Religious Studies

College of Liberal & Creative Arts
Dean: Andrew Harris

Religious Studies Program
HUM 388
Phone: (415) 338–1596

Coordinator: Michael Sudduth
Undergraduate Advisors: Mohammad Azadpur, Pamela Hood, Fred Astren

Program Scope
The Minor in Religious Studies offers students the opportunity to study the full spectrum of humankind's religious heritage from an interdisciplinary perspective. Religion is an individual as well as a social phenomenon and the curriculum takes the students through both realms. Basic value questions are investigated from the viewpoint of religion, of disciplines looking at religion and of the individual in a pluralistic, unsettled world. More than half the minor is individually selected in consultation with an advisor, though the courses must represent the different dimensions of the religious experience as listed on the "Courses" page. Students may choose to focus their course combination in the minor on a specific religious tradition such as Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism; on a particular issue common to different religions; or on a particular culture or historical period.

As an interdisciplinary minor, religious studies can be taken in conjunction with any major.

Career Outlook
The religious studies minor provides an excellent background for those considering the ministry, social work, counseling, politics, law, or teaching at any level. As a help in shaping a person's view of the meaning and purpose of life, it can be of lasting value whatever one's career.

Religious Studies Minor — 21 units

Introduction to Religious Traditions (3 units)
PHIL 502 World Religions
or comparable course completed at another institution

The Nature of Religious Experience (3 units)
PHIL 525/ RELS 300 The Nature of Religious Experience
or PHIL 500 Philosophy of Religion

The Dimensions of Religious Experience (12 units)
Select one course from each of the following categories; no more than two courses from a single discipline.

The Expressive Dimensions of Religious Experience
ART 202 Western Art History II
ART/HUM 205 Asian Art History
CWL 260 Myths of the World
DANC 430 Historical Survey of Dance in the Western World
DANC/ANTH 657 Ethnology of Dance
ENG 503 Studies in Medieval Literature

The Study of Particular Religious Traditions
AFRS 326 Black Religion
AIS 310 American Indian Religion and Philosophy
AIS 450 American Indian Science
CLAS 230 Ancient Epic Tales
ENG 501 Age of Chaucer
ENG 630 Selected Studies
HIST 110 History of Western Civilization I
HIST 111 History of Western Civilization II
HIST 321 Hellenistic Greece
HIST 326 The Byzantine Empire
HIST 328 Early Christian Church to 313
HIST 329 Early Christian Church: 313-787
HIST 331/HUM 404 The High Middle Ages
HIST 336 The Reformation
HIST/HUM 480 Thought and Culture in America to 1880
HUM 403/HIST 330 The Early Middle Ages
HUM 404/HIST 331 The High Middle Ages
JS 410/PHIL 514 Kabbalah and Mysticism in the Jewish Tradition
JS 425/PHIL 552 Judaism: Religion and Text
JS/PHIL/HUM 501 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
PHIL 302 Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 436 Islamic Political Philosophy
PHIL 509 The Buddhist Tradition
PHIL 511 Chinese Philosophy and Religion
PHIL 516 Islamic Philosophy
PHIL 530 Selected Religious Thinkers
WGS 565 Muslim Feminisms

The Study of Religious Phenomena: Disciplinary Perspectives
ANTH 570 Anthropology of Religion
HUM 345 Humanism and Mysticism
PHIL 500 Philosophy of Religion

The Senior Experience (3 units)
RELS 696 Directed Reading in Religious Studies
RELS 300 The Nature of Religious Experience (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: ENG 114 or equivalent.

Nature of religious experience drawn from different religions and academic disciplines within the humanities and social sciences; investigation of the meaning of religious commitment in a secular world. (This course is offered as PHIL 525 and RELS 300. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

**Course Attributes:**
- E1: Lifelong Learning Develop
- UD-C: Arts and/or Humanities
- Global Perspectives

RELS 696 Directed Reading in Religious Studies (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: RELS 300.

Project to synthesize varying perspectives on religion and religious experiences.