

## BACHELOR IN RELIGIONS

### Main Language of Instruction:

French  English  Arabic

**Campus Where the Program Is Offered:** CSH. Courses may also be delivered at CST, CSM, and CSS.

## OBJECTIVES

The Bachelor in Religious Studies aims to equip future professionals with the following abilities:

- Delivering courses on religious culture or civilization
- Deeply understanding and effectively communicating diverse religious phenomena, considering both their content and contemporary contexts, including the spectrum of beliefs and transformations
- Employing critical thinking, promoting human solidarity, and fostering peace among individuals
- Acting ethically as professionals through a comprehensive grasp of religious, cultural, and political issues.

## PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- C1 - Understanding key religious phenomena and contemporary disciplinary approaches to religion.
- C2 - Engaging and advocating for the relevance of a religious approach in addressing social integration issues within an intercultural and interreligious context.
- C3 - Demonstrating adeptness in respectful and constructive oral and written communication tailored to different interlocutors and contexts.
- C4 - Acting as a socially responsible individual, with an ethical approach and respect for the diverse religious beliefs and convictions in a democratic society.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**Required Courses (142 credits), Institution's Elective Courses (36 credits), Open Elective Courses (6 credits). The USJ General Education Program is part of the Required Courses and the Institution's Elective Courses.**

### Required Courses (142 credits)

Analytical Philosophy of Religion (3 Cr.). Analytical Research and Oral and Written Communication (2 Cr.). Anthropology of Religions (3 Cr.). Approaches to Social Reality (Qualitative Research) (4 Cr.). Belief and Sciences (2 Cr.). Challenges of Religious Marketing (2 Cr.). Christianity: History, Thought, and Civilization (4 Cr.). Church and State (Arabic) (2 Cr.). Comparative Study of Religions (4 Cr.). Confessionalism in Lebanon (Arabic) (2 Cr.). Didactics of Teaching Religious Studies (4 Cr.). Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities (3 Cr.). English Level B (4 Cr.). Freemasonry and Religion (2 Cr.). Fundamentalist Movements in the Arab World (4 Cr.). God and the Problem of Evil I (3 Cr.). God and the Problem of Evil II (3 Cr.). God: Exploring the Divine (3 Cr.). Interpersonal Conflict Management and Mediation (2 Cr.). Introduction to the Religious Phenomenon (4 Cr.). Islam and State (Arabic) (2 Cr.). Islam in the World (2 Cr.). Islam: History, Thought, and Civilization (4 Cr.). Judaism, Christianity, Islam: Key Aspects and Contemporary Challenges (2 Cr.). Judaism: History, Thought, and Civilization (4 Cr.). Lebanon: Democracy and Religion (Arabic) (2 Cr.). Major Religions of Asia I (4 Cr.). Major Religions of Asia II (4 Cr.). Methodological Foundations of Scientific Research (2 Cr.). Mystical Currents in Islam (4 Cr.). Philosophy of Belief (3 Cr.). Politics and Religion (2 Cr.). Psychology of Religion (4 Cr.). Quantitative Methods: Processing and Analysis (Quantitative Research) (4 Cr.). Religious Freedom (2 Cr.). Religious Minorities in the Middle East (4 Cr.). Religious Philosophies (4 Cr.). Sacred Texts and Interpretations I (Bible, Torah, Quran) (4 Cr.). Sacred Texts and Interpretations II (Bible, Torah, Quran) (4 Cr.). Sacred Texts and Interpretations III (Bible, Torah, Quran) (4 Cr.). Sacred Texts and Interpretations IV (Bible, Torah, Quran) (4 Cr.). Theologies of Belief (2 Cr.). Traditional Religions (4 Cr.). Training in Interreligious Dialogue (4 Cr.). Training in Nonviolent Communication (Arabic) (3 Cr.).

### Institution's Elective Courses (36 credits)

Arabic Language and Media (2 Cr.). Arts and Religions (2 Cr.). Environment and Religions (2 Cr.). Epistemology of Religious Beliefs (4 Cr.). Faculty Tuesdays (3 Cr.). New Religions (2 Cr.). Probabilities and Statistical Laws (4 Cr.). Religious Sites in Lebanon (3 Cr.). Seminar and Colloquium (3 Cr.). Session: Geopolitics of the Arab World (4 Cr.). Session: Women Philosophers and Theologians (3 Cr.). The Politico-Religious Discourse of Fundamentalists in the Middle East (4 Cr.).

### Elective Courses (6 Cr.)

Thinking and Writing the Body: From Plato to Gender Theories (3 Cr.). Philosophy, Writing, and Healing (3 Cr.)

### USJ General Education Program (35 Cr.)

#### English (4 Cr.)

English Level B (4 Cr.)

#### Arabic (4 Cr.)

Arabic Language and Culture (2 Cr.)

Arabic Language and Media (2 Cr.)

#### Course taught in Arabic (2 Cr.)

Confessionalism in Lebanon (2 Cr.)

#### Humanities (8 Cr.)

##### Ethics (2 Cr.)

USJ Values

##### Religious Studies (2 Cr.)

Belief and Sciences (2 Cr.)

##### Civic and Citizen Engagement (2 Cr.)

Lebanon: Democracy and Religion (Arabic) (2 Cr.)

##### Other (2 Cr.)

Religious Minorities in the Middle East (2 Cr.)

##### Social Sciences (6 Cr.)

##### Professional Insertion and Entrepreneurship (2 Cr.)

Interpersonal Conflict Management and Mediation (2 Cr.)

##### Other (4 Cr.)

- Approaches to Social Reality (Qualitative research) (2 Cr.)

- Challenges of Religious Marketing (2 Cr.)

##### Communication Techniques (5 Cr.)

- Analytical Research and Oral and Written Communication (2 Cr.)

- Training in Nonviolent Communication (Arabic) (3 Cr.)

##### Quantitative Techniques (8 Cr.)

- Quantitative Methods: Processing and Analysis (Quantitative Research) (4 Cr.)

- Probabilities and Statistical Laws (4 Cr.)

## SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

### Semester 1

| Code         | Course Name                                       | Credits   |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| 018ANREL4    | Anthropology of Religions                         | 3         |
| 064CHPCL1    | Christianity: History, Thought, and Civilization  | 4         |
| 064ENVIL2    | Environment and Religions                         | 2         |
| 011RHICM2    | Interpersonal Conflict Management and Mediation   | 2         |
| 064IPHRI2    | Introduction to the Religious Phenomenon          | 4         |
| 064IHPCL1    | Islam: History, Thought, and Civilization         | 4         |
| 064JHPCL1    | Judaism: History, Thought, and Civilization       | 4         |
| 011PHBML5    | Methodological Foundations of Scientific Research | 2         |
| 064ESREL6    | Religious Sites in Lebanon                        | 3         |
| 064VALEL1    | USJ Values  | 2         |
| <b>Total</b> |   | <b>30</b> |

## Semester 2

| Code         | Course Name  | Credits   |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| 064RACOL2    | Analytical Research and Oral and Written Communication   | 2         |
| 064ARTRC3    | Arts and Religions                                       | 2         |
| 064TAEFL2    | Confessionalism in Lebanon (Arabic)                      | 2         |
| 435BCSHL1    | English Level B  | 4         |
| 064PSYRL2    | Psychology of Religion                                   | 4         |
| 064MRMOL2    | Religious Minorities in the Middle East                  | 4         |
| 064TSC1L2    | Sacred Texts and Interpretations I (Bible, Torah, Quran) | 4         |
| 064GEPOL2    | Session: Geopolitics of the Arab World                   | 4         |
| 064RETRL2    | Traditional Religions                                    | 4         |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>30</b> |

## Semester 3

| Code         | Course Name   | Credits   |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| 011PHANL2    | Analytical Philosophy of Religion                         | 3         |
| 018MARSL3    | Approaches to Social Reality (Qualitative Research)       | 4         |
| 045LAJPL1    | Arabic Language and Media                                 | 2         |
| 064CRSCI2    | Belief and Sciences                                       | 2         |
| 064EGLIL3    | Church and State (Arabic)                                 | 2         |
| 064ETCRL3    | Comparative Study of Religions                            | 4         |
| 018EOOIL5    | Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities                  | 3         |
| 011PHQDL6    | God: Exploring the Divine                                 | 3         |
| 06GRA1L3     | Major Religions of Asia I                                 | 4         |
| 064TSC2L3    | Sacred Texts and Interpretations II (Bible, Torah, Quran) | 4         |
| <b>Total</b> |   | <b>31</b> |

## Semester 4

| Code         | Course Name  | Credits   |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| 011PHPCL2    | Elective: Thinking and Writing the Body: From Plato to Gender Theories | 3         |
| 064JCIDI2    | Judaism, Christianity, Islam: Key Aspects and Contemporary Challenges  | 2         |
| 064GRA2L4    | Major Religions of Asia II   | 4         |
| 011SAPLL4    | Probabilities and Statistical Laws                                     | 4         |
| 64BERTEL6    | Religious Freedom  | 2         |
| 064PHIRL4    | Religious Philosophies   | 4         |
| 064TSC3L4    | Sacred Texts and Interpretations III (Bible, Torah, Quran)             | 4         |
| 064TCROI1    | Theologies of Belief   | 2         |
| 017FCNVI3    | Training in Nonviolent Communication (Arabic)                          | 3         |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>28</b> |

## Semester 5

| Code                              | Course Name   | Credits   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 064FRMAL1                         | Freemasonry and Religion  | 2         |
| 064FOMAL5                         | Fundamentalist Movements in the Arab World  | 4         |
| 011PHD1L5                         | God and the Problem of Evil I   | 3         |
| 064ISMOL5                         | Islam in the World  | 2         |
| 011PHPML3                         | Philosophy of Belief  | 3         |
| 011GETAL4                         | Quantitative Methods: Processing and Analysis (Quantitative Research)                   | 4         |
| 064TSC4L5                         | Sacred Texts and Interpretations IV (Bible, Torah, Quran)                               | 4         |
| 064COLL5<br>064MAFA1<br>064FEMML6 | Seminar and Colloquium / Faculty Tuesdays / Session: Women Philosophers and Theologians | 3         |
| 064EJMRL2                         | The Challenges of Religious Marketing   | 2         |
| 017FORTF1                         | Training in Interreligious Dialogue   | 4         |
| <b>Total</b>                      |   | <b>31</b> |

## Semester 6

| Code         | Course Name  | Credits   |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| 064DIDAL6    | Didactics of Teaching Religious Studies                                | 4         |
| 011PHPGL1    | Elective: Philosophy, Writing, and Healing                             | 3         |
| 064EPCRI1    | Epistemology of Religious Beliefs                                      | 4         |
| 011PHD2L6    | God and the Problem of Evil II   | 3         |
| 064ISETL5    | Islam and the State (Arabic)   | 2         |
| 064DEMOL2    | Lebanon: Democracy and Religion (Arabic)                               | 2         |
| 064CMYSL6    | Mystical Currents in Islam   | 4         |
| 064NVREL6    | New Religions  | 2         |
| 064REPOI2    | Politics and Religion  | 2         |
| 064DPRFI2    | The Politico-Religious Discourse of Fundamentalists in the Middle East | 4         |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>30</b> |

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### 011PHANL2 Analytical Philosophy of Religion 3 Cr.

This course delves into analytical approaches to philosophical questions related to religion. Students will discuss logical and linguistic arguments regarding the existence of God, the essence of faith, and the philosophical implications of religious beliefs. Focusing on conceptual tools such as semantics, modal logic, and epistemology. The course examines contemporary debates within analytic philosophy of religion. This course aims to equip students with critical and analytical skills necessary to rigorously address complex religious issues from a philosophical perspective.

### 064RACOL2 Analytical Research and Oral and Written Communication 2 Cr.

This course equips students with essential analytical skills necessary for their academic research projects across philosophy and religious studies. It aims to cultivate proficiency in conceptual analysis, argumentation, and communication. Students will explore critical analysis techniques, refine linguistic precision, and apply formal logic to assess ideas. Additionally, this course emphasizes effective oral and written presentation of arguments in a clear and compelling manner.

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| <b>018ANREL4</b>   | <b>Anthropology of Religions</b>                           | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
| <p>This course explores the contrasting approaches of religious anthropology and the anthropology of religions, highlighting their significant differences in terms of subject matter and methodology in anthropology. While religious anthropology examines how specific religions perceive humanity, its origins, and the purpose of life, anthropology of religions takes a distinctly human perspective on God and religion as subjects of study. Topics include the symbolism and functions of rituals, the distinction between the sacred and the profane, the significance of sacrifices in religious practice, and humanity's enduring quest for eternal life, alongside its contemplation of mortality, a fundamental theme in anthropological study.</p> |  |              |
| <b>018MARS3</b>  | <b>Approaches to Social Reality (Qualitative Research)</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
| <p>This course delves into qualitative research techniques in social sciences. It equips students with methodologies essential for understanding the complexity of social phenomena, such as interviews, participant observation, and content analysis. Emphasizing the practical application of collecting and analyzing qualitative data, this course aims to enhance students' skills in understanding intricate social realities. Additionally, this course introduces ethical considerations related to qualitative research, promoting a conscientious and responsible approach to studying social phenomena.</p>  |  |              |
| <b>045LAJPL1</b>   | <b>Arabic Language and Media</b>                           | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
| <p>This course provides a dynamic exploration of the Arabic language within its cultural context, emphasizing its application in visual, auditory, and written media, including advertising. It aims to equip students with practical linguistic skills, both oral and written, that are directly applicable and beneficial.</p>   |  |              |
| <b>064ARTRC3</b>   | <b>Arts and Religions</b>                                  | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
| <p>This course explores the intricate relationships between art and the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic religions throughout their respective histories. It explores a wide array of artistic expressions used for religious purposes, emphasizing their functions and significance within the traditions of these three monotheistic religions. This course aims to analyze artistic works and interpret theological texts to examine the roles and uses of religious imagery and arts, especially painting, sculpture, and cinema, within Jewish, Christian, and Islamic contexts.</p>  |  |              |
| <b>064CRSCI2</b>   | <b>Belief and Sciences</b>                                 | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
| <p>This course is part of the philosophy of religion, focusing on various scientific interpretations of belief and its origins. Students will examine perspectives from psychology, neuroscience, and sociology to better understand the underlying mechanisms of belief. This course also emphasizes critical reflection on these concepts, fostering a comprehensive examination of the subject matter.</p>  |  |              |
| <b>064CHPCL1</b>   | <b>Christianity: History, Thought, and Civilization</b>    | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
| <p>This course delves into Christianity's history, thought, and impact on civilization. Students will explore the foundational aspects of faith, examining key moments in its evolution and the influential figures who have shaped its identity. A comprehensive analysis of Christian thought will highlight fundamental teachings, sacred texts, and philosophical reflections, providing a nuanced understanding of this religion. Furthermore, students will gain an insightful perspective on Christianity's influence on civilization, and its contribution to the global cultural landscape.</p>   |  |              |
| <b>064EGLIL3</b>   | <b>Church and State (Arabic)</b>                           | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
| <p>This course aims to explore the historical evolution of the relationship between the Church and the State. It begins with an examination of the experience of the Catholic Church, progresses through the historical issues that have arisen between these two institutions, and culminates in an exploration of the impact of the Second Vatican Council. Additionally, this course examines diverse models of the Church-State relationship beyond the European continent, with a specific focus on the Lebanese context.</p>   |  |              |

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| <b>064ETCRL3</b> | <b>Comparative Study of Religions</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the similarities and differences among various world religious traditions. Students will explore theological, philosophical, and cultural aspects of major religions, highlighting both commonalities and distinctions. This course covers topics such as cosmology, ethics, and ritual practices, providing a contextual understanding of religious beliefs. It aims to equip students with analytical skills for assessing the cultural and social impacts of religions through comparative methodologies, fostering a holistic perspective of global religious diversity.

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| <b>064TAEFL2</b> | <b>Confessionalism in Lebanon (Arabic)</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course critically examines the emergence and social-political development of sectarianism within Lebanon. It explores how sectarian elements intertwine with the foundations of democratic governance in Lebanon's political system, addressing complexities influenced by regional and international factors. This course also explores potential solutions to sectarian issues. Students will understand the historical and religious foundations of sectarianism, its integration into Lebanon's statehood and constitution, and the regional and international influences on sectarian dynamics and their local implications.

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| <b>064DIDAL6</b> | <b>Didactics of Teaching Religious Studies</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course focuses on pedagogical methods and approaches to effectively address religious issues in education. It covers strategies for teaching religious studies with an emphasis on objectivity, respect, and inclusivity. Students will examine theoretical frameworks, pedagogical resources, and interdisciplinary approaches tailored to address religious topics in an educational context. This course aims to foster a deep, critical, and respectful understanding of various religious traditions while promoting intercultural dialogue and tolerance.

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| <b>018E0OIL5</b> | <b>Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course aims to explore the richness and diversity of the Eastern Churches by examining their historical, cultural, and ecclesiological development. It also explores the role of these churches in the Middle East, particularly in fostering church unity and influencing the development of their respective societies.

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| <b>064ENVIL2</b> | <b>Environment and Religions</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course delves into the study of the interactions among theology, ecology, and environmental ethics to explore the complex relationships between religious beliefs and human engagement with nature. It explores various religious traditions and their distinct perspectives on the environment, while also analyzing the ethical principles guiding our responsibility towards creation. Throughout this course, students will closely examine sacred texts and teachings from Abrahamic religions to understand their perspectives on nature and humanity's role within it. Simultaneously, this course encourages critical and open reflection, integrating insights from modern environmental science and contemporary perspectives on the relationship between religion and the environment.

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| <b>064EPCR11</b> | <b>Epistemology of Religious Beliefs</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course delves into the fundamental question of whether we have the right to "hold beliefs", examining how religious beliefs are justified. Students will analyze various epistemological perspectives applied to religious beliefs, assessing their ethical implications in both individual and societal contexts. This course provides a profound reflection on the nature of religious beliefs, their epistemological aspects, their legitimacy, and their ethical impact in public discourse.

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| <b>064FRMAL1</b> | <b>Freemasonry and Religion</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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When discussing Freemasonry, we think of esotericism, secrecy, spirituality, philosophy, transcendence, philanthropy, unity, rituals, symbols, republicanism, and secularism. Freemasonry is also associated with figures such as Diderot, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Lafayette, Franklin, Washington, Ataturk, Mozart, Alexandre Fleming, Allende, Bolivar, Conan Doyle, Pushkin, and others. Today, Freemasonry functions as a decentralized organization with a philanthropic, philosophical, and spiritual ethos, shaped by its historical evolution and geographical contexts influenced by socio-religious and economic factors, defining its Masonic identity. Since its establishment in 1717, Freemasonry has continuously interacted with esoteric traditions and the Abrahamic religions, particularly Christianity and Islam. This course explores the history and doctrines of various Freemasonic traditions through

academic studies and a comprehensive bibliography, examining their interactions, disputes, and divergences with the revealed Abrahamic religions.

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| <b>064FOMAL5</b> | <b>Fundamentalist Movements in the Arab World</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores religious movements in the Arab region that adhere to rigid and literal interpretations of sacred texts. Students will analyze the historical origins, ideologies, and influences of these fundamentalist currents, with a focus on the socio-political context of the Arab world. This course also addresses the implications of these movements on governance, society, and international relations. Student will therefore develop a profound understanding of the religious and political dynamics shaping the contemporary Arab world.

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| <b>064GEPOL2</b> | <b>Session: Geopolitics of the Arab World</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course provides a comprehensive analysis of political, social, and economic issues in the region. Students will explore the complex dynamics of relations among Arab states, the factors influencing regional conflicts, and the implications of global geopolitical developments. Focusing on topics such as regional alliances, energy resources, and territorial disputes, this course offers an in-depth understanding of the geopolitical realities in the Arab world. Students will develop sensitivity to the nuances of regional geopolitics and enhance their analytical skills in assessing contemporary challenges.

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| <b>011PHD1L5</b> | <b>God and the Problem of Evil I</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course consists of two levels dedicated to exploring the fundamental theological and philosophical question regarding the coexistence of divinity and evil in the world. Students will analyze various theological and philosophical perspectives that aim to resolve this complex dilemma. From exploring the concept of theodicy to discussing the nature of God and suffering, these courses will cover both classical and contemporary arguments regarding the issue of evil within religious contexts. Students will develop a nuanced understanding of the responses provided by different religious traditions and engage with philosophical debates.

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| <b>011PHD2L6</b> | <b>God and the Problem of Evil II</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course consists of two parts dedicated to exploring the fundamental theological and philosophical question regarding the coexistence of divinity and evil in the world. Students will analyze various theological and philosophical perspectives that aim to resolve this complex dilemma. From exploring the concept of theodicy to discussing the nature of God and suffering, these courses will cover both classical and contemporary arguments regarding the issue of evil within religious contexts. Students will develop a nuanced understanding of the responses provided by different religious traditions and engage with philosophical debates.

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| <b>011PHQDL6</b> | <b>God: Exploring the Divine</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores how philosophy has addressed the question of God from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. It discusses the following topics: (1) The contrast between natural and revealed religion as analyzed in Rousseau's "Profession of Faith of the Savoyard Vicar", Hume's "Dialogues concerning Natural Religion", and Swinburne's "Is There a God?"; (2) The concept of Revelation as a "saturated phenomenon" according to Jean-Luc Marion; and (3) Bertrand Russell's skeptical arguments. This course interprets literary works such as Lessing's "Nathan the Wise" and Muriel Spark's "The Mandelbaum Gate", as well as cinematic works like Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life". These works serve to illustrate the discussed topics, introduce new arguments, or suggest ways for reconciling differing perspectives on the topic.

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| <b>011RHICM2</b> | <b>Interpersonal Conflict Management and Mediation</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course equips students with essential techniques and practical strategies for effectively resolving interpersonal conflicts in diverse contexts. Students will gain insights into conflict dynamics and develop skills to facilitate peaceful resolutions through hands-on exercises and case studies emphasizing mediation, negotiation, and constructive communication. This course enhances both personal conflict resolution abilities and professional skills, preparing students to mediate disputes in academic, professional, and personal settings.

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| <b>064IPHRI2</b> | <b>Introduction to the Religious Phenomenon</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores prominent theories that aim to explain the phenomenon of religion through rational frameworks. These theories draw from various explanatory paradigms such as social, psychological, economic, historical, and political perspectives. Following the methodology of philosophy of religion, students will critically apply these theoretical approaches by analyzing a diverse range of texts in preparation for their academic research.

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| <b>064ISETL5</b> | <b>Islam and the State (Arabic)</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores the complex relationships between Islam and State structures, with a focus on the Lebanese context. It examines the historical evolution of interactions between State institutions and Islamic principles, emphasizing the diverse political models across the Arab world. The course will also address contemporary debates on Islamic governance, the separation of politics and religion, and various conceptions of the Islamic State. Through this study, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of crucial political issues within Arab societies.

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| <b>064ISMOL5</b> | <b>Islam in the World</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course provides a comprehensive study of the global dissemination, diversity, and impact of Islam. Students will explore its historical origins, fundamental teachings, and diverse practices, while examining its geographical expansion across continents. This course also covers various schools of thought within Islam, contemporary movements, and the global challenges facing this religion. By emphasizing an understanding of the cultural and social dynamics associated with Islam, this course provides a holistic perspective on its role in the modern world.

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| <b>064IHPCL1</b> | <b>Islam: History, Thought, and Civilization</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course delves into Islam's history, thought, and impact on civilization. Students will explore the foundational aspects of faith, examining key moments in its evolution and the influential figures who have shaped its identity. A comprehensive analysis of Islamic thought will highlight fundamental teachings, sacred texts, and philosophical reflections, providing a nuanced understanding of this religion. Furthermore, students will gain an insightful perspective on Islam's influence on civilization, and its contribution to the global cultural landscape.

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| <b>064JCIDI2</b> | <b>Judaism, Christianity, Islam: Key Aspects and Contemporary Challenges</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the foundations, practices, and contemporary issues within three major monotheistic traditions. Students will become acquainted with the theological, historical, and cultural aspects specific to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This course provides an in-depth understanding of the current contexts of these religions, addressing contemporary challenges such as interreligious issues, socio-political dynamics, and cultural implications. Students will therefore develop intercultural sensitivity and analytical skills necessary to navigate the complex challenges encountered by these traditions in the modern world.

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| <b>064JHPCL1</b> | <b>Judaism: History, Thought, and Civilization</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course offers a comprehensive analysis of Jewish thought. Students will delve into the millennia-old origins of this tradition, examining key moments in its evolution and the influential figures who have shaped its identity. This course highlights fundamental teachings, sacred texts, and philosophical reflections, providing a rich and nuanced understanding of this religion.

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| <b>064DEMOL2</b> | <b>Lebanon: Democracy and Religion (Arabic)</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course covers the intricate relationship between democracy and major world religions across various historical and cultural contexts. Democracy currently stands as the predominant and widely adopted governance model globally. However, its principles, especially those articulated within the inclusive liberal framework, raise numerous challenges and questions in regions with distinct religious and cultural backgrounds. This course aims to deepen students' understanding of the challenges posed by democratic principles to major religions prevalent in specific areas of the world, profoundly influencing societies. It also enables students to understand the questions raised by religions, based on their beliefs, historical dimensions, and political implications, regarding the suitability of democratic principles. This approach facilitates critical analysis of religions' role in democratic societies.



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| <b>06GRA1L3</b> | <b>Major Religions of Asia I</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This two-level course provides a comprehensive exploration of the major religious traditions of Asia. Students will engage in a comparative study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and other spiritual traditions of the region. This course provides a contextual and nuanced understanding of the beliefs and customs of these great religions, by analyzing sacred texts, fundamental doctrines, and ritual practices. Students will gain an enriching perspective on the crucial role of these traditions in Asian culture and spirituality, fostering a deeper intercultural sensitivity.

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| <b>064GRA2L4</b> | <b>Major Religions of Asia II</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This two-level course provides a comprehensive exploration of the major religious traditions of Asia. Students will engage in a comparative study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and other spiritual traditions of the region. This course provides a contextual and nuanced understanding of the beliefs and customs of these great religions, by analyzing sacred texts, fundamental doctrines, and ritual practices. Students will gain an enriching perspective on the crucial role of these traditions in Asian culture and spirituality, fostering a deeper intercultural sensitivity.

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| <b>011PHBML5</b> | <b>Methodological Foundations of Scientific Research</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course helps students at all levels in initiating their research endeavors, enabling them to produce academic projects by effectively utilizing speculative, intellectual, and operational tools within the field of humanities.

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| <b>064CMYSL6</b> | <b>Mystical Currents in Islam</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores various mystical and spiritual traditions within Islam. Students will explore the foundational principles, practices, and teachings of these mystical currents particularly focusing on Sufism. The course will cover key concepts such as spiritual quest, divine love, and ascetic practices associated with Sufism. Additionally, this course analyzes the influence of Sufism on Islamic culture, art, and thought. Through the study of these mystical currents, students will develop a deep understanding of the spiritual richness and diversity of mystical expressions within the Islamic tradition.

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| <b>064NVREL6</b> | <b>New Religions</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores the emergence, nature, and impact of contemporary religious movements that distinguish themselves as new religions. Students will examine the common characteristics of these movements, often referred to as “new spiritualities” or “new religious beliefs”. This course addresses the motivations of their founders, central beliefs, ritual practices, and organizational structures. This approach will also focus on how these new religions interact with society, popular culture, and contemporary debates on religious freedom. Students will gain a profound understanding of the complex dynamics related to the emergence and evolution of new religions.

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| <b>011PHPML3</b> | <b>Philosophy of Belief</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course falls within the field of philosophy of religion. It aims to study various philosophical interpretations and critiques of the concepts of “belief” and “religious belief”, and in some cases, issues related to the concept of the sacred. The first part of this course focuses on establishing the concept of belief. The second part is dedicated to exploring the perspectives of philosophers such as Augustine, Kant, James, Wittgenstein, and Bouveresse through their writings.

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| <b>011PHPGL1</b> | <b>Elective: Philosophy, Writing, and Healing</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores the intricate relationship between philosophical thought, the act of writing, and the process of healing. Students will examine how philosophical reflection can be integrated into writing to facilitate healing on the mental, emotional, or spiritual levels. This course covers topics including introspective writing, self-narration, and the therapeutic perspectives that philosophy can offer. By examining these interconnections, students will develop a profound understanding of how philosophy and writing contribute to enhancing personal well-being and promoting healing.

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| <b>064REPO12</b> | <b>Politics and Religion</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course provides students with essential insights into the intersection of politics and religion, beginning from their shared foundation: the human as a political and ethical entity. It offers a comprehensive overview of historical and contemporary debates on this topic, with a specific emphasis on Lebanon.

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| <b>011SAPLL4</b> | <b>Probabilities and Statistical Laws</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course introduces students to a probabilistic approach for statistical applications, such as representative sampling in survey research and extrapolating survey results to the entire observed population.

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| <b>064PSYRL2</b> | <b>Psychology of Religion</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the complex interactions between psychology and religious expressions. Students will examine the psychological aspects of believers, the mechanisms of faith, and the impact of religious convictions on mental well-being. Topics such as conversion, spirituality, and religious experiences will be analyzed through contemporary psychological perspectives. By delving into religious motivations, coping mechanisms, and the psychological implications of religious practices, students will deepen their understanding of human psychology and the diversity of religious beliefs.

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| <b>011GETAL4</b> | <b>Quantitative Methods: Processing and Analysis (Quantitative Research)</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course focuses on data processing and analysis in quantitative research. Students will gain a thorough understanding of statistical techniques used to process and interpret quantitative data in social sciences. This course covers topics such as hypothesis testing, regression, and analysis of variance, equipping students with advanced skills in handling and interpreting quantitative data. Emphasizing practical applications, the course enhances students' ability to conduct rigorous quantitative research and significantly contribute to understanding social phenomena.

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| <b>64BERTEL6</b> | <b>Religious Freedom</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores the concept and practice of religious freedom across various contexts. Students will examine the legal, ethical, and social dimensions of religious freedom, emphasizing the protection of individual and collective rights to practice, profess, and live by one's religious beliefs. This course tackles contemporary issues related to religious freedom, such as secularism, religious pluralism, and challenges encountered by religious minorities. Through this approach, students will develop a deep understanding of crucial issues regarding religious freedom in the contemporary world.

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| <b>064MRMOL2</b> | <b>Religious Minorities in the Middle East</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the various religious communities within this complex region. Students will examine the history, beliefs, and challenges faced by these minorities, analyzing their impact on the socio-cultural dynamics of the region. Concrete examples will illustrate diversity, encompassing Christians, Yazidis, and other religious groups. Emphasizing contemporary issues, this course provides students with a nuanced understanding of the realities of religious minorities in the Middle East, enhancing their intercultural sensitivity and ability to effectively address issues of religious diversity.

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| <b>064PHIRL4</b> | <b>Religious Philosophies</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores the philosophical foundations underlying various beliefs and spiritual traditions. Students will examine the fundamental philosophical texts of different religions, analyzing key concepts such as metaphysics, ethics, and the nature of divinity. By studying major traditions like Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism, this course provides an in-depth understanding of the philosophical inquiries specific to each tradition. Students will develop critical skills to evaluate and compare the philosophical approaches of different religions, contributing to an enlightened perspective on the complexity of religious thought worldwide.

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| <b>064ESREL6</b> | <b>Religious Sites in Lebanon</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course delves into the variety and significance of religious sites across Lebanon. Students will explore spaces dedicated to diverse religious traditions, including Christianity, Islam, and other faiths present in the country.

The analysis will focus on their architecture, history, and social roles, highlighting their significance in Lebanon's cultural and religious framework. Additionally, this course addresses interreligious dynamics, coexistence, and the specific challenges these sites face in a diverse society. Through this exploration, students will gain a deeper understanding of how religious sites contribute to Lebanon's cultural diversity.

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| <b>064TSC1L2</b> | <b>Sacred Texts and Interpretations I (Bible, Torah, Quran)</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This four-level course offers a comprehensive exploration of major sacred texts in the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will engage in a comparative study of the Bible, the Torah, and the Quran, examining the themes, narratives, and interpretations that shape these foundational scriptures. Each level focuses on a specific tradition, providing a thorough understanding of both historical perspectives and contemporary viewpoints. Students will develop intercultural sensitivity while deepening their understanding of shared spiritual roots and unique nuances within each tradition. Ultimately, this course provides an enriching exploration of sacred texts and their diverse interpretations within global culture.

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| <b>064TSC2L3</b> | <b>Sacred Texts and Interpretations II (Bible, Torah, Quran)</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This four-level course offers a comprehensive exploration of major sacred texts in the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will engage in a comparative study of the Bible, the Torah, and the Quran, examining the themes, narratives, and interpretations that shape these foundational scriptures. Each level focuses on a specific tradition, providing a thorough understanding of both historical perspectives and contemporary viewpoints. Students will develop intercultural sensitivity while deepening their understanding of shared spiritual roots and unique nuances within each tradition. Ultimately, this course provides an enriching exploration of sacred texts and their diverse interpretations within global culture.

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| <b>064TSC3L4</b> | <b>Sacred Texts and Interpretations III (Bible, Torah, Quran)</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This four-level course offers a comprehensive exploration of major sacred texts in the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will engage in a comparative study of the Bible, the Torah, and the Quran, examining the themes, narratives, and interpretations that shape these foundational scriptures. Each level focuses on a specific tradition, providing a thorough understanding of both historical perspectives and contemporary viewpoints. Students will develop intercultural sensitivity while deepening their understanding of shared spiritual roots and unique nuances within each tradition. Ultimately, this course provides an enriching exploration of sacred texts and their diverse interpretations within global culture.

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| <b>064TSC4L5</b> | <b>Sacred Texts and Interpretations IV (Bible, Torah, Quran)</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This four-level course offers a comprehensive exploration of major sacred texts in the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will engage in a comparative study of the Bible, the Torah, and the Quran, examining the themes, narratives, and interpretations that shape these foundational scriptures. Each level focuses on a specific tradition, providing a thorough understanding of both historical perspectives and contemporary viewpoints. Students will develop intercultural sensitivity while deepening their understanding of shared spiritual roots and unique nuances within each tradition. Ultimately, this course provides an enriching exploration of sacred texts and their diverse interpretations within global culture.

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| <b>064MAFA11</b> | <b>Faculty Tuesdays</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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| <b>064COLL5</b> | <b>Seminar and Colloquium</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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| <b>064FEMML6</b> | <b>Session: Women Philosophers and Theologians</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course involves attending one of these scientific events, writing a structured report that synthesizes the various conferences, and providing a personal critical perspective.

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| <b>064EJMRL2</b> | <b>The Challenges of Religious Marketing</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores the opportunities and challenges of applying marketing principles within religious institutions. Students will analyze their communication strategies to reach their devotees, while examining the ethical and social implications involved. Through detailed case studies, this course provides a critical perspective on the potential influence of religious marketing on beliefs and perceptions. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of

this specific field, developing essential skills to evaluate and manage the complex issues of marketing within the religious sphere.

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| <b>064DPRF12</b> | <b>The Politico-Religious Discourse of Fundamentalists in the Middle East</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores the ideological discourses adopted by fundamentalist movements in the region. It examines communication strategies, the construction of identity discourse, and the dynamics influencing radicalization. Students will analyze the political and religious components of these discourses, as well as their implications on governance, society, and international relations. Ultimately, they will develop a deep understanding of fundamentalist ideologies and their impact on the Middle East.

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| <b>064TCRO11</b> | <b>Theologies of Belief</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores the theological foundations of “belief” in Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will delve into the study of belief within each religion, examining aspects such as the divine nature, creation, revelation, and ethics. Focusing on these four major religions, this course offers a comprehensive comparison of their different belief theologies, highlighting both similarities and divergences. Students will develop a nuanced understanding of the theological perspectives within these traditions, thereby enhancing their appreciation of religious diversity.

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| <b>011PHPC12</b> | <b>Elective: Thinking and Writing the Body: From Plato to Gender Theories</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This interdisciplinary course aims to explore how philosophy has conceptualized and written about the body, sexuality, and gender identity. It covers these topics through the lens of both philosophical history and feminist activism. This course addresses “biopower”, analyzing how various institutions have appropriated and exerted control over bodies in the public sphere. Additionally, it investigates philosophical perspectives on the pathological or diseased body, challenging notions of trauma and disorders of memory, both on an individual and collective level. In the context of transhumanism and artificial intelligence, this course reevaluates the body’s relationship with technology, discussing the implications of the cyborg ideal and the concept of the hyper-performing human.

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| <b>064RETRL2</b> | <b>Traditional Religions</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores traditional religions worldwide, highlighting their rituals, myths, and values. It includes spiritual practices from the Far East, indigenous beliefs, African traditions, and various Asian spiritualities. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the cultural and spiritual foundations of these traditions, enhancing their appreciation for global religious diversity within specific cultural contexts.

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| <b>017FORTF1</b> | <b>Training in Interreligious Dialogue</b> | <b>4 Cr.</b> |
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This course aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to facilitate constructive and respectful exchanges between different religions. It provides an overview of various religions, promotes mutual understanding, and explores the cultural, social, and historical dimensions shaping religious beliefs. Students will learn interreligious communication techniques emphasizing empathy, respect, and mediation to promote interreligious dialogue, ultimately contributing to the creation of inclusive and diverse communities.

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| <b>017FCNV13</b> | <b>Training in Nonviolent Communication (Arabic)</b> | <b>3 Cr.</b> |
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This course explores Nonviolent Communication (NVC), a method introduced by Marshall Rosenberg in the 1970s. This approach helps us understand how our thinking, expression, and interaction with others are pivotal in either fostering violence or facilitating connection and conflict resolution. This course reevaluates communication and listening approaches, focusing on four essential elements: observation or description, feelings and emotions, identifying and expressing needs, and formulating requests in an actionable manner.

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| <b>064VALEL1</b> | <b>USJ Values</b> | <b>2 Cr.</b> |
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This course aims to raise students’ awareness of the fundamental values of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) so that they can integrate them into their personal, interpersonal, and professional lives. It engages them in critical reflection on how the values outlined in the USJ Charter can influence their behaviors, actions, and decisions in addressing the challenges of the contemporary world. Additionally, students will become aware of global issues and ethical responsibilities, preparing them to positively contribute to the building of a better society.