

## DISCOVER

# Religion

Concerns to live in cultural harmony with what is ultimately real, true, or meaningful tend to mark major religious quests around the world. In the academic study of religions, scholars examine not only beliefs and stories, they examine also the sacred rituals and ethical practices, as well as the overall cultural expressions and histories of various religious communities. In the religion courses at Cottey, we examine a number of major traditions of religious faith and practice. We aim, however, not merely to examine diverse details, but to attain insights into the outlooks and practices of human beings as they face certain of life's most pressing questions.

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### Educational benefits and Career Opportunities

Academic studies in religion can help to promote understanding and appreciation of human beings and their cultures. In examining religions, the limitations and potentials of human beings come more clearly into view, contextualized in the cultures through which the various religions express themselves. Religious studies can contribute significantly to the depth of one's college experience, as well as to types of awareness and concern that one may continue to develop throughout life. Reflection upon religion can help the student of the sciences to think more intelligently upon diverse areas of basic human concern, as well as upon the possible limitations of scientific pursuits and their applications. Students in the arts and humanities, on the other hand, will be challenged to reflect upon the great systematic reach of competing religions across diverse areas of thought and practice.

Relative to a variety of career areas, study in religion is noteworthy, first, for its ability to promote valuable intercultural insights. Additionally, pursuits in religious studies help to produce a number of transferable skills in research, writing, and thinking. While many graduates in religious studies go on to seminary studies and ministry within a particular religious community, others pursue graduate work with the goal of university teaching and research in religion. Still others move on to careers for which the study of religions has helped to give them distinctive preparation. Such fields commonly include counseling, medicine, international or public relations, law, journalism, business, and education.

### Internship and Directed Study Opportunities

As you move toward a major in religion, your range of important experience and study may be increased through internship or directed studies.

Students at Cottey College may

### Get Involved

Want to pursue meaningful development of your leadership skills and improve your resume at the same time? Then get involved at Cottey College and in the Nevada community.

Cottey College has more than 35 student clubs and organizations in which to be involved. Plus, the Nevada and surrounding community offer an abundance of service opportunities.

As a prospective religion major, you might consider participating in Cottey's International Friendship Circle, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Cottey's spiritual life events. Or volunteering at the local women's shelter, area churches or other religious, charitable, or political organizations.

participate in internships with a variety of businesses, organizations and non-profit agencies. A successful internship provides a student with an opportunity for first hand experience and for workplace applications of learning.

With the assistance of faculty and the transfer and career planning coordinator, religion majors may pursue opportunities locally with churches and religious organizations, law offices, government agencies, elementary and secondary schools, political organizations, newspapers, or other relevant organizations. Directed study opportunities exist in a variety of disciplines. Under faculty supervision, qualifying students may pursue academic credit on a topic or project that is related to, but that extends beyond, a department's regular course offerings.

For further information on education and careers in religion, visit the web site of the American Academy of Religion at [www.aarweb.org/](http://www.aarweb.org/)

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## SHAPING YOUR OWN DESTINY

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# RELIGION (4-Semester Sample Schedule)

Students should consult the catalog of the college to which they plan to transfer for specific requirements in their major. This suggested schedule is designed to provide the Associate in Arts degree candidate with the appropriate Cottey College core curriculum and enough coursework in their field to complete the 62 hours required for an A.A. degree. *Schedules may vary based on available classes and interests.*

First Year Fall Semester	Credit Hrs.	First Year Spring Semester	Credit Hrs.
ENG101 English Composition I	3	ENG102 English Composition II	3
PHI101 Philosophical Quests*	3	HIS102 History of Western Civ. since 1500*	3
Foreign Language	3 or 4	REL106 World Religions II*	3
HIS101 History of Western Civ. to 1500	3	Foreign Language	3 or 4
REL105 World Religions I	3	MAT103 College Algebra or higher	3 or 4
Physical Activity	1	Physical Activity	1
Electives	2 to 3	Electives	1 to 3
Second Year Fall Semester	Credit Hrs.	Second Year Spring Semester	Credit Hrs.
PHI121 Human Nature, Society and Ed.*	3	Fine Arts Theory	3
Laboratory Science	4 or 5	PHI103 Ethics or	
Electives	5 to 6	PHI112 Introduction to Logic*	3
		Social Science	3
		Electives	9

### \* Courses recommended for major

In choosing electives, students should aim to build a strong base of knowledge related to the interest they anticipate pursuing in or beyond religious studies. For example:

- Students with interests in history of religions should pursue appropriate courses in history, art history, anthropology and other social sciences and philosophy.
- Students with interests in religious ethics are wise to build a base in the social sciences, literature, and philosophy. Interests in applied ethics could also call for coursework in such areas as business or science.
- Students with interests in ministry should prepare themselves with coursework in speech, English, literature, and the social sciences.

Please note that some graduate programs in religious studies have specific foreign language requirements.

## Faculty Advising

Preparing a class schedule, investigating majors, and researching transfer institutions can be confusing for a first-year student. At Cottey College, academic advising assists the individual student in clarifying and achieving her educational goals.

Each student is assigned a full-time faculty member as an academic advisor. Together the advisor and student devise a balanced academic program, which encompasses the student's educational

and career ambitions. The advisor reviews all registration decisions, the advisee's academic progress, and suggests transfer and career options.

This personalized approach to student advising allows the student to take responsibility for her own academic program, while tapping into faculty expertise.

For more information contact:  
 Enrollment Management  
 1000 West Austin  
 Nevada, MO 64772  
 1-888-5-COTTEY  
 www.cottey.edu  
 enrollmgt@cottey.edu

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