

Department Mission Statement

Understanding the religions of the world is an essential ingredient in understanding the world around us, a world that has grown smaller and more interdependent.

Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) provides opportunities for students and the community to learn about religions of the world, provides a challenging and diverse liberal arts curriculum utilizing interdisciplinary approaches, and promotes the knowledge and analytical skills to prepare our students to make significant contributions as citizens of Nebraska and the world. We are committed to an inclusive learning-centered environment that encourages creativity, innovation, and academic excellence. We offer a wide variety of courses for our students, sponsor several public lectures, and make our resources and expertise available to the community.

Degree Requirements

Religious Studies offers both a **major** and a **minor**. A major requires 30 credit hours in religious studies, 18 of these hours must be at the 300 level or above. A **major** requires the following courses: Introduction to World Religions (1010), Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (2150), New Testament (2160), and the Senior Seminar in Religion (4010). The Senior Seminar serves as the student's third writing course. One of the following classes also is required: Native American Religions (3020), Shamanism (3030), Religions of the East (3050), Islam (3200), The Buddhist Tradition (4020).

A **minor** requires 18 hours; 9 of these hours must be at the 300 level or above. No particular courses are required for a minor, but Introduction to World Religions is strongly recommended.

A student also can receive a Bachelor of General Studies degree with a concentration in Religious Studies. A concentration in Religious Studies requires 30 hours of religious studies courses, with a minimum of 9 hours at the 300 level or above. Up to 9 hours can be taken from the following classes offered by other programs: Philosophy of Religion (PHIL 3200), Sociology of Religion (SOC 4850), History of the Middle East (HIST 2190), The Holocaust (HIST 4720), or Religion & Theology in Afro-America (BLST 2730).



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Religious Studies Faculty

Rami Arav, Ph.D., New York University
William L. Blizek, Ph.D., University of Missouri - Columbia
Bridget Blomfield, Ph.D., Claremont Graduate U.
Rory J. Conces, Ph.D., University of Missouri - Columbia
Brady DeSanti, M. A., University of Kansas
Michele M. Desmarais, Ph. D., U. of British Columbia

Julien R. Fielding, M. A., University of Kansas
Gary Groff, M. A., University of Northern Colorado
Christian Haunton, M. A., University of Iowa
Janet McClearen, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Guy Matalon, Ph.D., New York University
Paul A. Williams, Ph.D., University of Chicago

Emeritus

Russell W. Palmer, Ph.D., University of Iowa

Dale Stover, Ph.D., McGill University

General Education Requirements

A core concept of a liberal education is that students should become familiar with the range of methodologies by which knowledge is created and analyzed. Further, the liberally education person is, by definition, expected to have acquired knowledge in a wide array of disciplines. Thus, students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take courses from each of the major discipline categories in the college. Study of the *humanities* deepens cultural understanding and provides one with familiarity with the means by which ideas are communicated and transformed through their expression in art and literature. The study of the *social sciences* develops one's understanding of human behavior and the function of individuals in social groups and institutions, as well as the relationships among individuals. A broad background in *science* is essential to the educated citizen in a world dominated by science based industry and technology, with their complex impact on human society and the natural environment.

Student Activities

The religious studies student organization is called the Association of Religious Studies Scholars (ARSS). The purpose of ARSS is to unify the student community with an academic interest in religious studies; promote religious and spiritual diversity, acceptance, and tolerance; provide a respectful forum for exchange of ideas concerning religious studies; promote an awareness of various religious studies, and to assist religious studies students and majors in their academic endeavors. All currently enrolled students of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Nebraska students who pay University Program and Facilities fees at UNO are eligible for membership. "Everybody Loves a Smart ARSS."

Centers and Institutes

The Natan and Hannah Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies

Special Opportunities

Bethsaida Excavations Project
Islamic Studies Program

Lectures and Conferences

The Shirley and Leonard Goldstein Lecture on Human Rights
The Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Lecture
The Pearl Blizek Lecture on Religion & Art
Batchelder Conference on Biblical Archaeology

Journals

Journal of Religion & Film
ID: International Dialogue

After College

Religious Studies graduates often attend graduate school, either in religious studies or in some other discipline. Others of our graduates pursue careers in business, education, the health field, the military or journalism. They also work in non-profit organizations, as well as religious organizations.

Interested in attending UNO? Here's your checklist on how to become a Maverick:



- ✓ Sign up for a MavSpace account to request information about UNO, register for a campus visit, and much more @ ses.unomaha.edu. Click on "MavSpace."
- ✓ Visit BEaMAV.com for information on financial aid, student life, housing, and to check out videos made by UNO students.
- ✓ Apply online for admission @ ses.unomaha.edu. Click on "Apply Now."

Need assistance? Call UNO Recruitment Services at 402-554-MAV1 or toll-free at 877-884-MAVS.