



**Religious Studies** is an **interdisciplinary cross-cultural** and **intellectually creative academic field.**

It offers both breadth and depth to the student's developing critical perspective on the **human life society** and **world itself.**

At the heart of the liberal arts, religious studies places emphasis upon exploring both the **historical** and the **theoretical** contexts of those phenomena humans deem religious.

As a program of study it offers training in functional skills beneficial to many careers, including

- ✚ oral and written communication
- ✚ research tools
- ✚ ethical decision making
- ✚ analytical flexibility and
- ✚ imaginative problem solving

Courses offered in the department promote the development of international and inter-cultural awareness and the centrality of values in the study of any culture.

## A Sample of Our Exciting Course Offerings....

- 205. Intro to Religious Traditions of the West
- 206. Intro to Religious Traditions of Asia
- 300. The Nature of Religion
- 303. World of Islam
- 304. The Teachings of Jesus
- 305. Early Christianity
- 310. The Hebrew Prophets
- 311. Jewish Holocaust
- 319. ABC's of Orthodoxy
- 320. Literature of the Old Testament
- 321. The Protestant Faith
- 322. The Catholic World
- 323. Religion in America
- 324. The Jewish Way of Life
- 325. Literature of the New Testament
- 351. Classics of Religious Literature
- 360. Hindu Mysticism
- 361. Buddhism
- 419. Religious Thought
- 450. Sociology of Religion



**Dr. Ruff and Student Artwork**

*Religious Studies is excellent preparation for graduate and professional studies in many fields. When combined with computer skills, a major in religious studies today prepares a person for what graduate and professional schools as well as employers really seek:*

***a person who is able to integrate thought values and action in addressing unique questions or problems that may arise unexpectedly.***

*Through the experience of studying the religious thought and traditions of the world, the student of religions lets the wisdoms from the past and analyses of the present become a guide to the future.*

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religious Studies can be instrumental in preparing people for careers in the following areas:

- **Education:** graduate school, teaching, research, administration
- **Professions:** law school, medical school
- **Research:** government agencies, publishers, museums, nonprofit organizations, colleges & universities, public interest research groups
- **Social/Community Services:** nonprofit organizations, arts organizations, libraries, mental health organizations, social service organizations
- **Religion & the Ministry:** seminary, theological school, local churches/synagogues/mosques, mission work, clergy, religious education, youth ministry
- **Government:** federal, local & state government, federal agencies, foreign service, national & state endowments for the humanities
- **Ethics, Values & Contemporary Issues:** medical & professional schools, colleges & universities, consulting services, research organizations, environmental organizations, federal & state government, think-tanks
- **Writing:** publishing companies, magazine, newspaper & newsletter publishers, professional/trade organizations & associations
- **Business:** business firms, museum & arts agencies, advertising and marketing organizations, personnel departments

## Faculty

### Full-Time Faculty

**Clayton McNearney, Ph.D.**  
(University of Iowa)  
Religion in American Culture and History,  
Sociology/Anthropology of Religion

**Jeffrey Ruff, Ph.D.**  
(University of California-Santa Barbara)  
Religions and Cultures of Asia,  
Religion and Small Scale Societies

### Part-Time Faculty

**Prof. Tyler Sergent**  
Religious Traditions of the West

**Dr. David Wucher**  
Jewish Studies

**Dr. Majed Khader**  
Religion and Cultures of Islam



## Religious Studies

B.A. Degree in Humanities

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