

New Program Request Form for Bachelor and Master's Degrees

Directions: An institution shall use this form to propose a new bachelor's or master's degree program. In completing the form, the institution should refer to the document *Standards for Bachelor's and Master's Programs*, which prescribes specific requirements for new degree programs. Note: This form requires signatures of (1) the Chief Executive Officer, certifying adequacy of funding for the new program; (2) a member of the Board of Regents (or designee), certifying Board approval, and (3) if applicable, a member of the Board of Regents or (designee), certifying that criteria have been met for staff-level approval. Note: An institution which does not have preliminary authority for the proposed program shall submit a separate request for preliminary authority. That request shall address criteria set in Coordinating Board rules Section 5.24 (a).

Information: Contact the Division of Academic Affairs and Research at 512/427-6200 for more information.

Administrative Information

APPROVED FEB 19 2014
[Signature]

1. Institution: University of Houston
2. Program Name – Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies
3. Proposed CIP Code: 38.0201
4. Brief Program Description – Describe the program and the educational objectives:

RECEIVED JAN 22 2014
[Signature]

Religious Studies is the study of religious belief systems from various disciplinary perspectives (sociology, anthropology, comparative cultural studies, philosophy, literature, art and architecture, political science, etc.) It is not a degree in theology per se, though the study of scriptural traditions is integral to the major. Rather, Religious Studies focuses on religions as they operate in cultures and societies, and as they influence events and attitudes in local communities and global contexts.

The University of Houston has long had a successful Religious Studies minor, with well-enrolled courses and a strong number of minors graduating every year. In the climate of increasing global mobility that affects every area of society, a degree plan that offers students a solid foundation for cross-cultural literacy and inter-religious sensitivity is highly desirable as UH grows towards greater academic and professional prominence. Moreover, the great diversity of our university's members and its urban demographic profile make UH an extraordinarily rich place for students to learn about world religions and the forms they take locally, as well as worldwide.

The state and national needs for graduates with a BA in Religious Studies are in religious institutions, social and civic service agencies, marriage and family counseling, parochial schools and universities, international security agencies, and government policy and diplomatic corps. Religious beliefs shape cultures and societies in every conceivable way. The importance of the discipline that studies religions is obvious, and the need to offer it to UH students is clear.

5. Administrative Unit – The Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS)

6. Proposed Implementation Date – Report the first semester and year that students would enter the program: Fall 2014

7. Contact Person – Provide contact information for the person who can answer specific questions about the program:

Name: Lois Parkinson Zamora
 Title: Professor and Chair.
 Department of Comparative Cultural Studies
 E-mail: lzamora@uh.edu
 Phone: 713-743-3781

Program Information

I. Need

Note: Complete I.A and I.B only if preliminary authority for the program was granted more than four years ago. This includes programs for which the institution was granted broad preliminary authority for the discipline.

A. Job Market Need – Provide short- and long-term evidence of the need for graduates in the job market.

See attached document, Appendix B

B. Student Demand – Provide short- and long-term evidence of demand for the program.

The RELS minor has existed at the UH for more than 25 years, and has always had a large number of students. According to a survey taken two years ago, many of the students who minor in RELS would consider majoring in RELS if the major were available. Our current number of minors is 75, and the large number of students who take RELS courses but do not minor in RELS is addressed in the Executive Summary. Itemized course-by-course enrollment statistics for Spring 2013, Fall 2012, and Spring 2012 are attached. (Appendix C)

C. Enrollment Projections – Use this table to show the estimated cumulative headcount and full-time student equivalent (FTSE) enrollment for the first five years of the program. *(Include majors only and consider attrition and graduation.)*

See Business Pro Forma Document for more detailed information

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5
Headcount	30	30+35=65 First cohort of 30 graduates	35+40=75 Second cohort of 35 graduates	40+50=90 Third cohort of 40 graduates	50=55=105 Fourth cohort of 50 graduates

FTSE					
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II. Quality

- A. Degree Requirements – Use this table to show the degree requirements of the program. (*Modify the table as needed; if necessary, replicate the table for more than one option.*)

Category	Semester Credit Hours	Clock Hours
General Education Core Curriculum <i>(bachelor's degree only)</i>	42	Each course is 3 hours per week for 14 weeks (42 contact hours per course)
Required Courses	3	
Prescribed Electives	33, but 27 from designated clusters to ensure broad distribution (see Degree Plan, Appendix A.)	Same
Free Electives	42	Same
Other (<i>Specify, e.g., internships, clinical work</i>)	(if not included above)	
TOTAL	120	1680 contact hours

- B. Curriculum – Use these tables to identify the required courses and prescribed electives. See Degree Plan, Appendix A, for a complete list of courses.

Prefix and Number	Required Courses	SCH
	See Degree Plan, Appendix A	

Prefix and Number	Prescribed Elective Courses	SCH
	See Degree Plan, Appendix A	

C. Faculty – Use these tables to provide information about Core and Support faculty. Add an asterisk (*) before the name of the individual who will have direct administrative responsibilities for the program. *(Add and delete rows as needed.)*

Name of <u>Core</u> Faculty and Faculty Rank	Highest Degree and Awarding Institution	Courses Assigned in Program	% Time Assigned To Program
*Lois Parkinson Zamora Professor John and Rebecca Moore's Distinguished Professor	PhD. University of California at Berkeley	Administrative and Curricular leadership; CounterReformation Art and Architecture in Latin America	50% Chair of Dept
*New Director of RELS: Named Feb. 1, 2014, effective Sept. 2014 (FY 15): Dr. Christian Eberhart	Search in progress: the two finalists have their PhDs from Syracuse University and Heidelberg University, respectively.	Four courses per year; their areas of expertise are Bible and Political Theology, respectively.	100% 4 sections per year
Lynn Mitchell Professor	PhD. Rice University	RELS 2310, RELS 2311: Bible and Western Culture I and II	100% 4 sections per year
Emran El-Badawi, Assistant Professor	PhD. University of Chicago	ARAB 3313: Qur'an as Literature; RELS 2350: Intro to Islam	50% 1 section per semester
Helen Rose Ebaugh Professor	PhD. Columbia University	SOC 3375 Religion and Society; SOC 3385 Sociology of World Religions	50% 1 section per semester
Jamie Ferguson Assistant Professor	PhD. Indiana University	ENGL 4360 The Bible as Literature; RELS 2380 Religion and Film	25% 1 section per year

Richard Armstrong, Associate Professor	PhD. Yale University	CLAS 3306 Greek and Roman Myths; CLAS 3308 Myths and Cults of Ancient Gods; CLAS 3375 Roman, Jew, and Christian: The Politics and Sociology of Religion in the First Century A.D.	50% 1 section per semester
New Faculty FY 16	Assistant Professor	Area of specialization to be determined	100%
New Faculty, FY 17	Assistant Professor	Area of specialization to be determined	100%

See the complete list of faculty in Appendix D.

Name of Support Faculty and Faculty Rank	Highest Degree and Awarding Institution	Courses Assigned in Program	% Time Assigned To Program
Martha Serpas. Professor English Department	PhD - University of Houston, Literature and Creative Writing; MA in Divinity, Yale U.	RELS 3333: Religion and Literature; RELS 3396: Spiritual Autobiography	25% One course per year
Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson, Lecturer	PhD., Ministry of Liturgy, The Graduate Theological Foundation of Indiana	RELS 1301: Intro to Religious Studies	75%-100% 3 or 4 sections per semester
Larry Lyke, Lecturer	Ph.D. 1996, Harvard University, Department of Near Eastern Languages; 1987-90, University of Chicago Divinity School	RELS 2310, RELS 3330 Bible and Western Culture, Christianity	50% 2 sections per semester
Rabbi Kenneth Scott Weiss, Lecturer	Hebrew Union College Rabbinical Ordination, 1993 Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters	RELS 2330, RELS 2335 Judaism; Rabbinic Biblical Interpretation	25% 1 section per semester
Jon Keune, Visiting Assistant Professor, Postdoctoral Fellow in India Studies	PhD Columbia University, Religion; Masters in Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary	RELS 2340; Intro to Hinduism; RELS 2350: Intro to Buddhims	100% 2 sections per semester
Jonathan Zecher Lecturer	Ph.D., University of Durham, England, Theology	4360: Clash of Civilizations; Historical theology; Church history; Eastern Orthodox theology	50% 2 sections per semester
Muhammer Sait Yavuz Lecturer	PhD. University of Maryland, History	RELS 2350 Introduction to Islam	25% 2 sections per semester
Michele Verma. Lecturer	PhD. Columbia University	RELS 2340 Introduction to Hinduism; RELS	50% 2 courses per semester

		3381 Global Hinduism	
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More faculty are listed in Appendix D.

- D. Library – Provide the library director's assessment of library resources necessary for the program. Describe plans to build the library holdings to support the program.

The University of Houston has strong holdings in Christian theology, ecclesiastical history, African and African American religious practices, Judaic texts and history, and methodological holdings in the anthropology and sociology of religions. We are building our holdings in Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, the world religions taught in the RELS program along with Christianity and Buddhism. M.D. Anderson Library has indicated its willingness to purchase books and journals in the areas mentioned. The Library has a strong fund-raising arm, and with the advent of the RELS major, it will be able to focus its fundraising on this area of the collection. Without a major, it is hard to convince donors of the need for extensive research materials. On the contrary, the major will require increased research materials, and M.D. Anderson Library will focus upon this requirement in its budgeting and its fund-raising.

- E. Facilities and Equipment – Describe the availability and adequacy of facilities and equipment to support the program. Describe plans for facility and equipment improvements/additions.

We have adequate equipment and facilities now. Because most of the courses in the new Religious Studies major are already being taught across the College, they are accommodated in classrooms with sufficient internet capacity.

- F. Accreditation – If the discipline has a national accrediting body, describe plans to obtain accreditation or provide a rationale for not pursuing accreditation.

Not applicable.

III. **Costs and Funding**

Five-Year Costs and Funding Sources - Use this table to show five-year costs and sources of funding for the program.

See the Business Pro Form for a detailed financial accounting of the first three years of the program. The Pro Form has the capacity of a three-year projection. Five-year projections are forthcoming.

Five-Year Costs	Five-Year Funding
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Personnel ¹	\$905,000	Reallocated Funds	\$905,000
Facilities and Equipment	\$0	Anticipated New Formula Funding ³	\$2,710,303
Library, Supplies, and Materials	\$ 25,000	Special Item Funding	\$0
Other ²	\$0	Other ⁴	\$0
Total Costs	\$930,000	Total Funding	\$3,615,303

1. Report costs for new faculty hires, graduate assistants, and technical support personnel. For new faculty, prorate individual salaries as a percentage of the time assigned to the program. If existing faculty will contribute to program, include costs necessary to maintain existing programs (e.g., cost of adjunct to cover courses previously taught by faculty who would teach in new program).

We will hire three full-time faculty members in Religious Studies in the next five years: FY 15, FY 16, and FY 17, as shown on the Business Pro Forma. Other than these faculty members, we will use existing courses and resources for this major. RELS majors will take courses across the College that already exist and deal with relevant subject matter. (See Degree Plan, Appendix A)

2. Specify other costs here (e.g., administrative costs, travel).

The Religious Studies major will continue to be administered in the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, as the RELS minor has been. There will be no additional administrative, travel, or other costs.

3. Indicate formula funding for students new to the institution because of the program; formula funding should be included only for years three through five of the program and should reflect enrollment projections for years three through five.

It is difficult to project the number of new students coming to UH *because of the* major in Religious Studies, and even more difficult to project this number for years three to five of the program. We expect a growth of 30 majors during each of years three, four, and five, but how many of those will be attracted to the UH in order to take the RELS major remains difficult to assess. What can be assessed is the total revenue from enrollment in the new major, and that is the figure that is registered above.

4. Report other sources of funding here. In-hand grants, "likely" future grants, and designated tuition and fees can be included.

The Religious Studies program has had strong community support over the years from religious congregations and social service groups in Houston. There is an endowment to support Religious Studies, housed in the Houston Foundation, currently valued at \$170,000. There is also the Lynn E. Mitchell Endowment in

Religious Studies, currently valued at \$35,000. Both generate income to support the program, and there are regular fundraisers, dinners, and visits with donors, etc..

We are currently working on securing a scholarship endowment in the amount of \$100,000 dollars to support students majoring in Religious Studies, and whose goal is to work toward tolerance and understanding among religious communities. We hope to have this endowment secured by the end of this academic year, May 2014.

When the RELS major is in place, we will apply for funding from the Pew Foundation. We must have a major before foundations will consider funding Religious Studies at the University of Houston.

Signature Page

1. Adequacy of Funding – The chief executive officer shall sign the following statement:

I certify that the institution has adequate funds to cover the costs of the new program. Furthermore, the new program will not reduce the effectiveness or quality of existing programs at the institution.

Chief Executive Officer

Date

2. Board of Regents or Designee Approval – A member of the Board of Regents or designee shall sign the following statement:

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I approve the program.

Board of Regents (Designee)

Date of Approval

3. Board of Regents Certification of Criteria for Commissioner of Assistant Commissioner Approval – For a program to be approved by the Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research, the Board of Regents or designee must certify that the new program meets the eight criteria under TAC Section 5.50 (b): The criteria stipulate that the program shall:

- (1) be within the institution's current Table of Programs;
- (2) have a curriculum, faculty, resources, support services, and other components of a degree program that are comparable to those of high quality programs in the same or similar disciplines at other institutions;
- (3) have sufficient clinical or in-service sites, if applicable, to support the program;
- (4) be consistent with the standards of the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and, if applicable, with the standards or discipline-specific accrediting agencies and licensing agencies;
- (5) attract students on a long-term basis and produce graduates who would have opportunities for employment; or the program is appropriate for the development of a well-rounded array of basic baccalaureate degree programs at the institution;

- (6) not unnecessarily duplicate existing programs at other institutions;
- (7) not be dependent on future Special Item funding
- (8) have new five-year costs that would not exceed \$2 million.

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I certify that the new program meets the criteria specified under TAC Section 5.50 (b).

Board of Regents (Designee)

Date

MEMO

From: Lois Parkinson Zamora
Chair, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies
To: John Roberts, Dean, CLASS
Paula Myrick Short, Senior Vice President/Vice Provost for Academic Affairs,
Provost
RE: **Executive Summary:** New BA in Religious Studies
Date: January 10, 2014

1) Business Pro Forma (separate document)

2) Executive Summary:

A) Congruence with System Goals and University Mission

The new B.A. in Religious Studies addresses the University of Houston's stated mission of offering "nationally competitive and internationally recognized opportunities for learning, discovery and engagement to a diverse population of students" by means of "a full range of degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's, doctoral and professional levels." The curriculum of the new B.A. in Religious Studies reflects the diversity of our university and our city, and is designed to prepare students for compassionate citizenship in our increasingly globalized world. It is an odd circumstance that a Tier One university as large and diverse as UH does not have a major in Religious Studies, nor does UH Downtown or UH Clear Lake.

Religious Studies is the study of religious belief systems from various disciplinary perspectives (sociology, anthropology, comparative cultural studies, philosophy, literature, art and architecture, political science, etc.) It is not a degree in theology per se, though the study of scriptural traditions is integral to the major. Rather, Religious Studies focuses on religions as they operate in cultures and societies, and as they influence events and attitudes in local communities and global contexts.

SERVICE TO OUR STUDENTS: We have a flourishing RELS minor at UH, and our 1000- and 2000-level Religious Studies courses, which are designated as Core courses (Humanities, WID, and Visual and Performing Arts), fill to 100% capacity. We regularly add "unmet demand" sections to assure that our students have access to our RELS Core courses. Recent numbers are as follows:

Minors: Over the past decade, the number of minors has averaged 54. Currently there are 58 declared Religious Studies minors.

Total enrollment in courses with the RELS rubric (not counting courses about religion given in other departments and taken by our minors):

RELS courses Fall 2011: 639
RELS courses Spring 2012: 781
RELS courses Fall 2012: 825

RELS courses Spring 2013: 846
RELS courses Fall 2013: 652

Variations in RELS courses reflect variations in total enrollment at UH: up 2.1% in FY 2013, down somewhat in the first half of FY 14 (Fall 2013).

Enrollments in our new major will certainly continue to reflect the undergraduate enrollments at UH, which are expected to rise significantly over the coming decade.

B) Program Description (See Degree Plan, Appendix A).

The BA in Religions Studies will build upon the existing curriculum of the Religious Studies minor. The minor is an 18 hour interdisciplinary degree, with approved courses under the RELS rubric and also in various disciplines and departments across the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. (See E: Faculty Resources, below.)

In addition to the ample curriculum of the RELS minor, the major will increase coverage of world religions. Students will study world religions in comparative cultural context, and consider the many ways in which religious beliefs inform political and social behaviors. In the major as in the minor, students are encouraged to deepen their understandings of their own and others' religious beliefs, and to appreciate more fully the ways in which religion shapes society at its deepest levels.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies is a 36 hour major. Complete course plan is attached (Appendix A). Please note the comparative emphasis on world religions and their political, social and cultural contexts. The RELS major places religions in their geopolitical contexts, and considers the mediation of cultural conflicts based in religious differences. In this way, the major is designed to prepare our students for the global and multicultural workplaces that they will necessarily enter upon graduation.

A 4000 level capstone course focuses students' career goals by means of individual research projects, study abroad, and/or internships in community organizations. We will also offer internships at the sophomore and junior levels. In Houston, we have a vast array of religious congregations and outreach entities, individual and family social services, and community relief services, so we are fully capable of providing relevant work experience as part of our undergraduate major.

C) Student and Job Market Demand (See Appendices B and C)

Appendix B: Job Opportunities for Religious Studies Majors, taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (Texas data, 2013):

Given the historical importance of religious beliefs in all cultures, and the conflicting claims of religious movements in today's world, the comparative study of religion is urgent and important. Contemporary forces of globalization

now require that university graduates have in-depth knowledge of the historical and cultural forces at work when religions impel political and social conflict. Beyond the traditional markets for BAs in Religious studies (churches, social services, schools, counseling facilities), government agencies and international businesses now seek employees with academic training in religious studies to provide conflict management and conflict resolution worldwide.

Appendix C: RELS Enrollment Statistics for a record of enrollment statistics over the past five semesters. Clearly there is strong student demand for Religious Studies courses.

D) Program Duplication

UH does not have a major in Religious Studies, nor does UHD or UHCL. Rice University has an excellent Religious Studies Department, but this is not relevant for UH students except as we might eventually share some courses. UT Austin has had a Religious Studies BA since 2007, but again, UH students do not have access to that program. In short, there is no duplication.

E) Faculty Resources (See Appendix D)

We will continue to use the faculty currently teaching RELS courses, many of whom are lecturers, to which we will add courses regularly taught by tenure-track and tenured faculty across the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in departments and disciplines such as anthropology, philosophy, literature, art, history, world literatures and cultures, sociology, and political science. No major has heretofore brought these courses together in an interdisciplinary major such as the proposed Religious Studies major. These interdepartmental resources allow us to offer a curriculum that addresses the social, political, and cultural dimensions of religions and religious practices, as well as their spiritual and ethical dimensions. Globalization includes a new proximity of peoples and belief systems. The RELS major is designed to prepare our students to enter their future workforce as fully informed citizens.

We are currently hiring a director for the new RELS major. The position is for a tenured Full Professor, starting Fall 2014 (FY15). We have sufficient faculty across the College to initiate the major in Fall 2014, but we aim to grow our RELS faculty with a junior hire in FY 16 and another in FY 17, as stated in the Business Pro Forma.

3) Brief Summary of State or National Need (See Appendix B, based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics for Texas, 2013)

The state and national needs for graduates with a BA in Religious Studies are in religious institutions, social and civic service agencies, marriage and family counseling, parochial schools and universities, international security agencies, and government policy and diplomatic corps. Religious beliefs shape cultures

and societies in every conceivable way. The importance of Religious Studies is obvious, and the need to offer a major in this discipline is clear.

Appendix A

Degree Plan, Religious Studies Major

Justification:

The University of Houston has long had a successful Religious Studies program with well-enrolled courses and a strong number of minors graduating every year. In the climate of increasing global mobility that affects every area of society, economy and politics, a degree plan that offers students a solid foundation for cross-cultural literacy and inter-religious sensitivity is highly desirable as UH grows towards greater academic and professional prominence. Moreover, the great diversity of our university's members and its urban demographic profile make UH an extraordinarily rich place for students to learn about the world.

The degree plan is built on the existing RELS minor. Like the minor, it offers courses in world religious traditions and practices in an array of departments. Balance and interdisciplinarity have been our goal as we have assigned credit requirements to each of the three clusters in the major. There is also the possibility of specializing in particular religions or regions, the study of which must be based in one or more theoretical approaches to historical, global and comparative contexts. Combined with a relevant social science, humanities or business minor, the degree would be valuable preparation for participation in the global workplace.

While the Religious Studies degree program will be housed in the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, the list of courses in the various categories for the major is based on courses that are regularly offered as well as new courses being introduced for current and new faculty across the CLASS, and is subject to updates as course offerings change.

Catalogue Language:

Requirements for the B.A. in Religious Studies:

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies provides students with a well-rounded understanding of major religious traditions and practices while also offering specialization in particular religions, regions, and/or theoretical approaches to the study of religion in historical, global and comparative contexts.

In addition to fulfilling Core, College and University requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, students declaring the major in Religious Studies must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 and complete 33 credit hours in the major plus a 3 hour Practicum according to the criteria below, including 18 credit hours of coursework at the advanced level, 15 of which must be in residence, and a final minimum GPA of 2.0 in coursework for the major to graduate. Note no course taken to fulfill the major may be applied towards a student's minor.

All of the following are required:

A) Required Courses (3 credit hours)

RELS 1301 Introduction to Religious Studies (Humanities Core)

B) From each of the THREE following clusters

I) Judaic, Christian, and Islamic traditions **(9 credit hours)**

II) Asian, African, and Native American religions and world mythologies **(9 credit hours)**

III) Religions in Global Perspective: Theoretical and thematic topics from the Humanities and/or Social Sciences **(6 credit hours)**

C) TWO more courses from any of the above clusters (6 credit hours). Course list, by cluster, below.

D) Religious Studies Practicum (3 credit hours) that may be satisfied by:

- a) an approved internship program, or
- b) a designated capstone research project or honors thesis, or
- c) an approved study abroad program,
all of which foregoing options *must* be associated with a UH credit-bearing course, such as RELS 3350 Religious Studies Internship Practicum, RELS 4395 Religious Studies Senior Research Seminar, or ILAS 3300 Study Abroad Experience, for example, upon approval of the Director of Religious Studies.

Course Clusters

I) Judaic, Christian, and Islamic traditions

ARAB 3313 Qur'an as Literature
ENGL 4360 Bible as Literature
RELS 2310 The Bible and Western Culture 1 (Humanities Core)
RELS 2311 The Bible and Western Culture 2 (Humanities Core)
RELS 2330 Judaism (Humanities Core)
RELS 2335 Rabbinic Biblical Interpretation (WID)
RELS 2350 Introduction to Islam (WID)
RELS 3330 Christianity
RELS 3375 Christianity and Ethics (WID)
WCL 3341 Early Islamic Society: Literature and Thought

II) Asian, African, and Native American religions, and world mythologies

AAS 2322 Introduction to African Religions and Philosophy
ANTH 2365 Aztec and Maya Beliefs and Cosmologies
CLAS 3306 Greek and Roman Myths
CLAS 3308 Myths and Cults of Ancient Gods (Humanities Core)
ENGL 4370 Folktale
RELS 2340 Introduction to Hinduism (WID)
RELS 2360 Introduction to Buddhism(WID)
RELS 3335 Black Atlantic Religions
RELS 3380 Asian Religions
RELS 3381 Global Hinduism (WID)
RELS 3390 Hinduism and Jainism
RELS 3391 Sacred Texts and Mythologies of India

III) Religions in Global Perspective: Theoretical and thematic topics from the Humanities and/or Social Sciences

AAS 2330 Black Liberation Theology
AAS 4330 The Black Church in America
ANTH 3315 Muslim Peoples of the Middle East
ANTH 3339 Peoples of Africa
ANTH 3348 Anthropology of Religion (WID)
ANTH 3381 Meaning, Myth and Interpretation
ARAB 3306 Introduction to Arabic Culture, Language, and Islam
ARAB 3314 Women and Gender in Arab Literature (WID)
ARAB 3340 Modernity and Rationalism in Islamic Tradition (Humanities Core)
ARTH 2382 Medieval Art
ARTH 3312 Pre-Columbian Art (WID)
ARTH 3310 Art and Architecture of India
CCS 3351 African Religious Practices in the Americas
CCS 3393 Comparative Approaches to Indigenous Cultures in the Americas
CLAS 3307 Greek and Roman Myths of Heroes (Humanities Core)
CLAS 3375 Roman, Jew, and Christian: The Politics and Sociology of Religion in the First Century A.D.
HIST 2365 Modern India: History, Religion, and Culture
HIST 3378 Modern Middle East
HIST 3391 Africa and the Indian Ocean World
HIST 4332 The Crusades
HIST 4334 The Reformation in Europe
HIST 4375 Religions of Modern Latin America
ITAL 4308 Dante and His World
JWST 2380 Introduction to Jewish Studies
JWST 3380 American Jewish Culture
PHIL 3348 Philosophy and Evolution
PHIL 3374 Science and Religion
PHIL 3377 Philosophy of Religion

POLS 4333 Islam and Democracy
POLS 4348 Contemporary Islamic Political Thought
POLS 4398 Religion and Politics
RELS 2320 Ritual and Performance
RELS 2321 Catholic Mysticism
RELS 2322 The Catholic Intellectual Tradition
RELS 2333 Us and Them: Ethical Decision-Making in Complex Cultures
RELS 2366 History of Magic, Witchcraft and the Occult
RELS 2380 Religion and Film (Humanities Visual Arts)
RELS 3333 Religion and Literature
RELS 3336 Caribbean Societies and Cultures
RELS 3370 Bible and Modern Science (WID)
RELS 3376 Themes in Comparative Religion
RELS 3377 Belief and Unbelief
RELS 3382 Politics and Religion in South Asia
RELS 4320 Religion and Personality
RELS 4360 Clash of Civilizations
SOC 3355 Sociology of India
SOC 3362 Sociology of Religions in India
SOC 3375 Religion and Society
SOC 3385 Sociology of World Religions
WCL 2370 Cultures of India
WCL 3355 Women East and West: Global Representation of Female Divinities

Note: RELS Selected Topics courses (e.g. RELS 2396, 2397, 3396, 3397, 4396) or RELS Independent Study courses (e.g. RELS 3398, 4398) will be assigned to a category ad hoc per the Director of Religious Studies based on content.

Appendix B

Job Opportunities for Religious Studies Majors

Taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (Texas data, 2013):

In Texas, job growth in the following sectors is predicted over the next decade:

1) Individual and Family Services	+36.3%
2) Community Relief Services	+21.0%
3) Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional and Similar Organizations	+16.6%
Break-down of Category 3:	
Religious Organizations	+17.8%
Grantmaking and Giving Services	+ 9.6%
Social Advocacy Organizations	+20.2%
Civic and Social Organizations	+13.9%
Business, Professional, Labor, Political and Similar Organizations	+13.1%

It is noteworthy that job growth in these sectors is actually expected to be stronger in the **Houston MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area)** than state-wide. For the same categories as above, projected job growth in the "Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area" is:

1) Individual and Family Services	+42.0%
2) Community Relief Services	+23.5%
3) Religious, Grantmaking, Social Advocacy, Civic, Business Organizations	+16.9%

Non-Profit Leadership Alliance in the Graduate School of Social Work

Non-profits are a significant part of Houston's growth in the job categories listed above. The Graduate School of Social Work offers a certification program in non-profit leadership. Like all majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, RELS majors must select a minor. RELS majors who select this minor receive a CNP (Certified Non-Profit Professional) designation upon the completion of 18 hours (the usual number for a minor). There is also the possibility of a substantial internship (480 contact hours) in a non-profit organization during the student's senior year, or in his/her post-baccalaureate year.

Global Conflict Resolution

An area of potential employment for RELS majors for which statistics are difficult to compute accurately:

- 1) Governmental and private agencies dealing with international cultural affairs;
- 2) Organizations focused on conflict resolution worldwide;
- 3) Analysis of political issues based in religious cultural issues.

The RELS major will direct all majors to social science courses that study the influence of religion on human behavior and world affairs. By promoting knowledge of the history, practices and ideas of religion worldwide, we work to educate thoughtful citizens and preserve a free society. The University of Houston is well situated to offer this part of the major, with our diverse student body. The RELS minor currently attracts students from all faith backgrounds, and the major will do so to an even greater extent.

From Joe Lazzaro, and RELS minor who graduate in December with at 4:0 average, about the PhD programs that he is now considering:

I'm looking at programs that try to tie religious studies and political science or social psychology in order to better understand how religion both shapes and is in turn shaped by people's political outlook and history. My objective (the short version) is to serve as a counterweight to those scholars and analysts who see religion in and of itself as a root cause of violence. I argue that this approach is too simplistic. Two members of a shared faith can reach drastically different conclusions about when violence is justified and what kind of political system is most ideal, so there are obviously external factors that influence how religious beliefs and texts are interpreted. I want to understand those external factors, but I also want to understand how religious ideas in turn influence the interpretation of secular ideas. It is, to me, a complicated feedback loop. See his full statement, attached.

Appendix C
Rel's Major Request

CLASS ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

Fall 2013

Course	Course Title	Class Section	Session	Enrollment	Class Capacity	Open Seats	% Capacity	Status
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	01	1	44	49	5	89.80	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	02	1	47	49	2	95.92	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	03	1	70	70	0	100.00	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	04	1	26	49	23	53.06	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	01	1	97	97	0	100.00	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	02	1	26	49	23	53.06	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	03	1	20	70	50	28.57	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	04	1	49	49	0	100.00	Active
RELS2311	Bible and Western Culture II	1	1	26	49	23	53.06	Active
RELS2330	Judaism	1	1	22	49	27	44.90	Active
RELS2340	Introduction to Hinduism	01	1	22	28	6	78.57	Active
RELS2350	Introduction to Islam	1	1	36	35	-1	102.86	Active
RELS2396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	01	1	3	5	2	60.00	Active
RELS3330	Christianity	01	1	27	40	13	67.50	Active
RELS3370	The Bible and Modern Science	01	1	56	60	4	93.33	Active
RELS3375	Christianity and Ethics	01	1	58	60	2	96.67	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	01	1	7	10	3	70.00	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	03	1	4	10	6	40.00	Active
RELS4360	Clash of Civilizations	01	1	12	15	3	80.00	Active

Total 652

Capacity: full/above capacity above 80% capacity less than 50% capacity user defined

RelS courses

CLASS ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

Spring 2013

Course	Course Title	Class Section	Session	Enrollment	Class Capacity	Open Seats	% Capacity	Status
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	01	1	71	80	9	88.75	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	02	1	38	40	2	95.00	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	03	1	36	40	4	90.00	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	04	1	35	40	5	87.50	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	05	1	49	49	0	100.00	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	01	1	158	170	12	92.94	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	02	1	47	49	2	95.92	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	03	1	25	29	4	86.21	Active
RELS2311	Bible and Western Culture II	01	1	21	49	28	42.86	Active
RELS2311	Bible and Western Culture II	02	1	8	49	41	16.33	Active
RELS2350	Introduction to Islam	01	1	30	30	0	100.00	Active
RELS2360	Introduction to Buddhism	01	1	32	33	1	96.97	Active
RELS2396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	01	1	7	20	13	35.00	Active
RELS3330	Christianity	01	1	38	39	1	97.44	Active
RELS3360	Muslim-Christian Relations	1	1	22	30	8	73.33	Active
RELS3370	The Bible and Modern Science	01	1	51	50	-1	102.00	Active
RELS3375	Christianity and Ethics	1	1	49	50	1	98.00	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	01	1	4	20	16	20.00	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	02	1	1	10	9	10.00	Active
RELS4360	Clash of Civilizations	01	1	6	5	-1	120.00	Active

Total 846

Capacity: full/above capacity above 80% capacity less than 50% capacity user defined

RELS courses

CLASS ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

Fall 2012

Course	Course Title	Class Section	Session	Enrollment	Class Capacity	Open Seats	% Capacity	Status
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	01	1	49	49	0	100.00	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	02	1	54	53	-1	101.89	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	03	1	80	80	0	100.00	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	04	1	0	50	50	0.00	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	02	1	58	60	2	96.67	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	1	1	298	300	2	99.33	Active
RELS2311	Bible and Western Culture II	1	1	51	60	9	85.00	Active
RELS2330	Judaism	1	1	21	49	28	42.86	Active
RELS2340	Introduction to Hinduism	01	1	0	0	0	0.00	Active
RELS2350	Introduction to Islam	1	1	24	30	6	80.00	Active
RELS2396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	01	1	0	15	15	0.00	Stop Enrl
RELS3330	Christianity	01	1	25	40	15	62.50	Active
RELS3370	The Bible and Modern Science	01	1	56	60	4	93.33	Active
RELS3375	Christianity and Ethics	01	1	59	60	1	98.33	Active
RELS3380	Intro to Asian Religions	01	1	46	50	4	92.00	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	01	1	4	5	1	80.00	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	02	1	1	5	4	20.00	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	03	1	10	30	20	33.33	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	04	1	6	15	9	40.00	Active
RELS4360	Clash of Civilizations	01	1	4	10	6	40.00	Active

Total 825

Capacity: full/above capacity above 80% capacity less than 50% capacity user defined

Rel Courses

CLASS ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

Spring 2012

Course	Course Title	Class Section	Session	Enrollment	Class Capacity	Open Seats	% Capacity	Status
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	01	1	77	80	3	96.25	Active
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	02	1	39	40	1	97.50	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	01	1	298	300	2	99.33	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	02	1	39	40	1	97.50	Active
RELS2311	Bible and Western Culture II	01	1	35	36	1	97.22	Active
RELS2335	Rabbinic Biblical Interpretatn	1	1	14	30	16	46.67	Active
RELS3330	Christianity	01	1	30	40	10	75.00	Active
RELS3350	Islam	01	1	30	30	0	100.00	Active
RELS3360	Muslim-Christian Relations	1	1	27	30	3	90.00	Active
RELS3370	The Bible and Modern Science	01	1	51	50	-1	102.00	Active
RELS3375	Christianity and Ethics	1	1	50	50	0	100.00	Active
RELS3380	Intro to Asian Religions	1	1	40	40	0	100.00	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	1	1	5	20	15	25.00	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	2	1	6	15	9	40.00	Active

Total 781

Capacity: ■ full/above capacity ■ above 80% capacity ■ less than 50% capacity ■ user defined

Rel course

CLASS ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

Fall 2011

Course	Course Title	Class Section	Session	Enrollment	Class Capacity	Open Seats	% Capacity	Status
RELS1301	Intro To Religious Studies	2	1	42	40	-2	105.00	Active
RELS2310	Bible and Western Culture I	1	1	299	300	1	99.67	Active
RELS2311	Bible and Western Culture II	1	1	59	60	1	98.33	Active
RELS2330	Judaism	1	1	31	30	-1	103.33	Active
RELS3330	Christianity	01	1	37	40	3	92.50	Active
RELS3350	Islam	1	1	19	30	11	63.33	Active
RELS3370	The Bible and Modern Science	01	1	53	60	7	88.33	Active
RELS3375	Christianity and Ethics	01	1	52	60	8	86.67	Active
RELS3380	Intro to Asian Religions	01	1	32	30	-2	106.67	Active
RELS3396	Sel Topics Religious Studies	1	1	15	40	25	37.50	Active

Total 639

Capacity: ■ full/above capacity ■ above 80% capacity ■ less than 50% capacity ■ user defined

Appendix D:

Core Faculty in the Religious Studies Major from across the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Lois Parkinson Zamora, Professor of Comparative Literature and Chair of the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, which includes Religions Studies: Catholicism in Latin America, CounterReformation Baroque Art and Architecture

Lynn Mitchell, Professor of Religious Studies: Theology, Biblical Studies, Religion and Science, Muslim-Christian Relations

Emran El-Badawi, Assistant Professor of Modern and Classical Languages: Islam and Islamic Traditions; Arab Cultures; the Qur'an

Helen Rose Ebaugh, Professor of Sociology: Sociology of Religion

Jamie Ferguson, Assistant Professor of English: The Bible as Literature

Richard Armstrong, Associate Professor of Classics: Classical Studies Roman, Jew, and Christian: The Politics and Sociology of Religion in the First Century A.D.

Michele Verma, Lecturer, Anthropology: Global Hinduism

Keith McNeal, Assistant Professor of Anthropology: African and Hindu Religious Practices in the Southern Caribbean

Susan Rasmussen, Professor of Anthropology: Anthropology of Religion

Martha Serpas, Professor, Creative Writing Program, Religion and Literature

Lecturers in RELS

Anjali Kanojia, PhD, Political Science: Religions and Politics in South Asia

Jon Keune, PhD, Religious Studies: Hinduism, Asian Religions

Sheila Singh, MA, Sociology: Sociology of Religion in India

Tahseen Ali, PhD, History: Modern India: History, Religion, and Culture

Meera Jagannathan, Dissertation in progress, University of Houston: Cultures of India; Empire and Imagination

Muhammet Sait Yavuz, PhD, Religion: Islam

Ibrahim Sumer, PhD, History of Religions: Islam

Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson, D.M., Introduction to Religious Studies

Nathanael Homewood, Dissertation in progress, Rice University, Religious Studies: Christianity

Daewoong Kim: PhD, Rice University, Religious Studies: Bible

Jonathan Zecher, PhD, Religious Studies: Greek Orthodoxy, Church history

Jesse Rainbow, PhD, Near Eastern Languages: Bible

Larry Lyke, PhD, Near Eastern Languages: Bible

Kenneth Weiss, Rabbi: Judaism

Affiliate RELS Faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Department of Comparative Cultural Studies

Kenneth Brown, Professor of Anthropology: West African Religious Practices and Plantation Culture in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas
Rebecca Story, Associate Professor of Anthropology: Ancient Mesoamerican Cosmologies

English Department

Carl Lindahl, Professor, Medieval Folklore and Belief Systems
William Monroe, Professor and Dean of the Honors College, Health and Healing

Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Marie-Theresa Hernández, Professor, Judaism and Jewish Studies
Francesca Behr, Associate Professor, Italian Renaissance, Dante

Department of Sociology

Shayne Lee, Professor, The African American Church

Moores School of Music

Barbara Rose Lange, Professor, Ethnomusicology

Department of History

Kairn Kleiman, Associate Professor, Africa and the Indian Ocean World
Dina Also-wayel, Lecturer, Modern Middle East

Department of Political Science

Gregory Weiher, Professor, Politics and Religion

PRO FORMA FOR BA in RELIGIOUS STUDIES

v.9K - September 30, 2013



	FY2015		FY2016		FY2017		FY2018		FY2019		Five year totals for the 5 cohorts
	Year 0	Fall14	Fall15	Fall16	Fall17	Fall18	Fall19	Fall20	Fall21		
Enrollments		30	30	35	35	40	40	50	55	55	210
Cohort 1		30									30
Cohort 2			35								35
Cohort 3				40							40
Cohort 4					40						40
Cohort 5						50					50
Cohort 6							55				55
Total		30	65	75	90	90	105	105	105	105	210
Expenses											
Faculty (9 month)											
Position 1 FY 15 (hire in process)	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	
Position 2 FY 16	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	
Position 3 FY 17	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	
Position 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Adjuncts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	220,000	90,000	155,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	905,000
Staff (12 month)											
Position 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Position 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Position 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Graduate Students											
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Salaries	-	90,000	155,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	905,000
Benefits @ 20.5%	-	18,450	31,775	45,100	45,100	45,100	45,100	45,100	45,100	45,100	185,525
Total Personnel	-	108,450	186,775	265,100	265,100	265,100	265,100	265,100	265,100	265,100	1,090,525
Non-Personnel											
Marketing/Recruiting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scholarships & Tuition Assistantships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Annual maintenance & operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Library and Information Technology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Accreditation	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Laboratory and other equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Non-Personnel	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
Allocated to university operations	-	106,317	231,314	266,753	321,701	374,860	374,860	374,860	374,860	374,860	1,855,265
Total Annual Expense	\$ -	\$ 219,767	\$ 423,089	\$ 536,853	\$ 591,801	\$ 644,960	\$ 644,960	\$ 644,960	\$ 644,960	\$ 644,960	2,416,470
Revenue											
Formula Funding Generated	-	-	29,003	29,003	29,003	29,003	29,003	29,003	29,003	29,003	146,014
Local Tuition Applied to Formula	-	-	(27,000)	(27,000)	(27,000)	(27,000)	(27,000)	(27,000)	(27,000)	(27,000)	(135,000)
Subtotal: State General Revenue	-	-	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	10,014
UH Tuition and Fees	233,591	233,591	506,115	583,979	700,774	817,570	817,570	817,570	817,570	817,570	4,090,730
Allocated to set aside per student	(12,098)	(12,098)	(26,213)	(30,246)	(36,295)	(42,344)	(42,344)	(42,344)	(42,344)	(42,344)	(211,550)
Total Revenue from Enrollment	221,493	221,493	481,905	555,736	670,211	780,958	780,958	780,958	780,958	780,958	2,710,303
University Support for Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Philanthropy and other External Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net Revenue	-	221,493	481,905	555,736	670,211	780,958	780,958	780,958	780,958	780,958	2,710,303
Net Annual Gain/(Loss)	-	\$ 1,726	\$ 58,816	\$ 18,883	\$ 18,883	\$ 78,410	\$ 135,998	\$ 135,998	\$ 135,998	\$ 135,998	293,832
Cumulative Gain/(Loss)	-	\$ 1,726	\$ 60,542	\$ 79,425	\$ 79,425	\$ 157,834	\$ 293,832	\$ 293,832	\$ 293,832	\$ 293,832	2,938,332

PRO FORMA FOR Religious Studies

Revenue by Source

Assumptions

Resident Tuition used as basis for projections.
 College and Career Path (select from the drop down box in cell C7)

Label from Instruction and Operation Formula Tab (select the drop down box in cell C8)

Instructional and Operations Formula weighting
 Formula rate per weighted SCH for 2012-13 biennium

SCH fall Semester 1.00
 SCH spring semester 9
 SCH summer semester 3
 Hours per course 3
 Allocated to set aside per SCH 19.20

Liberal Arts & Social Sciences: Grad CLAS	▼
Liberal Arts: Lower Div.	▼

	Rate	Fall	Spring	Summer	Annual Total
Proposed Consolidated Tuition & Fees					
Grad CLASS 3 (Fine & Performing Arts)		3,337.02	3,337.02	1,112.34	7,786.38
Certificate & Executive Fee		-	-	-	-
Tuition & Fees for Academic Semester	\$	3,337.02	3,337.02	1,112.34	\$ 7,786.38

Instructional and Operations Formula Revenue

Formula (weight X rate) 53.71

Year	Semester listing	Biennium Period	Fall	Spring	Summer	Total SCH	SCH for Biennium
FY2015	Fall14, Spr15, Sum15	2016-17 Biennium	270	270	90	630	540
FY2016	Fall15, Spr16, Sum16	2018-19 Biennium	585	585	195	1,365	195
FY2017	Fall16, Spr17, Sum17	2018-19 Biennium	675	675	225	1,575	1,350
FY2018	Fall17, Spr18, Sum18	2020-21 Biennium	810	810	270	1,890	270
FY2019	Fall18, Spr19, Sum19	2020-21 Biennium	945	945	315	2,205	1,890
							0
		2014-15 Biennium					
		2016-17 Biennium					540
		2018-19 Biennium					1,545
		2020-21 Biennium					2,160
		2022-23 Biennium					-
		2024-25 Biennium					-
		2026-27 Biennium					-
		2028-29 Biennium					-
		2030-31 Biennium					-

Catalogue Language: Religious Studies Major

Requirements for the B.A. in Religious Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies provides students with a well-rounded understanding of major religious traditions and practices while also offering specialization in particular religions, regions, and/or theoretical approaches to the study of religion in historical, global and comparative contexts.

In addition to fulfilling Core, College and University requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, students declaring the major in Religious Studies must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 and complete 33 credit hours in the major plus a 3 hour Practicum according to the criteria below, including 18 credit hours of coursework at the advanced level, 15 of which must be in residence, and a final minimum GPA of 2.0 in coursework for the major to graduate. No course taken to fulfill the major may be applied towards a student's minor.

All of the following are required:

A) Required Courses (3 credit hours)

RELS 1301 Introduction to Religious Studies (Humanities Core)

B) From each of the THREE following clusters

I) Judaic, Christian, and Islamic traditions **(9 credit hours)**

II) Asian, African, and Native American religions and world mythologies **(9 credit hours)**

III) Religions in Global Perspective: Theoretical and thematic topics from the Humanities and/or Social Sciences **(6 credit hours)**

C) TWO more courses from any of the above clusters (6 credit hours). Course list, by cluster, below.

D) Religious Studies Practicum (3 credit hours) that may be satisfied by:

- a) an approved internship program, or
 - b) a designated capstone research project or honors thesis, or
 - c) an approved study abroad program,
- all of which foregoing options **must** be associated with a UH credit-bearing course, such as RELS 3350 Religious Studies Internship Practicum, RELS 4395 Religious Studies Senior Research Seminar, or ILAS 3300 Study Abroad Experience, for example, upon approval of the Director of Religious Studies.

Course Clusters

I) Judaic, Christian, and Islamic traditions

ARAB 3313 Qur'an as Literature
ENGL 4360 Bible as Literature
RELS 2310 The Bible and Western Culture 1 (Humanities Core)
RELS 2311 The Bible and Western Culture 2 (Humanities Core)
RELS 2330 Judaism (Humanities Core)
RELS 2335 Rabbinic Biblical Interpretation (WID)
RELS 2350 Introduction to Islam (WID)
RELS 3330 Christianity
RELS 3375 Christianity and Ethics (WID)
WCL 3341 Early Islamic Society: Literature and Thought

II) Asian, African, and Native American religions, and world mythologies

AAS 2322 Introduction to African Religions and Philosophy
ANTH 2365 Aztec and Maya Beliefs and Cosmologies
CLAS 3306 Greek and Roman Myths
CLAS 3308 Myths and Cults of Ancient Gods (Humanities Core)
ENGL 4370 Folktale
RELS 2340 Introduction to Hinduism (WID)
RELS 2360 Introduction to Buddhism (WID)
RELS 3335 Black Atlantic Religions
RELS 3380 Asian Religions
RELS 3381 Global Hinduism (WID)
RELS 3390 Hinduism and Jainism
RELS 3391 Sacred Texts and Mythologies of India

III) Religions in Global Perspective: Theoretical and thematic topics from the Humanities and/or Social Sciences

AAS 2330 Black Liberation Theology
AAS 4330 The Black Church in America
ANTH 3315 Muslim Peoples of the Middle East
ANTH 3339 Peoples of Africa
ANTH 3348 Anthropology of Religion (WID)
ANTH 3381 Meaning, Myth and Interpretation
ARAB 3306 Introduction to Arabic Culture, Language, and Islam
ARAB 3314 Women and Gender in Arab Literature (WID)
ARAB 3340 Modernity and Rationalism in Islamic Tradition (Humanities Core)
ARTH 2382 Medieval Art
ARTH 3312 Pre-Columbian Art (WID)
ARTH 3310 Art and Architecture of India

CCS 3351 African Religious Practices in the Americas
CCS 3393 Comparative Approaches to Indigenous Cultures in the Americas
CLAS 3307 Greek and Roman Myths of Heroes (Humanities Core)
CLAS 3375 Roman, Jew, and Christian: The Politics and Sociology of Religion
in the First Century A.D.
HIST 2365 Modern India: History, Religion, and Culture
HIST 3378 Modern Middle East
HIST 3391 Africa and the Indian Ocean World
HIST 4332 The Crusades
HIST 4334 The Reformation in Europe
HIST 4375 Religions of Modern Latin America
ITAL 4308 Dante and His World
JWST 2380 Introduction to Jewish Studies
JWST 3380 American Jewish Culture
PHIL 3348 Philosophy and Evolution
PHIL 3374 Science and Religion
PHIL 3377 Philosophy of Religion
POLS 4333 Islam and Democracy
RELS 2320 Ritual and Performance
RELS 2321 Catholic Mysticism
RELS 2322 The Catholic Intellectual Tradition
RELS 2333 Us and Them: Ethical Decision-Making in Complex Cultures
RELS 2366 History of Magic, Witchcraft and the Occult
RELS 2380 Religion and Film (Humanities Visual Arts)
RELS 3333 Religion and Literature
RELS 3336 Caribbean Societies and Cultures
RELS 3370 Bible and Modern Science (WID)
RELS 3376 Themes in Comparative Religion
RELS 3377 Belief and Unbelief
RELS 3382 Politics and Religion in South Asia
RELS 4320 Religion and Personality
SOC 3355 Sociology of India
SOC 3362 Sociology of Religions in India
SOC 3375 Religion and Society
SOC 3385 Sociology of World Religions
WCL 2370 Cultures of India
WCL 3355 Women East and West: Global Representation of Female Divinities

Note: RELS Selected Topics courses (e.g. RELS 2396, 2397, 3396, 3397, 4396) or RELS Independent Study courses (e.g. RELS 3398, 4398) will be assigned to a category ad hoc per the Director of Religious Studies based on content.