

B.A. in STUDIES IN RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUALITY
(32 credits required for graduation, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00)

NOTE: This guide does not replace the Degree Audit, remains subject to change, and represents actions approved by the Faculty to date. Students should refer often to the *current Online Catalog & Student Handbook* (www.berea.edu/cataloghandbook), which will receive regular updates with the most current information. The College encourages students to run their degree audits at the end of each term of enrollment.

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

No single transfer course can meet more than one General Education requirement.

Core Courses

(The College may waive developmental math courses on the basis of test scores.)

MAT 010: Pre-Algebra

MAT 011: Elementary Algebra I

MAT 012: Elementary Algebra II

GSTR 110: Writing Seminar I: Critical Thinking in the Liberal Arts (*Transfer Students may request that the College waive GSTR 110 on two conditions: [a] if they took College Composition as a degree-seeking student at another college or university; and [b] if they earned a grade of B or higher in that course.*)

GSTR 210: Writing Seminar II: Identity and Diversity in U.S.

GSTR 310: Understandings of Christianity

GSTR 410: Seminar, Contemporary Global Issues

Scientific Knowledge and Inquiry

GSTR 332: Scientific Origins **OR**

Two (2) approved science courses, from two different disciplines, one of which must be an approved lab course. The College has approved the following courses to meet this requirement: ANR 110, BIO 100, 101, 110, CHM 113, 131, PHY 111, 127, 221

Wellness & Fitness

WELL 101: Principles of Wellness I

WELL 102: Principles of Wellness II

Two (2) ¼-credit HHP activity courses (*HHP 200 will satisfy both the SWIM requirement and one of the activity-course requirements.*)

Practical Reasoning (PR &PRO)

Two (2) courses, at least one firmly grounded in math or statistics (PRQ); the other course may be an approved practical-reasoning (PR) course or another PRQ course.

Perspectives (Six Required Areas)

Students must take one (1) course in **each** of the six required areas. The College may approve individual courses to satisfy more than one perspective, but no single course may satisfy more than two perspective-areas. (1) Arts; (2) Social Science; (3) Western History; (4) Religion; (5) African American/Appalachian/Women; and (6) International (choose one option):

- a. Two (2) courses in the same non-English language, one of which may be waived through testing; **OR**
- b. Two (2) world-culture courses, one of which must be grounded in a non-western culture

Active Learning Experience

An approved experience, taken for credit or non-credit (e.g. internships, undergraduate research experiences).

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR

The College requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the major for graduation.

The student who chooses the Major in Religions and Spirituality must choose to pursue one, *and only one*, of the three following tracks of study.

Track 1: General Studies in Religions and Spiritualities; or

Track 2: Studies in Christian Religions and Spiritualities; or

Track 3: Studies in Religions, Spiritualities, and Social Justice

TRACK 1: GENERAL STUDIES IN RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUALITIES

Required Core Courses

REL 100: The Study of Religions

REL 302: Studies in Global Religions and Spiritualities

Required Capstone Course

REL 480: Seminar in Religions and Spiritualities

Required Distributive Courses (count inside the major)
(select five credits)

Students must complete a minimum of one course from each one of the three following distributive areas of study:

(1) *Historical* General Studies of Religions and Spiritualities;

(2) *Cultural* General Studies of Religions and Spiritualities;

and (3) *Normative* General Studies of Religions and Spiritualities. Students must take at least two 200-level courses from the five distributive or elective courses. Students also must complete two additional courses (beyond the three required courses), selected from the curriculum of the Department of Religions and Spirituality, as found in the course-lists of the three distributive areas.

In order to enable students to pursue two Majors in related disciplines of study, however, the Department permits a student to take as many as, but no more than, two courses toward the Major in Religions and Spirituality from other academic curricula. Students may choose and take such courses only from the approved course-lists in each one of three distributive areas.

With approval from the Chairperson of the Department for Studies of Religions and Spirituality, students may apply as many as two non-REL courses (transferred from other educational institutions) to fulfill requirements for the Major.

(REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR [TRACK ONE] continued)

**Area 1: General Historical Studies of Religions and Spiritualities
(one required) (Track One)**

REL 105: Introduction to Old Testament
REL 107: Introduction to New Testament
REL/AFR 136: African Traditional Religion
REL/AFR 238: African American Religious Traditions
REL 240: Islam
REL 250: Judaism
REL/AST 260: Buddhism
REL 224: Hinduism

Students also may choose one course from the following list of courses:

HIS 355: Seminar in American Religious History
ARH 232: Classical Art and Archaeology
ARH 242: Medieval Art

**Area 2: General Cultural Studies of Religions and Spiritualities
(one required) (Track One)**

REL 204: The Study of Spirituality
REL/WGS 211: Religions, Spirituality, and Gender
REL/CLS 222: Classical Mythology
REL 228: Archaeology and Christian Scriptures
REL 242: Religions and Atheisms

Students also may choose one course from the following list of courses:

AFR/MUS 234: African American Music
ARH 210: Topics in Islamic Architecture
ARH/AST 220: Topics in Indian Art History
ARH/AST 227: Arts of Buddhism in Asia
ARH/AST 249: Topics in Asian Art
ART 230: Topics in Latin American Art
AST 206: Introduction to Asian Cinema
AST 132: Religions of China
AST 135: Religions of Japan
CHI 103: Introduction to Chinese III
GRK 202: Introduction to Greek II
HEB 103: Readings in Biblia Hebraica
JPN/AST 103: Introduction to Japanese III
LAT 102: Introduction to Latin II

**Area 3: General Normative Studies of Religions and Spiritualities
(one required) (Track One)**

REL 109: Introduction to Christian Thought
REL 201: The Study of Ritual
REL 212: Religions, Rhetorics, & Rationalities
REL 225: Images of Jesus
REL 235: Christian Ethics
REL/PHI/AST 271: South Asian Philosophy
REL/PHI 281: Islamic Philosophy

Students also may choose one course from the following list of courses:

AST/SOC/WGS 240: Kinship and Gender in Southeast Asia
PHI 104: Morality, Law, and Philosophy
PHI/PSC 204: Justice and Law – Classical Political Philo.
PHI/PSJ 207: Human Rights, International Law
PHI 214: Approaches to Ethics
PHI 224: Free Will/Moral Responsibility
PHI 215: Thinking about God
PSJ 100: Foundations of Peace and Social Justice
PSJ/COM 113: Conflict and Mediation
PSJ 210: Diversity and Social Justice
PSJ 218: Voices of Nonviolence
AFR/APS/PSJ/SENS/WGS 225: Environmental Justice

Required Senior Project or Essay

During the term prior to the student's final year of study, the student will meet with the Chairperson of the Department for Studies of Religions and Spirituality to select both an official faculty advisor and a topic for her or his research project or essay, as well as to plan a course of study for the following and final year of the student's program, which must include the following required course:
REL 480: Seminar in Religions and Spiritualities.

Elective Courses

20 credits outside the major

The Department recommends that students who plan to pursue graduate studies of religions, spiritualities, or ministry study a foreign language through the third level.

TRACK 2: STUDIES IN CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUALITIES

Required Core Courses

REL 100: The Study of Religions
REL 302: Studies in Global Religions and Spiritualities

Required Capstone Course

REL 480: Seminar in Religions and Spiritualities

Required Distributive Courses (count inside the major)
(select five credits)

Students must complete a minimum of one course from each one of the three following distributive areas of study:
(1) *Historical* Studies of Christian Religions and Spiritualities;
(2) *Cultural* Studies of Christian Religions and Spiritualities;
and (3) *Normative* Studies of Christian Religions and Spiritualities. Students must take at least two 200-level courses from the five distributive or elective courses. Students also must complete two additional courses (beyond the three required courses), selected from the curriculum of the Department of Religions and Spirituality, as found in the course-lists of the three distributive areas.

In order to enable students to pursue two Majors in related disciplines of study, however, the Department permits a student to take as many as, but no more than, two courses toward the Major in Religions and Spirituality from other academic curricula. Students may choose and take such courses only from the approved course-lists in each one of three distributive areas.

(REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR [TRACK TWO] continued)

With approval from the Chairperson for the Department of Religions and Spirituality, students may apply as many as two non-REL courses (transferred from other educational institutions) to fulfill requirements for the Major.

Area 1: Historical Studies of Christian Religions and Spiritualities (one required) (Track Two)

REL 105: Introduction to Old Testament
REL 107: Introduction to New Testament
REL 250: Judaism
or *REL 240: Islam*
or *REL/AFR 136: African Traditional Religion*

Students also may choose one course from the following list of courses:

AFR/REL 238: African American Religious Traditions
HIS 355: Seminar in American Religious History
ARH 232: Classical Art and Archaeology
ARH 242: Medieval Art

Area 2: Cultural Studies of Christian Religions and Spiritualities (one required) (Track Two)

REL 204: The Study of Spirituality
REL/WGS 211: Religions, Spirituality, and Gender
REL 228: Archaeology and Christian Scriptures
REL 242: Religions and Atheisms
REL/CLS 222: Classical Mythology

Students also may choose one course from the following list of courses:

AFR/MUS 234: African American Music Overview
ART 230: Topics in Latin American Art
ARH 232: Classical Art and Archaeology
ARH 242: Medieval Art
GRK 202: Introduction to Greek II
HEB 103: Readings in Biblia Hebraica
LAT 102: Introduction to Latin II

Area 3: Normative Studies of Christian Religions and Spiritualities (one required) (Track Two)

REL 109: Introduction to Christian Thought
REL 201: The Study of Ritual
REL 212: Religions, Rhetorics, & Rationalities
REL 225: Images of Jesus
REL 235: Christian Ethics

Students also may choose one course from the following list of courses:

PHI 104: Morality, Law, and Philosophy
PHI/PSC 204: Justice and Law—Classical Pol. Philo.
PHI/PSC 207: Human Rights, International Law
PHI 214: Approaches to Ethics
PHI 215: Thinking about God
PSJ 100: Foundations of Peace and Social Justice
PSJ/COM 113: Conflict and Mediation

PSJ 210: Diversity and Social Justice
PSJ 218: Voices of Nonviolence
AFR/APS/PSJ/SENS/WGS 225: Environmental Justice

Required Senior Project or Essay

During the term prior to the student's final year of study, the student will meet with the Chairperson of the Department for Studies of Religions and Spirituality to select both an official faculty advisor and a topic for her or his research project or essay, as well as to plan a course of study for the following and final year of the student's program, which must include the following required course:
REL 480: Seminar in Religions and Spiritualities.

Elective Courses

20 credits outside the major

The Department recommends that students who plan to pursue graduate studies of religions, spiritualities, or ministry study a foreign language through the third level.

TRACK 3: STUDIES IN RELIGIONS, SPIRITUALITIES, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Required Core Courses

REL 100: The Study of Religions
REL 302: Studies in Global Religions and Spiritualities

Required Capstone Course

REL 480: Seminar in Religions and Spiritualities

Required Distributive Courses (count inside the major)
(select five credits)

Students must complete a minimum of *one* course from each one of the three following distributive areas of study: (1) *Historical* Studies of Religions, Spiritualities, and Social Justice; (2) *Cultural* Studies of Religions, Spiritualities, and Social Justice; and (3) *Normative* Studies of Religions, Spiritualities, and Social Justice. Students must take at least two 200-level courses from the five distributive or elective courses. Students also must complete two additional courses (beyond the three required courses), selected from the curriculum of the Department of Religions and Spirituality, as found in the course-lists of the three distributive areas.

In order to enable students to pursue two Majors in related disciplines of study, however, the Department permits a student to take as many as, but no more than, two courses toward the Major in Religions and Spirituality from other academic curricula. Students may choose and take such courses only from the approved course-lists in each one of three distributive areas.

With approval from the Chairperson of the Department for Studies of Religions and Spirituality, students may apply as many as two non-REL courses (transferred from other educational institutions) to fulfill requirements for the Major.

**(REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR [TRACK THREE]
continued)**

**Area 1: Historical Studies of Religions, Spiritualities, and Social
Justice
(one required) (Track Three)**

REL 105: Introduction to Old Testament
REL 240: Islam
REL 250: Judaism
REL/AFR 238: African Amer. Rel. Traditions

*Students also may choose one course from the
following list of courses:*

AFR/HIS 165: Intro. to African Amer. History
AFR/HIS 260: Survey of African History
APS 235: Humans and Nature in South. Appal.
HIS 231: The Holocaust

**Area 2: Cultural Studies of Religions, Spiritualities, and Social
Justice
(one required) (Track Three)**

REL/AFR 136: African Traditional Religion
REL 204: The Study of Spirituality
REL/WGS 211: Religions, Spirituality, and Gender
REL 228: Archaeology and Christian Scriptures
REL 255: Therapeutic Horsemanship
REL/PHI/AST 271: South Asian Philosophy
REL/PHI 281: Islamic Philosophy

*Students also may choose one course from the
following list of courses:*

AFR/MUS 234: African American Music Overview
APS/WGS 220: Gender in Appalachia
APS/AFR 230: African Americans in Appalachia
ART 230: Topics in Latin American Art
CFS/SOC/WGS 201: Sexuality in Everyday Life
CLS/HHP 110: Sport and Spectacle in Greece and Rome
ENG/AFR 141: African American Literature
ENG/WGS 302: Introduction to Queer Theory
PSY/WGS 230: Psychology of Women and Gender

**Area 3: Normative Studies of Religions, Spiritualities, and
Social Justice
(one required) (Track Three)**

REL 212: Religions, Rhetorics, & Rationalities
REL 235: Christian Ethics
REL/PHI/AST 271: South Asian Philosophy
REL/PHI 281: Islamic Philosophy

*Students also may choose one course from the
following list of courses:*

AST/SOC/WGS 240: Kinship and Gender in Southeast Asia
PHI 104: Morality, Law, and Philosophy
PHI/PSJ 207: Human Rights, International Law
PHI 214: Approaches to Ethics
PSJ 100: Foundations of Peace and Social Justice
PSJ/COM 113: Conflict and Mediation
PSJ 210: Diversity and Social Justice
PSJ 218: Voices of Nonviolence
AFR/APS/PSJ/SENS/WGS 225: Environmental Justice

Required Senior Project or Essay

During the term prior to the student's final year of study, the student will meet with the Chairperson of the Department for Studies of Religions and Spirituality to select both an official faculty advisor and a topic for her or his research project or essay, as well as to plan a course of study for the following and final year of the student's program, which must include the following required course: ***REL 480: Seminar in Religions and Spiritualities.***

Elective Courses

20 credits outside the major

The Department recommends that students who plan to pursue graduate studies of religions, spiritualities, or ministry study a foreign language through the third level.

**DEPARTMENTAL EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND LEARNING
OUTCOMES**

Students who pursue academic studies of religions and spirituality at Berea College will learn and will develop well-informed, rigorously-critical, creatively-constructive, and responsibly-engaged approaches to and skills for thinking, talking, and writing about religions and spiritualities. Students will develop these perspectives and skills by attaining several educational goals and corresponding student learning objectives or outcomes (SLOs). Especially the departmental curriculum, along with several additional courses from the larger curriculum of the College, enable students to develop competence in academic studies of religions and spirituality at Berea College.

The *three educational goals* of the Department for Studies of Religions and Spirituality correlate directly to the *three major distributive areas of study* for the Major in Studies of Religions and Spirituality: (1) Historical Studies of Religions and Spirituality; (2) Cultural Studies of Religions and Spirituality; and (3) Normative Studies of Religions and Spirituality. The departmental Faculty has designed a list of courses for each one of the three distributive areas of study both from which students must choose to fulfill requirements for the Major or Minor and that will enable students to achieve the respective student learning objectives (SLOs) that derive from each one of the Department's three educational goals. The Faculty in the Department for Studies of Religions and Spirituality also annually assesses its curriculum and work in light of the educational goals and student learning objectives.

Educational Goal 1

Students will acquire and will demonstrate knowledge about the *historical development and contexts* of specific spiritual and religious communities, traditions, or movements, with careful attention to the origin and evolution of their social organization and institutions, distinctive experiences and emotions, moral codes and practices, rituals and spiritual disciplines, sacred narratives and texts, art and architecture, as well as beliefs and doctrines.

Student Learning Outcome 1.1

*Students will acquire and will demonstrate knowledge about the **experiential or emotional dimension of religions and spiritualities**, through acquisition of knowledge about different forms of religious or spiritual experience, as well as basic religious issues, questions, and concerns that arise in human experience and emerge as human expressions of and responses to the human condition.*

Student Learning Outcome 1.2

*Students will acquire and will demonstrate knowledge about the **ritual dimension of religions and spiritualities**, acquiring knowledge about forms of worship and ceremonies in several religious or spiritual communities and traditions.*

Student Learning Outcome 1.3

*Students will acquire and will demonstrate knowledge about the **mythic or narrative dimension of religions and spiritualities**, acquiring knowledge about both several classic sacred texts from human religious and spiritual history and the history of their interpretation.*

Educational Goal 2

Students will encounter and will examine religious, moral, aesthetic, social, economic, philosophical, and political questions, problems, or issues that *either* emerge from the *cultural contexts* of spiritual or religious communities, experience, thought, and practice, *or* occur as spiritual/religious questions or issues within *more expansive cultural frames of reference*.

Student Learning Outcome 2.1

*Students will acquire and will demonstrate knowledge about the **social, political, and institutional dimension of religions and spiritualities**, acquiring knowledge, on the one hand, about organization, structures, forms of authority and governance within specific religious or spiritual communities, and, on the other hand, about interactions of religious or spiritual communities with their larger cultural contexts in terms of their social, political, and institutional features and dynamics.*

Student Learning Outcome 2.2

*Students will acquire and will demonstrate knowledge about the **material dimension of religions and spiritualities**, acquiring knowledge about the various ways in which religious or spiritual communities and individuals express their experience of sacred or ultimate reality through the arts, architecture, music, drama, and other cultural expressions.*

Educational Goal 3

Students will consider *normative questions, problems, and issues, as well as constructive solutions and proposals*, about the existence and character of sacred or ultimate reality, the world and universe, and the nature and conduct of human life that emerge from spiritual and religious or *spiritual* experience, communities, and traditions.

Student Learning Outcome 3.1

*Students will acquire and will demonstrate knowledge about the **doctrinal or philosophical dimension of religions and spiritualities**, acquiring knowledge about basic normative beliefs, teachings, and doctrines in specific forms of religious or spiritual experience and communities, on the one hand, and about the systematic and organized exposition and expression of their meaning by religious or spiritual individuals and communities, on the other hand.*

Student Learning Outcome 3.2

*Students will acquire and will demonstrate knowledge about the **moral, legal, and ethical dimension of religions and spiritualities**, acquiring knowledge about basic normative moral beliefs, practices, and teachings in specific religious or spiritual systems and communities, on the one hand, and about the systematic and organized exposition and expression of their meaning by religious or spiritual individuals and communities, on the other hand.*