PROPOSAL FOR A MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Submitted by the Department of Religious Studies
(Revised 10-11-2012)

A. Executive Summary

Religion is a multi-faceted phenomenon that is central to all aspects of human culture. Religions not only influence the thoughts and actions of their individual practitioners, but also shape the public lives and social institutions of various peoples around the world. From arts to laws, from individual psychology to international politics, from patterns of education to patterns of business transaction, from gender relations to racial relations, from literature to history to philosophy to scientific discovery, there is no aspect of human life that is untouched by religious worldviews, practices, experiences, values, symbols, and institutions. The study of religions is therefore integral to the understanding of any human society and any people. Furthermore, we live in a world of many cultures, which are now found side by side in all major cities around the world. Each of these cultures has been nourished by the religions it has encountered. The study of religions is an indispensable part in educating the modern citizen in today’s multicultural society.

“Religious Studies” is an umbrella designation covering multiple disciplines and various traditions. In terms of religious traditions, Religious Studies generally includes the study of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hindu traditions, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and some other new religious movements. In terms of academic disciplines, literary, historical, philosophical, linguistic, psychological, sociological, anthropological, and theological methods are used.

Given the multi-disciplinary and multicultural nature of Religious Studies, students who minor in Religious Studies will enjoy much flexibility in terms of course selection. The minor does not consist of one specific set of required courses, and students can easily tailor the minor program to suit their individual interests and to complement their majors. Students may choose to concentrate on courses that are relevant to their majors, or they may want to enroll in a wide range of courses for a broader understanding of the world that will help their future career. They may find themselves interested in delving deep into one religious tradition, or they may want to develop a cross-cultural appreciation of religious vibrancy and diversity in order to interact with different “others” who are now their neighbors and coworkers. They may want to employ one particular method to study world religions systematically, or they may want to use multiple disciplines in order to study different aspects of one religion. The nature of Religious Studies courses afford students with a wide range of choices.

The purpose of the minor in Religious Studies is twofold. First, it nurtures empathic understanding and conceptual flexibility that are much needed in interacting with diverse populations in students’ future workplaces. Second, it provides students with an opportunity to take a more in-depth look into the public, communal life as well as their personal growth. Lower-division courses in Religious Studies provide students with the opportunities to gain some necessary knowledge to understand and interact with people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. Upper-division courses can further augment students’ current majors, and perhaps future careers and degrees, in international business, intercultural communication, foreign relations, public policies, journalism on world events, cultural studies, area studies, history, anthropology, sociology, social work,
psychology, counseling, healthcare professions, philosophy, scriptural studies, religious education, ministry, etc. Religious Studies deepens and broadens any student’s knowledge of the world and enhances his or her intellectual growth and career development.

At present, UDM students are already taking three to six credit hours in Religious Studies in the fulfillment of their Core Curriculum requirements. A number of Religious Studies courses are cross-listed with other programs in the University, such as Philosophy, Psychology, Catholic Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies. Thus, a minor in Religious Studies that consists of eighteen credit hours is certainly an achievable goal for students in the University.

B. Description of the Minor

Summary of the proposed minor:

We propose the following course requirements for a minor in Religious Studies:

- One of the following courses: RELS 2001 The Study of Religions, or RELS 2020 Asian Religions, or RELS 2030 Western Religions; and (3 credits)
- Any 5 electives in Religious Studies from at least 3 different tracks (see 1 below); 3 of the 5 electives must be upper-division (3000-4000 level) courses (15 credits)
- Total credit hours in proposed minor: (18 credits)

In accordance with University-wide standards for minors, at least 12 credits of the courses required for the minor must be taken at UDM. Further, no more than six credits may be counted as applying to both the Religious Studies and any other major or minor program.

B1: Narrative description (as it would appear in the UDM catalog):

Religions are at the core of cultures, and the study of religions is integral to the understanding of any human society. A deeper understanding of religious phenomena is thus a useful and enabling complement to virtually any course of study or career path. At the same time, however, due to the multi-traditional scope and multi-disciplinary nature of Religious Studies, a major in Religious Studies can seem very challenging. The minor in Religious Studies, by contrast, is comprised of only 18 credits (6 courses) and is easily attainable since students at UDM are already taking one to two courses in the fulfillment of their Core Curriculum requirements.

In order to insure a basic understanding of the comparative study and multiple methodologies of Religious Studies, all students who choose the minor will be required to take either RELS 2001 “The Study of Religions,” or RELS 2020 “Asian Religions” or RELS 2030 “Western Religions.” Students are then free to explore the subfields in Religious Studies in which they have the greatest interest by choosing any 5 courses offered by the Department of Religious Studies from at least 3 of the tracks listed below; 3 of those courses must be of upper division (3000- or 4000-level). Students may choose to concentrate on courses that are directly relevant to their majors or areas of greatest interest, or they may want to enroll in a wide range of courses for a broader understanding of the world and of their communities that will better enable their life plans.
The following list includes courses that have been taught in recent semesters or whose offering is anticipated in upcoming semesters, arranged in five sub-disciplinary areas or tracks: World Religions (other than Christianity), Biblical Studies, Christian Theology and Spirituality, Contemporary Issues in Religion, and Ethics. (Note: Several courses are listed under more than one track because their content is appropriate to more than one area of study. In those cases, a student may take that course to meet one or the other area track, but not both.)

**World Religions (other than Christianity):**

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<td>RELS 2120</td>
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<td>RELS 4130</td>
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<td>Gender in Asian Traditions</td>
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<td>RELS 4470</td>
<td>Jews and Judaism in the Modern World</td>
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**Biblical Studies:**

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<td>RELS 2220</td>
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<td>RELS 2230</td>
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<td>RELS 2240</td>
<td>Jesus and the Gospels</td>
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<td>RELS 4220</td>
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<td>RELS 4230</td>
<td>Prophets, Wisdom, and Apocalyptic</td>
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<td>RELS 4240</td>
<td>The Four Gospels</td>
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<td>RELS 4250</td>
<td>Acts, Letters, and Revelation</td>
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**Christian Theology and Spirituality:**

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<tr>
<td>RELS 2000</td>
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<td>RELS 2350</td>
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<td>RELS 2440</td>
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<td>RELS 2500</td>
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<td>God and the Human Condition</td>
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RELS 3310  The Christian God
RELS 3340  Theology of Death and Resurrection
RELS 3530  Dynamics of Spiritual Growth
RELS 3550  Poets, Mystics, and God
RELS 3570  Spiritual Autobiographies
RELS 3580  Theology of the Imagination
RELS 3755  On the Divine
RELS 3550  Poets, Mystics, and God
RELS 3580  Poets, Mystics, and God
RELS 4320  Classical and Contemporary Catholicism
RELS 4440  Sexuality and Love in Contemporary Christian Thought

**Contemporary Issues in Religion:**

RELS 2140  Women and Religion
RELS 2170  Religion in the United States of America
RELS 2360  Religion and Film (*may be offered online*)
RELS 2420  Religion and Science in the West
RELS 2480  The Holocaust
RELS 2490  Violence, Nonviolence and Religion
RELS 3000  Philosophy of Religion
RELS 3020  Contemporary Religious Movements
RELS 3500  Religion and Psychology
RELS 3590  Religion, Health and Healing (*may be offered online*)
RELS 4132  Religions and Global Wellbeing
RELS 4140  Gender and Religion
RELS 4141  Gender in Asian Traditions

**Ethics:**

RELS 2340  Introduction to Christian Ethics
RELS 2400  Social Ethics
RELS 2450  Class, Race and Gender
RELS 3470  Catholic Social Thought
RELS 3480  Justice: Contemporary Issues and Theories
RELS 4132  Religions and Global Wellbeing
RELS 4340  Christian Ethics
RELS 4450  Sex, Race and Class: Feminist and Womanist Ethics
RELS 4680  Catholic Health Care Ethics

*(Note: Because a small number of Religious Studies faculty are attempting to provide a very broad variety of courses, it is possible that some courses listed above will not be repeated within a one-year or two-year scheduling cycle. Please contact the Religious Studies Department Chair or Minor Advisor if you have questions about when a particular course will be offered again.)*
B2: All courses in the curriculum:

All courses are currently offered as part of the Religious Studies major.

RELS 2000 - Catholicism: Spirit and Methods (3 credit hours)
This course is a basic Introduction to Catholicism. It covers such topics as faith, the Gospels and Jesus, the Christian God, community sacrament, liturgy and worship, the meaning of church, spirituality, Catholic Social Teaching, and the "Catholic Imagination".

RELS 2001 - The Study of Religions (3 credit hours) *(may be offered online)*
Examines the various methods scholars employ for describing and understanding religious phenomena. The course focuses on the various dimensions of religious belief, experience, and practice and explores the main religious themes, such as the nature of God, the human condition, and salvation, in the context of different religious traditions. It also draws attention to the values that religions promote and to the major religious issues commonly discussed in academic and/or public circles.

RELS 2020 - Asian Religions (3 credit hours)
A survey of those religious traditions usually labeled "Eastern," namely, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Chinese and Japanese religions, and the various forms of Buddhism. A brief history, the major scriptures, and the beliefs and rituals of each religious tradition are covered. Current developments, especially the presence of some of these religions in the Western world are also explored.

RELS 2030 - Western Religions (3 credit hours)
A survey of those religious traditions usually labeled "Western," namely, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Also included are prehistoric religion, the religions of contemporary nonliterate societies, and several religions of ancient civilizations. The historical background, the major religious developments, and the beliefs and rituals of the main religious traditions are outlined. Some problems, such as secularization, which these great religions face in the modern world, will be discussed.

RELS 2120 - Introduction to Judaism (3 credit hours)
An introduction to the essentials of basic Judaism: beliefs, practices, customs, ceremonies, holidays, and institutions of the Jewish people. Current trends in contemporary Jewish life, as well as the concerns of the Jewish people are examined.

RELS 2140 - Women and Religion (3 credit hours)
This course examines, from women's perspectives, their experience in a variety of religious traditions. It examines the relationship between religious definitions of women and their social status, analyzes the causes of women's subordination in some religious traditions, compares the values of such traditions with those values affirmed in religious traditions primarily shaped by women, and presents feminists' and womanists' critical theories relating to dogmas, traditions, and ethics.

RELS 2150 - The Rise of Christianity (3 credit hours)
A study of the historical setting, theological controversies and institutional development of early Christianity.

RELS 2160 - Reformation Era (3 credit hours)
An introduction to the origin and development of Protestantism, from Martin Luther to the Treaty of Westphalia. An examination of the Catholic Reformation, including the founding of the Society of
Jesus and the Council of Trent. A study of the history and development of Lutheranism, Calvinism, the Anglican Reformation and the Radical Reformation.

RELS 2170 - Religion in the United States of America (3 credit hours)
An historical introduction to the variety of religious orientations in the U.S.A. together with a consideration of the relationship of religion to American culture.

RELS 2180 - Black Religion in America (3 credit hours)
Introductory exploration of the spirituality and religious understandings of African Americans, attending to gender and class, and the identification of related key social streams.

RELS 2220 - From Adam to David (3 credit hours)
A survey of portions of the Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy) and the historical books of the Hebrew Bible (Joshua through 2 Kings).

RELS 2230 - Prophets and Visionaries (3 credit hours)
A survey of portions of the books of the prophets, the Wisdom writers, and the apocalyptic visionaries in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

RELS 2240 - Jesus and Gospels (3 credit hours)

RELS 2250 - Paul and Revelation (3 credit hours)

RELS 2290 - The Bible as Religious Literature (3 credit hours)
A literary-historical survey of the biblical writings, concentrating on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and their influence of the New Testament. Attention is also paid to post-biblical literature influenced by the Bible (e.g. Milton's Paradise Lost).

RELS 2300 - Catholic Theology Today (3 credit hours)
An introductory survey of Roman Catholic Theology both in its traditional form and in the light of its transformation during and since Vatican Council II, focusing chiefly on doctrinal issues: God, Christ, Revelation, the Church, relationship to the modern world.

RELS 2310 - Introduction to Theology (3 credit hours)
A basic introduction to the nature and method of theology using both classical and contemporary theologians as models.

RELS 2340 – Introduction to Christian Ethics (3 credit hours)
An introduction to the field of Christian ethics, this course discusses the sources of Christian moral thought and the ways in which Christians have approached a variety of moral issues, e.g., war, economic and social justice, sexuality.

RELS 2350 - Christ in Faith Fiction and Film (3 credit hours)
An introduction to Christology, concentrating on the narrative depiction of Christ in the New Testament and in selected short stories, novels, and films. The course begins by comparing the gospels in the context of the developing understanding of Jesus in early Christianity and proceeds to study the Christ image in various works of fiction and film.
RELS 2360 - Religion and Film (3 credit hours) *(may be offered online)*
An introduction to religious themes, perspectives, stories and traditions in film. Special attention is paid to the unique ways in which cinematographic techniques can convey religious meanings and perspectives.

RELS 2400 - Social Ethics (3 credit hours)
A survey of selected contemporary social ethics issues. Interest will focus on the disciplined methods of understanding the nature, function, and validity of values in socially structured situations.

RELS 2420 - Religion and Science in the West (3 credit hours)
A study of changing relations between religious outlooks and scientific methods, from the 17th to the 20th century. Special attention is paid to the shifting boundaries between "religion" and "science."

RELS 2440 – Love and Sexuality in Modern Christian Thought (3 credit hours)
An examination of human sexuality and its relationship to love, human and divine. Besides reviewing the history of Christian attitudes to sex from biblical times to the present, it will address such issues as homosexuality, gender roles, changing attitudes towards marriage and celibacy, theories of psychosexual development, etc.

RELS 2450 – Class, Race and Gender (3 credit hours)
An introduction to white feminists' and black womanists' ethical thought. This course explores important themes in religious ethics, such as how to discern the good, the relationship between love and justice, and between objectivity and subjectivity. It provides an introduction to women's critical contributions in ethics and theology.

RELS 2470 - Jews and Judaism in the Modern World (3 credit hours)
An examination of the Jewish experience from the French Revolution to Auschwitz and the post-War era. The course focuses on modern Jewish life and times in Germany, Russia, Poland, France, England, America, and Israel.

RELS 2480 - The Holocaust (3 credit hours)
This course examines events leading up to the Holocaust and the systematic decimation of European Jewry during the Third Reich. The course will trace the historical roots of anti-Semitism, the societal impact of WWI and WWII, the rise of Hitler and the Nazis' annihilation of six million Jews. Students will explore their own personal responses to the information learned and the implications of the Holocaust for society.

RELS 2490 - Violence, Nonviolence and Religion (3 credit hours)
This course examines the ways in which Christianity has both encouraged violence and condemned it, while proposing ways of stopping the cycle of violence and enabling its victims to heal from its destruction.

RELS 2500 - The Quest For God today (3 credit hours)
The contemporary search for the meaning of life as expressed in literature, psychology, and theology. This course explores both Christian and non-Christian forms of spirituality, from prayer and social action to recovery movements, focusing on the individual's experience of the divine.

RELS 2510 - Theology and Literature (3 credit hours)
An investigation of theological themes such as faith, the search for meaning, the mystery of suffering, death, conscience, hope and love. It uses a variety of literary texts, classic and contemporary, in the course of an experiential reflection of these topics in the light of the Christian tradition.
RELS 2550 - Theology of Christian Marriage (3 credit hours)
A study of Christian marriage from a number of perspectives: historical (from Old Testament Judaism through early Christianity to today); theological (the meaning of Christian commitment in relation to God, the community, and the couple themselves); psychological (questions of intimacy, sexuality, faithfulness, developmental stages in the life process, effective communication in marriage).

RELS 2560 - God and the Human Condition (3 credit hours)
An introductory course in theology which uses literature and film to explore basic questions about human existence, such as the following: What forces or powers, chance, luck, fate, providence, are at work in our lives? What are the natures and causes of human tragedy, suffering and evil, and what difference might faith in God make in responding to them?

RELS 2580 - Issues in Christian Love (3 credit hours)
Exploration of the traditional doctrines of Christian love, agape and caritas, and their related doctrines of grace and sin. Special attention is paid to the issues raised by gender differences, and to recent attempts by feminist theologians to reconstruct a model of Christian love in terms of care.

RELS 3000 - Philosophy of Religion (3 credit hours)
A study of the philosophical issues raised by religious practice and religious belief. In addition to arguments for the existence of God, the course will include the following topics: the problem of evil and attempted solutions, the epistemological significance of religious belief, the relationship between religious belief and religious practice, and the role of religion in contemporary society.

RELS 3010 - Anthropology of Religion (3 credit hours)
An introduction to current anthropological approaches to the study of religion. The main themes include symbolism, myth, magic, and witchcraft. Contemporary viewpoints on primitive religions and on the great religions are discussed.

RELS 3020 - Contemporary Religious Movements (3 credit hours)
An investigation into the presence and significance of religious movements (sects, cults) in the West, especially those which became prominent since the 1960s. These movements are examined from historical, psychological, sociological, and theological perspectives. The social, religious, and legal implications of this new religious pluralism are also discussed.

RELS 3030 - Hinduism (3 credit hours)
History of Hinduism from its classical and pre-classical origins to contemporary manifestations. Studies in religious and philosophical movements, their change and continuity in the development of religious thought and institutions.

RELS 3050 - Islam (3 credit hours)
Understanding and living with religion, politics and culture in the Middle East. This course studies the origin and growth of Islamic civilization, emphasizing the principal religious teachings, including selections from the Quran, the life of the Prophet Muhammad, and later developments in Sufi mysticism, sectarian differences, and the recent Muslim experience in America.

RELS 3060 - Buddhism (3 credit hours)
History of Buddhism from its origins to later manifestations, differentiations into Mahayana and Theravada. Also, a study of major philosophical schools and Buddhist institutions in South Asia and East Asia.
RELS 3061 - Buddhisms in America (3 credit hours)
An introduction of the major events and issues in the history of America's encounter with Buddhism, with a focus on the last few decades. Topics include basic teachings and history of Buddhism, Buddhist traditions in America and their respective emphases, adaptation of Buddhist teachings and practices to American social ethos, and influences of Buddhism on American culture. Background knowledge in Buddhism will be helpful but is not required.

RELS 3210 - Psalms (3 credit hours)

RELS 3220 - Wisdom Literature (3 credit hours)
A study of the books of Proverbs, Job and Qohleth and several psalms in the Hebrew canon, and of the books of Sirach and Wisdom of Solomon in the larger canon. Wisdom themes in the intertestament, rabbinic and Gnostic literature are traced, and in the New Testament special attention is given to the Johannine and Matthean Christologies and the Corinthian Correspondence of Paul.

RELS 3240 - Feminist Biblical Interpretation (3 credit hours)
Focuses on texts that deal with the following issues: female subordination/male dominance; images of God; power and leadership in institutional religion; differences in the ways African Americans and white Americans read the Bible; women in Israelite societies, in early Judaism, in the Jesus movement, and in Gnosticism. Students read major American and European feminist/womanist literary criticism. This course also hosts lectures or panel discussions for the UDM community.

RELS 3260 - Synoptic Studies (3 credit hours)
An examination of one of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke): its sources, composition, distinctive theological and Christological emphasis, historical community context, place in the canon, contemporary relevance.

RELS 3310 - The Christian God (3 credit hours)
A study of the experience of God as Father, as Jesus, as Spirit: its New Testament formulations (as well as its Jewish-scriptural background), its Patristic development and conciliar definitions, is medieval theological elaboration, this contemporary re-interpretation (Rahner, Moltmann, Tillich, Lonergan) and relevance.

RELS 3320 - Modern Christian Theologians (3 credit hours)
An introduction to the thought of some influential modern interpreters of the Christian message, Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox. After a survey of developments in Christian theology since the Enlightenment, the course will focus chiefly on the work of a few seminal thinkers representing the major traditions.

RELS 3330 - Theology of Karl Rahner (3 credit hours)
An introduction to the thought of the greatest Catholic theologian of modern times, and the theological revolution he created before and after Vatican II. Beginning with his early devotional and philosophical works, it will examine carefully some of the major essays from his multi-volume Theological Investigation, as well as other works.

RELS 3340 - Theology of Death and Resurrection (3 credit hours)
An approach to the deepest of life's mysteries, using literature and theology to shed light on the darkness of human destiny. The New Testament accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection will be studied, along with experiential attempts to confront (or avoid) the reality of dying, and the means various religions and cultures employ to deal with death or to envision an afterlife.

**RELS 3370 - Black Theologies (3 credit hours)**
A focused study of black theologies which have developed through the African Diaspora. Special attention is given to current developments.

**RELS 3380 - Latin American Liberation Theology (3 credit hours)**
An introduction to liberation theologies through reading major theorists; understanding the significance of connecting faith with action; and exploring the dynamics of social analysis.

**RELS 3470 - Catholic Social Thought (3 credit hours)**
An examination of the positions major Christian thinkers have proposed on the responsibility of men and women towards each other, government, the legitimacy of dissent, and issues of justice.

**RELS 3480 - Justice: Contemporary Issues and Theories (3 credit hours)**
An examination of contemporary problems of justice in the areas of economics, law, government, and international relations. These issues are analyzed in the light of philosophical and religious theories of justice.

**RELS 3500 - Religion and Psychology (3 credit hours)**
An exploration of the interface between psychology and religion, as each addresses such issues as the nature of human beings, the development of conscience, freedom, the quest for meaning, the origins of the idea of God, the nature of faith, etc. A blend of readings from both disciplines will be included, with special attention to humanistic psychology and its approach to the problem of becoming fully human and fully alive.

**RELS 3530 - Dynamics of Spiritual Growth (3 credit hours)**
This course examines in depth the spiritualities of the founders of the Jesuits and Sisters of Mercy as models for understanding spirituality in general. Through this study students will explore the meaning of spirituality, spiritual growth, and applications and integration of spirituality with other aspects of life.

**RELS 3550 - Poets, Mystics and God (3 credit hours)**
The reality of the divine, as revealed to the great mystics and poets of the western tradition, including Juliana of Norwich, St. John of the Cross, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and T.S. Eliot. Beginning with such classic studies as those of William James and Evelyn Underhill, the course examines mysticism in the Jewish and Christian scriptures as well as its later manifestation.

**RELS 3570 - Spiritual Autobiographies (3 credit hours)**
A careful reading of some of the great religious autobiographies, beginning with The Confessions of St. Augustine and proceeding on to such 20th century classics as the works of Gandhi, Dorothy Day, and Anne Frank. Each student also writes an account of his or her own spiritual journey up to the present.

**RELS 3580 - Theology of the Imagination (3 credit hours)**
A study of human creativity and the way the imagination works to disclose the divine. The role of imagining in dreams, scientific discovery, art and literature are explored en route to a deeper understanding of the process of religious revelation.
RELS 3590 - Religion, Health and Healing (3 credit hours) *(may be offered online)*
Explores the ways in which health, illness and healing are integrally related to religious and moral concerns, beliefs and practices in all cultures. Special attention to the ancient healing traditions of shamanism and energy medicine.

RELS 3755 - On the Divine (3 credit hours)
This religious studies course explores the human search for, experience of, understanding of, and relationship with the divine. The course follows an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on psychology, sociology, philosophy, and theology along with the student's own experience and reflections.

RELS 3980 - Special Topics (1-3 credit hours)
An exploration of selected topics in the study of religion.

RELS 4021 - Traditions in China (3 credit hours)
An exploration of the historical and contemporary currents of thought and practices in Chinese culture. The development of each of the 'Three Teachings, i.e. Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism, will be traced, and the interactions among them and their manifestations in the daily lives of Chinese people will be examined. A brief survey of popular and minority religions in China will also be included.

RELS 4130 - Christianity and World Religions (3 credit hours)
Explores the problem of religious pluralism in the contemporary world. This course concentrates on: 1) a description and evaluation of the main theologies of religion, and 2) an examination of the relationships which the major world religions, namely, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, have developed over the last few decades. Special emphasis is placed on the current movement towards dialogue and the many official documents that relate to dialogue.

RELS 4132 - Religions and Global Wellbeing (3 credit hours)
What are the major world religions’ responses to and critiques of capitalistic globalization and the social problems following from it? And do the traditional teachings they appeal to have something in common, upon which a realistic global ethics can be built? This course explores the ways in which traditional religious teachings and ethics are relevant and applicable to the current socio-economic condition of global interdependence, and prompts students to view themselves as citizens of the global village who have global responsibilities. By guiding students to examine different religious responses to globalization and globalized problems, this course will help instill an appreciation of other religions as well as a sensitivity for cultural diversity, both of which are much needed in the contemporary conflict-ridden world.

RELS 4140 - Gender and Religion (3 credit hours)
Examination from a gender standpoint of the experiences of women and men in various religious traditions, including issues of social status, leadership, teachings, ethics, reform. The course will be taught from a (pro) feminist/womanist perspective.

RELS 4141 - Gender in Asian Traditions (3 credit hours)
Diverse Asian traditions such as Hindu traditions, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and shamanism, are often intertwined with one another. Together they present a complicated mixed picture when it comes to women and gender relation. This course focuses on the tension between the elevation of the life-giving feminine, the ‘cosmic’ subordination of women in the male scripts, and the confluence and contestation among different sub-traditions.
RELS 4220 - Torah and Historical Writings (3 credit hours)
A study of the Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy) and the historical books (Joshua through II Kings). Use of contemporary methods of critical interpretations of the major stories and their theological insights, humor and enduring power.

RELS 4230 - Prophets Wisdom and Apocalyptic (3 credit hours)
A study of the major and minor prophets, the Wisdom literature and the emergence of the Apocalyptic in the book of Daniel.

RELS 4240 - The Four Gospels (3 credit hours)

RELS 4250 - Acts, Letters, Revelations (3 credit hours)
A study of the development of the primitive church, its Christologies/theologies, lifestyles and leadership conflicts in the context of the political, religious and social currents of the Greco-Roman world of the first century of the Common Era.

RELS 4310 - Introduction to Theology (3 credit hours)
An introduction to recent developments in understanding the theological task through the study of classical and contemporary theologians and theological movements.

RELS 4320 - Classical and Contemporary Catholicism (3 credit hours)
Exploration of the historic Catholic tradition from the patristic to the modern era, with special attention to the philosophical and theological foundations and implications of key beliefs, symbols, doctrines and rituals. Focus on the distinctiveness of Roman Catholicism.

RELS 4340 - Christian Ethics (3 credit hours)
An introduction to the foundations of Christian morality in the New Testament and their later development, including contemporary theology and present-day issues and questions (nuclear war, abortion, social justice, etc.)

RELS 4440 - Sexuality and Love in Contemporary Christian Thought (3 credit hours)

RELS 4450 - Sex, Race and Class: Feminist/Womanist Ethics (3 credit hours)
An introduction to Christian feminist and Womanist ethics. Topics may include the re-visioning of love, justice, sexuality, and the common good.

RELS 4470 - Jews and Judaism in the Modern World (3 credit hours)
The historical processes affecting Jews, Judaism and Jewish life from the time of the French Revolution to Auschwitz and the post-War era of today. Modern Jewish life and times in 19th and 20th century Germany, Russia, Poland, France, England, America and Israel. The dynamics of emancipation and enlightenment, Jewish life in Eastern Europe, the impact of Jewish life on Western European culture.
RELS 4680 - Catholic Health Care Ethics (3 credit hours)
An examination of moral problems in health care from the perspective of Catholic moral theology and selected Church writing. Fundamental moral concepts in the Catholic tradition are applied to topics such as reproductive technology, end-of-life care, physician-assisted suicide, abortion, contraception and resource allocation. The course will also expose students to moral views from other faith traditions as well as from secular health care ethics literature.

RELS 4950 - Directed Readings (1-3 credits)
Independent and directed readings may be arranged whenever there is no regular course being offered that covers the student's special interests. **NOTE: Only one (1) directed reading can count towards credit in the Religious Studies minor.**

B3: Delivery Format:
The delivery format for the minor will be both traditional daytime classes and evening classes. Virtually all of our 4000-level courses are offered in the evening, and quite a number of 2000- and 3000-level courses are offered in the late afternoon so that students with other obligations during the day can still attend. Online versions of three current Religious Studies courses have been developed, and we are willing to consider offering more courses online if the demand arises.

B4: Academic Integrity and Intellectual Merit
The proposed minor in Religious Studies bears much intellectual merit and upholds academic integrity. Courses at the lower-division level provide students with broad-based knowledge needed to understand the modern multicultural world we live in, as well as introduce students to various ways to understand the key components of human cultures, such as literary analysis, critical historical analysis, socio-cultural analysis, and comparative analysis. Students’ reading, writing, critical thinking, and cross-cultural communication skills are developed in the process of getting familiarized with the contents and methods in Religious Studies. Courses at the upper-division level further help students hone these skills, either through thematic comparative studies, or through more in-depth studies of one religious tradition or one subfield in Religious Studies. These upper-division courses provide excellent background for students pursuing careers and advanced degrees in international business, intercultural communication, foreign relations, public policies, journalism on world events, cultural studies, area studies, history, anthropology, sociology, social work, psychology, counseling, healthcare professions, philosophy, scriptural studies, religious education, ministry, etc. Full-time and adjunct faculty members in Religious Studies all assure academic integrity by holding students up to the standards in their respective subfields.

B5: Unusual or Unique Characteristics of the Proposed Minor
As indicated in the executive summary above, there are several unique features of the proposed minor in Religious Studies:

- Students are already required to take one to two Core courses in Religious Studies, and many students also opt to take religious ethics courses to fulfill the Core requirement in ethics. Building upon that, a minor in Religious Studies is thus a reasonably achievable goal for many students at UDM.
- Given the multi-disciplinary and multicultural nature of Religious Studies, electives can be chosen on the basis of the student’s specific individual and career interests.
• All Religious Studies courses satisfy Objective 4C of the Core Curriculum by default, generating an even greater overlap between a Religious Studies minor and the Core Curriculum.

• Religious Studies minor prepares students well in their pursuit of various careers and advanced degrees, as stated in B4.

B6: Effects on related departments or fields of concentration
The proposed minor in Religious Studies complements many fields of concentration and adds tremendously to the holistic education that students received at UDM. At the same time, it has no impact on the operation of any other department in the University since all proposed courses in the minor are already offered by the Department of Religious Studies.

C: Mission

The Mission Statement of the University of Detroit Mercy:
The University of Detroit Mercy, a Catholic university in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions, exists to provide excellent student-centered undergraduate and graduate education in an urban context. A UDM education seeks to integrate the intellectual, spiritual, ethical and social development of our students.

The Mission Statement of the College of Liberal Arts and Education:
The College of Liberal Arts and Education prepares students to participate in a diverse and changing world in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions as "men and women for others." The College provides a student-centered education in an urban context which stimulates a desire for the life-long exploration of the intellectual, spiritual and ethical dimensions of what it means to be human.

The proposed minor in Religious Studies contributes to both of these projects. As stated in the executive summary, there is no aspect of human individual and collective life that is untouched by religions, and so a well-rounded education must include the study of religions. As a multi-disciplinary field of study, Religious Studies naturally integrates the intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and social development of our students by leading them to examine the key components of human life and to generate more sophisticated understandings of societies and cultures in the world, as well as themselves.

D: Objectives, Outcomes, and Assessment

Objectives and Outcomes:
Students completing the minor in Religious Studies will:
• Be able to identify basic tenets and rituals of “religious” traditions, as exemplified in major Western and Asian traditions.
• Demonstrate ability to construct clear, well-organized expository and analytic essays related to issues in religious studies.
• Be able to analyze and critique “religious” dimensions in the construction of moral and social arguments in contemporary culture.
Assessment of the Minor:

In accordance with the University-wide standards for minors, students must maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average in all minor courses in order for the minor to be posted on the official transcript at the time of graduation. In addition, student mastery of the skills described above will be assessed via a non-credit capstone portfolio which will consist of two parts:

- At least three essays written for the student’s elective courses in Religious Studies, in chronological order documenting the student’s intellectual development through taking Religious Studies courses. Essays will be assessed by the faculty member(s) with expertise in the relevant subfields, using the “Grading Rubric for Undergraduate Papers in Religious Studies.”
- A 5-page, typed and double-spaced subjective essay that would partly consist of the student’s reflection on how the study of religions has contributed to the student’s understanding of life and deepened his or her understanding of his or her major field of study. Students would also be asked to comment on how the minor met their intellectual and professional needs by pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of the minor, which courses they found most beneficial and which courses they found least beneficial, and offering criticisms and advice for the purpose of improving the minor.

Students will not be allowed to graduate with a minor in Religious Studies unless they have submitted the portfolio with all components described above. This non-credit terminal capstone portfolio will therefore be added to the CLAE degree audit sheet.

E: New resources

Since all courses in the proposed minor are already offered by the Department of Religious Studies, this minor requires no new resources from the University. With few exceptions, courses offered in the minor will be taught by full-time Religious Studies faculty or qualified adjunct faculty employed by the Department of Religious Studies. Current full-time Religious Studies faculty are:

J. Todd Hibbard, Ph.D.
Hsiao-Lan Hu, Ph.D.
Justin Kelly, SJ, Ph.D.
Jennifer Rike, Ph.D.
James Tubbs, Ph.D.

The only courses not taught by full-time or adjunct Religious Studies faculty will be those courses offered on an inter-disciplinary, inter-departmental basis and taught by full-time or adjunct faculty employed by other academic departments in the University. For example, RELS 3500, “Religion and Psychology,” may be taught by Margaret Stack, Ph.D., of the Psychology Department; RELS 3000, “Philosophy of Religion,” may be taught by Gail Presbey, Ph.D., of the Philosophy Department; and RELS 2000, “Catholicism: Spirit and Method” may be taught by Simon Hendry, SJ, Ph.D., of the Catholic Studies Program.

Library resources and administrative support services currently serving the existing Religious Studies major will be sufficient to support the proposed Religious Studies minor as well.
**Student:** _______________________________________  **Date:** ______________________________

**Entry Status:** ___________________________________  **Student Number:** _____________________

**College/Program:** _______________________________  **Major Advisor:** _______________________

**Minor Advisor:** _________________________________

**Required Courses**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Term Taken</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>RELS 2001, 2020 or 2030:</td>
<td>________</td>
<td>_____ (3 hours)</td>
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<td>One course from each of 3 of the 5 area tracks listed below (World Religions, Biblical Studies, Christian Theology and Spirituality, Contemporary Issues in Religion, and Ethics):</td>
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**World Religions:** RELS 2020, RELS 2030, RELS 2120, RELS 2170, RELS 2480, RELS 3050, RELS 3060, RELS 3061, RELS 4021, RELS 4130, RELS 4141, RELS 4470

**Biblical Studies:** RELS 2220, RELS 2230, RELS 2240, RELS 2250, RELS 2290, RELS 3210, RELS 3220, RELS 3240, RELS 3260, RELS 4220, RELS 4230, RELS 4240, RELS 4250

**Christian Theology and Spirituality:** RELS 2000, RELS 2150/CAS 2150, RELS 2160, RELS 2240, RELS 2300/CAS 2300, RELS 2310, RELS 2350, RELS 2440, RELS 2500/CAS 2500, RELS 2510, RELS 2550, RELS 2560/CAS 2560, RELS 3310, RELS 3340, RELS 3530, RELS 3550, RELS 3570, RELS 3580, RELS 3755, RELS 4320, RELS 4440

**Contemporary Issues in Religion:** RELS 2140, RELS 2170, RELS 2360, RELS 2420/CAS 2420, RELS 2490, RELS 3000, RELS 3020, RELS 3500/PYC 3500, RELS 3590, RELS 4132, RELS 4140, RELS 4141
Ethics: RELS 2340, RELS 2400/CAS 2400, RELS 2450, RELS 3470/CAS 3470, RELS 3480/CAS 3480, RELS 4132, RELS 4340, RELS 4450, RELS 4680

(Note: Because a small number of Religious Studies faculty are attempting to provide a very broad variety of courses, it is possible that some courses listed above will not be repeated within a one-year or two-year scheduling cycle. Please contact the Religious Studies Department Chair or Minor Advisor if you have questions about when a particular course will be offered again.)

Elective Courses. (from above list)

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<th>Course Name and Number</th>
<th>Term Taken</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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Total: 18 credit hours, including at least 9.0 credit hours at the 3000- or 4000-level.

Special Note on Religious Studies Minor Electives:

• Minors are limited to one RELS 4950: Directed Study.

Note on Residency Requirement:

• At least 12 credits (or four courses) of the courses required for the minor must be taken at UDM unless the courses are taken as part of a consortium agreement.

Religious Studies Minor Advisor: ______________________

Expected Date of Graduation: ______________________

Date Religious Studies Minor Competed: ______________________