

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

B.A. in Religious Studies

宗教研究文學士





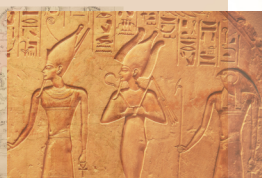
Enlightenment Unveiled

Every Journey through Religious Studies,
Every Step Making Us Knowledgeable and Compassionate



CONTENTS

- Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies
 - Programme Introduction 2
 - Meet Programme Committees and Teachers 3
- Religious Field Trip Studies 4
- Student Sharings 8
- Alumni Sharings 9
- Course List 12
- Concentrations 14
- Career 16
- Watch Us on Youtube 17



Programme Introduction

Exploring Culture and Society through Religious Studies

Religious Studies, an academic discipline, offers a comprehensive insight into religion as a social and cultural phenomenon. It uncovers the multifaceted dimensions of human cultures, merging social, experiential, ritualistic, ethical, narrative, doctrinal, and material aspects. Drawing knowledge from various disciplines, Religious Studies becomes an essential integral part of the broader field of human sciences.

Discover the Boundless Horizons:

CUHK's Undergraduate Programme in Religious Studies

When you join CUHK's undergraduate programme in Religious Studies, get ready for an amazing adventure. You will dive deep into the study of religion, exploring it from every angle. You will go beyond boundaries to uncover the timeless traditions and revered classics of different faiths. But that's not all — our programme goes further by addressing contemporary issues intertwined with religion and modern society. Equipped with diverse methodologies employed in Religious Studies, you will gain fresh insights and cultivate broader perspectives, which enable you to navigate the complexities of human beliefs, values, and practices, and appreciate the profound influence of religious traditions on societies throughout history and in the present day.



Meet Programme Committees and Teachers

CHAIRPERSON

Prof. PANG Lai Kwan

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Prof. LAI Pan Chiu

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR & PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Dr. CHOW Wai Yin (Programme Coordinator)

Prof. James FRANKEL

Prof. GUO Ting

Prof. LAI Chi Tim

Prof. LAI Pan Chiu

Prof. LAI Tsz Pang John

Prof. Wang Xingyi

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Dr. CHOW Wai Yin

Prof. James FRANKEL

Prof. GUO Ting

Prof. LAI Chi Tim

Prof. LAI Pan Chiu

Prof. LAI Tsz Pang John

STAFF-STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ASSESSMENT PANEL



Field-Trip Studies *Indian Religions and Culture*



2014 Field-Trip to India
Indian Religions and Culture



2015 Field-Trip to India
Indian Religions and Culture



2019 Field-Trip to India
Indian Religions and Culture



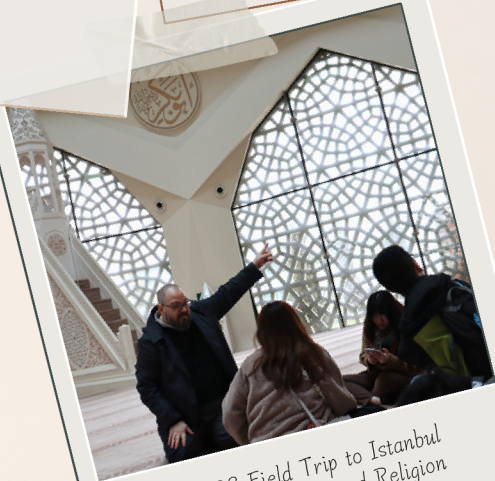
Islamic Culture and Religion



2019 Field-Trip to UAE
Islamic Culture and Religion



2021 Field Trip in Hong Kong
Islamic Culture and Religion



2023 Field Trip to Istanbul
Islamic Culture and Religion





Local Visits



2022 Field-Trip to
Sai Kung Yim Tin Tsai
- Catholic and Hakka Culture



2022 Field-Trip to
Cultural Centre for Wong Tai Sin Belief



2022 Field-Trip to
Hong Kong Heritage Museum
- Dunhuang Exhibition



2022 Field-Trip to
ISKCON Hong Kong



2023 Field-Trip to
Ap Lei Chau Hung Shing Culture Festival



2021 Field-Trip to
Consulate General of Mexico in Hong Kong
- "Day of the Dead"



2024 Field-Trip to
Tsz Shan Monastery



2023 Mindful Eating Workshop
Dharma Nature Preaching Hall

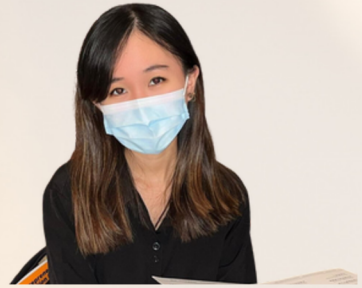


Student Sharings

Chun Yan Kei Kelly, Year 4

'He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.' In our daily lives, we can easily find solutions for the 'how' when we search for answers to resolve our problems. However, understanding the 'why' requires a

greater effort in terms of mindfulness and self-reflection. Having the opportunity to study Religious Studies has provided me with a pathway to be more self-reflective in my daily life and to achieve a deeper level of thinking. From articulating faith and beliefs to appreciating narratives from various scholars, this major has undoubtedly broadened my perspectives on the meaning of life.



Chan Shui Tung, Year 5

The BA Programme in Religious Studies has broadened my horizons, allowing me to understand another facet of the world and dismantle my preconceived notions and biases. Additionally, the experiential learning experience and "down-to-earth" teaching approach have altered my perspective on the world.



Alumni Sharings



Lau Ka Ka, Class of 2024

After four years of intense university study, I've realized that learning is about acquiring knowledge as well as understanding the world. Religion is deeply intertwined with various stages of life: from birth to death, from socio-cultural rites to beliefs about the afterlife.

Religious studies emphasize an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating rational analysis from philosophy, comprehensive research from history, extensive discussions from sociology, spiritual dialogues, and nuanced interpretations from literature.

Every culture has distinctive beliefs and traditions, and when they intersect, we recognize our differences. Meanwhile, it is widely agreed that the ultimate goal of different religions is to foster goodness and virtue. This is why I characterize religious diversity in the world as "unity in diversity" and "different paths leading to the same goal." In academic terms, this translates to the study of "interreligious dialogue" and "comparative religion."



Alumni Sharings

Law Hiu Ting Karen, Class of 2024

Studying Religious Studies has given me a unique perspective to understand and appreciate the diversity of human experiences. By exploring the intersections of religion with literature, philosophy, and society, I have gained insights into the historical, cultural, and philosophical foundations that shape societies worldwide. This knowledge fuels my passion for connecting



with people from diverse backgrounds and enables me to navigate different environments with cultural sensitivity. This comprehensive outlook also extends to observing and comprehending the progress of human civilization, guiding me on journeys both inside and outside the classroom.

Wong Hang Tsz Judith, Class of 2021

The most significant thing I have learned during my several years in CRS was 'to understand sympathetically' and never judge but to study further. Since graduating in 2020, I have been working with the Teaching and Research Division in the School of Chinese Medicine at Hong Kong Baptist University. My role involves conducting research projects focused on various aspects of Traditional Chinese Medicine education, medical ethics, virtual teaching and learning, and community engagement.





Alumni Sharings

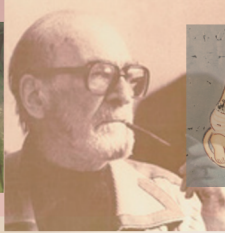
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The job requires me to acquire a deep understanding of local communities and to solve social problems innovatively, which my studies at CRS, CUHK, have helped me develop through this understanding through field studies and constant sympathetic observation of human behaviors and societal phenomena.

Michelle Wong, Class of 2021

Religious Studies goes beyond mere 'religiosity.' Instead, we explore and examine various religious beliefs, texts, customs, institutions, and practices with an academic approach. The study of religion is intrinsically interdisciplinary, involving philosophical thinking, social and historical understanding, anthropological research, art appreciation, and more. What I like most about Religious Studies at CUHK is that our department always strive to ensure students have plenty of opportunities to conduct field research. For instance, I went on a nine-day field trip in 2019 to Mumbai, India, for the course titled 'CURE 3377: Fieldwork in Indian Cultures and Religions,' and participated in seven days of fieldwork in 2021 for the course 'CURE 3378: Fieldwork in Islamic Culture and Religion in Hong Kong.' I am sure that you will find studying Religious Studies at CUHK to be more fascinating and satisfying than you could ever imagine once you start your journey.





Course List

AREA 1

APPROACHES TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- CURE1111 The Study of Religion
- CURE2112 Myth, Symbol and Ritual
- CURE2113 Philosophy of Religion
- CURE2114 Sociology of Religion
- CURE2115 Psychology of Religion
- CURE2170 Reading Religious Classics
- CURE3375 Science and Religion

AREA 2

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND CLASSICS

- CURE1123 World Religions
- CURE3132 Religious Texts in Translation
- CURE4157 Special Topics in Religious Traditions

• Buddhism

- CURE2130 Chinese Buddhist Classics
- CURE2161 Introduction to Buddhism Traditions
- CURE3122 Chinese Buddhism
- CURE4121 Chan School of Buddhism

AREA 2

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND CLASSICS (CONT'D)

• Chinese Religions

- CURE1122 Chinese Culture and Its Religion
- CURE2375 Chinese Temples and Festivals
- CURE3126 Popular Religions in China
- CURE3136 Chinese Novels and Religion

• Christianity

- CURE1124 Study of Christianity
- CURE2131 Christianity and Western Literature
- CURE3134 Chinese Literature and the Bible
- THEO1211 Introduction to Hebrew Bible
- THEO1212 Introduction to New Testament

• Indian Religions

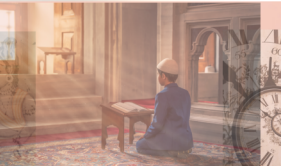
- CURE2225 Introduction to Indian Religions
- CURE3377 Fieldwork in Indian Religions & Culture

• Islam

- CURE2226 Introduction to Islam Traditions
- CURE3114 Islamic Scriptures: The Qur'an & Traditions of Muhammad
- CURE3378 Fieldwork in Islamic Culture & Religion

• Taoism

- CURE2139 Introduction to Taoist Literature
- CURE2125 Hong Kong Taoism
- CURE2227 Introduction to Taoism
- CURE4134 Selected Taoist Classics



AREA 3

RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

CURE4158 Special Topics in Religion,
Culture and Society

• Culture and Society

CURE1110 Religion and Contemporary
Life

CURE2145 New Religious Movements

CURE2160 Special Topics in Religion and
Culture

CURE2163 Religion and Food

CURE2228 History of the Arab World

CURE3116 Religion and Globalization

CURE3129 Islam: Religious Tradition &
Modern Politics

CURE3130 Religious Imagination and
Visual Art

CURE3142 The Religious Policy &
Practices in China Today

CURE3145 Buddhism and
Contemporary Life

CURE3376 Religious Fundamentalism
& Asian Cultures

• Education

CURE2142 Religion and Ethics

CURE2144 Life and Death in Religions

CURE2156 Religion, Health and Healing

CURE3115 Religious Education &
Developmental Psychology

CURE3144 Spirituality, Psychology and
Well-Being

CURE3147 Religion and Mental Health Care

AREA 4

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

CURE2154 Medieval Latin

CURE2155 Beginning Sanskrit

CURE2180 Arabic for Beginners I

CURE2181 Arabic for Beginners II

THEO3215 New Testament Greek I

THEO3216 New Testament Greek II

THEO3217 Biblical Hebrew I

THEO3218 Biblical Hebrew II

AREA 5

SEMINARS

CURE2157 Intermediate Seminar

CURE4153 Senior Seminar

CURE4159 Internship



Concentration

Students may choose to declare a concentration by taking specific elective courses instead of the general Elective Courses requirement in the BA Religious Studies Major Program.

- *Religion and Health*

The Religion and Health concentration equips students for careers in healthcare, including roles at the Life and Death Education Centre, Spiritual Education Centre, and NGO Caring Centres. Through engaging courses like Religious Perspectives on Health, Medicine, Death, and Dying and Ethics and Religion, students explore how religion shapes health, illness, wellness, birth, and mortality. By fostering cultural sensitivity and a broader perspective, students learn to navigate complex healthcare situations with empathy, providing inclusive care that respects the diverse religious and cultural backgrounds of individuals. This approach contributes to a more compassionate and inclusive healthcare system.



- *Religious Education*

The Religious Education concentration gives students the knowledge and skills they need **for a career in education**. By taking courses like Spirituality, Psychology and Well-Being, Death and Dying, and Ethics and Religion, students learn how religion affects different aspects of education.

- *Arab Studies*

The Arab Studies concentration equips students with essential Arabic language skills and **a deep understanding of Arab history, politics, religion, culture, and society**. It offers relevant courses that support students in their exploration of the Arabic language and Arab culture, including "Introduction to Islam," beginner and intermediate Arabic language courses, and "Fieldwork in Islamic Culture and Religion." This programme broadens students' perspectives to include the Arab world, fostering connections between Asia, Europe, and Africa. Experiential learning will be a key focus of the program, featuring public exhibitions and field studies that enhance practical understanding.



Career

Our graduates have achieved their success in diverse sectors, such as media and publishing, journalism, advertising, education, event planning, travel and tourism, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), business, and government. Their careers have been both fulfilling and impactful. Furthermore, some of our graduates decide to further their education by pursuing advanced studies in local or international graduate schools. Alternatively, some choose to undergo formal religious training to enhance their knowledge and devotion.

Career Field of Class of 2022

- Administration and Management: 33.3%
- Health Service: 16.7%
- Property Development / Management: 16.7%
- Retail Management: 16.7%
- Research work: 16.7%



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中大宗教研究：且思且行



中大宗教研究讀什麼？

宗教研究 你問我答



宗教研究本科生課程



PROGRAM INFORMATION



Contact Us

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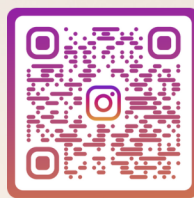
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文化及宗教研究系
CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES