

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Office: Sturm Hall, Room 266

Mail Code: 2000 E. Asbury Ave. Denver, CO 80208

Phone: 303-871-2749

Email: [rlgs@du.edu](mailto:rlgs@du.edu) ([rlgs@du.edu?subject=Inquiry](mailto:rlgs@du.edu?subject=Inquiry) for the Department of Religious Studies)

Web Site: <http://www.du.edu/ahss/religiousstudies>

The University of Denver's undergraduate religious studies program offers you the opportunity to study religion in ways that you won't find at other universities—as a major, a double major (for students pursuing BA programs) or a minor.

- You'll learn about many of the major religious traditions of the world.
- You'll investigate how theories of religion can help you interpret the religious phenomena that you see around you.
- You'll learn about religion by experiencing it, for instance by going on class visits to religious institutions in Denver and by doing projects in local religious communities.
- You'll take a special service-learning course, where you'll see up close why many religions emphasize the value of service to others.
- Finally, you'll learn what it means to do independent research in religious studies while developing excellent writing skills.

The department also serves other students who want introductory courses in religious studies or advanced courses coordinated with their special interests.

The religious studies major is a thoroughly interdisciplinary liberal arts program providing graduates with an excellent basis from which to pursue careers requiring imagination, problem-solving, communication skills and an awareness of human diversity.

## Religious Studies

### Bachelor of Arts Major Requirements

(183 credits required for the degree (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/bachelorofarts>))

Majors take a minimum of 40 credits in religious studies, beginning with 16 credits of introductory courses devoted to specific religious traditions and on-site, observational/experiential learning; a four-credit service learning course; a four-credit writing-intensive course; and eight credits of advanced courses devoted to the theoretical study of religion. The remaining eight credits should be chosen in consultation with a department advisor. Students may take approved courses in the study of religion taught by faculty members of other departments and are encouraged to participate in accredited international programs with religious studies content. Honors students and majors demonstrating high academic achievement in the discipline may pursue "distinction in the major" by completing a thesis or customized project on a topic of specific interest that has been designed in consultation with a faculty mentor in the department and approved by the faculty.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Observational/Experiential Learning - Visit religious communities! 4 courses</b>		<b>16</b>
RLGS 3001	Judaism	
RLGS 3203	Christianity	
RLGS 3500	Islam	
RLGS 3814	Modern Hinduism	
RLGS 3816	Hinduism Through Texts	
RLGS 3820	Buddhism	
<b>Service Learning - Work in religious communities! 1 course</b>		<b>4</b>
RLGS 2106	Religious and Social Justice in Vienna	
RLGS 3641	Religion and Race in America	
RLGS 3890	Religion and Diaspora	
RLGS 3891	Justice: A Biblical Perspective	
RLGS 3892	Grant Writing as Research and Community Engagement	
RLGS 3899	International Service Learning Colloquium	
<b>Writing Intensive - Express yourself! 1 course</b>		<b>4</b>
RLGS 3192	Christian Classics	
RLGS 3302	Islamic Fundamentalism	
RLGS 3315	Religion & Moral Psychology	
RLGS 3503	Quran and Hadith	

RLGS 3570	Religion and Morality in the American Public Square	
<b>Theory - Think about religion in smart ways! 2 courses</b>		<b>8</b>
RLGS 3300	Psychology of Religion	
RLGS 3400	Philosophy of Religion	
RLGS 3740	Bodies and Souls	
RLGS 3760	Globalization and Religion: Theory and Methods	
RLGS 3813	Ritual	
RLGS 4000	Theory and Methods in the Study of Religion	
<b>Electives - Follow your bliss and tailor the program to fit your interests! 2 courses</b>		<b>8</b>
RLGS 3024	Maimonides: Greek, Islamic, and Christian Encounters	
RLGS 3151	Dead Sea Scrolls	
RLGS 3212	Development of the New Testament: The Evolution and Transmission of Christian Scripture	
RLGS 3318	Jesus on the Silver Screen	
RLGS 3381	Religion & Psychobiography	
RLGS 3452	Political Theology	
RLGS 3502	Contemporary Islam	
RLGS 3707	Religion and Film	
RLGS 3832	Religious Lives: The Dalai Lamas	
RLGS 3460	Nietzsche & the Death of God	
Total Credits		40

## Secondary Major Requirements

40 credits. Same requirements as for BA degree.

## Minor Requirements

The religious studies minor is a carefully planned program of 20 credits that combines effectively with other majors in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as other fields. Minors take 12 credits of introductory courses devoted to specific religious traditions; four credits of 3000-level courses devoted to the theoretical study of religion; and four credits of electives.

Here is a sample course list of how requirements for the major, secondary major and minor might be fulfilled:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Observational/Experiential Learning - Visit religious communities! 3 courses</b>		<b>12</b>
RLGS 3001	Judaism	
RLGS 3203	Christianity	
RLGS 3500	Islam	
RLGS 3814	Modern Hinduism	
RLGS 3816	Hinduism Through Texts	
RLGS 3820	Buddhism	
<b>Theory - Think about religion in smart ways! 1 course</b>		<b>4</b>
RLGS 3300	Psychology of Religion	
RLGS 3400	Philosophy of Religion	
RLGS 3740	Bodies and Souls	
RLGS 3760	Globalization and Religion: Theory and Methods	
RLGS 3813	Ritual	
RLGS 4000	Theory and Methods in the Study of Religion	
<b>Electives - Follow your bliss and tailor the program to fit your interests! 1 course</b>		<b>4</b>
RLGS 3024	Maimonides: Greek, Islamic, and Christian Encounters	
RLGS 3151	Dead Sea Scrolls	
RLGS 3212	Development of the New Testament: The Evolution and Transmission of Christian Scripture	
RLGS 3318	Jesus on the Silver Screen	
RLGS 3381	Religion & Psychobiography	
RLGS 3452	Political Theology	

RLGS 3502	Contemporary Islam
RLGS 3707	Religion and Film
RLGS 3832	Religious Lives: The Dalai Lamas
RLGS 3460	Nietzsche & the Death of God

Total Credits

20

## Requirements for Distinction in the Major in Religious Studies

- Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA by the end of the Winter Quarter of the Junior Year
- Minimum 3.75 major GPA by the end of the Winter Quarter of the Junior Year
- Be nominated by a faculty member of the undergraduate advisor (in consultation with other faculty members in the department) to pursue Distinction in the major (majors of high academic caliber who plan to study abroad for all or part of the Junior Year may be recommended by the undergraduate advisor for nomination earlier)
- Upon review of the entire faculty, be invited to prepare a curriculum plan for the final year of study in the major
- Identify a faculty member with whom to consult in preparing the curriculum plan and who will oversee the final project (see below)
- Submit a curriculum plan, to be approved by faculty, by which the student will be able to demonstrate an *area of concentration within the major*, one that brings the required and upper-division, elective courses within the department and approved, upper-division courses outside the department into a certain “constellation” or coherence
- Submit a portfolio of representative work undertaken in the major
- Submit a final project to be designed in consultation with a faculty mentor in the department. The final project may take the form of:
  - A rewritten and expanded research paper from one of the writing-intensive or theoretical courses;
  - A separate, senior “thesis”;
  - A translation effort;
  - A substantive service learning assignment/commitment with a considerably sophisticated reflection component and evaluation by the supervisor;
  - A creative work (e.g., poetry, a play, a film, a photographic essay, etc.)
- Meet with faculty mentor and one other faculty member of the department at the end of the quarter prior to graduation at which time the portfolio and final project will be reviewed and a vote of recommendation to receive Departmental Distinction taken.

## BA in Religious Studies

The following course plan is a sample quarter-by-quarter schedule for intended majors. Because the bachelor of arts (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/bachelorofarts>) curriculum allows for tremendous flexibility, this is only intended as an example; that is to say, if specific courses or requirements are not available in a given term, students can generally complete those requirements in another term. More importantly, students should focus on exploring areas of interest, including Common Curriculum requirements and possible minors or second majors, and maintaining a course load which will allow for completion of the degree within four years.

Ideally, Common Curriculum (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/degreesanddegreerequirements>) requirements other than Advanced Seminar should be completed during the first two years. Students should anticipate taking an average course load of 16 credits each quarter.

Ways of Knowing courses in the areas of Analytical Inquiry: Society and Culture (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/selectingadegreeprogram/courseplans/ai-society-courses>) and Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/selectingadegreeprogram/courseplans/si-society-courses>) introduce students to University-level study of disciplines in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Credits earned in Ways of Knowing courses may also apply to a major or minor.

The sample course plan below shows what courses a student pursuing this major might take in their first two years; beyond that, students should anticipate working closely with their major advisor to create a course of study to complete the degree.

The major in Religious Studies comprises 40 hours (10 courses) distributed as follows:

### 4 Observational/Experiential Learning (4 from among these 5 options are required)

- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

2 Theory courses (several options are offered each year)

1 Service Learning course (options are offered each year)

1 Writing-Intensive course (options are offered each year)

2 Elective courses (there are many options offered each year, including an independent study course if appropriate)

We recommend the following plan of study, which should be pursued in consultation with the Department's undergraduate advisor

#### First Year

Fall	Credits Winter	Credits Spring	Credits
First-Year Seminar	4 WRIT 1122	4 WRIT 1133	4
RLGS: Observational/Experiential Learning	4 RLGS: Theory	4 RLGS: Observational/Experiential Learning	4
Foreign Language or Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World	4 Foreign Language or Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World	4 Foreign Language or Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World	4
Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture	4 Analytical Inquiry: Natural and Physical World	4 Minor or Elective	4
	16	16	16

#### Second Year

Fall	Credits Winter	Credits Spring	Credits
RLGS: Observational/Experiential Learning	4 RLGS: Observational/Experiential Learning	4 RLGS: Theory or Elective	4
Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World or Foreign Language	4 Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World or Foreign Language	4 Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World or Foreign Language	4
Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4 Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture	4
Minor or Elective	4 INTZ 2501 <sup>1</sup>	2 Minor or Elective	4
	16	14	16

#### Third Year

Fall	Credits Winter	Credits Spring	Credits
RLGS: Service Learning or Writing Intensive <sup>2</sup>	4 RLGS: Theory or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4
Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4
Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4
Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4
	16	16	16

#### Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Winter	Credits Spring	Credits
Minor or Elective	4 RLGS: Writing-Intensive or Service Learning	4 RLGS: Theory or Elective	4
Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4
Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4
Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4	4
	16	16	12

Total Credits: 186

<sup>1</sup> INTZ 2501 is required for any student who studies abroad, and may be taken in any quarter within the year prior to studying abroad.

<sup>2</sup> If you plan to pursue Distinction in the Major, we would strongly recommend that you fulfill the Writing-intensive course requirement during your junior year.

## Additional Notes

If you have maintained a 3.75 GPA in the major and have achieved an overall DU GPA of 3.5 by the end of the Winter Quarter of your Junior year AND you wish to pursue Distinction in the Major (p. 3), which requires the completion of a final project, you should consult with the undergraduate advisor, identify a faculty mentor, and submit a curriculum plan during the Spring term of this year.

Toward the end of the Spring Quarter of the senior year (usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May) every major in Religious Studies participates in a formal exit interview with all members of the faculty