

Religious Studies, Comparative Religious Studies (BA)

This program is designed to give students a comprehensive training in the discipline of religious studies. It is intended for students who would plan to pursue career options in Religious Studies, including graduate programs in the study of religion and/or in a theological or seminary setting.

Total Hours Required: 120

Plan of Study

The Plan of Study is a suggested four-year course sequence to support academic planning and serves as a helpful guide. Currently enrolled students should meet with their academic advisor to tailor their course selections and timelines to their individual goals and circumstances.

Code	Title	Hours
1st Semester		
	<u>American and Texas Government (070)</u>	3
	<u>Visual and Performing Arts (050)</u>	3
RHE 306	Rhetoric and Writing	3
	<u>Social and Behavioral Sciences (080)</u>	3
	<u>First-Year Signature Course (090)</u>	3
2nd Semester		
	<u>Mathematics (020)</u>	3
	<u>U.S. History (060)</u>	3
	<u>Additional Social Science (may not also be counted toward Core Curriculum)</u>	3
R S 310	Introduction to the Study of Religion	3
	Free Elective	3
3rd Semester		
	Hours chosen from: Lower-division R S	3
	<u>Humanities (040)</u>	3
	<u>Natural Science and Technology, Part I (030)</u>	3
	<u>Foreign Language other than English, Beginning Proficiency</u>	6
4th Semester		
	Hours chosen from: Lower-division R S	3
	<u>Natural Science and Technology, Part I (030)</u>	3
	<u>U.S. History (060)</u>	3
	<u>Foreign Language other than English, Beginning Proficiency</u>	6
5th Semester		
AFR 345F	Sex and Power in the African Diaspora	3
or ANT 340C	Ethnographic Research Methods	
or R S 337	Religion and Society	
or R S 373E	Anthropology Of Religion	
or R S 373T	Talk, Text, and God	
R S 320	Introduction to Research Methods in the Study of Religion	3
	<u>Natural Science and Technology, Part II (093)</u>	3
	<u>Cultural Expression, Human Experience, and Thought (may not also be counted toward Core Curriculum)</u>	3
	<u>American and Texas Government (070)</u>	3
6th Semester		

Hours chosen from: Upper-division R S	3	
Hours chosen from: Upper-division R S	3	
R S 375S	Topics in Advanced Seminars in Religious Studies	3
Minor/Certificate course		3
Minor/Certificate course		3
7th Semester		
Hours chosen from: Upper-division R S		3
Hours chosen from: Upper-division R S		3
Minor/Certificate course		3
Upper-division Minor/Certificate course		3
Free Elective		3
8th Semester		
Hours chosen from: Upper-division R S		3
Upper-division Minor/Certificate course		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Total Hours		120

Requirements

All requirements are listed below, starting with the most specialized moving to the most general. Additional requirements may follow the table, so be sure to read the entire page. Some required courses listed below may also satisfy General Education requirements, including Core Curriculum.

Code	Title	Hours
Concentration		
R S 310	Introduction to the Study of Religion	3
R S 320	Introduction to Research Methods in the Study of Religion	3
Hours chosen from: Religions of Asia, Europe, the Middle East, or the Mediterranean World (see course list tab)		6
Hours chosen from: Religions of Africa, African Diaspora, or the Americas (see course list tab)		6
Hours chosen from: Comparative Themes (see course list tab)		6
R S 375S	Topics in Advanced Seminars in Religious Studies	3
Subtotal		27
Degree (see details below)		51
Free electives: Additional coursework to reach total hours required.		12
Subtotal		63
General Education		
Remaining Core Curriculum (42 hours total)		30
Foreign Language other than English, Beginning Proficiency		
Subtotal		30
College Requirements - Liberal Arts		
General University Requirements		
Total Hours		120

Degree - Bachelor of Arts (BA) - Liberal Arts

Code	Title	Hours
Degree		
<u>Literature and Writing</u>		
RHE 306	Rhetoric and Writing (Plan II honors requires at least a C-; may also count toward Core Curriculum)	3

Hours chosen from: <u>Writing intensive coursework-see course list</u> (may also count toward Core Curriculum; Plan II honors requires at least a C-)	3
Hours chosen from: Upper-division <u>Writing intensive coursework-see course list</u> (may also count toward Core Curriculum; Plan II honors requires at least a C-)	6
Choose a sequence below:	12
Sequence 1: Plan II Honors (requires at least a C-; may also count toward Core Curriculum)	
E 303C Plan II World Literature Part I or T C 303C Plan II World Literature Part I	
Sequence 2: Plan I	
E 316L British Literature or E 316M American Literature or E 316N World Literature	
<u>Foreign Language other than English, Intermediate Proficiency</u>	3
<u>Choose a sequence below: Social Science</u>	3
Sequence 1: Plan II Honors (requires at least a C-; may also count toward Core Curriculum)	
S S 302C Honors Social Science: Methods and Theory or S S 302D Honors Social Science: Psychology or S S 302E Honors Social Science: Anthropology or S S 302E Honors Social Science: Anthropology or S S 302F Honors Social Science: Economics	
Sequence 2: Plan I	
<u>Additional Social Science (may not also be counted toward Core Curriculum)</u>	
Mathematics	
Choose a sequence below: (M 301, M 316K, and M 316L do not count toward this requirement)	3
Sequence 1: Plan II Honors	
M 310P Modern Mathematics: Plan II	
Sequence 2: Plan I	
Hours chosen from: Mathematics	
<u>Choose a sequence below:</u>	3
Sequence 1: Plan II Honors	
T C 310 Modes of Reasoning or PHL 313QLogic and Scientific Reasoning	
Sequence 2: Plan I	
<u>Cultural Expression, Human Experience, and Thought (may not also be counted toward Core Curriculum)</u>	
<u>Choose a sequence below:</u>	15
Sequence 1: Plan II Honors	
Six Hours chosen from: Astronomy, biology, chemistry, geological sciences, physical science, or physics (may also count toward Core Curriculum)	
BIO 301E Problems in Modern Biology	
PHY 321 Modern Physics: Plan II	
Three Hours chosen from:	
Art history, music history, or history of theatre and dance	
Upper-division classical civilization, humanities, literature, or philosophy	
Sequence 2: Plan I International Relations and Global Studies	
Free electives: Additional coursework to reach total hours required.	
Sequence 3: Other Plan I	
Hours chosen from:	

<u>Transcript-recognized minor or certificate</u>	
Liberal Arts multi-disciplinary minor in the Social and Behavioral Sciences	
Liberal Arts multi-disciplinary minor in Cultural Expression, Human Experience, and Thought	
Total Hours	51

Additional Requirements and Policies

Unless otherwise stated, students must complete at least:

- 15 upper-division degree hours
- 24 upper-division degree hours taken in residence at the University
- 36 additional degree hours taken in residence at the University.

Credit may be earned via credit by examination, extension, or transferred hours from another institution (requires dean's approval).

Major and minor required hours may also be used to fulfill degree requirements unless expressly prohibited.

A course in one degree area may not also be used to fulfill the requirements of another degree area unless specified otherwise.

Mathematics courses at the college algebra level may not count toward elective hours.

Majors

A major consists of 24 to 45 hours, with at least 15 upper-division hours unless the requirements of the major state otherwise.

Students must earn at least:

- 18 major hours taken in residence at the University.
- 6 upper-division major hours taken in residence at the University
- a 2.00 grade point average for in-residence major hours taken at the University unless a higher minimum scholastic requirement is specified for the major.

Minors

Students must get permission from their College of Liberal Arts academic advisor to pursue more than one transcript-recognized minor or certificate per major. The academic advisor will approve or deny the request after considering the student's long-term educational and professional goals and the student's ability to graduate within 4 years of entering the University.

Students should consult the department offering the course before planning to use it to fulfill the minor requirement.

Hours used to fulfill the requirements for a minor must be taken on the letter-grade basis.

See [University Minor and Certificate policies here](#).

Religions of Asia, Europe, the Middle East, or the Mediterranean World

Code	Title	Hours
R S 302	History of the Religions of Asia	3
R S 304	Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: An Introduction	3
R S 310R	Introduction to Middle East Religions	3
R S 312C	Introduction to Buddhism	3
R S 313C	Introduction to the Old Testament	3
R S 313M	Jewish Civilization: Beginnings to 1492	3

R S 313N	Jewish Civilization: 1492 to the Present	3	R S 358C	Islam and Politics	3
R S 314K	Introduction to the Middle East: Religious, Cultural, and Historical Foundations	3	R S 358F	French Empire: The West and Islam	3
R S 315K	Russian Icons and Propaganda	3	R S 358G	Gender Politics in the Islamic World	3
R S 315M	Luther's World	3	R S 358K	Islamic Law	3
R S 315N	Introduction to the New Testament	3	R S 358L	Rule of Law in the Middle East	3
R S 316E	American Jews: The Yiddish Experience	3	R S 358O	Origins of Monotheism	3
R S 318	The Rise of Christianity	3	R S 358P	History of the Pilgrimage to Mecca, Hajj	3
R S 319	Introduction to Islam	3	R S 358U	Islamic Theology	3
R S 321	History of Hindu Religious Traditions	3	R S 358V	Veiling in the Muslim World	3
R S 322	History of Indian Buddhism	3	R S 359C	Graffiti and Poster Art in the Islamic World	3
R S 325	Prophet of Islam: His Life and Times	3	R S 359D	Islam in the Early Modern World: Religion and Culture	3
R S 325G	The Qur'an	3	R S 359E	Shia Islam	3
R S 335	Jesus in History and Tradition	3	R S 359M	Arts of Islam, 650-1500	3
R S 341E	The Taj Mahal and the Diversity of Indian Art	3	R S 359N	Arts of Islam 1500-Present	3
R S 341P	Indian Poetry and Religions	3	R S 365D	Hermits, Monks, and Saints in Early Christianity	3
R S 341T	Buddhist Art	3	R S 365G	Death and the Afterlife in Graeco-Roman Antiquity	3
R S 341U	Devotional Literature of India	3	Religions of Africa, African Diaspora, or the Americas		
R S 344	The Age of Reformation	3	Code	Title	Hours
R S 352D	Japanese Religion and Western Imagination	3	R S 313E	Introduction to Jewish Latin America	3
R S 352G	Shamanism and the Primitive	3	R S 316C	History of Religion in the United States	3
R S 352R	Ritual and Religion in Korea	3	R S 317N	Introduction to Modern North Africa	3
R S 353D	The Dead Sea Scrolls	3	R S 326	History of Religion in America since 1800	3
R S 353E	Beyond the New Testament	3	R S 345	Islamic Spain and North Africa to 1492	3
R S 353F	Interpretation of Jesus' Death and Resurrection	3	R S 346D	Native American Religions	3
R S 353G	Abraham and Abrahamic Religions	3	R S 346F	United States Catholic History	3
R S 353J	Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature	3	R S 346G	Religion in the American West	3
R S 353M	Debating Genesis	3	R S 346J	Evangelical Christianity	3
R S 353P	Paul and His Social World	3	R S 346K	The Black Church in African American Politics	3
R S 354D	The Bible and History	3	R S 346L	Representation of Jews in the American Public Sphere	3
R S 355	The Bible as Literature	3	R S 346N	American Jewish Material Culture	3
R S 355K	The Bible in British and American Literature	3	R S 346U	The History of Islam in the United States	3
R S 356C	Italian Renaissance, 1350-1550	3	R S 346V	African American Religions	3
R S 356F	Twelfth-Century Renaissance: 1050-1200	3	R S 360C	African Religious Culture and Creativity	3
R S 357D	Heresy and the Inquisition	3	R S 366C	The Bible in the Colonial Americas	3
R S 357E	Jews of Eastern Europe	3	R S 366D	Religions of the Caribbean	3
R S 357F	Heretics and Freedom Fighters, 1350-1650	3	R S 366E	Jewish Cuba	3
R S 357G	Geography of Religion in Eastern Europe and Russia	3	R S 368C	When Christ was King	3
R S 357I	Byzantine Art	3	R S 368D	Church and State in Latin America	3
R S 357J	Northern Renaissance Art, 1350-1500	3	Comparative Themes		
R S 357K	Northern Renaissance Art, 1500-1600	3	Code	Title	Hours
R S 357L	The Spanish Inquisition	3	R S 346C	Religion and Visual Culture in the United States	3
R S 357M	Spinoza and Modernity	3	R S 346M	Music and Religious Identities in the US	3
R S 357N	Northern Gods, Northern Faiths: The Conversion of Scandinavians, Finns, Northern Slavs and Shamans	3	R S 346P	Religion in American Political Thought	3
R S 357O	The Church and the Jews	3	R S 346S	Debating the Bible in the Twenty-First Century	3
R S 357P	Jewish Folklore	3	R S 352S	Japanese Concepts of Body and Self	3
R S 357Q	Gothic Cathedral: Amiens	3	R S 353C	Angels, Demons, and Magic in Early Christianity	3
R S 357R	The Age of Rembrandt and Rubens: Northern Baroque Art	3	R S 353L	The Sacred and the Secular in Contemporary Jewish Literature	3
R S 357T	Introduction to Germanic Religion and Myth	3	R S 356D	Satan and the Idea of Evil	3
R S 357U	Medieval Women Mystics	3	R S 358S	Saints and Shrines in Islam	3
R S 357V	Holocaust Aftereffects	3			
R S 357W	Russian Orthodox Religion and Culture	3			

R S 357S	The Sacred and the Secular in Modern European Thought	3
R S 358W	Gender and Art in the Muslim World	3
R S 368F	Religion, Conquest, and Conversion in Colonial Latin America	3
R S 373D	The History of Christmas	3
R S 373G	Goddesses in World Religions and Cultures	3
R S 373J	Creation and Evolution: Human Origins in Scientific and Religious Discourses	3
R S 373K	Extraterrestrial Intelligence: Culture, Religion, and Imagination	3
R S 373N	Religions in Contact	3
R S 373S	Sport, Religion, and Society	3