# Religious Studies

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The Department of Religious Studies offers courses about the teachings and practices of the world's major religions from an academic perspective. Courses focus on the history and philosophy of religions including their origins, sacred texts, rituals and practices, beliefs, and subgroups. The courses provide a broad understanding of the nature and role of religion in the world's many cultures, present and past, for students in all fields, as well as integrated programs for majors in religious studies.

The department annually sponsors two programs, the Ira E. Gaston Lecture in Christianity and the Distinguished Visiting Lecturer in Asian Religion, which bring eminent scholars to campus for lectures and seminars.

## Preparation

The best high school or community college preparation for an undergraduate program in religious studies is a good general background in social science and the humanities.

## Careers

An undergraduate major in religious studies can lead to graduate programs in religious studies—either academic or professional—as well as other related areas of graduate studies such as history, sociology, folklore, and various area studies (e.g., Middle East studies, East Asian languages and literatures).

Students with a bachelor of arts in religious studies have had success in various professional fields such as religion, journalism, social work, education, business, and law.

# Graduate Studies

In the absence of a graduate program, students may work with faculty members from religious studies as well as other university departments toward an interdisciplinary studies: individualized program master's degree (MA or MS) focusing on religious studies, offered through the Graduate School. Information is available in the **Graduate School** section of this catalog.

## Advanced Degrees in Other Departments

Faculty members in other departments may have a specialty or interest in the study of religion. Students interested in an advanced degree in these areas should apply for admission to graduate study in the relevant department. Prior contact with the faculty member is encouraged. The available degrees, faculty members, and area of specialty are listed below as a guide.

| Department | Degree(s) | Specialty | Faculty |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anthropology | PhD (general anthropology MA presupposed) | Comparative religions, religion and symbol in particular cultures | Aletta Biersack, Carol T. Silverman |
| Asian Studies | MA | Buddhism in premodern Japan | Andrew E. Goble (history) |
| | | East Asian religions | Mark Unno (religious studies) |
| | | Religion and thought in premodern China | Ina Asim (history) |
| Classics | MA | Classical civilization, ancient philosophy and religions in or related to ancient Greece and Rome | Jeffrey M. Hurwit (art history), Mary K. Jaeger (classics), Steven Shankman (English), Malcolm Wilson (classics) |
| Folklore | MA | | Carol T. Silverman (anthropology), Daniel N. Wojcik (English) |
| History | MA, PhD | Reformation | David M. Luebke |
| History of Art and Architecture | MA, PhD | Buddhist art | Charles H. Lachman |
| | | Japanese art | Akiko Walley |

# Faculty

Faten Arfaoui, instructor (Arabic). BA, 2006, Ibn Charaf; MA, 2010, 2012, Texas Tech. (2014)

Judith R. Baskin, Philip H. Knight Professor. See **Judaic Studies**.

Frederick Colby, associate professor (Islam). BA, 1991, Haverford College; MA, 1995, Chicago; PhD, 2002, Duke. (2008)

Hanan Elsherif, senior instructor (Arabic). BA, 1993, MA, 2002, PhD, 2009, Minia. (2011)

Deborah A. Green, associate professor. See **Judaic Studies**.

Luke Habberstad, assistant professor. BA, 2003, Yale; MA, 2007, PhD, 2014, California, Berkeley. (2014)

David Hollenberg, associate professor (Arabic). BA, 1990, Wesleyan; MA, 1996, California, Santa Barbara; PhD, 2006, Pennsylvania. (2010)

Anne Kreps, assistant professor (biblical studies, history of Christianity). BA, 2003, Michigan; MA, 2005, California, Berkeley; PhD, 2013, Michigan. (2016)

Jeffrey Schroeder, assistant professor (religion and modern Asia). BA, 2005, MA, 2009, Reed; MA, 2009, Duke; PhD, 2015, Duke. (2017)

Stephen J. Shoemaker, professor (history of Christianity). BA, 1991, Emory; MA, 1994, PhD, 1997, Duke. (2000)

Mark T. Unno, associate professor (East Asian religions, Buddhism). BA, 1987, Oberlin; MA, 1991, PhD, 1994, Stanford. (2000)

## Emeriti

Hee-Jin Kim, professor emeritus. BA, 1957, MA, 1958, California, Berkeley; PhD, 1966, Claremont. (1973)

*The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.*

## Participating

Andrew E. Goble, history

Charles H. Lachman, history of art and architecture

Elizabeth Reis, women's and gender studies

Akiko Walley, history of art and architecture

Anita M. Weiss, international studies

Daniel N. Wojcik, English

- **Bachelor of Arts**
- **Bachelor of Science**
- **Minor**

# Undergraduate Studies

A bachelor of arts (BA) and a bachelor of science (BS) are degrees offered. A minor is also offered in religious studies and Arabic studies. Courses used to satisfy major and minor requirements must be taken for letter grades and passed with a mid-C or better.

## Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| REL 101–102 | World Religions | 8 |
| Electives in religious studies or additional courses | | 8 |
| Upper-division religious studies courses | | 16 |
| Upper-division courses (see Additional Courses list) | | 12 |
| **Total Credits** | | **44** |

### Additional Courses

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| **Folklore** | | |
| FLR 411/511 | Folklore and Religion | 4 |
| FLR 483/583 | Folklore and Mythology of the British Isles | 4 |
| **History** | | |
| HIST 320 | High Middle Ages in Europe | 4 |
| HIST 321 | Late Middle Ages in Europe | 4 |
| HIST 322 | The Crusades | 4 |
| HIST 358 | American Jewish History | 4 |
| HIST 441/541 | 16th-Century European Reformations | 4 |
| HIST 498/598 | Early Japanese Culture and Society: [Topic] | 4 |
| **History of Art and Architecture** | | |
| ARH 387 | Chinese Buddhist Art | 4 |
| **International Studies** | | |
| INTL 423/523 | Development and the Muslim World | 4 |
| **Judaic Studies** | | |
| JDST 212 | Medieval and Early Modern Judaism | 4 |
| JDST 213 | The Jewish Encounter with Modernity | 4 |
| **Philosophy** | | |
| PHIL 320 | Philosophy of Religion | 4 |
| **Sociology** | | |
| SOC 461/561 | Sociology of Religion | 4 |

## Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| REL 101–102 | World Religions | 8 |
| Electives in religious studies or additional courses | | 8 |
| Upper-division religious studies courses | | 16 |
| Upper-division courses (see Additional Courses list) | | 12 |
| **Total Credits** | | **44** |

### Additional Courses

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| **Folklore** | | |
| FLR 411/511 | Folklore and Religion | 4 |
| FLR 483/583 | Folklore and Mythology of the British Isles | 4 |
| **History** | | |
| HIST 320 | High Middle Ages in Europe | 4 |
| HIST 321 | Late Middle Ages in Europe | 4 |
| HIST 322 | The Crusades | 4 |
| HIST 358 | American Jewish History | 4 |
| HIST 441/541 | 16th-Century European Reformations | 4 |
| HIST 498/598 | Early Japanese Culture and Society: [Topic] | 4 |
| **History of Art and Architecture** | | |
| ARH 387 | Chinese Buddhist Art | 4 |
| **International Studies** | | |
| INTL 423/523 | Development and the Muslim World | 4 |
| **Judaic Studies** | | |
| JDST 212 | Medieval and Early Modern Judaism | 4 |
| JDST 213 | The Jewish Encounter with Modernity | 4 |
| **Philosophy** | | |
| PHIL 320 | Philosophy of Religion | 4 |
| **Sociology** | | |
| SOC 461/561 | Sociology of Religion | 4 |

## Honors in Religious Studies

Requirements for a degree with honors in religious studies typically include the following:

1. Satisfaction of the requirements for a major
2. A cumulative grade point average of 3.80 in courses taken to satisfy the major requirements
3. Formal approval of the department

The candidate for honors shall request approval no later than the second week of fall term in the senior year. Students are strongly encouraged to

meet with the undergraduate advisor before applying. Application forms are available in the department office.

A faculty committee supervises the honors thesis project. Candidates typically register for 3 credits of Research: [Topic] (REL 401) for both fall and winter terms of the senior year to prepare for writing the thesis. Contingent on satisfactory progress, the candidate then enrolls for 4 credits of Thesis (REL 403) spring term. A first draft of the thesis must be submitted six weeks before the end of spring term and the final draft two weeks after that.

## Religious Studies Minor Requirements

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| REL 101 | World Religions: Asian Traditions | 4 |
| REL 102 | World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions | 4 |
| Religious studies courses | | 8 |
| Upper-division religious studies courses | | 8 |
| **Total Credits** | | **24** |

## Arabic Studies Minor Requirements

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Category I: Third-Year Arabic** | | |
| ARB 301–303 | Language and Culture | 12 |
| **Category II: Advanced Arabic** | | |
| ARB 331 | Reading Classical Arabic | 4 |
| ARB 431 | | 4 |
| **Category III: Arabic Culture and Society** | | |
| An elective from the following list: | | 4 |
| ARB 199 | Special Studies: [Topic] | |
| COLT 370 | Comparative Comics | |
| COLT 461 | Studies in Contemporary Theory: [Topic] (Colonialism and Postcolonial Theory) | |
| COLT 462 | Cultural Intersections: [Topic] (Orientalism) | |
| COLT 470 | Studies in Identity: [Topic] (Multiculturalism and Empire) | |
| GEOG 209 | Geography of the Middle East and North Africa | |
| HIST 199 | Special Studies: [Topic] (The Iraq War; Islamic Civilization I or II; Islam in the Modern World) | |
| HIST 322 | The Crusades | |
| HIST 399 | Special Studies: [Topic] (The Iraq War) | |
| INTL 399 | Special Studies: [Topic] (Islam and Global Forces) | |
| INTL 407 | Seminar: [Topic] (Militant Islam; Middle Eastern Politics; Development and Social Change in the Middle East) | |
| INTL 423 | Development and the Muslim World | |
| J 467 | Issues in International Communication: [Topic] (The Arab World and the Media) | |
| JDST 340 | Israelis and Palestinians | |
| PS 399 | Special Studies: [Topic] (Egypt; Politics of the Middle East) | |
| REL 102 | World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions | |
| REL 233 | Introduction to Islam | |
| REL 324–325 | History of Eastern Christianity | |
| REL 335 | Introduction to the Qur'an | |
| REL 432 | Islamic Mysticism: [Topic] | |
| REL 435 | Advanced Study of the Qur'an: [Topic] | |
| TA 472 | Multicultural Theater: [Topic] (Arab American Theater) | |
| **Total Credits** | | **24** |

## Modified Requirements for Students with Prior Literacy in Arabic

Students who already have skills that satisfy the equivalent of the ARB 301–303 third-year sequence—whether from native proficiency, study abroad, or courses from another university—may choose to test out of one or more of these courses by passing a proficiency examination, administered by the UO Testing Center, designed to demonstrate basic literacy in Arabic. If students wish to transfer their third-year Arabic courses from other universities or from overseas study, they may do so contingent on the successful completion of an examination at the appropriate level, to ensure proper placement.

Students who pass the proficiency exam must still complete 24 credits for the minor in Arabic studies, including at least 12 from among Category II courses and up to 12 from among Category III electives.

# Four-Year Degree Plan

*The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.*

## Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

| Course | Title | Credits | Milestones |
|---|---|---|---|
| **First Year** | | | |
| **Fall** | | | |
| REL 101 | World Religions: Asian Traditions (When available, REL 101 is offered as a FIG) | 4 | |
| WR 121 | College Composition I | 4 | |
| First term of first-year second-language sequence | | 5 | |
| Elective course | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **17** | |
| **Winter** | | | |
| REL 102 | World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions | 4 | |
| WR 122 or WR 123 | College Composition II or College Composition III | 4 | |
| Second term of first-year second-language sequence | | 5 | |
| General education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **17** | |
| **Spring** | | | |
| Third term of first-year second-language sequence | | 5 | |
| General education course in arts and letters | | 4 | |
| General education course in science | | 4 | |
| General education course in social science | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **17** | |
| | **Total Credits** | **51** | |

| Course | Title | Credits | Milestones |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Second Year** | | | |
| **Fall** | | | |
| First term of second-year second-language sequence | | 4 | |
| General education course in arts and letters | | 4 | |
| General education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement | | 4 | |
| General education course in social science | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Winter** | | | |
| Second term of second-year second-language sequence | | 4 | |
| General education course in arts and letters | | 4 | |
| General education course in science | | 4 | |
| General education course in social science | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Spring** | | | |
| Third term of second-year second-language sequence | | 4 | |
| General education course in arts and letters | | 4 | |
| General education course in science | | 4 | |
| General education course in social science | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| | **Total Credits** | **48** | |

| Course | Title | Credits | Milestones |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Third Year** | | | |
| **Fall** | | | |
| Upper-division course with REL subject code | | 4 | |
| Upper-division elective course | | 4 | |
| General education course in science | | 4 | |
| General education course in social science | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Winter** | | | |
| Upper-division course with REL subject code | | 4 | |
| Upper-division elective course | | 4 | |
| Elective courses | | 8 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Spring** | | | |
| Upper-division course with REL subject code | | 4 | |
| Upper-division elective course | | 4 | |
| Elective courses | | 8 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| | **Total Credits** | **48** | |

| Course | Title | Credits | Milestones |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Fourth Year** | | | |
| **Fall** | | | |
| Upper-division course with REL subject code | | 4 | |
| Elective courses | | 8 | |
| | **Credits** | **12** | |
| **Winter** | | | |
| Elective courses | | 12 | |
| | **Credits** | **12** | |
| **Spring** | | | |
| Elective courses | | 12 | |
| | **Credits** | **12** | |
| | **Total Credits** | **36** | |

## Bachelor of Science in Religious Studies

| Course | Title | Credits | Milestones |
|---|---|---|---|
| **First Year** | | | |
| **Fall** | | | |
| REL 101 | World Religions: Asian Traditions | 4 | |
| WR 121 | College Composition I | 4 | |
| MATH 105<br>or MATH 111 | University Mathematics I<br>or College Algebra | 4 | |
| Elective course | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Winter** | | | |
| REL 102 | World Religions: Near Eastern Traditions | 4 | |
| MATH 106<br>or MATH 112 | University Mathematics II<br>or Elementary Functions | 4 | |
| WR 122<br>or WR 123 | College Composition II<br>or College Composition III | 4 | |
| General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Spring** | | | |
| MATH 107<br>or MATH 212 | University Mathematics III<br>or Fundamentals of Elementary Mathematics II | 4 | |
| General education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement | | 4 | |
| General education course in arts and letters | | 4 | |
| General education course in science | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| | **Total Credits** | **48** | |

| Course | Title | Credits | Milestones |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Second Year** | | | |
| **Fall** | | | |
| General education course in arts and letters | | 4 | |
| General education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement | | 4 | |
| General education course in science | | 4 | |
| General education course in social science | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Winter** | | | |
| General education course in arts and letters | | 4 | |
| General education course in science | | 4 | |
| General education course in social science | | 4 | |
| Elective course | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Spring** | | |
| General education course in arts and letters | | 4 |
| General education course in science | | 4 |
| General education course in social science | | 4 |
| Elective course | | 4 |
| | **Credits** | **16** |
| | **Total Credits** | **48** |

| Course | Title | Credits | Milestones |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Third Year** | | | |
| **Fall** | | | |
| Upper-division course with REL subject code | | 4 | |
| Upper-division elective course | | 4 | |
| General education course in social science | | 4 | |
| Elective course | | 4 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Winter** | | | |
| Upper-division course with REL subject code | | 4 | |
| Upper-division elective course | | 4 | |
| Elective courses | | 8 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| **Spring** | | | |
| Upper-division course with REL subject code | | 4 | |
| Upper-division elective course | | 4 | |
| Elective courses | | 8 | |
| | **Credits** | **16** | |
| | **Total Credits** | **48** | |

| Course | Title | Credits | Milestones |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Fourth Year** | | | |
| **Fall** | | | |
| Upper-division course with REL subject code | | 4 | |
| Elective courses | | 8 | |
| | **Credits** | **12** | |
| **Winter** | | | |
| Elective courses | | 12 | |
| | **Credits** | **12** | |
| **Spring** | | | |
| Elective courses | | 12 | |
| | **Credits** | **12** | |
| | **Total Credits** | **36** | |