

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND CONFLICT

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN RELIGION AND CONFLICT

Overview

Religion has played a crucial role in various forms of human conflict—historically and in our own times. The nature of that role, however, varies significantly, as religion provides contexts for division and war as well as for unity and peace. ASU's new Undergraduate Certificate in Religion and Conflict provides students a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of the dynamics of religion, conflict and peace by exploring questions such as these: What are the religious and non-religious causes of conflict or factors that contribute to it? What do we mean by the term "religious violence"? What secular and religious resources exist for resolving different kinds of conflict?

The certificate is open to students in any major, and may be of particular interest to students pursuing careers in journalism, law, policy work, diplomacy, the military, public advocacy, publishing, education, ministry or other fields in which an enhanced understanding of religion and conflict is increasingly vital.

Eligibility

Any ASU undergraduate enrolled in a degree program may pursue the Religion and Conflict Certificate. A minimum grade of "C" is required for a course to fulfill a certificate requirement.

Certificate Registration & Information

For more information or to register for the certificate, see csrc.asu.edu/students or contact the certificate director, Prof. John Carlson, at john.carlson@asu.edu.

Certificate Requirements

Students must complete 18 credit hours of qualifying course work (at least 12 hours from ASU), consisting of regional, political, and cultural components.

To ensure that students are exposed to a wide variety of approaches to the study of religion and conflict, an interdisciplinary component requires that at least 6 of the 18 hours be filled with courses from the Humanities and at least 3 hours from the Social Sciences.

In many cases, the same course can be used to fulfill several requirements simultaneously.

1. Regional component (6 hours)

Courses in this category provide students specific regional knowledge of how religion has been implicated in human conflict. Required coursework in at least 2 different regions fosters a comparative understanding of the dynamics of religion and conflict in historical and global contexts.

2. Political component (3 hours)

Courses in this category explore how religion influences—or is influenced by—matters of state, law, government, or other dimensions of political life.

3. Cultural component (3 hours)

Courses in this category provide students with an understanding of how religion operates as a powerful force that impacts and intersects with expressions of human identity, thought and culture.

4. Electives (6 hours)

Any approved/qualifying course may be used as an elective to fulfill remaining requirements toward the total number of credit hours and to meet the interdisciplinary requirement.

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RELIGION AND CONFLICT COURSE OFFERINGS

The following regularized courses may be taken to complete certificate requirements. Not all courses are offered each semester. However, each semester some special topic courses (usually designated 394, 494 or 498) may be taken to fulfill certificate requirements as approved by the certificate director.

REGIONAL COMPONENT (6 hours representing 2 different regions)

Religion and Europe

HST 350	Later Middle Ages
HST 352	Europe's Reformation
HST 355	Total War and the Crisis of Modernity
HST 361/REL 374	Witchcraft & Heresy in Europe
REL 377	Religion in Russia
REL 471	Reformation & Modern Christianity

Religion and the Middle East

ARB 331	Arabic & Islamic Culture/Literature
ARB 341/REL 368	Quran Text and Women
GCU 328	Geography: Middle East / North Africa
HST 372	Modern Middle East

Religion and the United States

HST 315	American Politics
REL 321	Religion in America
REL 327	American Jews in U.S. Politics
SOC 394/REL 386	America & the Holocaust*

Religion in Africa

GCU 328	Geography: Middle East/North Africa
POS 359	Faith & Politics in Africa*

Religion in Asia

HST 352	Chinese Cultural History
REL 352	Theravada Buddhism in South & SE Asia
REL 377	Religion in Russia

POLITICAL COMPONENT (3 hours)

HST 315	American Politics
HST 355	Total War and the Crisis of Modernity
HST 372	Modern Middle East
POS 359	Faith and Politics in Africa*
POS 364	National Security/International Terrorism*
REL 327	American Jews in U.S. Politics
REL 364	Islam and World Affairs
REL 379	Religion, Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
REL 380	Theology of Terror: Bin Laden & others
REL 388	Religion, Ethics and International Politics
SGS 324/REL 480	Religion and Global Politics*

CULTURAL COMPONENT (3 hours)

ARB 331	Arabic & Islamic Culture/Literature
ARB 341/REL 368	Quran Text and Women
FMS 474/REL 313	Anti-Semitism in Modern Times
HST 352	Europe's Reformations
HST 361/REL 374	Witchcraft and Heresy in Europe
HST 452	Chinese Cultural History
POR 497	Afro-Brazilian Maroon Poetry
REL 201	Religion and the Modern World
REL 321	Religion in America
REL 352	Modern Buddhism
REL 357	Theravada Buddhism: South/S.E. Asia
REL 366	Islam in the Modern World
REL 377	Religion in Russia
REL 381	Religion and Moral Issues
REL 392	Religious Encounters in Post-colonial & Globalized Space
REL 461	Different Voices within Contemporary Islamic Discourse
REL 471	Reformation and Modern Christianity
REL 481	Religion and Bioethics
REL 482	Religion, Violence & Conflict Resolution
REL 483	Religion and Science
SOC 394/REL 386	America and the Holocaust*
WST 377	Women and Violence*

ELECTIVES (6 hours)

Remaining credit hours may be filled by taking any of the courses listed above or other courses, including special topic courses, as approved by the certificate director. Examples of special topics courses taught in the last few years include:

POS 394/HEB 394	War and Peace in the Middle East*
REL 394	Religion and the American Presidency
SGS 394	Violence, Conflict and Human Rights*
WST 498	Women, Religion, and Global Violence*

INTERDISCIPLINARY REQUIREMENT

Of the 18 total credits taken to fulfill the certificate, at least 3 credits from the Social Sciences (SOC, POS, SGS or WST, noted with an "**") and 6 credits from the Humanities (ARB, HST, POR or REL). The interdisciplinary requirement can be met through any course listed above except GCU 328.