

## MA Program in Religious Studies Video Transcript

**(Angela)** I'm Angela Zito. I teach here at the program in Religious Studies at NYU. One of the great advantages of studying religion is it leads you out into thinking about psychology, anthropology, history, literary studies, expanding rather than narrowing. And so it makes a really wonderful, wonderful subject.

**(Eden)** I chose NYU because when I met with the faculty I just really felt at home here right away. They are incredibly open and welcoming. It sorta seemed more like a creative interesting place and less like a rote, old school program.

**(Angela)** What sets us apart is our concentration upon religion in the present day as a real social force in the world.

**(Ashley)** When I came into the program here, I was thinking a lot about religion and peace work. Then also at the same time that I was here the Arab spring happened and being a media person looking at the role of social media that that played for me it very much turned my interests and what I wanted to look at to the ways that people understand themselves as religious identities, as religious communities, and the different ways that media can play into that.

**(Angela)** We have a concentration in Religion and Journalism. One of only three universities in the United States that offers this connection. So we have students that come in and do a full course of study with us and with Journalism. It's a wonderful connection between the two and then they get an MA with that concentration.

**(Andrew)** My name is Andrew Walker-Cornetta. I graduated in 2014 from the Masters in Religious Studies Program here at NYU, now I'm a first year Ph.D student in the Department of Religion at Princeton University. It would be difficult for me to exaggerate how much I benefitted from NYU's MA program. I was looking for a program that would kind of introduce me to the key questions and texts in the field and study of religion but also I wanted resources and relationships that would potentially give opportunity to go on to Ph.D work. One of the benefits of this program is how small and intimate it is in many ways and so my colleagues that I was in seminars with and got to know and that were in the program with me, I'm still in conversation with and have benefitted from their friendship and similarly the faculty.

**(Angela)** With that small size comes that kind of attention to MA students that sometimes they really can't get at larger programs where they are a little overshadowed by perhaps the Ph.D programs or just the sheer size. In this sense, the closeness with which we shape a course of study for them is a real advantage.

**(Eden)** NYU is a fabulous place to study. It's in the best part of Manhattan. The library is amazing. We have such incredible resources available to us. It's really a world class university.

**(Andrew)** I don't think you could do better in terms of resources and faculty to kind of develop that foundation especially if one is considering going on to further study,

**(Eden)** I really had an awesome time here. I'm a totally different person than when I started. Yeah, it's been a great experience.