

# 2022-2023 B.A. in STUDIES IN RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUALITY

(32 credits required for graduation, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00)

**NOTE:** This guide is not meant to replace the degree audit; it is subject to change and represents actions approved by Faculty to date. Students are encouraged to run their degree audit often. Please refer to the *2022-2023 Catalog*, which will be updated with the most current information

## 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 230: Topics in Latin American Art  
ARH/AST 249: Topics in Asian 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 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 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 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  
ARH 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 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.*