

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Religious Studies Minor

Date Submitted: Jan. 21, 2021

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2021

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
Dept Chair or UPD	Amy Froide	froide@umbc.edu	52032	HIST
Other Contact	Noor Zaidi	nzaidi@umbc.edu		HIST

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 (changes from current minor highlighted in yellow)
<p>Core Courses (9 Credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLST 100 - Historical Dimensions of Religion (3.00) RLST 200 - Philosophy Of Religion (3.00) RLST 349 - The Sociology of Religion (3.00) <p>Elective Courses (9 Credits)</p> <hr/> <p>In choosing the remaining nine credits, student should bear in mind the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No more than nine of the 18 total credits may be from any one department 2) a grade of "C" or better must be earned in all courses applied toward the minor 3) A course taken on a P/F basis will not count toward the minor 4) At least nine credits of the total 18 must be at the 300-400 level. <p>The following is a list of RLST courses that can be used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLST 201 - Israel and the Ancient Near East (3.00) RLST 202 - Judaism in the Time of Jesus and Hillel (3.00) RLST 203 - Earliest Christianity (3.00) RLST 210 - Classical Mythology (3.00) RLST 220 - Introduction to Comparative Religion (3.00) RLST 230 - Comparative African Religions (3.00) RLST 235 - African Religions (3.00) RLST 255 - History of Christianity from its Origins to the Reformation (3.00) 	<p>Total of 6 courses (18 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must take a total of 6 courses (18 credits) distributed across the 4 categories below as indicated. No course can be used to meet the requirements for more than one category. Students must earn a grade of "C" or better in all courses applied toward the minor. A course taken on a P/F basis will not count toward the minor. At least nine credits of the total 18 must be at the 300-400 level. Students may petition the RLST Program Director to have one religion-themed course not listed here accepted for the RLST minor. <p>NOTE: No more than 3 courses can be JDST classes. Otherwise, students should declare a JDST minor.</p> <p>1. HISTORY AND RELIGION (6 credits) – Students must take 2 courses from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLST/HIST 255 or RLST/HIST 255H: History of Christianity from its Origins to the Reformation (3.00) RLST/HIST/JDST 273: History of the Jews in Modern Times, From the Middle Ages to 1917 (3.00) RLST/HIST/JDST 274: Contemporary Jewish History: 1917 to the Present (3.00) RLST/AFST 314 or HIST 360: Islam in Africa (3.00) HIST 315: Native American History, 1800-Present (3.0) HIST 341: The American Colonies (3.0) HIST 362: The Medieval Mediterranean (3.0) HIST 363: The Crusades (3.0) HIST 379: "Do Muslim Women Need Saving?" – Women and Gender in Islam (3.0) HIST 386: Hindus, Muslims, and their Others: The Construction of Identities in India and Pakistan (3.0) HIST 457: Byzantine Civilization (3.0) RLST/HIST/JDST 463: Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Middle Ages (3.00)

- RLST 255H - History of Christianity from its Origins to the Reformation-Honors (3.00)
- RLST 273 - History of the Jews in Modern Times, From the Middle Ages to 1917 (3.00)
- RLST 274 - Contemporary Jewish History: 1917 to the Present (3.00)
- RLST 314 - Islam in Africa (3.00)
- RLST 315 - Religious Influences in American Life (3.00)
- RLST 316 - Anthropology of Religion (3.00)
- RLST 349 - Sociology of Religion (3.00)
- RLST 350 - The Bible and Literature (3.00)
- RLST 351 - New Testament Greek - GREK 351
- RLST 352 - Septuagint (3.00)
- RLST 370 - African Religions in Africa and the Diaspora (3.00)
- RLST 380 - Topics in Religious Studies (1.00 - 3.00)
- RLST 386 - Eastern Christianity (3.00)
- RLST 400 - Special Projects in Religious Studies (1.00 - 3.00)
- RLST 463 - Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Middle Ages (3.00)
- RLST 466 - The Reformation (3.00)
- RLST 473 - Mahatma Gandhi's Political Experiments with Truth (3.00)

Total: 18 Credits

- RLST/HIST 466: The Reformation (3.00)
- HIST 470: Tudor and Stuart England: 1485-1714 (3.0)

2. ANCIENT AND JUDAIC STUDIES OF RELIGION (3 credits) – Students must take 1 course (3 credits) from the following list. However, students may not use a course counted towards their “History of Religion” requirement above to also meet this requirement:

- RLST 201 or ANCS/JDST 200: Israel and the Ancient Near East (3.00)
- RLST 202 or ANCS 220 or JDST 201: Judaism in the Time of Jesus and Hillel (3.00)
- RLST/ANCS 203: Earliest Christianity (3.00)
- RLST/ANCS 210: Classical Mythology (3.00)
- RLST/HIST/JDST 273: History of the Jews in Modern Times, From the Middle Ages to 1917 (3.00)
- RLST/HIST/JDST 274: Contemporary Jewish History: 1917 to the Present (3.00)
- ANCS 365: Magic & Witchcraft in the Ancient Mediterranean (3.0)
- RLST/HIST/JDST 463: Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Middle Ages (3.00)

3. ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND AFRICANA STUDIES OF RELIGION (3 credits) – Students must take 1 course (3 credits) from the following list. However, students may not use a course counted towards their “History of Religion” requirement above to also meet this requirement:

- RLST/AFST 230: Comparative African Religions (3.00)
- RLST/AFST 314 or HIST 360: Islam in Africa (3.00)
- RLST/ANTH 316: Anthropology of Religion (3.00)
- ANTH 320: Witchcraft and Magic (3.0)
- RLST 370 or AFST 368: African Religions in Africa and the Diaspora (3.00)

4. ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES (6 credits) – Students must take 2 additional courses (6 credits) from any courses listed above that are not already being used to meet those requirements. Students may also choose from the following options:

- RLST 220: Introduction to Comparative Religion (3.00)
- RLST 235: African Religions (3.00)
- RLST 315: Religious Influences in American Life (3.00)
- RLST 350 or ENGL 349: The Bible and Literature (3.00)
- RLST 380: Topics in Religious Studies (1.00 - 3.00)
- RLST 386: Eastern Christianity (3.00)
- RLST 400: Special Projects in Religious Studies (1.00 - 3.00)

TOTAL: 18 Credits

DELETIONS TO RLST MINOR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RLST 100 - Historical Dimensions of Religion (3.00)</i> • <i>RLST 200 - Philosophy Of Religion (3.00)</i> • <i>RLST/SOCY 349 - Sociology of Religion (3.00)</i> • <i>RLST/GREK 351 - New Testament Greek - (3.0)</i> • <i>RLST 352 or GREK 350 - Septuagint (3.00)</i> • <i>RLST/POLI 473 - Mahatma Gandhi's Political Experiments with Truth (3.00)</i>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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 “History and Religion,” 1 from “Ancient and Judaic Studies of Religion,” 1 from “Anthropological and Africana Studies of Religion,” as well as 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 \(3.0\)](#)

