



THE ADVISOR ADVOCATE

Minor Spotlight: Religious Studies

Dr. Theresa Smith explains the importance of **Religious Studies** and the skills the program teaches students. Unlike Women's and Gender Studies, **Religious Studies** does have an accompanying major and is always ready to welcome new students.

Given the impact of religious power, studying it is crucial.

Religion is believed to be the most powerful and widespread force in the world—the **Religious Studies bachelor's degree program** will help students understand the relationship between religion and politics, economics, and social structures. This program allows them to:

- Learn about the faiths, world views, and ways of life of people all over the world.
- Receive a balanced, nonsectarian, cross-cultural perspective leading to a better understanding of the phenomenon of religion in human experience.
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills, public speaking, and cross-cultural communication.
- Gain experience in factual description, comparative and critical analysis, and historical judgment.
- Enhance their knowledge of cultural diversity.

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In the process, students may also discover new career options, not only preparing for professions as ministers, priests, or rabbis, but for careers in international relations and development, education, journalism, social work, political and non-profit work, museum studies and much more. Religious Studies is also an ideal choice if students are contemplating a double major or a minor.

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