Religion Department Areas of Concentration:

The Department of Religion represents a remarkable breadth in terms of the study of religion. Among us, we have experts who cover religious traditions that span the globe and also the last five millennia. Our students typically manifest this breadth in their courses of study, through their taking of classes that consider both western and non-western religious traditions, in addition to classes that examine religious traditions both ancient and modern.

Still, we believe strongly that breadth should be complemented by depth, which is to say: the courses any major takes that span the larger field of religion should be complemented by courses that concentrate on one particular area of study. Majors are thus asked to identify an Area of Concentration within the major from among the fields identified below. Three courses within your major should fall within your chosen area. This includes seminars or Honors Thesis courses.

Identifying an Area of Concentration will help you in your work in Religion 85, the Senior Culminating Course, and, perhaps, in choosing a focus for Honors Thesis work. For further information, please consult with the Chair or your preferred major advisor and notify the Department office of the Area of Concentration in which you wish to be enrolled.

Areas of Concentration*

A. Generalist Studies in Religion: all Religion courses except Religion 1 and 85
B. Gender Studies in Religion: 13, 14, 31, 48, 51, 52, 56
C. Philosophical Studies in Religion: 2, 3, 11, 22, 23, 25, 29, 35, 36
D. Religions of the Mediterranean World: 4, 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, 31, 33, 34, 56, 57, 58, 60
E. Islamic Studies: 8, 16, 25, 26, 28
F. Religions of Asia: 9, 10, 18, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49
G. African and African-American Religions: 14, 17, 50
H. Reading of Sacred Texts: 4, 5, 27, 41, 56, 57, 58
I. Religion in the Modern World: 3, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23, 26, 36, 60, 61, 62

* Note: This list is also meant to comprise topics courses (REL 40, 49, 57, and 58), experimental curriculum courses (REL 19 and 74), and seminars (REL 80 and 81) that reasonably fit under these headings. Consult with the Department Chair or your major advisor.