INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Department of Comparative Religion is to describe and interpret the developments, worldviews and practices of religious traditions in a non-sectarian, academic manner for the benefit of students, faculty from other fields and the greater Orange County community.

Within a public university, religion must be approached with academic objectivity and without favoritism for any one tradition. Yet, religion must also be studied with sensitivity and empathy for the millions of believers whose lives are shaped by their faith.

Comparative Religion examines the spiritual quest of humankind, especially as it has manifested itself in the world's living religions. These include Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and other less familiar traditions. No other academic field looks at the origins, sacred writings, rituals, beliefs and world views of the various religions for their own sake rather than as an aspect of another field of study.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies is designed for those who: (1) want a humanities undergraduate background focusing on religion as a preparation for further study in such fields as education, law, social work, counseling and government service; (2) wish to pursue graduate studies in religion with the aim of teaching and/or conducting research in the subject; (3) are considering a career in various religious ministries or in religious education.

Because the major consists of 36 units of coursework (less than some other fields), it may be possible to add a second major in, for example, Communications, History or Philosophy. Such double majors may strengthen a student's job preparation or background for graduate studies.

Minors in religion are offered in four areas, depending on a student's particular interest: Religious Studies (comparative emphasis); Christian Studies; Jewish Studies; and Islamic Studies.

LEARNING GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following goals and learning outcomes have been established for students pursuing a degree in Comparative Religion:

**Ability to conduct research and interpret materials**
- Analyze written materials related to the study of religion
- Acquire information literacy in the study of religion

**Effective communication**
- Write well-organized critical and analytical research papers related to the study of religion
- Speak clearly and effectively using relevant and adequate supporting evidence
Demonstrate an understanding of religious traditions
- Describe the basic teachings and practices of major religious traditions, and compare and contrast the principal similarities and differences between them
- Identify the history and development of specific religions and their contemporary relevance
- Compare key theories and theorists in the study of religion
- Interpret key thinkers and figures within religious traditions

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (120 UNITS)**

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies requires 36 units in the major, all of which must be completed with a "C" (2.0) or higher.

**Lower-Division Requirements (9 units)**
*Introduction to the Study of Religion (3 units)*
CPRL 105 Religion and the Quest for Meaning (3)
CPRL 110 Religions of the World (3)

*Introduction to Western Religious Traditions (3 units)*
CPRL 200 Introduction to Christianity (3)
CPRL 201 Introduction to the New Testament (3)
CPRL 210 Introduction to Judaism (3)
CPRL 250 Introduction to Islam (3)

*Introduction to Non-Western Religious Traditions (3 units)*
CPRL 270T Introduction to the Asian Religions (3)
CPRL 280 Introduction to Buddhism (3)

**Upper-Division Requirements (27 units)**
*Methods and Concepts (6 units)*
CPRL 300 Methods of Studying Religion (3)
CPRL 485T Major Religious Thinkers and Concepts (3)*

*Development of Western Religious Thought (6 units)*
CPRL 350T Major Christian Traditions (3)
CPRL 351 History and Development of Early Christian Thought (3)
CPRL 352 History and Development of Modern Christian Thought (3)
CPRL 361 History and Development of Jewish Thought: Biblical and Rabbinical Eras (3)
CPRL 362 History and Development of Jewish Thought: Medieval and Modern Eras (3)
CPRL 371 History and Development of Islamic Thought: The Beginning to 1258 (3)
CPRL 372 History and Development of Islamic Thought: 1259 to Modern Times (3)
HIST/CPRL 412A History of the Christian Church to the Reformation (1517) (3)

*Development of Non-Western Religious Thought (6 units)*
AFAM/CPRL 325 African American Religions and Spirituality (3)
AFAM/CPRL 337 American Indian Religions and Philosophy (3)
CPRL 341 Hindu Tradition to 400 B.C.E. (3)
CPRL 342 Hindu Tradition from 400 B.C.E. (3)
PHIL 350 Asian Philosophy (3)
CPRL/PHIL 354T Topics in Buddhism (3)
CPRL 370 New Religious Movements in the U.S.A. (3)
HIST/CPRL 465A History of India (3)
HIST/CPRL 465B History of India (3)

*Experience of Religion (6 units)*
CPRL 306 Contemporary Practices of the World’s Religions (3)
CPRL 311 Religion and Film (3)
CPRL/CPRL 312 The Bible as Literature (3)
CPRL 335 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam Compared (3)
PHIL/CPRL 348 Philosophy of Religion (3)
CPRL 358 Comparative Mysticism (3)
CPRL 367 Religion in Latino/a Life (3)
CPRL 373 Women in Islam (3)
CPRL 374 Issues in Contemporary Islam (3)
CPRL 375 Conceptions of the Afterlife (3)
CPRL 380 Religion and Violence (3)
CPRL/POSC 381 Religion and Politics in the United States (3)
CPRL 397 Religion and Science (3)
CPRL 400 Religion, the Media, and Contemporary Culture (3)
SOCI/CPRL 458 Sociology of Religious Behavior (3)

*Textual Studies (3 units)*
CPRL 330T Hebrew Scriptural Studies (3)
CPRL 331T New Testament Studies (3)
CPRL 401T Studies in Religious Texts (3)

*May be taken only after completing 15 units in Comparative Religion, including CPRL 105 or 110 and 300, and junior standing.*
Writing Requirement
The course requirement of the university upper-division baccalaureate writing course is met through CPRL 485T. It is highly recommended that students majoring in Religious Studies pursue the study of classical languages such as Arabic, Greek, Hebrew, Latin and Sanskrit when such languages are offered.

MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (21 UNITS)
Lower-Division Requirements (9 units)
Introduction to the Study of Religion (3 units)
CPRL 105 Religion and the Quest for Meaning (3)
CPRL 110 Religions of the World (3)
Introduction to Western Religious Traditions (3 units)
CPRL 200 Introduction to Christianity (3)
CPRL 201 Introduction to the New Testament (3)
CPRL 210 Introduction to Judaism (3)
CPRL 250 Introduction to Islam (3)
Introduction to Non-western Religious Traditions (3 units)
CPRL 270T Introduction to the Asian Religions (3)
CPRL 280 Introduction to Buddhism (3)
Upper Division (12 units)
Core Requirements (3 units)
CPRL 300 Methods of Studying Religion (3)
Elective Courses (9 units)
Any nine units of upper-division courses in Comparative Religion. It is highly recommended that students majoring in Religious Studies pursue the study of classical languages such as Arabic, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, and Sanskrit when such courses are offered.

MINOR IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES (21 UNITS)
Required Courses (12 units)
CPRL 200 Introduction to Christianity (3)
CPRL 300 Methods of Studying Religion (3)
CPRL 351 History and Development of Early Christian Thought (3)
CPRL 352 History and Development of Modern Christian Thought (3)
Elective Courses (9 units), three of the following:
CPRL 201, 311, 331T, 335, 350T, 358, 367, 375, 380, 381, 397, 400, 485T*, 499*
CPRL/CPRL 312
AFAM/CPRL 325
HIST 420
HIST/CPRL 412A, 412B, 417B, 425B
SOCI/CPRL 458
It is highly recommended that students minoring in Christian Studies pursue the study of classical languages such as Greek, Hebrew, and Latin when such courses are offered.

MINOR IN ISLAMIC STUDIES (21 UNITS)
Required Courses (12 units)
CPRL 250 Introduction to Islam (3)
CPRL 300 Methods of Studying Religion (3)
CPRL 371 History and Development of Islamic Thought: The Beginning to 1258 (3)
CPRL 372 History and Development of Islamic Thought: 1259-Modern Times (3)
Elective Courses (9 units), three of the following:
AFAM/CPRL 325
CPRL 335, 373, 375, 380, 381, 400, 401T*, 485T*, 499*
HIST 468
HIST/CPRL 466A, 466B
SOCI/CPRL 458
*When content pertains to the Islamic tradition

MINOR IN JEWISH STUDIES (21 UNITS)
Required Courses (12 units)
CPRL 210 Introduction to Judaism (3)
CPRL 300 Methods of Studying Religion (3)
CPRL 361 History and Development of Jewish Thought: Biblical and Rabbinical Eras (3)
CPRL 362 History and Development of Jewish Thought: Medieval and Modern Eras (3)
Elective Courses (9 units), three of the following:
CPRL/CPRL 312
CPRL 330T, 335, 358, 375, 380, 381, 400, 485T*, 499*
HIST 467, 468
HIST/CPRL 412C, 435A
SOCI/CPRL 458
*When content pertains to the Jewish tradition.
COMPARATIVE RELIGION COURSES

Courses are designated as CPRL in the class schedule.

105 Religion and the Quest for Meaning (3)
Nature of religious experience as the human pursuit of meaning and transcendence, exploring its central themes, phenomena and questions; its principal types of figures and communities; and its major categories of sacred rituals, objects, seasons and places.

110 Religions of the World (3)
Introduction to at least five religious world views from an historical and comparative perspective, with descriptive analysis of their belief system, moral code and symbolic rituals: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. One or more sections offered online. (Same as PHIL 110)

200 Introduction to Christianity (3)
Overview of the Christian tradition, including Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant expressions. Foundational councils, creeds, scriptures, ideas and worship styles. One or more sections offered online.

201 Introduction to the New Testament (3)
Textual and historical study of the origins and content of the New Testament in the context of first-century Christianity. One or more sections offered online.

210 Introduction to Judaism (3)
The Jewish tradition – its scriptures, laws, customs, holidays and world view in their historical setting.

246A Basic Hatha Yoga (2)
(Same as KNES 246A)

246B Intermediate Hatha Yoga (2)
(Same as KNES 246B.)

250 Introduction to Islam (3)
Religion of Islam, its background and main teachings: the rise of Islam; the caliphate; Islamic theology, teachings, mysticism and philosophy. One or more sections offered online.

270T Introduction to the Asian Religions (3)
Main teachings of a major South Asian, Far Eastern or “Oriental” religion per semester. Such religions as Jainism, Hinduism, Taoism, Shintoism and Zoroastrianism will be discussed. May be repeated for credit with different subject matter. One or more sections offered online.

280 Introduction to Buddhism (3)
Introduction to the origins and development of Buddhism. Discussion of the major teachings found in all traditions of Buddhism, the three major traditions of Buddhism and the position of Buddhism in the U.S. One or more sections offered online.

300 Methods of Studying Religion (3)
Prerequisite: completion of any lower-division CPRL course or instructor approval. Academic study of religion to include: the definition, functions and varieties of religion; the methods used to study it; and key figures who have shaped the development of this discipline.

301 Sanskrit (3)
(Same as LING 301)

306 Contemporary Practices of the World’s Religions (3)
Prerequisite: completion of General Education (G.E.) Category C.2. Comparative study of how the beliefs, practices and moral codes of the world’s major religions influence the way nations and individuals behave in the spheres of daily life, culture, ethics, business and politics.

311 Religion and Film (3)
Prerequisites: completion of any lower-division CPRL or RTVF course. Religion and religious themes in film – a powerful medium through which we explore the meaning of life, relationships, moral quandaries and ontological issues.

312 The Bible as Literature (3)
(Same as CPLT 312)

322 Asian Pacific Americans and Religion (3)
(Same as ASAM 322)

325 African-American Religions and Spirituality (3)
(Same as AFAM 325)

330T Hebrew Scriptural Studies (3)
Specific areas of Hebrew Scriptures, such as major and minor prophets, Psalms, values of wisdom writers, books of the Old Testament. May be repeated for credit with different subject content.

331T New Testament Studies (3)
Specific areas of the New Testament, such as the Synoptic Gospels, Pauline Corpus, Johannine Corpus, etc. May be repeated for credit with different subject matter.

335 Judaism, Christianity and Islam Compared (3)
Comparative study of the three great monotheistic traditions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam; their beliefs, practices and structures.

337 American Indian Religions and Philosophy (3)
(Same as AFAM 337)

341 Hindu Tradition to 400 B.C.E. (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category C.2. Hindu thought in its earliest period. Subjects will include an overview of Vedic literature, especially its religious content and the major rituals of the early Veda; philosophical developments in the Upanisads or later Veda; and related sacred writings. One or more sections offered online.
342 Hindu Tradition from 400 B.C.E. (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category C.2. Hindu thought after the Vedic period. Subjects will include the beginnings of Hindu philosophies, classical Hindu practice, devotionalism, modern or neo-Hindu groups appearing in the 19th century, and the contributions of thinkers such as Ramakrishna and Gandhi. One or more sections offered online.

348 Philosophy of Religion (3)
(Same as PHIL 348)

350T Major Christian Traditions (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category C.2. Catholicism, Protestantism, Eastern Christianity or Post-Reformation Communities; historical development and self-understanding, liturgy, creeds, moral norms, canon laws and outstanding figures. May be repeated for credit with different content.

351 History and Development of Early Christian Thought (3)
Prerequisite: completion of the G.E. Category C.2. Historical study of the diversity of Christian beliefs, movements and key figures from New Testament times to the late Middle Ages, including such topics as important creeds and councils, spiritual movements, and central figures such as Augustine and Aquinas.

352 History and Development of Modern Christian Thought (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category C.2. Historical study of the diversity of Christian beliefs, movements and key figures from the late Middle Ages to the present, including such topics as the context and thinkers of the Reformation era, post-Reformation controversies, and recent debates and trends.

354T Topics in Buddhism (3)
Prerequisite: CPRL 105, 110 or 280. Historical survey of Buddhist doctrines, schools and practices in a particular region or regions, which are: South Asia, Tibet, China, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia. May be repeated for credit with different content. (Same as PHIL 354T)

358 Comparative Mysticism (3)
Prerequisite: CPRL 105, 110 or equivalent. Comparative survey of mysticism as a recurring phenomenon within major religious traditions. Included are selected writings and representative male and female figures, analyzed from philosophical and psychological viewpoints. Definitions, terms, metaphors, techniques, and stages of the mystical experience.

361 History and Development of Jewish Thought: Biblical and Rabbinical Eras (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category C.2. Hebrew Scriptures in their historical context, of the development of rabbinical Judaism and the Talmud, and of Judaism in the Christian and Muslim worlds down to the close of the Spanish “Golden Age” (1150).

362 History and Development of Jewish Thought: Medieval and Modern Eras (3)
Prerequisites: completion of G.E. Category C.2. Maimonides’ legacy, the impact of mysticism, rise of anti-Semitism, emancipation of European Jews, the Holocaust, Israel’s founding and history, and contributions of Jews to American culture.

367 Religion in Latino/a Life (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category C.2. National and international expressions of Latino/a religiosity – from popular religion to Marian devotion to curanderismo – are explored through film, historical documents, poetry, theology, art, sociology and ethnic studies. (Same as CHIC 367)

370 New Religious Movements in the U.S.A. (3)
Beliefs, history, ritual and organizational make-up of non-traditional modern religions in America, such as Scientology, the Unification Church, Hare Krishna (ISKCON) and Rajneeshism as presented by guest speakers. Discussion of “cult,” “sect” and the occult will comprise portion of course.

371 History and Development of Islamic Thought: The Beginning to 1258 (3)
Prerequisite: Completion of G.E. Category C.2. Islamic theology, law, culture and spirituality up to the close of the classical period in 1258. Interpretation of the Qur’an, formation of Hadith literature, development of Islamic law, divisions within Islam, rise of mysticism, contributions to science and art.

372 History and Development of Islamic Thought: 1259 to Modern Times (3)
Prerequisite: Completion of G.E. Category C.2. Islamic thought from the close of the classical period to the present, with emphasis on 20th century developments. Emergence of modern Middle East, reform movements, Islamic response to nationalism and modernity, recent Islamic resurgence.

373 Women in Islam (3)
Prerequisite: Completion of G.E. Category C.2. Status and roles of Muslim women from the perspectives of the basic Islamic texts (The Qur’an and Prophetic Traditions). Topics include rights, marriage and divorce, seclusion and dress codes, and religious, economic and socio-political participation.

374 Issues in Contemporary Islam (3)
Prerequisite: Completion of G.E. Category C.2. Some of the contentious issues in Islam. Topics include the concepts of piety, peace, jihad, fundamentalism, terrorism, democracy, human rights, leadership of women and sexuality; the intellectual arguments surrounding these topics.
375 Conceptions of the Afterlife (3)
Prerequisites: completion of G.E. Category C.2; CPRL 110 recommended. How selected religious traditions have sought to answer the question “What happens when I die?” Resurrection, reincarnation, immortality of the soul, heaven and hell. One or more sections offered online.

380 Religion and Violence (3)
Prerequisites: completion of G.E. Categories C.2 and D.1. Interdisciplinary exploration of major theories, developments and documents connected to the relationship between religious practices and motivations for engaging in, preventing or rejecting violent behavior.

381 Religion and Politics in the United States (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category D.1. Relationship of politics and religion, especially in the U.S. The colonial and constitutional experience, Supreme Court decisions on religious issues, the principal theorists of moral discourse in the public forum, contemporary issues of concern. (Same as POSC 381)

397 Religion and Science (3)
Prerequisites: completion G.E. Categories B.1 and B.2; C.2. Historical and contemporary interaction of religion and science through a study of religious thought and scientific method. Topics will include the scientific revolution, evolutionary theory and Quantum physics as these relate to religious faith.

400 Religion, the Media, and Contemporary Culture (3)
Prerequisite: AMST 201 or COMM 233 or HIST 180 or CPRL 105 or 110. Religion reporting in the secular media; the religious press in America; the influence of the media, both secular and religious, on the shaping of society’s values; ethical dilemmas faced by reporters.

401T Studies in Religious Texts (3)
Prerequisite: CPRL 105 or 110. Study and interpretation of a selected portion of the scriptures of a particular religion, for example, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, the New Testament, the Qur’an, the Veda, the Pali Canon.

412A History of the Christian Church to the Reformation (1517) (3)
(Same as HIST 412A)

412B History of the Christian Church From the Reformation to the Present (3)
(Same as HIST 412B)

412C History of the Jews (3)
(Same as HIST 412C)

417B Roman Empire (3)
(Same as HIST 417B)

425B The Reformation (3)
(Same as HIST 425B)

435A The Holocaust (3)
(Same as HIST 435A)

458 Sociology of Religious Behavior (3)
(Same as SOCI 458)

465A History of India (3)
(Same as HIST 465A)

465B History of India (3)
(Same as HIST 465B)

466A Islamic Civilization: Arab Era (3)
(Same as HIST 466A)

466B Islamic Civilization: Imperial Age (3)
(Same as HIST 466B)

485T Major Religious Thinkers and Concepts (3)
Prerequisites: 15 units in CPRL, including CPRL 105 or 110 and 300, and junior standing or approval of undergraduate adviser. Religious thinkers and concepts dealing with Western, Eastern and non-traditional religious ideas from ancient to modern times. Fulfills university upper-division baccalaureate writing requirement. May be repeated with different content.

499 Independent Study (1-3)
Supervised research projects in Comparative Religion to be taken with consent of instructor and the department chair. May be repeated for credit.