RLS

Religious Studies

RLS 101-B Western Religions
An historical introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Attention is given to the cultural background, art, literature, philosophy, and institutional development of each tradition. 3 credits

RLS 102-B Eastern Religions
An historical introduction to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Attention is given to the cultural background, art, literature, philosophy, and institutional development of each tradition. This course is offered as both AAS 102 and RLS 102. 3 credits

RLS 230-G Judaism
A survey of the great texts of the Judaic heritage, with the aim of learning the contribution of each to the Jewish tradition. The course includes an examination of characteristic Jewish beliefs, practices, and attitudes. This course is offered as both JDH 230 and RLS 230. 3 credits

RLS 240-J Confucianism and Taoism
An introduction to the basic philosophies and doctrines of Confucianism and Taoism, such as the concept of Tao, non-action, benevolence, and propriety. The course explores both the similarities and the differences between these two traditions. This course is offered as both AAS 240 and RLS 240. 3 credits

RLS 246-J Korean and Japanese Religions
An introduction to Korean and Japanese religious history from earliest recorded periods to the 19th century. Emphasis is given to Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Korean Shamanism, and Japanese Shintoism. Relationships between the Korean variant of religious traditions and those of China and Japan are also investigated. Crosslisted with AAS 246. 3 credits

RLS 256-J Hinduism
Survey of the principal religious and philosophical currents of Hindu civilization in India from the time of the Vedas and Upanishads through the development of the major devotional ways and schools of thought current in India today. These include the polytheism of Hindu mythology, the theism of various forms of devotional practice, and the monotheism and nontheism of Hindu philosophy. This course is offered as both AAS 256 and RLS 256. 3 credits

RLS 260-J Buddhism
An introduction to the basic philosophy and doctrines of Buddhism, beginning with a survey of lives and works of major historical figures of Buddhism. The principal issues of Buddhist thought, drawing from Indian, East Asian, and Western sources, are treated. Particular attention is paid to the meaning of faith, practice, and enlightenment in Buddhism. This course is offered as both AAS 260 and RLS 260. 3 credits

RLS 270-I Christianity
A critical introduction to the scripture, tradition, history, and religious practices and beliefs of Christianity as one of the central factors in the shaping of European culture. 3 credits

RLS 280-J Islam
An introduction to the main features of Islamic revelation as contained in the Qur'an; its impact on the major intellectual, legal, and social institutions of the world it subsequently shaped; schism in the form of the Shi'ite sects; Sufism. The course concludes with an examination of Islam in the modern world. This course is offered as both AAS 280 and RLS 280. 3 credits

RLS 301-G Sources and Methods
An in-depth inquiry into the application of critical, historical, and philosophical methods to religious texts and experiences. An introduction to the resources and limitations of academic study of religion. Prerequisite: any 200-level or higher RLS course 3 credits

RLS 310-G Biblical Theology
Intensive introduction to the theological tendencies and implications of selected major texts from the Christian and Jewish scriptures. The course surveys historical and critical work on the selected texts, but focuses on the religious thinking reflected in them and their influence on later traditions. May be repeated once for credit as the topic changes. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: Varies according to topic 3 credits

RLS 320-G The Rhabbinitic Tradition
The origin and development of the Rhabbinitic tradition, examination of the chief elements of Rhabbinitic teaching at various times, and analysis of the major types of Rhabbinitic literature. This course is offered as both JDH 320 and RLS 320.
Prerequisite: JDS/HIS 225 or 226 or JDH/RLS 230 3 credits

RLS 366-G Feminine Spirituality
The role and destiny of woman as envisioned by the world's great religions. The course discusses both the concepts of femininity as a principle in theology, metaphysics, and cosmology, and the theoretical and practical place of woman in society. Topics include woman's responsibilities and rights; woman and religious law; her relation to man and to the masculine principle; her role in symbolism, mythology, and literature; and her path of spiritual development. Previously offered as RLS 426, this course is now offered as RLS 366. Not for credit in addition to the former RLS 426.
Prerequisite: any 200-level or higher RLS course 3 credits

RLS 367-J Meditation and Enlightenment
A critical analysis of the traditions, practices, and literature of Zen and other traditions of Buddhism, with particular attention paid to the meaning of enlightenment and the practice of meditation. Previously offered as RLS 341, this course is now offered as both AAS 367 and RLS 367. Not for credit in addition to the former RLS 341.
Prerequisite: any 200-level or higher RLS course 3 credits

RLS 380-G Islamic Classics
A study in depth of Islamic texts in translation. Selections may be made from the Qur'an, the Hadith, the Law, and from one or more of the major intellectual schools, such as Kalam (scholastic theology), Peripatetic philosophy, illuminationist theosophy, Sufism, and the “transcendent theosophy” of the School of Isfahan. May be repeated as the topic changes. Previously offered as RLS 408, this course is now offered as both AAS 380 and RLS 380.
Prerequisite: AAS/RLS 260 3 credits

RLS 382-G Japanese Buddhism
An introduction to the teachings and practices of the three major schools of Japanese Buddhism: Esoteric Buddhism, Zen, and Pure Land. The course focuses on the writings of the founders of the important lineages within these schools. Formerly offered as RLS 406, this course is now offered as both AAS 382 and RLS 382.
Not for credit in addition to the former RLS 406. Prerequisite: AAS/RLS 280 3 credits

RLS 390-G Special Topics
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. Past topics have included Philosophical Mysticism; Religion and Science; and Islam and Confucianism. Seminar supplemented to this Bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic within humanities disciplines such as music, art, literature, religion, and philosophy. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods used in the humanities discipline(s) studied. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category B 3 credits

RLS 391-G Special Topics
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. Past topics have included Philosophical Mysticism; Religion and Science; and Islam and Confucianism. Seminar supplements to this Bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic within humanities disciplines such as music, art, literature, religion, and philosophy. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods used in the humanities discipline(s) studied. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category B 3 credits

RLS 400 Religious Studies Seminar
A seminar for senior majors in religious studies, focusing on the problem of the relation between phenomenology, hermeneutics, and history of religions on the one hand and their theological and philosophic interpretation on the other.
Prerequisite: Permission of the director of undergraduate studies 3 credits

RLS 415-G Judaic Response to Catastrophe
The response of Judaic thinkers, from the Bible to the Second World War, to the problem of historical disaster and the need to understand and respond to it. Particular attention is given to the question of long-term continuity and the appearance of innovation in such responses. This course is offered as both JDH 415 and RLS 415.
Prerequisite: JDS/HIS 225 or 226 or JDH/RLS 230 3 credits

RLS 447 Readings in Religious Studies
Directed readings with religious studies faculty, limited to religious studies majors or upper-division students working on advanced problems in religious studies. May be repeated.
Prerequisite: Permission of program coordinator 1-6 credits
RLS 475 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum

Students assist instructors in religious studies courses with large enrollments. Under the supervision of the course instructor, they are responsible for conducting discussion and review sections of the course and helping students with course readings and assignments such as research papers. 

Prerequisite: U4 standing in religious studies major; permission of instructor and program director

3 credits, S/U grading

RLS 495, 496 Senior Honors Project

First course of a two-semester project for RLS majors who are candidates for the degree with honors. Arranged with the program during the student’s junior year, the project involves independent study and the writing of a paper under close supervision of an appropriate faculty member, on a topic chosen by the student. Students receive only one grade upon completion of the sequence.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and program director

3 credits per course

RUS

Russian Language and Literature

RUS 101 Intensive Elementary Russian

An intensive course covering the elementary Russian program (RUS 111, 112) in one semester. RUS 101 is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of the language. A student who has had two or more years of Russian in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take this course without written permission from the supervisor of the course. May not be taken for credit after any other course in Russian.

6 credits

RUS 111 Elementary Russian I

An introduction to Russian. Class work is supplement ed by practice in the language laboratory. The course is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of the language. A student who has had two or more years of Russian in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take this course without written permission from the supervisor of the course.

4 credits

RUS 112 Elementary Russian II

An introduction to Russian. Class work is supplemented by practice in the language laboratory.

Prerequisite: RUS 111

4 credits

RUS 211 Intermediate Russian I

Intermediate courses in Russian stressing an active command of the language. May not be taken for credit in addition to RUS 213.

Prerequisite: RUS 112

3 credits

RUS 212 Intermediate Russian II

Intermediate courses in Russian stressing an active command of the language. May not be taken for credit in addition to RUS 213.

Prerequisite: RUS 211

3 credits

RUS 213 Intermediate Russian for Students of Russian-Speaking Background

A course intended for students who already speak Russian and who need training in writing, reading, and grammar. May not be taken for credit in addition to RUS 211 or 212. The course is not intended for students who have the equivalent of a Russian high school education.

Prerequisite: Native-speaking proficiency in Russian

3 credits

RUS 311 Russian Conversation and Composition

A course in the active use of spoken and written Russian. Particular emphasis is placed on contemporary idiom.

Prerequisites: RUS 212 or 213; permission of instructor required for students of Russian-speaking background

3 credits

RUS 312 Russian Conversation and Composition

A course in the active use of spoken and written Russian. Particular emphasis is placed on contemporary idiom.

Prerequisites: RUS 212 or 213; permission of instructor required for students of Russian-speaking background

3 credits

RUS 323-G Russian Literary Texts

A survey of representative texts chosen from various periods of Russian literature. Intended to improve the students’ command of the literary language; readings and discussions are in Russian.

Prerequisite: RUS 312 or equivalent proficiency in Russian

3 credits

RUS 331 Russian Online

The study of Russian Language and culture past the intermediate level through the use of internet resources. Intended to develop contemporary cultural literacy through online research, readings in online media and texts, writing essays and blogs in Russian.

Note: this course is offered online and is intended for students of Russian-speaking background.

Prerequisites: RUS 212 and 213, or equivalent

3 credits

RUS 332 Professional Russian Online

Intended as an opportunity for students to use class time to research literature written for Russian pertaining to their majors. The course is taught online in Russian and makes use of internet resources for research, reading and writing tasks. An in-person presentation at the end of the semester is required. The primary goals are the enrichment of professional vocabulary and development of advanced reading and writing proficiency in the student’s major field of study. Particularly recommended for students of Russian-speaking background.

Prerequisites: RUS 212 and 213, or equivalent

3 credits

RUS 347 Directed Readings in Russian

A program of independent advanced study for qualified juniors and seniors under the supervision of a faculty member.

Prerequisites: RUS 311, 312 or equivalent proficiency in Russian; a 200- or 400-level course in Russian literature; permission of instructor and department

1-3 credits

RUS 475 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in Russian I

Each student conducts a regular problem or tutorial section that supplements a regular language course under the guidance of a master teacher. Responsibilities may include preparing material for discussion and helping students with problems. Not for major or minor credit.

Prerequisites: Fluency in Russian; permission of instructor and department

3 credits, S/U grading

RUS 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in Russian II

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member’s regularly scheduled classes. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously served.

Prerequisites: Fluency in Russian; permission of instructor and department

3 credits, S/U grading

RUS 491-G Special Author

A detailed study of the works of a major 19th- or 20th-century author, such as Pushkin, Gogol, Turgeniev, or Blok. Readings are in Russian, and classes are conducted largely in Russian. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisites: HUR 141, 142; RUS 312 or equivalent proficiency in Russian

3 credits

RUS 492-G Special Genre or Period

A detailed study of a special genre such as the Russian novel or Russian drama, or period such as Soviet literature. Readings are in Russian, and classes are conducted largely in Russian. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisites: HUR 141, 142; RUS 312 or equivalent proficiency in Russian

3 credits

SBU

Stony Brook University

SBU 101 Introduction to Stony Brook

A seminar intended to integrate first-year students into the University community by providing information about Stony Brook and a forum for discussion of values, intellectual and social development, and personal as well as institutional expectations. Required for all first-year students. Not for credit in addition to ACH 101, LDS 101, GLS 101, HDV 101, ITS 101, SSO 101, LHD 101, and LSE 101.

Prerequisite: First-semester freshman or transfer student, according to section

1 credit, S/U grading

SBU 300 Global Issues

Global issues involving international politics, sociology, and economics. The course addresses topics and regions that are currently of global importance, each class session focusing on a particular issue presented by an expert and coordinated by the instructor. Meeting times may be variable. May be repeated as the topic changes.

1 credit, S/U grading

www.stonybrook.edu/ugbulletin 449