

MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES BACHELOR OF ARTS 2010–11

Through the 36-credit Religious Studies major, students explore religion in a variety of ways, with an emphasis upon the expression of historical traditions in contemporary life. Special emphasis is placed upon the role of contemplative practice in the world's great religions. All students must take a series of 16 credits that introduce the study of religion and contemplative practice. Students choose 9 credits from the Religious Traditions courses, which serve as introductory studies of major world religions. The additional 11 credits may be selected from core areas of study: contemporary issues in religion, contemplative practice and practice intensives.

The study of Buddhism and other religious traditions at Naropa takes place within a context of respect for contemporary human values and profound spiritual perspectives. Students are challenged in classes to develop powers of observation, hone critical skills, refine intuitive understanding and heighten emotional appreciation for other ways of seeing the world. The major is informed and nourished by students' exploration of meditative traditions and by contact with the living lineages of contemporary meditation teachers.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses

REL 328W	BA Group Retreat (0.5) Year one
REL 328W	BA Group Retreat (0.5) Year two
REL 351	Deepening the Discipline: Topics in Religious Studies (3)
REL 479	Capstone Seminar and Senior Project (3)
SUBTOTAL	7

Choose 3 credits from the following courses: (Prerequisites for 300 level classes)

REL 160	Meditation Practicum I: Freeing the Mind (3)
REL 271	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL 390W–392W	Shambhala Training I–III (3)
SUBTOTAL	3

Choose 6 credits from the following courses: (Prerequisites for 300 level classes)

REL 150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL 210	Thinking the Profound: Philosophy of Religion (3)
REL 247	Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)
SUBTOTAL	6

Choose 9 credits from the following Religious Traditions courses:

REL 150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL 229	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL 240	Foundations of Buddhism (3)
REL 314	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL 321	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)
REL 323	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual and Community (3)
REL 325	Contemplative Christianity (3)

REL 330	Contemplative Hinduism (3)
REL 334	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL 346	Wisdom and Compassion: The Buddhist Path (3)
REL 349	Tibetan Buddhism: Inside the Mystique (3)
REL 355	Sanskrit in the Sacred Traditions of India (3)
REL 376	Contemplative Jewish Practice (3)

SUBTOTAL 9

Undergraduate students may petition to take MA courses in Buddhism after REL 160, 240 and 346 are completed.

Choose 11 credits from the following two categories:

Contemporary Issues in Religion

REL 212	Queer Theory, Feminism and Religion (3)
REL 247	Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)
REL 312	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL 348	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)

Contemplative Practice

REL 158W	Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 160	Meditation Practicum I: Freeing the Mind (3)
REL 170	Meditation Practicum II (3)
REL 250	Spirituality and Creative Expression (3)
REL 255W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 258	Monthlong Meditation Intensive: A Program of Buddhist Practice and Study (1.5–3)
REL 271	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL 345	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL 390W–495W	Shambhala Training Levels I–XII (1)

SUBTOTAL 11

TOTAL CREDITS 36

**This fact sheet describes the 2009–10 curriculum for the major in Religious Studies. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the Department of Religious Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

Minor in Sanskrit Language or Tibetan Language

Undergraduate students may also choose to minor in Buddhist languages, either Sanskrit or Tibetan. A sequence of four courses (4 credits each) is offered in each language. The requirement of the minor is to take the first three of these four courses. However, students are encouraged to consider taking the fourth semester of the language as an elective. Students who have completed all four Tibetan courses are eligible to apply to the Nalanda Translation Committee Apprenticeship Program, which provides funding for one year (or more) for further Tibetan language training with the Translation Committee after graduation.

Sanskrit I–III (12) or Tibetan I–III (12)

TOTAL CREDITS 12

Normally, students are not able to fulfill their minor requirement through courses that are offered in their major department. However, the language courses offered by the Religious Studies Department do not qualify as courses specifically on religion and at other colleges are generally offered in separate departments. For these reasons, Religious Studies majors may elect to take a minimum of three 4-credit courses in either Sanskrit or Tibetan (12 credits) in order to fulfill their minor.

Minor in Religious Studies

Required Courses

REL 150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL 210	Thinking the Profound: Philosophy of Religion (3)
REL 247	Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)

Choose 3 credits from the following:

REL 158W	Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 160	BA Meditation Practicum I: Freeing the Mind (3)
REL 170	BA Meditation Practicum II (3)
REL 212	Queer Theory, Feminism and Religion I (3)
REL 229	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL 240	Foundations of Buddhism (3)
REL 250	Spirituality and Creative Expression (3)
REL 255W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 271	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL 312	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL 314	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL 321	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)
REL 323	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual and Community (3)
REL 325	Contemplative Christianity (3)
REL 330	Contemplative Hinduism (3)
REL 334	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL 345	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL 346	Wisdom and Compassion: The Buddhist Path (3)
REL 348	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL 349	Tibetan Buddhism: Inside the Mystique (3)
REL 355	Sanskrit in the Sacred Traditions of India (3)
REL 376	Contemplative Jewish Practice (3)
REL 390W–495W	Shambhala Training Levels I–XII (1–3)

TOTAL CREDITS 12

Certificate Program in Religious Studies

This 30-credit certificate program is designed for those who wish to immerse themselves in a study of contemplative religious traditions and is open to students who have completed at least 60 semester credits prior to entering Naropa University.

Required Courses

REL 328W	BA Group Retreat (0.5) Year one
REL 328W	BA Group Retreat (0.5) Year two
REL 351	Deepening the Discipline: Topics in Religious Studies (3)
REL 479	Capstone Seminar and Senior Project (3)

SUBTOTAL 7

Choose 3 credits from the following courses:

(Prerequisites for 300 level classes)

REL 160	Meditation Practicum I: Freeing the Mind (3)
REL 271	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL 390W–392W	Shambhala Training I–III (3)

SUBTOTAL 3

Choose 6 credits from the following courses:

(Prerequisites for 300 level classes)

REL 150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL 210	Thinking the Profound: Philosophy of Religion (3)
REL 247	Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)

SUBTOTAL 6

Choose the following from the course guide:

Religious Studies Courses (14)

TOTAL CREDITS 30

Careers

The BA in Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary degree, providing graduates with the knowledge base and intellectual, communication and interpersonal skills essential to success in any career. It provides preparation for graduate education in law, business and the helping professions as well as in any area of the social sciences or humanities where in-depth knowledge of religion will be a distinct advantage in one's career. More specifically, knowledge of religion—and the ability to think clearly and communicate effectively about it—is valuable in fields that involve public affairs, international and cross-cultural relations, religious issues and groups, or interaction with diverse individuals and populations. While it provides insights into the role of religion in personal, group, and societal identity and conflict, studying religion does not require any particular religious background or commitment.

Religious Studies Department Ranked Faculty

Roger Dorris, PhD (sabbatical 09–10)

AAS, BA, Metropolitan State College of Denver; MA, The Naropa Institute; PhD, Union Institute.

Roger Dorris recently completed doctoral work in the field of engaged Buddhist studies with a focus on community-building and large-group transformation. He has worked extensively with marginalized populations including the homeless, those incarcerated and those suffering from addiction. He's been a practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism since the mid-'70s and was ordained as a Buddhist minister in 1999. He has been ranked faculty at Naropa University since 1995 where he helped establish the Engaged Buddhism and Master of Divinity programs.

Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen

Ka Rabajampa, Nalanda Institute.

Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen excelled in his studies at Karma Shri Nalanda Institute of Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim under some of the greatest living masters in the Kagyü lineage. He then completed the traditional three-year retreat. Acharya Tenpa served for several years as the resident teacher of Thegsum Tashi Chöling in Hamburg, Germany. He is a senior teacher of the Nitārtha Institute, which presents the teachings of the Tibetan monastic educational tradition to westerners.

Lama Sarah Harding

BA, Naropa University.

Sarah Harding is a lama in the Shangpa Kagyü tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, completing the first three-year retreat for westerners in 1980 under H.E. Kalu Rinpoche. She works as a teacher, oral interpreter and translator. She has published many of her translations, including *Creation and Completion* and *Machik's Complete Explanation*. She has been an instructor in the Religious Studies Department since 1992 and also received a BA in Religious Studies from Naropa University. She is currently working on translations as a fellow of the Tsadra Foundation and continues to run her Tibetan Language Correspondence Course.

Victoria Howard, PhD

BA, Barnard College of Columbia University; PhD, Union Institute. Victoria Howard is a Buddhist minister in the Shambhala tradition. She has worked extensively with the aged and the dying and co-founded and co-directed Dana Home Care, a national, nonprofit organization providing in-home care for frail seniors. She currently teaches in the Master of Divinity program at Naropa. Dr. Howard has assisted in the development of a number of innovative senior care residences and consults for elder care agencies and facilities in the Denver-Metro area. She also works with Hospice of Boulder County.

Rabbi Zvi Ish-Shalom

BA, McGill University; MA, Brandeis University; PhD (cand.), Brandeis University.

Rabbi Zvi Ish-Shalom descends from a long lineage of rabbis in the mystical tradition of Hasidism. He trained in rabbinical schools in New York and Israel and was ordained as a rabbi in both the Orthodox and neo-Hasidic traditions. Before coming to Naropa University, he served for four and a half years as the rabbi for Congregation Har Shalom in Fort Collins, Colorado. His current areas of academic interest include comparative mysticism, Kabbalah, Hasidism, East-West studies, psychology of religion, somatic spirituality and contemplative ecumenism, *inter alia*. Rabbi Zvi is also a certified Rolfer® and has a contemplative bodywork practice in Boulder.

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Professor Emeritus PhD, Hebrew Union College.

Rabbi Schachter has held the World Wisdom Seat at Naropa University and is Professor Emeritus at Temple Institute. He is a major figure in the Jewish spiritual renewal movement, presenting the central teachings of Hasidism and Kabbalah in a contemporary and heartfelt manner. He was ordained in 1947 and received a PhD in 1968 from Hebrew Union College. He has published more than 150 articles and monographs on the Jewish spiritual life and has translated many Hasidic and Kabbalistic texts. In 1989, Rabbi Schachter founded the Spiritual Eldering Institute to meet the needs of the current generation of elders.

Acharya Judith Simmer-Brown, PhD

BA, Cornell College; MA, Florida State University; PhD, Walden University; PhD (cand.), Columbia University.

Judith Simmer-Brown became a Zen student of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi in 1971, and a student of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche in 1974. She has been a ranked faculty member in Religious Studies at the university since 1978. She lectures and writes on Tibetan Buddhism, women and Buddhism, Buddhist-Christian dialogue and American Buddhism, and is an Acharya (senior dharma teacher) in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition. She is on the board of the Society of Buddhist-Christian Studies and a member of the Lilly Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter. Her books are *Dakini's Warm Breath: The Feminine Principle in Tibetan Buddhism* (Shambhala, 2001), and with Brother David Steindl-Rast, et al., *Benedict's Dharma: Buddhists Comment on the Rule of St. Benedict* (Riverhead, 2001).

Phillip Stanley, PhD, Chair

BA, University of North Carolina-at-Chapel-Hill; MBA, University of Michigan; MA, University of Virginia; PhD, University of Virginia.

Phillip Stanley is chair of the Religious Studies Department. He is dean of academic affairs for Nitartha Institute, a member of the Executive Council of the International Association of Buddhist Universities, and co-director of the Tibetan Buddhist Canonical Collections Cataloging Project of the Tibetan Himalayan Library that will launch an online catalog of multiple editions of the Tibetan Kangyur and Tengyur collections with links to scans of all five thousand plus texts in the summer of 2009. He has been selected to lead the Union Catalog of Buddhist Texts project that will launch a prototype online catalog of all the major Buddhist canonical collections by 2011. He received a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for doctoral research on the nine-vehicle texts of the Nyingma school of

Tibet. A member of the Nalanda Translation Committee, he has been a student of Trungpa Rinpoche since 1974 and has taught Buddhism and Shambhala Training since 1981. He is writing a book on the canons of Buddhism and the history of the Tibetan Buddhist canon. He developed the first-year primer of literary Tibetan used at Naropa.

Guest Faculty**Ven. Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche**

Ka Rabajampa, Nalanda Institute; Acarya Degree, Sanskrit University.

Ven. Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche is acknowledged as one of the foremost scholars and educators of his generation in the Nyingma and Kagyü schools of Tibetan Buddhism. He received the Kagyü and Nyingma lineages of teachings and empowerments from His Holiness Karmapa, H.H. Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche and other great teachers. H.H. the 16th Karmapa recognized him as a reincarnate master, the 7th in the line of the Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoches. He founded and continues to direct Nitartha International, Nalandabodhi and the Nitartha Institute, which focus, respectively, on the preservation of endangered ancient texts, study and meditation training, and traditional Buddhist education.

Ven. Khenpo Anyen Rinpoche

Ven. Khenpo Anyen Rinpoche is a tulku from Amdo, Tibet, and is an esteemed scholar as well as the heart son of his root Lama, Tsara Dharmakirti Rinpoche. He is the fifth in an unbroken lineage of heart sons who received their uncommon lineage of the Longchen Nyingthig and introduction to the Dzogchen teachings directly from the renowned Dzogchen master Patrul Rinpoche. Anyen Rinpoche's training includes more than fourteen years of intensive study combined with solitary retreat before he obtained the degree of khenpo and became the head scholar of his root Lama's monastic university in Kham, Tibet.

Ranked Faculty from Other Departments

Acharya Dale Asrael (Transpersonal Counseling Psychology), **Jane Carpenter** (Contemplative Psychology), **Acharya Gaylon Ferguson** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Father Alan Hartway** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Andrew Schelling** (Writing and Poetics), **Robert Spellman** (Visual Arts), **Candace Walworth** (Peace Studies)

Adjunct Faculty

Sreedevi Bringi, Patrick D'Silva, David Frenette, Stephan Hatch, Rabbi Howard Hoffman, Giovannina Jobson, Jeremy Lowry, Rev. Penny Rather, L. S. Summer, Gerry Shishin Wick Roshi, Stephanie Yuhas

DECLARING A MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Most students enter Naropa University as first-year students and declare a major after completing 30 credits. In addition to adhering to university requirements and deadlines, Religious Studies requires a meeting with faculty.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students are invited to visit Naropa University. There are events scheduled every fall and spring for prospective students. See www.naropa.edu/admissions/ugrad_events.cfm for more information. The visitation coordinator will be happy to arrange for you to meet with an admissions counselor or a member of our faculty, visit a class or take a campus tour. Arapahoe campus tours are offered Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. in the main lobby of the Administration Building. The visitation coordinator can be contacted at 303-546-3548 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) or admissions@naropa.edu. You can also use the online Visitation Request form or view our campus from the online tour.

There are three ways of applying to Naropa University:

1. Apply online at www.naropa.edu/apply or www.commonapp.org.
2. Download the Naropa undergraduate application form at www.naropa.edu/ugradapply.
3. Request that an application be sent to you in the mail.

Please note that if you are applying as a transfer student directly into a major, that academic department might require a supplemental application. See www.naropa.edu/ugradapply for details.

Suggested Deadlines

Naropa University uses a rolling admission policy. Applicants may apply as early as September for summer and fall admission. Applications received between September 1 and the suggested deadline will be given equal consideration. Applications received after the suggested deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

- January 15 for fall semester admission
- October 15 for spring semester admission

Please contact the Office of Admissions at 303-546-3572 or 800-772-6951 (within North America) for more information.

If you have fewer than 30 semester credits, you must apply to Naropa University as an undeclared student. See www.naropa.edu/ugradapply for specific admission requirements. If you have 30 or more semester credits, you may apply directly to the major.

To apply for admission to the Religious Studies major, the following is required:

Application Requirements

1. Parts A and B of application form.
2. \$50 nonrefundable fee in the form of a check or money order, payable to "Naropa University." Applicant's name must be clearly indicated on the check.
3. Part C – Three Essays (all must be typed).
4. Official college transcript for every university attended (must be sent in a sealed envelope from the registrar), showing proof of 30 semester credits.
5. Letters of Recommendation: One from a teacher and one from another teacher, counselor or someone who knows the applicant well other than a family member or a current therapist. These must be on the forms provided.
6. A phone or in-person interview.