To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Religious Studies Major

PRESENT:

Major Requirements
The major requirements for the B.A. degree in Religious Studies are as follows:

1. Lower-division requirements (12 units)
   a) RLST 005
   b) RLST 012/ETST 012 or RLST 012W/ETST 012W
   c) One additional 4-unit course in Religious Studies or equivalent

2. Upper-division requirements (40 units)
   a) At least two courses from each of the following areas:
      (1) Eastern religions
      (2) Western religions
      (3) Themes in religions

PROPOSED:

[no change]

2. Upper-division requirements (40 units)
   a) At least four courses from Traditions and Regions and at least two courses from Themes

Traditions and Regions:
RLST 104 Sikhism
RLST 106 Buddhism
RLST 108 Modern Hinduism
RLST 109 New Religious Movements
RLST 111 Islam
RLST 114 Jainism: An Indian Religion of Nonviolence
RLST 123 Global Christianity and Mission
RLST 126/HIST 127 Israel: The Jewish State
RLST 161/GSST 158 Gender and Sexuality in U.S. Religious History

Themes:
RLST 101 Religions of India
RLST 116 Religion and Violence
RLST 127/HISE 147 The Holocaust
RLST 135A/HIST 130A History of Christianity: Origins to the Reformation
RLST 135B/HIST 130B History of Christianity: Modern Era
b) RLST 100 or RLST 102

c) RLST 193 (Senior Seminar)

d) Eight (8) additional units from Religious Studies courses (closely related courses from other programs or departments may be substituted upon approval)

The programs of all majors should be developed in consultation with their advisors

**Justification:**

We are introducing a new categorization of our courses in order to remove the outdated division into “Eastern” and “Western” religions. We do not anticipate that these changes will affect the student participation in the program, and no additional resources will be required by the program. Students already in the program will stay with the old requirements but will have the option to switch to the new ones. All classes supporting the old requirements will continue to be offered regularly until all students beholden to those requirements have graduated.

New categories

**Traditions and Regions:**

RLST 104 Sikhism
RLST 106 Buddhism
RLST 108 Modern Hinduism
RLST 109 New Religious Movements
RLST 111 Islam
RLST 114 Jainism: An Indian Religion of Nonviolence
RLST 123 Global Christianity and Mission
RLST 126 Israel: The Jewish State
RLST 161 Gender and Sexuality in U.S. Religious History

**Themes:**

RLST 101 Religions of India
RLST 116 Religion and Violence
RLST 127 The Holocaust
RLST 135A History of Christianity: Origins to the Reformation
RLST 135B History of Christianity: Modern Era
RLST 149 Southeast Asian Religions
RLST 152 Religion and Oppression
RLST 153 Religion and Social Justice
RLST 159 Queer Religiosities
RLST 160 Religion, Gender and Sexuality
RLST 180 Saints and Gurus

**Approvals:**
Approved by the faculty of the Department of Religious Studies: November 18, 2020
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: February 15, 2021
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: April 5, 2021