

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”

– Desmond Tutu

The mission of the Department of Religious Studies is to address some of the most compelling issues in human life and to foster global citizenship through interreligious literacy and an interdisciplinary understanding of the power and impact of the world’s religious traditions.

Religious Studies explores diverse conceptions of the nature of reality and the self; issues of suffering, life and death; and the relationships of science, religion, and the arts, as well as divergent approaches to addressing contemporary challenges.

Majoring and Minor in Religious Studies

The study of religion is integral to understanding history, art, politics, and culture and is a vital dimension of individual and social identities and worldviews. The religious studies major not only provides students with knowledge of the world's religions and a wide variety of methodological tools for analysis but also encourages students to explore diverse approaches life's enduring questions and to contemporary challenges from racial, gender and economic justice to environmental sustainability, medical ethics and human rights. Majoring in religious studies hones critical thinking and analytic skills, with an emphasis on cross-cultural understanding, evidence-based reasoning, and ethical awareness.

INTEGRATED curriculum that requires students to take a variety of classes and present their original research senior year.

INTERDISCIPLINARY curriculum that allows students to explore a range of topics, methodologies, iconography, material culture, social history, gender studies, and ethnic studies within their general education core.

INDIVIDUAL mentorship and internship opportunities are available to students.

INTERNATIONAL opportunities are encouraged by studying abroad or taking travel courses in a student's sophomore or junior year.

Learn More

For more information on how to apply, please contact the Office of Admissions at admit@chapman.edu or (714) 997-6611 or visit their webpage at www.chapman.edu/admission/index.aspx.

To visit the religious studies website, please scan the QR code:



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Study in a seminar setting with visiting renowned New Testament scholars
- Meet leading scholars of religious studies through the department's lectureship series
- Participate in an archaeological dig in Israel for Rel 415 or travel to England for Rel 333 to study religion, race and gender in Harry Potter
- Attend international gatherings like the Parliament of the World's Religions
- Present and publish your scholarly work
- Become a member of Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society for Religious Studies

REQUIREMENTS FOR A BA IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES:

- REL 115 Living Religions
- REL 130 Study of Religion
- Four Electives (At least three upper division)

36 UNITS TOTAL

MINOR REQUIREMENTS:

- Minor in Religious Studies

21 UNITS TOTAL

Contact or visit us at:

Phone: (714) 997-6636
 Office: Smith Hall 202