

MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

ARTS, HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Religious Studies

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER



RELIGION MATTERS:
du.edu/ahss/ReligiousStudies

DU's M.A. in Religious Studies explores the phenomenon of religion as well as the world's religious traditions. Course offerings and faculty appointments reflect the department's commitment to providing breadth in the study of the various traditions and in methods and theoretical approaches one might employ in that study.

What can I do with a RLGS M.A.? The Religious Studies M.A. program prepares students for Ph.D. work, for teaching, and for careers in journalism, government and nonprofit organizations in which cross-cultural analytical skills are important. The program provides broad competencies in several religious traditions while offering students the opportunity to specialize.

What do I need to qualify for the RLGS M.A. program? Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. Applicants must have an appropriate background in the study of the humanities. Undergraduate courses in Religious Studies are highly desirable, but all work in related areas will be taken into consideration.

- Applications are due February 1 for Fall admission the following academic year. Late applications will be considered, but priority will be given to applicants meeting the deadline. Students may apply at any time for Winter, Spring, and Summer admission, on a space available basis.
- Please note: full-year financial aid packages are only awarded during the February applications.
- Apply online: <http://www.du.edu/apply/graduates/index.html>.
- Admission to the program is normally announced in mid-March and financial aid in early April.

What goes into the RLGS M.A. degree? The RLGS MA. requires a minimum of 45 hours of coursework, including one theory and methods course as well as courses providing a solid grounding in three of five religious traditions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism).

Students also take at least 16 hours in one of six areas of specialization:

- **Critical Theory and Religion.** *This specialization brings post-World War II theories of religion from a range of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities into conversation with both the original discourses of "critical theory" as developed by the Frankfurt School and the so-called "new critical theory" in its interdisciplinary scope, which focuses on such topics as race, class, gender, ethnicity, and globalization. Students in this area of specialization may choose each year from a prescribed lists of courses both inside and outside the department, including those specifically listed for the university's own "critical theory" curriculum spanning a wide range of fields and departments. At least two courses taken for this area of specialization must have RLGS numbering.*
- **Lived Religions.** *In addition to the core requirements, students must take at least four courses (within or outside the department) in the historical, social, and cultural forms and practices of the world's various religions, which can also include new, indigenous, or African religions. To satisfy requirements for this area of specialization, a student must have taken, transferred in, or waived at least one course during the program in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, or Latino religious traditions, regardless of whether these courses count for core credit or toward the area of specialization.*
- **Philosophy of Religion.** *Students must take at least two courses in the theory of religion plus one course in a specific philosopher, or philosophers, from each of the two historical periods: ancient and modern (Plato to Kant), late modern and postmodern (Hegel to the present). The remaining courses can be chosen from the department's approved list of courses for this area of specialization, and will likely involve additional courses taken in the Philosophy Department.*
- **Religion and International Studies.** *This specialization focuses on the role of religion in the interplay of religions and cultures within a global context. Students must take at least one course in a specific religious tradition beyond the core requirements as well as one course in the theory of religion that pertains to international studies. The remaining courses can be chosen from the department's approved list of courses for the area of specialization. Finally, students must take at least 4 hours of course work (including independent study, service learning, or field work) at a location outside North America. Depending on the student's program of study, the department may require the passing of a competency exam in a relevant language.*
- **Sacred Texts.** *Students who choose this concentration may focus on texts of one religious tradition, (e.g., Hebrew Bible, the Christian testament, the Qur'an, etc.) or may opt for a comparative approach. Students must acquire appropriate competency in the relevant language(s), minimally the equivalent of one full year of study, prior to matriculation or independently during the first year in the Program. The University does not offer introductory, graduate-level instruction in biblical Hebrew, koine Greek, Arabic, Sanskrit, Pāli, classical Chinese or Tibetan. Introductory language courses cannot be approved for credit to fulfill degree requirements.*

Where can I go to learn more?

We invite you to visit our office: Sturm Hall, second floor, Suite 266.

We welcome your questions – please feel free to visit, email, or phone:

- Graduate Studies Adviser: Carl Raschke (carlraschke@gmail.com)
- Assistant to the Chair: RLGS@du.edu or 303.871.2749