

Study Travel Opportunities

♦ Introduction to African Religions and Culture

(Summer Study Travel Program, Accra, Ghana)



♦ Introduction to Worldwide Christianities

(Winter Study Travel Program, Hamburg, Germany)



Alumnae Gathering at the American Academy of Religion Conference



Where Are Some Recent Religious Studies Alumnae Majors & Minors?

Meredith Coleman-Tobias, C'2006
Assistant Professor at Mount Holyoke College

Ashley Coleman Taylor, C'2006
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at The Univ of TX @ Austin

Kamille Williams, C'2006
Lieutenant Commander, US Naval Chaplaincy

Dorothella Littlepage, C'2006
Thirteenth Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford, CT

Kera Street, C'2008
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Religious Studies at Brown University

Devona Lewis, C'2008
Investigator at Atlantic County Criminal Courthouse

Nicole Hoskins, C'2009
Assistant Professor, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University

Sarita Smith, C'2013
Staff, Office of the Georgia Attorney General

Jauhara Ferguson, C'2017
Assistant Professor of Religion at Claremont McKenna College

Sharon Safford-Harris, C'2017
Ph. D Candidate, University of Arizona

Departmental Faculty

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Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Religious Studies



“A Choice to Change the World”

Camille O. Hanks Cosby
Academic Center, Suite 425

Religious Studies

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies offers two majors, one in philosophy and the other in Religious Studies. The two majors enrich each other, but retain their separate identities and missions.

Goals

The Religious Studies program at Spelman College offers students the opportunity to engage in the academic, inter-disciplinary study of religion. Courses explore the nature of religion as a significant phenomenon of human life. Religion is studied by analyzing sacred texts, by examining the histories of distinct religious traditions, and by exploring the general interaction of religion with social and cultural life in diverse settings. Focus is also placed on the roles of women in religions and on the meanings of religion in the African Diaspora.

Objectives

Upon completion of a major in religion, a student should be able to **1.** demonstrate understanding of the academic study of religion, **2.** identify and analyze various methods in the study of religions, **3.** understand historical developments of a variety of religious traditions, including the roles and statuses of women within the traditions, **4.** demonstrate knowledge of the critical developments of a variety of religious traditions in the African Diaspora, **5.** demonstrate critical writing and reasoning skills, especially in regard to roles of religion in social life, **6.** identify and critically assess the student's participation in religious traditions and institutions.

What can I do with a Major or Minor in Religious Studies?

This is a partial list of careers for which graduates with the B.A. in religious studies might obtain.

Administrator	Judicial Clerk
Chaplain	Law
Counseling and Social Worker	Legislative Aid
Diplomat	Medicine
Foreign Service Officer	Paralegal
Freelance Writer	Pastor
Institutional Researcher	Professor

Theta Alpha Kappa The National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology



Founded in 1976 at Manhattan College in Riverdale (the Bronx) New York, **Theta Alpha Kappa** is the only national honor society that serves those involved in the study of religion and/or theology at both the baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate levels. It honors students who have shown promise for continued growth in the study of religion. The society aims to further the study of Religion by encouraging research, good teaching, publication and intellectual and social exchange among students, teachers, and writers in the field as well as with persons in other scholarly disciplines.

Religious Studies Scholarship Opportunities

- ◆ Chamberlain and Lucinda Hayes Scripture Annual Reading Contest
- ◆ Norman Rates Scholarship for the Rising Junior

Participation in Spelman's Research Day



Religious Studies Research Day Presenters (l to r):
Ebony Johnson, Trelenny Joiner, and Jordan Brown

Religious Studies Major Requirements

A major in religious studies consists of **44 hours (eleven courses)**.

Every religious studies major must complete the following core courses.

REL111: Introduction to the Study of Religion (4)

PHI 220: Introduction to Philosophy (4)

REL 380: Theory and Methods (4)

REL 480: Senior Project (4)

◆ Each major must complete at least **two courses in two different religious traditions** (one historical introduction and one corresponding elective).

◆ Each major must complete at least **one course in each of the three curricular areas**.

◆ Area I Sacred Texts: at least one course in this area is required (4)

◆ Area II history of Religion: at least two courses in this area are required (8)

◆ Area III Religion and culture: at least one course in this area is required (4)

◆ The remaining courses for the religion major shall be electives.

Religious Studies Minor Requirements

A minor in religious studies consists of **20 hours (five courses)**

REL 111: Introduction to the Study of Religion (4)

REL 112: Women and Religion (4)

PHI 220: Introduction to Philosophy (4)

◆ One historical introduction from Area II (4)

◆ One course from either Area I or Area III (4)

[https://www.spelman.edu/academics/
majors-and-programs/religious-studies-
and-philosophy](https://www.spelman.edu/academics/majors-and-programs/religious-studies-and-philosophy)