RECREATIONAL STUDIES, B.A.

Religious studies is an academic discipline that looks at religious phenomena worldwide from a variety of angles in order to understand the many roles that religion plays in human life. To this end, students of religion learn to use a variety of theoretical analyses and methods. These include historical methods to understand how religions develop in time; critical literary methods to understand religious ideas; aesthetic methods to understand religious art and material culture; social-scientific methods to understand the relationship between religion, society and culture. Religious studies can also engage a variety of professional disciplines in analysis of how religion functions in economic, educational or political contexts, healthcare and scientific research, to name some examples.

Some ways of studying religion emphasize understanding religions on their own terms, other ways use comparative methods to discern differences and similarities between religions. Students of religion also study ways that people use religious resources to make meaning outside the boundaries of religious institutions and identities. Above all, the field of religious studies requires a willingness to explore different ways of interpreting human life and diligent effort to develop understanding of how religious ideas, symbols, rituals and spaces serve as resources for people in a variety of contexts as they make sense of and live out their lives in the world. Thus, religious studies provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally and personally in a complex, multidimensional world.

COURSES

Because religious studies is an interdisciplinary program drawing upon many departments, some courses may have prerequisites in their home departments that must be fulfilled even though the prerequisites themselves have no bearing on progress within the religious studies major. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all the prerequisites to enter a course before they enroll in it. The current list of courses can be found in the Religious Studies course list page (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/relig_st/) in the Guide.

HOW TO GET IN

Students who wish to declare their intention to major in religious studies must meet with the undergraduate advisor during regular office hours or by making an appointment. Students are encouraged to do this early in their academic careers in order to plan for successful completion and take advantage of opportunities such as Honors, special research, internship, service learning, or study abroad opportunities in associate with the major or certificate.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world.

Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatesstudytext) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics

Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Foreign Language

- Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
- Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.

L&S Breadth

- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework

Complete at least 108 credits.

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work

Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.

Major

Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits

Complete at least 120 credits.

UW-Madison Experience

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work
• 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
• 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR
Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR
Students must complete 30 credits in Religious Studies coursework, to include:

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<th>Code</th>
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**Gateway (Complete one course):**
- RELIG ST 101 Religion in Global Perspective
- RELIG ST 102 Exploring Religion in Sickness and Health
- RELIG ST 103 Exploring Religion and Sexuality
- RELIG ST/FOLKLORE 104 Sacred Places and Journeys

**Middle Sequence**
- RELIG ST 300 America and Religions
- RELIG ST 302 Christianity: Interpretation and Practice
- RELIG ST/GEN&WS 305 Women, Gender and Religion
- RELIG ST/ASIAN/HISTORY 308 Introduction to Buddhism
- RELIG ST/HISTORY/MEDIEVAL 309 The Crusades: Christianity and Islam
- RELIG ST/HISTORY 311 Sects and Cults
- RELIG ST 327 Christianity and the Almighty Dollar
- RELIG ST/JEWISH LITTRANS 328 Classical Rabbinic Literature in Translation
- RELIG ST/HIST SCI/MED HIST 331 Science, Medicine and Religion
- RELIG ST/CLASSICS/HEBR-BIB/JEWISH LITTRANS 332 Prophets of the Bible
- RELIG ST 333 Early Christian Literature: Matthew-Revelation
- RELIG ST/JEWISH 335 King David in History and Tradition
- RELIG ST/JEWISH 340 The American Jewish Life of DNA

- RELIG ST/FOLKLORE/MEDIEVAL/SCAND ST 342 Nordic Mythology
- RELIG ST/ANTHRO 343 Anthropology of Religion
- RELIG ST/CLASSICS/JEWISH 346 Jewish Literature of the Greco-Roman Period
- RELIG ST/ASIAN 350 Introduction to Taoism
- RELIG ST/FOLKLORE 352 Shamanism
- RELIG ST/ASIAN 306 Hinduism
- RELIG ST/FOLKLORE 359 Myth
- RELIG ST/ENGL/HISTORY 360 The Anglo-Saxons
- RELIG ST 361 Early Christian Literature: Pauline Christianity
- ASIAN/RELIG ST 362 Introduction to Confucianism
- RELIG ST/AFRICAN/ASIAN 370 Islam: Religion and Culture
- RELIG ST/ART HIST 373 Great Cities of Islam
- RELIG ST/COM ARTS 374 The Rhetoric of Religion
- RELIG ST 379
- RELIG ST 400 Topics in Religious Studies - Humanities
- RELIG ST 401 Topics in Religious Studies - Social Studies
- RELIG ST 403 Topics in Religious Studies-US Ethnic Studies
- RELIG ST/AFROAMER 404 African American Religions
- RELIG ST 406 The Amish
- RELIG ST 410 Children and Religion in America
- RELIG ST/HISTORY 411 The Enlightenment and Its Critics
- RELIG ST 420 Religious Studies Colloquium
- RELIG ST/POLI SCI 433 Religion and Politics
- RELIG ST/ENGL 434 Milton
- RELIG ST/JEWISH/PHILOS 435 Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century
- RELIG ST/ASIAN/HISTORY 438 Buddhism and Society in Southeast Asian History
- RELIG ST 439
**HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and these additional requirements:

- Minimum 3.300 University GPA
- Minimum 3.500 GPA in all RELIG ST and all major courses
- Complete 19 credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better, to include:
  - RELIG ST 600
  - RELIG ST 601
  - RELIG ST 681 and RELIG ST 682 for at least 6 credits.
  - 6 additional credits of Intermediate or Advanced level RELIG ST and major courses

**UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Total Degree

To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency

Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work

Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Proficiency in close reading, interpretation, and written and oral analysis.
2. Proficiency in accessing, appraising, and utilizing a variety of resources and methods for research across disciplinary lines.
3. Proficiency in categorizing, analyzing and comparing diverse systems of value and belief in a variety of contexts.
4. Global and local religious literacy; identifying, evaluating, and interpreting the interrelationships and impact of religious worldviews and communities in Wisconsin, the United States and globally.
5. Ability to conduct and present sustained research on primary sources using methodologies/analysis of religious studies culminating in the senior capstone project.

**FOUR-YEAR PLAN**

**SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN**

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred...
courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

### First Year

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>RELIG ST 101, 102, 103, or 104</td>
<td>3 RELIG ST course meeting Literature Breadth(^1)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Communication A</td>
<td>3 RELIG ST elective</td>
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<td>Quantitative Reasoning A</td>
<td>3-4 Biological Science Breadth</td>
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<td>Foreign Language (if needed)</td>
<td>4 Social Science Breadth</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
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### Second Year

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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>RELIG ST course with Literature Breadth(^1)</td>
<td>3 RELIG ST/ILS 234 or 236 (meets Communication B requirement)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning B</td>
<td>3 RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 352, 403, or 404 (meets Ethnic Studies requirement)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Social Science Breadth</td>
<td>3 Physical Science Breadth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>4 I/A COMP SCI, MATH or STAT (if needed for B.S.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>INTER-LS 210</td>
<td>1 Elective</td>
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### Third Year

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<td>RELIG ST Elective</td>
<td>6 RELIG ST Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Science Breadth</td>
<td>3 Science Breadth</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I/A COMP SCI, MATH or STAT (if needed for B.S.)</td>
<td>3 Social Science Breadth</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
<td>3 Electives</td>
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### Fourth Year

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>RELIG ST 600</td>
<td>3 RELIG ST 601</td>
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<td>RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above)</td>
<td>3 RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Science Breadth</td>
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Total Credits 120

\(^1\) Consult the Course Search & Enroll tool for a comprehensive list of RELIG ST courses designated for Literature Breadth.

### ADVISING AND CAREERS

#### ADVISING

Dr. Corrie Norman is the undergraduate advisor and Honors in the Major advisor. Contact her by email at cenorman@wisc.edu to meet with her. Students are encouraged to meet with Dr. Norman early in their academic careers in order to plan for successful completion and take advantage of opportunities such as Honors, special research, internship, service learning or study abroad opportunities in associate with the major or certificate.

#### CAREERS

Religious studies engages a variety of professional disciplines and provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally in a complex, multi-dimensional world.

Religious studies sponsors workshops and other career exploration vehicles, often in collaboration with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science, to aid students in articulating the value of religious studies for their career preparation. Student-developed capstone projects in religious studies often make specific connections to experiential learning and career preparation in a range of fields. Talk with Dr. Norman about possibilities for combining internships and other forms of preprofessional training with the major and certificate.

#### L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative/)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
- Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/)
- Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/)
PEOPLE

PROFESSORS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
Beneker, Cerulli, Hutton, Livanos, Ridgely, Shelef, Shoemaker, Thal, Todorovic

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
Chamedes, Hollander, Pruitt, Rock-Singer, Stern

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY ASSOCIATE
Brown

FACULTY ASSOCIATES
Mellor, Norman, Rosenhagen

ASSOCIATE FACULTY ASSOCIATE
Whelan

LECTURER
Carlsson

FACULTY DIVERSITY LIAISON
Program Director Rosenblum