

**RELIGION DEPARTMENT**  
**MAJOR/MINOR REQUIREMENTS**

A Religion major requires nine courses and minor six courses.

A Religion major has the following components: (1) a set of four of five core courses, (2) a concentration of at least three courses in designated areas, (3) an elective course, (4) a seminar for majors and minors only, designed around special topics, which will be in a concentration area, (5) a comprehensive examination with take-home and in-class components.

First Year Studies courses and one semester of Senior Research taught by a member of the department may count toward a concentration; however, no more than one course at the 100-level may count. If a major has completed the core courses, fulfilled a concentration, and the required Religion Seminar, then Senior Research can count as an elective.

A Religion minor consists of (1) a set of four of five core courses, (2) an elective course, (3) a seminar for majors and minors only, designed around special topics, and (4) an abbreviated comprehensive examination.

**RELIGION MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

**I. Core Courses - (four out of five are required; a fifth core course may count toward a concentration upon approval of the Department)**

- A. Theology & Social Justice: Rel 201 - Reality of God
- B. Ethics: Rel 224 - Christian Social Ethics
- C. Biblical Scriptures: Rel 211 - Introduction to the Bible
- D. Global Diversity: Rel 215 - Hinduism
- E. American Religious Pluralism & Diversity: Rel 204 - Religious Pluralism & American Identity

**II. Concentrations (three courses required in one area)**

**A. Religion and Society**

- 1. Rel 102 – Ethics, Society and the Moral Self
- 2. Rel 109 – Introduction to American Religions
- 3. Rel 205 – Religion and Nature
- 4. Rel 217 – Sects and Cults
- 5. Rel 230 – Creation Narratives and Power Relations
- 6. Rel 240 – Buddhism and Social Change
- 7. Rel 240 – Religion and Immigration in the U.S.
- 8. Rel 240 – Islam and Gender
- 9. Rel 300 – Seminar: Gandhi
- 10. Rel 300 – Seminar: Racial Politics and National Belonging in Early Christianity
- 11. Rel 317 – Religion and Society
- 12. Rel 340 – The Ethics of Sex

**B. Alternative Hermeneutics**

- 1. Rel 101 – Introduction to Theology
- 2. Rel 108 – Bible, Gender, and Sexuality
- 3. Rel 210 – Nature of Religion
- 4. Rel 212 – Introduction to the New Testament
- 5. Rel 227 – Women’s Spiritual Activism
- 6. Rel 228 – Rebellion, Resistance and Black Religion
- 7. Rel 229 – Women and Western Religion
- 8. Rel 300 – The Ethics of Peace and War
- 9. Rel 301 – Empire: Is America the New Rome?
- 10. Rel 304 – Race, Ethnicity and Religion in the U.S.
- 11. Rel 327 – Women & Social Ethics in the Global Context

**C. Religious Traditions**

- 1. Rel 103 – World Religions
- 2. Rel 104 – Religions in India
- 3. Rel 105 – Buddhism
- 4. Rel 202 – Judaism
- 5. Rel 203 – Asian Religions in the US
- 6. Rel 214 – Christian Right in American Culture
- 7. Rel 216 – Religions of China and Japan
- 8. Rel 218 – Islam
- 9. Rel 220 – Human Rights, Indigenous Rights, and Environmental Rights
- 10. Rel 240 – Islam in the US
- 11. Rel 240 – Islam and Christianity: Violence and Peace
- 12. Rel 240 – Social Ethics in Buddhism and Christianity
- 13. Rel 240 – Buddhism and Social Change
- 14. Rel 340 – The Holocaust: Where Was God?

- D. **Individually Designed Concentration**  
(to be proposed by a student and approved by department)

III. Elective

- IV. At least one Rel 300 Seminar limited to majors and minors which can be part of a concentration. More than one Seminar may be taken.

V. A Comprehensive Examination

The goals of the comprehensive include developing connections between the core courses and relating the core courses to the concentration. The examination will have both in-class and take-home components. Topics for review will be developed by the faculty but review sessions shall be led by Senior Fellows.

**RELIGION MINOR REQUIREMENTS**

I. Core Courses - (four out of five are required; a fifth core course may count as an elective)

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|--|---|
| A. Theology & Social Justice:                | Rel 201 - Reality of God                          |
| B. Ethics:                                   | Rel 224 - Christian Social Ethics                 |
| C. Biblical Scriptures:                      | Rel 211 - Introduction to the Bible               |
| D. Global Diversity:                         | Rel 215 - Hinduism                                |
| E. American Religious Pluralism & Diversity: | Rel 204 - Religious Pluralism & American Identity |

II. An Elective Course within the department, or First Year Studies

III. At least one Rel 300 Seminar for Majors and Minors

IV. A Comprehensive Examination

The goal of the comprehensive is developing connections between the core courses and the seminar for majors/minors. The examination is an in-class exam.

**GOALS FOR THE MAJOR:**

By the end of their course of study we expect that majors will:

1. be familiar with how scholars engage in theological reflection, interpret sacred texts, analyze ethical dilemmas and engage in comparative study;
2. be able to reflect a greater depth of understanding in one of the following three areas: the interactions between religious worldviews and the structures of the societies in which they are located; the interpretive strategies by which people have understood and explained their location within the world; and the ways in which religions have fashioned profoundly different worldviews;
3. be able to express themselves clearly, concisely, and persuasively and to engage in independent exploration as appropriate to the fields within the study of religion;
4. have prepared, when appropriate, for professional and academic careers;
5. be provided with an education that exposes them to ways of seeing both themselves as individuals and as members of a global society that can have longer-term consequences in terms of vocational and avocational choices in later years.