covers religion)
 HINE 102. The Jews in Their Homeland in Antiquity
 HINE 103. The Jewish Diaspora in Antiquity
 HINE 106S. Apocalyptic Judaism
 HINE 107. Ancient Egypt: History and Culture
 HINE 108. The Middle East Before Islam
 HINE 112A. Great Stories from the Hebrew Bible
 HINE 114. The History of the Islamic Middle East
 HINE 115. Islamic Civilization
 HINE 116. The Middle East in the Age of European Empires (1798–1914)
 HINE 119. U.S. Mid-East Policy Post WWII
 HINE 161. Seminar in the Hebrew Bible

HINE 170. Special Topics in Jewish History
 HINE 181. Problems in the Study of the Hebrew Manuscripts
 HINE 186. Special Topics in Middle Eastern History (when topic covers religion)
 HISC 166. The Galileo Affair
 HITO 102. East Asian Religious Traditions
 HITO 103S. Gnosis and Gnosticism
 HITO 104. Jews and Judaism in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds
 HITO 105. Jews and Judaism in the Modern World
 HITO 106. How Jewish Women Lived in Modern Times
 HITO 115S. Myth, History, and Archaeology
 HIUS 155A/B. Religion and Law in American Society
 JUDA 110. Introduction to Judaism
 LTWL 139. Gnosticism: The Religious Underground from Late Antiquity to the New Age
 LTWL 142. Islam: The Origin and Spread of a World Religion

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

ANSC 100. Special Topics in Socio-Cultural Anthropology (when topic covers religion)
 ANSC 132. Modernity in Brazil
 ANSC 133. Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East
 ANSC 136. Traditional Chinese Society
 ANSC 189. The Anthropology of the End of the World
 ETHN 110. Cultural World Views of Native Americans
 ETHN 189. Special Topics in Ethnic Studies (when topic covers religion)
 HIAF 124. Islam in Contemporary African Societies
 HIEA 119. Religion and Popular Culture in East Asia (SOCB 162R)
 HIEA 120. Classical Chinese Philosophy and Culture
 HIEA 135. History of Thought and Religion in China: Buddhism
 HIEA 137. Women and Family in Chinese History
 HIEU 110. The Rise of Europe
 HIEU 111. Europe in the Middle Ages
 HIEU 125. Reformation Europe
 HIEU 163. Topics in Medieval History
 HINE 118. The Middle East in the Twentieth Century
 HINE 122. Politicization of Religion in Middle East
 HINE 166. Nationalism in the Middle East
 HISC 101B. Medieval Science in the Latin West, ca. 500–1500
 JUDA 111. Topics in Judaism
 LTWL 141. Islam and Modernity
 POLI 110A. Citizens and Saints: Political Thought from Plato to Augustine
 POLI 110B. Sovereign Subjects in the Modern State: Machiavelli to Rousseau
 POLI 110C. Revolution and Reaction: Political Thought from Kant to Nietzsche
 POLI 121. Government and Politics of the Middle East
 POLI 121B. Politics of Israel
 RELI 141. Public Sphere and Religion

RELI 142. Secularization and Religion
 SOCI 154. Religious Institutions in America
 SOCI 157. Religion in Contemporary Society
 SOCI 158. Islam in the Modern World
 SOCI 160. Sociology of Culture
 SOCI 162R. Religion and Popular Culture in East Asia (HIEA 119)
 SOCI 177. International Terrorism
 SOCI 188E. Community and Social Change in Africa
 SOCI 188F. Modern Jewish Societies and Israeli Society
 SOCI 188G. Chinese Society
 SOCI 189. Special Topics in Comparative-Historical Sociology (when topic covers religion)

RELIGION AND LITERATURE

HINE 160. Special Topics in the Bible and Ancient Near East
 JUDA 100. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
 LTEN 118. Milton
 LTEN 125B. First-Generation Romantic Poets: Wordsworth, Rousseau, and Burke
 LTEN 149. Themes in English and American Literature (when topic covers religion)
 LTEU 105. Medieval Studies: Dante
 LTEU 158. Single Author in Russian Literature (when topic covers religion)
 LTGK 120. New Testament Greek
 LTWL 106. The Classical Tradition (when topic covers religion)
 LTWL 129. Wisdom: A Literature of Authority
 LTWL 135. The Buddhist Imaginary
 LTWL 138. Critical Religion Studies
 LTWL 145. South Asian Religious Literature: Selected Topics
 LTWL 147. Readings in Mahayana Buddhism
 LTWL 153. Literature, Religion, and Culture in Iran
 LTWL 158A. Topics in the New Testament
 LTWL 158B. Topics in Early Christian Texts and Cultures
 LTWL 158C. Topics in Other Christianities
 LTWL 172. Special Topics in Literature (when topic covers religion)
 RELI 111. Texts and Contexts: The Holy Book in Judaism and Christianity
 RELI 112. Texts and Contexts: The Holy Book in Islam
 RELI 113. Texts and Contexts: Textual Communities in South Asia

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

HISC 168. The Extraterrestrial Life Question
 PHIL 104. The Rationalists
 PHIL 130. Metaphysics (when topic covers religion)
 PHIL 131. Topics in Metaphysics (when topic covers religion)
 PHIL 185. Philosophy of Religion

RELIGION AND THE ARTS

VIS 117A. Narrative Structures

VIS 120A. Greek Art

VIS 120B. Roman Art

VIS 120C. Late Antique Art

VIS 121B. Castles, Cathedrals, and Cities

**VIS 121D. The Illuminated Manuscript
in the Middle Ages**

VIS 122AN. Renaissance Art

VIS 122D. Michelangelo

**VIS 123AN. Between Spirit and Flesh:
Northern Art of the Early Renaissance**

VIS 124BN. Art & the Enlightenment

**VIS 126BN. The Art and Civilization
of the Ancient Maya**

**VIS 128A. Topics in Pre-Modern Art
History (when topic covers religion)**

**VIS 128B. Topics in Early Modern Art
History (when topic covers religion)**