

Executive Summary University of Utah BA in Religious Studies

Program Description

The Religious Studies undergraduate major will allow students to explore various religious traditions as well as acquire critical tools to analyze religious phenomena in their relationship to culture, society, politics, and history. Overall, the Religious Studies major will train students to interpret the world while paying attention to the role of belief systems and religious identities. Broadly defined, the study of religion falls under the category of identity studies and can be placed in the field of cultural, ethnic or gender/sexual studies. The religious component of individual and group identities has often been overlooked by other identity studies; however, in recent years a new trend has taken place that highlights more often the intricacy of religious identities and other components of one's identity. The College of Humanities, in collaboration with other colleges, has been developing several programs of this type. Religious Studies is yet to be added to the spectrum of approaches.

Role and Mission Fit

The creation of RELS major is concordant with the University's stated mission as "a preeminent research and teaching university with national and global reach." BA programs in RELS exist at most of the top universities in the country, as well as in major large state institutions (among others, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Chicago, Georgia State University, California State University Long Beach, San Diego State University, University of Alabama, Ohio State University, University of Oregon, Penn State University, Indiana University Bloomington, University of New Mexico, University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.) In the surrounding region of the Intermountain West, a major in RELS exists in the following institutions: Arizona State University (School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies offering a BA, MA, and PhD), University of Arizona (Religious Studies program in the College of Humanities offering a BA), University of Wyoming (Religious Studies program in the College of Arts and Sciences offering a BA), University of Nevada-Reno (Religious Studies interdisciplinary program offering a minor and housed in the College of Liberal Arts), Denver University (Religious Studies department offering a BA and MA as well as a joint PhD with the School of Theology), University of Colorado-Boulder (Religious Studies department offering a BA and MA). Utah State University offers a BA in Religious Studies. The proposed major advances rigorous interdisciplinary inquiry at the undergraduate level through interdisciplinary teaching and collaborative research. The RELS major seeks to prepare students who can help transform society in ways that will honor diversity and intercultural values. Moreover, the RELS major will be at the heart of various synergies within the University of Utah, including the programs in Mormon studies and Jewish studies developed by the Tanner Humanities Center.

Faculty

For the past two and one-half years, the RELS minor has been successfully taught by faculty members coming from 13 departments spread across five colleges. Altogether, 37 faculty members are currently participating in the program's course offerings; 35 of them hold a doctoral degree (28 are either tenured or in a tenure-track position), one faculty member holds an MA degree, and one faculty member holds a BA degree. This number matches the number of faculty teaching in any other similar BA program on campus and the program will not need additional faculty in the next five years. The strong collaborations established among departments and colleges around the RELS minor have favored consultations and dialogue during hiring processes and facilitated discussions about future hires' potential contributions to the RELS program. For instance, the current Director of the RELS program, Professor Muriel Schmid, was invited to meet with

candidates hired in Art History working on European Renaissance. In the past two years the existence of a RELS program on campus has been highly attractive to recent hires in Languages and Literature as well as Art History.

Market Demand

The need to train students to be better global citizens, literate in terms of intercultural exchange, and knowledgeable about religious identities and phenomena is high as religious diplomacy is becoming a central element of politics, economics, and peacemaking. Along with a number of other interdisciplinary majors/minors at the University of Utah, the RELS major will encourage students to think beyond disciplinary boundaries and to gain the knowledge and skills that diverse disciplines can bring to bear on critical social and cultural problems. Significantly, Claremont Graduate University's School of Religion has recently created two new MA programs: one entitled *Religion for Professionals* "that provides practical knowledge for those in the fields of education, media, human resources, civil government, culture, and many others. Tailor a curriculum in keeping with your interests and industry, and learn how scripture, history, theology, and spirituality affect everything from world politics to local government." And another one entitled *Religion and American Politics* that "offers students the opportunity to investigate one of the most vexing issues of current time: What is religion's role in the public sphere? Professionals from politicians and academics to journalists and leaders of humanitarian organizations confront the constant interplay of the two realms. The graduate program prepares students to approach these questions from the disciplinary perspectives of religious studies and political science."¹ Both of these degrees indicate the need in many professional fields for religious literacy as part of more global intercultural literacy.

Student Demand

In Fall 2007, the Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (CLCS) program in Languages and Literature opened a new track in Religion and Culture. It prepared the Department to take charge of student advising when the Religious Studies minor was created in Fall 2009. Thus, for four years, through its academic advisor, Languages and Literature has been meeting and advising students who expressed interest in the study of religion in one capacity or another (graduated with a BA in CLCS Religion and Culture or a minor in Religious Studies, took one or more classes offered through the CLCS program in Religion and Culture or the minor in Religious Studies, and sought advising for graduate school in Religious Studies.) This experience helped profile these students and their needs and allowed the Department to conduct a survey among 40 of them. Overall, the students exhibit intellectual curiosity and are attracted to the broad diversity of interdisciplinary approaches that the program offers. The survey indicates a strong interest in a RELS major. A clear majority (70%) reports that it would have declared a RELS major if the option had existed.

Statement of Financial Support

No additional funding will be needed to launch the major other than existing resources of the primary supporting college, the College of the Humanities, where the RELS minor is currently housed and where the major will be as well.

Similar Programs Already Offered in the USHE

The only academic program comparable within Utah is the Religious Studies major at Utah State University (USU) which was created in 2007. Utah Valley University (UVU) has only an emphasis in religious studies available to students through its Philosophy Department; the same exists at Westminster College. At Brigham Young University (BYU) the curriculum is significantly different and reflects the university's

¹ <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/5022.asp>

affiliation with the LDS Church by requiring of every student 14 credits of religious education. UVU counts approximately 30 students enrolled either in their Religious Studies minor or having an emphasis on religion in their Integrated Studies degree program. USU has witnessed a steady increase in the numbers of students since 2007, from 15 the first year to 30 currently enrolled. There is potential for collaborations among USHE institutions in the development of the study of religion and, far from being exclusive, each program carries its own specificity and strength and allows for complementarities and exchange of expertise. The University of Utah's initiative for a RELS major proposal has encountered very strong support among colleagues.

**Program Description
University of Utah
BA in Religious Studies**

Section I: Request

This proposal requests the establishment of an undergraduate interdisciplinary major in Religious Studies (RELS), to be administered within the College of Humanities, in collaboration with other similar interdisciplinary programs, in particular Peace and Conflict Studies. This proposal follows very closely recent proposals for interdisciplinary majors in Peace and Conflict Studies as well as the proposal for a BA in Ethnic Studies. The University Board of Trustees approved the proposed degree program on April 10, 2012.

Section II: Program Description

Complete Program Description

The Religious Studies undergraduate major will allow students to explore various religious traditions as well as acquire critical tools to analyze religious phenomena in their relationship to culture, society, politics, and history. Overall, the Religious Studies major will train students to interpret the world while paying attention to the role of belief systems and religious identities. Broadly defined the study of religion falls under the category of identity studies and can be placed in the field of cultural, ethnic or gender/sexual studies. The religious component of individual and group identities has often been overlooked by other identity studies; however, in recent years a new trend has taken place that highlight more and more often the intricacy of religious identities and other components of one's identity. The College of Humanities, in collaboration with other colleges, has been developing several programs in this type of studies. Religious Studies is yet to be added to the spectrum of approaches.

Purpose of Degree

The new undergraduate degree will prepare students to address religious issues in two different ways: (a) the degree seeks to familiarize students with other traditions in order to prepare them to live and work in a pluralistic and global society where religious identities have been at the forefront of many recent events; (b) the degree seeks to provide students with a set of analytical tools that would equip them to better interpret events and public discourse, taking into account religious references, ethical values, and cultural identities. In doing so, students will be able to dialogue thoughtfully and respectfully with other traditions and to work collaboratively with representatives from various religious backgrounds. The Religious Studies major thus seeks to contribute to the broader mission of university education.

Institutional Readiness

The Religious Studies undergraduate major can be seen as an outgrowth of the existing Religious Studies interdisciplinary undergraduate minor. Student interest in this program has steadily increased over the course of the past three years. Currently (December 2011), there were 15 undergraduate students enrolled in the minor and ten students have been cleared to graduate with the minor. The number of students in the minor has been growing each semester, going from five to 15 students in the past year.

Faculty

Most courses that constitute the Religious Studies major already are being taught by qualified professors in departments across the University, many of whom are pursuing research in these areas. The model of

using existing course offerings has been highly successful in the past two and one-half years with the development of the minor: the very existence of the minor has encouraged some faculty members and departments to develop new courses (for instance, Mormonism and American Experience taught for the first time by Prof. Paul Reeve in Spring 2011 or Introduction to Religious Studies taught for the first time by Prof. Muriel Schmid in Fall 2008) or to highlight classes that were already on the books (for instance, Sociology of Religion or World Religions). Every faculty listed below has contributed with success to the minor and will continue teaching for the program.

Anthropology:

- Bojka Milicic, Associate Professor (Lecturer)
- Eva Wasilewska, Associate Professor (Lecturer)

Art History:

- Elizabeth Peterson, Associate Professor
- Jessen Kelly, Assistant Professor
- Winston Kyan, Assistant Professor

Communication:

- Leonard Hawes, Professor, Director Peace and Conflict Studies Program

English:

- Jacqueline Osherow, Professor
- Kathryn Stockton, Professor
- Maeera Schreiber, Professor
- Mark Matheson, Associate Professor (Lecturer), Affiliated w/ Honors College
- Vincent Pecora, Gordon B. Hinckley Professor of British Literature and Culture, English Department Chair, Director British Studies Program

Health Promotion:

- Amanda Smith, Associate Instructor
- Glenn Richardson, Professor

History:

- Bradley Parker, Associate Professor, Affiliated w/Middle East Studies
- Isabel Moreira, Associate Professor
- Paul Reeve, Assistant Professor
- Peter von Sivers, Associate Professor, Affiliated w/Middle East Studies

Languages and Literature:

- Asad Al-Saleh, Assistant Professor, Arabic Section, Affiliated w/Middle East Studies
- Debernire Torrey, Assistant Professor (Lecturer)
- Eric Laursen, Associate Professor, Russian Section and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies Section
- Joseph Metz, Associate Professor, German Section and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies Section
- Margaret Toscano, Assistant Professor, Classics Section, Affiliated w/ Honors College
- Muriel Schmid, Assistant Professor, Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies Section
- Nathan Devir, Assistant Professor, Hebrew Section and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies Section
- Soheila Amirsoleimani, Associate Professor, Persian Section, Affiliated w/Middle East Studies

Philosophy:

- Benjamin Crowe, Assistant Professor (Lecturer), Affiliated w/Honors College
- Deen Chatterjee, Associate Professor
- Eric Hutton, Assistant Professor, Affiliated w/Asian Studies Program, Affiliated w/Honors College

Political Science:

- Hakan Yavuz, Professor
- Mark Button, Associate Professor and Chair

Psychology:

- Paul White, Associate Professor
- Timothy Smith, Professor

Social Work:

- David Derezotes, Professor

Sociology:

- Frank Page, Adjunct Assistant Professor
- Marcie Goodman, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Theater:

- Jerry Gardner, Associate Professor
- William Parkinson, Assistant Professor (Lecturer)

The list of electives currently offered to RELS minor students has been subject to annual review by the RELS director and steering committee members and is based on feedback and recommendations from chairs, instructors, and students. A list of approximately 40 courses is established every semester, using the criteria of relevance and rigor with respect to the four distributions offered within the minor. The approval process has followed the guidelines formulated in the proposal for the minor.

Faculty Category	Faculty Headcount – Prior to Program Implementation	Faculty Additions to Support Program	Faculty Headcount at Full Program Implementation
With Doctoral Degrees (Including MFA and other terminal degrees, as specified by the institution)			
Full-time Tenured	28	N/A	28
Full-time Non-Tenured	7	N/A	7
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured			
With Master's Degrees			
Full-time Tenured			
Full-time Non-Tenured	1	N/A	1
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured			
With Bachelor's Degrees			
Full-time Tenured			
Full-time Non-Tenured	1	N/A	1
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured			
Other			
Full-time Tenured			

Full-time Non-Tenured			
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured			
Total Headcount Faculty	37	N/A	37
Full-time Tenured	28	N/A	28
Full-time Non-Tenured	9	N/A	9
Part-time Tenured			
Part-time Non-Tenured			
Total Department Faculty FTE (As reported in the most recent A-1/S-11 Institutional Cost Study for "prior to program implementation" and using the A-1/S-11 Cost Study Definition for the projected "at full program implementation.")	N/A	X	N/A

Staff

The proposed program will be administered by existing staff, including a director and a student advisor within the Department of Languages and Literature. In addition, the steering committee assists the director in supervising the program and its performance and oversees the curriculum and the list of approved electives. The current steering committee (December 2011) represents nine departments located in four colleges (Humanities, Fine Arts, Social and Behavioral Science, and Social Work). As the program grows, more members will be added to the steering committee, proportionally representative of contributing departments.

Library and Information Resources

The J. Willard Marriott Library has extensive holdings for the study of religion and is equipped to support a Religious Studies major; in the past year or so, faculty members contributing to the minor have surveyed its holdings and have been able to submit titles to its acquisitions department in order to fill some gaps in seminal studies. As of today, the University Library system possesses a broad and rich collection in the study of religion.

Admission Requirements

Students must be in good standing at the University of Utah. Students must complete relevant admission and advising forms.

Student Advisement

Student advising is divided into three components: course-related, graduation-related, and career-related. Detailed and user-friendly program documents now facilitate the first two types of advising. The current website² provides clear information regarding the people to contact, the program of study, the requirements, and the list of electives. It allows students to download the necessary material. The website will be updated to serve the needs of the major and a new major sheet will be posted on the website. The list of electives is modified every semester based on the U of U catalog. For the past two and one-half years, advising for the minor has been successfully conducted in the Department of Languages and Literature; the current director of the program, Professor Muriel Schmid, has been working closely with the

² <http://www.languages.utah.edu/religious/>

current department's undergraduate advisor, Virginia Eaton; both names with their contact information are listed on the RELS website under "Contact and Advising." The Department of Languages and Literature has agreed to house advising for the major as well. The program's director and the members of the steering committee are responsible for individual advising regarding career-related questions.

Justification for Graduation Standards and Number of Credits

The major will consist of 33 total credit hours. In addition, students will be required to fulfill all University of Utah graduation requirements for a total of 126 credit hours.

External Review and Accreditation

The RELS undergraduate major will be part of regular internal and external reviews for interdisciplinary programs housed in the College of Humanities.

Projected Enrollment

Experience with the RELS minor, conversations with students, results from research on the growth of the interests in the study of religion in recent years as well as numbers in other USHE institutions suggest a projected number of 35 during the initial two years of the major, following an anticipated launch in fall semester 2013. An increase to approximately 50 majors by fall 2015 based on the steady growth of the enrollment for the minor is anticipated.

Data Category	Current – Prior to New Program Implementation	Projected Year 1	Projected Year 2	Projected Year 3	Projected Year 4	Projected Year 5
Data for Proposed Program						
Number of Graduates in Proposed Program	X					
Total # of Declared Majors in Proposed Program	X					
Departmental Data – For All Programs Within the Department						
Total Department Faculty FTE (as reported in Faculty table above)	0	37	37	37	37	37
Total Department Student FTE (Based on Fall Third Week)	0	35	35	50	50	50
Student FTE per Faculty FTE (ratio of Total Department Faculty FTE and Total Department Student FTE above)	0	0.94	0.94	1.35	1.35	1.35
Program accreditation-required ratio of Student FTE/Faculty FTE, if applicable:						

(Provide ratio here: _____)						
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Expansion of Existing Program

This proposal for the interdisciplinary RELS major stems from experience with the RELS minor program. It is a model that works and the students want more options. Based on the experience with the minor, the steering committee and associated staff recommend expanding the options for undergraduates from the existing RELS minor to include the option to major in RELS.

Section III: Need

Program Need

A few years ago, the American Academy of Religion (ARR) with the support of the Teagle Foundation conducted an 18-month national study of the state of the academic study of religion in the U.S. after 9/11. The study was published by the AAR and its results are indicative of the needs and evolution of religious studies in American colleges and universities. Religion is not dead as many predicted during the last decade of the 20th century. On the contrary, "[a] recent study reports that the proportion of the world's population that claims membership in the world's four largest religions — Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism — actually *increased* over the past century, from 67 percent in 1900 to 73 percent in 2005. The number is predicted to reach 80 percent by 2050." (*White Paper*, p. 2) In the post 9/11 society, 80% of Americans think that one should learn more about religion (*White Paper*, p. 3). Over the past five years American universities and colleges have reshaped their liberal arts curricula to respond to new challenges brought forth by globalization and pluralistic societies. The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) issued a report in 2007 that gave four important directions for liberal arts. "The four essential learning outcomes embraced by the AAC&U outline themes that religious studies has been focusing on for decades: intercultural learning, engagement of big questions, critical thinking and writing, moral reasoning, and the application of all of these skills to new global contexts and lived behaviors (*White Paper*, p. 4)." Paralleling this shift in the liberal arts curriculum, religious studies majors in public institutions grew by 40% during the first decade of the 21st century, offering a wide range of courses in World Religions, Islam and Hinduism and other non-Western traditions. More than ever, religion is now considered to be a field of general inquiry that belongs to the liberal arts curriculum. "Clearly, the field of religious studies now finds itself at a pivotal moment. An unprecedented confluence of world events, public perceptions, and educational insights has created exciting possibilities for the growth and re-imagining of the field — possibilities that were unthinkable even a decade ago (*White Paper*, p. 4)." Sterling McMurrin left a visionary legacy to the University of Utah, seeking to encourage the study of religion in Utah; the creation of a RELS major is extremely timely and follows McMurrin's call:

Considering the importance of religion for the life of the individual and the quality of culture, it is nothing less than a national scandal that it has been so severely neglected by educational institutions. It is time to give the study of religion the attention it needs—serious, reasonable, knowledgeable study—unless we are resigned to becoming victims of the irrationality and emotionalism in religion that are already so much in evidence.³

³ <http://www.hum.utah.edu/humcntr/PDF/Sterlingbio.pdf>

Labor Market Demand

When Professor Steven Prothero in his provocative book, *Religious Literacy* (HarperOne: 2007) made the case for re-instituting into the liberal arts curriculum courses that would provide college students with basic foundational knowledge of various religious traditions in order to train them to be conversant in the world at large, he simply responded to the shift in liberal arts studies and the need to train students to be better global citizens, literate in terms of intercultural exchange, and furthermore, knowledgeable about religious identities and phenomena. Such qualities are in high demand today, as religious diplomacy is becoming a central element of politics, economics, and peacemaking. Along with a number of other interdisciplinary majors/minors at the University of Utah, the RELS major will encourage students to think beyond disciplinary boundaries and to gain the knowledge and skills that diverse disciplines can bring to bear on critical social and cultural problems. Significantly, Claremont Graduate University's School of Religion has recently created two new M.A. programs: one entitled Religion for Professionals "that provides practical knowledge for those in the fields of education, media, human resources, civil government, culture, and many others. Tailor a curriculum in keeping with your interests and industry, and learn how scripture, history, theology, and spirituality affect everything from world politics to local government." And another one entitled Religion and American Politics that "offers students the opportunity to investigate one of the most vexing issues of current time: What is religion's role in the public sphere? Professionals from politicians and academics to journalists and leaders of humanitarian organizations confront the constant interplay of the two realms. The graduate program prepares students to approach these questions from the disciplinary perspectives of religious studies and political science."⁴ Both of these degrees indicate the need in many professional fields for religious literacy as part of a more global intercultural literacy.

Student Demand

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Similar Programs

BA programs in RELS exist at most of the top universities in the country, as well as in major large state institutions:

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Chicago
- Georgia State University
- California State University Long Beach
- San Diego State University
- University of Alabama
- Ohio State University

⁴ <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/5022.asp>

- University of Oregon
- Penn State University
- Indiana University Bloomington
- University of New Mexico
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

In the surrounding region of the Intermountain West, a major in RELS exists in the following institutions:

- Arizona State University
 - School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies offering a BA, MA, and PhD
- University of Arizona
 - Religious Studies program in the College of Humanities offering a BA
- University of Wyoming
 - Religious Studies program in the College of Arts and Sciences offering a BA
- University of Nevada-Reno
 - Religious Studies interdisciplinary program offering a minor and housed in the College of Liberal Arts
- Denver University
 - Religious Studies department offering a BA and MA as well as a joint PhD with Ilif School of Theology
- University of Colorado-Boulder
 - Religious Studies department offering a BA and MA
- Utah State University
 - Religious Studies offering a BA

Collaboration with and Impact on Other USHE Institutions

The only academic program comparable within Utah is the Religious Studies major at Utah State University which was created in 2007. Utah Valley University (UVU) has only an emphasis in religious studies available to students through its Philosophy Department; the same exists at Westminster College. At Brigham Young University (BYU) the curriculum is significantly different and reflects the university's affiliation with the LDS Church by requiring of every student 14 credits of religious education. UVU counts approximately 30 students enrolled either in its Religious Studies minor or having an emphasis on religion in its Integrated Studies degree program. USU has witnessed a steady increase in the numbers of students enrolling in the major since 2007, from 15 the first year to 30 currently enrolled. There is potential for collaborations among USHE institutions in the development of the study of religion and far from being exclusive, each program carries its own specificity and strength and allows for complementarities and exchange of expertise. The University of Utah's initiative for a RELS major proposal has encountered very strong support among colleagues from the Valley.

Benefits

The RELS major will promote diversity and respect individual beliefs. It will advance rigorous interdisciplinary inquiry, intercultural perspective, and social responsibility.

Consistency with Institutional Mission

The creation of RELS major is concordant with the University's stated mission as "a preeminent research and teaching university with national and global reach" as other BA programs in RELS already exist at

various top-tier research universities, and major public institutions. The proposed major advances rigorous interdisciplinary inquiry at the undergraduate level through interdisciplinary teaching and collaborative research. By building knowledge and developing related practices of responsible citizenship, RELS major seeks to prepare students who can help transform society in ways that will honor diversity and intercultural values. Moreover, the RELS major will be at the heart of various synergies within the University of Utah, including the programs in Mormon studies and Jewish studies developed by the Tanner Humanities Center.

Section IV: Program and Student Assessment

Program Assessment

The Religious Studies major can be used to complement and support studies in a variety of majors and minors, including other interdisciplinary programs in Asian Studies, Environmental Studies, Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, International Studies, Latin American Studies, and Leadership Studies. More specifically, the new major in Peace and Conflict Studies will offer numerous possibilities to students who want to study the intersection between religion and conflict or religion and peace building.

Expected Standards of Performance

Overall, such an interdisciplinary program is not geared towards immediate problem-solving skills, but rather towards the acquisition of analytical and critical tools that can be applied to interpret past and current events, public discourses and/or cultural shifts and identities on an ongoing basis. In this context, students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze and interpret religious phenomena and identities and be able to make an informed assessment of their role in current social institutions as well as past historical events. Identify and discuss disciplinary perspectives on religion, including those of anthropology, sociology, history, art history, philosophy, literature, political science, psychology, social work, and theatre.
- 2) Acquire cultural and religious literacy in order to better understand world religions and their history, practices, and beliefs. Apply this knowledge to develop practices of intercultural dialogue and exchange, including in some cases, the ability to read and translate other languages.
- 3) Critically assess and synthesize the approaches to religion that are presented in different disciplines. Ultimately, students are encouraged to formulate personal approaches to understanding and interpreting religious phenomena and religious identities, bringing together their scholarly investigations, discussions with peers, and personal experiences.

Section V: Finance

Budget

5-Year Budget Projection						
Departmental Data	Current Budget— Prior to New Program Implementation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Personnel Expense						
Salaries and Wages***						
Benefits						
Total Personnel Expense						
Non-personnel Expense						
Travel						
Capital						
Library						
Current Expense						
Total Non-personnel Expense						
Total Expense (Personnel + Current)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Departmental Funding		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Appropriated Fund						
Other: **		\$60K	\$60K	\$85K	\$85K	\$85K
Special Legislative Appropriation						
Grants and Contracts						
Special Fees/Differential Tuition						
Total Revenue	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Difference						
Revenue - Expense	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Departmental Instructional Cost/Student Credit Hour* (as reported in institutional Cost Study for "current" and using the same Cost Study Definition for "projected")	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

* Projected Instructional Cost/Student Credit Hour data contained in this chart are to be used in the Third-Year Follow-Up Report and Cyclical Reviews required by R411.

**Other funding is based on SCH Funding at \$85 per SCH.

Funding Sources

No additional funding will be needed to launch the major other than existing resources of the primary supporting college, the College of the Humanities, where the RELS minor is currently housed and where the major will be as well.

Section VI: Program Curriculum

All Program Courses

Course Prefix and Number	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
CLCS 3620	Intro to the Study of Religion	3
PHIL 2540	World Religions	3
Required Credits		6
Elective Courses (choose 8 for a total of 24 credits)		
ANTH 3111	First Nations E N Amer	3
ANTH 3112	First Nations W N Amer	3
ANTH 3141	Himalayan Kingdoms	3
ANTH 3328	Anthro Arch Near East	3
ANTH 3969	Death Rituals and Mummification	3
ANTH 4123	Cultural Tradition Asia	3
ANTH 4139	Native American Religion	3
ANTH 4171	Myth Magic Religion	3
ANTH 5321	The Classic Maya	3
ANTH 6329	Anth Arch Anc Egypt	3
ARTH 3200	Renaissance Europe Renaissance Europe	3
ARTH 3250	Baroque Art Europe	3
ARTH 4195	Seminar in Medieval Books	3
ARTH 4220	Ital. Ren. Art: 16th c	3
CLCS 3620	Religious Studies	3
CLCS 3670	Travels in Music	3
CLCS 3900	Greek Drama	3
CLCS 3960	Cultures in Contact	3
CLCS 4900	Saints and Sinners 19th Cent Nvl	3
CLCS 4970	Iran and the West: 1800-2000	3
CLCS 4960	New Testament Studies	3
CL CV 3570	Women Ancient Greece/Rome	3
COMM 5150	Dialogue and Cultural Studies	3
ENGL 5721	John Milton	3
ENGL 5710	Studies Renaissance Lit	3
ENGL 5950	Theories Of Culture	3
H EDU 3190	Death And Dying	3
H EDU 3850	Meditation For Health	3
H EDU 4350	Personal Resiliency	3
HIST 3005	Ancient Empires	3
HIST 3040	Early Medieval England	3
HIST 3090	Reformations: Turmoil	3
HIST 3560	Modern India	3
HIST 3910	Holocaust	3

Course Prefix and Number	Title	Credit Hours
HIST 4005	Ancient Israel and Pale	3
HIST 4490	19-20th Century Iran/Iraq	3
HIST 4040	Christianity In Anc Wor	3
HIST 4050	Christianity In Med Wor	3
HIST 4400	Introduction to Islam	3
HIST 4420	The Crusades	3
HIST 4490	Israel and Palestine: War to Peace	3
HIST 4490	Introduction to Shi'i Islam	3
HIST 4660	History Of Utah	3
HIST 4790	American Religions	3
HIST 4990	Death/Afterlife-Christian West	3
JAPAN 6900	Haiku Masters	3
MID E 3642	Islamic Fundamentalism	3
MID E 3649	Islam and Politics	3
MID E 3713	Peoples/Culture Mid E	3
MID E 4549	Comp Religion/Politics	3
MID E 5696	Islam and Democracy	3
MID E 6880	God, Love, and Mysticism	3
PHIL 3600	Phil Of Religion	3
PHIL 3610	Religions Of India	3
PHIL 3810	Existentialism	3
PHIL 4140	Classical Chinese Phil	3
PHIL 5193	The Bhagavad Gita	3
POLS 3490	Comp Religion/Politics	3
POLS 5450	Political Violence Terrorism	3
POLS 5810	Religion and Int'l Politics	3
SOC 3440	Sociology of Religion	3
SW 5830	Conflict and Reconciliation	3
SW 5830	Meditation and Stress	3
SW 5830	Dialogue Models	3
THEA 3001	Zen, Eastern Theatre	3
THEA 3210	Tai-Chi Yoga Movement	3
ANTH 3132	Trad Jewish Communities	3
HIST 3392	Islamic Spain	3
HIST 4795	Mormon and American Exper	3
ENGL 5700	Studies in Medieval Lit	3
ANTH 3141	Himalayan Kingdoms	3
ARTH 3200	Renaissance Europe	3
ARTH 4150	Early Medieval Themes	3
HIST 3400	The Mid-East since 1914	3
POLS 5440	Nation/Ethnic Conflict	3
SOC 3569	Terrorism, Violence, Aggression	3
ANTH 6131	Peoples/Culture Mid E	3

Course Prefix and Number	Title	Credit Hours
ARTH 4095	Seminar in Chinese Art	3
Total Elective Credits		24
VARIOUS COURSE NUMBERS	Senior Seminar	3
Total Number of Credits		33

PHASE I

- Two introductory courses (6 hours): World Religions and Intro to the Study of Religion

These courses will be offered on a rotation system; both of them are already required for students majoring in CLCS Religion and Culture (Information available upon request):

- 1) World Religions: this course has been taught on a regular basis in the Department of Philosophy and has encountered wide success among students studying religion at the U of U. Based on the survey conducted among students, 100% of them approve of making World Religions one of the cornerstone courses. This course offers a descriptive and historical overview of the main religious traditions (with a recommended minimum of 5). Several faculty members in Languages and Literature are willing to teach this course too if, for one reason or another, Philosophy could not offer it.
- 2) Introduction to the Study of Religion: this course has been offered on a regular basis in the Department of Languages and Literature for the past 3 years. Broadly defined, this course encompasses the history of the discipline, a succinct survey of classical theories of religion, and the presentation of the main methodological approaches to religion. The Department of Sociology who offers each semester several sections of an introductory methods course to their majors has agreed to participate in the rotation for the RELS Methods and Theories course and to design one of its sections for RELS students. Similarly, the Department of Philosophy is developing an introductory course on the Philosophy of Religion that will cover the same material and can participate in the RELS rotation for this introductory course.

PHASE II

- Eight electives (24 credits) that will be distributed into four distributions and spread across a minimum of three departments.
- 1) A first series of four electives: needs to be at the 3000-level or higher and divided into the four distributions.
 - 2) A second series of four electives: needs to be at the 4000-level or higher and divided into two of the distributions according to the student's interests.

Based on the current RELS minor, the USU model, and other similar programs, the four distributions will be: scientific inquiry, cultural inquiry, scriptural and literary inquiry, world traditions inquiry; 3rd-year relevant languages can count as electives (similar to Asian studies and CLCS Religion and Culture track).

Phase III

- One senior seminar (three credits).

- 1) The senior seminar will also be offered on a rotation system; as any other senior seminar, this seminar will require that students write an in-depth research paper and demonstrate the ability to apply disciplinary perspectives. Based on the survey conducted among students, there seems to be a strong desire for a practical element; Social Work has agreed to participate in the rotation of the senior seminar by offering an experiential Religion Lab (syllabus available upon request). Languages and Literature already offers a capstone for its CLCS Religion and Culture students; one section will be designed to welcome RELS students; History has also agreed to participate in the rotation with one of its senior seminars that has a strong emphasis on Christian cultural history.

Program Schedule

Freshman Year Fall Semester	Freshman Year Spring Semester
PHASE I	
Sophomore Year Fall Semester	Sophomore Year Spring Semester
Introduction to the Study of Religion (3)	World Religions (3)
PHASE II	
Junior Year Fall Semester	Junior Year Spring Semester
Two electives (6) 3000 or higher [one in each distribution]	Two electives (6) 3000 or higher [one in each distribution]
PHASE II and III	
Senior Year Fall Semester	Senior Year Spring Semester
Two electives (6) 4000 or higher [divided into two chosen distributions]	Two electives (6) 4000 or higher [divided into two chosen distributions] Senior seminar (3)

Section VII: Faculty

Faculty members whose primary field of inquiry pertains to the study of religion and religious phenomena (cultural, historical, theoretical, methodological, textual...):⁵

Professor Asaad al-Saleh

- DEGREE: PhD in comparative Literature from the University of Arkansas 2010.
- CLASSES: "Islamic Authors" and "The Qur'an and Qur'anic Studies."

Professor Deen Chatterjee

- DEGREE: PhD in Philosophy from the University of Washington 1975.
- CLASSES: "God, faith, and reason," Religions of India," "Hindu sacred text: The Bhagavad Gita," "The Buddha Mind," and "Philosophy of Religion."

Professor Benjamin Crowe

- DEGREE: Ph.D. in philosophy from Tulane University 2004.
- CLASSES: "Introduction to Philosophy: God, Faith, and Reason," "World Religions," "Philosophy of Religion," "Existentialism," and "Nineteenth-Century Philosophy."

Professor David Derezotes:

- DEGREE: PhD in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley 1989.
- CLASSES: "Dialogue Models" (cross listed in Social Work, Honors Program, Peace and Conflict Studies, and Communications, "Spirituality in Social Work" (this class was one of the first of its kind

⁵ Extensive faculty publications available upon request

taught in the country in a social work department, I first developed and taught it in 1994, and have offered it every year since then), and "The great divide: Bridging difference through dialogue"

Professor Nathan Devir

- DEGREE: PhD in Comparative Literature from Penn State University 2010.
- CLASSES: "Contemporary Cultures of the Jewish World," "Introduction to Judaism," "Holocaust and Remembrance," and "Hebrew language."

Professor Winston Kyan

- DEGREE: PhD in Art History 2006, University of Chicago
- CLASSES: "Arts of China," "Arts of Japan," "Art and Religion Along the Silk Road," and "Visual and Material Cultures of Buddhism."

Professor Isabel Moreira

- DEGREE: PhD in Ancient History from St. Andrews University (Scotland) 1992.
- CLASSES: "Early Medieval England to 1189" (because of the era covered, there is a heavy emphasis on religion and use of religious documentation), a senior Seminar "Death and the Afterlife to 900" (this course covers the earliest Christian attitudes to death and the afterlife, 'pagan' and Christian mortuary customs, patristic sources on attitudes to death and the afterlife, including exploration of the martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity, Origen and Origenism, Augustine of Hippo, Gregory the Great, visions of the otherworld, Irish visions and penitentials, and Bede and the rise of purgatory), "Christian Traditions in Practice to 1600," "Saints and Holy People in Medieval Europe to 1600," and an Honors course "Christian Death and Afterlife to 1700."

Professor Jacqueline Osherow

- DEGREE: PhD in English, American Literature and Language from Princeton University 1990.
- CLASSES: "Hebrew Bible as literature" and "Biblical poetry and its Legacy" (the legacy includes: medieval Hebrew poetry, Dante, poems by Herbert and Donne, Hopkins, Dickinson and Eliot).

Professor Frank Page

- DEGREE: PhD in Sociology from the University of Utah 2000.
- CLASSES: "Sociology of Religion" (this classes focuses on religion as a social organization within a socio-cultural framework, as seen through various sociological, anthropological, psychological, historical, and philosophical perspectives), "Social Theory class," "Social Psychology," and "Sociology of film"

Professor Vincent Pecora

- DEGREE: PhD in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University 1983,
- CLASSES: "Theories of Culture" (addresses the issue of religion, among various other ways of defining culture. Course readings that address the question of religion in culture include E. B. Tylor's *Primitive Culture*, Max Weber's *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Emile Durkheim's *Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, and Sigmund Freud's *Civilization and its Discontents*). For the past three years, he has also taught a directed readings capstone course for those students who are completing the existing minor in Religious Studies. This capstone directed readings course has generally focused on the historical transformation of Christianity (and the study of religion more generally) during the Reformation and Enlightenment. Course readings for the capstone course include: Martin Luther's *95 Theses* and *Smalcald Articles*, Jean Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*; Thomas Hobbes's *De Cive*, Baruch Spinoza's *Ethics*, David Hume's *Natural History of Religion*, Immanuel Kant's *Religion within the Limits of Reason*, G.W.F. Hegel's *Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, and Ludwig Feuerbach's *Essence of Christianity*. In addition, he is currently teaching a directed readings course for two graduate

students called "Theory of Religion." The readings for this latter course include Weber's *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, William James's *Varieties of Religious Experience*, Durkheim's *Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, Marcel Mauss's *A General Theory of Magic*, Carl Schmitt's *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*, Sigmund Freud's *Totem and Taboo*, Karl Löwith's *Meaning in History*, Claude Lévi-Strauss's *Introduction to the Work of Marcel Mauss*, Hans Blumenberg's *The Legitimacy of the Modern Age*, Clifford Geertz's "Religion as a Cultural System," and Jürgen Habermas's *Religion and Rationality: Essays on Reason, God, and Modernity*.

Professor Paul Reeve

- DEGREE: PhD in History from the University of Utah 2002.
- CLASSES: "Utah history" and "Mormonism and the American Experience".

Professor Muriel Schmid

- DEGREE: PhD in Protestant Theology/Christian Thought University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) 1998.
- CLASSES: "French secularism 18th and 19th centuries," "Religious studies/Theories and Methods," "Early Christian Literature," and "French literature and religion, 17th to 20th century."

Professor Kathryn Stockton

- DEGREE: PhD in English from Brown University in 1989 and M.Div. from Yale University Divinity School in 1982.
- CLASSES: "Theories of Gender and Sexuality."

Professor Debernieri Torrey

- DEGREE: PhD in Comparative Literature from Pennsylvania State University 2010.
- CLASSES: "Korean Culture through Literature and Film" (which has a three-week segment devoted to the philosophical and religious foundations of Korean culture: Confucianism, Buddhism, folk religion and Christianity).

Professor Margaret Toscano

- DEGREE: PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Utah in 2002.
- CLASSES: "Crossing into Hell" (examines hell as both a religious belief and also as a cultural metaphor for judgment and suffering) and "Ancient Myth and Religion" (explores the interplay of myth, religion, and cult practices and rituals in Ancient Greece and Rome).

Professor Peter von Sivers

- DEGREE: D. Phil. from the University of Munich (Germany) 1968.
- CLASSES: "Introduction to Islam" and "Islamic Origins."

Faculty members whose interest in the study of religion and religious phenomena derives from other fields of inquiries; they address religious phenomena in specific aspects of their teaching and/or research:

Professor Soheila Amirsoleimani

- DEGREE: PhD in Near Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan 1995.
- CLASSES: "God, Love, and Mysticism (on Islamic mysticism)" and "Hyphenated Lives: Muslim-Americans in the U.S."

Professor Leonard Hawes

- DEGREE: PhD in Communication from Ohio State University 1970.
- CLASSES: courses in cultural studies, critical theory, communication theory, and conflict studies.

Professor Mark Button

- DEGREE: PhD in Political Science from Rutgers University 2001.

- CLASSES: "Foundations of Political Thought" and "American Political Thought."

Professor Jerry Gardner

- DEGREE: PhD in Buddhist Studies from Ngagyur Samten Chokhorling Institute in Manali (India) 1997.
- CLASSES: "Zen: Eastern Theatre."

Professor Marcie Goodman

- DEGREE: PhD in Sociology from the University of Utah 1997.
- CLASSES: "Terrorism, Violence, and Aggression."

Professor Eric Hutton

- DEGREE: PhD in Philosophy from Stanford University 2001.
- CLASSES: courses that cover Chinese thought, including both Confucianism and Daoism.

Professor Jessen Kelly

- DEGREE: PhD in History of Art from the University of California at Berkeley 2011.
- CLASSES: "Renaissance Europe," "The Early Modern World," (deal extensively with themes of religious patronage, devotional practices, and image controversies in the Reformation/Counter-Reformation) and developing new course on "Images in the Age of Reform and Counter-Reform," and "Art and Urban Life in Early Modern Europe."

Professor Eric Laursen

- DEGREE: PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures University of Wisconsin-Madison 1991.
- CLASSES: "Soviet Culture" (Explores the antireligious campaigns and Godbuilding efforts of the Soviet Union, focusing on the use of Russian Orthodox imagery and ritual in the cults of Stalin and Lenin) and "Saints and Sinners: the Russian 19th Century Novel" (Students read about the traditions of Russian Orthodoxy, especially those of Saints' Lives and the tradition of the Holy Fool, and explore their uses in Gogol, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoi).

Professor Mark Matheson

- DEGREE: D.Phil. in Renaissance English Literature from Oxford University 1990.
- CLASSES: "Literary history survey," "Special topics in Renaissance literature," "Shakespeare," and "Honors Intellectual Traditions."

Professor Joseph Metz

- DEGREE: PhD in German Literature Harvard University 1999.
- CLASSES: a graduate seminar on "The Sublime" and an upper-division German class on "Prophecy and Language"

Professor Bojka Milicic

- DEGREE: PhD in Anthropology from the University of Utah 1992.
- CLASSES: "Symbolic Anthropology" and "Andean People."

Professor Bradley Parker

- DEGREE: PhD in Archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology at UCLA 1998.
- CLASSES: "Mesopotamian Civilization," "Ancient Israel and Palestine," "World History to 1500," and "Ancient Empires."

William Parkinson

- DEGREE: BA in Philosophy from the University of Utah Department of Philosophy 1972 and initiated into the Ananda Marga International Yoga Society in 1970, receiving the title Yogi Viirishwara in 1974.
- CLASSES: implemented Utah's first accredited college courses in Tai Chi and Yoga at Westminster College in Salt Lake City from 1972 to 1974. He began teaching Tai Chi for the

Modern Dance Department in 1974. He has taught Tai Chi and Yoga for the Exercise and Sports Science Department since 1979, and for the Department of Theatre since 1987. He also lectures and conducts workshops both on and off campus.

Professor Elizabeth Peterson

- DEGREE: PhD in Art History from the University of Pittsburgh 1991.
- CLASSES: "Visual cultures of Antiquity and Medieval Art" (explores principally artistic expressions in religious structures and objects), specialized courses on Greece, ancient Rome, early Christian, Byzantine, and Gothic art offering avenues to study the cultural, historical, political, social as well as religious conditions. A senior seminar in medieval book production practices, using high quality facsimiles of medieval illuminated manuscripts, is the course in which I can bring in my research on French Gothic religious manuscript illumination.

Professor Glenn E. Richardson

- DEGREE: PhD in Health Science University of Utah in 1976.
- CLASSES: "Positive Health: Psychospiritual," and "Personal Resilience."

Professor Maera Y. Shreiber

- DEGREE: PhD in English Literature from Brandeis University 1992.
- CLASSES: "Poetry of the Sacred" and "Jewish American Literature" (both graduate and undergraduate level).

Amanda Smith

- DEGREE: MS in Health Promotion and Education from the University of Utah 2003 and Certified Health Education Specialist.
- CLASSES: "Death and Dying," "Stress Management," and "Healthy Lifestyles" (including modules on health and spirituality).

Professor Timothy Smith

- DEGREE: PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Kansas 1982.
- CLASSES: "Psychology of Religion" (to be developed).

Professor Ewa Wasilewska

- DEGREE: PhD in Anthropology from the University of Utah 1991.
- CLASSES: "Religiosity in the Middle East and USA," "Anthropological Archaeology of Ancient Near East," "Anthropological Archaeology of Ancient Egypt," "Sacred Space in the Near East," "Anthropology of Humor and Laughter" (sections on humor on religion and within religion), "Silk Road: Past and Present," and "Death, Rituals, and Mummification."

Professor Paul White

- DEGREE: PhD in social psychology from Northeastern University 1993.
- CLASSES: on prejudice and stereotyping course that taps into some aspects of religion as an ethnicity.

Professor Hakan Yavuz

- DEGREE: PhD in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison 1998.
- CLASSES: "Nation/Ethnic conflicts" and "Islam and democracy."