

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MINOR

Jewish Studies Program (JWST)

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Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary field that enables students to study the texts, culture, history, beliefs, and practices of the religions of the world, present and past. The minor in Religious Studies draws from a wide range of departments and programs (including Anthropology, Art History, Classics, English, History, Jewish Studies, and Philosophy) and offers the opportunity for both in-depth and wide-ranging study. A required core course (RELS271) introduces students to religions of the world and to the academic study of religion. In addition to this course, students are required to take three courses at the 3xx or 4xx-level and another two at the 1xx, 2xx, 3xx, or 4xx-level. Completion of coursework includes fulfillment of a breadth requirement, which demonstrates that students have been exposed to a variety of religious traditions, periods, and geographic regions. Selection of courses in consultation with the advisor will ensure that students complete this breadth requirement.

To make an appointment to explore or declare a minor, go to <http://arhu.umd.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/minors/>.

REQUIREMENTS

Course	Title	Credits
RELS271	What is Religion?	3
Select three courses at the 3xx-level or above ¹		9
Select two additional courses at the 1xx, 2xx, 3xx, or 4xx-level ²		6
Total Credits		18

¹ These courses can be in any of a variety of subjects, chosen in consultation with an advisor. See Breadth requirement below.

² Chosen in consultation with an advisor. See Breadth requirement.

Many courses are now offered with the RELS prefix. Other regularly-offered courses that may be counted toward the minor are:

Course	Title	Credits
ARTH200	Art and Society in Ancient and Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean	3
ARTH201	Art and Society in the West from the Renaissance to the Present	3
ARTH290	Art and Society in Asia	3
CLAS170	Ancient Myths and Modern Lives	3
CLAS330	Ancient Greek Religion: Gods, Myths, Temples	3
CLAS470	Approaches to Greek Mythology	3
ENGL262	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	3
ENGL302	Medieval Literature in Translation	3
ENGL310	Medieval and Renaissance British Literature	3
HIST111	The Medieval World	3
HIST120	Islamic Civilization	3
HIST284	East Asian Civilization I	3

HIST287	Why the Jews? Historical and Cultural Investigations	3
HIST306	History of Religion in America	3
HIST330	Europe in the Making: The Early Medieval West (A.D. 300-1000)	3
HIST331	Europe in the High Middle Ages: 1000-1500	3
HIST332	Renaissance Europe	3
HIST333	The European Reformations	3
JWST141	American Jewish Experience	3
JWST171	Is Judaism a Religion?	3
JWST225	Religions of the Ancient Near East	3
JWST274	Jerusalem in Antiquity: The History of Sacred Space in a Holy City	3
JWST324	Biblical History and Culture	3
JWST331	Early Christianity: Jesus to Constantine	3
JWST430	Dead Sea Scrolls	3
JWST492	Sex, Gender, and Jewish Identity	3
PHIL236	Philosophy of Religion	3
Other courses may be taken with the permission of the minor advisor.		

Breadth Requirement

The breadth requirement ensures that students are exposed to a diversity of religious phenomena. Most Religious Studies students will complete this requirement simply by selecting from the wide variety of courses available to them. Students with particular interests (in a single approach, like Art History, or a single setting, like contemporary North America) will need to take at least one course that falls outside their particular focus of interest. Students will need to demonstrate:

1. Exposure to a diversity of religious traditions (understood to include African religions, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, among others), in coursework that extends beyond a single geographic area (such as the Americas, Asia, or the Mediterranean world).
2. Exposure to diverse temporal periods (including antiquity, the medieval and early modern periods, and modernity).
3. Experience of multiple approaches to religious phenomena or the study of religion (for example, art history, philosophy, historical approaches, and comparative methods).
4. Depth: At least one course must incorporate the focused study of a single religious tradition or cluster of traditions.

Examples: A student with academic focus in religions of the ancient Mediterranean might complete the breadth requirement with a single course on Asian religions. A student concentrating on art historical approaches to religion might take one course in philosophy or literature. A student whose interests run to comparative and cross-cultural coursework might take a course in the focused study of a single tradition.

- A minimum of 9 credits must be at the 3xx or 4xx-level.
- All courses must be passed with a grade of "C-" or above.
- An overall GPA of 2.0 in the minor is required for graduation.
- A list of qualifying courses is available from the advisor to the RELS program.

- At least six credits of 3xx or 4xx-level credit must be taken at the University of Maryland.
- No more than six credits may be taken at an institution other than Maryland.
- In keeping with University policy, no more than six credits may also be applied to a major.