REDDNIG STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.

Contact Information
Department of Religious Studies
http://religion.unc.edu
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The Department of Religious Studies is dedicated to the study of religions as historical and cultural phenomena. It examines the history, texts, artifacts, beliefs, values, and rituals of a variety of religious traditions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Inherently interdisciplinary in its approach, religious studies explores religions in light of related fields in the humanities and social sciences such as anthropology, classics, archaeology, sociology, philosophy, and history.

Department Programs

Majors

• Religious Studies Major, B.A. (p. 1)

Minors

• Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/islamic-middle-eastern-studies-minor)
• Jewish Studies Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/jewish-studies-minor)
• Religious Studies Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-minor)
• Study of Christianity and Culture Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/study-christianity-culture-minor)

Graduate Programs

• M.A. in Religious Studies (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/religious-studies)
• Ph.D. in Religious Studies (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/religious-studies)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the religious studies program, students should be able to:

• Demonstrate knowledge of at least three religious traditions
• Demonstrate knowledge of influential terms, approaches, and theories in religious studies

• Conduct research in religious studies, including interpreting primary sources, assessing scholarly literature, and constructing original arguments
• Clearly and effectively communicate the results of research

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must

• attain a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
• complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC-Chapel Hill courses
• take at least half of their major course requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC-Chapel Hill
• earn a minimum of 18 hours of C or better in the major core requirements (some majors require 21 hours).

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext).

Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELI 697</td>
<td>Capstone: Undergraduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two RELI courses numbered 400 or above, including courses cross-listed with other units</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six RELI courses, including courses cross-listed with other units</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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<td>27</td>
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</table>

Of the nine courses required in the major, students must take at least one course in three of the department’s five subfields listed below.

1. Ancient Mediterranean Religions (p. )
2. Asian Religions-Islamic Studies (p. )
3. Medieval and Early Modern/Historical Studies (p. )
4. Religion and Culture (p. )
5. Religion in the Americas (p. )

Religious Studies (RELI) course descriptions (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/religious-studies/#coursestext).

Ancient Mediterranean Religions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>CLAR/JWST/ RELI 110</td>
<td>The Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLAR/JWST/ RELI 512</td>
<td>Ancient Synagogues</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLAR/RELI 375</td>
<td>Archaeology of Cult</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>FOLK/RELI 502</td>
<td>Myths and Epics of the Ancient Near East</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST/RELI 103</td>
<td>Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST/RELI 106</td>
<td>Introduction to Early Judaism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JWST/RELI 206</td>
<td>Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST/RELI 503</td>
<td>Exploring the Dead Sea Scrolls</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 63</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 65</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: Myth, Philosophy, and Science in the Ancient World</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 70</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: Jesus in Scholarship and Film</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 104</td>
<td>Introduction to the New Testament</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Asian Religions-Islamic Studies

ANTH/ASIA/RELI  Chinese World Views  574
ARAB/ASIA/RELI  Readings in Islamicate Literatures  681
ASIA/RELI 180  Introduction to Islamic Civilization  3
ASIA/RELI 181  Modern Muslim Societies  3
ASIA/RELI 183  Asian Religions  3
ASIA/RELI 284  The Buddhist Tradition: East Asia  3
ASIA/RELI 285  The Buddhist Tradition: Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka  3
ASIA/RELI 487  Mountains, Pilgrimage, and Sacred Places in Japan  3
ASIA/RELI 488  Shinto in Japanese History  3
ASIA/RELI 489  Animals in Japanese Religion  3
ASIA/RELI 581  Sufism  3
ASIA/RELI 582  Islam and Islamic Art in South Asia  3
ASIA/RELI 583  Religion and Culture in Iran, 1500-Present  3
ASIA/RELI 584  The Qur’an as Literature  3
ASIA 300/RELI 283  The Buddhist Tradition: India, Nepal, and Tibet  3
ASIA 301/RELI 286  Premodern Japanese Religions  3
ASIA 302/RELI 287  Modern Japanese Religions  3

RELI 105  Religions of the Greco-Roman World  3
RELI 109  History and Culture of Ancient Israel  3
RELI 117  Culture of the Ancient Near East  3
RELI 201  Ancient Biblical Interpretation  3
RELI 207  Jesus in Myth, Tradition, and History 30-200 CE  3
RELI 208  The Birth of Christianity  3
RELI 209  Varieties of Early Christianity  3
RELI 211  Classical Hebrew I: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible  3
RELI 212  Classical Hebrew II: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible  3
RELI 217  Gnosticism  3
RELI 390  Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)  3
RELI 411  Advanced Akkadian  3
RELI 412  Ugaritic  3
RELI 413  Biblical Coptic and Early Egyptian Monasticism  3
RELI 590  Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)  3
RELI 603  The Bible and Its Translation  3
RELI 607  Problems in Early Christian Literature and History  3
RELI 608  The Messiah and the Apocalypse  3
RELI 617  Death and Afterlife in the Ancient World  3

H  Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

Mysticism

Critical Issues in Western Religious Thought

Contemporary Catholic Church

Catholicism Today: An Introduction to the Church

Introduction to the History of Christian Traditions

Classic Jewish Texts: From Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls to Kabbalah and Hasmid

Religious Conflict and Literature in India

Religion, Fundamentalism, and Nationalism

First-Year Seminar: Reintroducing Islam

First-Year Seminar: From Dragons to Pokemon: Animals in Japanese Myth, Folklore, and Religion

First-Year Seminar: Martyrs and Warriors: Religion and the Problem of Violence

First-Year Seminar: A History of Heresy: Christian Dissent from the Gnostics to the Pentecostals

First-Year Seminar: From Dragons to Pokemon: Animals in Japanese Myth, Folklore, and Religion

First-Year Seminar: Religion and Violence

First-Year Seminar: Reintroducing Islam

Religion, Fundamentalism, and Nationalism

Religious Conflict and Literature in India

H  Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.
Religion and Culture

**Religion and Culture**

**ANTH/FOLK/RELI Religion and Anthropology**

**428**

**ANTH/FOLK/RELI Observation and Interpretation of Religious Action**

**688**

**CMPL/GSLL 270/  German Culture and the Jewish Question**

**JWST 239/RELI**

**239**

**JWST 100/  RELI 123**

**Introduction to Jewish Studies**

**3**

**JWST/RELI 343**

**Religion in Modern Israel**

**3**

**PHIL 134/ RELI 126**

**Philosophy of Western Religion**

**3**

**RELI 61**

**First-Year Seminar: Religion, Magic, and Science**

**3**

**RELI 67**


**3**

**RELI 68**


**3**

**RELI 71**

**First-Year Seminar: Ethics and the Spirit of the New Capitalism**

**3**

**RELI 74**

**First-Year Seminar: Person, Time, and Religious Conduct**

**3**

**RELI 75**

**First-Year Seminar: Sacrifice and Surrender**

**3**

**RELI 76**

**First-Year Seminar: Money and Morality: Divining Value in Social Life**

**3**

**RELI 85**

**First-Year Seminar: Sex, Marriage, and Family in Religion**

**3**

**RELI 101**

**Introduction to Religious Studies**

**3**

**RELI 102**

**World Religions**

**3**

**RELI 121**

**Introduction to Religion and Culture**

**3**

**RELI 122**

**Introduction to Philosophical Approaches to Religion**

**3**

**RELI 125**

**Heaven and Hell**

**3**

**RELI 127**

**The Claims of Science and Religion**

**3**

**RELI 134**

**Introduction to Religious Ethics**

**3**

**RELI 135**

**Technology, the Self, and Ethical Problems**

**3**

**RELI 138**

**Religious Freedom**

**3**

**RELI 222**

**Modern Western Religious Thought**

**3**

**RELI 225**

**Christian Cultures**

**3**

**RELI 232**

**Shrines and Pilgrimages**

**3**

**RELI 235**

**Place, Space, and Religion**

**3**

**RELI 236**

**Religious Things**

**3**

**RELI 246**

**Supernatural Encounters: Zombies, Vampires, Demons, and the Occult in the Americas**

**3**

**RELI 322**

**Theories of Religion**

**3**

**RELI 323**

**Social Theory and Cultural Diversity**

**3**

**RELI 325**

**Religion, Magic, and Science**

**3**

**RELI 338**

**Religion in American Law**

**3**

**RELI 390**

**Topics in the Study of Religion**

**3**

**RELI 421**

**Religion and Science**

**3**

**RELI 425**

**Psychology of Religion**

**3**

**RELI 438**

**Religion, Nature, and Environment**

**3**

**RELI 522**

**19th-Century Critiques of Religion**

**3**

**RELI 524**

**Ethnographic Approaches to Contemporary Religion**

**3**

**RELI 525**

**Sociology of Religion and Literature**

**3**

**RELI 528**

**Rituals and Rhetorics of Religion**

**3**

**RELI 530**

**Genealogies of Religion**

**3**

**RELI 590**

**Topics in the Study of Religion**

**3**

**RELI 234/ SOCI 140**

**Historical Sociology of Christianity**

**3**

**RELI/SOCI 429**

**Religion and Society**

**3**

**RELI/WSGT 244**

**Gender and Sexuality in Western Christianity**

**3**

**RELI/WSGT 424**

**Gender Theory and the Study of Religion**

**3**

**H** Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

**Religion in the Americas**

**ANTH/FOLK/RELI African-American Religious Experience**

**342**

**ASIA/RELI 445**

**Asian Religions in America**

**3**

**JWST/RELI 107**

**Introduction to Modern Judaism**

**3**

**JWST/RELI 143**

**Judaism in Our Time**

**3**

**JWST/RELI 243**

**Introduction to American Judaism**

**3**

**JWST/RELI 444**

**Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism**

**3**

**RELI 60**

**First-Year Seminar: Religion and Racism**

**3**

**RELI 66**

**First-Year Seminar: Buddhism in America: From the Buddha to the Beastie Boys**

**3**

**RELI 69**

**First-Year Seminar: Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism**

**3**

**H** Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.
### Special Opportunities in Religious Studies

**Honors in Religious Studies**

Students majoring in religious studies (including double majors) with a grade point average of 3.5 or above in department courses and 3.3 grade point average overall and who will have successfully completed at least one course numbered 400 or above on a topic in religious studies that is related to the proposed thesis may choose to write an honors thesis. Candidates for graduation with honors in religious studies are to be enrolled in RELI 691H in the fall and RELI 692H in the spring semester of their senior year. RELI 691H and RELI 692H count toward the major as courses fulfilling subfield requirements. Students should submit applications for the honors program to the department’s director of undergraduate studies by the end of February during their junior year. Consult the department’s director of undergraduate studies for details.

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**Study Abroad**

Professor Jodi Magness directs archaeological excavations in Israel during the summer. Students are welcome to participate. Other courses through the Study Abroad Office can count towards the major and minor in religious studies as well.

**Undergraduate Awards**

The department presents two awards at the end of each academic year: the Bernard Boyd Fellowship and the Bernard Boyd Memorial Prize.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 72</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: Apocalypse Now? Messianic Movements in America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 140</td>
<td>Religion in America H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 141</td>
<td>African American Religions H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 142</td>
<td>Catholicism in America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 151</td>
<td>Religion in Latin America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 235</td>
<td>Place, Space, and Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 240</td>
<td>Religion, Literature, and the Arts in America H</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 241</td>
<td>Messianic Movements in American History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 242</td>
<td>New Religious Movements in America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 245</td>
<td>Latina/o Religions in the United States-Mexico Borderlands H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RELI 246</td>
<td>Supernatural Encounters: Zombies, Vampires, Demons, and the Occult in the Americas H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 248</td>
<td>Introduction to American Islam H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 332</td>
<td>The Protestant Tradition H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 338</td>
<td>Religion in American Law</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 340</td>
<td>Liberal Tradition in American Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 345</td>
<td>Black Atlantic Religions H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 390</td>
<td>Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 423</td>
<td>Ethnicity, Race, and Religion in America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 441</td>
<td>Religion in Early America H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RELI 442</td>
<td>History of Religion in America since 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RELI 443</td>
<td>Evangelicalism in Contemporary America H</td>
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<td>RELI 446</td>
<td>Christian-Jewish Relations throughout the Ages</td>
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<td>RELI 540</td>
<td>Mormonism and the American Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 541</td>
<td>Evangelicalism from a Global Perspective H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 542</td>
<td>Religion and the Counterculture H</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RELI 580</td>
<td>African American Islam</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 590</td>
<td>Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\( ^H \) Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

Introductory and intermediate language courses (RELI 401, RELI 402, RELI 403, RELI 404, RELI 409, RELI 410) are recommended for their usefulness but do not count toward the major in religious studies.