

Religion, Study of

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Program Description

The program engages in the academic study of religious phenomena in many regions of the world and within many different religious cultures and traditions; 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; and it aims to foster an understanding of multiple religious traditions. It seeks to develop a student's appreciation of the difficulties and possibilities inherent in undertaking a critical, disciplined, cross-cultural study of religion.

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; achieving a balance between courses which focus on a single religious tradition or issue and those which explore various traditions and methodologies. These courses should include the following:

- two required courses in the Study of Religion, (1) RELI 110A or B and (2) RELI 112 or 113.
- ten courses from the approved course list to be selected in consultation with the program director. Students should see the program adviser for further details.

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 should 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. The minimum eligibility requirements for the Honors Program are stated below. In most cases students are completing their last two quarters (winter and spring) when they enroll in the honors program.

- 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 taken over two quarters (typically winter and spring)
- research paper (at least 20 pages: most students write between 30–50 pages.)
- public 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. Honors

proposals are due at the Program Office by the tenth week of the quarter (usually fall quarter of the senior year) prior to being enrolled. Final approval must take place before the first day of the quarter in which the student plans to enroll in RELI 196H. The notations “distinction,” “high distinction,” and “highest distinction” will be determined on the following basis; major G.P.A., the grade for the research paper, and the grade for the public presentation.

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:

- RELI 110A or 110B
and
- RELI 112 or 113.

Some students may apply two lower-division college requirements to the minor (e.g., Revelle students may apply HUM 1 and HUM 2, and ERC students may apply MMW 2 and MMW 3).

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

Among its many aims, the 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. Information is also available on the program's Web site.

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. (Not offered 2004–2005.)

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 188. Special Topics in Religion (4)

Students in this lecture will investigate important problems in the study of religion or the history of particular religions. May be repeated for credit up to three times when topics vary. *Prerequisite: upper-division standing.*

RELI 189. Seminar in Religion (4)

This seminar requires the intensive analysis of critical problems in the study of religion or the history of particular religions. May be repeated for credit up to three times when topics vary. *Prerequisites: upper-division standing; RELI 110A or 110B.*

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. *Prerequisite: program approval into the Honors program.*

RELI 197. Directed Advanced Readings (4)

A faculty member will direct a student in advanced readings on a topic not generally included in the Program for the Study of Religion's curriculum. Students must make arrangements with the program and individual faculty. May be repeated for credit up to three times for credit. *Prerequisites: upper-division standing; RELI 110A or 110B; overall GPA of 2.5.*

RELI 199. Independent Research Study for Undergraduates

Independent research in religion under the supervision of a faculty member affiliated with the Program for the Study of Religion. This course may be repeated three times with program approval. (P/NP grades only.) *Prerequisites: upper-division standing, with 2.5 GPA (overall); program stamp.*

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 or visit the program's Web site, religion.ucsd.edu. 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 120. Anthropology of Religion

ANGN 147. Ritual and Symbolism

ANGN 167. Rituals and Celebrations

SOCA 100. Classical Sociological Theory

SOCC 156. Sociology of Religion

GENERAL COMPARATIVE

ANGN 104. Anthropology of Fantasy

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

ANGN 160. Nature, Culture, and Environmentalism

HISC 162. History of Science & Religion

LTWL 100. Mythology

LTWL 133. Religion, Inside Out & Upside Down

LTWL 143. Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective
VIS 126F. Western & Non-Western Rituals & Ceremonies

RELIGION IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

ANGN 184. Archaeology, Anthropology, and the Bible
ANRG 108. Hinduism
ANRG 150. The Rise & Fall of Ancient Israel
ANRG 173. Chinese Popular Religion
ETHN 161. Black Politics and Protest Since 1941
ETHN 188. African Americans, Religion, and the City
HIEA 126. The Silk Road in Chinese and Japanese History
HIEA 127. Chinese History of Medicine
HIEA 168. Topics in Classical and Medieval Chinese History
HIEA 121. Medieval Chinese Culture and Society
HIEU 101. Greece in the Classical Age
HIEU 105. The Early Christian Church
HIEU 106. The World of Late Antiquity
HIEU 107. History of Christianity from Fathers to Scholastics
HIEU 113. Rule, Conflict, and Dissent in the Middle Ages
HIEU 140. Mystics, Popes, and Peasants: Early Modern Catholicism and Society
HIEU 161. Topics in Roman History: Christianity in the Roman Empire
HIEU 163. Special Topics in Medieval History
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 & the Near East: The Primary History
HINE 105. The Bible & the Near East: The Prophets
HINE 106. The Bible & the Near East: The Writings
HINE 107. Ancient Egypt: History and Culture
HINE 108. The Middle East Before Islam
HINE 114. The History of the Islamic Middle East
HINE 161. Seminar in the Hebrew Bible
HINE 170. Special Topics in Jewish History
HINE 186. Special Topics in Middle Eastern History
HIRE 115. Women in Chinese Religions
HITO 102. East Asian Religious Traditions
HITO 104. Jews & Judaism in the Ancient & Medieval Worlds
HITO 105. Jews & Judaism in the Modern World
HIUS 155A/B. Religion and Law in American Society
JUDA 110. Introduction to Judaism
LTWL 131A. The New Testament
LTWL 131B. Paul & 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
LTWL 134. A Cultural History of American Jewry
LTWL 139. Gnosticism: The Religious Underground from Late Antiquity to the New Age
LTWL 142. Islam: The Origin and Spread of a World Religion

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

ANGN 100. Special Topics in Socio-Cultural Anthropology (when topic covers Religion)
ANRG 122. Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East
ANRG 170. Traditional Chinese Society
ETHN 110. Cultural World Views of Native Americans
ETHN 189. Special Topics in Ethnic Studies (when topic covers religion)
HIEA 119. Religion and Popular Culture in East Asia (SOCB 162R)
HIEA 120. Classical Chinese Philosophy & Culture
HIEA 137. Women and Family in Chinese History
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
HILA 106. Religion in Latin America
HINE 118. The Middle East in the 20th Century
HINE 166. Nationalism in the Middle East
HISC 101B. Medieval Science in the Latin West, ca. 500-1500
LTWL 136. Goddesses and Women in India
LTWL 141. Islam and Modernity
POLI 110A. Citizens & Saints: Political Thought from Plato to Augustine
POLI 110B. Sovereign Subjects in the Modern State: Machiavelli to Rousseau
POLI 110C. Revolution & Reaction: Political Thought from Kant to Nietzsche
POLI 121. Government and Politics of the Middle East
SOCB 122. Jerusalem: Sacred and Profane
SOCB 160. Sociology of Culture
SOCB 162R. Religion and Popular Culture in East Asia (HIEA 119)
SOCC 154. Religious Institutions in America
SOCC 157. Religion in Contemporary Society
SOCD 158. Islam in the Modern World
SOCD 158J. Religion and Ethics in China and Japan
SOCD 188A. Community and Social Change in Africa
SOCD 188B. Chinese Society
SOCD 188F. Modern Jewish Societies and Israeli Society
SOCD 189. Special Topics in Comparative-Historical Sociology: Chinese Society in Transition

RELIGION AND LITERATURE

HINE 160. Special Topics in the Bible and Ancient Near East
JUDA 100. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
LTEN 106. Chaucer's Contemporaries
LTEN 118. Milton
LTEN 120D. William Blake and the Age of Sensibility
LTEN 125B. First-Generation Romantic Poets: Wordsworth, Rousseau, and Burke
LTEN 147. Metamorphoses of the Symbol: Mountains From Moses to Muir
LTEN 149. Themes: New Testament and English and American Literature
LTEU 100. The Classical Tradition: Myths of Ancient Greeks & Romans
LTEU 105. Medieval Studies: Dante
LTNE 100. The Bible & 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 135. The Buddhist Imaginary
LTWL 138. Critical Religion Studies
LTWL 145. South Asian Religious Literature: Selected Topics

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

LTWL 101. What Socrates Knew
PHIL 104. The Rationalists
PHIL 130. Metaphysics
PHIL 131. Topics in Metaphysics
PHIL 185. Philosophy of Religion

RELIGION AND THE ARTS

HIEU 124. The City in Italy (VIS 122E)
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 & Cities
VIS 121D. The Illuminated Manuscript in the Middle Ages
VIS 122AN. Renaissance Art
VIS 122D. Michelangelo
VIS 122E. The City in Italy (HIEU 124)
VIS 123AN. Between Spirit & Flesh: Northern Art of the Early Renaissance
VIS 124BN. Art & the Enlightenment
VIS 126BN. The Art and Civilization of the Ancient Maya
VIS 128BN. Topics in Early Modern Art History: The City of Rome: The Making of a Christian Capital