

## THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR IN BARRETT

*Any Barrett student who is considering a major in religious studies should make an appointment as soon as possible with the Honors Faculty Advisor, Professor Eugene Clay ([clay@asu.edu](mailto:clay@asu.edu)).*

The religious studies major offers students training in a unique combination of skills, including direct observation, critical thinking, and cross-cultural understanding. In many professional fields, such skills are in high demand. In addition, many religion majors or minors go on to study law, business, education, and medicine in graduate school. Some students choose to make religion the center of a professional career, either as the leader of a religious community, or as an academic specialist in higher education. In short, the study of religion offers a wide array of opportunities and a firm foundation for a successful and fulfilling career.

**The B.A. in Religious Studies** consists of 30 credit hours of course work in Religious Studies (REL), 21 of which must be upper division (300-400 level), and 15 credit hours in related areas selected in consultation with the Religious Studies advisor.

### **Program of Study:**

#### **Required Courses (9 hours):**

**REL 207:** Ritual, Symbol and Myth

**REL 307:** Approaches to Religion

**REL 405:** Capstone Seminar (special topics)

#### **Distribution Requirements (9 hours):**

Religious Tradition (9 hours), OR Theme (9 hours), OR Geographic Region (9 hours)

#### **Religious Studies Electives (12 hours):**

Choose any REL prefixed courses

#### **Related Areas (15 hours).**

**For the religious studies major map, see**

<https://webapp4.asu.edu/programs/t5/majorinfo/ASU00/LARELBA/undergrad/false>.

**For more information, e-mail [SHPRSAdivising@asu.edu](mailto:SHPRSAdivising@asu.edu).**

### **Courses**

Most of our undergraduate courses can be taken for Honors credit; please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss the requirements. Activities for your Honors contract might include writing papers, preparing class material and giving presentations, attending discussion groups, or developing a research project. For more information about honors contracts, please see <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/honors-enrichment-contracts>.

### **Advising, Research Opportunities, and Internships**

Be sure to make an appointment to see your faculty advisor once **before the end of your freshman year** and again before the end of your **sophomore year**. While the first time is simply a getting to know each other, the second time will serve to acquaint you with research opportunities in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies for your honors thesis project. Please see <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/internships/> for more information about internships available through Barrett.

## **The Honors Thesis/ Creative Project**

Honors students are required to complete an honors thesis/creative project. Typically, honors students enroll in 3 credits of HON 492 (Honors Thesis Research) and in 3 credits of HON 493 (Honors Thesis) in their junior or senior year. HON 493 is not repeatable for credit. The religious studies honors program allows a maximum of 6 credits for the honors thesis. Honors students can choose other areas of interest and are not required to complete the thesis project within their major.

**Prior to enrolling in thesis credits, all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session.** If at all possible, religious studies honors student should attend **the special honors thesis workshop** held once per semester in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies. Students may also fulfill the requirement by completing one of the following:

- HON 498 “Thesis Prep Course,” a one-credit course offered on the downtown campus
- One of the Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett
- The on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard.

See <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/>.

**Starting in fall 2013, the thesis/creative project committee structure has changed.**

Honors students in religious studies Students must consult with their thesis/creative project director **BEFORE** forming a committee. The committee **must** consist of at least two members, including a director who must be an ASU lecturer or tenure-line faculty member on the Religious Studies Faculty. **Consult your thesis/creative project director to determine whether he/she has even stricter requirements.**