

Rice University

Minor in Religion

Approved by the Faculty Senate

March 20, 2019

February 20, 2019

Request for Departmental Minor in Religion
Department of Religion
Proposed by April D. DeConick, Chair

Request: The Department of Religion requests the creation of an undergraduate minor in Religion, which will be in addition to the already established undergraduate major in Religion. The minor will be administered and monitored by the Department.

Endorsement: This proposal was endorsed by majority vote by the faculty in the department of Religion at the department meeting on 2-11-19. The vote was unanimous with one absentee who consented later upon consultation. The endorsement of the Dean of the Humanities is attached to this document.

Brief Summary of the Objectives of the Minor: The Department sees this minor as a coherent course of study for students to master a core body of basic knowledge about the study of religion and have the opportunity to get a broad overview of the study of Religion as a field which is outside their major focus of study at Rice. It has long been the goal of our department to expose as many students as possible to our theoretical frameworks for the comparative study of religion, and to that end we offer some of the largest courses in the School of Humanities. We are making this change also to compensate for removing our reduced requirements for double majors, a provision that dates to a time when Rice offered no minors. Starting with AY 2019-2020, all RELI majors will take a minimum of 10 courses, whether or not they are double majors; students who are unable to do that, we hope, will be able to take our minor. The minor in Religion is ideal for students who want to enrich their major studies at the University with a specific focus on the study of religion and to explore how this body of knowledge might apply to their own specific academic or professional goals.

Requirements for the Minor: Please note that these requirements are entirely in tandem with the requirements for the undergraduate major in Religion. The core requirement and the religious tradition requirement are stable in both the minor and the major because these provide the anchor in terms of methodologies and basic information about world religions. The difference is in the number of electives: the minor requires 4 fewer courses than the major. There is also no senior project requirement for the minor.

A minimum of 6 RELI courses (18 credit hours)

A minimum of 3 RELI courses (9 credit hours) at the 300-level or above

Core Requirement A (Introductory Course):

RELI 101: Introduction to the Study of Religion (3 credit hours)

Core Requirement B (Religious Traditions):

a.) 1 course in Religious Traditions of Judaism/Christianity/Islam/African-American Religions (3 credit hours)

b.) 1 course in Religious Traditions of Indigenous African Religions/American Religions/Buddhism/Hinduism (3 credit hours)

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Electives: 3 courses from RELI undergraduate course offerings (see GA Course Catalog for Religion) (9 credits)

No transfer credit accepted for the minor requirements

(See Appendix 1 for updated GA Text, which includes more detail on Minor Requirements.)

Required and elective courses

Required: RELI 101: Introduction to the Study of Religion (3 credits)

Required: 2 courses in religious traditions:

1 course in Judaism/Christianity/Islam/African-American Religions and 1 course in Indigenous African Religions/American Religions/Buddhism/ Hinduism (6 credits).

Electives: 3 courses from RELI undergraduate course offerings (see Rice University Course Catalog, RELI subject code) (9 credits)

(See Appendix 1 for updated GA Text, which includes Religious Traditions course list.)

Program Learning Objectives

Upon completing the minor in Religion, students will meet the following Program Learning Objectives:

1: *Critical Skills for the Study of Religion: Theory, Method and (Inter)Disciplinarity*

Demonstrate knowledge of the critical toolkit used to the study of religion and religious traditions, including (inter)disciplinary methodologies and theories at a basic level.

2: *Religious Literacy*

Gain basic objective knowledge of the beliefs, practices, and institutional histories of the world's religions.

Curriculum Map and Assessment Plan

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (John Cornwell) does not require these for a minor when a major is already established with assessment in place.

Faculty Involved

All faculty in the Department will be teaching classes for the minor, just as they do for the major.

Elias Bongbma

Marcia Brennan

Niki Clements

David Cook

April DeConick

Claire Fanger

Matthias Henze

Anne Kleine

Jeffrey Kripal

Brian Ogren

Bill Parsons

Anthony Pinn

John Stroup

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Appendix 1: Proposed General Announcement Text [for inclusion in 2019-2020 GA]

GA Text below is for the *Overview*, *Undergraduate*, and for the Minor in Religion, the *Outcomes and Requirements* Tabs.

Religion

Overview | [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#) | [Faculty](#) | [Courses](#) | [Codes](#)

The Religion department's undergraduate major is built to be as flexible as possible so that students may pursue individual interests and interdisciplinary goals. The major provides students with the opportunity to explore mainline religious traditions and marginal/repressed religious currents within multicultural and transnational contexts. Students will gain religious literacy while studying the historical, social, cultural, psychological, philosophical, and cognitive dynamics of religion and religious experience.

The department also offers an undergraduate minor for students who wish to master a core body of basic knowledge about the study of religion and have the opportunity to get a broad overview of the study of Religion as a field which is outside their major focus of study at Rice.

The department is well-known for its graduate program in the study of Religion which provides students with the opportunity to apprentice with premier faculty and tailor their program of study to their interests. While vibrant coursework in traditional religions is offered, the department is especially known for an emphasis on heterodoxy and multiculturalism. As part of its graduate program, the Religion department offers a Master of Arts and a PhD degree. Additionally, the Certificate in Gnosticism, Esotericism, and Mysticism (GEM) is an extra graduate-level credential the department offers to degree-seeking graduate students.

Religion

[Overview](#) | **[Undergraduate](#)** | [Graduate](#) | [Faculty](#) | [Courses](#) | [Codes](#)

Bachelor's Programs

- [Bachelor of Arts \(BA\) Degree with a Major in Religion](#)

Addition of the Minor category below

Minor

- [Minor in Religion](#)
-

Minor in Religion

Outcomes | [Requirements](#) | [Policies](#) | [Opportunities](#)

{New}

Program Learning Outcomes for the Minor in Religion

Upon completing the minor in Religion, students will be able to meet the following Program Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the critical toolkit used to the study of religion and religious traditions, including (inter)disciplinary methodologies and theories at a basic level.
(Critical Skills for the Study of Religion: Theory, Method and (Inter)Disciplinarity)
2. Gain basic objective knowledge of the beliefs, practices, and institutional histories of the world's religions.
(Religious Literacy)

Minor in Religion

[Overview](#) | **Requirements** | [Policies](#) | [Opportunities](#)

{New}

Requirements for the Minor in Religion

Students pursuing the minor in Religion must complete:

- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) to satisfy minor requirements.
- A minimum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) at the 300-level or above.
- A minimum of 3 courses to meet core requirements, one introductory course (RELI 101) and two religious traditions courses
- A minimum of 3 courses from departmental (RELI) course offerings, to meet elective requirements
- No courses from study abroad or other transfer credit accepted for the minor requirement

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this minor. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the minor's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the minor's [Official Certifier](#).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Total Credit Hours Required for the Minor in Religion

18

Minor Requirements

Core Requirements		
Core Course		
RELI 101	INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION	3
Religious Traditions		
<i>Select 1 course from each of the following 2 categories for a total of 2 courses (see course list below):</i>		6
Judaism/Christianity/Islam/African-American Religions		
Indigenous African Religions/American Religions/Buddhism/Hinduism		
Elective Requirements		
<i>Select 3 departmental (RELI) course offerings</i>		18
Total Credit Hours		18

Appendix 1: Course List for Religious Traditions requirement

Disclaimer: While the following list represents our curriculum as it stands this year, there are always new courses coming into our curriculum and others being removed. So this represents a solid list for the current AY, but will be slightly different next year.

Judaism/Christianity/Islam/African-American Religions

<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>		3
RELI 100 / FSEM 100 / MDEM 100	ROMANCING RELIGION: NARRATIVES OF THE SACRED	
RELI 104 / MDEM 103	INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM	
RELI 105 / MDEM 105	INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN THOUGHT	
RELI 108	INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM	
RELI 112	COMPARING CHRISTIANITIES	
RELI 113	INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA	
RELI 116 / MDEM 116	MYSTICISM THROUGHOUT THE AGES	
RELI 124	RELIGION AND THE ART OF HAPPINESS	
RELI 126 / HEBR 126	FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING	
RELI 127	INTERMEDIATE BIBLICAL HEBREW III	
RELI 157	RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA	

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RELI 158	LIBERATION THEOLOGIES
RELI 171 / FSEM 171 / MDEM 171	THE BODY AND THE COSMOS IN THE MIDDLE AGES
RELI 203 / HIST 201	JUDAISM OF JESUS AND HILLEL
RELI 213	THE PROPHET JEREMIAH: THE BIBLICAL BOOK AND ITS RECEPTION IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY
RELI 215 / FILM 215	MYSTIC CINEMA: KABBALAH IN FILM
RELI 217	SHI'ISM: ASSASSINS AND AYATULLAH
RELI 221 / ASIA 221	THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD
RELI 223	QUR'AN AND COMMENTARY
RELI 243	THE BOOK OF GENESIS
RELI 270	INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES
RELI 271 / MDEM 271	MEDIEVAL POPULAR CHRISTIANITY
RELI 282	INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY
RELI 294	RELIGION IN FICTION AND FILM
RELI 301	NIETZSCHE AND RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
RELI 304	JESUS AND THE GOSPELS
RELI 305 / MDEM 305	PAIN, ECSTASY AND EMBODIMENT IN RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
RELI 343 / HART 347	SEMINAR ON LOVE
RELI 348	CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM IN AFRICA
RELI 350 / MDEM 350	DEMONS, MENTAL ILLNESS AND MEDICINE
RELI 356	MAJOR ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAM
RELI 357	WHAT'S RELIGIOUS ABOUT BLACK RELIGION?
RELI 359	RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE CRUCIBLE OF GLOBALIZATION
RELI 365	PAUL AND THE NEW TESTAMENT
RELI 369	READING WRIGHT: THEISM AND ATHEISM IN THE WRITINGS OF RICHARD WRIGHT
RELI 381	THE MESSIAH
RELI 382	LOST JUDAISMS: THE APOCRYPHAL WRITINGS
RELI 383	THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS
RELI 384	PILGRIMAGE AND CRUSADE
RELI 385 / HIST 381	GOD, TIME AND HISTORY
RELI 387	WESTERN ESOTERICISM: METHOD AND THEORY

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RELI 388	THE PSALMS AND THEIR POETIC AFTERLIFE
RELI 390	SEARCH FOR GOD IN THE POSTMODERN WORLD
RELI 391 / MDEM 391	THE REFORMATION & ITS RESULTS
RELI 392	JERUSALEM: HOLY CITY IN TIME AND IMAGINATION
RELI 395	LOSING YOUR RELIGION IN FILM & FICTION & MUSIC
RELI 406	CHRISTIANITY AND LATE ANTIQUITY
RELI 415	SECRET RELIGION
RELI 416	NEW TESTAMENT / CHRISTIAN ORIGINS
RELI 424	RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AFRICA
RELI 426	RELIGION AND LITERATURE IN AFRICA
RELI 427	HISTORY AND METHODS: NINETEETH CENTURY
RELI 428	HISTORY AND METHODS: TWENTIETH CENTURY
RELI 430	RELIGION, PSYCHOLOGY & CULTURE
RELI 440	ISLAM'S MYSTICAL AND ESOTERIC TRADITION
RELI 441 / ASIA 441	MAGIC AND POPULAR RELIGION
RELI 442	CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ARABIC TEXTS
RELI 443	MAIMONIDES "GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED"
RELI 449	EARLY CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIES
RELI 458	MYSTICISM: THEORIES AND METHODS
RELI 462 / MDEM 462	ENGLISH SPIRITUALITY AFTER HENRY VIII: PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC, OR ANGLICAN?
RELI 472	KABBALAH SEMINAR
RELI 476 / FREN 324 / POLI 324	FROM DECOLONIZATION TO GLOBALIZATION
RELI 481	GNOSTICISM SEMINAR
RELI 488	THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS SCHOOLS
RELI 490	AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND RELIGION

Indigenous African Religions/American Religions/Buddhism/Hinduism

<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>	3
RELI 111	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN RELIGIONS

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RELI 113	INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA
RELI 157	RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA
RELI 230 / ASIA 230	ASIAN RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
RELI 231 / ASIA 231	AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
RELI 232 / ASIA 232	RELIGIONS FROM INDIA
RELI 233 / TIBT 233	TIBETAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE I
RELI 234 / TIBT 234	TIBETAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE II
RELI 270	INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES
RELI 311	RELIGION AND HIP HOP CULTURE IN AMERICA
RELI 320 / POLI 320	THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE
RELI 322 / ASIA 322	INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
RELI 332 / TIBT 332	ADVANCED TIBETAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE
RELI 333	KNOWING BODY/GLOWING MIND: BUDDHIST ARTS OF CONTEMPLATION AND ANALYSIS
RELI 337	SHAMANS, SAINTS, & SAGES
RELI 340	THEOLOGY IN AFRICA
RELI 342 / ANTH 343	NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA
RELI 357	WHAT'S RELIGIOUS ABOUT BLACK RELIGION?
RELI 359	RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE CRUCIBLE OF GLOBALIZATION
RELI 369	READING WRIGHT: THEISM AND ATHEISM IN THE WRITINGS OF RICHARD WRIGHT
RELI 378	MIND AND ART, FILM AND LITERATURE IN BUDDHISM
RELI 393	MUTANTS AND MYSTICS: THE PARANORMAL AND POPULAR CULTURE
RELI 399	CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE
RELI 417	GNOSTIC AMERICA
RELI 423 / ANTH 423	AFRICAN MYTHS AND RITUALS
RELI 424	RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AFRICA
RELI 426	RELIGION AND LITERATURE IN AFRICA
RELI 433	TIBETAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
RELI 458	BUDDHIST WISDOM TEXTS



Kathleen M. Canning
Dean
Andrew Mellon Professor of History

February 18, 2019

To the University Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate:

I am glad to endorse this proposal from the Department of Religion for a new, within-discipline or departmental minor. The department can provide this 6-course minor with no additional resources at the current time. I am a strong supporter of this department and can commit to sustaining the department during my time at Rice at a level that makes this minor possible.

I am particularly glad to see Religion taking the lead on developing departmental minors, something I have encouraged in the School of Humanities. These minors will help to expose more Rice undergraduates to the department's offerings and meet a longstanding request from the Student Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen M. Canning".

Kathleen Canning
Dean of Humanities
Andrew Mellon Professor of History