

# Religious Studies (BA/BS)

From antiquity to the present, religion has provided a vocabulary for individuals to confront ultimate questions about the meaning of life. Understanding the role of religion is critical for analyzing socio-political forces shaping the world. A major in religious studies provides training for any humanitarian profession. Recent graduates have gone on to study law, medicine, and journalism; work in social service organizations; and pursue graduate study in a variety of disciplines. The skills students hone as majors—critical reading, analytical thinking, and writing—along with knowledge of global religious traditions, serves them well in whatever career path they choose.

The Department of Religious Studies offers courses about the teachings and practices of the world's major religions from an academic perspective. Courses focus on the history and philosophy of religions including their origins, sacred texts, rituals and practices, beliefs, and subgroups. The courses provide a broad understanding of the nature and role of religion in the world's many cultures, present and past, for students in all fields, as well as integrated programs for majors in religious studies.

The religious studies department offers courses that reflect the research expertise of the faculty. Students can enroll in classes ranging from "Early Judaism," to "The Dark Self: East and West," and "War, Terrorism, and Religion." Many religious studies seminars are small, limited to fifteen students, allowing for deep exploration of the material and low student to professor ratios. For a full list of regular course offerings, follow the "courses" link on the right.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Identify, describe, and explain a wide diversity of religious phenomena in their historical, social, political, and cultural contexts.
- Discuss diverse religious phenomena with others in a well-informed, critical, and respectful manner.
- Read and critically evaluate current scholarly literature on method and theory in the academic study of religion.
- Read and critically analyze primary and secondary sources from and about diverse religious traditions, applying appropriate theoretical and methodological tools in the academic study of religion.
- In speech and writing, make an effective and valid argument about religion: one that successfully establishes a premise and supports the premise with appropriate and persuasive evidence.

Courses used to satisfy major requirements must be taken for letter grades and passed with a mid-C or better.

## Religious Studies Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
REL 101–102	World Religions	8
Electives in religious studies or additional courses		8
Upper-division religious studies courses (Must include REL 411)		16

Upper-division courses (see Additional Courses list)	12
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>44</b>

## Additional Courses

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Folklore</b>		
FLR 350	Folklore and the Bible	4
FLR 411	Folklore and Religion	4
<b>History</b>		
HIST 320	High Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 321	Late Middle Ages in Europe	4
HIST 441	16th-Century European Reformations	4
HIST 498	Early Japanese Culture and Society: [Topic]	4
<b>History of Art and Architecture</b>		
ARH 321	Ancient Jewish Art	4
ARH 387	Chinese Buddhist Art	4
<b>International Studies</b>		
GLBL 423	Development and the Muslim World	4
<b>Judaic Studies</b>		
JDST 212	Medieval and Early Modern Judaism	4
JDST 213	The Jewish Encounter with Modernity	4
<b>Philosophy</b>		
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Religion	4

## Honors in Religious Studies

Requirements for a degree with honors in religious studies typically include the following:

1. Satisfaction of the requirements for a major
2. A cumulative grade point average of 3.80 in courses taken to satisfy the major requirements
3. Formal approval of the department

The candidate for honors shall request approval no later than the second week of fall term in the senior year. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the undergraduate advisor before applying. Application forms are available in the department office.

A faculty committee supervises the honors thesis project. Candidates typically register for 3 credits of Research: [Topic] (REL 401) for both fall and winter terms of the senior year to prepare for writing the thesis. Contingent on satisfactory progress, the candidate then enrolls for 4 credits of Thesis (REL 403) spring term. A first draft of the thesis must be submitted six weeks before the end of spring term and the final draft two weeks after that.

## Four-Year Degree Plan

*The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.*

## Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
<b>First Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
REL 101	World Religions: Asian Traditions	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
First term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
Elective course		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>17</b>	
<b>Winter</b>			
REL 102	World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions	4	
WR 122Z	Composition II	4	
or WR 123 or College Composition III			
Second term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>17</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
General-education course in arts and letters		4	
General-education course in science		4	
Lower-division elective for major		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>17</b>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>51</b>	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
<b>Second Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
First term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education course in arts and letters		4	
General-education course in social science		4	
General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Winter</b>			
Second term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education course in arts and letters		4	
General-education course in social science		4	
General-education course in science		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education course in arts and letters		4	
General-education course in social science		4	
General-education course in science		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>48</b>	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
<b>Third Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
Upper-division course with REL subject code		4	
Upper-division elective course		4	
General-education course in science		4	
General-education course		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Winter</b>			
Upper-division course with REL subject code		4	
Upper-division elective course		4	
General-education course in social science		4	
Elective course		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
Upper-division course with REL subject code		4	
Upper-division elective course		4	
Elective courses		8	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>48</b>	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
<b>Fourth Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
Upper-division course with REL subject code		4	
Elective courses		8	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>	
<b>Winter</b>			
Upper-division course with REL subject code		4	
Elective courses		8	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
Elective courses		12	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>36</b>	

## Bachelor of Science in Religious Studies

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
<b>First Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
REL 101	World Religions: Asian Traditions	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
MATH 105Z	Math in Society	4	
or Precalculus I: Functions			
MATH 111Z			
Elective course		4	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Winter</b>			
REL 102	World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions	4	
MATH 106	University Mathematics II	4	
or Precalculus II: Trigonometry			
MATH 112Z			

WR 122Z	Composition II	4
or WR 123	or College Composition III	
General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement		4

<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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**Spring**

MATH 107	University Mathematics III	4
or	or Precalculus II: Trigonometry	
MATH 112Z		
Lower-division elective for major		4
General-education course in arts and letters		4
General-education course in science		4

<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>48</b>
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Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
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**Second Year****Fall**

General-education course in arts and letters	4
General-education course in social science	4
General-education course in science	4
General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement	4

<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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**Winter**

General-education course in arts and letters	4
General-education course in social science	4
General-education course in science	4
Elective course	4

<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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**Spring**

General-education course in arts and letters	4
General-education course in social science	4
General-education course in science	4
Elective course	4

<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>48</b>
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Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
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**Third Year****Fall**

Lower-division elective course with REL subject code	4
Upper-division elective course	4
General-education course in social science	4
Elective course	4

<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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**Winter**

Upper-division course with REL subject code	4
Upper-division elective course	4
Elective courses	8

<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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**Spring**

Upper-division course with REL subject code	4
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Upper-division elective course	4
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Elective courses	8
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<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>48</b>
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Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
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**Fourth Year****Fall**

Upper-division course with REL subject code (Must take REL 101 by this term)	4
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Elective courses (Must begin year of mathematics by this term)	8
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<b>Credits</b>	<b>12</b>
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**Winter**

Elective courses	12
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<b>Credits</b>	<b>12</b>
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**Spring**

Elective courses	12
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<b>Credits</b>	<b>12</b>
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>36</b>
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