

# Religious Studies

Religious ideas and symbols contribute to many people a sense of purpose in life. The courses engage students in critical analysis of such ideas and symbols. While this study often brings students personal enrichment, the academic study of religion focuses especially on developing skills of critical thinking and clear communication in relation to knowledge of religions. Because of the way that contemporary scholars in this kind of a Roman Catholic department study religion, courses also include serious learning from other Christian perspectives and World Religions. Each option for the core curriculum required course introduces students to these skills in a significant area of knowledge about religious life. Advanced courses allow deeper study of central issues in Christian thought. These courses help to prepare majors for many career opportunities or graduate school programs and help non-majors develop their thinking and communication skills.

Upon graduating, Religious Studies majors should be able, for example, to: understand how religious belief entails ethical responsibility to seek justice for poor and vulnerable people; explain historical influences on theological theories and beliefs; and appreciate the diversity in our world.

## Career Opportunities

Religious studies majors may enter law school, study politics or engage in political activism for peace and justice, and become journalists or chaplains in campus or hospital settings. They also find church-related careers as teachers of religion, directors of religious education programs, youth or family-life ministers, directors of volunteers or of social justice activities, liturgical ministers and pastoral associates.

See the Graduate section (<http://catalog.mtmercy.edu/archives/2014-15/graduateprograms>) of this *Catalog* for more information on Graduate programs offered at Mount Mercy.

## Major

|                               |  |       |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|
| RS 111                        | Introduction To The Bible: Old Testament | 3     |
| RS 113                        | Introduction To The Bible: New Testament | 3     |
| RS 211                        | Who Is Jesus?                            | 3     |
| RS 312                        | Modern Christian Thought                 | 3     |
| RS 321                        | Faith And Moral Life                     | 3     |
| One or both of the following: |  | 3-6   |
| RS 114                        | Introduction to Christianity             |       |
| RS 115                        | Introduction To World Religions          |       |
| One or two of the following:  |  | 3-6   |
| RS 284                        | Topics in Religious Studies              |       |
| RS 445                        | Independent Study                        |       |
| PL 375                        | Faith And Reason                         |       |
| Total Hours                   |  | 21-27 |

## Religious Studies Minor

15 semester hours in Religious Studies electives with at least 6 of the hours numbered at the upper level.

|             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| RS 111      | Introduction To The Bible: Old Testament                                  | 3 |
| RS 113      | Introduction To The Bible: New Testament                                  | 3 |
| RS 114      | Introduction to Christianity  | 3 |
| RS 115      | Introduction To World Religions   | 3 |
| RS 118      | Christians Divided:Conservative Versus Liberal Battles                    | 3 |
| RS 119      | Christian Action:Moral Responsibility, Charitable Service, Social Justice | 3 |
| Upper Level |   | 6 |
| RS 321      | Faith And Moral Life  |   |
| RS 445      | Independent Study   |   |
| RS 461      | Senior Field Instruction  |   |
| RS 211      | Who Is Jesus?   |   |
| RS 284      | Topics in Religious Studies   |   |
| RS 312      | Modern Christian Thought  |   |