

# Religious Studies

## Summer 2014 - Course Descriptions

[saintmarys.edu/departments/religious-studies](http://saintmarys.edu/departments/religious-studies)

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### ON-LINE COURSE

RLST 381	Islam: Beliefs, Practices, and Current Events	Kurt Buhring
CRN 74032	5/19/14-6/27/14	
3.0 credits		

This course will be an engagement with Islam. We will examine Muslim beliefs and practices, as well as ways that Islam impacts current events. We will explore the roots of the Muslim tradition, different ways of being Muslim, the status of women in Islam, and the relationship between violence and Islam, among other topics. We will also consider ways in which the social, historical, cultural, and political contexts relate to Islam.

At the beginning of the semester, we will learn about the context out of which Islam arose, the prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an, and primary Muslim beliefs and practices. In the next part of the course, we will trace the development of Islam into various forms and schools of thought. Then, we will take up the role of women in the Muslim tradition. The next section will be devoted to understandings of the use of violence within the Muslim tradition. In the final portion of the course, through analysis of a work of fiction we will explore Islam in modern America. Throughout the second half or so of course we will be making connections with current events as well. This may involve Islam in politics, science, culture, or arts and music. Pre-reqs: RLST 101 & 200-level course.

### SUMMER TRAVEL COURSE - GREECE

RLST 191	Greco-Roman World and Christian Origins	John Fotopoulos
CRN 74048	5/25/14-6/5/14	
3.0 credits		

This course functions together with the Greece Summer Study Program. Students will study the origins of early Christianity in Greece during the first century C.E. in light of Greco-Roman culture and history. Students will examine ways in which ancient cultural patterns, symbols, values, and embodied artifacts of the Greco-Roman world shaped early Christianity in Greece and that movement's unique Christian assemblies by investigating Greco-Roman religions, politics, gender issues, social status, daily life, city planning, architecture, art, economy, and ancient travel. The course is organized around daily excursions to various archaeological sites in Greece that will allow students to probe the cultural and historical realities of Greco-Roman antiquity and their influence on early Christianity. This course includes nine contact hours on main campus before departure. Pre-reqs: RLST 101