

Study of Religion (STRELIG)

Courses

STRELIG 200 Methods in the Study of Religion 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

STRELIG 200 is an introduction to methodological best practices in the Study of Religion from the perspectives of different fields. It is made up of multiple modules that combine the study of primary sources with exemplary methodological approaches. These approaches include but are not limited to: anthropological theories of religion and society, historical genealogies of categories of religion and the secular, theology and Church history, sociological approaches to issues like religious organization and conflict, religion and science, religious literature and Biblical hermeneutics, as well as particular religious histories.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture per week

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Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Study of Religion/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

STRELIG 201 Histories of the Study of Religion 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

STRELIG201 is an introduction to the history and development of the field of "Religious Studies" as an intellectual space for the study of a sometimes historicized, sometimes naturalized phenomenon called "religion." Since the narration of any history of the study of religion serves to circumscribing a particular set of phenomena as "religious," this course does not isolate a canonical history of the field. Instead, it progresses in roughly diachronic manner, through a number of thematic threads representing the development of different domains of the study of religion.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 1-2 hours of lecture and 2-1 hours of discussion per week

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Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Study of Religion/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

STRELIG 202 Local Approaches to the Study of Religion 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

STRELIG202 is a required course in the Designated Emphasis in the Study of Religion, intended to create a space for students to reflect on the issues involved in the application of critical and theoretical approaches. Looking closely at a case study of the application of both of these kinds of approaches to a particular subfield prepares the student for the methodological challenges of applying the term "religion" in their own field. STRELIG202 asks students to consider the opportunities and benefits of two approaches to the beliefs and practices connected with a particular set of traditions: first, as studied in their historical and cultural specificity, versus second, as described as the instantiation of a universal religious phenomenon.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: It is recommended, but not required, that students take STRELIG 200 and STRELIG 201 prior to STRELIG 202

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 1-2 hours of lecture and 2-1 hours of discussion per week

15 weeks - 1-2 hours of lecture and 2-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Study of Religion/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

STRELIG 203 Study of Religion Elective 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Study of Religion electives are taught by core and affiliated faculty in the Graduate Group in the Study of Religion and Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion and offer important treatments of materials significant to the program's course of study in the history, development, methods, and theories of the study of religion. In a typical DESR elective, materials are presented through anthropological, historical, philosophical, political, rhetorical, sociological, or other disciplinary lens that constitutes the course's primary materials for study and inquiry. Students in the Designated Emphasis in the Study of Religion are required to complete one elective from a wide selection of cross-listed courses offered each year.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 1-2 hours of seminar and 2-1 hours of discussion per week

15 weeks - 2-1 hours of seminar and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Study of Religion/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.