ABOUT RELIGIOUS STUDIES

All human cultures reflect on the meaning of life through myth, symbol and abstract reflection. In this area of study you’ll explore how religions and theologies belonging to different cultures play an important intellectual role. What you’ll discover is a fascinating process that provokes many questions about the past, the present and the future.

Why choose Religious Studies?
As modern day societies become more diverse there is an increasing need for people who understand how religion operates in a variety of contexts.

Studying different religious traditions helps broaden your understanding of a wide range of modern day issues, such as the nature of God, ethics, popular religion, social issues, gender, the environment and the meaning of life. Critical engagement with either religious tradition or varying human interpretation is always intellectually challenging and rewarding.

Religious Studies provides you with valuable knowledge but also signals to future employers your willingness to understand the range of cultural traditions in our society.

Complementary areas of study
If you are interested in Religious Studies, you may want to take complementary areas of study such as:

» Politics
» International Studies
» International Relations
» Journalism
» Ancient Cultures
» Anthropology
» Philosophy
» History

What are some of the topics Religious Studies explores?
You can choose from a diverse range of topics based on your interests.

For example, in first year you can take:

» Conflict and coexistence: Jews, Christians, Muslims
» World religions
» Religions and the modern world
» Renaissance Europe
» Medieval Europe

In second and third year there is wider choice, for example:

» God, freedom and evil
» Biblical texts and contexts
» The age of crusades: Cultures and societies
» Islam: Principles, civilizations, influence
» Imagining God: The mystic quest in Judaism, Christianity and Islam
» Sacred and profane: Religion, the secular and the state

How Religious Studies fits into your Arts degree
You can take units in Religious Studies towards a major, a minor or simply as elective units in your degree.

Career prospects
Religious Studies gives a deeper insight into the many beliefs and traditions in our society and how this can impact on thinking and culture. This kind of knowledge can be applied across many career sectors including:

» Journalism
» Media and communications
» Policy making and advising
» Government
» Foreign correspondence
» International relations
» Theology
» Travel and tourism
» Academia and research

From our students
“I loved the diversity of subjects I could study, from the interplay between religion and politics to Indian philosophy, the birth of monotheism to the role of ritual in other cultures. Studying Religious Studies allowed me to gain a truly holistic understanding of not only how and why religion is practised, but also its impact on society at both the global and local level.”

Erin Zillman
Honours student

For more information:
future.arts.monash.edu/ug-religious-studies