Undergraduate Program in Religious Studies

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949-824-6735
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/religious_studies/

Overview

Religious Studies includes an interdisciplinary major and minor that focus on the comparative understanding of the various ways different peoples, across space and through time, have developed their religious ideas, values, systems, beliefs, rituals, and traditions in response to fundamental questions of human existence. The curriculum seeks to provide a wide-ranging academic understanding and knowledge of the religious experience in society through study in the Schools of Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Ecology, and the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. As an interdisciplinary academic discipline, the study of religion offers a rigorous, systematic, and dispassionate intellectual inquiry into various aspects of religious systems, their practitioners and outlooks, and their goals and expressions. It employs a wide variety of approaches and methods in order to understand the role of religion in both human experience and thought.

Students in the Religious Studies major complete an emphasis either in World Religious Traditions or, more particularly, in Judaism/Christianity/Islam.

Categories and Approved Courses

The complete list of approved courses varies from quarter to quarter, depending upon course scheduling. For complete up-to-date information on approved courses, please consult the Religious Studies website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/religious_studies).

Requirements for the B.A. in Religious Studies

All students must meet the University Requirements.
All students must meet the School Requirements.

Requirements for the Major

A. Complete:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL STD 5A</td>
<td>World Religions I</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL STD 5B</td>
<td>World Religions II</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL STD 5C</td>
<td>Religious Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL STD 110</td>
<td>Thinking about Religion: Theories and Methodologies</td>
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B. Select six upper-division electives, two in each of the following categories: ¹

1. Judaism/Christianity/Islam
2. World Religious Traditions
3. Thematic Approaches to Religion

C. Select two additional upper-division courses from either category 1 or 2 above in order to complete an emphasis in Judaism/Christianity/Islam or in World Religious Traditions.

¹ Selected from the approved lists published on the Religious Studies website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/religious_studies). One relevant lower-division course may be substituted for an upper-division course, with prior approval.

Studying Abroad: Students are encouraged to study abroad and may be able to satisfy a significant portion of their requirements abroad. Courses taken abroad must be approved by the Director of Religious Studies in order to be applied toward major requirements.

Residence Requirement for the Major: A minimum of five upper-division courses required for the major must be completed successfully at UCI.

Additional Information

Career Opportunities

Majoring in Religious Studies is an excellent preparation for living in a multicultural society and for a variety of careers in counseling, teaching, commerce, writing, government, the arts, and professional religious leadership. The major’s emphasis on broad understanding, critical thinking skills, and clear written expression provides an effective springboard for graduate study in the humanities and social science or professional schools in medicine, law, or business.

The UCI Career Center provides services to students and alumni including career counseling, information about job opportunities, a career library, and workshops on resume preparation, job search, and interview techniques. See the Career Center section for additional information.
Requirements for the Minor in Religious Studies

Requirements for the Minor
REL STD 5A  World Religions I
REL STD 5B  World Religions II
REL STD 5C  Religious Dialogue
REL STD 110  Thinking about Religion: Theories and Methodologies

Four upper-division electives selected from the three categories under B above, including at least one course from both categories 1 and 2. Two of the four courses must be outside of the student’s major. One relevant lower-division course may be substituted for an upper-division course, with prior approval.

Residence Requirement for the Minor: Four upper-division courses required for the minor must be completed successfully at UCI. Two of the four may be taken through the UC Education Abroad Program, provided course content is approved by the Director of the Religious Studies program.

Affiliate Faculty
Elizabeth G. Allen, Ph.D. University of Michigan, Associate Professor of English; Religious Studies (Chaucer, Gower, 15th century poetry; exemplary literature, romance, chronicle, episodic form; intersections between ethics and politics, politics and religion; hospitality, sovereignty, legal and constitutional history of England)

Francisco J. Ayala, Ph.D. Columbia University, Donald Bren Professor and University Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Logic and Philosophy of Science; Religious Studies

Stanley Bailey, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Professor of Sociology; Religious Studies (race and ethnicity, religion, immigration, Latin America)

Emily L. Baum, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Assistant Professor of History; Religious Studies (modern Chinese history, history of medicine)

Victoria Bernal, Ph.D. Northwestern University, Professor of Anthropology; Religious Studies

Susan C. Bibler Coutin, Ph.D. Stanford University, Associate Dean of the Graduate Division and Professor of Criminology, Law and Society; Anthropology; Religious Studies (law, culture, immigration, human rights, citizenship, political activism, Central America)

Susan K. Brown, Ph.D. University of Washington, Professor of Sociology; Religious Studies (immigration, inequality, urban sociology)

Carol M. Burke, Ph.D. University of Maryland, College Park, Professor of English; Religious Studies (literary and cultural theory, literary journalism, new media studies)

Vinayak Chaturvedi, Ph.D. University of Cambridge, Associate Professor of History; Culture and Theory; Religious Studies (modern South Asia, social and intellectual history)

Yong Chen, Ph.D. Cornell University, Associate Dean of Curriculum and Student Services and Professor of History; Asian American Studies; Religious Studies (Asian American history and immigration, food and culture, U.S./China economic and cultural interactions)

James T. Chiampi, Ph.D. Yale University, Professor of Italian; Religious Studies (Dante and Italian Renaissance)

Chungmoo Choi, Ph.D. Indiana University, Associate Professor of Korean Culture; Religious Studies (modern Korea, postcolonial and colonial discourse, popular culture, anthropology)

Touraj Daryaee, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, UCI Endowed Chair and Professor of History; Religious Studies (Iran, Zoroastrianism, Ancient Medieval World)

Rebecca Davis, Ph.D. University of Notre Dame, Assistant Professor of English; Religious Studies (Old and Middle English literature, Piers Plowman, medieval religious culture, women’s writing, medieval philosophy)

Michael A. Fuller, Ph.D. Yale University, Department Chair and Professor of East Asian Languages and Literature; Chinese; Religious Studies (Chinese poetry and poetics, the cultural and intellectual contexts for poetry, aesthetic theory, linguistic issues in classical Chinese)

Qitao Guo, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Associate Professor of History; Religious Studies (social, cultural, and religious history of pre-modern China (the Ming and Qing dynasties))

Andromache Karanika, Ph.D. Princeton University, Associate Professor of Classics; Religious Studies (Greek epic poetry, Greek lyric, folklore)

Bonnie D. Kent, Ph.D. Columbia University, Professor of Philosophy; Religious Studies

Aaron Kheriaty, M.D. Georgetown University, Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior; Religious Studies
Susan B. Klein, Ph.D. Cornell University, Associate Professor of Japanese; Religious Studies (premodern and modern theater and dance, Japanese religions, feminist critical theory)

Mark A. LeVine, Ph.D. New York University, Professor of History; Culture and Theory; Religious Studies (modern Middle Eastern history, Islamic studies, histories of empire and globalization)

James K. Lee, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory; Religious Studies (Asian American literature and culture, contemporary U.S. literature, race and ethnic studies, urban studies, religious studies)

Matthias Lehmann, Ph.D. Freie Universität Berlin, Director of the Interdisciplinary Minor in Jewish Studies and Teller Family Chair in Jewish History and Professor of History; European Languages and Studies; Religious Studies (early modern and modern Jewish history, Sephardic studies)

Karen Leonard, Ph.D. University of Wisconsin, Professor Emerita of Anthropology; Religious Studies

Jayne Elizabeth Lewis, Ph.D. Princeton University, Director of Humanities Honors Program and Professor of English; Religious Studies (literature and medicine, restoration and 18th century British literature, literature of the supernatural and gothic fiction, history and/of fiction, atmosphere as literary concept and construct within natural philosophy)

Julia R. Lupton, Ph.D. Yale University, Associate Dean for Research and Professor of English; Comparative Literature; Education; Religious Studies (Renaissance literature, literature and psychology)

Cecelia M. Lynch, Ph.D. Columbia University, Professor of Political Science; Religious Studies

Sanjoy Mazumdar, Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design; Asian American Studies; Religious Studies

Shampa Mazumdar, Ph.D. Northeastern University, Lecturer of Sociology; Religious Studies (religion, immigration, Asian American, urban sociology)

Michael T. McBride, Ph.D. Yale University, Professor of Economics; Logic and Philosophy of Science; Religious Studies

Joseph H. McKenna, Ph.D. Fordham University, Lecturer of Religious Studies (history of religious ideas)

Nancy Ann McLoughlin, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, Associate Professor of History; European Languages and Studies; Religious Studies (late Medieval Europe, intellectual history, gender)

John Miles, Ph.D. Harvard University, Professor of English; Religious Studies (religion, literature, international relations, western scriptures [Jewish, Christian, Muslim] as literature; religious poetry and music, religion, science, and the environment)

Margaret Miles, Ph.D. Princeton University, Professor of Art History; Religious Studies; Visual Studies (Greek and Roman art, archaeology)

Keith L. Nelson, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, UCI Endowed Chair and Edward A. Dickson Emeritus of History; Religious Studies

Jane O. Newman, Ph.D. Princeton University, Professor of Comparative Literature; English; European Languages and Studies; Religious Studies (comparative Renaissance and early modern literature and culture [English, French, German, Italian, neo-Latin], Mediterranean Renaissance studies, Baroque, afterlives of antiquity, Walter Benjamin, Erich Auerbach, pre-modern lessons for the modern and post-modern)

Maria C. Pantelia, Ph.D. Ohio State University, Director, Thesaurus Linguae Graecae® and Professor of Classics; Religious Studies (Greek epic, Hellenistic poetry, digital technologies in the humanities)

Alka Patel, Ph.D. Harvard University, Associate Professor of Art History; Religious Studies; Visual Studies (South Asian and Islamic art and architecture, historiographies, Islamic diasporas in Cuba)

Amy Powell, Ph.D. Harvard University, Associate Professor of Art History; European Languages and Studies; Religious Studies; Visual Studies (Late medieval and early modern art of northern Europe, critical theory)

Adrian Preda, M.D., Health Sciences Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior; Religious Studies

Gary Richardson, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, UCI Chancellor's Fellow and Professor of Economics; European Languages and Studies; Religious Studies

Michael Ryan, Ph.D. University of Iowa, Professor of English; Religious Studies (American literature, creative writing, poetry, poetics, autobiography)

Victoria A. Silver, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Associate Professor of English; European Languages and Studies; Religious Studies (early modern literature and culture, religious studies, history and theory of rhetoric, literature and philosophy)

Daniel Stokols, Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Social Behavior; Planning, Policy, and Design; Program in Public Health; Religious Studies
Roxanne Varzi, Ph.D. Columbia University, Associate Professor of Anthropology; Culture and Theory; Film and Media Studies; Religious Studies; Visual Studies (Iran, media, war, visual anthropology, film studies, ethnographic and fiction writing)