**RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR • GOALS & ASSESSMENT MEASURES**  
July 29, 2002 Hannah Schell

**Goal:** The program in Religious Studies challenges students to develop qualities of critical reflection, imagination and thoughtful engagement with diverse worldviews.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives &amp; Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>Administration Time</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **1. COMPARATIVE**  
Students will demonstrate familiarity with more than one religious tradition and the ability to think about the category of “religion” comparatively. |  
- Coursework, esp. RELG 103 (Friends); 210 (J&I); 220 (WR); 300 (Asia)  
- Assessment essay  
- Some senior projects  
- exit interview  
- Portfolio |  
- Declaration of major  
- Development of thesis topic (end of Junior year/beginning of Senior year)  
- Graduation |
| **2. MULTI-FACETED**  
Students will acquire knowledge of a variety of religious expressions, including sacred texts, ritual and practice, law, architecture, diet, dress and other manifestations of a tradition. |  
- Coursework, esp. RELG 101 (OT); 103 (Friends); 108 (NT); 150 (R&R); 210 (J&I); 213? (PR); 220 (WR); 244 (Islam); 300 (Asia); also some special topics courses.  
- Assessment essay  
- Some senior projects  
- exit interview  
- Portfolio |  
- Declaration of major  
- Development of thesis topic (end of Junior year/beginning of Senior year)  
- Graduation |
| **3. RELIGION AND SOCIETY**  
Students will show an understanding of the reciprocal dynamics between religious traditions and such areas as society, ethics, politics, economics, gender, the environment, etc. |  
- Coursework, esp. RELG 101 (OT); 103 (Friends); 108 (NT); 200 (HCT); 207 (Ethics); 210 (J&I); 220 (WR); 244 (Islam); some special topics courses.  
- Assessment essay  
- Some senior projects  
- exit interview  
- Portfolio |  
- Declaration of major  
- Development of thesis topic (end of Junior year/beginning of Senior year)  
- Graduation |
| **4. CHANGE & DIVERSITY**  
Students will develop an |  
- Coursework, esp. RELG 200 (HCT); 210 (J&I) and some special topics. |  
- Declaration of major  
- Development of thesis topic (end of Junior year/beginning of Senior year)  
- Graduation |
| appreciation of diversity within particular traditions and how religious traditions change over time and within cultural contexts. | ▪ Assessment essay  
▪ Some senior projects  
▪ exit interview  
▪ Portfolio | year/beginning of Senior year  
▪ Graduation |
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| **5. SKILLS & DISPOSITIONS** Students will cultivate the following skills: a) close reading of texts; b) expository and other forms of writing; c) empathetic engagement with other perspectives. | ▪ All courses require close reading of texts, writing, and empathetic engagement.  
▪ Assessment essay  
▪ Some senior projects  
▪ exit interview  
▪ Portfolio | Throughout major  
▪ Declaration of major  
▪ Graduation |
| **6. METHODS & RESEARCH** Students will become familiar with a variety of methods and approaches in the study of religion; they will have opportunities to demonstrate or apply these approaches in their own research. | ▪ Coursework, esp. RELG 150 and 350, advanced special topics courses  
▪ Senior Thesis and defense  
▪ Portfolio | Declaration of major  
▪ Senior year |
In pursuit of intellectual autonomy, students will:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. develop the ability to think critically in order to reason more clearly about the bases and implications of their believes and actions</td>
<td>PHIL 201, PHIL 207</td>
<td>Assessment essay, Portfolio, Senior project and defense, Exit interview (self-assessment)</td>
<td>Declaration of major, March of Junior year, Senior year, Graduation</td>
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<td>2. gain a broad familiarity with major philosophical problems as well as an historically grounded understanding of representative approaches to these problems.</td>
<td>PHIL 305, PHIL 307, PHIL 311</td>
<td>Assessment essay, Portfolio, Exit interview (self-assessment)</td>
<td>Declaration of major, March of junior year, Graduation</td>
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<td>3. conduct research in philosophy, thereby engaging with relevant scholarly material, and will learn to argue on behalf of original theses</td>
<td>PHIL 305, PHIL 307, PHIL 311</td>
<td>Portfolio, Senior project and defense, Exit interview (self-assessment)</td>
<td>March of Junior year, Senior year, graduation</td>
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<td>4. develop the ability to understand a diversity of philosophical perspectives, in order to engage more productively in discussion with others and to participate meaningfully in a larger community</td>
<td>PHIL 101, PHIL 201, PHIL 207</td>
<td>Assessment essay, Portfolio, Exit interview (self-assessment)</td>
<td>Declaration of major, graduation, March of Junior year, graduation</td>
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