

# RELIGION

## Program Information

The graduate program in the Department of Religion at the University of Florida is designed to prepare students for careers in academia, public service, non-governmental organizations, and various forms of advocacy work. Our five areas of study include:

- Buddhist Traditions,
- Global Islam,
- Hindu Traditions,
- Religion in the Americas and
- Religion and Nature.

For additional information, please refer to the Graduate Student Manual.

### The M.A. Program

The M.A. degree provides a broad background in the study of religious traditions and theoretical orientations in the discipline. An M.A. student can choose whether they will concentrate in one of the five areas of study. If they choose to do so, they need to take the courses recommended for that field of specialization. If they choose not to, they can pick courses from across the fields. Course work usually culminates in a thesis and an oral examination.

The department also offers a combination program designed for superior students who have the ability to pursue an accelerated program leading to the Bachelor of Arts and the Master of Arts degree in Religion.

### The Ph.D. Program

A student usually enters with a religion master's degree either from this or another institution. Those admitted with master's degrees in disciplines other than religion may petition to bypass the religion master's degree with additional religion course work. All students are admitted into one of the areas of study and should fulfill the recommended course work as outlined in the area descriptions. Students in all fields are encouraged to take courses in other departments to support work in their area of specialization.

### Course Work

Graduate students in religion ordinarily take courses of different kinds and for different purposes. One aim is to develop familiarity with leading traditions of research and analysis in religious studies. Another is to prepare for PhD examinations. A third is to pursue specific interests relevant to the student's scholarly development, especially in relation to the thesis or dissertation. A fourth is to prepare for careers outside of academia. Students are expected to consult their supervisory committee chair and the department's graduate coordinator in designing a course of study that satisfies these aims in the limited time available.

Every year a Method and Theory departmental seminar is offered (Method & Theory I or II in alternate years). This course is required of all first and second year graduate students. Its purpose is to help students develop awareness of various approaches to the study of religion, the history of these approaches, and their assumptions about understanding and explaining religious texts and behavior.

Every other year an Interdisciplinary Seminar is offered. The purpose of this course is bridge the department's separate areas of study through the examination of topics and themes broadly relevant to the field of

religious studies. The content of this course changes each time it is offered and all first and second year graduate students are required to take this course when it is offered during their first two years of graduate study.

Specialized instruction within the areas of study is carried on primarily in courses detailed in the area descriptions. The department also offers graduate seminars in related areas outside the specific fields. In addition, students regularly participate in individual or small reading courses with a member of the faculty, the form and content of which are tailored to the student's particular needs and interests.

Almost all graduate students in religion take courses outside the department. Most enroll in graduate seminars and reading courses in such departments and centers as African Studies, Anthropology, Botany, English, History, Jewish Studies, Latin American Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies and Gender Research, Zoology, and from the interdisciplinary School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

While specific degree requirements and interests shape a candidate's program, most generally enroll in three courses, including both seminars and reading courses, during each of the semesters prior to the M.A. thesis or Ph.D. qualifying examinations.

### Mentoring

All students are assigned a faculty mentor upon admission to the program, based on expressions of faculty interest and the student's intended area of study. The mentor and graduate coordinator answer questions and provide support for the student in choosing courses and planning a program. By the end of the second semester all master's degree students must designate their supervisory committee chair and one additional department committee member. By the end of the second semester all doctoral students must designate their committee chair. By no later than the end of the fourth semester of study, all doctoral students must designate a four member supervisory committee including the chairperson and one UF faculty member from outside the department.

### Degrees Offered

#### Degrees Offered with a Major in Religion

- Doctor of Philosophy
  - without a concentration
  - concentration in Tropical Conservation and Development
  - concentration in Women's/Gender Studies
- Master of Arts
  - without a concentration
  - concentration in Jewish Studies
  - concentration in Tropical Conservation and Development
  - concentration in Women's/Gender Studies

Requirements for these degrees are given in the Graduate Degrees (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/degrees/>) section of this catalog.

### Courses

Religion Departmental Courses

Code	Title	Credits
REL 6038	Religion and Fieldwork	3
REL 6347	American Buddhism	3
RLG 5143	Religion and Social Change	3

RLG 5195	Topics in Religion and Society	3	Students will identify, define, and describe classical and contemporary methods and theories in the study of religion and the sub-fields of religions of Asia, religions of the Americas, and religion and nature
RLG 5199	Religion and Nature in North America	3	
RLG 5297	Topics in Biblical Studies	3	
RLG 5338	Topics in Asian Religions	3	
RLG 5361	Global Islam	3	
RLG 5365	Studies in Islam	3	
RLG 5396	Religion and Animals	3	
RLG 5495	Topics in Religious Thought	3	
RLG 5695	Ethics after the Holocaust	3	
RLG 5696	Topics in Jewish Thought	3	
RLG 5906	Individual Work	1-5	
RLG 5937	Topics in Religious Studies	3	
RLG 6035	Method and Theory I	3	
RLG 6036	Method and Theory II	3	
RLG 6038	Religion and Fieldwork	3	SLO 2 Skills
RLG 6095	Utopias and Dystopias	3	Students will teach in their particular sub-fields, as well as in the broad field of comparative religions
RLG 6107	Core Seminar in Religion and Nature	3	SLO 3 Professional Behavior
RLG 6126	Religion in the Americas	3	Students will produce research and scholarship that meet the professional standards of the field
RLG 6137	Religion in North America	3	
RLG 6167	Radical Environmentalism	3	
RLG 6183	Religion and Environmental Ethics	3	
RLG 6185	Religion, Nature, and Society	3	
RLG 6319	Interpreting Asian Religions	3	
RLG 6385	Native Religions in the Americas	3	
RLG 6387	Religions in Latin America	3	
RLG 6709	Islam in Africa	3	
RLG 6910	Supervised Research	1-5	
RLG 6936	Seminar Relig Studies	3	
RLG 6940	Supervised Teaching	1-5	
RLG 6957	Overseas Studies in Religion	1-3	
RLG 6971	Research for Master's Thesis	1-15	
RLG 7979	Advanced Research	1-15	
RLG 7980	Research for Doctoral Dissertation	1-15	
SRK 6905	Individual Study in Sanskrit	1-4	

## Student Learning Outcomes

### religion (PHD)

#### SLO 1 Knowledge

Students will identify, define, and describe classical and contemporary methods and theories in the study of religion and the sub-fields of religions of Asia, religions of the Americas, and religion and nature.

#### SLO 2 Knowledge

Students will translate one research language other than English as approved by their dissertation committees

#### SLO 3 Skills

Students will articulate orally and in writing the results, significance, and applications of their scholarship and research

#### SLO 4 Skills

Students will teach in their particular sub-fields, as well as in the broad field of comparative religions

#### SLO 5 Professional Behavior

Students will produce original research and scholarship that meet the professional standards of the field

### Religion (MA)

#### SLO 1 Knowledge