

Religious Studies (REL)

- Major: 39 credit hours
- Minor: 18 credit hours
- Major/minor GPA required for graduation: 2.25
- All courses for the major and minor must be completed with a grade of C- or better.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete two semesters of a single foreign language or equivalent. Students considering seminary studies often elect to take New Testament Greek to satisfy their language requirement.
- Capstone: Complete two upper-level seminar style courses that involve giving class presentations and leading group discussions.

Description of Major: Religious studies analyzes the human relationship to what is conceived as ultimate reality or the highest reality. It studies the beliefs, practices, and behaviors that are expressions of this relationship, examining them in their individual and corporate, historical and contemporary forms.

Human history displays established patterns of the relationship to ultimate reality in the world's major religious traditions. Religious studies majors learn about the major world religions in all their diversity while also focusing in a special way on Christianity, its sacred texts, and Christian theology. Within this framework, students have significant freedom to shape their program of study in the direction of their interest. Students can choose a more general analysis of the world religions or they can make a more intensive study of Christianity with their electives.

The religious studies major stresses development of skills in critical thinking, reading, and writing. It involves significant use and analysis of scholarly methodologies to understand the phenomenon of religion and interpret religious texts.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Understand and analyze the history, geographical distribution, and beliefs and practices of the world's major religions.
- Understand and analyze the history, beliefs, and practices of major Christian groups today, focusing on Christianity in the United States.
- Understand and implement contemporary scholarly methods for analyzing sacred texts, religious history, and religious expressions.
- Display competency in reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Degree Preparation: The religious studies major helps prepare students for seminary studies and/or a career in Christian ministry. It also helps prepare students for academic graduate work in religious studies or other fields. Students can use this degree in any career that values critical thinking and sensitivity to human motivation, and involves encounter with diverse communities of belief in our increasingly global society.

REL 210	LIVING RELIGIONS OF THE EAST	(3)
REL 211	LIVING RELIGIONS OF THE WEST	(3)
REL 230	INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY	(3)
REL		
215/315	RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES	(3)
REL 340	OLD TESTAMENT	(3)
<i>or</i>		
REL 345	NEW TESTAMENT	(3)
REL 330	HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT (W)	(3)
<i>or</i>		
REL 332	CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN THOUGHT (W)	(3)
PHI 201	INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	(3)
<i>or</i>		
REL 325	PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION	(3)
	FOREIGN LANGUAGE	(6)
	FOUR ELECTIVES IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (AT LEAST TWO MUST BE 300 OR 400 LEVEL)	(12)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MINOR REQUIREMENTS	18 crs.
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REL 210	LIVING RELIGIONS OF THE EAST	(3)
REL 211	LIVING RELIGIONS OF THE WEST	(3)
REL 230	INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY	(3)
<i>or</i>		
REL		
215/315	RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES	(3)
	THREE ELECTIVES IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (AT LEAST TWO MUST BE 300 OR 400 LEVEL)	(9)

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