

# Religious Studies

## DECLARATION OF HONORS

Student Name:

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NYU ID#:

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Faculty Advisor:

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Advisor Email:

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Proposed semesters of study:  
(Two required)

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Area of Interest:

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**Please attach a proposed syllabus, designed in conjunction with your Faculty advisor. For honors guidelines, see back side of this form.**

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Expected Graduation Date:

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Fall  Spring  Summer

Other departments in which I am completing a major or minor:

\_\_\_\_\_ Major  Minor

\_\_\_\_\_ Major  Minor

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Approved by Faculty Advisor:

Date:

Approved by Director of Religious Studies Program:

Date:

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This form must be signed by the program Director and your Faculty advisor and returned to the Religious Studies Administrator in order for you to sign up for honors.

Unsigned forms cannot be processed.

Congratulations! You have completed step 2 of 3 (see back)

## Honors in Religious Studies

**Eligibility:** any Religious Studies major who has a major and cumulative GPA of 3.65 or above.

**Credit requirements:** 8 credits over and above the major requirements: Four credits of research as a reading course registered as Independent Study, and four credits of thesis writing, also registered as Independent Study, to produce an honors thesis of around 30 pages. These two four credit courses are usually taken consecutively in Fall then Spring semesters. These credits are usually taken with one professor within the core Religious Studies Faculty. A minimum grade of B+ must be maintained both semesters in order for you to be eligible to receive honors.

**The work:** Students must finish their work to the satisfaction of the professor and must receive a grade in each term in order to successfully graduate with honors. These cannot be pass/fail grades. In Religious Studies, grading takes into account two things:

1. The **supervised research process** in each term —meeting weekly, or bi-weekly, completing a reading list, discussing that with the professor, and doing whatever writing is assigned. This requirement also pertains to the term of the writing of the thesis, which is a culmination of a year-long research process.
2. The **thesis** itself, around 30 pages on a topic, is to be handed in with enough time for revision of drafts (typically 2 to 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester).

We recommend that you choose a professor with whom you have already taken a course, and choose a topic that allows you to build upon a basis of knowledge already acquired so that you can have the experience of deepening and sharpening your understanding of a topic.

### Procedure:

1. You must discuss your topic in advance with the professor, who must agree to this 8 credit commitment. If he/she is going to be on leave one of the terms, special arrangements must be made with him/her to carry out this commitment from afar, or you must choose someone else.
2. You must provide a proposed syllabus, designed in conjunction with your Faculty advisor, which details your timeline of commitments and deadlines and is signed by both you and the professor.
3. Once you have been approved, you will be given an access code so that you may register for Independent Study each term.

If you have any questions, please email us at [religious.studies@nyu.edu](mailto:religious.studies@nyu.edu).