

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.

The Department of Religious Studies is dedicated to the study of religions as historical and cultural phenomena. It examines the history, texts, objects, beliefs, practices, and rituals of a variety of local and global religious traditions. Inherently interdisciplinary in its approach, religious studies explores religions in light of related fields in the humanities and social sciences such as anthropology, archaeology, classics, geography, history, philosophy, political science, and sociology.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of influential terms, approaches, and theories in religious studies
- Effectively conduct research on a specific topic using the discipline-based methods
- Communicate research clearly and effectively
- Demonstrate effective writing skills (clear focus, relevant evidence, coherent organization)

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must

- earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
Six RELI courses, including courses cross-listed with other units		18
Two RELI courses numbered 400 or above, including courses cross-listed with other units		6
RELI 697	Capstone: Undergraduate Seminar	3
Additional Requirements		
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.		
Total Hours		27

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

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.

Ancient Mediterranean Religions

Code	Title	Hours
RELI 63	First-Year Seminar: The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls	3
RELI 65	First-Year Seminar: Myth, Philosophy, and Science in the Ancient World	3
RELI 70	First-Year Seminar: Jesus in Scholarship and Film	3
RELI 78	First-Year Seminar: Reading the Bible: Now and Then	3
RELI 80	First-Year Seminar: Religion and Writing in the Ancient World	3
RELI 104	Introduction to the New Testament ^H	3
RELI 105	Religions of the Greco-Roman World	3
RELI 109	History and Culture of Ancient Israel ^H	3
RELI 114	Early Christian Worship, Ritual, and Bodies	3
RELI 117	Culture of the Ancient Near East	3
RELI 201	Ancient Biblical Interpretation ^H	3
RELI 205	Sacrifice in the Ancient World ^H	3
RELI 207	Jesus in the Early Christian Gospels	3
RELI 208	The Birth of Christianity	3
RELI 209	Varieties of Early Christianity ^H	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 215	Eastern Christian Cultures: Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe	3
RELI 217	Gnosticism ^H	3
RELI 314	Memory and the Historical Jesus ^H	3
RELI 315	Religious Frauds: Lies, Forgeries, and Fake News ^H	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 414	Syriac	3
RELI 501	The History of the Bible in Modern Study	3
RELI 504	Readings in Hebrew Bible	3
RELI 590	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	3
RELI 602	What Is Scripture? Formations of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Canon	3
RELI 603	The Bible and Its Translation	3
RELI 607	Problems in Early Christian Literature and History ^H	3
RELI 608	The Messiah and the Apocalypse	3
RELI 609	Christianity and Greco-Roman Culture	3
RELI 610	Readings in the Apostolic Fathers	3

RELI 614	The Cult of Saints: Narratives, Materialities, Practices	3
RELI 617	Death and Afterlife in the Ancient World ^H	3
RELI/CLAR 375	Archaeology of Cult	3
RELI/CLAR/ JWST 110	The Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period	3
RELI/CLAR/ JWST 512	Ancient Synagogues	3
RELI/FOLK 502	Myths and Epics of the Ancient Near East ^H	3
RELI/JWST 103	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature ^H	3
RELI/JWST 106	Judaism in the Time of Jesus	3
RELI/JWST 206	Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah ^H	3
RELI/JWST 503	Exploring the Dead Sea Scrolls ^H	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.

Asian Religions-Islamic Studies











Code	Title	Hours
ANTH/ASIA/RELI 574	Chinese World Views	3
ARAB/ASIA/RELI 681	Readings in Islamicate Literatures	3
ASIA/COMM/ RELI 386	Dance and Embodied Knowledge in the Indian Context	3
ASIA/COMM/ RELI 387	Disciplining the Body and Mind: The Martial Arts of East Asia in Religion, History, and Culture	3
ASIA/RELI 180	Introduction to Islamic Civilization	3
ASIA/RELI 181	Modern Muslim Societies	3
ASIA/RELI 183	Asian Religions	3
ASIA/RELI 280	Hindu Gods and Goddesses ^H	3
ASIA/RELI 284	The Buddhist Tradition: East Asia	3
ASIA/RELI 285	Monks, Magic, & Meditation: Theravada Buddhism Across Space and Time	3
ASIA/RELI 382	The Story of Rama in Indian Culture—Experiential	3
ASIA/RELI 383	The Mahabharata: Remembered and Reimagined—Experiential	3
ASIA/RELI 384	Religion and Globalization in Southeast Asia	3
ASIA/RELI 445	Asian Religions in America	3
ASIA/RELI 486	Islam and Feminism/Islamic Feminism	3
ASIA/RELI/WGST 482	Sex, Gender, and Religion in South Asia	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/RELI 587	Islam and Sexual Diversity	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
ASIA 303/ RELI 288	Chinese Religions	3
HNUR/RELI 592	Religious Conflict and Literature in India	3
PWAD/RELI 481	Religion, Fundamentalism, and Nationalism	3
RELI 64	First-Year Seminar: Reintroducing Islam	3
RELI 66	First-Year Seminar: Buddhism in America: From the Buddha to the Beastie Boys	3
RELI 73	First-Year Seminar: From Dragons to Pokemon: Animals in Japanese Myth, Folklore, and Religion ^H	3
RELI 165	Mysticism ^H	3
RELI 184	East Asian Religions	3
RELI 185	Women/Gender/Islam ^H	3
RELI 248	Introduction to American Islam ^H	3
RELI 279	Islamic Law, Ethics, and Practice	3
RELI 289	Muhammad and the Qur'an	3
RELI 381	Religions of South Asia	3
RELI 385	Modern Muslims and the Qur'an	3
RELI 390	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	3
RELI 474	Buddhist Meditation, Mindfulness, and Modernity	3
RELI 480	Modern Muslim Literatures	3
RELI 485	Gender and Sexuality in Islam	3
RELI 524	Ethnographic Approaches to Contemporary Religion	3
RELI 580	African American Islam	3
RELI 585	Religion and Culture of Turkey	3
RELI 586	Women and Gender in Japanese Religions	3
RELI 590	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	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.

Medieval and Early Modern/Historical Studies



















Code	Title	Hours
ASIA/RELI 180	Introduction to Islamic Civilization	3
ASIA/RELI 284	The Buddhist Tradition: East Asia	3
ASIA/RELI 488	Shinto in Japanese History	3
ASIA/RELI 581	Sufism	3

ASIA 301/ RELI 286	 Premodern Japanese Religions	3
ASIA 303/ RELI 288	 Chinese Religions	3
EURO/RELI 270	 Religion in Western Europe ^H	3
GSLI/RELI 218	Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages	3
GERM/RELI 227	 Luther and the Bible	3
HIST/RELI 263	 Gender and Religion in Premodern Europe ^H	3
HIST/RELI 454	The Reformation	3
RELI 62	 First-Year Seminar: A History of Heresy: Christian Dissent from the Gnostics to the Pentecostals	3
RELI 77	 First-Year Seminar: Martyrs and Warriors: Religion and the Problem of Violence	3
RELI 87	 First-Year Seminar: Confessions	3
RELI 88	 First-Year Seminar: Religion and Society in Historical Novels	3
RELI 108	 Classic Jewish Texts: From Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls to Kabbalah and Hassidism	3
RELI 161	 Introduction to the History of Christian Traditions ^H	3
RELI 162	 Catholicism Today: An Introduction to the Contemporary Catholic Church	3
RELI 163	 Critical Issues in Western Religious Thought	3
RELI 164	 Heresy and Inquisition: Religion, Ethics, Marginalization	3
RELI 165	 Mysticism ^H	3
RELI 166	 Ideals, Cultures, and Rituals of the University ^H	3
RELI 184	 East Asian Religions	3
RELI 209	 Varieties of Early Christianity ^H	3
RELI 215	 Eastern Christian Cultures: Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe	3
RELI 220	 Religion and Medicine ^H	3
RELI 266	 Medieval and Renaissance Christian Cultures	3
RELI 365	 Studies in Christian Theologies and Theologians	3
RELI 366	Medieval Religious Texts	3
RELI 367	The Art of Devotion in Medieval and Early Modern Europe	3
RELI 368	 Race, Sexuality, and Disability in the History of Western Christianity ^H	3
RELI 390	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	3
RELI 450	 Sexuality in Jewish Tradition and History	3
RELI 465	Monotheistic Mysticism	3
RELI 565	Medieval Jews and the Bible	3
RELI 564	 Religion, Race, and Inquisition in the Spanish Empire	3
RELI 566	Islamic and Jewish Legal Literature	3
RELI 569	Interfaith Marriages and Intimacy in World Religions	3

RELI 586	 Women and Gender in Japanese Religions	3
RELI 590	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	3
RELI 617	 Death and Afterlife in the Ancient World ^H	3
RELI 662	Advanced Seminar in Contemporary Catholicism	3
RELI/WGST 362	 Mary in the Christian Tradition ^H	3
RELI/WGST 371	Women Mystics	3
RELI 665/ WGST 664	Body and Suffering in Christian Mysticism	3

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










Religion and Culture

Code	Title	Hours
ANTH/FOLK/RELI 428	Religion and Anthropology ^H	3
ANTH/FOLK/RELI 688	Observation and Interpretation of Religious Action	3
CMPL/GSLL 270/ JWST 239/RELI 239	German Culture and the Jewish Question	3
HIST/RELI 263	 Gender and Religion in Premodern Europe ^H	3
JWST 100/ RELI 123	 Introduction to Jewish Studies	3
JWST/RELI 343	 Religion in Modern Israel	3
JWST/RELI/ WGST 533	 Women, Gender, and Judaism	3
PHIL 134/ RELI 126	 Reason, Faith, and God: Philosophy of Western Religion ^H	3
RELI 60	 First-Year Seminar: Religion and Racism	3
RELI 61	 First-Year Seminar: Religion, Magic, and Science	3
RELI 67	 First-Year Seminar: Nature/Culture/Self-Identity: Religion in the Construction of Social Life	3
RELI 68	 FYS: Charisma in Religion, Science, and Poetry Studies in the Entrepreneurial Imagination ^H	3
RELI 71	 First-Year Seminar: The Spirit of Capitalism	3
RELI 74	 First-Year Seminar: Person, Time, and Religious Conduct ^H	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 77	 First-Year Seminar: Martyrs and Warriors: Religion and the Problem of Violence	3
RELI 79	 First-Year Seminar: Human Animals in Religion and Ethics	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 ^H	3

RELI 122	 Introduction to Philosophical Approaches to Religion ^H	3	RELI 527	 Religious Metaphor and Symbol	3
RELI 125	 Heaven and Hell	3	RELI 528	Rituals and Rhetorics of Religion	3
RELI 127	 The Claims of Science and Religion	3	RELI 530	 Genealogies of Religion	3
RELI 130	 Religion and Popular Culture	3	RELI 564	 Religion, Race, and Inquisition in the Spanish Empire	3
RELI 134	Introduction to Religious Ethics ^H	3	RELI 590	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	3
RELI 135	 Religion, Ethics, and Technology ^H	3	RELI 620	 Feminism and Religion	3
RELI 138	 Religious Freedom	3	RELI/SOCI 429	 Religion and Society	3
RELI 163	 Critical Issues in Western Religious Thought	3	RELI/WGST 244	 Gender and Sexuality in Western Christianity ^H	3
RELI 166	Ideals, Cultures, and Rituals of the University ^H	3	RELI/WGST 362	 Mary in the Christian Tradition ^H	3
RELI 167	 Global Christianity	3	RELI 368/ WGST 370	 Race, Sexuality, and Disability in the History of Western Christianity ^H	3
RELI 205	 Sacrifice in the Ancient World ^H	3	RELI/WGST 424	 Gender Theory and the Study of Religion	3
RELI 220	 Religion and Medicine ^H	3	RELI 665/ WGST 664	Body and Suffering in Christian Mysticism	3
RELI 222	 Modern Western Religious Thought	3			
RELI 224	 Modern Jewish Thought ^H	3			
RELI 225	Christian Cultures	3			
RELI 226	 Human Animals in Religion and Ethics	3			
RELI 232	Shrines and Pilgrimages	3			
RELI 233	 Religion and Violence	3			
RELI 235	 Place, Space, and Religion	3			
RELI 236	 Religious Things	3			
RELI 245	Latina/o Religions in the United States-Mexico Borderlands ^H	3			
RELI 246	 Supernatural Encounters: Zombies, Vampires, Demons, and the Occult in the Americas ^H	3			
RELI 322	Theories of Religion ^H	3			
RELI 323	Social Theory and Cultural Diversity	3			
RELI 325	 Religion, Magic, and Science	3			
RELI 338	 Religion in American Law	3			
RELI 345	 Black Atlantic Religions ^H	3			
RELI 352	 Anthropology of Christianity	3			
RELI 390	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	3			
RELI 420	 Post-Holocaust Ethics and Theology ^H	3			
RELI 421	 Religion and Science	3			
RELI 423	Ethnicity, Race, and Religion in America	3			
RELI 425	Psychology of Religion ^H	3			
RELI 426	 The Sacrifice of Abraham ^H	3			
RELI 427	 Spirit Possession and Mediumship	3			
RELI 430	 Dimensions of Evil	3			
RELI 438	 Religion, Nature, and Environment ^H	3			
RELI 452	 Documenting Religion	3			
RELI 474	Buddhist Meditation, Mindfulness, and Modernity	3			
RELI 522	 19th-Century Critiques of Religion	3			
RELI 524	Ethnographic Approaches to Contemporary Religion	3			
RELI 525	Seminar in Religion and Literature	3			

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Religion in the Americas

Code	Title	Hours
ANTH/FOLK/RELI 342	African-American Religious Experience	3
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 343	 Religion in Modern Israel	3
JWST/RELI 444/ WGST 448	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
RELI 71	 First-Year Seminar: The Spirit of Capitalism	3
RELI 72	 First-Year Seminar: Apocalypse Now? Messianic Movements in America	3
RELI 87	 First-Year Seminar: Confessions	3
RELI 130	 Religion and Popular Culture	3
RELI 135	 Religion, Ethics, and Technology ^H	3
RELI 140	 Religion in America ^H	3
RELI 141	 African American Religions ^H	3
RELI 142	 Catholicism in America	3
RELI 151	 Religion in Latin America	3
RELI 235	 Place, Space, and Religion	3
RELI 240	 Religion, Literature, and the Arts in America ^H	3
RELI 241	Messianic Movements in American History	3

RELI 242	 New Religious Movements in America	3
RELI 245	Latina/o Religions in the United States-Mexico Borderlands ^H	3
RELI 246	 Supernatural Encounters: Zombies, Vampires, Demons, and the Occult in the Americas ^H	3
RELI 247	Uncertain Truths: Conspiracy Theories, Aliens, and Secret Societies in America	3
RELI 248	 Introduction to American Islam ^H	3
RELI 332	 The Protestant Tradition ^H	3
RELI 338	 Religion in American Law	3
RELI 340	Liberal Tradition in American Religion	3
RELI 345	 Black Atlantic Religions ^H	3
RELI 390	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	3
RELI 423	Ethnicity, Race, and Religion in America	3
RELI 441	 Religion in Early America ^H	3
RELI 442	History of Religion in America since 1865	3
RELI 443	Evangelicalism in Contemporary America ^H	3
RELI 446	Christian-Jewish Relations throughout the Ages	3
RELI 448	 Native and Christian: Indigenous Engagements with Christianity	3
RELI 452	 Documenting Religion	3
RELI 501	 The History of the Bible in Modern Study	3
RELI 540	Mormonism and the American Experience	3
RELI 541	 Evangelicalism from a Global Perspective ^H	3
RELI 542	Religion and the Counterculture ^H	3
RELI 580	 African American Islam	3
RELI 590	Topics in the Study of Religion (based on topic)	3

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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.

Study Abroad

Some courses through the Study Abroad Office can count towards the major and minor in religious studies as well.

Undergraduate Awards and Honors

The department presents three awards at the end of each academic year: the Bernard Boyd Fellowship, the Bernard Boyd Memorial Prize, and the Halperin-Schütz Undergraduate Essay Award.

The department also inducts qualified majors into the Religious Studies National Honor Society, Theta Alpha Kappa.

Department Programs

Majors

- Religious Studies Major, B.A. (p. 1)
- Religious Studies Major, B.A. – Jewish Studies Concentration (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-major-ba-jewish-studies-concentration/>)

Minors

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

Graduate Programs

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

Contact Information

Department of Religious Studies

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