RELIGIOUS STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR (BA, BS, HBA, HBS)

Also available via Ecampus.

The School of History, Philosophy, and Religion offers a BA or BS degree in Religious Studies as well as a minor in Religious Studies, and an undergraduate certificate in medical humanities. Courses emphasize skills in critical thinking, argumentative and expository writing, cultural literacy, citizenship, and global diversity. Majors in religious studies pursue graduate studies and careers in numerous fields, including education, government, humanitarian services, journalism, law, medicine, and politics.

Major Code: 977

• Acquire and further develop core humanities skills of critical thinking, textual analysis, expository and persuasive writing, and organized research, that displays academic knowledge of religious studies.
• Articulate the roles of religiosity in a secular democratic society and cultivate characteristics of engaged citizenship.
• Demonstrate sufficient familiarity with at least one religious cultural tradition outside of European/American culture.
• Utilize various disciplinary approaches – historical, literary, philosophical, religious, ethical – to articulate the concept and meaning of “religion” and the nature of its academic study.
• Apply scholarly methods to understand how religious communities address concrete issues such as environment, gender, violence, and secularity.

Code Title Credits

Required Core Courses
REL 160/PHL 160 *QUESTS FOR MEANING: WORLD RELIGIONS 4
REL 202/PHL 202 INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES 4
REL 407 *SEMINAR 4

Global Literacy in Religion

Select 12 credits from the following courses: 12
REL 206/PHL 206 *RELIGIOUS ETHICS AND MORAL PROBLEMS
REL 208/PHL 208 INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHIST TRADITIONS
REL 210/PHL 210/ HST 210 RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES
REL 213/PHL 213 INTRODUCTION TO HINDU TRADITIONS
REL 214/PHL 214 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC TRADITIONS
REL 215/HST 215 INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH TRADITIONS
REL 220/PHL 220 WORLD-VIEWS AND VALUES IN THE BIBLE

Studies in Religion and Culture

Select 24 credits from the following courses. 12 credits must come from courses in the School of History, Philosophy, and Religion (SHPR): 12
HST 486 A HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA
HST 423 *SCIENCE AND RELIGION
REL 170/PHL 170 THE IDEA OF GOD
REL 199 SPECIAL TOPICS
REL 201/PAX 201 STUDY OF PEACE AND THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT
REL 299 SPECIAL TOPICS
REL 310/PHL 310 *CRITICS OF RELIGION
REL 315/PHL 315 *GANDHI AND NONVIOLENCE

Religious Studies Undergraduate Major (BA, BS, HBA, HBS) 1

REL 316/PHL 316 INTELLECTUAL ISSUES OF MEXICO AND MEXICAN AMERICANS
REL 324/HST 324 *ANCIENT JEWISH HISTORY
REL 325/HST 325 *EARLY CHRISTIANITY: ORIGINS TO 600
REL 327/HST 327 HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE
REL 328/HST 328 HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE
REL 330/HST 330 HISTORY OF EARLY MODERN EUROPE
REL 333/HST 333 MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN SPANISH HISTORY
REL 344/PHL 344 *PACIFISM, JUST WAR, AND TERRORISM
REL 345/PHL 345 *FIRST FREEDOM: RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND INTEGRITY
REL 350/HST 350 *EARLY LATIN AMERICA
REL 352/HST 352 *AFRICANS IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY
REL 364/HST 364 *UNITED STATES RELIGION AND SOCIAL REFORM
REL 371/PHL 371 *PHILOSOPHIES OF CHINA
REL 387/HST 387 *ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION
REL 388/HST 388 *ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION
REL 399 SPECIAL TOPICS
REL 402 INDEPENDENT STUDY
REL 405 READING AND CONFERENCE
REL 411/PHL 411 GREAT FIGURES IN PHILOSOPHY
REL 415 SELECTED TOPICS
REL 425/HST 425 *THE HOLOCAUST IN ITS HISTORY
REL 430/PHL 430 HISTORY OF BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY
REL 431/PHL 431 BUDDHISM, NON-VIOLENCE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
REL 432/PHL 432 *YOGA AND TANTRIC TRADITIONS
REL 433/PHL 433 *THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MODERN YOGA
REL 434/PHL 434 *SPIRITUALITY AND ECOLOGY: GREEN YOGA
REL 435/PHL 435 PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION
REL 443/PHL 443 WORLD VIEWS AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES
REL 444/PHL 444 *BIOMEDICAL ETHICS
REL 448/PHL 448/ ES 448 NATIVE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHIES
REL 455/PHL 455 DEATH AND DYING
REL 461/PHL 461 ART AND MORALITY
REL 465/PHL 466 RELIGION AND U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS
REL 470/HST 470 RELIGION IN THE AMERICAN WEST
REL 485/HST 485 *POLITICS AND RELIGION IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Non-SHPR Courses 12
ANTH 452 FOLKLORE AND EXPRESSIVE CULTURE
ANTH 472 CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ISSUES
ENG 275 *THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE
ENG 295/PHL 295 *FEMINISM AND THE BIBLE
ENG 300 *THE HOLOCAUST IN LITERATURE AND FILM
ENG 360 *NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE
PS 361 CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT
PS 370 *SCIENCE, RELIGION, AND POLITICS
SOC 452 SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION
WGSS 223 *INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES
WGSS 380 *MUSLIM WOMEN
WGSS 495 *GLOBAL FEMINIST THEOLOGIES
WGSS 496 *FEMINIST THEOLOGIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Total credits required for graduation 180

* Baccalaureate Core Course (BCC)
^ Writing Intensive Course (WIC)

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