

Religion, Study of

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Faculty

Nancy Caciola, *Assistant Professor, History*
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Alain J.-J. Cohen, *Professor, Literature*
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David Noel Freedman, *Professor, History*
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David Goodblatt, *Professor, History*
Ramon Gutierrez, *Professor, Ethnic Studies*
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Sheldon A. Nodelman, *Professor, Visual Arts*
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Edward Reynolds, *Professor, History*
Joel Robbins, *Assistant Professor, Anthropology*
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Gary Shiffman, *Assistant Professor, Political Science*
Melford E. Spiro, *Professor Emeritus, Anthropology*
Tracy B. Strong, *Professor, Political Science*
Christena Turner, *Associate Professor, Sociology*
Donald F. Tuzin, *Professor, Anthropology*

Program Description

The program engages in the academic study of religious phenomena; and it studies literature, history, and society in relation to religion. Faculty and students associated with the program give primacy to humanistic and social scientific methods of study that have become established in the academic community during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The location of the program in the Arts and Humanities Division and its use of courses from a variety of departments and divisions imply that neither the study of religion nor its data are the privileged possession of a single discipline. The hallmark of the program is its interdisciplinary and interdepartmental structure. At UCSD, faculty from the departments of Anthropology, History, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Visual Arts provide students with the opportunity to examine religious artifacts, texts, institutions, and communities within a particular cultural and historical context and in the context of comparable manifestations within the general history of religions.

A concentration in the Study of Religion aims at fostering a student's understanding of religion as one of the primary expressions of the human condition and as an historically powerful force in the shaping of human cultures. It also seeks to develop a student's appreciation of the difficulties and possibilities inherent in undertaking a critical, disciplined study of religion. The goal is not to fashion "experts" in religion, but rather to use the study of religion in order to develop critical thinking and a more adequate understanding of history and society.

Since the program endorses an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the study of religion, lower-division preparation should be wide and varied. Lower-division courses in which religion figures prominently (e.g., Introduction to Religion, The Making of the Modern World, or the Revelle College Humanities Program), as well as courses which focus on textual and contextual analysis and employ the analytical tools and conceptual categories of the human sciences, would all be useful in preparing the student for a major in the Study of Religion. The program strongly encourages foreign language study. The ability to read the languages of original sources and of modern scholarship is highly recommended, especially for students planning to attend graduate school in religion.

Major

The major in the Study of Religion consists of twelve upper-division courses, which should include the following:

- two required courses in the Study of Religion (RELI 110A or 110B; RELI 112 or 113),
- ten courses from the approved course list to be selected in consultation with the program director.

Double Major

Students may choose to pursue the Study of Religion as their second major. In such cases it may be possible for up to two courses to overlap with the other major. Students are encouraged to consult the program coordinator for further information.

Honors in the Study of Religion

The program for the Study of Religion offers an Honors Program for students who demonstrate excellence in the major. Eligibility for the Honors Program requires:

- completion of RELI 110A or 110B
- at least junior standing
- 3.5 GPA in the major and a 3.3 overall GPA
- eight units of RELI 196H
- research paper and presentation

Students interested in the Honors Program should consult with the program coordinator for a detailed list of requirements and an application. Participation in the Honors Program is contingent upon the prior approval of the Honors Thesis research topic by the director. This approval must take place before the first day of the quarter that the student plans to enroll in RELI 196H.

Minor

The minor in the Study of Religion consists of seven courses, of which five must be upper-division. These seven courses must include two required courses in the Study of Religion as delineated under the major.

STUDENT ADVISING

All students are assigned a faculty adviser and are encouraged to meet with their adviser at least

once a quarter to develop their course of study. Additional advising information may be obtained from the program coordinator, Literature Building, third floor, room 3323.

STUDY ABROAD

Students are encouraged to investigate the University of California Education Abroad Program (EAP) and other options for foreign study through the Opportunities Abroad Program (OAP). By petition, credits earned through EAP/OAP can fulfill major and minor requirements. More information about studying abroad can be obtained in the Education Abroad section of the catalog.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY

A major in the Study of Religion is designed to develop fundamental skills in critical thinking, comparative analysis, research, and written expression. As such, the B.A. degree is appropriate for careers in education, government, business, and non-profit agencies, it is also an excellent preparation for graduate study in a variety of fields and disciplines.

Students interested in earning a California teaching credential from UCSD should contact the Teacher Education Program for further information.

Students are encouraged to consult the program director for further information about career opportunities and graduate study.

COURSES

RELI 1. Introduction to Religion (4)

An introduction to key topics in the study of religion through a comparative reading of religious texts and/or artifacts. The intent is to develop basic strategies of interpretation for undertaking a critical, disciplined study of religion.

RELI 110A. The Modern Study of Religion: Religion in Modernity (4)

This class examines the history of the term "religion," focusing upon the development of religion's contemporary significance within the Reformation and Enlightenment, and questioning what it means to be "modern." Topics change yearly. Special attention to contemporary culture and politics.

RELI 110B. The Modern Study of Religion: Social and Cultural Theories of Religion (4)

An introduction to basic strategies of interpretation in the study of religion, including issues of category formation, theory, and method. Special attention paid to prominent voices of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including Marx, Freud, Durkheim, Eliade, etc.

RELI 112. Texts and Contexts: The Holy Book in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (4)

An introduction to the scriptures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, with the aim of providing a comparative perspective on the "bibles" of Western civilization.

RELI 113. Texts and Contexts: Textual Communities in South Asia (4)

This class considers important texts belonging to one or more of the following South Asian Traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, or Sikhism. It introduces students to the ways in which religious identities are formed and contested within a pluralistic society.

RELI 196H. Honors Thesis Research (4)

Honors thesis research for students accepted into the Honors Program. Research is conducted under the supervision of a program faculty member.

RELI 199. Independent Study for Undergraduates

Conduct independent advanced reading or research in religion under the supervision of a faculty member who is affiliated with the Program for the Study of Religion. (P/NP grades only.) *Prerequisites: upper-division standing, consent of instructor, and permission of the program director.*

APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSES

The following lower- and upper-division courses are offered on a regular basis, although not every course is available every year. Please contact the program coordinator for approved courses in any given quarter. Students may petition other courses, including independent study and Education Abroad Program courses when appropriate.

LOWER-DIVISION

ANLD 1. Introduction to Culture

HUM 1. The Foundations of Western Civilization: Israel and Greece

HUM 2. Rome, Christianity, and the Middle Ages

MMW 2. The Great Classical Traditions

MMW 3. The Medieval Heritage

PHIL 14. Introduction to Philosophy: Metaphysics

PHIL 31. History of Philosophy: Ancient Philosophy

RELI 1. Introduction to Religion

SOC 1A, B. The Study of Society

UPPER-DIVISION

METHODOLOGICAL

ANGN 113. Theories of Modern Subjectivity

ANGN 120. Anthropology of Religion

ANGN 147. Ritual and Symbolism

ANGN 167. Rituals and Celebrations

SOCA 100. Classical Sociological Theory

SOC 156. Sociology of Religion

GENERAL COMPARATIVE

ANGN 104. Anthropology of Fantasy

ANGN 135. Bodies and Boundaries: Symbols in Ritual and Everyday Life

HISC 162. History of Science and Religion

LTWL 100. Mythology

LTWL 133. Religion, Inside Out and Upside Down

VIS 126F. Western and Non-Western Rituals and Ceremonies

RELIGION IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

ANRG 108. Hinduism

ANRG 150. The Rise and Fall of Ancient Israel

ANRG 173. Chinese Popular Religion

HIEA 168. Topics in Classical and Medieval Chinese History

HIEU 105. The Early Christian Church

HIEU 113. Rule, Conflict, and Dissent in the Middle Ages

HIEU 161. Topics in Roman History: Christianity in the Roman Empire

HINE 100. The Ancient Near East and Israel

HINE 102. The Jews in Their Homeland in Antiquity

HINE 103. The Jewish Diaspora in Antiquity

HINE 104. The Bible and the Near East: The Primary History

HINE 105. The Bible and the Near East: The Prophets

HINE 106. The Bible and the Near East: The Writings

HINE 108. The Middle East Before Islam

HINE 114. The History of the Islamic Middle East

HIRE 115. Women in Chinese Religions

HITO 104. Jews and Judaism in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds

HITO 105. Jews and Judaism in the Modern World

JUDA 110. Introduction to Judaic Studies

LTWL 131A. The New Testament

LTWL 131B. Paul and the Invention of Christianity

LTWL 131C. Reinventing Jesus

LTWL 131D. The Fourth Gospel

LTWL 131E. The History of Heresy

LTWL 131F. Christianity and the Roman Empire

LTWL 131G. Against the Christians

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

ANRG 170. Traditional Chinese Society

HIEA 120. Classical Chinese Philosophy and Culture

HIEU 110. The Rise of Europe

HIEU 111. Europe in the Middle Ages

HIEU 125. Reformation Europe

HIEU 163. Topics in Medieval History: Saints in Social Context

HINE 118. The Middle East in the Twentieth Century

HINE 166. Nationalism in the Middle East

LTWL 136. Goddesses and Women in India

POLI 110A. Citizens and Saints: Political Thought from Plato to Augustine

POLI 110B. Sovereign Subjects in the Modern State: Machiavelli to Rousseau

POLI 110C. Revolution and Reaction: Political Thought from Kant to Nietzsche

SOCB 160. Sociology of Culture

SOCB 162R. Religion and Popular Culture in East Asia

SOCC 157. Religion in Contemporary Society

SOCD 158J. Religion and Ethics in China and Japan

SOCD 188A. Community and Social Change in Africa

SOCD 188B. Chinese Society

RELIGION AND LITERATURE

LTEN 106. Chaucer's Contemporaries

LTEN 118. Milton

LTEN 147. Metamorphoses of the Symbol: Mountains From Moses to Muir

LTEN 149. Themes: New Testament and English and American Literature

LTEU 100. Classical Tradition: Myths of Ancient Greeks and Romans

LTEU 105. Medieval Studies: Dante

LTNE 100. The Bible and Western Literature

LTNE 101. The Bible: The Narrative Books

LTNE 102. The Bible: The Prophetic Books

LTNE 103. The Bible: The Poetic Books

LTNE 150. Arabic Literature in Translation

LTWL 101. What Socrates Knew

LTWL 135. The Buddhist Imaginary

LTWL 145. South Asian Religious Literatures: Selected Topics

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 104. The Rationalists

PHIL 130. Metaphysics

PHIL 185. Philosophy of Religion

RELIGION AND THE ARTS

THHS 103. Ancient Greek Drama in Modern Version

VIS 120A. Greek Art

VIS 120B. Roman Art

VIS 120C. Late Antique Art

VIS 121B. Castles, Cathedrals, and Cities

VIS 121D. The Illuminated Manuscript in the Middle Ages

VIS 122AN. Renaissance Art

VIS 122E. The City in Italy

VIS 123AN. Between Spirit and Flesh: Northern Art of the Early Renaissance

VIS 124BN. Art and the Enlightenment

VIS 126BN. The Art and Civilization of the Ancient Maya