

## UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Religious Studies Minor

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For changes in program requirements, include a side-by-side comparison of the current requirements and the requested requirements so that the changes requested can be reviewed in context.

CURRENT RLST MINOR REQUIREMENTS	PROPOSED RLST MINOR REQUIREMENTS
<p><b>Core Courses (9 Credits)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 100 - Historical Dimensions of Religion</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 200 - Philosophy Of Religion</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 349 - The Sociology of Religion</a> (3.00)</li> </ul> <p><b>Elective Courses (9 Credits)</b></p> <hr/> <p>In choosing the remaining nine credits, student should bear in mind the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) No more than nine of the 18 total credits may be from any one department</li> <li>2) a grade of "C" or better must be earned in all courses applied toward the minor</li> <li>3) A course taken on a P/F basis will not count toward the minor</li> <li>4) At least nine credits of the total 18 must be at the 300-400 level.</li> </ol> <p>The following is a list of RLST courses that can be used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 201 - Israel and the Ancient Near East</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 202 - Judaism in the Time of Jesus and Hillel</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 203 - Earliest Christianity</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 210 - Classical Mythology</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 220 - Introduction to Comparative Religion</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 230 - Comparative African Religions</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 235 - African Religions</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 255 - History of Christianity from its Origins to the Reformation</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 255H - History of Christianity from its Origins to the Reformation-Honors</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 273 - History of the Jews in Modern Times, From the Middle Ages to 1917</a> (3.00)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Total of 6 courses (18 credits)</b></p> <p><b>2 courses from HIST</b>  <b>1 course from ANCS or JDST</b>  <b>1 course from ANTH or AFST</b>  <b>2 courses from list of electives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) No more than 3 courses can be JDST classes. Otherwise students should declare a JDST minor.</li> <li>2) a grade of "C" or better must be earned in all courses applied toward the minor</li> <li>3) A course taken on a P/F basis will not count toward the minor</li> <li>4) At least nine credits of the total 18 must be at the 300-400 level.</li> <li>5) Students can petition the Director to have one religion-themed course not listed here accepted for the RLST minor.</li> </ol> <p>The following is a list of RLST courses that can be used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 201 - Israel and the Ancient Near East</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 202 - Judaism in the Time of Jesus and Hillel</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 203 - Earliest Christianity</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 210 - Classical Mythology</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 220 - Introduction to Comparative Religion</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 230 - Comparative African Religions</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 235 - African Religions</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 255 - History of Christianity from its Origins to the Reformation</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 255H - History of Christianity from its Origins to the Reformation-Honors</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 273 - History of the Jews in Modern Times, From the Middle Ages to 1917</a> (3.00)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RLST 274 - Contemporary Jewish History: 1917 to the Present</a> (3.00)</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● RLST 274 - Contemporary Jewish History: 1917 to the Present (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 314 - Islam in Africa (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 315 - Religious Influences in American Life (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 316 - Anthropology of Religion (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 349 - Sociology of Religion (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 350 - The Bible and Literature (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 351 - New Testament Greek - GREK 351</li> <li>● RLST 352 - Septuagint (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 370 - African Religions in Africa and the Diaspora (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 380 - Topics in Religious Studies (1.00 - 3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 386 - Eastern Christianity (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 400 - Special Projects in Religious Studies (1.00 - 3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 463 - Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Middle Ages (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 466 - The Reformation (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 473 - Mahatma Gandhi's Political Experiments with Truth (3.00)</li> </ul> <p><b>Total: 18 Credits</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● RLST 314 - Islam in Africa (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 315 - Religious Influences in American Life (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 316 - Anthropology of Religion (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 350 - The Bible and Literature (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 370 - African Religions in Africa and the Diaspora (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 380 - Topics in Religious Studies (1.00 - 3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 386 - Eastern Christianity (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 400 - Special Projects in Religious Studies (1.00 - 3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 463 - Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Middle Ages (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 466 - The Reformation (3.00)</li> </ul> <p><b>Additions to Elective Courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hist 315: Native American Hist 1800-Present (3.0)</li> <li>● Hist 362: Medieval Mediterranean (3.0)</li> <li>● Hist 353: The Crusades (3.0)</li> <li>● Hist 379: Women, Gender, and Islam (3.0)</li> <li>● Hist 386: Hindus, Muslims, and their Others (3.0)</li> <li>● Hist 341: The American Colonies (3.0)</li> <li>● Hist 457: Byzantine Civilization (3.0)</li> <li>● Hist 470: Tudor Stuart Britain (3.0)</li> <li>● ANCS 365 - Magic &amp; Witchcraft in the Ancient Mediterranean (3.0)</li> <li>● ANTH 320 - Witchcraft and Magic (3.0)</li> </ul> <p><b>Deletions to Courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● RLST 100 - Historical Dimensions of Religion (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 200 - Philosophy Of Religion (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 349 - Sociology of Religion (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 351 - New Testament Greek - (3.0)</li> <li>● RLST 352 - Septuagint (3.00)</li> <li>● RLST 473 - Mahatma Gandhi's Political Experiments with Truth (3.00)</li> </ul>

**Rationale (see instructions):**

Briefly explain the need for this proposal. For changes in program requirements, explain

- a) What are the major departures from the current structure and why is the new structure preferable?

We propose to remove the 3 core requirements for the minor, as these courses are no longer taught in any of the affiliated departments. Instead, we will allow students to choose their 18 credits from the approved list of courses, based on the criteria listed above (2 from HIST, 1 ANCS/JDST, 1 from ANTH/AFST, 2 additional electives).

This new format will be similar to the current Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) minor, which gives students more flexibility to choose courses that are regularly offered from affiliated departments. This change allows students to reliably plan for the minor.

In addition, students will also learn a range of methodological approaches to studying religion. This structure takes advantage of the interdisciplinary nature of the minor and emphasizes that students should acquire a regional/topical breadth of knowledge.

b) What provisions will be made to accommodate current students if courses are discontinued?

This structure will provide both more reliability and more flexibility to students. Reworking the approved course list allows us to guarantee that we are guiding minors towards courses that are taught regularly. By allowing students to choose from a range of courses within each criteria, we cover for any variation in different departments' teaching schedules

c) If there is a change in required credits, please provide a specific justification for that change.

We propose to remove the following three requirements:

- [RLST 100 - Historical Dimensions of Religion](#) (3.00)
- [RLST 200 - Philosophy Of Religion](#) (3.00)
- [RLST 349 - The Sociology of Religion](#) (3.00)

These three required classes have not been taught in many semesters and the affiliated departments do not currently have instructors who teach these classes. The chairs for the respective cross-listed departments have all agreed to remove them as required credits, as we do not have the ability to offer these in rotation regularly enough to allow students to plan for them.

In addition, the following courses will become inactive, based on approval from respective department chairs:

- [RLST 349 - The Sociology of Religion](#) (3.0)
- [RLST 203 - Earliest Christianity](#) (3.0)
- [RLST 351 - New Testament Greek](#) (3.0)
- [RLST 352 - Septuagint](#) (3.0)
- [RLST 473 - Mahatma Gandhi's Political Experiments with Truth](#) (3.0)