

Religious Studies, BA

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts in religious studies requires 30 s.h. of coursework, including 15 s.h. that are distributed across at least three of the department's five core areas: social justice, equity, inclusion, and religion; religion in history; religion in global context; religion, values, and culture; and special topics and events. The remaining s.h. may be taken from any core area or religious studies course (prefix RELS). Of the 30 s.h., at least two courses (6 s.h.) must be numbered 3000 or above.

A minimum of 15 s.h. for the major must be earned at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major. Courses for the major may not be taken pass/nonpass.

Students must complete the college's graduation requirements, which include at least 120 s.h. of coursework and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. A number of the courses for the major count toward the GE CLAS Core. Students can identify courses approved for the GE CLAS Core by viewing the course descriptions. Students may count up to 56 s.h. of coursework from the Department of Religious Studies (prefix RELS) toward credit required for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

The BA with a major in religious studies requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Core Area Courses	15
Additional Coursework	15

Core Area Courses

Students select 15 s.h. (typically five courses) that are distributed across at least three of the department's five core areas.

Social Justice, Equity, Inclusion, and Religion

Course #	Title	Hours
RELS:1015	Global Religious Conflict and Diversity	3
RELS:1041	African American Religion and Popular Culture	3
RELS:1350	Introduction to African American Religions	3
RELS:1810	Happiness in a Difficult World	3
RELS:2000	Engaging Religious Diversity for Leadership and Entrepreneurship	3
RELS:2250	Jews, Judaism, and Social Justice	3
RELS:2330	Wealth, Inequality, and Islam	3
RELS:3745	Twentieth- and Twenty-first Century African American Religion	3

Religion in History

Course #	Title	Hours
RELS:1001	Judaism, Christianity, and Islam	3
RELS:1225	Medieval Religion and Culture	3
RELS:1250	Modern Religion and Culture	3
RELS:2152	The Gnostic Religion: Knowledge, Institution, and Salvation	3
RELS:2775	The Bible and the Holocaust	3
RELS:2930	Digital Media and Religion	3
RELS:3190	Medieval to Modern: The Birth of Protestantism	3

Religion in Global Context

Course #	Title	Hours
RELS:1130	Introduction to Islamic Civilization	3
RELS:1404	Introduction to Asian Religions	3
RELS:1506	Introduction to Buddhism	3
RELS:1670	Korea in the World	3
RELS:2515	Introduction to Chinese Religious Thought: How Best to Live	3
RELS:2852	Women in Islam and the Middle East	3
RELS:3655	Zen Buddhism	3
RELS:3850	Perspectives on Migration	3

Religion, Values, and Culture

Course #	Title	Hours
RELS:1070	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	3
RELS:1080	Introduction to the New Testament	3
RELS:1702	Religion in America Today	3
RELS:1903	Quest for Human Destiny	3
RELS:2240	Introduction to Jewish Studies	3
RELS:2260	Hard Cases in Healthcare at the Beginning of Life	3
RELS:2265	Hard Cases in Healthcare at the End of Life	3
RELS:2272	Gods and Superheroes: Mythologies for a Modern World	3
RELS:2877	Sport and Religion in America	3

Special Topics and Current Events

Course #	Title	Hours
RELS:1050	Big Ideas: Introduction to Information, Society, and Culture	3
RELS:2122	The Place of Animals in the Hebrew Bible	3
RELS:2674	Food, Body, and Belief: A Global Perspective	3

RELS:2980	Religion and Contemporary Popular Culture	3
RELS:3055	Death, Dying, and Beyond in Asian Religions	3
RELS:3267	Dissent and Rebellion in Islamic Societies: Was There an Arab Spring?	3
RELS:3325	Bioethics and Religious Diversity	3
RELS:4893	Classical Arabic: Vocabulary, Syntax, and Grammar	1-3
RELS:4930	Internship in Research on Rights and Remedial Justice	1-3
RELS:4960	Individual Study: Undergraduates	arr.

Additional Coursework

Students select another 15 s.h. from any core area list or any other religious studies course.