

# Religious Studies

The Religious Studies discipline focuses on the analysis and comparison of religious traditions using methods from a variety of disciplines. Students take religious studies courses to prepare for the major or to fulfill general education requirements in humanities or ethnic studies.

With a bachelor's degree in religious studies, students pursue careers in law, business, public and political service, and education. A religious studies major also prepares students for graduate studies in the discipline and for professional seminary and divinity school.

## Academic and Career Pathway

Social and Behavioral Sciences (<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/>)

## Contact Information

**Chair:** Jeffrey Murico  
**Dean:** Lauren Halsted  
<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/religious-studies/index.html>  
[\(https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/religious-studies/\)](https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/religious-studies/)

**Department:** Philosophy and Religious Studies  
**Office:** Building OC3600, 760.795.6844

## Full-Time Faculty

Jeffrey Murico

## Courses

### RELG 101: World Religions

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limitation: Not open to students with prior credit in RELG 101H.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course introduces students to the religious studies discipline. It provides an overview of the history, beliefs, and practices of a diversity of ethnic and religious groups from both Eastern and Western hemispheres, including Indigenous traditions of North America, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. It explores the differences and similarities of the central tenets in the world's major religions and analyzes the close relationship among religion, society, and culture/ethnic groups. It evaluates multidisciplinary methodological approaches to the study of religion and religions. UC CREDIT LIMITATION: Credit for RELG 101 or RELG 101H.

### RELG 101H: World Religions (Honors)

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limitation: Not open to students with prior credit in RELG 101.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall odd years

This honors course encourages students to engage the discipline of religious studies through the lens of world religions. It asks students to critically investigate the ethnic, historical, theological, and ritualistic aspects of various contemporary religious traditions, including Indigenous traditions of North America, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Additionally, students evaluate a variety of multidisciplinary methodological approaches to the study of religion and religions in order to evaluate the intersectional relationship among religion, ethnicity, society, and culture. UC CREDIT LIMITATION: Credit for RELG 101 or RELG 101H.

### RELG 103: Religion in America

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course focuses on the interaction between religion(s), culture, ethnicity, and society in the United States, beginning with the pre-Columbian ethnically indigenous traditions of North America and ending with an overview of the diversity of the contemporary American religious landscape. Students explore broad social movements, particular historical developments, theological responses, and the ongoing relationship between religion and politics in the US. Topics include uniquely American religions (e.g., Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness, Scientology), American religious movements (e.g., Great Awakening, Social Gospel Movement, Religious Right), and shifting religious tensions due to various social and political events.

### RELG 105: Eastern Religions

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course provides an interdisciplinary overview of East and South Asian religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Sikhism. It emphasizes the different religions' philosophical foundations and their practical application in Asian societies.

## Religious Studies

### **RELG 292: Internship Studies**

Units: 0.5-14

Prerequisites: None

Corequisite: Complete 54 hours of work per unit, paid or unpaid.

Enrollment Limitation: Instructor, dept chair, and Career Center approval. Fourteen unit maximum in any combination of work experience education and/or internship studies per semester.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course provides students the opportunity to apply the theories and techniques of their discipline in an internship position in a professional setting under the instruction of a faculty-mentor and site supervisor. It introduces students to aspects of the roles and responsibilities of professionals employed in the field of study. Topics include goal-setting, employability skills development, and examination of the world of work as it relates to the student's career plans. Students must develop new learning objectives and/or work/intern at a new site upon each enrollment.

### **RELG 296: Topics in Religious Studies**

Units: 1-3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU

Lecture 1 hour.

Lecture 2 hours.

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: To be arranged

This course gives students an opportunity to study topics in Religious Studies that are not included in regular course offerings. Each Topics course is announced, described, and given its own title and 296 number designation in the class schedule.