

BA IN HUMANITIES (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

Units required for Major: 39
Total units required for BA: 120

Program Description

The Department of Humanities and Religious Studies offers an integrated approach to the study of world cultures from ancient times to the present. In our courses, students undertake interdisciplinary study of core ideas, ideals, and values. The Humanities – known by Renaissance thinkers as *studia humanitatis* (“studies of humanity”) – explore such subjects as literature, history, philosophy, religion, the visual arts, music, drama, and film. Religious Studies focuses on beliefs and practices of the world’s religions in their historical and cultural contexts. Employing the methods and insights of disciplines such as history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and philosophy, Religious Studies approaches its subject matter with empathy while avoiding assumptions or judgments about religious truth claims.

The BA in Humanities with a Concentration in Religious Studies emphasizes religion as an aspect of culture and investigates major religious traditions, including Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Students in all five available programs acquire concrete skills in critical thinking, analysis, research, writing, and organization that lead to attractive careers throughout the job market. Many of our students prepare for careers in teaching at the elementary level (as part of a Liberal Studies major program) or secondary level (as part of a single subject credential program in English/Humanities). Others pursue postgraduate study in the Humanities, History, Theology, and related fields in preparation for careers in teaching at the community college and university levels or in library, museum, or curatorial work. Humanities majors are also well-prepared for careers in government and fields such as law and counseling, which require interaction with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Lower Division Courses (12 Units)		
HRS 4	Exploring World Religions ¹	3
Select three of the following:		9
HRS 10	Arts and Ideas of the West: Ancient to Medieval ¹	
HRS 11	Arts and Ideas of the West: Renaissance to Modern ¹	
HRS 70	Arts and Ideas of Asia: Ancient to Medieval ¹	
HRS 71	Arts and Ideas of Asia: Medieval to Modern ¹	
Required Upper Division Courses (9 Units)		
HRS 108	Approaches to Religious Studies	3
One course in the HRS 190 Seminar in Humanities and Religious Studies series		3
HRS 198	Seminar in Religious Studies	3
Required Areas of Study (9-18 Units)		
Select at least three of the following, at least one from each of the categories A and B:		9 - 18
A. Religions with South and East Asian Origins		

HRS 147	History of Buddhism ¹
HRS 173	Chinese Philosophy and Religion ¹
HRS 175	Zen Buddhism and Daoism ¹
HRS 176	The Confucian Tradition
HRS 178A	India’s Religions: Hindus & Buddhists ¹
HRS 179A	The Hindu Year: Fall ¹
HRS 179B	The Hindu Year: Spring ¹

B. Religions with West Asian Origins

HRS 117	Paganism in the Roman World ¹
HRS 121	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament ¹
HRS 122	Introduction to the New Testament ¹
HRS/HIST 126	History of Christianity to the Reformation ¹
HRS/HIST 127	History of Christianity Since the Reformation ¹
HRS 141	Introduction To Judaism ¹
HRS 142	Introduction to Christianity ¹
HRS 144	Introduction To Islam ¹

Supporting Courses (0-9 Units)

Select up to three of the following:	0 - 9
HRS 105	Approaches to the Humanities
HRS 119	Classical Mythology ¹
HRS 145	Introduction to Islamic Cultures ¹
HRS 151	World Mythology ¹
HRS 152	Great Mystics of the World ¹
HRS 154	Food, Farming, and the Sacred ¹
HRS 155	Spirit and Nature ¹
HRS 183	World Religions and Cultures in Cinema ¹
HRS 196	Experimental Offerings in Humanities and Religious Studies
HRS 199	Special Problems

With approval of HRS faculty advisor, advisor approval, a student may select up to two of the following:

ANTH 13	Magic, Witchcraft and Religion
ANTH 166	Rise of Religious Cults ¹
COMS 165	Communication and Religion
ETHN 50	Native American Religion and Philosophy
ETHN 171	African Religions and Philosophies ¹
HIST 170	¹
PHIL 131	Philosophy Of Religion ¹
SOC 171	Sociology of Religion
WOMS 145	¹

Total Units **30-48**

¹ Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

Note: With approval of HRS faculty advisor, foreign language study may be applied as elective units. The advisor and student together will determine if the language is appropriate to the student’s area of interest in Religious Studies. Students should consult with an advisor before choosing any electives.

General Education Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Area A: Basic Subjects (9 Units)		
A1	Oral Communication	3
A2	Written Communication	3
A3	Critical Thinking	3
Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)		
B1	Physical Science	3
B2	Life Forms	3
B3	Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5)	1
B4	Math Concepts	3
B5	Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3
Area C: Arts and Humanities (3 Units)		
C1	Arts	3
C2	Humanities ²	0
C1/C2	Area C Course ²	0
C1/C2	Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. ²	0
Area D: The Individual and Society (9 Units)		
Area D Course		3
Area D Course		3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)		
Area E Course		3
Area F: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)		
Area F Course		3
Total Units		40

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

Graduation Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (9 Units)		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government		3
Writing Intensive (WI)		3
Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (12 Units)		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		3
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement ²		6

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Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² If not satisfied before entering Sacramento State, it may be satisfied in General Education Area C2 (Humanities). "C- or better required." The alternative methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>

The following roadmaps are sample planning resources. Please consult your academic advisor and Academic Catalog for graduation requirements as you develop your individualized academic plan.

Humanities (Religious Studies), BA: 4-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
First Semester		
HRS 4	Exploring World Religions	3
HRS 21	First Year Seminar: Becoming an Educated Person	3
HRS 10 or HRS 11 or HRS 70 or HRS 71	Arts and Ideas of the West: Ancient to Medieval ³ or Arts and Ideas of the West: Renaissance to Modern or Arts and Ideas of Asia: Ancient to Medieval or Arts and Ideas of Asia: Medieval to Modern	3
GE Area 1A - English Composition ²		3
GE Area 1C - Oral Communication ²		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
HRS 11 or HRS 10 or HRS 70 or HRS 71	Arts and Ideas of the West: Renaissance to Modern ³ or Arts and Ideas of the West: Ancient to Medieval or Arts and Ideas of Asia: Ancient to Medieval or Arts and Ideas of Asia: Medieval to Modern	3
GE Area 1B - Critical Thinking (HRS 60 recommended) ³		3
GE Area 2 - Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
GE Area 3A - Arts ²		3
GE Area 6 - Ethnic Studies ²		3
Units		15
Year 2		
First Semester		
HRS 70 or HRS 10 or HRS 11 or HRS 71	Arts and Ideas of Asia: Ancient to Medieval ³ or Arts and Ideas of the West: Ancient to Medieval or Arts and Ideas of the West: Renaissance to Modern or Arts and Ideas of Asia: Medieval to Modern	3
HRS 108	Approaches to Religious Studies	3

ENGL 20	College Composition II	3
GE Area 5A - Physical Science ²		3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3
Units		15

Second Semester

HRS Areas of Study, Group A - Religions with South and East Asian Origins ³		3
GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
GE Area 5B - Biological Science ²		3
GE Area 5C - Laboratory ²		1
GR American Institutions (GOVT) ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		16

Year 3

First Semester

HRS Areas of Study, Group B - Religions with West Asian Origins ³		3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4
Elective of Choice		3
Units		16

Second Semester

HRS Areas of Study, Group A or B ³		3
Writing Intensive (HRS 168 recommended) ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
Elective of Choice		3
Units		16

Year 4

First Semester

HRS 190 Seminar in Humanities and Religious Studies ³		3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15

Second Semester

HRS 198	Seminar in Religious Studies	3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15

Total Units		123
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Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Writing Intensive (HRS 168 recommended) ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 - Physical or Biological Science ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
Units		16

Year 2

First Semester

HRS 190 Seminar in Humanities and Religious Studies ³		3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities ²		3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences + GR American Institutions (GOVT) ²		3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3
Units		15

Second Semester

HRS 198	Seminar in Religious Studies	3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
Units		15

Total Units		62
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1. Any course not completed in the first semester should be taken in the second or a later semester.
2. Please see General Education/Graduation Requirement **course options** (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).
3. Please see an academic advisor for elective options.

Humanities (Religious Studies), BA: 2-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
First Semester		
HRS 108	Approaches to Religious Studies	3
HRS Areas of Study, Group A - Religions with South and East Asian Origins ³		3
HRS Areas of Study, Group B - Religions with West Asian Origins ³		3
Upper Division HRS Supporting Course ³		3
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4
Units		16
Second Semester		
HRS Areas of Study, Group A or B ³		3