Religion and Culture Program

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The Faculty

Program Coordinator: Michael Plekon

Program Faculty:

- Carla Bellamy (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Thomas Desch-Obi (History)
- Kenneth Guest (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Meir Lubetski (Modern Languages and Comparative Literature)
- Michael Plekon (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Tansen Sen (History)
- Randolph Trumbach (History)

Religion and culture courses are taught by additional faculty from a number of disciplines and departments, including History, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology and Anthropology

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Field Description

Religion is one of the most powerful and complex forces in human history. To study the religions of man from the earliest times to the present and how they have shaped and been shaped by the forces of history (among them, nationalism, war, the challenge of secularism, and technology), Baruch's Religion and Culture Program presents an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religious and cultural histories, doctrines, concepts, and practices.

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The Major

Arts And Sciences Ad Hoc Major In Religion And Culture

When a student's educational objectives cannot be fully attained solely by study within an existing department, program, or school, he or she is given the option of devising an ad hoc pattern of courses in an area of concentration of his or her own choosing. A student may embark upon an ad hoc major following preparation and acceptance of a proposal outlining the area of study, the desired outcomes, and the educational values of the program. The program must be approved by the Office of the Associate Dean,Weissman School of Arts and Sciences.

Students interested in including courses in religion and culture as part of an arts and sciences ad hoc major should contact Professor Michael Plekon, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 646-312-4472; e-mail michael.plekon@baruch.cuny.edu.

The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences ad hoc major requires 30–33 credits.

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The Minor

To complete the religion and culture minor, students are required to take two courses numbered 3000 and higher and REL 4900, the capstone course.

Required Course	
REL 4900	Issues in Religion and Culture
Electives *Choose two courses from the following:*	
REL 3001	World Religious Traditions
REL 3002	The Traditions of Judaism
REL 3003	The Christian Tradition
REL 3008	Religion and Politics in the United States HIS 3008), (POL 3008)
REL 3084	The Historical Search for the Prophet Mohammad (HIS 3084)
REL 3085	Special Topics in Religion and Culture
REL 3094	Mysticism: A Comparative Approach
REL 3100	Jesus—A Historical and Critical Approach (HIS 3100)
REL 3175	The Lives of Hinduism (AAS 3175), (ANT 3175)
REL 3220	Modern Jewish Thought
REL 3310	Christian Thought
REL 3320	Contemporary Christianity
REL 3525	The Hebrew Bible
REL 3530	The Christian New Testament
REL 3531	Religion in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries
REL 3540	The Tradition of Islam (AAS 3540), (ANT 3540), (SOC 3540)
REL 3815	History of African Religions (HIS 3815)
REL 3820	History of Chinese Religion (AAS 3820), (HIS 3820)
REL 3821	South Asian Religion (AAS 3821); (ANT 3821)
REL 4025H	Writers and Their Spiritual Searches: Religious Themes in Contemporary Literature (ANT 4025H), (SOC 4025H)
REL 4050	Religious Worlds of New York (ANT 4050), (SOC 4050)
REL 5000	Independent Study in Religion and Culture
ART 3220	Islamic Art
HEB 3311	History (Ancient) of the Jewish People as Reflected in Literature

HEB 3312	History (Medieval/Modern) of the Jewish People as Reflected in Literature
HEB 4315	Biblical Prose
HEB 4316	Biblical Poetry
HEB 5301	Talmud I
HEB 5302	Talmud II
HEB 5320	Hebrew Philosophical Literature
HIS 3086	The Modern Middle East and North Africa
HIS 3380	Contemporary Islamic World
HIS 3560	History of the Jewish People in America
MSC 3023	Music and Religion
PHI 3130	Christian, Islamic, and Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages
PHI 3210	Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics
PSY 3057	Psychology of Religion
SOC 3141	Sociology of Religion
SOC 3113	Cultures and Peoples of India (ANT 3113)
SOC 3165	Magic, Witchcraft and Religion (ANT 3165)

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Courses

Courses in Religion (REL)

REL 2155	Philosophies from India	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 2165	Classical Buddhism	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3001	World Religious Traditions	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3002	Traditions of Judaism	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3003	The Christian Tradition	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3008	Religion And Politics In The United States (HIS 3008), (POL 3008)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3084	The Historical Search for the Prophet Mohammad (HIS 3084)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3085	Special Topics in Religion and Culture	3 hours; 3 credits

REL 3094	Mysticism: A Comparative Approach	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3100	Jesus - An Historical and Critical Approach (HIS 3100)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3175	The Lives of Hinduism	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3220	Modern Jewish Thought	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3320	Contemporary Christianity	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3525	The Hebrew Bible	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3530	The Christian New Testament	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3531	Religion in the 20th and 21st Centuries	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3540	The Tradition of Islam (AAS 3540), (ANT 3540), (SOC 3540)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3815	History of African Religions (HIS 3815)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3820	History of Chinese Religion (AAS 3820), HIS 3820)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 3821	South Asian Religion (AAS 3821), ANT 3821)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 4025H	Writers and Their Spiritual Searches: Religious Themes in Contemporary Literature (ANT 4025H), (SOC 4025H)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 4050	Religious Worlds of New York (ANT 4050), (SOC 4050)	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 4900	Issues in Religion and Culture	3 hours; 3 credits
REL 5000	Independent Study I	hours and credits to be arranged
REL 5001	Independent Study II	hours and credits to be arranged
REL 5002	Independent Study III	hours and credits to be arranged
REL 5003	Independent Study IV	hours and credits to be arranged
REL 5050	Senior Seminar	3 hours; 3 credits

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