

Bachelor of Arts Religious Studies

INFORMATION

The major in Religious Studies aims to provide the student with a comprehensive understanding of the origin and historical development of the world's major religious traditions and a perceptive insight into the roles those traditions play in the world today. Religious ideas and values fundamentally shape the way every culture views itself and organizes its society. In the twenty-first century we have witnessed a resurgence of religious thinking. Today, religion provides the fundamental motivation for a great number of social and political events worldwide, and religious leaders—popes, imams, patriarchs and Buddhist monks—play very high profile roles on the world stage. Given its importance in shaping world events, we need to understand this phenomenon in all its complexity. Courses in Religious Studies, therefore, help students to develop both an empathetic and a critical understanding of the religious dimensions of human societies. To this end, the department's courses aim to equip students with the historical knowledge, methodological tools, and scholarly

resources necessary to understand religious beliefs and practices in relation to other aspects of human life and culture.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Although once thought to be the starting point for those interested primarily in religious ministry, the major in Religious Studies now serves as a springboard for many different careers. It is becoming ever more apparent that one must understand religion in order to fully make sense of the enormous diversity in the contemporary world. Religious Studies thus offers valuable insights for a number of careers ranging from law and politics to medicine, social work, and even international business. In fact, many of our students are double majors, choosing Religious Studies as a course of study complementary to one of any number of other programs. The major is also, of course, excellent preparation for those who wish to pursue graduate study in the academic study of religion itself.

The course of study followed by each Religious Studies major is tailored specifically to match the student's individual needs, interests and career goals. Cleveland State University Religious Studies majors

have gone on to graduate and professional schools at leading universities, and to fields as diverse as law, journalism, psychology, social work and management.

PROGRAM

Major in Religious Studies:
The major in Religious Studies requires 34 credit hours of coursework. Twenty of these credit hours must be at the 300- or 400-level. Students will design a coherent program of study with their departmental advisor. With the approval of their advisor, students may take up to 8 hours of their major courses in cognate fields. Students who wish to complete a second major may have the number of credits required for their major in Religious Studies reduced from 34 to 30, with up to 4 approved hours in a cognate field.

For more information, contact:
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A total of 128 hours are required for the Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. All degree-seeking students are required to complete a specific number of General Education (GenEd) courses. Students are responsible for ensuring the appropriate selection of courses to satisfy GenEd requirements and are encouraged to consult with their academic advisor regarding the applicability of selected courses. A comprehensive description of Cleveland State University's General Education Requirements for undergraduate students is available online at <http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/gened/>.

Sample Course of Study

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
REL 101 Understanding Religion	4	REL 245 Religion in America	4
Third Semester		Fourth Semester	
REL 239 Introduction to the Old Testament	4	REL 236 Jesus and the Gospels	4
Fifth Semester		Sixth Semester	
REL 364 Islam	4	REL 342 The Origin of Judaism	4
Seventh Semester		Eighth Semester	
REL 362 Buddhism	4	REL 321 Contemporary Christian Thought	4
		REL 498 Senior Seminar	2

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