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 (http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/)
- **Degree:** Bachelor of Arts
- **Credits for Degree:** 120
- **Contact:** Email (info@religion.ufl.edu?Subject=Religion%20Major)

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

Department Information

- **Website** (https://religion.ufl.edu/)

CONTACT

Email (info@religion.ufl.edu) | 352.392.1625 (tel) | 352.392.7395 (fax)

P.O. Box 117410
107 ANDERSON HALL
GAINESVILLE FL 32611-7410
Map (http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0030)

Curriculum

- Combination Degrees
- Religion
- Religion Minor

Students majoring in religion receive truly interdisciplinary training and many pursue advanced degrees in the humanities, social sciences, law, education, journalism, and social services. Religion majors have also gone on to work in non-governmental organizations, private companies, and religious communities. 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 course in three of the following four areas: Asian religions; Islam; and Jewish or Christian scripture; and religion and ethics in contemporary society. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select one course from three of four groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 2315</td>
<td>Religion in Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 2341</td>
<td>Introduction to Buddhism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 3318</td>
<td>Chinese Religions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 3330</td>
<td>Religions of India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 3336</td>
<td>Religion in Modern India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4349</td>
<td>Buddhist Meditation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 2362</td>
<td>Introduction to Islam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4371</td>
<td>Islam in Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4367</td>
<td>The History of Islam in the Modern World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4393</td>
<td>Islam in the Americas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Jewish or Christian Scripture
- REL 2210 Hebrew Scriptures
- REL 2240 New Testament
- REL 3213 Hebrew Bible as Literature
- REL 3249 The Christian Gospels
- REL 3252 Acts, Paul, and Early Christianity
- REL 3291 Gender and the Hebrew Bible
- REL 4221 The Pentateuch

### Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society
- REL 2071 Sustainability and Religion
- REL 3076 Cults and New Religious Movements
- REL 3082 Global Ethics
- REL 3099 Spirituality and Health Care
- REL 3108 Religion and Food
- REL 3148 Religion and Violence
- REL 3171 Ethics in America
- REL 3492 Religion Ethics and Nature
- REL 4092 Ethics, Utopias and Dystopias
- REL 3931 Junior Seminar (during the junior year)

4000-level courses, one of which must be the following:
- REL 4933 The Comparative Study of Religion

Additional Religion courses

### Total credits
- 30

- 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.


### Critical Tracking
Critical Tracking records each student's progress in courses that are required for progress toward 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 ([https://cpm.flvc.org/advance-search/](https://cpm.flvc.org/advance-search/)) 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

Semester 6
• Completed 2 of the remaining REL 3XXX/4XXX required courses
• 2.0 UF GPA required

Semester 7
• Completed 2 of the remaining REL 3XXX/4XXX required courses
• 2.0 UF GPA required

Semester 8
• Completed all remaining REL 3XXX/4XXX required courses
• 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester One</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quest 1 (Gen Ed Humanities)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGF 1106</td>
<td>Mathematics for Liberal Arts Majors 1 (recommended; or other State Core Gen Ed Mathematics course)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Core Gen Ed Composition</td>
<td>(<a href="http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a>); Writing Requirement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language</td>
<td></td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Credits**                   |                                                                      |         |
|                               |                                                                       | 13-14   |

| **Semester Two**              |                                                                       |         |
| One course in Asian religions, Jewish or Christian Scripture, Islam, or Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society (Critical Tracking; Gen Ed Humanities) | 3       |
| State Core Gen Ed Biological or Physical Sciences (http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext) | 3       |
| State Core Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences (http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext) | 3       |
| Gen Ed Mathematics            |                                                                       | 3       |
| Foreign language              |                                                                       | 3-5     |

| **Credits**                   |                                                                      |         |
|                               |                                                                       | 15-17   |

| **Semester Three**            |                                                                       |         |
| One course in Asian religions, Jewish or Christian Scripture, Islam, or Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society (Critical Tracking; Gen Ed Humanities) | 3       |
| State Core Gen Ed Humanities (http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext) | 3       |
| Gen Ed Biological or Physical Sciences (area not taken in semester 2) | 3       |
| Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences |                                                                       | 3       |
| Elective or foreign language, if 4-3-3 option |                                                                       | 3       |

| **Credits**                   |                                                                      | 15      |
Semester Four
One course in Asian religions, Jewish or Christian Scripture, Islam, or Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society (Critical Tracking; Gen Ed Humanities) 3
Gen Ed Biological Sciences 3
Gen Ed Composition; Writing Requirement 3
Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences 3
Science laboratory (Gen Ed Physical or Biological Sciences) 1
Electives 4
Credits 17

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

Semester Six
Religion courses (Critical Tracking; 3000 level or above) 6
Electives 9
Credits 15

Semester Seven
REL 4933 The Comparative Study of Religion (Critical Tracking; Gen Ed Humanities) 3
Religion elective (Critical Tracking; 3000 level or above) 3
Electives (3000 level or above, not in major) 9
Credits 15

Semester Eight
Religion course (Critical Tracking; 4000 level or above) 3
Electives (3000 level or above, not in major) 9
Elective 3
Credits 15

Total Credits 120

1 One General Education option taken this term must be a Quest 2 course.

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

**Assessment Types**

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