



Religious Studies Major and Minor

www.ReligiousStudies.Pitt.edu/Undergraduate

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Religion is one of the creative expressions of the human spirit, and a primary motivator of human actions. It has shaped, and been shaped by, many other forms of human activity including politics, intellectual movements, the arts, medicine and healing, and social behavior. The academic study of religion, therefore, is undertaken through diverse scholarly methodologies, and it treats religious experiences and ideas within a variety of cultural contexts in different periods. Students who wish to understand the manner in which religion, in its broadest terms, has contributed to the shaping of the human experience are encouraged to undertake a course of study that will allow them to delve deeply into questions that intrigue and inspire them.

The religious studies major makes the study of religion the focus of an education in the humanities and social sciences. The major draws students into an exploration of critical issues and themes that have shaped human life and thought in all time periods and in all cultures around the world. The major proposes a broad balance between breadth and depth for all students, and it requires each student to work out the particular balance of the course of study with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Required courses for the Religious Studies major

The religious studies major requires completion of 30 credits. The same course may not fulfill more than one distribution requirement. Requirements may be taken in any order, but students are encouraged to take the introductory courses early in the major.

Introductory courses

- RELGST 0105 Religions of the West
- RELGST 0505 Religions of Asia

Survey course; select one of the following courses

- RELGST 0025 Major Biblical Themes
- RELGST 0405 Witchcraft to Walden Pond Religion in Early America
- RELGST 0415 Religion in Modern America
- RELGST 0455 Intro to Islamic Civilization
- RELGST 0715 Philosophy of Religion
- RELGST 1120 Origins of Christianity
- RELGST 1130 Varieties of Christianity
- RELGST 1135 Orthodox Christianity
- RELGST 1210 Jews and Judaism-Ancient
- RELGST 1220 Jews and Judaism-Medieval
- RELGST 1250 Jews and Judaism-Modern
- RELGST 1500 Religion in India 1
- RELGST 1550 East Asian Buddhism
- RELGST 1560 Chinese Religious Traditions
- RELGST 1570 Japanese Religious Traditions

Thematic courses; three courses in one of the following thematic clusters.

Religion, Medicine, and the Body

- RELGST 1143 Death in the Name of God - Martyrs and Martyrdom
- RELGST 1151 Death in the Mediterranean World
- RELGST 1405 Religion and Sexuality
- RELGST 1554 Death and Beyond in Buddhist Cultures
- RELGST 1558 Buddhism and Psychology
- RELGST 1725 Death and the Healthcare Profession

Spirituality and Rationality

- RELGST 0090 Myth in the Ancient Near East
- RELGST 0735 Wisdom
- RELGST 1100 Israel in the Biblical Age
- RELGST 1142 Construction of Evil
- RELGST 1145 Greco-Roman Religions
- RELGST 1222 Jewish Mysticism
- RELGST 1540 Saints East and West
- RELGST 1545 Mysticism East and East
- RELGST 1552 East Asian Meditative Traditions
- RELGST 1610 Myth, Symbol, Ritual +
- RELGST 1760 Religion and Rationality
- RELGST 1762 Guide to the Perplexed

Religion, Culture, and Creative Expression

- RELGST 0435 Religion and Film
- RELGST 0525 Religion and Culture in East Asia
- RELGST 1148 Religions of Ancient Egypt
- RELGST 1160 Jerusalem - History and Imagination
- RELGST 1225 Jewish Culture in Medieval Spain
- RELGST 1228 Exodus and Passover +
- RELGST 1425 Popular Religion in America
- RELGST 1452 Hymns and Hip-Hop: Sounds of Islam
- RELGST 1510 Religion in India 2 Storytelling as a Religious Form
- RELGST 1557 Buddhist Lives
- RELGST 1572 Popular Religion in a Changing Japan

Religion, Identity, and Global Problems

- RELGST 1240 Jews and the City
- RELGST 1241 Gender in Jewish History
- RELGST 1252 History of the Holocaust
- RELGST 1372 Catholicism in the New World
- RELGST 1438 Religion and Politics
- RELGST 1450 Islam and Politics
- RELGST 1518 Religion and Ecology
- RELGST 1520 Buddhism Along the Silk Road
- RELGST 1620 Women in Religion
- RELGST 1642 History of Christian-Muslim Relations
- RELGST 1644 Christian Muslim Jews in the Middle Ages
- RELGST 1680 History and Memory in the Jewish Tradition
- RELGST 1681 Zionism, Anti-Zionism, Post-Zionism

Electives; three courses

Students must take one 1000-level RELGST course of their choice. The other two courses may include an internship, an undergraduate teaching assistantship, or a directed study course. The student must complete a minimum of nine credits in elective courses.

Capstone Seminar

___ RELGST 1903 Directed Research Seminar

Prerequisite: At least six RELGST courses

Distribution requirement

The courses students take to fulfill their major requirements must include at least one course from each of the following lists. The same course may not fulfill more than one distribution requirement. Introductory courses do not meet this requirement.

One course focusing on religion in Asia

- ___ RELGST 0525 Religion and Culture in East Asia
- ___ RELGST 1500 Religion in India 1 *
- ___ RELGST 1510 Religion in India 2 - Storytelling as a Religious Form *
- ___ RELGST 1520 Buddhist Civilization *
- ___ RELGST 1540 Saints East and West *
- ___ RELGST 1545 Mysticism East and East *
- ___ RELGST 1550 East Asian Buddhism *
- ___ RELGST 1552 Chan/Zen Buddhism *
- ___ RELGST 1554 Death and Beyond in Buddhist Cultures *
- ___ RELGST 1557 Buddhist Lives *
- ___ RELGST 1558 Buddhism and Psychology *
- ___ RELGST 1560 Chinese Religious Traditions *
- ___ RELGST 1570 Japanese Religious Traditions *
- ___ RELGST 1572 Popular Religions in a Changing Japan *

One course focusing on ancient or classical religion in the Middle East and/or Europe

- ___ RELGST 0025 Major Biblical Themes
- ___ RELGST 0090 Myth in the Ancient Near East
- ___ RELGST 1100 Israel in the Biblical Age +
- ___ RELGST 1120 Origins of Christianity +
- ___ RELGST 1130 Varieties of Early Christianity +
- ___ RELGST 1135 Orthodox Christianity +
- ___ RELGST 1142 Construction of Evil +
- ___ RELGST 1143 Death in the Name of God - Martyrs and Martyrdom +
- ___ RELGST 1145 Greco-Roman Religions +
- ___ RELGST 1148 Religions of Ancient Egypt
- ___ RELGST 1151 Death in the Mediterranean World +
- ___ RELGST 1160 Jerusalem - History and Imagination +
- ___ RELGST 1210 Classical Judaism +
- ___ RELGST 1220 Medieval Jewish Civilization +
- ___ RELGST 1222 Jewish Mysticism +
- ___ RELGST 1400 Religion and Culture in America
- ___ RELGST 1540 Saints East and West +
- ___ RELGST 1545 Mysticism East and East +
- ___ RELGST 1624 Women and Judaism
- ___ RELGST 1640 Jews in the Islamic World
- ___ RELGST 1642 Christian-Muslim Relations +
- ___ RELGST 1644 Christian Muslim Jews in the Middle Ages +
- ___ RELGST 1645 The Historical Jesus +
- ___ RELGST 1675 Reading the Hebrew Bible
- ___ RELGST 1680 Readings in Jewish Historiography
- ___ RELGST 1762 Guide to the Perplexed

One course focusing on modern or contemporary religion in the Middle East, Europe, or the Americas

- ___ RELGST 0405 Witches to Walden Pond Religion in Early America
- ___ RELGST 0415 Religion in Modern America
- ___ RELGST 0435 Religion, Literature and Film
- ___ RELGST 0455 Intro to Islamic Civilization
- ___ RELGST 0715 Philosophy of Religion
- ___ RELGST 1240 Jews and the City +
- ___ RELGST 1241 Gender and Jewish History +
- ___ RELGST 1250 Jews and Judaism – Modern +
- ___ RELGST 1252 History of the Holocaust +
- ___ RELGST 1256 Modern Israel
- ___ RELGST 1372 Catholicism in the New World +
- ___ RELGST 1400 Religion and Culture in America +
- ___ RELGST 1405 Religion and Sexuality +
- ___ RELGST 1410 Religion in American Thought
- ___ RELGST 1412 Migration in American Religion +
- ___ RELGST 1415 Race and Religion in America
- ___ RELGST 1425 Popular Religion in America +
- ___ RELGST 1427 Religion and Law +
- ___ RELGST 1438 Religion and Politics +
- ___ RELGST 1450 Islam and Politics +
- ___ RELGST 1452 Hymns and Hip-Hop: Sounds of Islam +
- ___ RELGST 1518 Religion and Ecology
- ___ RELGST 1681 Zionism, Anti-Zionism, Post-Zionism +
- ___ RELGST 1725 Death and the Healthcare Professions +
- ___ RELGST 1760 Religion and Rationality +

Grade requirements

All courses counted toward the major must be taken for a letter grade and completed with a C grade or above. At least five courses and the capstone seminar must be completed on the Oakland campus. Students transferring from other colleges or universities need to consult with the director of undergraduate studies about transferring courses and credits to be applied to the major.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

No more than six credits that count toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement

The capstone seminar fulfills the W-course requirement for this major.

Honors major requirements

Department honors require a GPA of 3.25 or higher in the major and a B+ or above in the capstone seminar.

Advising

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Requirements for the Religious Studies minor

The RELGST minor consists of 15 credits.

Two introductory courses from the following list.

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| RELGST 0025 Major
Biblical Themes | RELGST 0405 From Witches
to Walden Pond -
Religion in Early America | RELGST 0505 Religion in
Asia |
| RELGST 0090 Myth in the
Ancient Near East | RELGST 0415 Religion in
Modern America | RELGST 0525 Religion and
Culture in East Asia |
| RELGST 0105 Religions of
the West | RELGST 0435 Religion, Film,
and Literature | RELGST 0715 Philosophy of
Religion |
| RELGST 0305 Classics of
Christian Thought | RELGST 0455 Introduction to
Islamic Civilization | RELGST 0735 Wisdom |

One course on Religion in the East; denoted by *

One course on Religion in the West; denoted by +

One elective course at the 1000-level.