

**RELS 101:**

Throughout the centuries, people have predicted the death of religion with the advance of human society, yet religion stubbornly refuses to die. What is it about religion that makes it so resilient, so impactful, so controversial? Religion is both a source of extreme comfort and conflict. While religion often concerns itself with the superhuman, religion remains deeply human. In fact, understanding a person's religious beliefs tells you a lot about that person—what they value, hope for, fear, and how they understand their and others' place in this world in this life and beyond. This course offers a survey of some of the world's major religions, exploring their historical development and their contemporary manifestations and offering comparisons both across and within religious traditions. In our increasingly global world, a basic knowledge of others' religions is important, enabling us to better relate to and appreciate others, especially those who are different than us, and helps us to better understand ourselves and our views.