What is Religious Studies?

Very few phenomena have the impact on human culture that religion does. Religious Studies is the exploration of religion within culture and history. As a secular academic discipline that takes a variety of approaches, Religious Studies is concerned with how religious beliefs and practices shape and are shaped by human experience. Religious Studies is not limited to a single tradition or religion; it encompasses all religions from all cultures and all times: it is global in scope.

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The members of our department are engaged in a variety of research and supervisory activities in some of the following broad categories:

**Religious Texts**
Faculty: MD, PD, DH, KP, LR, HR, MS, BS.
- Hebrew Bible, Second-temple Judaism, early rabbinic Judaism
- Hindu religious texts and history
- New Testament, early Christian literature
- Chinese philosophy
- Patristic, Medieval, Reformation, and Early Modern studies
- Christian ethics, social justice
- Environmental ethics
- Philosophy of religion, Lonergan
- Contemporary Christianity
- Western manuscripts

**Religious Contexts**
Faculty: MD, PD, JP, LR, JS, HR, BS.
- Ancient Israelite religion
- Early, Medieval, Early Modern and Modern Christianity
- Reception of Hindu religious ideals in South Asian and diasporic contexts
- Implicit religion and Alternative Religions in North America
- Religion and Popular Culture
- Daoism and Confucianism in China
- Contemporary Islam in the West
- Religion in Newfoundland and Labrador
- Contemporary Christian ritual studies
- Experiential Religion and Christian Revivalism

**Method and Theory**
Faculty: KP, JP, HR, LR, JS, MS, BS.
- Historical-critical methods
- Historical textual approaches, manuscripts
- Anthropology of Religion, lived religion and field-based approaches
- Secularism and post-secular studies
- Philosophy of Religion
- Ritual Studies
- Modernism and postmodernism

**Religion and Gender**
Faculty: PD, KP, JS, JP, LR.
- Gender and Hinduism
- Feminist readings of biblical narratives
- Muslim family life
- Women and contemporary Christianity and Islam
- Women in China

### Your Choices
The department offers two programs:
- a one-year project stream;
- a two-year thesis stream.

### Our Faculty Members
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We offer competitive funding packages for full-time graduate students.

For more information on our Text and Context program, please see our graduate handbook available on our webpage.