

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES, B.A.

Religious studies is an academic discipline that looks at religious phenomena worldwide from a variety of angles in order to understand the many roles that religion plays in human life. To this end, students of religion learn to use a variety of theoretical analyses and methods. These include historical methods to understand how religions develop in time; critical literary methods to understand religious ideas; aesthetic methods to understand religious art and material culture; social-scientific methods to understand the relationship between religion, society and culture. Religious studies can also engage a variety of professional disciplines in analysis of how religion functions in economic, educational or political contexts, healthcare and scientific research, to name some examples.

Some ways of studying religion emphasize understanding religions on their own terms, other ways use comparative methods to discern differences and similarities between religions. Students of religion also study ways that people use religious resources to make meaning outside the boundaries of religious institutions and identities. Above all, the field of religious studies requires a willingness to explore different ways of interpreting human life and diligent effort to develop understanding of how religious ideas, symbols, rituals and spaces serve as resources for people in a variety of contexts as they make sense of and live out their lives in the world. Thus, religious studies provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally and personally in a complex, multidimensional world.

## COURSES

Because religious studies is an interdisciplinary program drawing upon many departments, some courses may have prerequisites in their home departments that must be fulfilled even though the prerequisites themselves have no bearing on progress within the religious studies major. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all the prerequisites to enter a course before they enroll in it. The current list of courses can be found in the Religious Studies course list page ([http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/relig\\_st/](http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/relig_st/)) in the *Guide*.

## HOW TO GET IN

Students who wish to declare their intention to major in religious studies must meet with the undergraduate advisor during regular office hours or by making an appointment. Students are encouraged to do this early in their academic careers in order to plan for successful completion and take advantage of opportunities such as Honors, special research, internship, service learning, or study abroad opportunities in association with the major or certificate.

Students declared in the Religious Studies certificate may not be declared in the Religious Studies major at the same time. Students who do wish to declare this major must first cancel their declaration in the certificate.

## REQUIREMENTS

### UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the *Guide*.

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|-------------------|--|
| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits</li> <li>• Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits</li> <li>• Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits</li> <li>• Communication Part A &amp; Part B *</li> <li>• Ethnic Studies *</li> <li>• Quantitative Reasoning Part A &amp; Part B *</li> </ul> |
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\* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

### COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Mathematics** Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

**Foreign Language**

- Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
- Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.

**L&S Breadth**

- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Liberal Arts and Science Coursework | Complete at least 108 credits.   |
| Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work | Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.  |
| Major                               | Declare and complete at least one major.   |
| Total Credits                       | Complete at least 120 credits.   |
| UW-Madison Experience               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 credits in residence, overall; and</li> <li>• 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.</li> </ul>                |
| Quality of Work                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison</li> <li>• 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison</li> </ul> |

## NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students must complete 30 credits in Religious Studies course work, to include:

| Code                                  | Title   | Credits   |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>Gateway (Complete one course:)</b> |   | <b>3</b>  |
| RELIG ST 101                          | Religion in Global Perspective                |           |
| RELIG ST 102                          | Exploring Religion in Sickness and Health     |           |
| RELIG ST 103                          | Exploring Religion and Sexuality              |           |
| RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 104                | Sacred Places and Journeys                    |           |
| RELIG ST 105                          | Religion and Popular Culture-Local and Global |           |
| <b>Middle Sequence</b>                |   | <b>15</b> |
| RELIG ST 300                          | America and Religions                         |           |
| RELIG ST 302                          | Christianity: Interpretation and Practice     |           |
| RELIG ST/ GEN&WS 305                  | Women, Gender and Religion                    |           |
| RELIG ST/ASIAN/ HISTORY 308           | Introduction to Buddhism                      |           |
| RELIG ST/ HISTORY/ MEDIEVAL 309       | The Crusades: Christianity and Islam          |           |
| RELIG ST 311                          | Sects and Cults                               |           |
| RELIG ST 327                          | Christianity and the Almighty Dollar          |           |
| RELIG ST/ JEWISH/ LITTRANS 328        | Classical Rabbinic Literature in Translation  |           |
| RELIG ST/ HIST SCI/ MED HIST 331      | Science, Medicine and Religion                |           |

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|--|--|
| RELIG ST/ CLASSICS/ HEBR-BIB/ JEWISH/ LITTRANS 332 | Prophets of the Bible                            |
| RELIG ST 333                                       | Early Christian Literature: Matthew-Revelation   |
| RELIG ST/ CLASSICS/ JEWISH 335                     | King David in History and Tradition              |
| RELIG ST/ JEWISH 340                               | The American Jewish Life of DNA                  |
| RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL/ SCAND ST 342         | Nordic Mythology                                 |
| RELIG ST/ ANTHRO 343                               | Anthropology of Religion                         |
| RELIG ST/ CLASSICS/ JEWISH 346                     | Jewish Literature of the Greco-Roman Period      |
| RELIG ST/ ASIAN 350                                | Introduction to Taoism                           |
| RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 352                             | Shamanism  |
| RELIG ST/ ASIAN 306                                | Hinduism   |
| RELIG ST/ JEWISH 322                               | The Sabbath                                      |
| RELIG ST/ ENVIR ST/ HIST SCI 356                   | Islam, Science & Technology, and the Environment |
| RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 359                             | Myth   |
| RELIG ST/ENGL/ HISTORY 360                         | The Anglo-Saxons                                 |
| RELIG ST 361                                       | Early Christian Literature: Pauline Christianity |
| RELIG ST/ AFRICAN/ ASIAN 370                       | Islam: Religion and Culture                      |
| RELIG ST/ ART HIST 373                             | Great Cities of Islam                            |
| RELIG ST/ COM ARTS 374                             | The Rhetoric of Religion                         |
| RELIG ST 400                                       | Topics in Religious Studies - Humanities         |
| RELIG ST 401                                       | Topics in Religious Studies - Social Studies     |
| RELIG ST 403                                       | Topics in Religious Studies-US Ethnic Studies    |
| RELIG ST/ AFROAMER 404                             | African American Religions                       |
| RELIG ST 406                                       | The Amish  |
| RELIG ST 410                                       | Children and Religion in America                 |
| RELIG ST/ HISTORY 411                              | The Enlightenment and Its Critics                |

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| RELIG ST/<br>AFRICAN 414              | Islam in Africa and the Diaspora                            |
| RELIG ST 420                          | Religious Studies Colloquium                                |
| RELIG ST/<br>POLI SCI 433             | Religion and Politics                                       |
| RELIG ST/<br>ENGL 434                 | Milton  |
| RELIG ST/<br>JEWISH/<br>PHILOS 435    | Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century |
| RELIG ST/ASIAN/<br>HISTORY 438        | Buddhism and Society in Southeast Asian History             |
| RELIG ST/<br>ITALIAN/<br>MEDIEVAL 440 | Poverty, Ecology and the Arts: St. Francis of Assisi        |
| RELIG ST/<br>ASIAN 444                | Introduction to Sufism (Islamic Mysticism)                  |
| RELIG ST/<br>ASIAN 466                | Buddhist Thought  |
| RELIG ST/<br>ASIAN 473                | Meditation in Indian Buddhism and Hinduism                  |
| RELIG ST 475                          | Religion, Global and Public Health                          |
| RELIG ST/<br>ART HIST 478             | Art and Religious Practice in Medieval Japan                |
| RELIG ST 500                          | Advanced Topics in Religious Studies                        |
| RELIG ST/<br>PHILOS 501               | Philosophy of Religion                                      |
| RELIG ST/<br>PHILOS 502               | Special Topics in Philosophy of Religion                    |
| RELIG ST/<br>CURRIC/<br>ED POL 516    | Religion and Public Education                               |
| RELIG ST/<br>CLASSICS/<br>HISTORY 517 | Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean                      |
| RELIG ST/<br>ASIAN 650                | Proseminar in Buddhist Thought                              |

### Capstone

|              |                                  |   |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---|
| RELIG ST 600 | Religion in Critical Perspective | 3 |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---|

|  |  |          |
|--|--|----------|
| <b>Electives: Any course from RELIG ST 100 through 699</b> |  | <b>9</b> |
|--|--|----------|

|                      |  |           |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>Total Credits</b> |  | <b>30</b> |
|----------------------|--|-----------|

## RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all RELIG ST and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 Upper-Level credits for the major, taken in residence<sup>1</sup>
- 15 credits in RELIG ST or the major, taken on campus

1

Courses counting as upper-level in the major are any RELIG ST courses at the Intermediate or Advanced level.

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Religious Studies undergraduate advisor.

### HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and these additional requirements:

- Minimum 3.300 University GPA
- Minimum 3.500 GPA in all RELIG ST and all major courses
- Complete 12 credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better, to include:
  - RELIG ST 600
  - RELIG ST 681 and RELIG ST 682 for at least 6 credits.
  - 3 additional credits of Intermediate or Advanced level RELIG ST and major courses

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Total Degree** To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

**Residency** Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

**Quality of Work** Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Proficiency in close reading, interpretation, and written and oral analysis.
2. Proficiency in accessing, appraising, and utilizing a variety of resources and methods for research across disciplinary lines.
3. Proficiency in categorizing, analyzing and comparing diverse systems of value and belief in a variety of contexts.
4. Global and local religious literacy; identifying, evaluating, and interpreting the interrelationships and impact of religious worldviews and communities in Wisconsin, the United States and globally.
5. Ability to conduct and present sustained research on primary sources using methodologies/analysis of religious studies culminating in the senior capstone project.

## FOUR-YEAR PLAN

### SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

#### First Year

| Fall                                | Credits   | Spring  | Credits   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| RELIG ST 101, 102, 103, 104, or 105 |           | 3 RELIG ST course meeting Literature Breadth <sup>1</sup> | 3         |
| Communication A                     |           | 3 RELIG ST elective                                       | 3         |
| Quantitative Reasoning A            |           | 3-4 Biological Science Breadth                            | 3         |
| Foreign Language (if needed)        |           | 4 Social Science Breadth                                  | 3         |
| Elective                            |           | 3 Elective  | 3         |
|                                     | <b>16</b> |   | <b>15</b> |

#### Second Year

| Fall   | Credits   | Spring   | Credits   |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| RELIG ST course with Literature Breadth <sup>1</sup> |           | 3 RELIG ST/ILS 234 or 236 (meets Communication B requirement)            | 3         |
| Quantitative Reasoning B                             |           | 3 RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 352, 403, or 404 (meets Ethnic Studies requirement) | 3         |
| Social Science Breadth                               |           | 3 Physical Science Breadth   | 3         |
| Elective   |           | 4 I/A COMP SCI, MATH or STAT (if needed for B.S.)                        | 3         |
| INTER-LS 210   |           | 1 Elective   | 4         |
|  | <b>14</b> |  | <b>16</b> |

#### Third Year

| Fall  | Credits   | Spring                                      | Credits   |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above)       |           | 6 RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above) | 9         |
| Social Science Breadth                          |           | 3 Science Breadth                           | 3         |
| I/A COMP SCI, MATH or STAT (if needed for B.S.) |           | 3 Social Science Breadth                    | 3         |
| Elective  |           | 4   |           |
|   | <b>16</b> |   | <b>15</b> |

#### Fourth Year

| Fall         | Credits | Spring               | Credits |
|--------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| RELIG ST 600 |         | 3 RELIG ST Electives | 6       |

|   |            |           |
|---|------------|-----------|
| RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above) | 3 Elective | 9         |
| Science Breadth                           | 3          |           |
| Electives                                 | 4          |           |
|   | <b>13</b>  | <b>15</b> |

#### Total Credits 120

1

Consult the Course Search & Enroll tool for a comprehensive list of RELIG ST courses designated for Literature Breadth.

## ADVISING AND CAREERS

### ADVISING

Dr. Corrie Norman is the undergraduate advisor and Honors in the Major advisor. Contact her by email at [cenorman@wisc.edu](mailto:cenorman@wisc.edu) to meet with her. Students are encouraged to meet with Dr. Norman early in their academic careers in order to plan for successful completion and take advantage of opportunities such as Honors, special research, internship, service learning or study abroad opportunities in associate with the major or certificate.

### CAREERS

Religious studies engages a variety of professional disciplines and provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally in a complex, multi-dimensional world.

Religious studies sponsors workshops and other career exploration vehicles, often in collaboration with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science, to aid students in articulating the value of religious studies for their career preparation. Student-developed capstone projects in religious studies often make specific connections to experiential learning and career preparation in a range of fields. Talk with Dr. Norman about possibilities for combining internships and other forms of preprofessional training with the major and certificate.

### L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:

- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
  - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)

## PEOPLE

### PROFESSORS

Bell, Bowie, Brenner, Bühnemann, Chamberlain, Cohen, Dale, DuBois, Dunne, Gade, Hansen, Hardin, Hildner, Howard, Hsia, Koshar, Langer, Livorni, Louden, Nadler, Ohnuki-Tierney, Phillips, Rosenblum, Schenck, Schweber, Stanford Friedman, Thompson, Wandel, Wink, Wolf, Zaeske

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Beneker, Cerulli, Hutton, Livanos, Ridgely, Shelef, Shoemaker, Thal, Todorovic

### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Chamedes, Hollander, Pruitt, Rock-Singer, Stern

### DISTINGUISHED FACULTY ASSOCIATE

Brown

### FACULTY ASSOCIATES

Mellor, Norman, Rosenhagen

### ASSOCIATE FACULTY ASSOCIATE

Whelan

### LECTURER

Carlsson

### FACULTY DIVERSITY LIAISON

Program Director Rosenblum