

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

School of Arts and Humanities

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The Program offers two Concentrations for majors in Religious Studies and a minor in Religious Studies.

The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.

—Albert Einstein

Program Description

By asking the great questions of human existence, religion has influenced art and culture, philosophy and psychology, and social and political theory in profound ways, and its study offers rich opportunities for intellectual growth. Cross-cultural in content and multi-disciplinary in approach, Religious Studies investigates a wide variety of spiritual practices and religious traditions. We employ a broad palette of interpretive tools to assess religious values, beliefs, and practices. As a result, students in Religious Studies receive a generous and diverse training in the skills and methods of scholarship.

Religious Studies examines religion from outside the framework of any particular belief system. The Religious Studies faculty encourages students to explore critically with rigor and enthusiasm the beliefs and assumptions of the world they inhabit. The program engages students in a perennial conversation with the unanswerable questions, vital ideas, and struggle for meaning exemplified by human religiousness so as to encourage intellectual curiosity, increase insight, and create responsible citizens. Such studies contribute to the quality of work and life, and offer an academic training in critical thinking and writing greatly desirable for success in a variety of professions.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in Religious Studies

Total Units Required to Graduate **180 units**

Major Requirements

Religious Studies Emphasis **61 units**

2 Foundation Courses	10
RS 290	5
RS Major Courses	40
RS 490	6

Minor Concentration **20 units**

RS Double Major Emphasis **41 units**

2 Foundation Courses	10
RS 290	5
RS Major Courses	20
RS 490	6

Other University Requirements **62-92 units**

CSUB 101	2
American Institutions	5-10*
Area A	5-15*
Area B	15
Area C	15
Area D	10-15*
Theme 1	5
Theme 2	0-5*
Theme 3	5
GRE	0-5*
GWAR (Exam) or Class	0-5*

*may be satisfied in major, minor or other university requirement

Additional Units **2-32 units**

See <http://www.csub.edu/schedules.shtml> for current list of courses satisfying university-wide requirements.

See the Religious Studies website for the list of courses currently in rotation: <http://www.csub.edu/philosophyrs/>

Requirements for Major in Religious Studies

I. Religious Studies Emphasis

This concentration is for students concentrating in Religious Studies and requires a minimum of twelve (12) courses plus a minor, including:

- A. A minimum of two (2) Foundational courses required from the following: RS 100, 110, 111
- B. A minimum of three (3) courses required from World Religious Traditions.
 - One (1) course required from: RS 301, 302, 303, 310, 313, 316
 - One (1) course required from: RS 320, 321, 323, 326, 333, 336
 - One (1) additional course elective from Area B.
- C. A minimum of two (2) courses required from Approaches to the Study of Religion: PHIL 342, RS 345/PSYC 345, RS 348/SOC 348, RS 349/ANTH 349, RS 353, 360, RS 363/PHIL 363
- D. A minimum of two (2) courses required from Religion and Culture in Global Perspective: RS 364, 370, 371, 376, 378, 379, 410, 465
- E. Sophomore Seminar: RS 290 (Completion required by end of Junior year).
- F. Capstone: RS 490
- G. A minimum of one (1) additional upper-division course.
- H. Minor Requirement: There are three options selected from one of the following three:
 1. A minor consisting of at least 20 quarter units designed by another discipline.

2. An interdisciplinary concentration or minor in one of the specially developed areas (see “Interdisciplinary Concentrations and Minors”).
3. A special minor.

II. Religious Studies Double Major Emphasis

A minimum of eight (8) courses:

- A. A minimum of two (2) Foundational courses required from the following: RS 100, 110, 111
- B. A minimum of two (2) courses required from World Religious Traditions. One (1) course required from: RS 301, 302, 303, 310, 313, 316
One (1) course required from: RS 320, 321, 323, 326, 333, 336
- C. A minimum of one (1) of the following courses required from Approaches to the Study of Religion: PHIL 342, RS 345/PSYC 345, RS 348/SOC 348, RS 349/ANTH 349, RS 353, 360, RS 363/PHIL 363
- D. A minimum of one (1) of the following courses required from Religion and Culture in Global Perspective: RS 364, 370, 371, 376, 378, 379, 410, 465
- E. Sophomore Seminar: RS 290 Theory and Method in Religious Studies (Completion required by end of Junior year)
- F. Capstone: RS 490 Senior Seminar

Requirements for the Minor in Religious Studies

The minor requires 20 units, 15 of which must be upper division.