Religious Studies (REL) Major

Are you curious about what other people think? Do you want to know why people do what they do? Then come explore the history and diversity of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Native American and other religious traditions. Studying religions reveals people's deepest desires and beliefs. Our courses explore how religious communities perform worship, shape moral norms and gender roles, wage war and make peace, influence what people eat, how they dress, and how they live and die. Studying religions is also personally meaningful as students and faculty reflect together on big ethical and philosophical questions.

Religious studies majors have gone into careers in a variety of fields that require critical thinking and problem-solving, excellent writing and communication skills, and an ability to work with people from different cultural backgrounds. Our graduates have found employment in counseling, social work, health care, teaching, higher education, ministry, nonprofits, fundraising, government, community organizing, publishing, and business. Many of our majors pursue graduate study, for example, in law, social work, counseling, philanthropy, medicine, religious studies, ministry, history, bioethics, linguistics, educational psychology, biology, software engineering, and more.

The Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Religious Studies (REL) requires satisfactory completion of the following:

- completion of general education and distribution requirements as indicated in the School of Liberal Arts section of the IUPUI bulletin that was current when the student declared a major in Religious Studies;
- completion of a total of 30 credit hours of Religious Studies courses, with a minimum grade of C in each course;
- at least 18 credits must be taken at the 300 level or above
- completion of a minimum of 21 credit hours in the Religious Studies major at IUPUI (effective Fall 2018).

**Major Requirements:**

- 3 credit hours chosen from the following introductory core courses:
  
  REL-R 101: Religion and Culture  
  REL-R 133: Introduction to Religion  
  REL-R 212: Comparative Religions

- 6 credit hours at the 100 or 200 level, chosen from above courses or the following lower level courses:

  REL-R 103: The Bible and Culture  
  REL-R 111: The Bible  
  REL-R 120: Images of Jesus  
  REL-R 173: American Religion

- 15 credit hours at the 300 or 400 level, chosen from the following advanced courses:

  REL-R 300: Studies in Religion- topics such as:  
  
  Yoga Traditions  
  REL-R 301: Women and Religion  
  REL-R 304: Islamic Beginnings  
  REL-R 305: Islam and Modernity  
  REL-R 312: Prophets, Captives, and Converts: Autobiographies in American Religion  
  REL-R 314: Religion and Racism  
  REL-R 323: Yuppies Yogis and Global Gurus  
  REL-R 325: Paul and His Influence in Early Christianity  
  REL-R 328: Afro-Diasporic Religions  
  REL-R 329: Early Christianity  
  REL-R 344: Reformations of the Sixteenth Century  
  REL-R 348: Religion and Its Monsters  
  REL-R 361: Hinduism and Buddhism  
  REL-R 363: African-American Religions  
  REL-R 367: American Indian Religions  
  REL-R 394: Militant Religion  
  REL-R 396: Religion and Fantasy  
  REL-R 397: Mormonism and American Culture  
  REL-R 398: Women in American Indian Religions  
  REL-R 399: Comparative Religious Ethics  
  REL-R 400: Studies in Religion

- 3 credit hours at any level

- 3 credit hours in the departmental Senior Capstone, REL-R 433: Theories of Religion *(only offered fall semesters)*

**Academic Advising:**

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5/2018