Religious Studies (RLST)

JoAnn D’Alisera
Director of Religious Studies
334 Old Main
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- Professors Finlay (history), Gordon (history), Jacobs (art history), Levine (classics), Markham (history), Spellman (philosophy), Swedenburg (anthropology), Wolpert (history)
- Associate Professors Adler (philosophy), Coon (history), D’Alisera (anthropology), Erickson (anthropology), Ghadbian (political science), Kahf (comparative literature), Schweiger (history), Senor (philosophy), Worden (sociology),
- Assistant Professors Cai (history), Weeks (anthropology), White (history)

Religion is expressed in many forms throughout the world and therefore the academic study of religion requires an interdisciplinary perspective. Students of religion should know the historical development of religious traditions, understand and critically engage the ethical and intellectual teachings of various religions, and comprehend the roles that religion plays in different cultures and societies. The Religious Studies Program is an interdisciplinary minor that enables students to explore the complex interplay of culture, society, historical traditions, and ideas.

Program Requirements:

Students must complete 15 upper level (3000-4000) credit hours selected from the areas of emphasis listed below. Students must take at least one course in each area. A maximum of six credit hours from the student’s major may be applied toward the minor. Students may petition the Director of Religious Studies to count lower level courses and courses not listed on the Religious Studies course list toward the minor.

Areas of Emphasis:

1. History

ARHS4843 Medieval Art
HIST 3003 History of Christianity
HIST 3023 The Islamic West, 650-1600
HIST 3033 Islamic Civilization
HIST 3083 Women and Christianity
HIST 4333 Modern Islamic Thought
HIST 4043 Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages
HIST 4053 Late Middle Ages
HIST 4073 Renaissance and Reformation, 1300-1600
HIST 4313 Islamic Theology and Philosophy
HIST 4333 Modern Islamic Thought  
HIST 4353 Middle East, 600-1250  
HIST 4493 Religion in America to 1860  
HIST 4553 The Recluse in Early East Asia  
HIST 4813 China to 1644  

2. Social Sciences  
ANTH 3123 The Anthropology of Religion  
ANTH 3213 Indians of North America  
ANTH 3263 Indians of Arkansas and the South  
ANTH 4093 The Archeology of Death  
ANTH 4513 African Religions: Gods, Witches, Ancestors  
PLSC 4593 Islam and Politics  
SOCI 3103 Religion and Society  

3. Philosophy/Literature/Languages  
PHIL 3203 Philosophy and the Christian Faith  
PHIL 4013 Platonism & Origin of Christian Theology  
PHIL 4023 Medieval Philosophy  
PHIL 4303 Philosophy of Religion  

Topics Courses/Seminars/Honors Colloquia:  
Students may also choose “topics/seminar” classes or an Honors colloquium in any Department or Program approved by the director as having a religious studies focus.