

2020 Degree Requirements – Religion Major & Minor

Requirements of Majors

1. A Religion major requires 9 courses, including REL-200 and REL-450.
2. Majors take REL-200, “Thinking About Religion,” before the senior year.
3. Majors must elect at least two courses at the 300 level.
4. Majors must take REL-450, “Senior Research Colloquium,” in the first semester of senior year.
5. Majors must take at least one course whose intellectual center, and the majority of the content (75%), lie outside the Euro-American Christian historical and cultural tradition.

The following courses will fulfill this requirement:

REL 103 World Religion	REL 104 Religions in India
REL 105 Buddhism	REL 215 Hinduism
REL 216 Religions of China and Japan	REL 218 Islam
REL 327 Women and Social Ethics: In Global Context	

Implementation of Requirements of the Major

1. Only one course at the 100 level typically may count toward the major.
2. A maximum of two courses taken off campus may count toward the concentration and/or major with the department approval.
3. Off campus courses may *not* substitute for REL 200, REL 450/452, or 300-level courses.
4. By the middle of the student’s junior year, each Religion major, in consultation with a member of the department, shall submit for departmental approval a proposal for a self-designed thematic concentration of 3-4 courses.
5. After the Religion faculty collectively review majors’ concentration proposals, the chair of the department will inform the registrar’s office whether they fulfill the concentration requirements.
6. In addition to developing a concentration that explores a theme in depth, students are strongly encouraged to take a broad range of courses from the department to develop a breadth of knowledge and integrative thinking skills.
7. Majors are highly recommended to have an advisor in the department or at least a key person in the department to work with.

Requirements of Minors

1. A minor requires 6 courses.
2. Minors must take REL-200, “Thinking about Religion,” before the senior year.
3. Minors must elect at least one course at a 300 level.

4. No more than one 100-level course may be taken to fulfill the requirements.
5. Minors must take at least one course whose intellectual center, and the majority of the content (at least 75%), lie outside the Euro-American Christian historical and cultural tradition.

The following courses will fulfill this requirement:

REL 103 World Religion	REL 104 Religions in India
REL 105 Buddhism	REL 215 Hinduism
REL 216 Religions of China and Japan	REL 218 Islam
REL 327 Women and Social Ethics: In Global Context	

Implementation of Requirements of Minors

1. Senior research colloquium (REL-450) is optional for minors, and can count toward the 6 course total.
2. Courses taken off campus may count toward the minor with the department approval.
3. Off campus courses may not substitute for REL-200, REL 450/452, or 300-level courses.
4. Minors are highly recommended to have an advisor in the department or at least a key person in the department to work with.

Department Policies

1. Off-campus study
 - Students should consult with the department prior to any off campus work, if they want to transfer off-campus credits toward their Religion major or minor.
 - Off campus courses may not substitute for REL-200, REL-450/452, or 300-level electives.
2. REL-450, “Senior Research Colloquium”
 - This course is meant to support individual research projects in a collaborative group environment.
 - Students may elect to take a second semester of senior research (REL-452) after the completion of REL-450.
 - A student may elect to take the REL-450/452 sequence to count as a senior thesis for Distinction.
 - REL-450 or 452 may count toward concentration, but not both.

3. Concentration

- A concentration has a specific topical focus that integrates several of the themes articulated in the department mission statement and explores the ways in which at least three courses link, overlap, or compound.
- At least one of these courses must be at the 300 level, and no more than one can be at the 100 level.
- Either the Senior Research Colloquium (REL-450) or a second semester of Senior Research (REL-452) may count toward the concentration with the department approval.
- The thematic concentration proposal shall include a short (500—800 words) explanation of the theme or question that defines the concentration, and how each course contributes to that theme or question.
- Majors are strongly encouraged to work with a Religion faculty while developing their concentration proposals.
- The Religion faculty will review and discuss each concentration proposal from majors. They will make a collective decision regarding whether majors meet their concentration requirements and inform the Registrar's Office of the result no later than the beginning of the spring semester of the senior year.