To study religion in an academic setting is to learn how to think about religion from a critical vantage point. As a critical and comparative discipline, the study of religion provides a powerful set of tools for exploring other cultures and thinking about the world we live in. Students learn to ask pressing questions about the role religion plays in personal experience and human society; about the nature and origin of religion; and about the dynamic interplay among religion and other dimensions of human culture, from biology, sociology, and economy to psychology, politics, and gender.

The study of religion is central to a liberal arts education and provides excellent preparation for a wide range of careers from education, medicine, law, and the arts to social work, ministry, and foreign service. Through the critical study of religion students develop the kinds of critical thinking skills essential for responsible engagement in their community and the larger world. The study of religion is an ideal preparation for entrance into graduate programs in religious studies, theological studies, or seminary training.

The study of religion provides a wonderful complement to other majors and programs at Tufts such as History, Philosophy, Sociology, English and International Relations.

The Department of Religion at Tufts is dedicated to the exploration and critical analysis of religion as a central aspect of human history and culture. Courses seek to promote:

- Awareness of the diversity of religious experience around the globe and throughout history
- Empathetic engagement with the beliefs, texts, and practices of the world’s religions
- Mastery of a range of methods for studying religion
- Reflection on the role religion plays in shaping human customs, values, beliefs, and institutions.


Back Image: Marathi Convention held at the Alliance’s new chapel at Akola. From the Christian and Missionary Alliance, 26 April 1902. Courtesy of the Burke Library, Union Theological Seminary, New York.
### Spring 2012 Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Co-Listed with</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 6</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion</td>
<td>CLST: PHIL 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 22</td>
<td>Introduction to the New Testament</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 40</td>
<td>History of Religion in America</td>
<td>CLST: HIST 31, AMER 194-02</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 44</td>
<td>Introduction to Hinduism</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 144</td>
<td>Tantra</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 152</td>
<td>Islam &amp; Modernity (REL 194-03 - IR seminar level)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 154</td>
<td>Muhammad &amp; the Qur’an</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Independent Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 192-27</td>
<td>Religion, Race &amp; Nation in American History</td>
<td>CLST: HIST 86-03</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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Courses Co-Listed with Religion

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<td>Medieval Architecture</td>
<td>C-LST FAH 25/125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 28/128</td>
<td>Medieval Art in the Mediterranean</td>
<td>C-LST FAH 28/128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 65</td>
<td>Introduction to Yiddish Culture</td>
<td>C-LST JS 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 78</td>
<td>Jewish Women</td>
<td>C-LST JS 78</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 113</td>
<td>Religious and Spiritual Map of Europe, 300-1500</td>
<td>C-LST HIST 152-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 122</td>
<td>Iconoclasm &amp; Iconophobia</td>
<td>C-LST FAH 122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 124</td>
<td>Early Medieval Art</td>
<td>C-LST FAH 124</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 126</td>
<td>Roots of Jewish Imagination</td>
<td>C-LST JS 126</td>
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<td>REL 136</td>
<td>Religion in Japanese History</td>
<td>C-LST HIST 94-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 142</td>
<td>Jewish Experience on Film</td>
<td>C-LST JS 142</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 194-02</td>
<td>Greek Religion</td>
<td>C-LST CLS 183</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Brian Hatcher, Department Chair, Professor, Packard Chair of Theology
Eaton Hall, Room 312 | brian.hatcher@tufts.edu
Hinduism and Religion in Modern South Asia

Joseph Walser, Associate Professor
Eaton Hall, Room 314 | joseph.walser@tufts.edu
Buddhism and Religion in Ancient South Asia

Heather Curtis, Assistant Professor
Eaton Hall, Room 316A | heather.curtis@tufts.edu
History of Christianity and American Religions

Kenneth Garden, Assistant Professor
Eaton Hall, Room 313 | ken.garden@tufts.edu
Islam and Sufism

Peggy Hutaff, Senior Lecturer
Eaton Hall, Room 316B | peggy.hutaff@tufts.edu
Christian Studies

Elizabeth Lemons, Senior Lecturer
Eaton Hall, Room 316B | elizabeth.lemons@tufts.edu
Religion and Culture

Reverend David O’Leary, Senior Lecturer
Eaton Hall, Room 303 | david.oleary@tufts.edu
Catholicism, Theology and Ethics

Rosemary Hicks, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
Center for the Humanities at Tufts | rosemary.hicks@tufts.edu
Islam in the United States
The Religion Major

Ten courses distributed as follows:

• **Foundation Requirement**
  After taking two courses in the department, students must take REL 99 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion.

• **Diversity Requirement (four courses)**
  Students should have exposure to at least four different religions traditions through classes in which four different traditions are taught, or through four courses, each focused on a different religious tradition, or through some combination thereof.

• **Depth Requirement (three courses)**
  Students must choose a religious tradition, the traditions of a geographical region, or a religious textual tradition and take at least three classes in that specialty. One of the three courses must be in the doctrinal (theological or philosophical) aspects of religion and two must be 100-level courses.

• **Two Additional Courses**
  The two courses can be listed or cross-listed within the department.

The Religion Minor

Five courses distributed as follows:

• **Foundation Requirement**
  After taking two courses in the department, students must take REL 99 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion.

• **Diversity Requirement (three courses)**
  Students should have exposure to at least three different religions traditions through classes in which three different traditions are taught, or through three courses, each focused on a different religious tradition, or through some combination thereof.

• **Upper-division Requirement**
  One other course at the 100-level that does not count for any of the above requirements.
This course offers an introduction to the philosophical analysis of major religious issues. We will explore such topics as the nature of religion, religious experience, and ultimate reality, the problem of evil and/or suffering, and the relationship between faith and reason and between religion and science. By exploring different philosophical approaches to the study of religion—including existential, phenomenological, linguistic and comparative, students will develop constructive responses to the variety of ways in which philosophers analyze religious beliefs and practices in diverse world religions. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement.
REL 40  History of Religion in America
Heather Curtis     G+ MW 1:30-2:45 PM
C-LST: AMER 194-02, HIST 31

This course is about religion in America from the arrival of European immigrants in the 16th and 17th centuries to the present. We will study major figures, events and issues that have helped to shape American religious history, while paying particular attention to the ways that social and cultural contexts have influenced religious experience in different times and places. Throughout, we will ask how religion has impacted the history of the United States, and, conversely, how religious traditions have been transformed by American culture. Key topics and themes include encounter and colonization; revivalism and reform; church and state; gender and women’s history; spirituality and devotional life; slavery and race relations; immigration and ethnicity; innovation and secularization; and pluralism and diversity. This course counts toward the Humanities or Social Sciences distribution requirement.

REL 44  Introduction to Hinduism
Brian Hatcher     J+ TR 3:00-4:15 PM

An overview of the Hindu religious tradition, combining historical and textual study with investigation of contemporary practice. Promotes critical reflection on Hindu beliefs, social structures, popular customs, and rituals. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement and the South and Southeast Asian Culture culture option.
REL 53  Introduction to the Religions of China  
Joseph Walser   1 T  9-11:30 AM  
This course will cover the major religious traditions of China. We will trace the development of and interactions between Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism from the Shang dynasty to the present. Emphasis will be placed on the mutual influence between the philosophical, political, literary and economic aspects of each religion. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement, the World Civilization requirement, and the East Asian Culture and Diasporas culture option.

REL 104  Feminist Theologies  
Peggy Hutaaff   H+ TR  1:30-2:45 PM  
“Feminism,” says theologian Judith Plaskow, “is a process of coming to affirm ourselves as women/persons - and seeing that affirmation mirrored in religious and social institutions.” This course will survey the impact which the growth of feminist/womanist consciousness during the last four decades has had on the religious commitments of women, as well as on traditional religious institutions, beliefs, and practices. We will explore new approaches and methods which recent feminist scholarship has brought to the study of ancient religious texts and other historical sources, and will assess how the inclusion of women’s perspectives is challenging, enlarging, and enriching the craft of theology itself. Also to be considered: the rise of new women’s rituals and alternative spiritualities, and the relationship of religious feminism to other struggles for human dignity and liberation. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement.
**REL 106  Contemporary Religious Thought**  
**Elizabeth Lemons  D+ TR 10:30-11:45 AM**

What does the “separation of church and state” mean for the role of religion in U.S. public life? What is the proper relationship between religion and politics? How do religious thinkers address contemporary debates about the war on terrorism, racism, sexism, abortion and homosexuality? Is religion a problem or a resource? This semester “Contemporary Religious Thought” will explore representative positions concerning the relationship of religion and American public life and focusing on the topics of violence and sexuality. Exploring religion as both a problem and a resource in U.S. public life, the course aims to foster students’ capacity to discuss and analyze selected religious/political/social issues. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement.

**REL 144  Tantra**  
**Joseph Walser  10 M 6:30-9:00 PM**

Advanced seminar examining the origins and practices of Tantra as it is practiced in the Himalayan region of Tibet and Nepal and its connections to earlier Indian ritual and alchemical theories. Focus will be on philosophical and socio-political context of sexual yogas and mandala meditations. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement, the World Civilization requirement, and the South and Southeast Asian Culture culture option.

**REL 152/REL 194-03  Islam and Modernity**  
**Ken Garden  I+ MW 3:00-4:15 PM**  
(*REL 194-03=IR seminar level*)

The radical transformation in human societies, economies, institutions, and world-views over the past 200 years known as modernity has posed challenges to all religious traditions. This course will begin with a survey of the major figures and movements in modern Islamic thought from the 19th century to the present and end with a survey of the contemporary religious landscape of Egypt, covering the Muslim Brotherhood, different trends in Salafism, the “new preachers,” and the re-emergence of al-Azhar as an independent institution. This latter section of the course will also consider current events. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement, the World Civilization requirement, and the Middle Eastern Culture and South and Southeast Asian Culture options. Students seeking IR seminar credit please register under REL 194-03.
REL 154  Muhammad and the Qur’an  
Ken Garden    E+ MW 10:30-11:45 AM
Though many think of the Qur’an alone as Muslim Scripture, in fact there is a broad array of sacred writings in the Islamic religious tradition that could be considered scripture, including reports of the saying and deeds of Muhammad, known as hadith, the biography of Muhammad, known as the Sira, and collections of stories about prophets mentioned in the Qur’an who also appear in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, known as Tales of the Prophets. This seminar will consider each of these genres individually, looking at theories of the origins of the Qur’an, Qur’anic exegesis, theories of the origins of hadith and hadith criticism. It will also consider the interaction of these genres, looking at the changes in the presentations of prophets and sacred history as it moves from the Bible to the Qur’an to Tales of the Prophets; the use of Qur’an and hadith in the articulation of Islamic law; and the role of the Sira in providing the narrative of the life of the Prophet Muhammad not found in hadith. Students may not enroll in this class if they have previously received credit for REL 10-15. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement, the World Civilization requirement, and the Middle Eastern Culture option.

REL 191  Independent Study  
Staff    ARR
Register in Eaton 302.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
REL 192-27  Religion, Race & Nation in American History
Heather Curtis / Rosemary Hicks  2  W  9:00-11:30 AM
C-LST: AMER 180-02, HIST 86-03

This course explores how the categories of race, religion and nation have been imagined in light of each other throughout American history. What social, cultural and political circumstances have shaped the meaning of these concepts and the perceived relationships among them in various historical settings? How have religions played a role in structuring, and/or in shifting racial identities and related ideas about American “civilization”? Conversely, in what ways have intersecting notions of race and citizenship influenced the development of American religious traditions, institutions and practices? In analyzing changing formations of nation, religion, and race in the United States, we will also examine how conceptions of citizenship and civilization have been inflected by ideas about class and gender. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement.

REL 196  Religions and International Relations
David O’Leary  10  M  6:30-9:00 PM
An exploration of religion as both a transnational and subnational force in international relations, focused on five of the world’s major faith groups/spiritual paths: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. How a region’s religious traditions and practices play, or should play, a central role understanding a region. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement and the World Civilization requirement.

REL 0199  Senior Honors Thesis
Staff  ARR
Register in Eaton 302. Please see departmental web site for more details.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor