REL 40: Incarnation and Desire - An Introduction to Christianity
REL 46: Letters of Paul - Ethnicity, Sex, Ethnic and the End of the World
MODMDEAST 100: Introduction to the Modern Middle East
REL 49: From Gospel to Allegory - Christian Narratives for Living
REL 97: Sophomore Tutorial - Introduction to Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion
REL 1600: Introduction to the Hindu Traditions of India
EAS 140: Major Religious Traditions of East Asia
CB 25: Studying Buddhism Across Time and Place
CB 39: The Hebrew Bible
ER 18: Classical Chinese Ethical & Political Theory
USW 32: The World’s Religions in Multicultural America - Case Studies in Religious Pluralism

Sample Advanced Courses

HDS 1527: Greek Exegesis of Mark
HDS 3777: Modern Buddhism and Fiction
HDS 2412: Theologies of the Body
RELIGION 1556: Religion and American Pragmatism
HDS 2620: Foucault and Religion
HDS 3931: Yoga Sutras in Comparative Perspective

Sample Thesis Titles

How to Read Body Language: Constructions of Power, Women and “The Gaze” in Early Christianity
Tevye’s Children: Jewish Continuity in Changing Times
The “Tug-of-War” over British Muslim Identity: A Comparative Analysis of British Muslim Engagement Programs Today
Losing Face for Jesus: An Ethnography of Young Adults in the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church
A Time for Tulpas: Technology, Language and the Study of Religion

Sample Faculty Research and/or Publications

Ryūichi Abe’s research is on Buddhist theory of language, Buddhism and literature, history of Japanese esoteric Buddhism, Shinto-Buddhist interaction, and Buddhism and gender.
Diana Eck’s work has a dual focus—India and America. Her work on India focuses on popular religion, especially temples and places of pilgrimage, called tirathas. Her books include Banaras: City of Light and Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India and her most recent work, India: A Sacred Geography, published in 2012.
Ali S. Asani specializes in the Muslim literatures of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; Shiism, Sufism and popular or folk forms of Muslim devotional life, and Muslim communities in the West.
Malika Zeghal is a political scientist who studies religion through the lens of Islam and power. She is particularly interested in Islamist movements and in the institutionalization of Islam in the Muslim world, with special focus on the Middle East and North Africa in the post-colonial period and on Muslim diasporas in North America and Western Europe.
Catherine Brekus is widely regarded as a pioneer and innovator in the writing of American religious history. Her other research interests include how religious beliefs and conflicts have shaped American understandings of public and private life, and how American culture has influenced popular understandings of religion.
Mark D. Jordan is a pioneer in sexual ethics and a wide-ranging scholar of the history of Christianity, theology, and gender studies. He recently completed Convulsing Bodies: Religion and Resistance in Foucault, forthcoming from Stanford University Press. His next book project is titled “Teaching Bodies: Traditions of Moral Formation in Thomas Aquinas.”

MDM DEAST 100 is particularly interested in Islamist movements and in the institutionalization of Islam in the Muslim world, with special focus on the Middle East and North Africa in the post-colonial period and on Muslim diasporas in North America and Western Europe.

Sample Department Research Opportunities

Harvard Divinity School is a nonsectarian school of religious and theological studies that educates students both in the pursuit of the academic study of religion and in preparation for leadership in religious, governmental, and a wide range of service organizations.

- The Center for the Study of World Religions: the Center supports, focuses, and enhances the School’s mission, with respect to research, teaching, and community
- The Women’s Studies in Religion Program (WSRP): explore the fundamental role played by religious traditions in defining roles for women and men. Research on religion and gender sheds light on questions about the changing roles of women both inside religious communities and in broader public spheres.

A number of different Centers and Institutes across the University for focused areas of study:

- Harvard University Center For Middle Eastern Studies
- Harvard University South Asia Initiative
- Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies
- Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies
- Hutchins Center for African and African American Research

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