2020 Degree Requirements – Religion Major & Minor

Requirements of Majors

1. A Religion major requires 9 courses, including REL-200 and REL-450.
3. Majors must elect at least two courses at the 300 level.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 103</td>
<td>World Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 104</td>
<td>Religions in India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 105</td>
<td>Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 215</td>
<td>Hinduism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 216</td>
<td>Religions of China and Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 218</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 327</td>
<td>Women and Social Ethics: In Global Context</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.