

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Faculty & Staff List (<https://www.mills.edu/faculty/religious-studies/>)

The Religious Studies minor at Mills is an interdisciplinary program that explores religious traditions and their influences on the political, social, artistic, literary, and cultural developments of their respective communities. In their coursework, students develop skills in the critical analysis of texts, images, beliefs, and performances of a variety of religions both local and global.

Mills is home to a rich and diverse community of scholars who address the phenomenon of religion from a broad range of methodological and theoretical perspectives, including anthropology, archaeology, art history, comparative literature and literary theory, history, philosophy, cultural studies, and gender and sexuality studies. In keeping with Mills tradition, a number of religious studies course offerings also provide an emphasis on the experience of women and girls in religious systems, the role of religions in the cultural construction of gender and sexuality, and feminist critical perspectives in the academic study of religion. Students will investigate the ways in which religious identities intersect with race, class, gender, and ethnicity, among other categories of affiliation and identification.

In addition, students may choose, in consultation with their advisor, a select number of courses through cross-registration with the following institutions:

UC Berkeley

Graduate Theological Union, including:

- Center for Islamic Studies
- Center for Jewish Studies (GTU/UCB)
- Women's Studies in Religion
- Center for Arts, Religion, and Education
- Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences
- Center for the Study of Religion and Culture (GTU/UCB)
- Institute of Buddhist Studies
- Orthodox Institute (PAOI)

The religious studies minor complements a wide range of majors; and the minor's multidisciplinary nature affords students intellectual training for graduate work in a number of different disciplines. Understanding the ways in which belief systems and cultures interact supports students in preparing for careers in psychology, education, international relations, international business, journalism, government, medical and health services, social services, and law.

Religious identities—personal, local, and global—have received escalating attention in both community and world affairs. Students who have the opportunity to critically explore the intersections of belief systems and cultures are better equipped to fulfill the Mills goal of excellence in local and global leadership.

## Learning Outcomes

- Understand the methods and forms of research and analysis in the discipline of religious studies.
- Recognize the influence religious and spiritual tradition have on human experiences, cultures, artistic expressions, institutions, texts and historical periods.

- Understand the complexity and diversity of global religious and spiritual traditions.

## Minor Minor

Religious Studies Minor (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/religious-studies/religious-studies-minor/>)