

Undergraduate Program in Religious Studies

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http://www.humanities.uci.edu/religious_studies/

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/).

- Religious Studies, B.A.
- Religious Studies, Minor

Courses

REL STD 5A. World Religions I. 4 Units.

An introduction to the history, doctrine, culture, and writing of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Same as HISTORY 16A.

(IV and VIII).

REL STD 5B. World Religions II. 4 Units.

An introduction to various religious traditions in selected areas of the world—including India and South Asia, East Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Same as HISTORY 16B.

(IV and VIII).

REL STD 5C. Religious Dialogue. 4 Units.

Lectures and discussion on controversial topics in religion: sexual morality; religious violence; science; treatment of women and girls; religious truth, American Constitutional matters; secularization; the future of religion, and other topics.

Same as HISTORY 16C.

(IV, VIII)

REL STD 17. An Economic Approach to Religion. 4 Units.

Introduction to how basic economic concepts such as demand, supply, consumption, production, competition, free-riding, innovation, regulation, and rent-seeking can be applied to understand observed religious behavior.

Same as ECON 17.

(III)

REL STD 21. Philosophy and Religion. 4 Units.

Examines the intersection of religion and philosophy from a standpoint that does not presuppose previous academic study of either. Both Western and Eastern traditions and perspectives may be explored.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

Same as PHILOS 21.

(IV)

REL STD 61. Gender and Religion. 4 Units.

Introduces the topic of religion in a feminist context by performing cross-cultural exploration of gender, authority, and faith in various traditions. Study includes (but is not limited to) writings of contemporary Jewish, Christian, and Muslim feminists.

Same as GEN&SEX 60C.

(III and VIII).

REL STD 90. Aspects of Religion. 4 Units.

A presentation of selected issues in the study of religion.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 100. Topics in the Study of Religion. 4 Units.

The intersection of religious belief and practices with selected subjects of continuing interest.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 103. Topics in the Philosophy of Religion. 4 Units.

Critical examination of philosophical concepts in religious scripture and theology, e.g., the nature and existence of God, miracles, the problem of evil, and divine command theories in ethics. May include any religious tradition.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 110. Thinking about Religion: Theories and Methodologies. 4 Units.

A survey and investigation of the major thinkers, theories, and methodologies in the study of religions. Designed to develop the student's ability to analyze and articulate theoretical arguments; includes a paper on relevant Religious Studies topics.

Prerequisite: (REL STD 5A or HISTORY 16A) and (REL STD 5B or HISTORY 16B) and (REL STD 5C or HISTORY 16C)

Overlaps with REL STD 110W.

Restriction: Religious Studies Majors have first consideration for enrollment.

REL STD 110W. Thinking about Religion: Theories and Methodologies. 4 Units.

A survey and investigation of the major thinkers, theories, and methodologies in the study of religions. Designed to develop the student's ability to analyze and articulate theoretical arguments in writing; includes a paper on relevant Religious Studies topics.

Prerequisite: (REL STD 5A or HISTORY 16A) and (REL STD 5B or HISTORY 16B) and (REL STD 5C or HISTORY 16C). Satisfactory completion of the Lower-Division Writing requirement.

Overlaps with REL STD 110.

Restriction: Religious Studies Majors have first consideration for enrollment.

(Ib)

REL STD 115. Religion and World Politics. 4 Units.

Examines the relationship between religion and world politics historically and today, focusing on connections with peace/war, democracy, human rights, secularism(s), and globalization. Covers major debates, scholarship, concepts, and theories through class exercises, exams, and essays.

Prerequisite: POL SCI 41A or INTL ST 11 or INTL ST 12 or REL STD 5A or REL STD 5B or REL STD 5C

Same as POL SCI 146B, INTL ST 151B.

REL STD 120. Topics in Asian Religious Traditions. 4 Units.

Studies involving (but not limited to) Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Jainism, Sikhism, Daoism, Shinto or Shamanism, including both elite and doctrinal aspects and forms of more popular religiosity.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 122. Ancient India. 4 Units.

Examines the visual and religious history of the region defined as "India" today, but necessarily encompassing modern Bangladesh and Pakistan. Culminates with the supposed Golden Age of the Gupta empire and its far-reaching legacies.

Same as HISTORY 170A, ART HIS 155A.

Concurrent with ART HIS 255A.

REL STD 123. Medieval India. 4 Units.

Begins with the Gupta period's aesthetic legacies in South Asia's architecture, sculpture, and painting. Explores the dispersal of Islam throughout South Asia, including the Muslim communities of southern India.

Same as HISTORY 170B, ART HIS 155B.

Concurrent with ART HIS 255B.

REL STD 124. Topics in Modern Indian Religion. 4 Units.

Topics in religions of the Indian subcontinent including, but not confined to, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, and Buddhism from the founding of the Mughal Empire in 1526 to the creation of the several modern states of the Indian subcontinent.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 130. Jewish, Islamic, and Middle Eastern Religious Traditions. 4 Units.

Character and evolution of Egyptian, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Muslim, and other religious communities of the region from their formative periods to the present era.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 130F. Jews and Power. 4 Units.

Examines the relationship between the Jewish people and political power over a 3500 year period. How have Jews preserved their communal interests and personal safety? How have they defined the proper relationship of the people to political authority.

Same as HISTORY 130F, POL SCI 154J.

REL STD 131A. History of Zoroastrianism. 4 Units.

Reviews major trends in the history of Zoroastrianism.

Same as HISTORY 131A.

REL STD 140. Early Western Religious Traditions. 4 Units.

Religious perspectives of the Mediterranean and European regions from the earliest times to approximately 1500 C.E.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 150. Religion in the Americas. 4 Units.

Religious belief and social context in North and South America from the earliest human societies to the present.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 160. Diaspora Religions. 4 Units.

Examination of what happens to belief and practice as religious communities are scattered geographically.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 170. Topics in Comparative Studies in Religion. 4 Units.

Literary, historical, or philosophical comparison of selected religious and quasi-religious traditions, their beliefs and practices.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 199. Independent Study. 1-4 Units.

Directed reading and research in consultation with a faculty member. Substantial written work required.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

Restriction: Upper-division students only.

REL STD 399. University Teaching . 4 Units.

Limited to teaching assistants.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

Restriction: Graduate students only.