

Religious Studies, Minor

The Minor in Religious Studies

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<https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/history/undergraduate/minors/index.html>
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Overview

The Minor in Religious Studies introduces students to several academic and intellectual approaches to understanding religion as a social, cultural, and historical phenomenon. Students may study the philosophy of religion, sociological and behavioral approaches to religion, historical analyses of religious subjects and actors, literary and critical analysis of religious texts, and anthropological treatments of religious practice. The minor enables students to apply intellectual tools from across disciplinary boundaries to diverse religious traditions.

Curriculum

The minor consists of six courses, totaling at least 54 units. Courses taken to fulfill requirements in other major or minor programs may only be applied to this minor with permission of the Faculty Advisor. Religious Studies minors must satisfy the requirements listed below:

Minor in Religious Studies 54 units

Required Core Course 9 units

All Religious Studies minors are required to take 79-281 Introduction to Religion. This required course introduces several modes of inquiry into religion, such as the philosophy of religion, sociological and behavioral approaches to religion, historical analysis of religious subject, literary and critical analysis of religious texts, theological modes of thought, and anthropological treatments of religion. This course is offered regularly, usually in the Spring semester.

79-281	Introduction to Religion	Units 9
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Distribution Requirements 18 units

In addition to the required Core Course, students must complete Distribution Courses totaling 18 units (usually two 9-unit courses). A Distribution Course is one that applies a particular discipline to more than one religion.

Some examples of qualifying Distribution Courses that have been offered recently are listed below. Please note that this list is not exclusive; other relevant courses not listed here may qualify with the Faculty Advisor's permission.

Historical Approaches

79-106	Introduction to Asian Religions	6
79-110	Introduction to the Medieval Mediterranean World	9
79-150	Medieval Science, Magic, and Wonders of Nature	9
79-208	Witchcraft and Witch-Hunting	9
79-272	Coexistence and Conflict: Muslims, Christians and Jews in Spain and Portugal	9
79-273	Jews & Arabs: From the Time of Muhammad to the Present	9
79-342	Age of Crusading, 1000-2000	9
79-352	Christianity Divided: The Protestant and Catholic Reformations, 1450-1650	9
79-392	Europe and the Islamic World	9

Philosophical Approaches

80-276	Philosophy of Religion	9
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Textual Approaches

82-215	Minorities in the Middle East and North Africa	9
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In addition to the courses listed above, participating departments often offer other courses that may qualify as Distribution Courses for the minor. The Faculty Advisor should be consulted to identify qualifying courses (especially after the Schedule of Courses for a given semester becomes available).

Elective Courses 27 units

In addition to the required Core Course and the Distribution Courses, students must complete Elective Courses totaling at least 27 units (usually three 9-unit courses). Unlike Distribution Courses, an Elective Course may focus on the study of only one religion (although courses examining more than one religious tradition can also count as Elective Courses if not otherwise used to fulfill the Distribution Requirement).

Some examples of qualifying Elective Courses that have been offered recently are listed below. Please note that this list is not exclusive; other relevant courses, whether those offered through the History Department or other participating programs, not listed here may qualify as Elective Courses for the minor with the Faculty Advisor's permission. Professor Allyson Creasman should be consulted to identify qualifying courses (especially after the Schedule of Courses for a given semester becomes available).

79-115	Introduction to Jewish Studies	9
79-121	Introduction to Islam	6
79-124	History of Indian Yoga and Meditation	6
79-159	Hinduism: History, Religion, and the BJP	6
79-202	Flesh and Spirit: Early Modern Europe, 1400-1750	9
79-228	Buddhism and Modernity	6
79-241	The Holocaust: What You Should Know and Why	9
79-270	Anti-Semitism Then and Now: Perspectives from the Middle Ages to the Present	9
79-284	Muslim Representation in the Media and Popular Culture	9
79-296	Religion in American Politics	6
79-349	The Holocaust in History and Culture	9
79-350	Early Christianity	9
79-375	Science & Religion	6
79-393	Institutions of the Roman Church	9

In addition to courses offered at CMU, relevant courses taken at the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, or other Pittsburgh-based institutions may count toward the Elective Requirement with the permission of the Religious Studies minor's Faculty Advisor. The option to cross-register for relevant courses at other local institutions allows students some flexibility in meeting the minor's requirements and gives them the opportunity to explore interests in religious subjects that might not otherwise be covered at CMU. Students who wish to cross-register for courses at other institutions should consult with the Faculty Advisor about whether the selected course(s) will meet the minor's Elective Requirement.