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 0255 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. One course on Religion in the West; denoted by +

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.
RELGST 0025 Major Biblical Themes
RELGST 0090 Myth in the Ancient Near East
RELGST 0105 Religions of the West
RELGST 0305 Classics of Christian Thought
RELGST 0405 From 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 0735 Wisdom of the West
RELGST 0750 Orthodox Christianity
RELGST 0760 Religion and Rationality

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.