Religious Studies

The Department of Religious Studies offers a master of arts (MA) degree in Religious Studies and, together with the Iliff School of Theology, a doctor of philosophy (PhD) degree, as well as a graduate certificate in Religious Studies.

Why pursue an MA in Religious Studies at the University of Denver?

The Department of Religious Studies offers graduate students the opportunity to study with its distinguished faculty in a program that emphasizes breadth and depth. Religious Studies faculty members are well published and have won several distinguished teaching awards. They have served in leadership roles in national learned societies and have received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies and the Guggenheim Foundation.

The program provides students with a substantive grounding in the major religious traditions of the world, as well as training in the discipline of religious studies. Through the areas of specialization, it provides students with the opportunity to develop a specific and scholarly expertise in one of the following particular fields of interest: Biblical Studies, Theory of Religion, International and Multicultural Studies, Philosophy of Religion, Islamic Studies and World Religions. Students can use these areas of specializations to deepen their own expertise in a particular area while preparing for thesis work or comprehensive exams.

As part of broader University mandates to support interdisciplinary work and internationalization (study and research abroad), the Department of Religious Studies expects students to embrace multiple disciplinary perspectives. It encourages students to enrich their graduate studies by taking courses in other departments and to work with faculty outside Religious Studies. For example, students in the MA program routinely take graduate-level courses in Anthropology, International Studies, Philosophy and Art History. Similarly, students in the MA program are encouraged to pursue advanced language training in the language(s) of their sub-field as well as modern research languages. Finally, the Department encourages students to study or conduct research abroad, as appropriate, and to seek external support in ways that will enhance their curriculum vitae as well as their scholarly and professional training.

Program advantages include:

• The opportunity to develop broad competencies in major religious traditions and the discipline of Religious Studies, while cultivating scholarly expertise in a particular area of specialization.
• Small classes that facilitate professor-student interaction, encouraging faculty mentoring while fostering community and collegiality with other graduate students.
• The opportunity to pursue interdisciplinary training and related interests by taking courses or working one-on-one with faculty in other University of Denver departments.
• Preparation either for doctoral work or for a professional career, with strong support from faculty and the University of Denver’s career counselors.
• Opportunities to engage with and conduct research within metropolitan Denver, a culturally and religiously diverse city with a high quality of life.
• Substantial scholarship packages, including tuition credits and opportunities to serve as a research assistant.

What do applicants need in order to qualify for the Religious Studies MA program?

Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. Applicants must meet the minimum performance standard set by the Office of Graduate Studies for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants must have an appropriate background in the study of the humanities. Undergraduate courses in Religious Studies are highly desirable, but all work in related areas will be taken into consideration.

Applicants must be

• Academically qualified for graduate level study
• Prepared to do coursework and conduct research that emphasizes engagement with local and global communities
• Motivated to work collegially with faculty and other students in a community of learning

What can graduates do with a MA in Religious Studies?

The MA degree in religious studies prepares students for PhD work or for teaching and careers in journalism, government, education, and nonprofit organizations in which cross-cultural analytical skills are important. The program provides broad competencies in several religious traditions, while offering students the opportunity to specialize in an area of particular interest.
Joint PhD Program in the Study of Religion

A number of graduates of the Department of Religious Studies’ MA program choose to continue their doctoral studies in the Joint PhD program.

The Joint PhD Program, which the Department of Religious Studies offers in partnership with the Iliff School of Theology, is taught by distinguished faculty from the University of Denver and Iliff. The program enrolls students from across the nation and around the world. The facilities and libraries of both institutions are open to all Joint PhD students, offering considerable research and academic resources. Please note that admission to the Joint Doctoral Program is a separate process, distinct from admission to the Department’s MA program. For more details, please visit the joint PhD website at www.du.edu/duiliffjoint/ (http://www.du.edu/duiliffjoint).

Why pursue a Graduate Certificate in Religious Studies at the University of Denver?

The graduate certificate in Religious Studies provides students with an opportunity to acquire graduate-level exposure to the academic study of religion and to several of the world’s major religious traditions. This certificate program provides students with the opportunity to:

1. develop an introductory, graduate-level understanding of two major world religious traditions;
2. to gain a grasp of pertinent theoretical approaches to the study of religion; and
3. to engage major issues in a particular religious tradition or aspect of religion.

For students currently enrolled in graduate programs in fields other than religious studies or the study of religion - such as business, international studies, law or other AHSS disciplines - this certificate will augment the competencies gained in their primary program. For students currently pursuing a career, particularly those in consulting, journalism, the law, the non-profit sector, public policy, education, human resources, faith-based institutions/organizations or other professions where a knowledge of religious beliefs, practices and values can be important, this certificate will enhance their professional credentials or expand their expertise into a new arena.

What do applicants need in order to qualify for the Religious Studies graduate certificate program?

Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. Applicants must meet the minimum performance standard set by the Office of Graduate Studies for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants must have an appropriate background in the study of the humanities. Undergraduate courses in Religious Studies are highly desirable, but all work in related areas will be taken into consideration.

Applicants must be

• Academically qualified for graduate level study
• Prepared to do coursework and conduct research that emphasizes engagement with local and global communities
• Motivated to work collegially with faculty and other students in a community of learning

Graduate Certificate in Religious Studies

Following are the simple steps to apply for the certificate in Religious Studies at the University of Denver. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies.

Apply Online / Application Deadlines

• Applications for graduate study in Religious Studies at the University of Denver must be submitted online.
• All online materials must be received, and all supplemental materials including transcripts must be on file in the Office of Graduate Studies, by the program’s stated deadline: February 15, for fall admission. Late applications will be considered but priority consideration for admission and departmental scholarships will be given to applicants meeting the deadline. Students may apply at any time for winter, spring, and summer admission but will be considered on a space-available basis.
• A $65 non-refundable application fee is required for an application to be processed. Application fee waivers are available for McNair Scholars.

Course and Degree Prerequisites and Requirements

• Applicants must earn and submit proof of earning the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to beginning graduate coursework at DU with an appropriate undergraduate background in relevant arts, humanities or social science disciplines and a minimum “B” (3.0) grade point average. Meeting this standard does not guarantee admission.

Transcripts

• Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution they have attended, or are presently attending, where two quarter hours (or one semester hour) or more were completed including study abroad and college coursework completed in high school.
• The applicant is responsible for obtaining all transcripts. Applicants who have earned a degree outside the U.S. must submit transcripts accompanied by certified English translations, if not normally issued in English. DU students and alumni do not need to provide DU transcripts.
• Official study abroad transcripts are required unless the course titles, grades and credit earned abroad appear on another transcript. Transcripts from outside of the U.S. are evaluated by the Office of International Student Admission. This process can take three to four weeks and must be complete by the program’s stated deadline. Therefore, applicants with a degree from outside of the U.S. are encouraged to apply early. Applicants educated outside the U.S. are encouraged to contact the Office of Graduate Studies for assistance regarding transcript-related materials.

• The University of Denver will consider electronic transcripts official from a domestic institution provided by the following approved agencies: Army/ American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS); Docufide/Parchment; National Student Clearinghouse; Naviance; Royall and Company; and, Scrip-Safe.

• Paper transcripts should be sent to the following address
  University of Denver
  Office of Graduate Studies
  Mary Reed Building, Room 5
  2199 S. University Blvd.
  Denver, CO 80208-4802

• Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu

Language Proficiency (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/admissions/additionalstandardsfornonnativeenglishspeakers)

• Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are required of all graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship status, whose native language is not English or who have been educated in countries where English is not the native language. Applications will not be processed until the required TOEFL or IELTS score is received. The TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the test date. The minimum TOEFL score accepted by the University is 80 (iBT) or 550 (paper-based). The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. The minimum IELTS score accepted by the University is 6.0. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) must demonstrate fluency in spoken English by scoring a 26 on the TOEFL speaking section or 8.0 on the IELTS speaking section. Please see the Graduate Policy Manual for complete English language proficiency requirements.

• Applicants may be exempted from English proficiency test requirements if by the time of matriculation they have earned a post-secondary degree from a formally-recognized/accredited university where the language of instruction and examination is English. Such applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement but not from other standardized graduate entrance examinations. There are no exemptions for graduate teaching assistants.

• Students whose native language is not English and who are required to submit TOEFL/IELTS (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/admissions/additionalstandardsfornonnativeenglishspeakers) scores will be assessed by the University of Denver English Language Center (ELC) prior to matriculation.

Test Scores

• The GRE is not required for applicants to the certificate program.

Personal Statements / Writing Samples

• A personal statement that describes your interest in religious studies and your career goals is required. The statement, of at least 300 words, should include information concerning your life, education, practical experience, special interests and specific purpose for applying to the University of Denver. It should also include which of our six areas of specialization you would likely select, and why. The statement should be submitted via upload through the online application process.

• An academic writing sample of 3–10 pages is required. Applicants may submit all or part of a paper previously submitted for a course, or may submit another piece of written work. If submitting a section of a longer paper, please provide a brief (one paragraph) abstract (summary) of the larger work from which the excerpt is taken. The writing sample should be submitted via upload through the online application process.

Recommendation Letters

• Certificate applicants are required to submit one letter of recommendation that can address both academic aptitude and career goals. Letters should be solicited and uploaded by recommenders through the online application system. Request for letters should be sent to recommenders well in advance so the letters are on file by the application deadline.

Application Status

• We encourage you to be actively engaged in the admission process. You can check your application status online at PioneerWeb. Applicants will receive login information post application submission.

Contact Information

• Mail official transcripts and any supplemental admission materials not submitted with the online application to:
  University of Denver
  Office of Graduate Studies
  Mary Reed Building, Room 5
  2199 S. University Blvd.
Religious Studies

Denver, CO 80208-4802

- Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu.
- For more information call (303) 871-2706.

International Applicants

- For complete international applicant information, please visit the Office of Graduate Studies International Student Application Information.
- International applicants are strongly encouraged to have their applications complete at least eight weeks prior to the program’s application deadline.

The Graduate Policies and Procedures (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/gradpolicy) provides complete details regarding admission requirements.

Master of Arts in Religious Studies

Following are the simple steps to apply for Master of Arts in Religious Studies at the University of Denver. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies.

Apply Online / Application Deadlines

- Applications for graduate study at the University of Denver must be submitted online.
- All online materials must be received, and all supplemental materials including transcripts must be on file in the Office of Graduate Studies, by the program’s stated deadline: February 15, for fall admission. Late applications will be considered but priority consideration for admission and departmental scholarships will be given to applicants meeting the deadline. Students may apply at any time for winter, spring, and summer admission but will be considered on a space-available basis.
- A $65 non-refundable application fee is required for an application to be processed. Application fee waivers are available for McNair Scholars.

Course and Degree Prerequisites and Requirements

- Applicants must earn and submit proof of earning the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to beginning graduate coursework at DU with an appropriate undergraduate background in relevant arts, humanities or social science disciplines and a minimum “B” (3.0) grade point average. Meeting this standard does not guarantee admission.

Transcripts

- Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution they have attended, or are presently attending, where two quarter hours (or one semester hour) or more were completed including study abroad and college coursework completed in high school.
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Language Proficiency

- Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are required of all graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship status, whose native language is not English or who have been educated in countries where English is not the native language. Applications will not be processed until the required TOEFL or IELTS score is received. The TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the test date. The minimum TOEFL score accepted by the University is 80 (iBT) or 550 (paper-based). The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. The minimum IELTS score accepted by the University is 6.0. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) must demonstrate fluency in spoken English by scoring a 26 on the TOEFL speaking section or 8.0 on the IELTS speaking section. Please see the Graduate Policy Manual for complete English language proficiency requirements.
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- Students whose native language is not English and who are required to submit TOEFL/IELTS (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/admissions/additionalstandardsfornonnativeenglishspeakers) scores will be assessed by the University of Denver English Language Center (ELC) prior to matriculation.

Test Scores
- Master's applicants are required to submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores including a minimum 500/153 on the verbal section. Scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency by the program's stated deadline. The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. The GRE is not required for applicants to the certificate program.

Personal Statement / Writing Samples
- A personal statement that describes your interest in religious studies and your career goals is required. The statement, of at least 300 words, should include information concerning your life, education, practical experience, special interests and specific purpose for applying to the University of Denver. It should also include which of our six areas of specialization you would likely select, and why. The statement should be submitted via upload through the online application process.
- An academic writing sample of 3–10 pages is required. Applicants may submit all or part of a paper previously submitted for a course, or may submit another piece of written work. If submitting a section of a longer paper, please provide a brief (one paragraph) abstract (summary) of the larger work from which the excerpt is taken. The writing sample should be submitted via upload through the online application process.

Recommendation Letters
- Three letters of recommendation are required for master's applicants. At least one should come from a professor or faculty member who can comment on your academic performance and potential. Letters should be solicited and uploaded by recommenders through the online application system. Requests for letters should be sent to recommenders well in advance so the letters are on file by the application deadline.

Financial Support
- To be considered for financial support, domestic applicants should apply early and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline, February 15. Information about financial aid can be found on the Office of Financial Aid website. International students are not eligible for federal financial aid.
- The Department of Religious Studies offers various forms of financial support to master's students including tuition credits and scholarships. Applicants are encouraged to apply early for consideration.

Application Status
- We encourage you to be actively engaged in the admission process. You can check your application status online at PioneerWeb. Applicants will receive login information post application submission.

Contact Information
- Mail official transcripts and any supplemental admission materials not submitted with the online application to:
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International Applicants
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The Graduate Policies and Procedures (http://www.du.edu/media/documents/graduates/gradpolmanual.pdf) provides complete details regarding admission requirements.

Master of Arts in Religious Studies

The MA in Religious Studies requires a minimum of 45 hours of coursework, including one theory and methods course.
Degree Requirements
Coursework Requirements

Course requirements:
RLGS 4000  Theory and Methods in the Study of Religion  4

Select three of the following:  12

- RLGS 3814  Modern Hinduism
- RLGS 3816  Hinduism Through Texts
- RLGS 3820  Buddhism
- RLGS 3001  Judaism
- RLGS 3203  Christianity
- RLGS 3500  Islam

Areas of specialization
Select at least 16 hours in one of the following six areas of specialization:  16

Biblical Studies
Students must take in addition to the core requirements at least one course in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam plus at least one additional course in either Judaism or Christianity. Students will also be expected to meet minimum competency standards in either Hebrew or Koiné Greek.

- RLGS 3001  Judaism
- RLGS 3102  Early Judaism
- RLGS 3151  Dead Sea Scrolls
- RLGS 3318  Jesus on the Silver Screen
- RLGS 3740  Bodies and Souls
- RLGS 3890  Religion and Diaspora
- RLGS 3892  Grant Writing as Research and Community Engagement
- RLGS 4100  Hebrew Bible Backgrounds: Seminar in Ancient Israelite Religion
- RLGS 4105  Understanding the Bible: Old Testament
- RLGS 4122  Augustine on Genesis
- RLGS 4130  Prophets of Israel
- RLGS 4191  Early Christian Old Testament Interpretations

Theory of religion
Students must take approved courses in each of the three theoretical areas of the study of religion: philosophy of religion, psychology of religion, anthropology of religion. The remaining course, or courses, can be chosen from the department’s approved list of courses for the area of specialization.

- RLGS 3300  Psychology of Religion
- RLGS 3302  Islamic Fundamentalism
- RLGS 3315  Religion & Moral Psychology
- RLGS 3318  Jesus on the Silver Screen
- RLGS 3350  Culture, Psyche, and Religion
- RLGS 3370  Freud, Psychology, & Religion
- RLGS 3381  Religion & Psychobiography
- RLGS 3400  Philosophy of Religion
- RLGS 3465  Derrida and Postmodernism
- RLGS 3475  Deleuze and Semiotics
- RLGS 3641  Religion and Race in America
- RLGS 3693  Religion and the Media
- RLGS 3707  Religion and Film
- RLGS 3760  Globalization and Religion: Theory and Methods
- RLGS 3813  Ritual
- RLGS 3890  Religion and Diaspora
- RLGS 4501  Intersections of Faith and Media

International and multicultural studies
This specialization focuses on the role of religion within the context of the globalization process. Particular attention may be given to certain regions such as the Americas, Europe, or Asia. Students must take at least one course in a specific religious tradition beyond the core requirements as well as one course in the theory of religion that pertains to international and multicultural studies. Finally, students must take at least four hours of course work (including independent study, an internship, service learning, or field work) at a location outside North America that meet the student’s curricular and long-term professional goals. Depending on the program of study, the department may require a competency exam in a relevant language.

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<tr>
<td>RLGS 3452</td>
<td>Political Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 3500</td>
<td>Islam</td>
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<td>RLGS 3501</td>
<td>Pilgrimage in Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 3502</td>
<td>Contemporary Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 3570</td>
<td>Religion and Morality in the American Public Square</td>
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<td>RLGS 3601</td>
<td>Religion and Culture in Vienna</td>
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<td>RLGS 3641</td>
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<td>RLGS 4676</td>
<td>Latino Religious Cultures: Methods and Theories</td>
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**Philosophy of religion**

Students must take at least two courses in the theory of religion plus one course in a specific philosopher, or philosophers, from each of the two historical periods: ancient and modern (Plato to Kant), late modern and postmodern (Hegel to the present). The remaining courses can be chosen from the department’s approved list of courses for this area of specialization, and will likely involve additional courses taken in the Philosophy Department.

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<td>RLGS 3023</td>
<td>Great Thinkers: Maimonides</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 3192</td>
<td>Christian Classics</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 3350</td>
<td>Culture, Psyche, and Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3452</td>
<td>Political Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3455</td>
<td>Phenomenology and Theology: Husserl to Marion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3460</td>
<td>Nietzsche &amp; the Death of God</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 3465</td>
<td>Derrida and Postmodernism</td>
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<td>Deleuze and Semiotics</td>
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<td>RLGS 3693</td>
<td>Religion and the Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 4402</td>
<td>Plato: Postmodern Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 4501</td>
<td>Intersections of Faith and Media</td>
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**Islamic studies**

This specialization introduces students to the textual foundations of Islamic theology and legal reasoning, as well as exposing them to major issues in the development of Islamic traditions, contemporary developments, and particularly questions of reform and fundamentalism. In addition to RLGS 3500, students must take a minimum of three additional courses dealing with Islam. Students must pass a competency examination in Arabic, equivalent to two years of coursework.

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<td>Contemporary Islam</td>
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<td>RLGS 3503</td>
<td>Quran and Hadith</td>
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World religions

This specialization focuses on the major world religious traditions, as well as enabling students to look comparatively at these traditions. In addition to the core requirements, students must take at least four courses in the world's major religious traditions.

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<td>RLGS 3102</td>
<td>Early Judaism</td>
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<td>RLGS 3203</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
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<td>RLGS 3204</td>
<td>Christianity in the British Isles</td>
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<td>RLGS 3475</td>
<td>Deleuze and Semiotics</td>
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**Elective Credits** 13

**Total Credits** 45

Students must declare an area of specialization after completing 32 hours of course work.

**Non-Coursework Requirements**

In order to complete the MA degree, students must revise a research paper into a journal article, write a thesis, pass a set of comprehensive examinations, or complete a substantive research project.

- **Journal Article Track:** To be eligible for the journal article, students must have a 3.5 GPA; to be eligible for the thesis option, students must have a minimum 3.3 GPA. Students pursuing the journal article option will research religious studies journals and select an appropriate target journal with their advisor’s approval. They will expand a course research paper into an article appropriate for the selected journal.

- **Thesis Track:** Students pursuing the thesis option will expand a course research paper into a graduate thesis of 50-60 pages. Both the article and the thesis should allow students to make an original contribution to the field of religious studies, as well as to demonstrate a mastery of relevant theories and background literature.

- **Comprehensive Exam Track:** The comprehensive examination will consist of three written exams over two successive days. Exam questions will deal respectively with two of the five major religious traditions (one drawn from Judaism, Christianity or Islam; one drawn from either Buddhism or Hinduism) and the theory of religion. General bibliographies for the exams, on which the student will be tested, must be worked out with the instructor administering the exam.

- **Project Track:** Students pursuing the project option will develop a project that will allow them to make an original contribution to the field of applied religious studies. It may take several forms but should include a substantive written component and a formal presentation.

Please note that all completion option defenses may only be scheduled during the regular academic year: Fall, winter or spring Quarters.

The Department of Religious Studies allows graduate students to transfer up to 10 hours of previous graduate course work from another institution or another department at the University during the first quarter of the student’s admission to the program. The transfer must be approved by the department as well as by the Office of Graduate Studies. Similarly, the Department allows students to earn waivers for the traditions requirements by submitting syllabi from similar courses taken at the undergraduate level.

Students may also take up to 15 hours in independent study outside the regular course listings of the Department of Religious Studies. These hours may include courses outside the Department as well.

In order for a course to fulfill degree requirements, students must earn a B- or better. The minimum grade for any elective course taken for the degree is a C.
Certificate in Religious Studies

The Graduate Certificate program allows students structured flexibility, providing exposure to religious traditions through the traditions requirement, training in the discipline of religious studies with the theory requirement, and the opportunity to pursue particular interests through elective courses. The certificate requires a minimum of 24 credit hours.

Program Requirements

Coursework Requirements

Traditions
Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3814</td>
<td>Modern Hinduism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3816</td>
<td>Hinduism Through Texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3820</td>
<td>Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3001</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3203</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3500</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Theory
Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3300</td>
<td>Psychology of Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3452</td>
<td>Political Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3760</td>
<td>Globalization and Religion: Theory and Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 4000</td>
<td>Theory and Methods in the Study of Religion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives
Students choose three courses from RLGS 3000-level courses

Total Credits

24

Certificate in Religion and International Affairs

The Graduate Certificate in Religion and International Affairs provides students pursuing MA degrees in the Department of Religious Studies (AHSS) or the Josef Korbel School of International Studies with the opportunity to enhance their home program of study with specific expertise in the scholarly and professional field of religion and international affairs. This certificate program emphasizes scholarly and practitioner approaches to understanding the intersections between religion and international affairs in the modern world, providing students with an interdisciplinary approach to contemporary case studies as well as theoretical issues. The certificate requires a minimum of 27 credit hours.

Program Requirements

Coursework Requirements

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTS 4525</td>
<td>Religion-State Relations in Comparative Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3693</td>
<td>Religion and the Media</td>
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Elective courses
Choose from the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTS 4526</td>
<td>Modern Islamic Political Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTS 4534</td>
<td>Topics in Middle East Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTS 4543</td>
<td>Religion and International Studies: The Apocalyptic Tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTS 4638</td>
<td>Modern Iranian History and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3302</td>
<td>Islamic Fundamentalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3452</td>
<td>Political Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3570</td>
<td>Religion and Morality in the American Public Square</td>
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<td>RLGS 3641</td>
<td>Religion and Race in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3760</td>
<td>Globalization and Religion: Theory and Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLGS 3814</td>
<td>Modern Hinduism</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 3890</td>
<td>Religion and Diaspora</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Minimum number of credits required

27-32
Non-Coursework Requirements

- Students pursuing an International Studies MA will be expected to complete a capstone project, which may also involve an independent study for up to five credit hours.

Courses

RLGS 3001 Judaism (4 Credits)
A literary and historical journey through Judaism. This course examines the "Jewish story" from its roots to its modern-day manifestations, focusing on select, classic Jewish texts in their historical contexts. From them, students explore Jewish tradition and practice and actively engage with and in the vivid interpretive imagination of the authors of Judaism throughout the ages. Cross listed with JUST 3001.

RLGS 3023 Great Thinkers: Maimonides (4 Credits)
Using "The Guide for the Perplexed" as our central text, we explore the complex philosophical ideas of Moses Maimonides (1135-1204), one of the central figures in medieval philosophy and Jewish thought. Our study includes analyses of his ideas on principles of faith, human perfection, intellectual vs. "imaginational" approaches to truth, pedagogy and politics, reasons for the commandments, the nature of God and divine will, the limits of human knowledge, the mechanics of prophecy, and the parameters and implications of providence. Cross listed with PHIL 3023 and JUST 3023. Prerequisite: junior standing or instructor's permission.

RLGS 3024 Maimonides: Greek, Islamic, and Christian Encounters (4 Credits)
Using the "Guide of the Perplexed" as our central text, we explore the complex philosophical ideas of Moses Maimonides (1135-1204), a central figure in the history of philosophy and in the history of Jewish thought. In this course, we examine in depth the relationship between Maimonides' core ideas and various Greek, Muslim and Christian thinkers, including: Aristotle, Plotinus, al-Farabi, Avicenna (Ibn Sina), al-Ghazali, Averroes (Ibn Rushd), and Aquinas. Topics to be explored include: what is "metaphysics"?; God’s unity and essence as existence itself; the mystery of knowing and not knowing God (including a consideration of God’s ways as well as "negative theology"--viz. the extent to which we do not know God); God as pure intellect; the nature of the cosmos and the "separate intellects"; creation vs. eternity vs. emanation: philosophical and religious perspectives on the origins of the universe and implications for “living in the world with/out God.” In our study, we will also address the methodological implications of cross-religious and cross-language analyses, and how to spot and address (in your own work and in the work of others) tacit cultural biases at play in the interpretive process. Cross listed with JUST 3024 and PHIL 3024. Prerequisite: Junior standing or instructor's permission.

RLGS 3025 Rabbinic Judaism (4 Credits)
This course traces the development of Judaism in history and literature from the Babylonian Exile and the end of the biblical period through the origins of Rabbinic Judaism and the compilation of the Babylonian Talmud (c. 650 CE). However, special emphasis is placed on Jewish culture in the late Second Temple period (c. 200 BCE to 100 CE) and its impact on the early Christian movement, including Jewish literature from the time of Jesus, lost texts of the Bible, new evidence from the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the few surviving historical sources of the Second Temple Period. In addition, students analyze how the Bible came to be and understand how sacred texts and their interpretations eventually became the new center of both Judaism and Christianity. Cross listed with JUST 3102.

RLGS 3105 The Bible & Dead Sea Scrolls (4 Credits)
This course includes an advanced study of the Dead Sea Scrolls with a particular focus on the Bible as it appears in the Qumran library. We will discuss the variant versions of the Bible, some of which were previously unknown before the discovery of the Scrolls, and how the findings of the Scrolls may question the very idea of “Bible” itself in the context of the late Second Temple Judaism. Further, we will place particular emphasis on studying the way biblical texts were engaged, interpreted and even written by the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls. In this way, we shall explore the origins of biblical interpretation and how the notion of the Bible came to be. Cross listed with JUST 3150. Prerequisites: One year of Hebrew language or equivalent or by special permission of the instructor.

RLGS 3151 Dead Sea Scrolls (4 Credits)
The Dead Sea Scrolls represent one of the greatest manuscript finds of the twentieth century and have been said to be the most important discovery in biblical archaeology. These scrolls offer a rare window into early Judaism and Christianity and offer us the earliest and most important witnesses to the (Hebrew) Bible. This course covers the Dead Sea Scrolls in their historical, literary and religious context in English translation, together with relevant scholarly research. Cross listed with JUST 3151.

RLGS 3192 Christian Classics (4 Credits)
Reading and discussion of influential historic books pertaining to Christian life and devotion.

RLGS 3203 Christianity (4 Credits)
This is an introductory course about the Christian religion, with a substantial component devoted to experiential learning. The primary goal of the course is to acquaint students with the richness, dynamism and diversity of one of the world's largest and most influential religious traditions. Even those students who have some general knowledge of Christianity benefit from the disciplined approach of the academic study of religion.
RLGS 3204 Christianity in the British Isles (4 Credits)
It is the contention of this course that Christianity in the British Isles constitutes a singular chapter in the history of the religion and must be approached and appreciated as such. The circumstances surrounding Christianity's introduction to Britain--as documented by the Venerable Bede in his Ecclesiastical History of the English People--presaged a destiny for the English Church that would be “peculiar.” With decidedly Roman sympathies, Bede’s reforming agenda is presented as historical fait accompli. The narrative nevertheless bears witness to the vibrant and resilient character of Celtic spirituality. Although Henry VIII officially brought the Protestant Reformation to England from the Continent in the 1530s when he severed the English Church from the Papacy, the extent to which the Reformation in England was ever as theologically “Protestant” as it was in Europe is open to debate. The Oxford movement--at once reforming and catholicizing--would otherwise seem incongruous were that not the case. Indeed, as we shall see, the notion of semper reformanda ecclesia is, perhaps, most suited to this geographical context. Not surprisingly, playwrights, novelists, and filmmakers have found no little inspiration in Anglican reform’s concomitant turmoil and intrigue.

RLGS 3212 Development of the New Testament: The Evolution and Transmission of Christian Scripture (4 Credits)
Using a variety of critical methods, this course explores the social, political, and religious influences that shaped the New Testament as it was written, copied, edited, canonized, and translated into its current forms. Students will perform a variety of exercises in class to illustrate the complicated process by which the New Testament was formed.

RLGS 3300 Psychology of Religion (4 Credits)
Beliefs, feelings and actions representing human religious response of experience; function of religion in individual life.

RLGS 3302 Islamic Fundamentalism (4 Credits)
This writing-intensive course introduces students to the history and scope of fundamentalist movements in the Muslim world, focusing on the Middle East. Beginning with a look at the internal traditions of renewal and reform built around the idea of a return to the fundament or origins of Islam, the course examines the rise of major movements from the 1700s to the present. Students will engage with key questions, including the following: What distinguishes fundamentalism from radicalism? How do Sunni and Shi fundamentalisms differ? What roles have these movements played in politics and society, and how might these evolve in the future? How might policy makers and others best approach fundamentalist groups? A basic knowledge of Islam is assumed; students wishing to enroll without this background knowledge will be provided supplementary readings.

RLGS 3303 Religion & Moral Psychology (4 Credits)
Philosophical foundations and research strategies of psychological studies of moral thought; Aristotelian, Kantian and utilitarian thought included, as well as religious dimensions of morality.

RLGS 3318 Jesus on the Silver Screen (4 Credits)
First and foremost, this is a course in religious studies. It is a course about Jesus, a religious reformer of late ancient Judaism whose movement, by the end of the first century of the Common Era, gave rise to an identifiably separate tradition. It is a course about New Testament portrayals of Jesus in the Gospels. It is a course about contemporary, historical research on the figure of Jesus. It is also a course about film and cinematography, about reading film critically as a “text,” and, in this context, the way in which film “translates” or “transforms” Jesus into another medium. Finally, it is a course about how Jesus films serve to convey modern cultural assumptions.

RLGS 3350 Philosophy of Religion (4 Credits)
Beliefs, feelings and actions representing human religious response of experience; function of religion in individual life.

RLGS 3352 Political Theology (4 Credits)
A general inquiry, focusing on the modern and postmodern eras, into various forms of philosophical reflection on the relationship between religion and political theory. Survey of the seminal ideas of such major thinkers as Kant, Hegel, Schmidt, Strauss, Derrida, Agamben, Asad, and Žižek.

RLGS 3450 Philosophy of Religion (4 Credits)
Inquiries into nature of religion, religious experience, language, methods of thinking.

RLGS 3460 Nietzsche & the Death of God (4 Credits)
This course will involve an intensive reading and discussion of Friedrich Nietzsche’s ‘Thus Spake Zarathustra,’ together with relevant associated materials, especially ‘The Gay Science.’ Cross listed with PHIL 3460.

RLGS 3465 Derrida and Postmodernism (4 Credits)
Cross listed with PHIL 3465.
RLGS 3475 Deleuze and Semiotics (4 Credits)
Examines the development of the thought of the famous French postmodern thinker Gilles Deleuze with special attention to his cultural and semiotic theory to the degree that it is relevant to the philosophy of religion. The course also investigates how Deleuze's work has shaped, and is beginning to push in new directions, contemporary postmodern philosophy. Prerequisites: must be at least junior standing and have completed at least two undergraduate courses in philosophy.

RLGS 3500 Islam (4 Credits)
Introduction to the history, faith, practice, culture(s), and politics of Islam, starting with the Judeo-Christian Near Eastern context in which it emerged and tracing its theological development and geographic spread around the world. Proceeding thematically along a broad historical frame, the course ends with an examination of the numerous, often competing, trends in contemporary Muslim communities.

RLGS 3501 Pilgrimage in Islam (4 Credits)
Introduction to the ideas and practices of pilgrimage in Islam, focusing on the hajj as Islam's paradigmatic form of pilgrimage and the one to which all others are compared, but also considering other local or “lesser” pilgrimages, often known as ziyarat or visits. The course excavates the history of the practice of pilgrimage, situating it within the social, political, economic and cultural contexts that have helped frame Muslims’ understandings of the spiritual and social meanings of various kinds of pilgrimages at different times and places across the Muslim world. The course includes consideration of the hajj experiences of non-Arab Muslims through documentary and news programs, investigates contemporary re-thinkings of the meaning of “hajj”, and reflects on the key geo-political and religio-political issues that may surround Muslim pilgrimage in the 21st century.

RLGS 3502 Contemporary Islam (4 Credits)
This course introduces students to contemporary Islam. After a historical overview, the course looks thematically at different spheres of Muslim life. It considers changes that relate to political systems and forms of governance, styles of education, labor and professional work, changes in daily life habits such as timing and organization, changes in gender relations, and changes in religious authority. It also pays attention to the ways in which faith and practice are articulated through cultural practices like pop music and film.

RLGS 3503 Quran and Hadith (4 Credits)
This writing-intensive course introduces students to the key texts of Islam--the Qur'an and hadith--including their origins and meaning as well as how they have been interpreted by Muslims over time, and focusing as well on case studies that highlight issues of crucial relevance for today and the future.

RLGS 3570 Religion and Morality in the American Public Square (4 Credits)
Close focus on one or two moral issues in which religion is drawn into public debate in the contemporary U.S. Observation of the debate first hand at demonstrations, town meetings, and discussion groups, etc. Analysis of these observations is facilitated by readings on the subject and class discussion.

RLGS 3601 Religion and Culture in Vienna (4 Credits)
This course focuses on the cultural, religious and intellectual history of the city of Vienna as the hub of culture for Central Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries with special attention to the arts, philosophy, psychoanalysis, and the critique of Christianity. This course examines how religious past, particularly the influence of Judaism, shaped its rich cultural heritage and the birth of modernism. A special segment of the course is devoted to the Nazi period and the Holocaust, including a study of the resistance of religious groups. The course concludes with a history of the post-Nazi period with attention to the development of Vienna as the center of internation diplomacy and theories of globalization. The class combines lectures and online discussions with site visits to major cultural and historical sites as well as research centers around the city. The first week of the course is online.

RLGS 3604 Faith & Ethics-Religion Biography (4 Credits)
Modes of reconciling private (faith) and public (ethics) in thought and careers of selected modern individuals.

RLGS 3641 Religion and Race in America (4 Credits)
Explores the relationship between racism and religious activism by focusing on the biographies of activists.

RLGS 3680 American Religious Experience (4 Credits)
RLGS 3693 Religion and the Media (4 Credits)
Interactions between religion and all forms of communications media in American life.

RLGS 3701 Topics in Religious Studies (1-4 Credits)
An exploration of various topics and issues related to the academic study of religion. The subject matter of the course varies and may be taught by the regular faculty of the department or a visiting scholar. Some offerings may include a travel component.

RLGS 3707 Religion and Film (4 Credits)
Understanding religion requires us to take culture seriously. In doing so, we must consider products of culture, including popular culture. This course engages both classic and more recent films as “texts” to be analyzed, not as mere entertainments or diversions. We focus not only on those films that identify themselves explicitly as “religious” or reflect a particular religious tradition, but also moved that render the subject more obliquely, which reveal – via image and sound – religion as a complex human activity.

RLGS 3740 Bodies and Souls (4 Credits)
This course examines the unique place of the body in biblical religion. We ask how the Bible and its interpreters have shaped current views on sex and the gendered body in Western society. How has the Bible been (mis)used in relation to current understandings of the physical body? Is the saying that a “human” does not have a body, but is a body as true for the Hebrew Bible as the Christian New Testament? How have Judaism and Christianity (de)valued sexuality, procreation, and celibacy? How do the biblical traditions shape our modern opinions about the ideal physical body and body modifications? How can we understand “out-of-body” experiences and notions of death and afterlife in Western religion? Students are encouraged to interpret the Bible and their own beliefs from a uniquely embodied perspective. Cross listed with GWST 3740, JUST 3740.
RLGS 3760 Globalization and Religion: Theory and Methods (4 Credits)
This course explores how religious movements around the world both affect, and are affected by, the process of globalization. A major segment of the course is devoted to various theories of globalization and how they account for the increasingly important role of religion. Focus is largely on the relationship between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

RLGS 3813 Ritual (4 Credits)
Classical and contemporary theories about the meaning, functions, and processes of ritual, and its relationship to “religion.

RLGS 3814 Modern Hinduism (4 Credits)
Doctrines, practices and history of South Asian Hinduism; conceptions of Gods and gods; image worship and temples; and the influences of caste and gender on the experience of Hinduism. Cross listed with RLGS 3814.

RLGS 3816 Hinduism Through Texts (4 Credits)
History of ancient and medieval Hinduism, viewed through the lens of religious texts. Cross listed with ASIA 2706.

RLGS 3820 Buddhism (4 Credits)
Buddhist life and thought from origins to present in India, Tibet, Japan and China. Cross listed with ASIA 2704.

RLGS 3830 Buddhist Lives (4 Credits)
This course explores the literary canon of Buddhist life stories across time, traditions and cultures. Cross-listed with ASIA 3830.

RLGS 3832 Religious Lives: The Dalai Lamas (4 Credits)
This course explores the many lives of the Dalai Lamas and the transformation of a reincarnated religious teacher into the political leader of Tibet and, eventually, a worldwide religious personality. In order to understand that transformation, the course investigates the institution of the Dalai Lamas from historical, doctrinal, and ritual perspectives. We will look at the role of the Dalai Lama as an embodiment of the bodhisattva of compassion at the center of a tapestry of religious ceremony and ritual performances. The course will also consider the religious, ethical, and political thought of several of the most prominent Dalai Lamas, with significant attention given to the writings and work of the current, fourteenth, Dalai Lama. Cross listed with ASIA 3732.

RLGS 3890 Religion and Diaspora (4 Credits)
When forced to leave a homeland, displaced communities frequently turn to religion to maintain identity and adapt to--or resist--new surrounding culture(s). This course examines the role of religion and identity in three Jewish and Christian communities living in diaspora and poses questions such as the following: What is the relationship between religion and (home)land? How have the biblical themes of exodus, diaspora, promise and restoration been applied to contemporary experiences? And how have our American stories been interpreted through the lens of the Bible? As part of the service learning component, students have the opportunity to work with religious and immigrant aid organizations in the Denver community. Cross listed with JUST 3890.

RLGS 3891 Justice: A Biblical Perspective (4 Credits)
This is a service learning course designed for religious studies undergraduate majors, though non-majors are welcome to enroll. Cross listed with JUST 3891.

RLGS 3892 Grant Writing as Research and Community Engagement (4 Credits)
This service learning / community engagement course introduces student to non-profit work and to scholarship on non-profit activities. It connects students with community partners, continuing the department’s commitment to experiential learning and to engagement with living faith communities. Students spend course time discussing scholarly research on grant writing and non-profit grant support and discussing logistical and other issues related to their service learning placements. This course is intended to help provide M.A. students with arenas for future research, including possible thesis topics, while also offering a unique practical opportunity for professional development. Experience in forming a 501(c)3 corporation and writing grant proposals will be an asset for students planning to work in non-profits as well as for those continuing on to doctoral work.

RLGS 3991 Independent Study (1-10 Credits)
RLGS 3992 Directed Study (1-10 Credits)
RLGS 3995 Independent Research (1-10 Credits)

RLGS 4000 Theory and Methods in the Study of Religion (4 Credits)
This course begins with a brief overview of the history of the study of religion in the west, from antiquity to the modern period. When it reaches the modern period, the course shifts to considering “representative” theories of religion, broken down roughly along ideological and/or disciplinary lines.

RLGS 4050 History of Islam (4 Credits)

RLGS 4100 Hebrew Bible Backgrounds: Seminar in Ancient Israelite Religion (4 Credits)
This course is designed to train the student in the method and means of engaging in archeo-historical study of the Hebrew Bible. The content of this course focuses on ancient Israelite religion in Iron Age Palestine, particularly on emergent ideas about God (’El) and the development and evolution of the priesthood. Cross listed with JUST 4100.
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>RLGS 4105</td>
<td>Understanding the Bible: Old Testament</td>
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<td>RLGS 4119</td>
<td>Ph.D. Colloquium: Biblical Interpretations</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>RLGS 4122</td>
<td>Augustine on Genesis</td>
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<td>RLGS 4130</td>
<td>Prophets of Israel</td>
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<td>Biblical Aramaic</td>
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<td>RLGS 4191</td>
<td>Early Christian Old Testament Interpretations</td>
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<td>RLGS 4402</td>
<td>Plato: Postmodern Perspective</td>
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<td>PhD Tutorial</td>
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<td>RLGS 4501</td>
<td>Intersections of Faith and Media</td>
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<td>RLGS 4676</td>
<td>Latino Religious Cultures: Methods and Theories</td>
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<td>Internship in Religious Community (1-4 Credits)</td>
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<td>Ph.D. Colloquium: Biblical Interpretations</td>
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<td>Hebrew Bible Seminar II</td>
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<td>RLGS 5113</td>
<td>New Testament Seminar I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 5114</td>
<td>New Testament Seminar II</td>
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<td>RLGS 5115</td>
<td>New Testament Seminar III</td>
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<tr>
<td>RLGS 5301</td>
<td>Colloquium: Religion and Psychological Study (4 Credits)</td>
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<td>RLGS 5601</td>
<td>Ph.D. Colloquium: Religion &amp; Social Change (1 Credit)</td>
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<td>RLGS 5995</td>
<td>Independent Research (1-10 Credits)</td>
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