Religious Studies Program Learning Outcomes

Goal 1 – Students will come to understand and appreciate religion as a phenomenon that brings meaning to human lives in diverse cultures, traditions, and historical moments.

- Students will learn the major beliefs and practices that constitute diverse religious traditions.
- Students will be able to analyze and compare religious traditions.
- Students will be able to discuss how religious beliefs and practices reflect a conception of the human purpose and dilemma.

Goal 2 – Students will learn about the religious history of different geographic regions and cultures (e.g., Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe).

- Students will be able to identify the different religious traditions, ideas, and values that have emerged from diverse cultures.

Goal 3 – Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills using the methods of the academic study of religion.

- Students will learn the diverse theories and major debates among scholars in a variety of academic fields (e.g., religious studies, philosophy, psychology, and sociology) on the nature and meaning of religion.
- Students will be able to identify central definitions of the concept of religion and the debates that have informed them (e.g., what is Freud’s view of religion, and how does it differ from Durkheim’s position?).
- Students will be able to distinguish theology from the academic study of religion.
- Students will be able to discuss various interpretations of religion in addressing theoretical questions (e.g., what role does gender play in religious experience? What is the meaning of sacrifice?).

Goal 4 – Students will learn to read and write according to the standards and conventions of scholarship in the study of religion and will be introduced to appropriate technology for reading and research in religious studies.

- Students will acquire the necessary skills to develop an essay topic, conduct research, construct arguments, and write cogent essays in religious studies incorporating Chicago style documentation.
- Students will be able to locate and distinguish primary and secondary sources; students will be able to use appropriate collections, articles, bibliographies, and web resources; students will be able to critically appropriate these sources in order to amplify their research and writing; and students will be able to cite such sources accurately.

Program Requirements

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<td><strong>General Education Requirements</strong></td>
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<td>First-Year Seminar (FYS)</td>
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<td>Lower Division Area A: Foundational Skills</td>
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<td>Lower Division Area B: Natural Sciences</td>
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<td>Lower Division Area C: Arts and Humanities</td>
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<td>Lower Division Area D: Social and Behavioral Sciences</td>
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### Lower Division Area E: Student Enrichment and Lifelong Learning (SELF)

- Lower Division Area F: Ethnic Studies: 3 units
- American Institutions: Government and History: 6 units
- Junior Year Diversity & Reflection (JYDR): 0-3 units
- Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR): 3 units
- Upper Division Thematic Area B and D: 6 units
- General Education Capstone: 0 units

**General Education Subtotal**: 44-53 units

### Major Requirements

**Required Introductory Course**
- RS 2900 Exploring Religion: 3 units

**Core Courses**
Select one from each of the following areas:
- Area 1
  - RS 3210 Judaism
  - RS 3220 Christianity
  - RS 3230 Islam
- Area 2
  - RS 3240 Hinduism
  - RS 3250 Buddhism
- Area 3
  - RS 3260 Indigenous Religious Traditions of the Americas
- Area 4
  - RS 3270 Religion in America
  - RS 4410 Religion and Immigration

Select one additional course from any area above: 3 units

**Select one from the following:**
- RS 3340 Psychology of Religion
- RS 3350 Sociology of Religion
- RS 3368 Women, Religion and Sexuality
- ANTH 3350 Anthropology of Religion
- RS 3360 Religion of Literature
- PHIL/RS 4560 Philosophy of Religion

### Approaches to the Study of Religion

Select one of the following:
- RS 3340 Psychology of Religion
- RS 3350 Sociology of Religion
- RS 3368 Women, Religion and Sexuality
- ANTH 3350 Anthropology of Religion
- RS 3360 Religion of Literature
- PHIL/RS 4560 Philosophy of Religion

**Select three of the following (one Lower Division, one Upper Division and one elective):**

#### Lower Division
- RS 1128 A History of God
- RS 1138 Religions of Asia
- RS 1108 Jesus, Buddha, and the Moral Life
- RS 1118 Religion and Film: Screening the Sacred
- RS 2010 Cults in America
- RS 2018 Anime Spirituality
- RS 2108 Latinx Spiritualities

#### Upper Division
- RS 3208 Explorations in Scripture
- RS 3518 The American Dream
- RS 3528 The Holocaust and Its Impact
- RS 3538 Religion and Human Rights
- RS 3548 The Spiritual Quest

**Total Units Needed Towards Graduation**: 111-129 units

### Additional Units Needed Towards Graduation: 31-40 units

**Experiential**
- Select one of the following: 3 units
  - RS 3480 Applied Experience
  - RS 3378 Religious Diversity in California
  - RS 3388 Interfaith Literacy and Leadership: Building Bridges

**Senior Seminar**
- RS 4908 Senior Seminar: 3 units

**Major Subtotal**: 36 units

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1. Area C2 may be satisfied within the major. The SELF requirement may double count with B, C, or D. JYDR may be satisfied in major, minor or other university requirement. Students are waived from UD area of their program. Capstone may be satisfied within the senior seminar.