

Exciting Opportunities

See what's happening in the Religious Studies Department
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You'll get up to date event information and see what the faculty are up to.

<https://www.facebook.com/IUPUIReligiousStudies/>
IG @iupuireligiousstudies

RSSA (Religious Studies Student Association)

https://thespot.iupui.edu/organization/religious_studies

We welcome all students to share ideas and help plan events that promote discussion and understanding of religions and culture.

If interested, please contact our RSSA president:

Alondra Arriaga-Rosales
aarriag@iu.edu

RSSA Faculty Advisor
Kelly Hayes
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For details on Religious Studies major and minor:

<https://liberalarts.iupui.edu/departments/religious-studies/current-students/major/>

Faculty Mentor:

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Religious Studies Department

Check the news any day, and it is clear why understanding religions is imperative. Developing a cultural literacy about religion is vital preparation for careers, citizenship, and service in our pluralistic world. Our students improve their skills of critical thinking and problem solving, oral and written communication, and working with people from different backgrounds, which are all top needs cited by employers in an *Indiana Business Council* survey.

The Department of Religious Studies offers courses in Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Native American religions, Africana religions, and new religions, along with American religious history and culture, biblical studies, gender studies, and religious and social ethics. Our courses complement many other fields: health, medicine, nursing, international studies, politics, public affairs, history, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, literature, secondary education, social work.

Spring 2023

R101	Religion & Culture	Jain	T/R 1:30-2:45
R103	Bible & Culture	Davis	MW 1:30-2:45
R173	American Religion	Wheeler	WEB (2 nd 8 wk)
R180	Intro to Christianity	Thuesen	Web
R212	Comparative Religions	Condon	Web
R243	Intro to New Testament	Davis	M/W 10:30-11:45
R300	East and West in Conversation <i>Also listed as: AMST A303/EALC E351</i>	Davis	M/W 9:00-10:15
R328	Rel. of the African Diaspora <i>Also listed as: AFRO A303</i>	Hayes	M/W 3:00-4:15 (1 st 12 week)
R348	Religion and Its Monsters <i>Also listed as ENG-L213</i>	Condon	T/R 10:30-11:45
R384	Rel., Ethics, and Health	Craig	M/W 12:00-1:15
R397	Intro to Mormonism	Thuesen	WEB
R398	Women in Amer Indian Religions <i>Also listed as: NAIS-N398</i>	Champion-Shaw	MW 1:30-2:45

*For course descriptions, see:

<https://liberalarts.iupui.edu/departments/religious-studies/current-students/courses/>

What Students Say about Religious Studies

"I discovered Religious Studies my Freshman year and I just ran with it. I came to IUPUI as an English major and not really sure what I wanted to do. I was advised to be a part of a Themed Learning Community (TLC) as a way to fill some of my culture and humanities course requirements. The TLC included an Introduction to Religion class. It was amazing because I had never taken a class about religious studies before and I didn't know it existed as a field of study. I fell in love with the class and by the end of the semester I had switched majors. I'm fascinated by the ways in which people have come to explain and believe in the world around them, and Religious Studies offers a way to learn about and ask questions in ways I wasn't able to in high school. It provides valuable skills for a future career like academic writing and how to do research while being able to openly explore areas that interest you with professors who care about your individual success. Religious Studies changed the preconceptions I had about what college was going to be like for the better, and I'm incredibly grateful for the connections I've made with other students and faculty within the department." **Alix Tijerina, 2019 Outstanding Religious Studies Student**

"There are a multitude of things I learned from Religious Studies—predominantly, about different religions, but more deeply about how religious values and worldviews affect decision making and political stances. This was really important to me because understanding people's religions helped me understand why and how they make medical care decisions." **Kamna Gupta, Medical Humanities and Health Studies B.A., Religious Studies minor '20; 2020 School of Liberal Arts Faculty Medal of Academic Distinction; now a student at IU School of Medicine**

"Religious Studies is a space where we can talk about genuinely challenging issues. I was able to apply concepts of diversity that we learn in the undergraduate system and also critique those concepts as not going far enough. They don't address structures of oppression, class inequality, capitalism. I was provided the opportunity to explore diversity both within and outside of campus." **Ahmed Abbas, Religious Studies and Global and International Studies, B.A. '20; 2020 School of Liberal Arts Faculty Medal of Academic Distinction; now a student at the University of Minnesota Law School**

"With my Religious Studies degree, I certainly gained knowledge about many religions, but what I am really proud to contribute to my career is understanding, patience, and tolerance for people who think and operate differently than I do." **Samantha McManus, B.A. '13, Employee Relations Coordinator, Knowledge Services**

"Religious Studies attempts to understand how religion motivates every aspect of our lives. A student majoring in Religious Studies can expect to trot the globe studying the world's religions, actively participate in sacred rituals and ceremonies, discuss the nuances and chasms apparent in comparative religions, all the while learning more about their neighbor and ultimately about oneself. Corporations and governments, nonprofits and religious institutions are searching for individuals who possess an empathic awareness of other cultures and how to communicate differences and similarities en masse. Today I use what I learned from my religious studies degree every day, on my job, in my community, and in my home. The professors in the department are the best kept secret on IUPUI's campus...check out one class and you'll see why." **-Colby Hill '13 B.A. Religious Studies; NE Indy Pastor, Heartland Church**

