

# RELIGION

Events at home and abroad show that religion continues to be a powerful force, with both positive and negative consequences. An undergraduate major in religion provides students with the basic tools to understand the diversity of religious phenomena throughout the world in their proper historical, socio-political, psychological, cultural, and philosophical contexts.

## About this Program

- **College:** Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Degree:** Bachelor of Arts
- **Credits for Degree:** 120
- **Additional Information**
- **Contact:** Email
- **Related Religion Programs**

*To graduate with this major, students must complete all university, college, and major requirements.*

Students majoring in religion have gone on to work with non-government organizations and religious communities, including pastoral work and administration. Students receive truly interdisciplinary training and many have gone on to pursue advanced degrees in the humanities, social sciences, law, education, journalism, and social services. The religion program complements many other programs at the University of Florida, including Latin American studies, sustainability studies, Jewish studies, African studies, and Asian studies.

## Coursework for the Major

The program consists of 10 courses, which include at least one in Asian religions, one in Islam, and one in Jewish or Christian scripture. In addition, all majors must complete a junior seminar on methods and theories in the study of religion and a comparative East-West capstone seminar.

The 10 courses (30 credits) for the undergraduate major in religion must be completed with minimum grades of C. These courses must be taken from the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels of the religion curriculum and they must expose the student to both eastern and western thought.

## Required Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Asian Religion</b>		
Select one of the following:		3
REL 2315	Religion in Asia	
REL 2341	Introduction to Buddhism	
REL 3318	Chinese Religions	
REL 3330	Religions of India	
REL 3333	Gods, Sages and Kings: Mythology	
REL 3335	Hindu Sacred Text/Social-Ritual Context	
REL 3336	Religion in Modern India	
REL 3344	Chinese Buddhism	
REL 4337	Women in Hindu Tradition	
REL 4345	Chan/Zen Buddhism	
REL 4349	Buddhist Meditation	
<b>Islam</b>		
Select one of the following:		3

REL 2362	Introduction to Islam	
REL 3371	Islam in Africa	
REL 4361	Women and Islam	
REL 4367	The History of Islam in the Modern World	
REL 4393	Islam in the Americas	
<b>Jewish or Christian Scripture</b>		
Select one of the following:		3
REL 2210	Hebrew Scriptures	
REL 2240	New Testament	
REL 3213	Hebrew Bible as Literature	
REL 3234	Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible	
REL 3249	The Christian Gospels	
REL 3252	Acts, Paul and Early Christianity	
REL 3291	Gender and the Hebrew Bible	
REL 4221	The Pentateuch	
REL 3931	Junior Seminar (during the junior year)	3
Select three 4000-level courses, one of which must be the following:		9
REL 4933	The Comparative Study of Religion	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>21</b>

- Majors cannot count more than three introductory courses (2000-level, 9 credits) toward the 30 credits.
- No more than three courses (9 credits) can be in approved cognate courses from other departments.
- No more than four courses (12 credits) can be transferred from another institution.
- Every two semesters all majors must consult the undergraduate advisor.

There are no prerequisites for 2000-level courses. Detailed descriptions of current and prospective courses are available in 107 Anderson Hall and from faculty members before registration.

## Overseas Studies

The department encourages study abroad. Overseas Studies, within the UF International Center (UFIC), offers the opportunity to study in a wide range of academic and cultural settings. The office coordinates 32 semester and yearlong programs and 28 summer programs in 24 countries. Study abroad programs satisfy the general education international and diversity requirements and also may fulfill requirements for a major or minor, as well as basic distribution area requirements and UF summer residency. Interested students should contact the UF International Center in 170 Hub or the undergraduate coordinator.

## Related Religion Programs

- Combined Degree
- Religion minor
- Religious Ethics minor

## Critical Tracking

Critical Tracking records each student's progress in courses that are required for entry to each major. Please note the critical-tracking requirements below on a per-semester basis.

**For degree requirements outside of the major, refer to CLAS Degree Requirements: Structure of a CLAS Degree.**

Equivalent critical-tracking courses as determined by the State of Florida Common Course Prerequisites may be used for transfer students.

## Semester 1

- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 2

- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 3

- Complete 1 religion course
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 4

- Complete 1 additional religion course with a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 5

- Complete 1 additional religion course with a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

### Model Semester Plan

Students are expected to complete the writing requirement while in the process of taking the courses below. Students are also expected to complete the general education international (GE-N) and diversity (GE-D) requirements concurrently with another general education requirement (typically, GE-C, H, or S).

To remain on track, students must complete the appropriate critical-tracking courses, which appear in bold. These courses must be completed by the terms as listed above in the Critical Tracking criteria.

*This semester plan represents an example progression through the major. Actual courses and course order may be different depending on the student's academic record and scheduling availability of courses. Prerequisites still apply.*

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Semester One</b>		
IUF 1000	What is the Good Life (Gen Ed Humanities)	3
State Core Gen Ed Composition; Writing Requirement		3
Foreign language		4-5
MGF 1106	Mathematics for Liberal Arts Majors 1 (recommended; or other State Core Gen Ed Mathematics course)	3
Credits		13-14
<b>Semester Two</b>		
Asian religion course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> ; Gen Ed Humanities)		3
State Core Gen Ed Biological or Physical Sciences		3
Foreign language		3-5
Gen Ed Mathematics		3
State Core Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences		3
Credits		15-17
<b>Semester Three</b>		
Gen Ed Biological or Physical Sciences (area <b>not</b> taken in semester 2)		3
Elective or foreign language, if 4-3-3 option		3
State Core Gen Ed Humanities		3
Jewish or Christian scripture course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> ; Gen Ed Humanities)		3
Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences		3
Credits		15

### Semester Four

Gen Ed Biological Sciences	3
Gen Ed Composition; Writing Requirement	3
Electives	4
Islam course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> )	3
Science laboratory (Gen Ed Physical or Biological Sciences)	1
Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Credits	17

### Semester Five

REL 3931	Junior Seminar	3
Electives		6
Gen Ed Physical Sciences		3
Religion elective (3000 level or above)		3
Credits		15

### Semester Six

Religion course (4000 level)	3
Electives	12
Credits	15

### Semester Seven

Electives (3000 level or above, not in major)	9
Religion course (4000 level)	3
Religion elective (3000 level or above)	3
Credits	15

### Semester Eight

REL 4933	The Comparative Study of Religion (Gen Ed Humanities)	3
Elective		3
Electives (3000 level or above, not in major)		9
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

### Academic Learning Compact

The major in religion examines religion as a significant and pervasive element in human culture. Through study of a variety of religious traditions, students learn about the history, beliefs and practices of the world's religions. Emphasis on method and theory and religion's comparative dimensions enables students to read and analyze current literature. Students will be able to locate and use reference tools and demonstrate the ability to communicate independent, critical perspectives.

## Before Graduating Students Must

- Achieve satisfactory evaluation of assignment from REL 3931.
- Achieve satisfactory evaluation of assignment from REL 4933.
- Complete requirements for the baccalaureate degree, as determined by faculty.

## Students in the Major Will Learn to Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

### Content

1. Identify, describe and explain religion as a significant and pervasive element in human culture.

### Critical Thinking

2. Read and analyze current literature on method and theory in a study of religion.
3. Read and analyze current literature on comparative religion.

## Communication

4. Effectively communicate, in speech and in writing, and disseminate the results of research in a coherent and organized manner.

## Curriculum Map

*I = Introduced; R = Reinforced; A = Assessed*

Courses	SLO 1	SLO 2	SLO 3	SLO 4
<b>Asian Religions</b>				
REL 2317, REL 2341, REL 3330 or REL 3336	I, R		I, R	
<b>Islamic Religions</b>				
REL 2362, REL 3317, REL 3366 or REL 3367	I, R		I, R	
<b>Jewish or Christian Scripture</b>				
REL 2210, REL 2240, REL 3249 or REL 3252	I, R		I, R	
REL 3931	A	I, R, A		I, R, A
REL 4933	A		A	I, R, A

## Assessment Types

- Papers
  - Additional assessment include the department's senior survey
-