

# 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.

## BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) GENERAL OVERVIEW

### Two core courses:

- Introduction to the Study of Religion
- Seminar in Religious Studies

### Six elective courses. Examples include:

- Origins of Western Religions
- Introduction to Buddhism
- Chinese Religions and Culture
- Introduction to Christianity
- Sense and Sensuality in Indian Religions and Culture
- Modern Jewish Thought
- Religion and Popular Culture in the United States
- Religion and Human Rights
- Religion and Science

## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

**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, the USC Archaeology Research Center, or the USC School of Religion.

**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.

**Theta Alpha Kappa:** The National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology, established in 1976, maintains a vigorous national program of scholarship awards and fellowship competitions for students who have at least a 3.0 overall GPA and 3.5 GPA in Religious Studies.

**World-Class Resources:** Take advantage of USC's own Shoah Foundation, Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Foundation, the West Semitic Research Project, and the InscriptiFact Project.