



October 11, 2017

Administrative Boards  
College of Arts and Sciences and General College

**Proposed Revisions to the Major and Minor in Religious Studies, the Minor in Christianity and Culture, and the Minor in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies**

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to propose revisions to the undergraduate major and minor in **Religious Studies**. The reasons for this request is to a) include Hinduism as one of the religious traditions that we teach, due to a recent hire, b) update the affiliation of an Adjunct Assistant Professor, c) note 3 existing courses as having an honors version and one as cross-listed, and d) recognize many (31) courses that are new in the Undergraduate Bulletin. An edited version of the Undergraduate Bulletin section describing the Major and an edited version of the Undergraduate Bulletin section describing our courses are attached – please note that all the changes to the Major also need to be applied to the Minor in Religious Studies.

I am also writing to propose revisions to two minors housed in our department. For the **Minor in Christianity and Culture**, there are many (7) courses new to the Undergraduate Bulletin. An edited version of the Undergraduate Bulletin section describing the C&C minor is attached. For the **Minor in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies**, the reasons for this revision are to a) include many (10) courses that are new in the Undergraduate Bulletin, and b) delete a course. An edited version of the Undergraduate Bulletin section describing the IMES minor is attached.

*Correction: including 12 courses, not 10.*

An important note: The edits are visible in Adobe Acrobat but not in Preview. In Adobe Acrobat, if you hover over one of the blue marks all the inserted material will be visible in a side column, or you can print it out with the comments expanded (“summarize comments” function). Please let me know if you have any questions due to this formatting – I can send hard copies if it would be easier. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Randall Styers  
Chair, Department of Religious Studies

# ISLAMIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES MINOR

## Contact Information

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<http://religion.unc.edu>

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The undergraduate minor in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies (ISME) is intended to offer students access to two complementary perspectives, the transregional study of Islam and Muslim societies in interaction with surrounding cultures, and the Middle East as a complex region seen through multiple disciplinary perspectives.

## Department Programs

### Majors

- Religious Studies Major, B.A. (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-major-ba>)
- Religious Studies Major, B.A. – Jewish Studies Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-major-ba-jewish-studies-concentration>)

### Minors

- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Minor (p. 1)
- Jewish Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/jewish-studies-minor>)
- Religious Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-minor>)
- Study of Christianity and Culture Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/study-christianity-culture-minor>)

### Graduate Programs

- M.A. in Religious Studies (<http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/religious-studies>)
- Ph.D. in Religious Studies (<http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/religious-studies>)

## Requirements

In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must:

- take at least nine hours of their minor course requirements at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum of 12 hours of C or better in the minor (some minors require more)

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>).

The minor consists of five courses, which must be taken in at least two different departments; at least one course must be from the Department of Religious Studies, and at least one course must be at an advanced level (400 and above). The two required core courses for the minor are the following:

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
Introduction to Islamic Civilization:		
HIST 138	History of Muslim Societies to 1500 <sup>1</sup>	3
or RELI 180	Introduction to Islamic Civilization	
One of the following three courses:		3
HIST 139	History of Muslim Societies since 1500	
HIST 276	The Modern Middle East	
RELI 181	Modern Muslim Societies	
Three elective courses		9
<b>Additional Requirements</b>		
Three of the five courses in the minor (including the required courses listed above) must be selected from one of two subject categories—either Islamic studies or Middle Eastern studies—as indicated by the two lists of approved courses below.		
The other two courses must come from the other category.		
Total Hours		15

<sup>1</sup> Both courses cover material from the seventh century to 1500

## Islamic Studies

Code	Title	Hours
ARAB/ASIA/RELI 681	Readings in Islamic Literature	3
ARTH 562	Islamic Urbanism	3
ARTH/ASIA 154	Introduction to Art and Architecture of Islamic Lands (Eighth-16th Centuries CE) <sup>H</sup>	3
ARTH/ASIA 251	Art in the Age of the Caliphs	3
ARTH/ASIA 273	Arts Under the Mughal Dynasty in India	3
ARTH/ASIA 458	Islamic Architecture and the Environment	3
ARTH/ASIA 561	Arts of the Islamic Mediterranean	3
ASIA 59	First-Year Seminar: Media Masala: Popular Music, TV, and the Internet in Modern India and Pakistan	3
ASIA 331	Cracking India: Partition and Its Legacy in South Asia	3
ASIA/HIST 135	History of the Indian Subcontinent to 1750	3
ASIA/HIST 136	History of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh: South Asia since 1750	3
ASIA/HIST 138	History of Muslim Societies to 1500	3
ASIA/HIST 139	History of Muslim Societies since 1500	3
ASIA/RELI 180	Introduction to Islamic Civilization	3
ASIA/RELI 181	Modern Muslim Societies	3
ASIA/RELI 582	Islam and Islamic Art in South Asia	3
ASIA/RELI 584	The Qur'an as Literature	3
GEOG 448	Transnational Geographies of Muslim Societies	3
GSL/RELI 218	Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages	3

PWAD/RELI 481	Religion, Fundamentalism, and Nationalism	3
RELI 64	First-Year Seminar: Reintroducing Islam	3
RELI 185	Women/Gender/Islam <sup>H</sup>	3
RELI 248	Introduction to American Islam <sup>H</sup>	3
RELI 289	Muhammad and the Qur'an	3
RELI 385	Modern Muslims and the Qur'an	3
RELI 480	Modern Muslim Literatures	3
RELI 485	Gender and Sexuality in Islam	3
RELI 580	African American Islam	3
SOCI 419	Sociology of the Islamic World	3

<sup>H</sup> Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

## Middle Eastern Studies

Code	Title	Hours
ARAB 150	Introduction to Arab Cultures	3
ARAB 151	Arabic Literature through the Ages	3
ARAB 350	Women and Leadership in the Arab World	3
ARAB 434	Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	3
ARAB 443	Dissident Voices in Arab Cultures	3
ARAB 452	Imagining Palestine	3
ARAB 453	Film, Nation, and Identity in the Arab World	3
ARAB 468	Modernity and Its Discontents in Arabic Literature and Culture	3
ASIA 64	First-Year Seminar: Arab World Photography	3
ASIA 126	Introduction to Persian Literature	3
ASIA 235	Israeli Cinema: Gender, Nation, and Ethnicity <sup>H</sup>	3
ASIA 357	The Arab-Jews: Culture, Community, and Coexistence	3
ASIA 431	Persian Sufi Literature	3
ASIA 435	The Cinemas of the Middle East and North Africa	3
ASIA/CMPL 256	Love in Classical Persian Poetry	3
ASIA/CMPL 258	Iranian Prison Literature	3
ASIA/CMPL 359	Literary Diasporas of the Middle East	3
ASIA/CMPL 442	Postcolonial Literature of the Middle East	3
ASIA/GEOG 447	Gender, Space, and Place in the Middle East	3
ASIA/HIST 276	The Modern Middle East	3
ASIA/HIST 277	The Conflict over Israel/Palestine	3
ASIA/HIST 536	Revolution in the Modern Middle East	3
ASIA/HIST 538	The Middle East and the West	3
ASIA/HIST/ PWAD 275	History of Iraq	3
ASIA/HIST/WGST 537	Women in the Middle East	3
ASIA/JWST 60	First-Year Seminar: Israeli Culture and Society: Collective Memories and Fragmented Identities	3
ASIA/PWAD 69	First-Year Seminar: Wars and Veterans: Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan	3
ASIA/RELI 583	Religion and Culture in Iran, 1500-Present	3
ASIA/WGST 127	Iranian Women Writers	3
ASIA/WGST 329	Middle East Women Writers	3
ASIA/WGST 471	Gender and Sexuality in Middle Eastern Literature	3

GEOG 59	First-Year Seminar: Space, Identity, and Power in the Middle East	3
HEBR 436	Language, Exile, and Homeland in Zionist Thought and Practice	3
HIST 163	Modern Central Asia	3
HIST 511	9/11 in World History	3
JWST/RELI 343	Religion in Modern Israel	3
PWAD 670	REMOVED (Peace Making)	

<sup>H</sup> Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

One language course at level 5 or higher in Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi-Urdu, Persian, or Turkish can count as a course toward the minor. Up to two courses in Islamic and Middle East studies at Duke University may count toward the minor if approved by the director of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations.

**Hours** Although this minor is housed in the Department of Religious Studies, the director of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations is responsible for advising all students who minor in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies.

See the program page here (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-major-ba/#opportunities>) for special opportunities.