BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN RELIGION

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Religion

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Religion, students will be able to:

1. Develop and apply critical toolkit to the study of religion and religious traditions including (inter)disciplinary methodologies and theories at a proficient level. (Critical Skills for the Study of Religion: Theory, Method, and (Inter)Disciplinarity)

2. Understand and interpret religious traditions by examining religion(s) as historical, social, and cultural phenomena. When appropriate, attention is given to the impact of globalization, immigration, colonialism, and other forms of transnational and multi-cultural (non)religious exchange at a proficient level. (Historical, Social, (Multi-)Cultural Dimensions of Religion)

3. Understand and interpret the subjective dimensions of religion(s) through analyses that explore the psychological, philosophical, and cognitive dynamics of religion and religious experience at a proficient level. (Psychological, Philosophical, and Cognitive Dimensions of Religion)

4. Understand and interpret religious traditions by examining the plurality of religious voices and expressions, including currents that have been marginalized, neglected, repressed, and censored in a variety of sociological, psychological, philosophical, and political ways at a proficient level. (Religious Plurality and Marginal Currents)

5. Develop the ability to read religious texts in their original languages and perform translations of texts when appropriate to the student’s course of study at a proficient level. (Foreign Language Skills)

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Religion

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Religion must complete:

- A minimum of 10 courses (30 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies (p. 3) tab.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major’s Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Religion</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Religion</td>
<td>120</td>
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Degree Requirements

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Core Requirements

- Core Course
  - RELI 101 INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION 3

Religious Traditions

- Select 1 course from Judaism/Christianity/Islam/African-American Religions (see course list below) 3
- Select 1 course from Indigenous African Religions/American Religions/Buddhism/Hinduism (see course list below) 3

Elective Requirements

- Select 6 elective courses from departmental (RELI) course offerings: 18

Senior Project

- Select 1 course from the following: 2 3
  - RELI 403 SENIOR THESIS I
  - RELI 404 SENIOR THESIS II
  - RELI 406 CHRISTIANITY AND LATE ANTIQUITY
  - RELI 407 ARCHIVES OF THE IMPOSSIBLE
  - RELI 416 NEW TESTAMENT / CHRISTIAN ORIGINS
  - RELI 417 GNOSTIC AMERICA
  - RELI 421 FOCAULT & THE HERMENUTICS OF SELF
  - RELI 424 RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AFRICA
  - RELI 426 RELIGION AND LITERATURE IN AFRICA
  - RELI 430 RELIGION, PSYCHOLOGY & CULTURE
  - RELI 431 THE BIBLE AND THE BRAIN
  - RELI 444 / MDEM 444 VISIONS AND VISIONARY PRACTICES: MEDIEVAL TO MODERN
  - RELI 449 SECOND CENTURY CHRISTIANITIES
  - RELI 458 MYSTICISM: THEORIES AND METHODS
  - RELI 470 BUDDHIST WISDOM TEXTS
  - RELI 472 KABBALAH SEMINAR
  - RELI 476 / FREN 324 / POLI 324 FROM DECOLONIZATION TO GLOBALIZATION
  - RELI 481 GNOSTICISM SEMINAR
  - RELI 488 THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS SCHOOLS

Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Religion 30

Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements 59
University Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/)

Total Credit Hours 120

Footnotes and Additional Information
* Note: University Graduation Requirements include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying FWIS or distribution requirements may additionally meet other requirements, such as the Analyzing Diversity (AD) requirement, or some of the student's declared major, minor, or certificate requirements. Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

1 Selection of courses should be worked out programatically with a faculty member advisor so that at least 3 courses form a concentrated area of study.

2 The Senior Project course is either a Seminar or Independent Study with a required research paper selected with the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. See the DUS for more information.

Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements
Judaism/Christianity/Islam/African-American Religions

Select a minimum of 1 course (3 credit hours) from the Judaism/Christianity/Islam/African-American Religions course options.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELI 104 / MDEM 103</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 108</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 112</td>
<td>COMPARING CHRISTIANITIES: INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHRISTIANITY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 124</td>
<td>RELIGION AND THE ART OF HAPPINESS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 126 / HEBR 126</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 127</td>
<td>INTERMEDIATE BIBLICAL HEBREW III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 157</td>
<td>RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 158</td>
<td>LIBERATION THEOLOGIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 203 / HIST 201</td>
<td>JUDAISM OF JESUS AND HILLEL</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 215 / FILM 215</td>
<td>MYSTIC CINEMA: KABBALAH IN FILM</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 221 / ASIA 221</td>
<td>THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 223</td>
<td>QUR’AN AND COMMENTARY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 243</td>
<td>THE BOOK OF GENESIS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 270</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 271 / MDEM 271</td>
<td>MEDIEVAL POPULAR CHRISTIANITY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 282</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 294</td>
<td>RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM</td>
<td>3</td>
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Indigenous African Religions/American Religions/Buddhism/Hinduism

Select a minimum of 1 course (3 credit hours) from the Indigenous African Religions/American Religions/Buddhism/Hinduism course options.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELI 111</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN RELIGIONS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 157</td>
<td>RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 231 / ASIA 231</td>
<td>AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
REL 233 / TIBT 233 INTRODUCTION TO TIBETAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE 3
REL 234 / TIBT 234 INTERMEDIATE TIBETAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE 3
REL 270 INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES 3
REL 311 RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA 3
REL 322 / ASIA 322 INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM 3
REL 332 / TIBT 332 ADVANCED TIBETAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE 3
REL 333 KNOWING BODY/GLOWING MIND: BUDDHIST ARTS OF CONTEMPLATION AND ANALYSIS 3
REL 337 SHAMANS, SAINTS, & SAGES 3
REL 342 / ANTH 343 NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA 3
REL 357 WHAT'S RELIGIOUS ABOUT BLACK RELIGION? 3
REL 359 RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE CRUCIBLE OF GLOBALIZATION 3
REL 378 MIND AND ART, FILM AND LITERATURE IN BUDDHISM 3
REL 393 MUTANTS AND MYSTICS: RACE, SEXUALITY, AND THE FUTURE OF THE HUMANITIES 3
REL 417 GNOSTIC AMERICA 3
REL 424 RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AFRICA 3
REL 426 RELIGION AND LITERATURE IN AFRICA 3
REL 458 MYSTICISM: THEORIES AND METHODS 3
REL 470 BUDDHIST WISDOM TEXTS 3

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in Religion should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the major.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the departmental Director of Undergraduate Studies (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution credit eligibility is done initially as part of the new course creation process (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/). Additionally, as part of an annual roll call (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution credit eligibility is routinely reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean's Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-credit-eligible meet the criteria as set in the General Announcements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text). Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet graduation requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) by completing coursework designated as distribution-credit-eligible at the time of course registration.

Distribution courses from Religion (RELI) are broad-based, accessible to non-majors, and provide a foundation that enables students to integrate knowledge from multiple perspectives.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Religion website: https://reli.rice.edu/

Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Religion

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

The Saba Prize is the most prestigious award bestowed by the Department of Religion. It carries with it a substantial financial gift, and designates the student(s) who has demonstrated the highest form of academic excellence and contribution to the department over a four-year period.

Departmental Honors Program

Qualified undergraduates may choose to submit their Senior Project to the department for consideration to receive Distinction in Research and Creative Work (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). For details about the submission process and
this honors award, visit the department’s website (https://reli.rice.edu/). To complete the year long Senior Thesis, the student elects RELI 403 (fall semester) and RELI 404 (spring semester) with their agreed-upon advisor. Students must have a minimum 3.20 GPA in Religion courses prior to enrolling in RELI 403 and RELI 404, a Religion faculty advisor, and the permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Further details are available upon consultation with the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**Additional Information**
For additional information, please see the Religion website: https://reli.rice.edu/

See https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life (https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life/) for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this major.