

# Cover Sheet: Request 14574

## BA in Religion

### Info

Process	Major Curriculum Modify Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending at PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)
Submitter	Anna Peterson annap@ufl.edu
Created	12/23/2019 8:10:28 PM
Updated	2/19/2020 2:18:45 PM
Description of request	<p>We request two changes to the religion major.</p> <p>1. We have added a fourth category, religion and ethics in contemporary society, which will be added to the existing categories (Asian religions, Islam, and Jewish and Christian scripture). Students are currently required to take at least one class in each of the three existing categories. Under the new requirements, students will take at least one course in three of the four categories. This change will give students greater flexibility in choosing courses to complete the major while maintaining the breadth of knowledge that we expect of religion majors.</p> <p>2. We have reduced the number of 4000 level credits required from 9 to 6.</p>

### Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	CLAS - Religion 011619002	Terje Ostebo		1/2/2020
Rel-Ethics-Society classes.docx					12/23/2019
College	Conditionally Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Joseph Spillane	The College Curriculum Committee conditionally approved this request, and asks that, under Proposed Curriculum Changes, this be referred to an an "updated" major and not a "new major"	1/24/2020
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CLAS - Religion 011619002	Terje Ostebo		1/24/2020
No document changes					
College	Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Joseph Spillane		1/24/2020
No document changes					
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Approved	PV - Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Casey Griffith		1/28/2020
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Commented	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)	Lee Morrison	Added to the February agenda. If approved, this will go into effect for the Summer B 2020 term with the publication of the 2020-2021 undergraduate catalog.	2/13/2020
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Recycled	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)	Casey Griffith	Please respond to UCC review comments and upload catalog copy as required for submissions of this type.	2/18/2020
No document changes					

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Recycled	PV - Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Casey Griffith		2/18/2020
No document changes					
College	Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Joseph Spillane		2/19/2020
Catalog review for 2020-21- new major.docx					2/19/2020
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Approved	PV - Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Casey Griffith		2/19/2020
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			2/19/2020
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					
Catalog					
No document changes					
Academic Assessment Committee Notified					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

# Major|Modify\_Curriculum for request 14574

## Info

**Request:** BA in Religion

**Description of request:** We request two changes to the religion major.

1. We have added a fourth category, religion and ethics in contemporary society, which will be added to the existing categories (Asian religions, Islam, and Jewish and Christian scripture). Students are currently required to take at least one class in each of the three existing categories. Under the new requirements, students will take at least one course in three of the four categories. This change will give students greater flexibility in choosing courses to complete the major while maintaining the breadth of knowledge that we expect of religion majors.

2. We have reduced the number of 4000 level credits required from 9 to 6.

**Submitter:** Anna Peterson annap@ufl.edu

**Created:** 1/24/2020 10:11:44 AM

**Form version:** 2

## Responses

**Major Name** Religion

**Major Code** REL

**Degree Program Name** Bachelor of Arts

**Undergraduate Innovation Academy Program** No

**Effective Term** Earliest Available

**Effective Year** Earliest Available

**Current Curriculum for Major** The program consists of 10 courses, which include at least one in Asian religions, one in Islam, and one in Jewish or Christian scripture. In addition, all majors must complete a junior seminar on methods and theories in the study of religion and a comparative East-West capstone seminar.

The 10 courses (30 credits) for the undergraduate major in religion must be completed with minimum grades of C. These courses must be taken from the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels of the religion curriculum and they must expose the student to both eastern and western thought.

**Proposed Curriculum Changes** The department has approved an updated major, which adds a fourth option to the Religion classes that can fulfill the major requirements. The new language describing the major will read:

The program consists of 10 courses, which include at least one class in three of the following four areas: Asian religions; one in Islam; and one in Jewish or Christian scripture; and religion and ethics in contemporary society. In addition, all majors must complete a junior seminar on methods and theories in the study of religion and a comparative East-West capstone seminar.

The 10 courses (30 credits) for the undergraduate major in religion must be completed with minimum grades of C. These courses must be taken from the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels of the religion curriculum and they must expose the student to both eastern and western thought.

In addition to this change, the department approved a change in the number of 4000 level courses from 9 credits (3 classes) to 6 credits (2 classes).

**UF Online Curriculum Change** No

**Pedagogical Rationale/Justification** The department has not changed the curriculum in many years. The chair asked the undergraduate committee to review the major curriculum in fall 2019 with the goal of updating the major to reflect recent changes in the department due to retirements, new hires, and new courses that have been added in recent years. The new version, which has been approved by the department, adds a fourth category of classes that can fulfill the major requirements: religion and ethics in contemporary society. This will give students more flexibility in the courses they can choose and it formalizes the department's growing strength in the role of religion in contemporary social and cultural processes. It will retain the breadth of knowledge that we expect of religion majors, requiring students to study a variety of traditions, regions, approaches, and issues that are important in the contemporary study of religion.

The change from 9 to 6 credits of 4000 level work is meant to create a smoother path toward completion, since 4000 level courses are not offered as regularly as 3000 level courses.

**Impact on Enrollment, Retention, Graduation** It will not affect students currently in the major in any way, since it adds a fourth category to the three existing ones. Students who have proceeded through the major in the current form can just choose those three existing categories to complete their major requirements. The change in number of 4000 level credits required will not affect current students.

**Assessment Data Review** We reviewed the SLOs associated with the religion major ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLN\\_BA/#academiclearningcompacttext](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLN_BA/#academiclearningcompacttext))  
Content

1. Identify, describe and explain religion as a significant and pervasive element in human culture.  
Critical Thinking

2. Read and analyze current literature on method and theory in a study of religion.

3. Read and analyze current literature on comparative religion.

Communication

4. Effectively communicate, in speech and in writing, and disseminate the results of research in a coherent and organized manner.

**Academic Learning Compact and Academic Assessment Plan** The courses included under the option "Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society" will, like the classes included under the other three subject areas (Islam, Scripture, and Asian traditions), contribute towards completion of program goals 1 and 4.

**Catalog Copy** Yes

Catalog review for 2020-21

With new major requirements

**Religion Major** ( [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLN\\_BA/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLN_BA/) )

Events at home and abroad show that religion continues to be a powerful force, with both positive and negative consequences. An undergraduate major in religion provides students with the basic tools to understand the diversity of religious phenomena throughout the world in their proper historical, socio-political, psychological, cultural, and philosophical contexts.

Students majoring in religion receive truly interdisciplinary training and many pursue advanced degrees in the humanities, social sciences, law, education, journalism, and social services. Religion majors have also gone on to work in non-governmental organizations, private companies, and religious communities. The religion program complements many other programs at the University of Florida, including Latin American studies, sustainability studies, Jewish studies, African studies, and Asian studies.

**Coursework for the Major**

The program consists of 10 courses, which include at least one class in three of the following four areas: Asian religions; Islam; and Jewish or Christian scripture; and religion and ethics in contemporary society. In addition, all majors must complete a junior seminar on methods and theories in the study of religion and a comparative East-West capstone seminar.

The 10 courses (30 credits) for the undergraduate major in religion must be completed with minimum grades of C. These courses must be taken from the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels of the religion curriculum and they must expose the student to both eastern and western thought.

**Coursework:**

Add section: Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society

Select one:

REL 2071: Sustainability and Religion

REL 3076: Cults and New Religious Movements

REL 3082: Global Ethics

REL 3099: Spirituality and Health Care

REL 3103: Religion and Nature in North America

REL 3108: Religion and Food

REL 3148: Religion and Violence

REL 3171: Ethics in America

REL 3492: Religion, Ethics, and Nature

REL 4092: Ethics, Utopias, and Dystopias

REL 4145: Women in Religion and Society

**Model Semester Plan** ( [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLN\\_BA/#modelsemesterplantext](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLN_BA/#modelsemesterplantext) ) *Semester One:*

IDS 1161: What is the Good Life? Or IDS 2935: Quest 1 *Semester Two:*

One course in Asian religions, Jewish or Christian Scripture, Islam, or Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society ( **Critical Tracking** ; Gen Ed Humanities)

*Semester Three:*

One course in Asian religions, Jewish or Christian Scripture, Islam, or Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society ( **Critical Tracking** ; Gen Ed Humanities)

*Semester Four:*

One course in Asian religions, Jewish or Christian Scripture, Islam, or Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society ( **Critical Tracking** ; Gen Ed Humanities )

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**Religion Minor** ( [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLN\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLN_UMN/) )

No changes

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**Religious Ethics Minor** ( [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLE\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/RLE_UMN/) )

No changes – deletion of this minor is pending in the approval system

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Combined Degree ( <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/combined-degrees/> )

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**Courses in new area: Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Society**

REL 2071: Sustainability and Religion

REL 3076: Cults and New Religious Movements

REL 3082: Global Ethics

REL 3099: Spirituality and Health Care

REL 3103: Religion and Nature in North America

REL 3108: Religion and Food

REL 3148: Religion and Violence

REL 3171: Ethics in America

REL 3492: Religion, Ethics, and Nature

REL 4092: Ethics, Utopias, and Dystopias