

MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Units required for Minor: 21

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.

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		
HRS 4	Exploring World Religions	
Required Upper Division Courses		
HRS 108	Approaches to Religious Studies	
Required Areas of Study (6-15 Units)		
Select at least one course each from categories A and B:		6 - 15
<i>A. Religions with South and East Asian Origins</i>		
HRS/HIST 147	History of Buddhism	
HRS 173	Chinese Philosophy and Religion	
HRS 175	Zen Buddhism and Daoism	
HRS 176	The Confucian Tradition	
HRS 178A	India’s Religions: Hindus & Buddhists	
HRS 179A	The Hindu Year: Fall	
HRS 179B	The Hindu Year: Spring	
<i>B. Religions with West Asian Origins</i>		
HRS 117	Paganism in the Roman World	
HRS 121	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	
HRS 122	Introduction to the New Testament	
HRS/HIST 126	History of Christianity to the Reformation	
HRS/HIST 127	History of Christianity Since the Reformation	
HRS 141	Introduction To Judaism	
HRS 142	Introduction to Christianity	

HRS 144	Introduction To Islam	
Supporting Courses (0-9 Units)		
Select up to three of the following:		0 - 9
HRS 119	Classical Mythology	
HRS 145	Introduction to Islamic Cultures	
HRS 151	World Mythology	
HRS 152	Great Mystics of the World	
HRS 154	Food, Farming, and the Sacred	
HRS 155	Spirit and Nature	
HRS 183	World Religions and Cultures in Cinema	
Select one course in the HRS 190 Seminar in Humanities and Religious Studies series		
HRS 196	Experimental Offerings in Humanities and Religious Studies	
HRS 198	Seminar in Religious Studies	
HRS 199	Special Problems	
With approval of HRS faculty advisor, a student may select up to, two of the following:		
ANTH 13	Magic, Witchcraft and Religion	
ANTH 166	Rise of Religious Cults	
COMS 165	Communication and Religion	
ETHN 50	Native American Religion and Philosophy	
ETHN 171	African Religions and Philosophies	
PHIL 131	Philosophy Of Religion	
SOC 171	Sociology of Religion	
WGS 145	Goddess, Witch, Feminist	
Total Units		6-24