Minor in Religious Studies

The undergraduate minor in the Department of Religious Studies is a research, analysis, and writing intensive program that features close work with faculty in small classroom settings. It seeks to develop a foundational knowledge of the world’s diversity of religious cultures and critical awareness of the ways in which religion shapes how we see and act toward ourselves, others, and the environment around us. Through the study of specific religious traditions and settings, students come away with a background that is invaluable to understanding and working with people of other cultures, whether in international business or simply as an informed global citizen.

Career Opportunities

Religious studies majors and minors develop expertise and skills that serve them well wherever life takes them. Our graduates have been successful in many different areas. Studying religion provides a solid foundation for work in fields as diverse as journalism, law, politics, nongovernmental organizations, ministry, and education. No matter what their intended careers, students benefit from the critical reading, writing, and analytical skills that the academic study of religion instills.

Religious Studies Minor

The Religious Studies minor consists of a required course, distribution requirements, and electives. The required introductory course focuses on theoretical and methodological issues in the study of religion. Distribution requirements encourage students to approach the study of religion from a variety of angles, from a focus on individual religions to the interaction between religions in specific regions to the exploration of comparative issues and themes. Electives allow students to tailor their course of study to their specific interests and pursue a depth of knowledge in particular aspects of the study of religion.

Religious Studies Minor Course Requirements

Students selecting this minor must complete a course in each of the following areas:

**Introduction to Religious Studies (3)**
Satisfied by one of the following: 3
REL 104 Introduction to Religious Studies
or REL 105 Introduction to Religious Studies, Honors

**Specific Religious Traditions (3)**
Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following: 3
REL 107 Jews, Christians, Muslims
REL 109 Jews, Christians, Muslims, Honors
REL 124 Understanding the Bible
REL 125 Understanding the Bible, Honors
REL 311 Religion of Ancient Israel
REL 325 Introduction to Judaism
REL 330 Native American Religions
REL 331 Native American Religions, Honors
REL 345 Christianity
REL 350 Islam

REL 360 The Buddhist Tradition in Asia
REL 365 Hinduism
REL 515 Studies in Early Christian Literature and History
REL 523 The Dead Sea Scrolls
REL 524 Ancient Egyptian Culture and Religion
REL 525 Jews and Christians
REL 530 Christian Origins: from the Beginnings to Augustine
REL 543 Hindu Epics, Past and Present
REL 557 Modern Islamic Reform Movements
REL 560 Modern Jewish Thought

**Religion in Specific Regions (3)**
Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following: 3
REL 106 Asian Religions
REL 108 Asian Religions, Honors
REL 171 Religion in American Society
REL 172 Religion in American Society, Honors
REL 339 History of Religion in America
REL 507 Religion in India
REL 508 Religion in China
REL 509 Religion in Japan
REL 510 Religion in Korea
REL 541 Gods and Goddesses of South Asia
REL 555 Buddhists and Buddhism in China
REL 571 Religion in Kansas
REL 585 New Religious Movements (Western)
REL 586 New Religious Movements (Nonwestern)

**Thematic Approaches to Religion (3)**
Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following: 3
REL 327 Religious Zionisms
REL 341 Mysticism
REL 357 Women and Gender in Islam
REL 371 Religion and Society in Tension
REL 373 The Supreme Court and Religious Issues in the United States
REL 374 Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality
REL 375 The Supreme Court and Religious Issues in the United States, Honors
REL 377 Religious Ethics and Moral Decisions
REL 378 Religion and Moral Decisions, Honors
REL 406 Reading Asian Religious Classics
REL 425 Religion and Film
REL 464 Visions in Art and Literature
REL 477 Gender and Religion
REL 534 Studies in Ritual: _____
REL 545 Yoga in Theory, Practice, and History
REL 572 Judaism and Political Theology
REL 573 Judaism and Sexuality

**Religious Studies Minor Required Elective (6)**
Satisfied by completing 6 additional hours in REL courses at the 300 level or above.
Religious Studies Minor Hours & Minor GPA

While completing all required courses (above), minors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

**Minor Hours**
Satisfied by 18 hours of major courses.

**Minor Hours in Residence**
Satisfied by a minimum of 9 junior/senior (300+) hours of KU resident credit in the minor.

**Minor Junior/Senior (300+) Hours**
Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the minor.

**Minor Graduation GPA**
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in all departmental courses in the minor. GPA calculations include courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).