



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM

JUDAIC STUDIES • ISLAMIC STUDIES  
CHRISTIANITY STUDIES

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Religious Studies programs at Oakland University offer an independent major in Religious Studies, a general concentration in Religious Studies, as well as three minors in Religious Studies: Judaic Studies, Islamic Studies, and Christianity Studies.

Religious Studies programs offer you the opportunity to examine the world's religions from an interdisciplinary perspective: a poignant, deep and critical examination of their beliefs and histories as well as their cultural, historical and political roles in shaping today's world. You will gain capacities that help bolster your interpersonal skills, acquire sensitivities for negotiating an increasingly diverse workplace, develop an informed ethical framework, plus gain a stronger and more nuanced sense of self and a better understanding of our progressively global and interactive world.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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[oakland.edu/religiousstudies](http://oakland.edu/religiousstudies)



Religion is the activity by which people interpret and order their lives, both individually and collectively, according to patterns of transcendent reality. Religion directly shapes, judges, liberates, enlightens, inspires, terrifies, creates and destroys — all in order to bring human life to ultimate fulfillment.

— David Weddle

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES MINORS

The minor in religious studies provides students with a coherent and nuanced framework for achieving greater insights into the scope and complexity of global challenges facing the contemporary world.

### ISLAMIC STUDIES MINOR

*Required courses selected from*

- REL 100 Introduction to Religion
- REL 150 World Religious Traditions
- REL 101 Introduction to Islam
- REL 321 Islamic Ethics
- REL 331 Islam in the Modern World
- REL 422 Islam in America
- REL 300 Special Topics course in Islamic Studies

*One of the following field-related courses*

- AH 104 Arts of Asia and the Islamic World
- HST 356 The Modern Middle East
- HST 357 The Arab-Israeli Conflict
- IS 270 Perspectives on the Middle East
- PHL 205 Medieval Philosophy

*One of the following applications*

- ARB 114 Introduction to Arabic Language and Culture I
- REL 450 Religious Community Project Internship
- REL 490 Directed Readings in Religious Studies
- Approved study abroad course in a Middle Eastern country

### JUDAIC STUDIES MINOR

*Required courses selected from*

- REL 100 Introduction to Religion
- REL 150 World Religious Traditions
- REL 102 Introduction to Judaism

*Two core studies courses selected from*

- PHL 205 Medieval Philosophy
- REL 307 Jewish History
- REL 317 The Book of Genesis
- REL 318 Written Traditions of Judaism
- REL 319 Concepts of God and Man in Judaism
- REL 353 The Bible as Literature or ENG 305 (same name)
- REL 420 The Jewish Experience in American Life
- REL 421 The Holocaust
- Any REL 300 Special Topics course in Judaic Studies

*One of the following applications*

- Hebrew language course
- REL 450 Religious Community Project Internship
- REL 490 Directed Readings in Religious Studies
- Approved study abroad course in Israel

### CHRISTIANITY STUDIES MINOR

*Required courses selected from*

- REL 100 Introduction to Religion
- REL 150 World Religious Traditions
- REL 103 Introduction to Christianity

*Two core courses selected from*

- AH 322 Early Medieval, Byzantine, and Romanesque Art
- AH 326 Gothic Art
- HST 326 The Italian Renaissance
- HST 327 The Reformation
- PHL 205 Medieval Philosophy
- REL 323 Christian Ethics
- REL 349 Early Christian Spirituality
- REL 353 The Bible as Literature or ENG 305 (same name)
- REL 300 Special Topics in Religious Studies when relevant to Christian studies

*One of the following applications*

- REL 450 Religious Community Project Internship
- REL 490 Directed Readings in Religious Studies

## INDEPENDENT MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

To arrange an independent major in Religious Studies, contact the program director.

*We begin with lived experience and search for answers given from time immemorial for the meaning of life.*

*We read texts together dialoging among ourselves, examining new ideas, analyzing ethics, history and cultures.*

*We examine our own embedded belief systems and challenge one another to grow into ethical responsibility for the emerging global village, rather than forcing our own way of believing and thinking on others.*

*We prepare one another for deeper, richer careers in such areas as business, counseling, teaching, engineering, government, law, ministry, medicine, social work, writing and journalism.*

*We develop among ourselves a global awareness that fashions a strong consciousness of the realities of modern cultural diversity.*

*Religion is not only a part of education, an element of humanity, but the center of everything else, always the first and the ultimate, the absolutely original.*

- Friedrich Von Schlegel

## CONCENTRATION IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

*Required course selected from*

- REL 100 Introduction to Religion
- REL 150 World Religious Traditions

### CORE STUDIES

*Two of the following*

- REL 201 Basic Religious Writings
- REL 303 American Religious Experience
- REL 351 Religion in the Modern World
- REL 355 Science and Religion

### FIELD-RELATED STUDIES

*Four courses selected from at least three of the following five fields*

#### Art

- AH 104 Arts of Asia and the Islamic World
- AH 310 Art of the Ancient Near East
- AH 322 Early Medieval, Byzantine and Romanesque Art
- AH 326 Gothic Art

#### History

- HST 303 History of Religions in the U.S.
- HST 325 Medieval Europe
- HST 327 The Reformation
- HST 357 The Arab-Israeli Conflict
- REL 300 Special Topics in Religious Studies

#### Literature

- REL 353 The Bible as Literature or ENG 305 (same name)
- ENG 312 Classical Mythology

#### Philosophy

- PHL 205 Medieval Philosophy
- REL 325 Philosophy of Religion or PHL 325 (same name)
- REL 359 Philosophies and Religions of Asia or PHL 350 (same name)

#### Social Science

- PSY 445 Seminar in Individual Differences and Personality Psychology, only when special topic is religion
- REL 271 Magic, Witchcraft and Religion or AN 271 (same name)
- REL 305 The Sociology of Religion or SOC 305 (same name)