

The study of religion prepares you for more than a career—it prepares you for life. Religious studies majors from Stanford have pursued careers as:

- Directors of nonprofits
- Marketing executives
- Museum curators
- Physicians
- Religious leaders
- Screenwriters
- Software engineers

“ I love learning about the different beliefs that people have and how those beliefs affect the way they live their lives. I think it’s a very relevant subject for the twenty-first century world. Now that technology has brought us all closer together, we need to learn to co-exist and collaborate with people who are different from us. Religious studies is one angle for exposing ourselves to diversity of thought and ways of living . . . If you like small classes, intimate discussions with peers and professors, and reading interesting texts, then you’ll like religious studies. ”

Jennifer Wolochow, '10  
Product manager, Coursera

# Religious Studies

**WHAT DO WE OWE TO OTHERS?**

**HOW DO DIVERSE CULTURES  
IMAGINE THE UNIVERSE AND  
THEIR PLACE WITHIN IT?**

**IS RELIGION A UNIVERSAL  
HUMAN PHENOMENON?**



## START HERE

Religious studies is more than the study of religions. You will examine the most influential institutions and traditions in history, grapple with profound ethical questions, and gain new perspectives on humanity's quest to find meaning and purpose.

Don't know where to begin? Start with *Religion Around the Globe*. Or try *Is Stanford a Religion?*, which examines how the university's culture resembles a religion through its myths, rituals, and taboos.

Follow up with courses that examine how religion relates to violence, gender, politics, and justice:

- *Religion and War in America*
- *What Didn't Make It into the Bible*
- *Sex and the Early Church*
- *Ethics of Religious Politics*
- *Exploring Zen Buddhism*

## JOIN A LIVELY COMMUNITY

From exploring holy sites around the world to participating in stimulating events on campus, enhance your understanding of religion's role in history and society. Participate in the Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates, our annual mini-conference, where you will examine timely topics like "Apocalyptic AI: Religion, Artificial Intelligence, and the End of the World (as We Know It)" (2018) and "Religious Extremism and the Future of Liberal Societies" (2016).

### WHY STUDY RELIGION?

Religion can inspire and provoke, unite and polarize. Whether practiced behind closed doors or demonstrated in the streets, religion has been a fundamental force throughout history in shaping culture, politics, and society. By studying religious beliefs and practices, you embark on a journey to understand one of the most complex aspects of humanity.