

Religious Studies, Religion, Ethics, and Social Justice (BA)

This program is designed to train students in applied methods for the study of religion in everyday life, including secular spaces and popular cultures that often fall outside conventional understandings of religious traditions and the study of religion. This concentration emphasizes concerns of ethics and justice in society. It is intended for pre-professional students interested in careers in medicine, law, social work, non-profits, community engagement, workplace equity, human rights, and democratic engagement.

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: Religious Ethics and Moral Traditions (see course list tab)	9
	Hours chosen from: Human Rights and Social Justice (see course list tab)	9
R S 375S	Topics in Advanced Seminars in Religious Studies	3
	<i>Subtotal</i>	27
	Degree (see details below)	51
	Free electives: Additional coursework to reach total hours required.	12
	<i>Subtotal</i>	63
General Education		
	<u>Remaining Core Curriculum (42 hours total)</u>	30
	<u>Foreign Language other than English, Beginning Proficiency</u>	
	<i>Subtotal</i>	30
	<u>College Requirements - Liberal Arts</u>	
	<u>General University Requirements</u>	
Total Hours		120

Degree - Bachelor of Arts (BA) - Liberal Arts

Code	Title	Hours
Degree		
<i>Literature and Writing</i>		
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
<i>Choose a sequence below: Social Science</i>		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>		
<i>Mathematics</i>		
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		
<i>Choose a sequence below:</i>		3
Sequence 1: Plan II Honors		
T C 310	Modes of Reasoning	
or PHL 313Q	Logic and Scientific Reasoning	
Sequence 2: Plan I		
<u>Cultural Expression, Human Experience, and Thought (may not also be counted toward Core Curriculum)</u>		
<i>Choose a sequence below:</i>		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:

Transcript-recognized minor or certificate

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](#).

Religious Ethics and Moral Traditions

Code	Title	Hours
AFR 351U	Race, Capitalism, and the Environment	3
R S 358R	Islamic Ethics	3
R S 306C	Comparative Religious Ethics	3
R S 346S	Debating the Bible in the Twenty-First Century	3
R S 373M	Biomedicine, Ethics, and Culture	3
R S 352F	Religion and Family in Japanese Society	3
R S 358J	Sex and Sexuality in the Muslim World	3
R S 373L	Science, Magic, and Religion	3
R S 358D	Muslim Women in Politics	3
R S 341F	Jainism: Religion of Non-Violence	3
R S 341K	Karma: Ethical Theories of India	3
R S 341M	Gender, Sexuality, and the Family in Indian Religions and Cultures	3
R S 352E	Confucianism	3
R S 373K	Extraterrestrial Intelligence: Culture, Religion, and Imagination	3

Human Rights and Social Justice

Code	Title	Hours
AFR 301	African American Culture	3
AFR 350U	The Civil Rights Movement from a Comparative Perspective	3
AFR 351L	The United States in the Civil Rights Era	3
AFR 351T	Anthropology for Liberation	3
AFR 360F	Urban Unrest	3
ANT 320G	Endangered Languages	3
ANT 325U	Austin Jews in the Civil Rights Era	3
GOV 314D	Human Rights Theories and Practices	3
GOV 320N	United States Constitutional Development: Rights	3
GOV 335Q	Global Justice	3
GOV 351C	The Classical Quest for Justice	3
GOV 351E	Contemporary Political Theory	3
GOV 357D	Civil Liberties	3
GOV 357G	Structure of Individual Liberties	3
GOV 365W	Human Rights and World Politics	3
R S 341C	Gandhi and Gandhism	3
R S 346R	Religion and Social Justice in United States	3
R S 346E	Religion and Film	3
R S 346V	African American Religions	3
R S 346D	Native American Religions	3
R S 346K	The Black Church in African American Politics	3
R S 357C	Machiavelli: Politics and Culture	3
R S 358G	Gender Politics in the Islamic World	3
R S 373C	Religious Ethics and Human Rights	3