

Religious Studies



What is Religious Studies?

The academic study of religion focuses on forms of religious life and religious expression, even as it asks what religion is. It investigates basic issues about human experience, surveying and analyzing how people have understood, shaped, and expressed what it means to be human. Religious studies challenges your ability to understand and interpret texts and practices from a variety of cultural sources and historical settings.

In Relation to the World at Large

Religious ideas and institutions are in close relationship with those of law, politics, economics, art, and science, among others. As our society becomes more global, the need to make connections with one another becomes all the more critical. Religious studies can help you become a more critical thinker

and expand your cultural competence. Learning how to analyze disparate ideas, texts, historical contexts, and institutions, and place them in conversation with each other is the key skill set for the new millennium.



“Everything I’m good at today, I learned how to do it at Mizzou.”—Marcia Chatelain, BA '01, BJ '01, Provost’s Distinguished Associate Professor of History and African American Studies, Georgetown University

Where Can a Degree in Religious Studies Take Me?

Courses in religious studies train students in critical thinking, reading, writing, communicating and

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articulating an argument or point of view; researching and evaluating sources; and planning and undertaking projects. You will learn meth-

ods for thinking about and engaging with religious and cultural phenomena. Religious studies majors gain excellent skills that are transferable to careers in many areas.

Many of our students are double majors. Combining religious studies with degrees such as biology,

journalism, anthropology, or history will add valuable understanding of cultural and religious diversity to your education and will be an asset in your future career.

Job Titles of Some Recent MU Religious Studies Grads

Professor of History, Religion, or Classics • Managing Editor • Director of Development • Entrepreneur/Chocolatier • Attorney • Homeland Security Analyst • Academic Adviser • Minister

About the Department

We offer a [bachelor of arts \(BA\)](#) in religious studies, and a [minor](#). The [Religious Studies Club](#), interesting and informative lectures series, and fun social events all contribute to an open and inclusive department atmosphere.

Why MU?

As a religious studies major, you might

- join faculty members in pursuing a research project on a topic of significance
- take advantage of numerous opportunities to study abroad, where you can enrich what you have learned in coursework

- enroll in courses that are both standard in solid religious studies curricula (e.g., World Religions or Islam) and innovative and reflective of special interests of the faculty (e.g., Religion and Psychological Perspectives or Harry Potter: Magic and Religion)
- pursue a double major (e.g., religious studies and biology or anthropology) or a dual degree (e.g., religious studies and journalism)

Scholarships & Awards

[Scholarships](#) are available from the department and also from the College of Arts and Science. Religious studies majors also compete for such major nation-



al scholarships as Rhodes, Truman, Fulbright, and other highly prestigious awards. Scholarships from the College of Arts and Science are also available for research and study-abroad opportunities.

For More Info

 religiousstudies.missouri.edu

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Complete undergraduate course listing: catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/religiousstudies/#courseinventory

MU Admissions: admissions.missouri.edu



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