

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR

Requirements

Because the field of religious studies is multidimensional, our program for majors acquaints students with the diverse aspects of the phenomenon of religion. It also enables students to pursue in-depth the particular area of their own interest.

For classes of '25 '26, and '27:

A major is required to take a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 courses in the department.

- These must include one from each of the following areas: sacred text, theology, ethics, and world religions.*
- They must include two intensive courses (seminars or tutorials) in one of the department areas (sacred text, theology, ethics, or world religions)*
- The remaining courses (to reach a minimum of 10) can be electives from any of the courses offered in the department.

For classes of '28 and later:

A major is required to take a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 courses in the department.

- These must include one from each of the following areas: sacred text, theology, ethics, and world religions.*
- They must include two intensive courses (seminars or tutorials) in one of the department areas (sacred text, theology, ethics, or world religions)*
- They must include at least two religious traditions covered by the Department (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism).
- The remaining courses (to reach a minimum of 10) can be electives from any of the courses offered in the department.

*For courses that satisfy each area, see below (and see Religious Studies website (<https://www.holycross.edu/academics/programs/religious-studies/requirements/>) for updates to these lists).

Code	Title
Sacred texts:	
RELS 118	New Testament
RELS 126	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
RELS 139	Understanding Jesus
RELS 190	History of the Early Church
RELS 216	Readings: Asian Sacred Texts
RELS 221	Women In Early Christianity
RELS 229	Walking with Paul
RELS 233	Households& Early Christianity
RELS 241	Scripture and Script: The Bible and Contemporary Art, Media and Literature
RELS 242	Sex, Gender & the Hebrew Bible
RELS 270	The Quran
RELS 284	Sex, Money, Power & the Bible
RELS 304	Land and Creation
RELS 395	Nature and Animals in the Bible
World Religions:	
RELS 101	Intro to the Comparative Study of Religion

RELS 106	Buddhism
RELS 107	Islam
RELS 108	Hinduism
RELS 116	Catholicism (for majors classes '28 and later)
RELS 117	History Of Christianity 1 (for majors classes '28 and later)
RELS 119	History Of Christianity 2 (for majors classes '28 and later)
RELS 120	Comparative Religions/World View
RELS 121	Saints and Sinners Around the World
RELS 147	Judaism
RELS 149	Judaism in the Time of Jesus
RELS 165	Ancient and Medieval Hinduism
RELS 179	Introduction to Global Catholicism
RELS 216	Readings: Asian Sacred Texts
RELS 255	Ecology & Religion
RELS 260	Comparative Mysticism & Human Ecology
RELS 270	The Quran
RELS 276	Comparative Catholicisms
RELS 277	Modern Religious Movements
RELS 279	Religion and Violence
RELS 311	Zen Buddhism
RELS 312	Theravada Buddhism
RELS 315	Islamic Philosophy & Theology
RELS 327	Holocaust: Confronting Evil
RELS 340	Gardens & World Religions
Theology:	
RELS 102	Mary in Christian Theology
RELS 103	Race and Religion
RELS 112	Christian Martyrdom
RELS 114	Introduction To Theology
RELS 115	Angels and Demons
RELS 116	Catholicism
RELS 117	History Of Christianity 1
RELS 119	History Of Christianity 2
RELS 121	Saints and Sinners Around the World
RELS 133	Contemp Catholic Spirituality
RELS 139	Understanding Jesus
RELS 170	The Worlds of C. S. Lewis
RELS 179	Introduction to Global Catholicism
RELS 184	Theology & Art
RELS 204	Early Christian Monasticism
RELS 205	God: A Love Story
RELS 206	Liberation Theology
RELS 215	Defense Against the Dark Arts
RELS 217	Eucharist/History & Theology
RELS 218	Christian Sacraments
RELS 219	Christian Prayer in Theory and Practice
RELS 225	Love, Friendship and Catholicism
RELS 234	Conflicts in the Church
RELS 243	Theology Of The New Testament
RELS 260	Comparative Mysticism & Human Ecology

RELS 285	Jesuit Spirituality
RELS 287	Early Christian Preaching
RELS 290	Teología Andina
RELS 292	Medieval Christianity
RELS 295	Un tal Jesus
RELS 315	Islamic Philosophy & Theology
RELS 327	Holocaust: Confronting Evil
RELS 333	Comparative Theology
RELS 357	Modern Catholic Theology
RELS 360	Theology of Thomas Aquinas
Ethics:	
RELS 141	Contemporary Christian Morality
RELS 143	Social Ethics
RELS 230	Theological Perspectives on Medical Ethics
RELS 238	Christian Ethics and Mental Illness
RELS 294	Sexual Justice: Social Ethics
RELS 300	Ethics of Work & Family
RELS 302	Challenge of Happiness
RELS 313	HIV/AIDS and Ethics
RELS 314	Everyday Ethics
Courses that count as a second religious tradition (if courses in Christianity have already been taken)	
RELS 106	Buddhism
RELS 107	Islam
RELS 108	Hinduism
RELS 147	Judaism
RELS 149	Judaism in the Time of Jesus
RELS 165	Ancient and Medieval Hinduism
RELS 270	The Quran
RELS 311	Zen Buddhism
RELS 312	Theravada Buddhism
RELS 315	Islamic Philosophy & Theology
RELS 327	Holocaust: Confronting Evil

For those students who intend to pursue graduate studies, the department strongly advises competence in a classical as well as in a modern language, and in the social sciences and philosophy. A course taken in Montserrat that carries an R designation might be counted towards the minor with the approval of the department Chair.