

JEWISH CHRISTIAN MUSLIM RELATIONS MINOR

Requirements

The minor consists of 20 credits. There are three required components:

- four credits of introductory level religious and theological studies (RTS 1000 and RTS 15xx or RTS 1001);
- RTS 3760 "Theology and History of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations" (offered in the Spring term); and
- RTS 2960 "Ethics in the Abrahamic Traditions" (offered in the Fall term).

Ideally, these courses are taken in sequence.

The remaining two courses are electives drawn from a broad range of relevant studies. A list of approved courses is on the next page.

Finally, all minors engage with Jews, Christians, Muslims and others, in active interfaith work promoting social, political and economic justice.

Why Minor in Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations?

Religious ignorance is a luxury no one can afford. Religion (like sex, money and power) is one of the great motivators of human behavior. People do amazing and horrific things all in the name of their god(s).

Those who minor in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations study how these three great faiths have interacted over the centuries, not simply out of an interest in history, but also out of concern for our future.

One doesn't need to be religious to adopt this minor. Our minors include devout believers, curious seekers and confirmed atheists. What they share, is an interest in understanding the role that religions plays (both positive and negative) in society and culture, politics and economics and the arts.

There are at least three compelling reasons why every student at Merrimack ought to seriously consider this minor:

1. It's the right thing to do.

Religion continues to be one of the most promising, as well as most devastating, aspects of modern life. As the famous theologian Hans

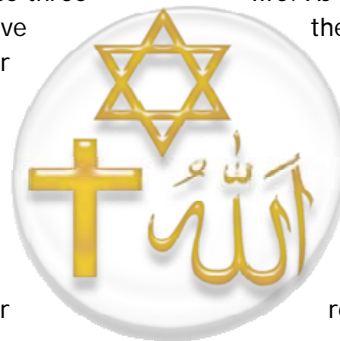
Küng once said, "There can be no peace in the world until there is peace among religions."

2. It's practical. Di-

versity awareness and sensitivity continue to be a top priority among many employers and graduate schools. Whether you are considering a career in business, education, engineering, law, law enforcement, community service, etc. you will encounter people of varied religious beliefs and cultures. Being literate in religious studies

is crucial to your success, especially when one realizes that nearly two-thirds of the world's population is Christian or Muslim!

3. It's simple. Every student has to take eight credits in religious and theological studies. This means the minor requires only three additional courses and some of them fulfill other distributional requirements.



JCM Minor Checklist

- RTS 1000 & RTS 15xx or RTS 1001
- RTS 3760 Theology & History of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations
- RTS 2950 Ethics in the Abrahamic Traditions
- Elective #1
- Elective #2

Questions?

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Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations

Religious diversity proves to be one of humanity's greatest riches and one of our greatest challenges. Merrimack College's Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations engages in interfaith education principally around the history and common life of members of the three Abrahamic religions.

However, it also seeks to engage all women and men who strive to be faithful to the human vocation, who strive to live consequential lives; lives of creativity, joy, kindness, compassion and forgiveness. The work of the Center includes women and men in religious communities other than the Abrahamic religions and women and men of humane secular values.

The Center does this through a number of initiatives including:

- Lectures by prominent scholars;
- Exhibits on the Holocaust and Darfur Genocide;
- Undergraduate led programs including: young adult conferences, days of community service, retreats, internships, etc.;
- Networking with the Merrimack College departments and with the local community;
- Actively responding to genocide and refugee emergencies.

More Courses are Coming!

New courses that satisfy minor requirements are being developed. Many of them satisfy Distributional Requirements in Social Science, Math/Science, and Humanities.



Travel-Study Opportunities and Internships

There are two study-travel opportunities that satisfy the elective requirements for the minor:

SPA 3750 - *La Convivencia—Jews, Christians & Muslims in Medieval Spain*, which includes trips to Spain and Morocco. This is offered through the Department of Modern Languages and Culture.

A second study-travel course, *Augustine and Algeria*, is currently being developed and includes a trip to Algeria in north Africa, where Augustine lived most of his life.

Internships with Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries are available in the summer. For more information contact Prof. Allman or the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations.

Approved Elective Courses for the Minor

- RTS 2100 - Judaism
- RTS 2150 - Islam
- RTS 2200 - Intro to Hebrew Scriptures
- RTS 2300 - Intro to New Testament
- RTS 2310 - Jesus and the Gospels
- RTS 2400 - St. Augustine
- RTS 2450 - History of Christian Thought
- RTS 2600 - Catholicism
- RTS 2700 - Natural Science & Christian Faith
- RTS 2800 - Christian Social Ethics
- RTS 2810 - Biblical Perspectives on Marriage & Family Life
- RTS 2900 - Holocaust: Theology, Reality & Aftermath
- RTS 3000 - Buddhism & Islam: Body & Belief
- RTS 3200 - God in the Hebrew Bible
- RTS 3210 - Gender & the Bible
- RTS 3300 - Life & Teaching of St. Paul
- RTS 3350 - Reading Scripture After the Holocaust
- RTS 3400 - American Catholicism
- RTS 3500 - Religious Thought of the Reformation
- RTS 3600 - The Catholic Church
- RTS 3610 - Sacramental Theology
- RTS 3620 - Theology of the Virgin Mary
- RTS 3650 - Death & Dying in Theological Perspective
- RTS 2700 - African American Theology
- RTS 3710 - Feminist Theology
- RTS 3750 - Christians & Jews: Conflicts and Resolutions
- RTS 3800 - The Catholic Thing
- RTS 3850 - War & Peace
- RTS 3900 - Women's Voices in the Holocaust
- RTS 4400 - St. Augustine Seminar
- ARB 1010/ARB 1011 - Introductory Arabic
- SOC 3350—Alternative Approaches to Criminal Justice
- SPA 3750 - *La Convivencia* (a study-travel course).