



# Religious Studies

Major and Minor

Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts

[www.gvsu.edu/rel](http://www.gvsu.edu/rel)

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*The diverse and often contested religious/cultural perspectives in our contemporary world demonstrate the need for leaders who are educated in religious history and tradition and who have the capability of critically examining their own cultural assumptions while engaging in dialogue with global and local populations. An academic, critical understanding of the world's religions provides a foundation for understanding diverse ideas and cultures. This is particularly important in our post-9/11 culture, where religion is playing such a significant role in political movements and cross-cultural dialogue.*

## MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES: (21 credits)

REL 100 Religions of the World  
REL 200 Introduction to Religious Studies  
REL 300 Contemporary Theories and Issues in Religious Studies

## CORE: (Credits: 12)

REL 100 Religions of the World  
REL 200 Introduction to Religious Studies: Concepts, Methods and Traditions  
REL 300 Contemporary Theories and Issues in Religious Studies  
REL 495 Religious Studies Senior Seminar (capstone)

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON TRADITIONS COURSES: (Credits: 9)

Select three from the following list of Global Perspectives courses.

REL 310 Jewish Scriptures and Traditions  
REL 305 Christianity: Scriptures and Tradition  
PHI 210 Eastern Philosophy  
MES 350 Islam: Scriptures and Rituals

## DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES COURSES: (Credits: 6)

Select two from the following list of Disciplinary Approaches courses.

ANT 315 Comparative Religions  
REL 335 Sacred Texts—Global Contexts  
PHI 343 Philosophy of Religion  
PLS 330 Religion and Politics in U.S.  
PSY 385 Psychology of Religion  
SOC 287 Sociology of Religion

## ELECTIVES: (Credits: 6)

Select two from the following list of Elective courses.

CJ 405 Terrorism	LIB 400 Jung and Shamanism
CLA 315 Ancient Religion	MGT 340 Business, Social Change, Ethics
ENG 204 World Mythology	PHI 306 Eastern Great Philosophers
HST 211 History of Islamic Civilization	PHI 312 Medieval Great Philosophers
HST 311 History of Religion/ U.S.	PHI 341 Death and Dying
HST 337 Age of Islamic Empire	REL 380 Special Topics Courses
HST 376 History of Witches	REL 340 Religion and Popular Culture in the U.S.
HST 342 History of East Asian Religions	

Two courses from the Global Perspectives category  
One course from the Disciplinary Approaches category  
One course from designated Electives

Plus one additional course from Global Perspectives on Traditions, Electives, or Disciplinary Approaches categories

## B.A./B.S. COGNATE:

Religious Studies majors may earn either a B.S. or a B.A. The B.S. degree cognate is STA 215, LIB 301 and one of the following: ANT 315, PLS 300, PSY 385 or SOC 287. The B.A. degree cognate requires demonstrating third semester proficiency in a foreign language.