

---

# Religious Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

**OFFICE:** Arts and Letters 662

**TELEPHONE:** 619-594-5185 / **FAX:** 619-594-1004

**E-MAIL:** [hoagland@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:hoagland@mail.sdsu.edu)

<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/relstweb/rsweb>

## Faculty

Emeritus: Anderson, Downing, Friedman, Geffer, Jordan, Khalil, Sparks

Chair: Moore

Professors: Frost, Holler

Associate Professors: Levitt, Mohammed, Moore

Assistant Professors: Timalisina, Tsai

Lecturers: Boni, Swayd, Whitaker

## Offered by the Department

Major in religious studies with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Minor in religious studies.

## The Major

The academic study of religion is central to the creation of a community of world citizens. Our program is designed for students who live in a pluralistic society and who wish to investigate the role religions play in human life and society. Because religion has shaped the human story of almost every culture, it is difficult to understand human behavior or to interpret world events without grasping how religion has helped to determine them. As United States Supreme Court Justices Clark and Goldberg wrote in their decision allowing the study of religion in public schools, "one's education is not complete without a study of comparative religion or the history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization." Part of the liberal arts, religious studies employs critical analysis and methods from a variety of disciplines to understand religious traditions as well as to question the dogmas, stereotypes, and prejudices that may surround those traditions. In addition to investigating religious symbols, texts, practices, and belief systems, the study of religion examines the relationship of religion to ethics, contemporary social issues, politics, history, psychology, science, literature, and the arts.

### Career Outlook

Religious studies prepares students for any career that requires critical thinking, analysis, oral and written communication skills, and the ability to reflect on questions of meaning and value. The study of religion is excellent pre-professional preparation for fields such as law, teaching, medicine, counseling, social work, conflict resolution, international business, foreign service, journalism, various ministries and other careers in non-profit organizations and public service. While some of our majors go on to do graduate work in religion or related academic fields, other graduates find themselves well prepared for careers requiring imagination, problem solving, communication, self-understanding, and awareness of human diversity.

### Double Majors and The Minor

Because religious studies is interdisciplinary and multicultural it is an excellent degree to complement many other majors. Double majors are easily accommodated within a well-designed four-year course of study, since the religious studies major has only a 36-unit requirement. Graduates from the program have had double majors with biology, communication, history, psychology, and other fields where the study of religion enhances or focuses the second major. The 15-unit minor is

a less ambitious way to combine your major interests with the academic study of religion. Anyone who is interested in human beliefs, behavior, and values would benefit from a minor in religious studies.

## Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

## Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

## Religious Studies Major

**With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences**  
**(Major Code: 15101)**

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in religious studies courses can apply to the degree.

A minor is not required with this major.

**Preparation for the Major.** Religious Studies 101; Religious Studies 100 or 103. (6 units)

**Language Requirement.** Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

**Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.** Passing the Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 10 or above or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W or 500W with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

**Major.** A minimum of 30 upper division units in religious studies to include Religious Studies 400 and at least three units from Sacred Texts, nine units from World Traditions, nine units from Religion, Society, and Culture, three units from Religion in the Americas, and three additional units selected from any of the four areas.

**Area 1, Sacred Texts:** Religious Studies 301, 305, 310, 315. (3 units)

**Area 2, World Traditions:** Religious Studies 320, 325, 328, 333, 335, 338, 339, 342, 345, Philosophy 351, 412. (9 units)

**Area 3, Religion, Society, and Culture:** Religious Studies 350, 353, 358, 363, 364, 370, 373, 376, 378, 379, Philosophy 535, Sociology 338, Women's Studies 515. (9 units)

**Area 4, Religion in the Americas:** Religious Studies 390A, 390B, 395, 530, American Indian Studies 470. (3 units)

Courses with variable content (496, 580, 581, 582, 583, 596) may be used in the four areas of study when deemed relevant by the department adviser.

## Religious Studies Minor

The minor in religious studies consists of a minimum of 15 units taken in the Department of Religious Studies to include at least three lower division units and 12 upper division units.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

REL 5