

## REL 101: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, & ISLAM

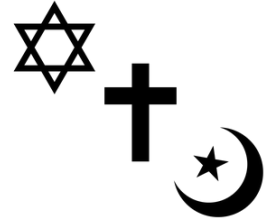
Sections W01 & M01

Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 – 12:15 PM, Virtual Classroom

*Instructor:* Dr. Ryan T. O’Leary

*Email:* roleary@uwsp.edu

*Zoom Office Hours:* 1:00 – 3:00 PM Monday and Wednesday



**Description:** The history of the sibling faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam spans four thousand years and practitioners can be found across the globe. We will trace the historical development of monotheism from the ancient world to the twenty-first century, with a focus on the complex interplay between text, culture, faith, and practice.

**Content-Related Learning Objectives:** By taking this course, students will:

1. Be able to identify, describe, and interpret important people, texts, and doctrines in the foundation and development of Western monotheism.
2. Be able to explain key similarities and differences between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as well as similarities and differences between diverse forms of each tradition.
3. Begin to communicate with peers from different backgrounds and cultures—both in class and online—about perennial questions concerning the human condition.

**Skills-Related Learning Objectives:** By taking this course, students will have opportunities to:

1. Improve your writing by composing thoughtful and properly documented "Religion in the News" essays about topics relevant to both history and current events.
2. Develop your communication skills by considering and responding to a variety of different ideas, beliefs, or values held by your peers.
3. Expand your awareness of your own beliefs, especially where your values or expectations may or not be shared by others, sometimes even between varieties of similar faith or culture.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are encouraged to attend synchronously during the virtual class sessions but may view lessons asynchronously if they are unable to attend during the posted class times.

**Late Work Policy:** Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 1 point per day the assignment is late deducted from any points the assignment earns.

## READING LIST

### **Text Rental**

Jeffrey Brodd, et al, *Invitation to Western Religions*

### **Electronic Reserve on Canvas**

*Selections from the Hebrew Bible*

- Genesis 1 – 17
- Exodus chapters 1 – 3 and 19 - 22
- Isaiah 1 – 6
- Ezekiel 1 – 5 and 33 – 37

*Selections from the New Testament*

- The Gospel of Mark
- Acts 1 – 9

*Selections from the Quran*

- Surah 1, "Opening"
- Surah 2, "The Cow"

Bart D. Ehrman, "The Beginnings of Christian Scripture"

Richard S. Westfall, "The scientific revolution of the seventeenth century: the construction of a new world view"

### **Films Available Through UWSP Library Online Access via Films on Demand**

*Inside the Koran*

*Inside Mecca*

*A Life Apart: Hasidism in America*

*Sex and the Wailing Wall: The Battle of the Sexes at the Holiest of Sites*

*Waiting for Armageddon: The Evangelical Community and Biblical Prophecy*

## EVALUATION & GRADING

Students will be graded according to a standard 100-point distribution, based on points earned, minus points lost for excessive absences.

97 - 100 = A+	87 - 89 = B+	77 - 79 = C+	67 - 69 = D+	0 - 59 = F
93 - 96 = A	83 - 86 = B	73 - 76 = C	63 - 66 = D	
90 - 92 = A-	80 - 82 = B-	70 - 72 = C-	60 - 62 = D-	

**Exams:** there will be two multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank exams during the semester: a midterm exam and a final exam. You will be asked to identify important people, texts, and doctrines in the foundation and development of Western monotheism, and to show that you understand their roles in the relevant traditions. Each exam will be open-book and cumulative, and each will be worth 20 points.

*Total: 40 points*

**Discussion Boards:** Online discussions will supplement in-class discussions by providing a space to consider important people, texts, and doctrines encountered throughout the course, to consider similarities and differences between diverse varieties of Western Monotheism, all in communication with peers from diverse backgrounds and cultures. The instructor will open several discussion threads during the semester; students also have the option of starting threads.

- Each week marked “Discuss Online” in the course schedule, you should do one of three things. Either (a) post a formal and thoughtful answer to one discussion thread prompt; (b) reply to at least two of your classmates’ posts or replies; or (c) begin a new thread with a prompt designed to engage your peers in thoughtful discussion of a topic related to the course material.
- Each post or new prompt will be worth up to 4 points; each response will be worth up to 2 points. Posts will be graded based on engagement with readings, comprehension, and application of important ideas. Replies and new discussion prompts will be graded on how well they move a conversation forward or spark new avenues of thought.

*Total: 40 Points*

**Religion in the News:** Twice throughout the semester, instead of posting on a discussion board, you will use the newspaper databases available through the UWSP Library to research religion in the news today. In your writing, bring together three or more articles from reliable news sources which deal with any one issue having to do with religion in today’s world. You may research Judaism, Christianity, Islam, or any of the three in relation. Write a unified summary of the news articles, including an analysis of the issue discussed in them. Give proper citations using the MLA Style Guide. Each essay will be worth 10 points.

*Total: 20 Points*

## REL 101 COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1: January 25 – 29

Wednesday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “What Religions Do,” and “Dimensions of Religions,” pages 10 – 21

### PART ONE: ANCIENT ORIGINS & MEDIEVAL CONTACTS

### Week 2: February 1 – 5

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Judaism,” and “The Teachings of Judaism,” pages 119 – 128

Wednesday: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Genesis chapters 1 – 17

Discuss Online #1 due Wednesday before class

### Week 3: February 8 – 12

Monday: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Exodus chapters 1 – 3 and 19 - 22

Wednesday: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Isaiah chapters 1 – 6
- ✓ Ezekiel chapters 1 – 5 and 33 – 37

Discuss Online #2 due Wednesday before class

### Week 4: February 15 – 19

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “The History of Judaism” (read through “The Conflict between Judaism and Christianity”), pages 128 – 137

Wednesday: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ The Gospel of Mark
- ✓ Acts chapters 1 – 9

Discuss Online #3 due Wednesday before class

**Week 5: February 22 – 26**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Christianity,” pages 177 – 179
- ✓ From “Paul and the Mission to the Gentiles” through “Christianity and Other Religions,” pages 184 – 197

Wednesday: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Bart D. Ehrman, “The Beginnings of Christian Scripture”

Discuss Online #4 due Wednesday before class

**Week 6: March 1 – 5**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “The History of Christianity, pages 197 – 209

Wednesday: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Quran, surahs 1- 2

Discuss Online #5 due Wednesday before class

**Week 7: March 8 – 12**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Islam,” and “The Teachings of Islam,” pages 235 – 254

Wednesday: Film

- ✓ *Inside the Koran*

Discuss Online #6 due Wednesday before class

**Week 8: March 15 – 19**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “The History of Islam” (read through “Later Islamic Empires”), pages 254 – 262

Wednesday: No Reading

Religion in the News #1 due Wednesday before class

**Week 9: March 22 – 26 (Spring Break)**

**Week 10: March 29 – April 2**

Monday: Study and Review

Wednesday: First Exam

First Exam Wednesday, March 25

PART TWO: MODERN CHALLENGES

**Week 11: April 5 – 9**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Religions in the Modern World” and “An Academic Approach to the Study of Religions,” pages 21 – 27

Wednesday: Required Reading from Canvas

- ✓ Richard S. Westfall, "The scientific revolution of the seventeenth century: the construction of a new world view"

Discuss Online #7 due Wednesday before class

**Week 12: April 12 – 16**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ Read from “The Modern Era” through “Women and Judaism,” pages 142 – 152

Wednesday: Film

- ✓ *Sex and the Wailing Wall*

Discuss Online #8 due Wednesday before class

**Week 13: April 19 – 23**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Judaism as a Way of Life,” (read through “Shavuot”), pages 152 – 158
- ✓ “The Sabbath,” pages 160 – 161
- ✓ “Life Cycle Events,” “Other Sacred Practices,” and “Conclusion,” pages 161 – 171

Wednesday: Film

- ✓ *A Life Apart: Hasidism in America*

Discuss Online #9 due Wednesday before class

**Week 14: April 26 – 30**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “Christianity in the Modern World,” pages 209 – 218
- ✓ “Christianity as a Way of Life” and “Conclusion,” pages 218 – 229

Wednesday: Film

- ✓ Waiting for Armageddon: The Evangelical Community and Biblical Prophecy

Discuss Online #10 due Wednesday before class

**Week 15: May 3 – 7**

Monday: Invitation to Western Religions

- ✓ “New Religious Movements” and “What is ‘New’ About New Religious Movements?” pages 291 – 293
- ✓ “Alternative Christianities and their Offshoots,” pages 298 – 309
- ✓ “The New Atheism” and “Conclusion,” pages 325 – 329

Wednesday: No Reading

Religion in the News #2 due Wednesday before class

**Week 16: May 10 – 14**

Monday: Film

- ✓ *Intelligent Design vs. Evolution*

Wednesday: Study and Review

**Final Exam**

Final Exam: 12:30 – 2:30 PM, Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

## CONCERNS & RESOURCES

### Academic Concerns

Being a Pointer means going to class regularly, doing your work outside of class, and asking for help if there are questions or concerns.

**Academic Misconduct:** Copying off someone's test, plagiarism, claiming credit for work that is not yours, and all other forms of academic misconduct are not tolerated at UW-Stevens Point. If a student is confused about what exactly academic misconduct is, there is information available regarding rules and procedures for the [process](#). You can also visit with your faculty or learn how to cite the work of others at the [Writing Lab](#).

**Academic Success:** Your full-time job at UW-Stevens Point is *to be a student*. Being successful depend a lot on how much effort and time you invest. It also asking questions or finding support if you feel lost. We have an amazing [Tutoring-Learning Center](#) if you want to learn how to be a better student or need subject-specific help.

**Disability Services:** UW-Stevens Point is committed to supporting students with disabilities the academic and other accommodations, plus the auxiliary aids necessary to ensure your success. To learn more, check out their [site](#) or visit them in Albertson Hall, room 609 (library building).

### Other Concerns and Resources

Responding to student concerns with care, concern, and resources is critical in supporting the success of our students and campus community. Here is a brief list of helpful resources.

#### **Absence from Class**

Contact faculty directly or if a crisis/emergency  
Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### **Academic Difficulty**

Academic & Career Advising Center  
715-346-3226, [uwsp.edu/acac](http://uwsp.edu/acac)

Disability Services & Assistive Technology  
715-346-3365, [uwsp.edu/dtac](http://uwsp.edu/dtac)

Tutoring-Learning Center  
715-346-3568, [uwsp.edu/tlc](http://uwsp.edu/tlc)

Students should visit with faculty of the course in which they are having trouble.

#### **Add/drop Class; Withdrawal Questions**

Office of the Registrar  
715-346-4301 [uwsp.edu/registrar](http://uwsp.edu/registrar)

Students should visit with their Academic Advisor.

#### **Academic Misconduct**

Faculty for the specific course or Office of the Dean of Students to discuss process  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### **Alcohol or Drug Use**

Center for Prevention

715-346-3121, [uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv](http://uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv)

#### **Bias or Hate Incidents**

Office of the Dean of Students to report  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

Diversity and College Access  
715-346-4076, [uwsp.edu/dca](http://uwsp.edu/dca)

#### **Concerning Behavior**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### **Employment**

Campus Activities and Student Engagement  
715-346-4700, [uwsp.edu/centers/case](http://uwsp.edu/centers/case)

#### **Family Crisis or Emergency**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### **Financial Insecurity**

Enrollment Services Center/Financial Aid  
715-346-3300; [uwsp.edu/enrollmentservices](http://uwsp.edu/enrollmentservices)

Emergency Grants

Office of the Dean of Student  
715-346-2611; [Grant Application Form](#)

Financial Coaching Program  
UW-Stevens Point School of Business and Economics

[Website](#) or email: [fincoach@uwsp.edu](mailto:fincoach@uwsp.edu)



Financial Literacy - Online  
[GradReady Program](#)

Financial Literacy - In Person  
Financial Literacy Association (Student Org.)  
College of Professional Studies, [finlit@uwsp.edu](mailto:finlit@uwsp.edu)

#### **Food Resources**

The Cupboard - Stevens Point campus  
715-346-4700, [uwsp.edu/centers/case](http://uwsp.edu/centers/case)  
[List of food resources in the community in Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wausau](#)

#### **Housing/Roommate Concerns**

Residential Living (your Hall Director first)  
715-346-3511 (central office), [uwsp.edu/resliving](http://uwsp.edu/resliving)

#### **Identity and Difference**

Diversity and College Access  
715-346-4076, [uwsp.edu/dca](http://uwsp.edu/dca)

#### **Involvement**

Campus Activities and Student Engagement  
715-346-4700, [uwsp.edu/centers/case](http://uwsp.edu/centers/case)

#### **Legal Questions**

Student Legal Services  
715-346-4282, [uwsp.edu/dos/sls](http://uwsp.edu/dos/sls)

#### **Loss of Family Member or Friend**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

Counseling Center (confidential services)  
715-346-3553, [uwsp.edu/counseling](http://uwsp.edu/counseling)

#### **Mental Health Concerns**

Counseling Center (confidential services)  
715-346-3553, [uwsp.edu/counseling](http://uwsp.edu/counseling)

Mental Health Crisis Line (outside agency)  
866-317-9362 for after hours mental health support

#### **Missing Student**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

University Police  
715-346-3456, [uwsp.edu/protsv](http://uwsp.edu/protsv)

#### **Non-academic Misconduct**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### **Physical Health / Injury**

Student Health Service (confidential resource)  
715-346-4646, [uwsp.edu/stuhealth](http://uwsp.edu/stuhealth)

#### **Procedural Issue or Conflict**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### **Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Harassment**

Office of the Dean of Students to report  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

CAP Services - Stevens Point (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)  
715-340-7882, 715-346-4039, 800-472-3377 (toll free), [kpetrick@capmail.org](mailto:kpetrick@capmail.org), [capservices.org](http://capservices.org)

PDC - Marshfield (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)  
715-421-1509 or 844-210-8899 (toll free)

The Women's Community - Wausau (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)  
715-842-8323 or 888-665-1234 (toll free)

Center for Prevention (confidential services)  
715-346-3121, [uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv](http://uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv)

Counseling Center (confidential services)  
715-346-3553, [uwsp.edu/counseling](http://uwsp.edu/counseling)

University Police and Security Services to report  
715-346-3456, [uwsp.edu/protsv](http://uwsp.edu/protsv)

#### **Title IX**

Haeryon Kim, 116 Old Main, 715-346-3020, [hakim@uwsp.edu](mailto:hakim@uwsp.edu), [Title IX site](#)

#### **Transportation**

[UWSP Rideshare Facebook Page](#)  
[Stevens Point Bus Route](#)  
[Bus connections from Stevens Point](#)

#### **Questions or Concerns Not Listed Here**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)