

Religious Studies

Important Update

The Program in Religious Studies is not accepting new majors at this time. During the 2015-16 academic year a faculty working group will be convened to chart the future course for a new major in this important and exciting field of study.

Overview

The religious studies major provides opportunities for securing a broad background in the liberal arts while at the same time allowing for a focus on a thematic concern or a particular religious tradition. It views religion from a global perspective and combines aspects of the humanities and the social sciences.

The major is open to anyone interested in the symbolic and mythic dimensions of world cultures, the ethical aspects of human societies, and existential issues. It is *not* restricted to those who have a religious background or are pursuing a religious vocation. Members of the major will be challenged to view religion multiculturally and from critical as well as appreciative perspectives.

Graduates in the program have gone on to careers in law, journalism, medicine, international business, counseling, and religious vocations. Others have entered graduate schools in history, sociology, anthropology, international policy, and religious studies.

The program requires both a general understanding of the study of religion, as well as a particular emphasis on one specific tradition or thematic concern. The general requirement involves courses that present the methodological approaches to the study of religion, such as sociology of religion and psychology of religion and courses that examine thematic issues and cross-cultural phenomena such as myth, ritual, transformative experience, and comparative ethics. The religious traditions that may be included as major fields of emphasis or as supplementary courses include the Jewish, Islamic, Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist traditions, as well as the religious cultures of China, Japan, Africa, and Native American communities.

Most of the courses available for the program are religion-related courses taught within such departments as history, sociology, and Near Eastern studies. As a supplement to these courses, the program offers a small number of courses sponsored by religious studies, including thematic topics of religion and the introductory courses (one of which surveys the world's religious traditions, and the other of which introduces the study of religious phenomena thematically).

The group major in religious studies is administered through the Division of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies. Students are referred to that office for all administrative matters.

Undergraduate Program

Religious Studies (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2016-17/undergraduate/degree-programs/religious-studies>) : BA, Minor

Graduate Program

There is no graduate program in Religious Studies.

Religious Studies

RELIGST 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Spring 2011, Fall 2002

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to fifteen freshmen.

Freshman Seminar: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

Freshman Seminar: [Read Less](#) [-]

RELIGST 90A Introductory Topics in Religious Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

Selected introductory topics in the study of religion.

Introductory Topics in Religious Studies: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Introductory Topics in Religious Studies: [Read Less](#) [-]

RELIGST 90B Introductory Topics in Religious Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014

Selected introductory topics in the study of religion.

Introductory Topics in Religious Studies: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Introductory Topics in Religious Studies: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RELIGST C90B Introductory Topics in Religious Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2012, Fall 2010, Fall 2007

Selected introductory topics in the study of religion.

Introductory Topics in Religious Studies: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalmia

Also listed as: S,SEASN C51

Introductory Topics in Religious Studies: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RELIGST C103 Religion of Ancient Egypt 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2009

A survey of the religious beliefs of the ancient Egyptians, based primarily upon the written sources.

Religion of Ancient Egypt: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 18 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: NE STUD C103

Religion of Ancient Egypt: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RELIGST C104 Babylonian Religion 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Summer 2016 10 Week Session, Summer 2016 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2015 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2015

A survey of Babylonian religious beliefs and practices based on indigenous texts and monuments.

Babylonian Religion: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: NE STUD C104

Babylonian Religion: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RELIGST C108 Scandinavian Myth and Religion 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014

Religious beliefs and practices during the Viking Age in Scandinavia and their manifestations in later recordings. Readings and discussion in English.

Scandinavian Myth and Religion: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: SCANDIN C160

Scandinavian Myth and Religion: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RELIGST C118 Western Mysticism: Religion, Art, and Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2007, Spring 2003

The course will focus on examples of mystical thought from the traditions of Christian and Jewish mysticism since the Middle Ages. In addition to the introduction of the students to basic texts and concepts we will discuss the effects of mystical thought on art and literature from the Middle Ages up to today.

Western Mysticism: Religion, Art, and Literature: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Largier

Also listed as: GERMAN C113

Western Mysticism: Religion, Art, and Literature: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RELIGST C124 The Renaissance and the Reformation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2015, Fall 2013, Spring 2012

European history from the fourteenth to the middle of the seventeenth century. Political, social, and economic developments during this transitional period will be examined, together with the rise of Renaissance culture, and the religious upheavals of the sixteenth century.

The Renaissance and the Reformation: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 0-1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: HISTORY C157

The Renaissance and the Reformation: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RELIGST C133 Judaism in Late Antiquity 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2007, Spring 2006, Spring 2004

This class will examine the emergence and development of classical Judaism, its piety, institutions, thought, and literature.

Judaism in Late Antiquity: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: NE STUD C133/UGIS C153

Judaism in Late Antiquity: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RELIGST C135 Jewish Civilization: Modern Period 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Spring 2015, Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Fall 2011
This is the fourth course in a four-course sequence in the history of Jewish culture and civilization. It explores the major themes in Jewish history from 1750 to the present, with special attention paid to the transformation of Jewish communal and individual identity in the modern world. Topics to be treated include the breakdown of traditional society, enlightenment and emancipation, assimilation, Hasidism, racial anti-Semitism, colonialism, Zionism, and contemporary Jewish life in Europe, North America, and Israel. The multicultural nature of Jewish history will be highlighted throughout the course through the treatment of non-European Jewish narratives alongside the more familiar Ashkenazi perspective.

Jewish Civilization: Modern Period: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: HISTORY C175B/UGIS C155

Jewish Civilization: Modern Period: Read Less [-]

RELIGST 173AC Gandhi and the Civil Rights Movement in America 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2012
This course surveys the impact of Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence and justice in American Civil Rights struggles. Through narratives, images from African American, itinerant Gandhian, and ethnic critics of race practice in American culture, we examine how Gandhian satyagraha shaped emergent civil resistance movements, as also the global appeal to nonviolent democracy. ACES component comprises internship with civil liberties partners that monitor local implementations of human rights treaties.

Gandhi and the Civil Rights Movement in America: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Bilimoria

Also listed as: AFRICAM 173AC

Gandhi and the Civil Rights Movement in America: Read Less [-]

RELIGST 190 Topics in the Study of Religion 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015
Selected topics or problems in the study of religion.

Topics in the Study of Religion: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Topics in the Study of Religion: Read Less [-]

RELIGST H195A Honors Course 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015
Course may take one or two semesters at the option of the instructor and student with credit to be earned upon completion of a successful thesis. Successful completion of the course will normally, but not necessarily, mean the awarding of honors.

Honors Course: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Honors Course: Read Less [-]

RELIGST H195B Honors Course 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014
Course may take one or two semesters at the option of the instructor and student with credit to be earned upon completion of a successful thesis. Successful completion of the course will normally, but not necessarily, mean the awarding of honors.

Honors Course: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Honors Course: Read Less [-]

RELIGST 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2010, Spring 2009, Spring 2008

Tutorial instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Directed Group Study: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Directed Group Study: [Read Less](#) [-]

RELIGST 199 Supervised Independent Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014

Supervised Independent Study: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Religious Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Supervised Independent Study: [Read Less](#) [-]