RELIGIOUS STUDIES, BA

Apart from requirements that apply to all students in the College of Arts and Sciences, the only prerequisites for religious studies students are an interest in crosscultural work in different historical periods and a curiosity about the many ways that human communities, past and present, have devised for creating worlds in which to live and act.

212 Manly Hall
religiousstudies@as.ua.edu

Admission into the Major

Students are encouraged to declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama. Prospective majors and double-majors should contact the religious studies office to make an appointment with the REL undergraduate advisor to discuss their career goals and academic interests.

Special Opportunities

The department annually awards both Silverstein Fellowships (providing the opportunity to work in the department for one or more semesters, assisting in the main office and assisting professors with their work) and Silverstein Scholarships (awarded by the faculty each Honors Day based on a student’s GPA [REL majors and Judaic Studies minors are eligible]). To learn more about these funding opportunities, visit as.ua.edu/rel/stdeskscholarships.html. The department also conducts four ongoing lecture and discussion series, supports an active Religious Studies Student Association and hosts the local chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honors society for the study of religion. Find us on Facebook: "Department of Religious Studies at The University of Alabama" and the "Religious Studies Student Association" or on Twitter @StudyReligion. Finally, apart from featuring undergraduate research on the department's blog, it hosts an annual undergraduate research symposium – talk to an REL professor about getting involved.

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in religious studies must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total 120 credit hours.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 100 or REL 105</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro To Religious Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Intro Relig Stdy</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 102</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Religions of the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 490</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Capstone Seminar 1</td>
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Track Requirement

Select a track 2

Electives

Select nine hours of REL electives

Total Hours

2 Students must earn 12 hours in one of the following three tracks: Religion in Communication, Religion in Conflict or Religion in Context.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Ancillary Courses

This major does not require ancillary courses; however, students interested in graduate-level work in the study of religion are advised to take either French or German as part of the undergraduate program of study. Prospective graduate students in religious studies should consult with faculty members concerning additional language study appropriate to their particular scholarly interests.

Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

Including REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar, a minimum of 15 hours must be earned in 300- or 400-level courses; at least six of these upper-level hours (usually two courses) must be earned in courses offered by the religious studies department.

With department approval, the equivalent of up to 12 credit hours can be applied toward the major requirement from relevant coursework done outside the religious studies department. Consult the REL Advisor to discuss the possibility of counting courses done outside REL toward your REL major.

Students can count a maximum of six hours of online REL courses toward the major or minor.

For more information on degree requirements, visit as.ua.edu/rel/degree.html. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be cleared for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, College, and University requirements.

Prerequisites

Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300- and 400-level REL courses is junior standing or permission of the instructor.

Tracks

Track I: Religion in Communication

Courses in the Religion in Communication track focus on the ways people communicate about religion in arenas of popular culture as well as in academe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 110</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro To The Old Testament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 112</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro To New Testament</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar is offered only in the spring semester. Students are expected to enroll during the senior year, but may enroll as early as the junior year. The Department holds seats in this class for REL students so please contact the main office (8-5271) to learn how to enroll.
Track II: Religion in Conflict

Courses in the Religion in Conflict track emphasize the various ways in which religion and conflict overlap and intersect.

- REL 101 The Violent and the Sacred: Religion and the Problem of Human Suffering 3
- REL 220 Survey Of Asian Religion 3
- REL 223 Holocaust Historical Perspectives 3
- REL 226 African Diaspora Religions 3
- REL 234 Women And Religion 3
- REL 240 Apocalypse In Contemporary Film 3
- REL 241 American Religious History 3
- REL 245 Honors Hist. Religions of Amer 3
- REL 321 Rel & Ident in South Asia 3
- REL 323 Theories of Religion 3
- REL 347 Jewish-Christian Relations 3
- REL 350 Religion in Colonial Empire 3
- REL 400 RELIGIOUS STUDIES HONORS THESIS 3
- REL 419 Myth Ritual And Magic 3
- REL 420 Gospel Of Mark 3
- REL 421 Individual Research 3
- REL 423 Seminar Rel and Conflict 3
- REL 426 Seminar Rel and Communication 3
- REL 427 Senior Capstone Seminar 3
- REL 430 Religion and Literature 3
- REL 431 Seminar Rel and Communication 3
- REL 432 Seminar Rel and Conflict 3
- REL 433 Senior Capstone Seminar 3
- REL 434 Seminar Rel and Communication 3
- REL 435 Senior Capstone Seminar 3
- REL 436 Seminar Rel and Conflict 3
- REL 437 Senior Capstone Seminar 3
- REL 438 Seminar Rel and Communication 3
- REL 439 Senior Capstone Seminar 3

Track III: Religion in Context

Courses in the Religion in Context track focus on collections of beliefs and behaviors in relation to the social contexts in which they appear and operate.

- REL 110 Intro To The Old Testament 3
- REL 112 Intro To New Testament 3
- REL 124 Religion & Film in America 3
- REL 208 Hinduism 3
- REL 220 Survey Of Asian Religion 3
- REL 222 Religion in the American South 3
- REL 224 Judaism 3
- REL 226 African Diaspora Religions 3
- REL 228 Hy Of Christian Thought 3
- REL 234 Women And Religion 3
- REL 236 Islam 3
- REL 237 Self Society & Religions 3
- REL 238 Philosophies Of Judaism 3
- REL 241 American Religious History 3
- REL 245 Honors Hist. Religions of Amer 3
- REL 311 English Bible As Literature 3
- REL 312 English Bible As Literature 3
- REL 313 Honors Hist. Religions of Amer 3
- REL 321 Rel & Ident in South Asia 3
- REL 322 Tales from Asia: Told and Retold in Film and Popular Culture 3
- REL 341 Theories of Myth 3
- REL 415 Religion in the American South 3
- REL 419 Myth Ritual And Magic 3
- REL 420 Gospel Of Mark 3
- REL 440 Theories of Religion 3

Variable Topics Courses

Depending on the topic, the following courses may be counted toward any track. In addition, students can earn a maximum of nine hours for any variable topics courses that address different course content.

- REL 361 Individual Research 3
- REL 370 Adv Study Religion In Religion and Communication 3
- REL 371 Adv St Religion and Conflict 3
- REL 372 Adv Std Religion and Context 3
- REL 373 Seminar Rel and Communication 3
- REL 400 RELIGIOUS STUDIES HONORS THESIS 3
- REL 460 Individual Research 3
- REL 461 Individual Research 3
- REL 480 Seminar Rel and Conflict 3
- REL 483 Seminar Rel and Context 3
- REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar 3

Religion in Popular Culture

REL 360 Individual Research is offered every semester and is devoted to studying religion in popular culture/public humanities; it is a one credit hour course repeatable up to a total of three credit hours and is open to all students. REL 360 Individual Research meets in the evenings to view and then blog on films (different films are included each semester, with faculty introducing them and leading a discussion after). It also includes includes attending either the annual Day or Aronov Lectures (the former each Fall and the latter each Spring).

REL Honors Track

REL 400 RELIGIOUS STUDIES HONORS THESIS is part of the REL Honors Track, which is open to majors/double majors in REL who have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and at least a 3.5 GPA in their REL major. It involves enrolling in 3 hours of REL 400 (normally in your senior year) and writing a final thesis (equivalent to a publishable paper in an undergraduate student journal). The track also requires that one regularly offered REL seminar be designated as your Honors Seminar, normally taken prior to enrolling in REL 400. An oral defense of your thesis is required. Please speak with the REL advisor no later than your Junior year if you are interested in applying for this track; for more information speak with an REL professor whom you hope to be your thesis advisor.

Types of Jobs Accepted

Lawyer, Medical Doctor, Academic Publisher, Religious Professional, Human Resources Specialist, Lobbyist.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center.