

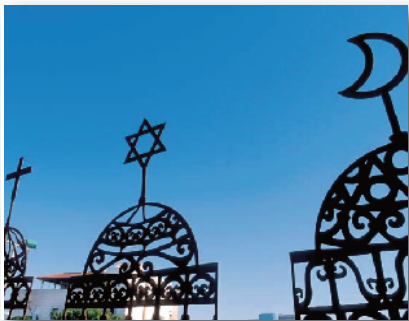
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Religious Studies Major

What is Religious Studies?

- Religious Studies involves looking at religion—*all* religions—as a range of beliefs and practices that give depth and meaning to the lives of individuals, communities, and societies.
- Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary area of study, incorporating different approaches and techniques from various fields, such as:
 - ◆ Psychology and Sociology
 - ◆ Anthropology and Archaeology
 - ◆ History
 - ◆ Literature and Art
 - ◆ Philosophy and Theology

At Montclair State, we have faculty who specialize in Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Native American religions, indigenous and neo-pagan traditions.



"Religion is the human response to being alive and having to die."

— Forrester Church, 20th century theologian

Why Study Religion?

- Religion, faith, and spirituality have been a major part of human life since the dawn of history.
- Religious beliefs and spiritual practices have just as much influence on our lives and thoughts as ever.
- Religion and spirituality speak to ultimate issues in human life, giving meaning and purpose to people around the globe.
- Religion provokes legal debate, including First Amendment issues that regularly go before the Supreme Court.
- Religion animates our national debates about human rights and social justice issues and plays a key role in global politics.

A degree in Religious Studies provides you not only with broad cultural literacy but also with top-notch critical thinking skills to prepare you for your future:

- ◆ Nationally, Religious Studies majors are among the top three performers on the Verbal and Analytic Writing sections of the GRE for graduate school.

Source: www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide_table4.pdf

- ◆ Nationally, Religious Studies majors tie for 2nd place with Philosophy majors for overall scores on the LSAT exam for law school.

Source: *M. Nieswiadomy, Journal of Economic Education v. 37 no. 2 (Spr 2006) p. 244-247*

To learn more about majoring in Religious Studies, visit or call 46 Dickson Hall; 973-655-5144.

<http://chss.montclair.edu/philosophyreligion>

What can I do with a degree in Religious Studies?

With a degree in Religious Studies, you will be able to understand and critically evaluate the personal, social, cultural, and political impact of religion in today's world.

Common career choices for Religious Studies majors include college teaching and ministry. But Religious Studies majors often follow these career paths as well:

- ◆ Lawyer
- ◆ Community Affairs Specialist
- ◆ Public Policy Specialist
- ◆ Non-profit Administrator
- ◆ Librarian
- ◆ Teacher

Montclair State is one of the few public universities in New Jersey that offers a Religious Studies major. Our program is particularly strong in religious texts and world religious traditions.

Our Religious Studies majors can now get NJ Teacher Certification for Elementary School, Middle School, or Special Education.



"Some people may wonder how studying Religion can possibly be useful in life. I often wonder how I would have managed without it."

— Lisa Sargese, college instructor
(Montclair State class of 2000)

