RELGIOUS STUDIES - RST

RST 101 Introduction to Religious Studies and Theology  
An academic introduction to the nature and role of religion in human life and society, including the Jesuit and Catholic traditions as well as other world religions. 
Offered: fall & spring.

RST 150 Exploring Your Spirituality: Discovering Your Personal Relationship with God  
The course is intended to help students establish and/or re-kindled a sense of spirituality in their lives. Through the course, students will develop an understanding of their personal spirituality and unique relationship with God. 
Corequisite: none.
Offered: occasionally.

RST 200 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible  
Introduction to the literature of the Hebrew Bible within its ancient Near Eastern setting. Particular attention paid to historical, literary, cultural, and theological questions. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

RST 201 Introduction to the New Testament  
Introduction to the literature of the New Testament, the socio-historical context that produced it, and its use as a historical source for the study of the early Christian movement. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

RST 219 History of Eastern Orthodox Christianity  
Historical study of Eastern Christian Churches. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

RST 220 Introduction to Eastern Religions  
This survey course will introduce students to the range and complexity of some of the religious traditions associated with South, Southeast and East Asia. Students will encounter a wide variety of primary and secondary sources describing these religious traditions and experiences, including sacred texts, mythology, medieval devotional poetry, and more. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

RST 221 Native American Religions  
The nature of indigenous religions in Native American societies and the effect of cultural change through contact with other cultures. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

RST 224 Islam: Tradition and Revival  
In this course, after an introduction to the foundations of Islam, we will investigate this diversity through the study of Islamic scriptures, Muslim cultures, social institutions, religious practices, and Muslim and Western writings about them in order to better understand Islam and Muslims in the U.S. and throughout the world. Also accepted for Anthropology major and minor credit. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology), Global Awareness
Offered: occasionally.

RST 229 Religious Perspectives on Animals  
This course will focus on the historical and cultural relationship between the world’s religions and the animal realm. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

RST 230 Catholic Belief Today  
Based on the Creed, this course examines the fundamental articles of faith. They include faith itself, the Bible, church tradition; the one God as Trinity, revealed in Jesus, and present through the Holy Spirit; the church as a structured and prayerful community, with seven sacraments. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Advanced Writing-Intensive, Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

RST 231 Introduction to Catholic Studies  
Major movements and personalities in Catholic theology, history, culture, and spirituality. How the Catholic church came to be what it is today. The Catholic world-view and its relation to modern society. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Advanced Writing-Intensive, Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

RST 234 Women, Gender, and Religion: Judaism, Christianity, Islam  
This course examines the role of sacred texts and their interpretation in defining both women’s roles and their status as “women,” particularly in terms of their bodies, in three related religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Emphasis will be placed on contemporary women’s re-interpretation and formation of positive female expressions of religious identity over and against patriarchal traditions and practices. 
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Diversity, Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.
RST 314 New Testament in Literature and Art
3 Credits
Inquiry into Catholic theological moral theories and exploration of several
episcopal documents with contemporary applications.
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

RST 340 Moral Issues Today
3 Credits
Study of the principles of Catholic Social Teachings articulated in papal and
episcopal documents with contemporary applications.
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
Offered: occasionally.

RST 355 The Problem of Suffering
3 Credits
Study of the origins and development of Liberation Theology in Latin
America and the ways in which it evolved among other racial, ethnic, and
gender groups in the United States and elsewhere. Special attention to
issues of ethics and social justice.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: occasionally.

RST 360 Magic, Science and Religion
3 Credits
Study of the history, ideas, ideals, and practices about marriage. Relevant questions
from perspectives of justice, ethics, diversity, and global awareness.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: occasionally.

RST 364 Advanced Writing-Intensive, Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology)
3 Credits
Study of the principles of Catholic Social Teachings articulated in papal and
episcopal documents with contemporary applications.
Prerequisite: RST 101.
Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology), Oral
Communication
Offered: occasionally.

RST 400 Religious Studies and Theology Seminar
3 Credits
A seminar for RST majors and minors. This class is an advanced level
seminar that will focus on some of the most influential theoretical and
methodological approaches in the field.
Prerequisite: RST 101. Restriction: must be a religious studies and theology
major or minor or obtain permission of the instructor.
Offered: occasionally.

RST 433 Religion and Art
3 Credits
Exploration of religious diversity in Buffalo, the United States, and the world.
May include visits to congregations to observe worship and interviews to
learn about religious beliefs, practices, and experiences of interactions with
other religious communities.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone
Offered: occasionally.

RST 489 Projects for Majors
3 Credits
Concentrated investigation of a topic of particular interest to the student,
under supervision of faculty advisor.
Prerequisite: RST 101 & departmental approval. Restriction: must be a
religious studies and theology major or minor or obtain permission of the
instructor.
Offered: fall & spring.
RST 496 Internship 3 Credits
Combination of teaching or religious work with special readings and theological reflection, under the guidance of department faculty. Internships require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: RST 101 & permission of both the department chair & associate dean. Restriction: must be a religious studies and theology major or minor or obtain permission of the instructor.
Offered: fall & spring.

RST 499 Independent Study 1-3 Credits
Independent studies allow in-depth study of a specific topic and are most often reserved for seniors who cannot otherwise fulfill a graduation requirement. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, department chair, & associate dean.