

# Religious Studies

HARTWICK COLLEGE  
Know the Facts.



## The Hartwick Difference

The Hartwick College Religious Studies Major offers students:

- Off-campus study opportunities in the U.S., Middle East, and India
- Field experiences at important Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu monasteries and centers
- Close interaction with faculty inside and outside of class
- A Religious Studies Honor Society, Theta Alpha Kappa

Hartwick's Religious Studies Department offers critical and widely varying perspectives on many of the world's religious traditions. Students can study the Bible, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Asian religions, Native American religions, and the many expressions of religion in the United States. Students also are encouraged to explore diverse issues associated with the place of religion in the modern world.

## Three-Year Program

Ready to move faster? Get the full Hartwick religious studies experience in three-quarters the time at three-quarters the cost. Learn more at [www.hartwick.edu/threeyeardegree](http://www.hartwick.edu/threeyeardegree).

## Major Components

Religious studies as a discipline focuses on developing knowledge of the great religious traditions of the world, including the varied influence religions have had on the diverse social and cultural phenomena we encounter in the world around us.

In consultation with a faculty advisor, religious studies majors develop an individualized program of study in the discipline. As part of their major program, all students complete a senior project, either a capstone seminar or a semester of individual study with one-on-one attention from a faculty member.

To understand more fully the interconnections among religion, history, literature, art, and the sciences, religious studies majors are encouraged to complement their study with courses in a variety of other disciplines. Many students majoring in other departments choose to pursue their interest in religion and religious phenomena by completing a minor in religious studies.

[www.hartwick.edu/catalog](http://www.hartwick.edu/catalog)

## Course Highlights

For the full online course catalog and requirements, visit [www.hartwick.edu/catalog](http://www.hartwick.edu/catalog).

Hartwick's religious studies curriculum covers three general areas. The first area focuses on the Judeo-Christian Western tradition. Various courses in Biblical studies take a historical approach by examining the



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For more information, contact  
the Office of Admissions  
at 607-431-4150 or  
888-HARTWICK (888-427-8942).

For specific inquiries, contact  
C.W. (Sandy) Huntington, Department Chair,  
at 607-431-4325 or  
[huntingtonc@hartwick.edu](mailto:huntingtonc@hartwick.edu).

books in terms of the historical and cultural contexts in which they were written. Other courses survey the histories of those religions that have had a notable impact on the West, primarily Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The second area covers the religious traditions of the Asian world, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and others. Courses in this area examine the cultural and social values that define these traditions and their various ways of understanding the meaning of human life.

The third area deals with recent and contemporary religious expression in the West and includes introductory courses on religious diversity in the United States and new religious movements. More specialized courses examine the relationship between religion and literature, science, medicine, technology, politics, and popular culture. Emphasis is placed on historical and social scientific perspectives on religion, particularly as these illuminate controversial topics.

## Beyond the Classroom

**Linking the intellectual to the real world.** In an unusual course, *The Architecture of the Sacred*, students designed and built environmentally appropriate buildings on the Hartwick College Pine Lake Campus. During classroom time, students studied the design, construction, and use of different kinds of “sacred spaces” around the world. They also studied natural design principles, traditional forms of building, sustainable practices, and environmentally sound forms of construction. So far, Hartwick students have built one strawbale house, used for classes and other gatherings, and a cob house, made out of a mixture of straw, sand, and clay, which will be used for student housing.

**Off campus.** Special study opportunities available through the department include off-campus programs in India, Egypt, New York City, and Washington, DC. In addition, because Oneonta is located within a few hours drive of various important Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu monasteries and centers, efforts are made to incorporate field trip experiences into regular course offerings.

## Putting Religious Studies to Work

The study of religion is at the core of the liberal arts enterprise, and as such, it equips students to contribute in a sensitive, informed, and constructive way to the challenges the future will certainly bring. The Hartwick religious studies major offers the breadth and depth of study necessary to prepare students for graduate study and professional work in the field of religion. A major in religious studies also provides valuable preparation for careers in a variety of other areas, including law, medicine, teaching, psychology, journalism, public relations, and community service.

## Faculty

**Lisle W. Dalton**, Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of California at Santa Barbara. Areas of focus: American religious history, religion and culture

**Gary Herion**, Professor; M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan. Areas of focus: Biblical studies, Judaism, Christianity, Islam

**C.W. Huntington**, Professor; M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan. Areas of focus: Asian religions; Buddhism, in particular Indian Buddhism; architecture of the sacred; sustainable living