

Learning Goals for the Religious Studies Major

On completion of the major students will:

- have a solid foundation in Religious Studies as a discipline in the Liberal Arts.
- have knowledge and understanding of at least two major religious traditions and be able to relate those traditions to their historical and cultural contexts.
- have detailed familiarity with major theoretical issues in the study of religion and be able to articulate how theory shapes the study of religion.
- be able to critically analyze data and apply major theories of religion to specific traditions, rituals, and social movements.
- have overall familiarity with the history of the study of religion.
- express ideas clearly and effectively in speech and in writing.*
- develop attitudes of toleration, inquiry, and understanding in the best tradition of the liberal arts.

*With regard to the goals of clear analysis, writing and speaking, Department courses focus strongly on the close reading and analysis of texts and the understanding of the social, political, and religious contexts of those texts. Our classes involve substantial written and spoken participation and virtually all upper-division courses are writing intensive. The department also plans to offer a number of speaking intensive courses as well.

(update 1/03)