Rationale for creation of a new RLST minor in Arabic language

Background:
With the current teaching faculty in place, the course offerings, and a growing student demand, Vanderbilt is now in a position to offer a challenging minor in Arabic language. Students completing this minor will emerge fluent in one of the four most difficult foreign languages. Only a handful of US institutions offer a minor of comparable rigor. Regardless of major, students graduating with this minor will be very competitive in the job market or in accessing postgraduate opportunities.

Offering a minor in Arabic will advance Vanderbilt’s commitment to globalization and internationalization. Not only will this dynamic minor draw students into foreign language study, but it will complement the many established and emerging majors on campus that are adopting a global outlook on the humanities and social sciences.

Several developments in the last few years at Vanderbilt have made this an opportune time to create the undergraduate minor. First, student interest and enrollments have been very strong in the last few years. Fall 2015 was the first time that we filled five sections of Elementary Arabic. Upper-level classes are running with good enrollments. The combined enrollments for Elementary Arabic for the fall semester from 2012 to 2016 were as follows: 33, 29, 41, 59, 38. Second, in course evaluations and informally, several students have expressed interest in electing a minor in Arabic language. A group of six students made a formal request this fall that a minor be created. Third, among the recommendations of the external review of our Arabic curriculum (February 2012) Dr. Kirk Belnap of Brigham Young University suggested that we create a minor for Arabic language. Additionally, although not in the context of a formal review, in March 2016 the Center for Second Language Study brought Dr. Mahmoud al-Batal, of UT Austin, to campus. As a group, we had two meetings with al-Batal, during which we exchanged ideas on programming and Arabic pedagogy. Al-Batal has continued to consult with us, and had offered valuable feedback on the current proposal.

Resources:
No new courses need to be created, and we currently have sufficient faculty in place to cover the offerings.

Request for additional resources:
The Arabic instructors are both at the Senior Lecturer rank, and have little support for research and professional development. Keeping up with new pedagogies, as well as classroom and online technologies, will be an ongoing commitment. For conferences and training expenses, we request a yearly budget for the Arabic minor in the amount of $4,000. These funds would be administered by Religious Studies.

Governance and advising structure:
The minor in Arabic language will fall under the purview of the Religious Studies department. All of the faculty involved are appointed in Religious Studies. The department will assign a “Director of Undergraduate Studies - Arabic” to oversee and manage the minor. A similar position currently exists for the department’s minor in Islamic Studies (i.e. a “DUS - Islamic Studies”). Students electing the minor in Arabic language will be assigned appropriate minor advisers from the Religious Studies faculty.

Setting the minor requirements:
At peer institutions the required hours for an Arabic Language/Arabic Studies minor are around 18. Examples include, Dartmouth (18hrs), DePaul (±16hrs), Middlebury (21hrs), Wash U in St. Louis (18hrs), Notre Dame (16hrs), McGill (18hrs), Michigan (16hrs).

The requirements proposed below are in line with those of other language/culture minors at Vanderbilt. Some examples are Spanish (18hrs), Italian (15hrs), Chinese (18hrs), Japanese (18hrs), Russian (19hrs).

In comparison with the other minors at Vanderbilt, and Arabic minors at other institutions, the proposed Arabic language minor puts less emphasis on ‘culture’ and more on ‘language’ components. This is to avoid overlap with the existing Islamic Studies minor, which is heavy on non-language (or ‘culture’) requirements since Arabic is not central to the study of every part of the Islamic world. In the proposed structure, the minor in Arabic language is unlikely to draw enrollment away from the Islamic Studies minor.

Curriculum:
Beyond the core sequence, the minor will require additional specialized training, as represented by listings in Category II. Here students will begin to focus their interests in such topics as the modern Arabic novel, politics and media of the Middle East, medieval and early period narratives, or the Qur’an and its interpretive literature. We hope to develop new courses in cinema and popular culture.

18 credit hours. Students complete a required minimum of 18 credit hours from one of two tracks.
Track A: 9 hours from category I, and 9 hours from category II.
Track B: 12 hours from category I, and 6 hours from category II.
No credit hours will be counted for Arabic 1101 or Arabic 1102.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category I</th>
<th>Category II</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Arabic; 2201</td>
<td>Arabic of the Qur’an and Other Classical Texts; 3301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Arabic; 2202</td>
<td>Media Arabic; 3201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Arabic; 3101</td>
<td>Reading Seminar in Arabic Literature; RLST 4592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Arabic; 3102</td>
<td>Reading Seminar in Islamic Tradition; RLST 4593</td>
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</tbody>
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Faculty vote:
On February 13th, Religious Studies faculty met to discuss the Arabic language minor. The six members attending voted yes, two added a yes vote by e-mail, and one did not respond. Tony
Stewart, who will return as chair next year, has communicated his full support for creation of the minor.

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Catalog copy with tracking

Religious Studies

CHAIR Tony K. Stewart
ACTING CHAIR Richard McGregor
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES Richard McGregor
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN ISLAMIC STUDIES Richard McGregor
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ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Dianna Bell, Nancy G. Lin, Bryan Lowe, Anand Taneja, Alexis S. Wells
SENIOR LECTURERS M. Issam Eido, Bushra Hamad

The Department of Religious Studies approaches religion as a fundamentally human experience. The academic study of religion begins descriptively by exploring religious commitments, identities, practices, worldviews, and institutions. Our courses investigate religious traditions through varied theoretical and methodological approaches that generate a complex understanding of religious perspectives from an array of disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, history, theology, literature, and art.

Students majoring in religious studies gain a deep knowledge of a single tradition, region, or theme and a broad understanding of religions around the world. Successful students develop a highly portable analytical skill set that equips them to pursue graduate degrees in religion or cognate disciplines, as well as professional degrees and careers in fields such as law, diplomacy, medicine, and business. It also provides an excellent second major for a variety of disciplines that address the human condition including neuroscience; sociology; history; medicine, health, and society; and others. Majors will gain the ability to reason intelligently about one of the most difficult and sensitive topics in any society. By virtue of the variety of religious cultures studied, the training will deepen students’ mutual understanding and sensitivity to prepare them to become truly responsible global citizens.

The program offers a major (31 credit hours), an Honors Program, a minor (18 credit hours) in religious studies, and a minor (20 credit hours) in Islamic Studies, and a minor in Arabic Language (18 credit hours). A student may pursue both the Minor in Islamic Studies and the Minor in Arabic Language. However, in such a case, only ARA 1102 may be the only Arabic course that be counted toward the Minor in Islamic Studies.

NOTE: New course numbers took effect in fall 2015. Former course numbers are included in course descriptions in this catalog and at this website: registrar.vanderbilt.edu/faculty/course-renumbering/course-lookup/.
Program of Concentration in Religious Studies

31 credit hours. The program of concentration in religious studies seeks to introduce students to the rich diversity of religious traditions in the world (breadth component) and to build depth of study in areas of specific interest to the student (depth component). In addition, the curriculum includes instruction in the range of theories and methods used to approach religious traditions academically (tools of the discipline component). The student will then be able to pursue individual interests (electives).

A maximum of two courses (6 credit hours) outside of the department may count toward the major. Of these, one course (3 credit hours) outside of the department may count toward the Depth Component. A foreign language course approved as an elective is not subject to the two-course (6 credit hours) limit. No course may be used to satisfy more than one of the four components of the major.

1. Breadth Component (9 credit hours)

Ensures a familiarity with the rich diversity of religious traditions in the world.

a. Encountering religious diversity. 3 credit hours. RLST 1010. An introduction to the field of religious studies and select traditions.

b. Introductory course in African or Western traditions. 3 credit hours. Introductory course in a religious tradition originating in the Mediterranean, Middle East, Africa, or the Americas (including but not limited to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Egyptian religions, traditions of Sub-Saharan Africa, Native American traditions). RLST 1100, 1200, 1208, 1309, 1500. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

c. Introductory course in Asian or non-Western traditions. 3 credit hours. Introductory course in a religious tradition originating in Asia or the Pacific (including but not limited to Hindu and Buddhist traditions and those religious traditions originating in East and South Asia). RLST 1637, 1700, 1710, 2644, 2664. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

2. Depth Component (9 credit hours)

The Depth Component is organized according to three tracks: traditions, geographies, and theories and themes. The introductory course taken to satisfy the breadth requirement cannot be double-counted in this category. The student must choose 9 credit hours from one of the following tracks. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count toward any track with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

a. Traditions. Allows students to focus on a particular religious tradition or related cluster of traditions that may transcend geographic limitations.

Buddhist Traditions: RLST 1700, 1710, 1637, 2644, 3669, 3670W, 3749, 3753, 375; ASIA 3633

Christian Traditions: RLST 1309, 1330W, 1820, 2310, 3119, 3304W, 3306, 3312, 3313,
3316; HIST 1760, 2250

Hindu Traditions: RLST 2664, 4665, 4666
Indigenous Traditions: RLST 1637, 3178, 3890, 4774
Islamic Traditions: RLST 1500, 2461, 3561, 4551, 4552, 4554, 4562; ARA 3301; HIST 1190, 2140, 2190
Jewish Traditions: RLST 1200, 1208, 2210, 2210W, 3270; JS 1002, 1002W, 1200, 2300, 2330, 2620; PHIL 2102

b. Geographies. Gives students the option of focusing on regional cultures, histories, and religions, as well as relationships between religious traditions within a specific region.
   Africa, West Asia, and the Mediterranean: RLST 1208, 1330W, 1500, 2461, 2471, 2472, 3312, 3890, 4562; ARA 3301; HIST 1190, 2190
   The Americas: RLST 1100, 1190W, 3119, 3142, 3178, 3304; HIST 2530
   East Asia: RLST 1700, 1710, 3747, 3749, 3753, 3670W, 3775, 4774; ASIA 3633
   South/Southeast Asia: RLST 1500, 1637, 2644, 2664, 3561, 3669, 3670W, 4665, 4666

c. Theories and Themes. Enables students to focus on theoretical, scientific, or thematic questions that may cross both traditional and geographic lines.
   Religion in the literary and visual arts: RLST 2881, 2940, 3669, 3775, 4665, 4774, 4939
   Theories of religion, science, and/or psychology: RLST 1820, 2472, 3079, 3940, 3941, 4834, 4835, 4837; JS 2330; ANTH 3141

3. Tools of the Discipline Component (4–6 credit hours)

Key issues in the study of religion and a formal introduction to the theories and methods in the academic study of religion.

a. Theory and Method. 3 credit hours. RLST 4960W “Approaches to the Academic Study of Religion.” Recommended for juniors, but may be taken earlier with permission of director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

b. Majors Colloquium. 1 credit hour (may be taken a total of three times). RLST 4970 “Majors Colloquium.” Initiation into the range of professional activities in the study of religion from the craft of research to the production of papers, articles, and theses, coupled with targeted theoretical concerns relevant to the research of the students enrolled in that particular class.

4. Electives (9 credit hours)

a. Electives may be drawn from any of the courses listed under the three components of the major (Breadth, Depth, and Tools of the Discipline). Students may elect to deepen an area of study or they may build additional breadth in other traditions, regions, or themes.

b. One relevant language course (at least 3 credit hours) may count, with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies. This course is not subject to the
two-course (6 credit hours) limit on courses taken outside the department.

**Honors in Religious Studies**

The honors thesis provides an opportunity for highly motivated and exceptionally capable students to engage in independent work on a topic in religious studies. Honors theses require original research with primary sources and extensive use of relevant secondary scholarship, both with regard to the narrowly defined topic of the thesis and on the larger theoretical and methodological issues in the academic study of religion. 3.3 GPA in courses toward the major and cumulative 3.3 GPA are required for entry and must be maintained for completion of honors. Students work closely with faculty members in designing, researching, and writing a thesis beginning in the second semester of their junior year in order to present the thesis at the end of the second semester of their senior year, culminating in a final oral examination on the thesis.

a. *Research and Writing. 6 credit hours.* RLST 4998–RLST 4999 “Seniors Honors Thesis.” RLST 4998 and RLST 4999 count as 6 of the 9 credit hours of the elective component of the major.

b. *Majors Colloquium – Co-requisite with RLST 4999.*

   RLST 4970 “Majors Colloquium” in the second semester of senior year, in which candidate must present results of research. Honor program candidates shall take 4970 co-requisite with 4999. Initiation into the range of professional activities in the study of religion from the craft of research to the production of papers, articles, and theses, coupled with targeted theoretical concerns relevant to the research of the students enrolled in that particular class.

**Minor in Religious Studies**

18 credit hours. The minor will introduce the rich diversity of religious traditions (Breadth component), initiate depth in at least one tradition (Depth component), and encourage further exploration of different perspectives or traditions through electives. A maximum of one course (3 credit hours) from outside the department may count if it is included in any of the three components of the major (Breadth, Depth, and Tools of the Discipline). No course may be used to satisfy more than one of the three components of the minor.

1. **Breadth Component (9 credit hours)**

   Ensures a familiarity with the rich diversity of religious traditions in the world.

   a. *Encountering religious diversity. 3 credit hours.* RLST 1010 Encountering Religious Diversity. An introduction to the field of religious studies and select traditions.

   b. *Introductory course in African or Western traditions.*

      3 credit hours. Introductory course in a religious tradition originating in the Mediterranean, Middle East, Africa, or the Americas (including but not limited to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Egyptian religions, traditions of Sub-Saharan Africa, Native American traditions). RLST 1100, 1200, 1208, 1309, 1500. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar
RLST 1111 may count with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

c. **Introductory course in Asian or non-Western traditions. 3 credit hours.** Introductory course in a religious tradition originating in Asia or the Pacific, including but not limited to Hindu and Buddhist traditions and those religious traditions originating in East and South Asia. RLST 1637, 1700, 1710, 2644, 2664. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

2. **Depth Component (3 credit hours)**
   - **Deepening the study of one tradition. 3 credit hours.**
     The student must choose one of the two religious traditions used to meet the introductory course Breadth Component to delve further into that religion.

3. **Electives (6 credit hours)**
   a. Electives may be drawn from any of the courses listed under the three components of the major (Breadth, Depth, and Tools of the Discipline). Students may elect to deepen an area of study or they may build additional breadth in other traditions, regions, or themes.
   b. With the permission of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies and a minimum 3.3 GPA in the minor, the student may take the Majors Colloquium RLST 4970.

**Minor in Islamic Studies**

20 credit hours. Students complete a required minimum of 20 credit hours from the list below, which must include Arabic 1102, Elementary Arabic; Religious Studies 1500, Introduction to Islam; and Religious Studies 4554, The Qur’an and Its Interpreters. The maximum number of credit hours to be counted toward the minor from Arabic language courses is 98. No credit hours will be counted for Arabic 1101. A student may pursue both the Minor in Islamic Studies and the Minor in Arabic Language. In such a case, only ARA 1102 may be counted, from among the Arabic courses, toward the Minor in Islamic Studies.

ARABIC: 1102, Elementary Arabic; 2201–2202, Intermediate Arabic; 3101–3102, Advanced Arabic; 3201, Media Arabic; 3301, Arabic of the Qur’an and Other Classical Texts.


HISTORY: 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar (when related to Islamic history or culture as determined by the director of undergraduate studies); 1160, Modern South Asia; 1190, A History of Islam; 1200, The Arab Spring; 1270, Sub-Saharan Africa: 1400–1800; 1280, Africa since 1800: The Revolutionary Years; 2140, The Mughal World; 2150, India and the Indian Ocean; 2155, Muhammad and Early Islam; 2170, Islam and the Crusades; 2190, Last Empire of Islam; 3150, Cities of Europe and the Middle East; 3210, Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain.

JEWISH STUDIES: 2600, Islam and the Jews.

PHILOSOPHY: 2102, Medieval Philosophy; 3006, Islamic Philosophy.

POLITICAL SCIENCE: 2203, Middle East Politics; 3896, Selected Topics (when related to Islamic politics or culture as determined by the director of undergraduate studies).

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: 1500, Introduction to Islam; 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar (when related to Islamic religion or culture as determined by the director of undergraduate studies); 4551, Islamic Mysticism; 4552, Reformers of the Islamic Tradition; 4554, The Qur’an and Its Interpreters; 4562, Culture, Religion, and Politics of the Arab World; 4666, Devotional Traditions of South Asia: Hindu, Muslim, Sikh; 4592, Advanced Seminar in Arabic; 4593, Advanced Seminar in Islamic Tradition.
Minor in Arabic Language

18 credit hours. Students complete a required minimum of 18 credit hours from the list below, following one of two tracks. Track A “Foundations and Literature”: 9 credit hours from category I, Grammar and Constructions and 9 credit hours from category II, Literature and Culture. Track B “Full Proficiency”: 12 credit hours from category I, Grammar and Constructions, and 6 credit hours from category II, Literature and Culture. No credit hours will be counted for Arabic 1101 or Arabic 1102.

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Religious Studies

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history; medicine, health, and society; and others. Majors will gain the ability to reason intelligently about one of the most difficult and sensitive topics in any society. By virtue of the variety of religious cultures studied, the training will deepen students’ mutual understanding and sensitivity to prepare them to become truly responsible global citizens.

The program offers a major (31 credit hours), an Honors Program, a minor (18 credit hours) in religious studies, and a minor (20 credit hours) in Islamic studies.

NOTE: New course numbers took effect in fall 2015. Former course numbers are included in course descriptions in this catalog and at this website: registrar.vanderbilt.edu/faculty/course-renumbering/course-lookup/.

Program of Concentration in Religious Studies

31 credit hours. The program of concentration in religious studies seeks to introduce students to the rich diversity of religious traditions in the world (breadth component) and to build depth of study in areas of specific interest to the student (depth component). In addition, the curriculum includes instruction in the range of theories and methods used to approach religious traditions academically (tools of the discipline component). The student will then be able to pursue individual interests (electives).

A maximum of two courses (6 credit hours) outside of the department may count toward the major. Of these, one course (3 credit hours) outside of the department may count toward the Depth Component. A foreign language course approved as an elective is not subject to the two-course (6 credit hours) limit. No course may be used to satisfy more than one of the four components of the major.

1. Breadth Component (9 credit hours)

Ensures a familiarity with the rich diversity of religious traditions in the world.

a. Encountering religious diversity. 3 credit hours. RLST 1010. An introduction to the field of religious studies and select traditions.

b. Introductory course in African or Western traditions. 3 credit hours. Introductory course in a religious tradition originating in the Mediterranean, Middle East, Africa, or the Americas (including but not limited to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Egyptian religions, traditions of Sub-Saharan Africa, Native American traditions). RLST 1100, 1200, 1208, 1309, 1500. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

c. Introductory course in Asian or non-Western traditions. 3 credit hours. Introductory course in a religious tradition originating in Asia or the Pacific (including but not limited to Hindu and Buddhist traditions and those religious traditions originating in East and South Asia). RLST 1637, 1700, 1710, 2644, 2664. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

2. Depth Component (9 credit hours)

The Depth Component is organized according to three tracks: traditions, geographies, and theories and themes. The introductory course taken to satisfy the breadth requirement cannot be double-counted in this category. The student must choose 9 credit hours from one of the following tracks. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count toward any track with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.
a. **Traditions.** Allows students to focus on a particular religious tradition or related cluster of traditions that may transcend geographic limitations.

**Buddhist Traditions:** RLST 1700, 1710, 1637, 2644, 3669, 3670W, 3749, 3753, 375; ASIA 3633

**Christian Traditions:** RLST 1309, 1330W, 1820, 2310, 3119, 3304W, 3306, 3312, 3313, 3316; HIST 1760, 2250

**Hindu Traditions:** RLST 2664, 4665, 4666

**Indigenous Traditions:** RLST 1637, 3178, 3890, 4774

**Islamic Traditions:** RLST 1500, 2461, 3561, 3669, 3670W, 3775, 4665, 4666; ARA 3301; HIST 1190, 2140, 2190

**Jewish Traditions:** RLST 1200, 1208, 2210, 2210W, 3270; JS 1002, 1002W, 1200, 2300, 2330, 2620; PHIL 2102

b. **Geographies.** Gives students the option of focusing on regional cultures, histories, and religions, as well as relationships between religious traditions within a specific region.

**Africa, West Asia, and the Mediterranean:** RLST 1208, 1330W, 1500, 2461, 2471, 2472, 3312, 3890, 4562; ARA 3301; HIST 1190, 2190

**The Americas:** RLST 1100, 1190W, 3119, 3142, 3178, 3304; HIST 2530

**East Asia:** RLST 1700, 1710, 3747, 3749, 3753, 3670W, 3775, 4774; ASIA 3633

**South/Southeast Asia:** RLST 1500, 1637, 2644, 2664, 3561, 3669, 3670W, 4665, 4666

c. **Theories and Themes.** Enables students to focus on theoretical, scientific, or thematic questions that may cross both traditional and geographic lines.

**Religion in the literary and visual arts:** RLST 2881, 2940, 3669, 3775, 4665, 4774, 4939

**Theories of religion, science, and/or psychology:** RLST 1820, 2472, 3079, 3940, 3941, 4834, 4835, 4837; JS 2330; ANTH 3141

### 3. Tools of the Discipline Component (4–6 credit hours)

Key issues in the study of religion and a formal introduction to the theories and methods in the academic study of religion.

a. **Theory and Method. 3 credit hours.** RLST 4960W “Approaches to the Academic Study of Religion.” Recommended for juniors, but may be taken earlier with permission of director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

b. **Majors Colloquium. 1 credit hour** (may be taken a total of three times). RLST 4970 “Majors Colloquium.” Initiation into the range of professional activities in the study of religion from the craft of research to the production of papers, articles, and theses, coupled with targeted theoretical concerns relevant to the research of the students enrolled in that particular class.

### 4. Electives (9 credit hours)

a. Electives may be drawn from any of the courses listed under the three components of the major (Breadth, Depth, and Tools of the Discipline). Students may elect to deepen an area of study or they may build additional breadth in other traditions, regions, or themes.
b. One relevant language course (at least 3 credit hours) may count, with the approval of the
director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies. This course is not subject
to the two-course (6 credit hours) limit on courses taken outside the department.

Honors in Religious Studies

The honors thesis provides an opportunity for highly motivated and exceptionally capable
students to engage in independent work on a topic in religious studies. Honors theses require
original research with primary sources and extensive use of relevant secondary scholarship,
both with regard to the narrowly defined topic of the thesis and on the larger theoretical and
methodological issues in the academic study of religion. 3.3 GPA in courses toward the major
and cumulative 3.3 GPA are required for entry and must be maintained for completion of honors.
Students work closely with faculty members in designing, researching, and writing a thesis
beginning in the second semester of their junior year in order to present the thesis at the
end of the second semester of their senior year, culminating in a final oral examination on
the thesis.

a. Research and Writing. 6 credit hours. RLST 4998–RLST 4999 “Seniors Honors Thesis.” RLST 4998
and RLST 4999 count as 6 of the 9 credit hours of the elective component of the major.

b. Majors Colloquium – Co-requisite with RLST 4999.
RLST 4970 “Majors Colloquium” in the second semester of senior year, in which candidate
must present results of research. Honor program candidates shall take 4970 co-requisite
with 4999. Initiation into the range of professional activities in the study of religion
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with targeted theoretical concerns relevant to the research of the students enrolled in
that particular class.

Minor in Religious Studies

18 credit hours. The minor will introduce the rich diversity of religious traditions (Breadth
component), initiate depth in at least one tradition (Depth component), and encourage further
exploration of different perspectives or traditions through electives. A maximum of one
course (3 credit hours) from outside the department may count if it is included in any of the
three components of the major (Breadth, Depth, and Tools of the Discipline). No course may be
used to satisfy more than one of the three components of the minor.

1. Breadth Component (9 credit hours)

Ensures a familiarity with the rich diversity of religious traditions in the world.

a. Encountering religious diversity. 3 credit hours. RLST 1010 Encountering Religious Diversity. An
introduction to the field of religious studies and select traditions.

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Mediterranean, Middle East, Africa, or the Americas (including but not limited to
Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Egyptian religions, traditions of Sub-Saharan Africa,
Native American traditions). RLST 1100, 1200, 1208, 1309, 1500. An appropriate First-
Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count with the approval of the director of
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c. Introductory course in Asian or non-Western traditions. 3 credit hours. Introductory course in a
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and Buddhist traditions and those religious traditions originating in East and South Asia. RLST 1637, 1700, 1710, 2644, 2664. An appropriate First-Year Writing Seminar RLST 1111 may count with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies.

2. Depth Component (3 credit hours)

- Deepening the study of one tradition. 3 credit hours.
  The student must choose one of the two religious traditions used to meet the introductory course Breadth Component to delve further into that religion.

3. Electives (6 credit hours)

a. Electives may be drawn from any of the courses listed under the three components of the major (Breadth, Depth, and Tools of the Discipline). Students may elect to deepen an area of study or they may build additional breadth in other traditions, regions, or themes.

b. With the permission of the director of undergraduate studies in Religious Studies and a minimum 3.3 GPA in the minor, the student may take the Majors Colloquium RLST 4970.

Minor in Islamic Studies

20 credit hours. Students complete a required minimum of 20 credit hours from the list below, which must include Arabic 1102, Elementary Arabic; Religious Studies 1500, Introduction to Islam; and Religious Studies 4554, The Qur’ an and Its Interpreters. The maximum number of credit hours to be counted toward the minor from Arabic language courses is 9. No credit hours will be counted for Arabic 1101.

ARABIC: 1102, Elementary Arabic; 2201–2202, Intermediate Arabic; 3101–3102, Advanced Arabic; 3201, Media Arabic; 3301, Arabic of the Qur’an and Other Classical Texts.


HISTORY: 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar (when related to Islamic history or culture as determined by the director of undergraduate studies); 1160, Modern South Asia; 1190, A History of Islam; 1200, The Arab Spring; 1270, Sub-Saharan Africa: 1400–1800; 1280, Africa since 1800: The Revolutionary Years; 2140, The Mughal World; 2150, India and the Indian Ocean; 2155, Muhammad and Early Islam; 2170, Islam and the Crusades; 2190, Last Empire of Islam; 3150, Cities of Europe and the Middle East; 3210, Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain.

JEWSH STUDIES: 2600, Islam and the Jews.

PHILOSOPHY: 2102, Medieval Philosophy; 3006, Islamic Philosophy.

POLITICAL SCIENCE: 2203, Middle East Politics; 3896, Selected Topics (when related to Islamic politics or culture as determined by the director of undergraduate studies).

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: 1500, Introduction to Islam; 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar (when related to Islamic religion or culture as determined by the director of undergraduate studies); 4551, Islamic Mysticism; 4552, Reformers of the Islamic Tradition; 4554, The Qur’an and Its Interpreters; 4562, Culture, Religion, and Politics of the Arab World; 4666, Devotional Traditions of South Asia: Hindu, Muslim, Sikh; 4592, Advanced Seminar in Arabic; 4593, Advanced Seminar in Islamic Tradition.

Course descriptions begin on page 198.