



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

For more information visit www.uwinnipeg.ca or contact a student recruitment officer at welcome@uwinnipeg.ca or 204.786.9844. In any case where The University of Winnipeg Course Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence.

Religion & Culture

The study of religion focuses on the human search for meaning and purpose in life.

If you want to understand where the search for meaning and purpose has taken some of the world's people, consider pursuing religious studies. Religion & Culture at The University of Winnipeg will familiarize you with the quest for meaning and purpose as it is expressed in stories, rituals, codes of conduct, canonical texts, and cultural values.

The Religion & Culture program does not promote any one religion or any particular faith; we study religion as an important aspect of culture and society and promote critical enquiry, understanding, and tolerance. We explore religion in four areas: Historical Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; Religion and Modern Western Culture; Asian Religions and Cultures; and Aboriginal Religious Traditions. The scope of religions we cover ranges from traditional Western religions like Judaism and Christianity, to local Aboriginal traditions, Islam, and Asian traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism).

This program leads to a **Bachelor of Arts (3-year, 4-year, or Honours)** with a Major in Religion & Culture. The Department of Religion & Culture also offers a Joint Master's program in cooperation with the University of Manitoba.

Students taking a 4-year degree in another Major may choose to add a Minor in Religion & Culture as a secondary area of interest.

SAMPLE CAREERS

This program sensitizes students to the variety of traditions, commitments, and cultures that exist in our world, both globally and locally. If you are interested in fields where human interaction and/or multiculturalism are significant factors, such as education, mediation services, social work, employee relations, immigration services, international development, and certain branches of law, you will benefit greatly from courses in Religion & Culture.

SAMPLE COURSES

Exploring Religion: the World's Religions is a first-year course that explores the ways religion is understood in different cultures through a survey of the major world religious traditions. The teachings of individual traditions, how these teachings developed over time, and differences in interpretation will be examined against the background of the culture that produced them.

Introduction to Religion & Culture: The Religious Imagination and the Human condition is a first-year course where a variety of cultural perspectives on religion and the human condition are examined. Primary sources are examined from a variety of traditions—Indigenous, modern Western, the Abrahamic (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian, Daoist, and Shinto—to show how religion serves to reflect the lived experience of the human condition throughout the world, past and present.

Exploring Religion: The Bible is a first-year course that examines how the Bible has been interpreted in different and sometimes contradictory ways by various faith communities, within both Judaism and Christianity, who look to the Bible as an authoritative religious guide.

Aboriginal Spirituality I and II are two second-year courses. The first course introduces the various North American religious traditions and familiarizes students with the diversity, complexity, and vitality of these

traditions. The second explores the encounter between Christianity and the traditional religions of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada from first contact to the present.

Religion and Popular Culture, a second-year course, considers the place of religion in North American popular culture. It explores how elements of popular culture (radio, television, music, film, video, and fashion) influence the ways many people conceive of religion and its role in their lives.

New Religions in North America is a second-year course that surveys alternative religious movements that have recently arisen in North America. Winnipeg and Manitoba groups are emphasized. The aim of the course is to understand the groups on their own terms, and to begin to think about how we might respond to and evaluate these movements.

MORE SAMPLE COURSES

Modern Biblical Interpretation
Contemporary Jewish Life
Early Christian Thought
Fundamentalisms in Global Perspective
Religions of India
Chinese Religions
Religion in Japanese Life

Classical Islam
Contemporary Islam
Women in Islam
Women in Asian Religions
Women in Ancient Israel
Zen Buddhism

SAMPLE FIRST YEAR

NOTE: This sample first year is representative of the courses you may take. For many of our programs, you may choose another set of courses and still be well on your way to a degree. Also, for most programs you do not have to take 30 credit hours (five full courses) in your first year.

One of:

REL-1001(6) Religion and Identity in Contemporary Canada *OR*
REL-1002(6) Exploring Religion: the World's Religions *OR*
REL-1003(6) Exploring Religion: the Bible *OR*
REL-1007(6) Introduction to Religion & Culture: The Religious Imagination and the Human condition

RHET-1101(3) Academic Writing: Humanities or any other section of Academic Writing (if required)
21 credit hours Electives, depending on interest

Some Arts students take courses to fulfill the University's Science Requirement in their first year. See The University of Winnipeg Course Calendar for a complete list of options.

REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Students must meet The University of Winnipeg's general admission requirements. No specific courses are required.

HOW TO APPLY – Domestic Student

Apply online at uwinnipeg.ca or pick up an Application for Admission from your high school counsellor's office or the Admissions Office at The University of Winnipeg. To meet Scholarship deadline submit your application and \$80 application fee by **March 1st**.

HOW TO APPLY – International Student

Apply online at uwinnipeg.ca/index/intl-apply and submit all official documents by mail. To meet Scholarship deadline submit application, fee, and documents by **March 1st**. International application fee is \$100, which includes a one-time courier fee.

CONTACT US

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