

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS

## College of Letters & Science

Religion is a major force in human experience. It has shaped the world's history, literature, art, culture, politics, ethics, and economics. In addition to offering courses in all the major religious traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism,) the Religious Studies Program has developed cross cultural courses dealing with religious symbols, myths, and rituals in written texts, art, theater, and film, and the Internet, as well as, thematic courses dealing with such topics as religion and the body, the rise of fundamentalism, religion and science, religion and ethics, and religion and violence.

## The Program

The major introduces students to the academic study of religion. Students can choose from a broad range of courses both in the program itself and in other departments and programs-history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, American studies, classics, and medieval studies. In addition to studying religious thought per se, students in the major can also study the way religion has shaped human behavior in such matters as family life, gender roles, ethics, artistic life, concepts of individual freedom, the pursuit of science, and economics. For some students, Religious Studies is an appropriate second major and combines well with anything from philosophy to international agricultural development, political science, and the physical sciences.

## Career Alternatives

Because of the program's focus on developing critical thinking, writing, and reading skills, students who major in Religious Studies are well prepared to enter a variety of careers, including, the health professions, law, business, teaching, and government. In an increasingly global society, knowledge of the world's religious traditions and practices has become an essential part of a student's education.

## Recommended

A reading knowledge of a foreign language is highly recommended.

## Course Equivalents

The major advisors have a list of lower and upper division courses that can be substituted for courses suggested above.

## Honors & Honors Program

A student becomes eligible for graduation with honors by meeting the minimum GPA and course requirements established by the College of Letters & Science. Upon successful completion of the additional requirements of the College of Letters & Science Honors Program, individual students may be recommended by the program for graduation with high honors or highest honors on the basis of an evaluation of their academic achievements in the major.

## Education Abroad Program

The Religious Studies program encourages students to study in the Summer Abroad program, the Quarter Abroad program, or the Education Abroad program. With the approval of a major advisor, applicable courses taken abroad may be accepted in the major or minor programs.

## Teaching Credential Subject Representative

See the Teaching Credential/M.A. Program (<https://education.ucdavis.edu/teaching-credentialma/>).

## Hebrew

Students interested in Hebrew courses should see Hebrew (<https://mesa.ucdavis.edu/hebrew/>).

## Human Rights Minor

Students interested in the Human Rights minor should see Human Rights Minor.

## Jewish Studies

Students interested in Jewish Studies should see Jewish Studies (<http://jewishstudies.ucdavis.edu/>).

## Major Advisors

Consult the Program office.

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Religious Studies Bachelor of Arts is 60.

| Code                                                     | Title                                                 | Units |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Preparatory Subject Matter</b>                        |                                                       |       |
| (A) Choose one from the RST 001 series:                  |                                                       | 4     |
| RST 001                                                  | Survey of Religion                                    |       |
| RST 001A                                                 | (Discontinued for fall 2024) **                       |       |
| RST 001B                                                 | Death & Afterlife                                     |       |
| RST 001C                                                 | Sacrifice                                             |       |
| RST 001D                                                 | (Discontinued for fall 2024) **                       |       |
| RST 001E                                                 | Fundamentalism                                        |       |
| RST 001F                                                 | Religion Today                                        |       |
| RST 001G                                                 | Myth, Ritual, & Symbolism                             |       |
| RST 001H                                                 | Sex, Marriage, & Divorce in Medieval & Modern Society |       |
| RST 001J                                                 | Music, Voice, & the Word                              |       |
| (B) Choose four from other lower division RST offerings: |                                                       | 16    |
| RST 005                                                  | Comparative Religion                                  |       |
| RST 006                                                  | Introduction to Health Sciences & the Humanities      |       |
| RST 008                                                  | Healthcare & Religious Ethics                         |       |
| RST 010                                                  | Contemporary Ethical Issues                           |       |
| RST 010A                                                 | Contemporary Ethical Issues                           |       |
| RST 011                                                  | Ethical Eating                                        |       |
| RST 012                                                  | Emergence of Judaism, Christianity & Islam            |       |
| RST 015Y                                                 | Reading War/Fighting War                              |       |
| RST 021                                                  | The Bible & Its Interpreters                          |       |
| RST 023                                                  | Introduction to Judaism                               |       |
| RST 030                                                  | Religions of South Asia                               |       |
| RST 031                                                  | Introduction to Jainism                               |       |
| RST 032                                                  | History of Yoga                                       |       |
| RST 033                                                  | Magic & Demons in South Asia                          |       |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| RST 040                                                                                                                                                                                                           | New Testament                                    |    |
| RST 042                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Religion & Science Fiction                       |    |
| RST 045                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Christianity                                     |    |
| RST 060                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Introduction to Islam                            |    |
| RST 065C                                                                                                                                                                                                          | The Qur'an & Its Interpretation                  |    |
| RST 066                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The Song of God: The Bhagavad Gita               |    |
| RST 067                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Modern Hinduism                                  |    |
| RST 068                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Introduction to Hinduism                         |    |
| RST 069                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Introduction to Hindu Mythology                  |    |
| RST 070                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Religion & Language                              |    |
| RST 075                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Introduction to Chinese Philosophy               |    |
| RST 080                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Religion, Gender, Sexuality                      |    |
| Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  | 20 |
| <b>Depth Subject Matter</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                  |    |
| RST 100<br>or RST 190                                                                                                                                                                                             | Study of Religion: Issues & Methods<br>Seminar   | 4  |
| Choose nine upper division RST courses. Four of these courses may be upper division courses related to religion that are offered by other departments and taken with the approval of a Religious Studies advisor. |                                                  | 36 |
| RST 102                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Christian Origins                                |    |
| RST 103                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Medieval & Byzantine Christianity                |    |
| RST 104                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Christianity 1450-1700                           |    |
| RST 105                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Christianity & Modernity, 1700-1920              |    |
| RST 106                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Christianity in the Contemporary World           |    |
| RST 110                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Life, Meaning & Identity                         |    |
| RST 111                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Persuasion & Conviction in Religious Tradition   |    |
| RST 115                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Mysticism                                        |    |
| RST 120                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Religion, Magic & Science                        |    |
| RST 122                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Studies in Biblical Texts                        |    |
| RST 123                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Sex & Gender in the Bible                        |    |
| RST 124                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Topics in Judaism                                |    |
| RST 125                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Dead Sea Scrolls, Apocrypha, & Pseudepigrapha    |    |
| RST 126                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The Formation of the Rabbinic Tradition          |    |
| RST 130                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Topics in Religious Studies                      |    |
| RST 132                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Topics in Mediterranean Ancient Religion         |    |
| RST 135                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The Bible & Film                                 |    |
| RST 136                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Topics in Jainism                                |    |
| RST 137                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Topics in Buddhism                               |    |
| RST 139                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Topics in Hinduism                               |    |
| RST 140                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Christian Theology                               |    |
| RST 141A                                                                                                                                                                                                          | New Testament Literature: Synoptic Gospels       |    |
| RST 141B                                                                                                                                                                                                          | New Testament Literature: John                   |    |
| RST 141C                                                                                                                                                                                                          | New Testament Literature: Paul                   |    |
| RST 143                                                                                                                                                                                                           | New Testament Apocrypha                          |    |
| RST 144                                                                                                                                                                                                           | History of the Bible                             |    |
| RST 145                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Contemporary American Religion                   |    |
| RST 150                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Religious Ethics                                 |    |
| RST 152                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Justice, Equity, & Privacy in Medical Humanities |    |

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| RST 154                       | The Hindu Temple                                         |           |
| RST 155A                      | Bhakti: Indian Devotional Traditions to 1200 CE          |           |
| RST 155B                      | Bhakti: Indian Devotional Traditions, 1200 CE to Present |           |
| RST 156                       | Religion & the Performing Arts in India                  |           |
| RST 157                       | Hindu Women & Goddesses                                  |           |
| RST 158                       | The Ramayana                                             |           |
| RST 159                       | The Mahabharata                                          |           |
| RST 160                       | Introduction to Islamic Thought                          |           |
| RST 161                       | Modern Islam                                             |           |
| RST 161B                      | Modern Islam: Authority & Tradition In Process           |           |
| RST 162                       | Introduction to Islamic Law                              |           |
| RST 163                       | Social Life of Islam                                     |           |
| RST 165                       | Islam in Asia                                            |           |
| RST 166                       | Religion & Media in the Arab World                       |           |
| RST 169                       | Topics in Islam                                          |           |
| RST 171                       | Buddhist Art                                             |           |
| RST 172                       | Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism                                     |           |
| RST 175A                      | Daoist Traditions                                        |           |
| RST 180                       | Popular Religious Art in India                           |           |
| RST 181                       | Hindu Gods & Hindu Symbols                               |           |
| RST 182                       | Ramayana, Religion, & the Arts                           |           |
| RST 189                       | Senior Colloquium                                        |           |
| Depth Subject Matter Subtotal |                                                          | 40        |
| <b>Total Units</b>            |                                                          | <b>60</b> |

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.