RELIGION

This major explores religion on a global, transhistorical scale, from the cultural world of ancient Christianity to the portrayal of Buddhism in contemporary American cinema. The department views religious studies not so much as a discipline, but rather as a field of complex encounters, bringing multiple perspectives — history, sociology, cultural studies, anthropology, and textual analysis — to bear on a wide range of religious traditions and practices.

Opportunities for Students

- **Theta Alpha Kappa**: The USC chapter of this national honor society for those involved in the study of religion at the undergraduate level is open to students who have completed 12 units of religion courses.
- **Directed Research**: Students are individually mentored by a faculty member in the Center for Religion and Civic Culture, the Casden Institute for the Jewish Role in American Life, or the USC Archaeology Research Center.
- **Study Abroad**: With the School of Religion’s global approach, it’s no surprise that students have a diverse array of foreign settings in which to study. Explore Islam in Amman, ancient Greek mythology in Athens, or religion and philosophy in Tokyo.
- **World-Class Resources**: Take advantage of USC’s own Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Foundation, the West Semitic Research Project, and the InscriptiFact Project.

Notable Courses

- **REL 316: Women and the Islamic Tradition** — Overview of social and legal status of women in Islamic society, past and present. Examination of social roles established both for and by Muslim women.
- **REL 330: Introduction to the Religions of India** — History, teaching, and practice of Hinduism, Buddhism, and other religious traditions of India.
- **REL 338: Mysticism and Religious Desire** — How human appetites for sex, food, community or immortality are articulated as mystical desires in different religions, either within institutional structures or working against them.
- **REL 364: Religion and Ethics** — Traces the development of how religious ideas have informed ethics, or accounts of the good life, including notions of justice, righteousness, virtue, duty, charity and happiness.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Core Course Requirements*
- REL 301: Introduction to the Study of Religion
- REL 401: Seminar in Religious Studies

Elective Course Requirements (select six, including at least four 300/400-level)**
- REL 111: The World of the Hebrew Bible
- REL 136: Sense and Sensuality in Indian Religious Literature
- REL 138: Japanese Religions and Culture
- REL 141: Global Religions in Los Angeles
- REL 146: American Spirituality: Radical, Rebels, and Freethinkers
- REL 311: The Bible in Western Literature
- REL 315: Thought and Life of Islam
- REL 317: Ancient Near Eastern Myth and Literature
- REL 331: Religions of East Asia
- REL 332: Religions of Japan
- REL 335: Gender, Religion, and Sexuality
- REL 336: Re-viewing Religion in Asian America
- REL 341: Technology, Culture, and Ethics
- REL 359: Culture in Diaspora - The Jews of Spain
- REL 414: History of Islamic Law
- REL 415: Seminar in Buddhism
- REL 435: Religious Thought After the Enlightenment
- REL 426: Religion, Media and Hollywood: Faith in TV
- REL 431: The Taoist Tradition
- REL 442: Religion and Science
- REL 462: Religion and Violence
- REL 483: Religion and Popular Culture in the United States

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/religion/. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.