History of Religions examines religions from both “outsider” and “insider” perspectives within their historical, cultural, social, and political contexts. The program uses various academic approaches — historical, literary, anthropological, sociological, etc. — to consider how religions have shaped, and been shaped by, the story of humanity. Doing this involves examining specific religions such as Buddhism, Islam, and Indigenous traditions, as well as comparative topics like religion and gender, or religion and popular culture. Studying religion means looking at symbols, rituals, texts, media, art, and more, thinking about all the ways in which people in all times and places construct and live within worlds of meaning.

Make the Most of Your Time at UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we’ve pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using My Program Plan found at www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans.

Programs of Study (POSt)

- Specialist Program ERSPE0151 History of Religions (Arts)
- Major Program ERMAJ0151 History of Religions (Arts)
- Minor Program ERMIN0151 History of Religions (Arts)

Check out...

The study of religion can enhance our understanding of popular Hollywood films. What do rituals mean in comedies and horror movies? How is the Bible related to superheroes? Find out in RLG332H5 (Reel Religion) — a course that considers the connections between religions and films that appear to have no connection to religion.

What can I do with my degree?

There are many destinations for graduates of this program. Some pursue further education, while others seek employment. For assistance on various options see the next pages for links to resources and people to talk with. Below are some ideas of career areas and workplaces for graduates:

**Careers for graduates**: Artist; communications specialist; community worker; consultant; diplomat; educational developer; equity officer; health professional; human rights advocate; international aide worker; journalist; lawyer; politician; policy advisor; project manager; teacher; writer.

**Workplaces**: Arts; culture; education; government; health care; law; media; museums; non-profit; politics; social services.
# History of Religions

## Major Program Plan

### How to Use This Program Plan

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) to create your own plan using My Program Plan.

Update your plan yearly.

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### 1st Year

- **Enrol in RLG101H5:**
  - Choose a program of study (Subject POSt) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.
  - Develop foundational academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a stDeny course. Build community and gain academic support through LAUNCH. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.

### 2nd Year

- **Attain 1.5 RLG 200-level credits:**
  - View the Academic Calendar for details.
  - Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses RLG299Y, RLG399Y and RLG499Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s PART to enhance your research skills.

### 3rd Year

- **Enrol in RLG312H5:**
  - Attain 3.0 RLG 300-level credits.
  - Throughout your undergraduate degree:
    - use the Degree Explorer to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.
    - see the Office of the Registrar and the Historical Studies Academic Adviser.

### 4th or Final Year

- **Attain 1.0 RLG 400-level credit and 1.0 additional RLG credit at any level.** Why not undertake an ethnographic field project by enrolling in RLG452H5 Anthropology of Islam? Log on to ACORN and confirm graduation request.

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### Plan Your Academics

#### Build Skills

- Use the Co-curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.

- Attend the Get Hired Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.

- Attend the Experiential Education Fair.

#### Build a Network

- Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the Historical Studies Society (HSS). Go to the HSS Meet & Greet to meet professors and fellow students.

- Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.

#### Build a Global Mindset

- Engage with the many programs offered by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Consider joining the Canada Eh? day trips or English Language Conversation Circles to deepen your global mindset.

- First-year international students can also take advantage of THRIVE. A one-day conference dedicated to helping you start your UTM journey successfully.

- Explore careers through the CC’S Job Shadow Program.

- Considering further education? Attend the CC’S Graduate & Professional Schools Fair. Talk to professors - they are potential mentors and references.

#### Plan for Your Future

*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.*

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**Visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) for the online version and links.**

Revised on: 10/16/2023
Skills developed in History of Religions

Students gain valuable knowledge and skills while studying religion. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate the following skills:

Communication: Learn about the historical development of different communities; gain insights into cultural diversity; formulate and defend positions based on evidence; listen objectively and thoughtfully; adapt in cross-cultural settings.

Problem-solving: Make well-informed decisions; mediate conflicts; think critically.

Organizational: apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings (e.g., via internships).

Research: Examine and assess research; evaluate ideas and reasoning; gather information; interpret data.

Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- Historical Studies Society (HSS)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a full listing of clubs on campus visit the Student Groups and Societies Directory

Services that support you

- Accessibility Services (AS)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- Centre for South Asian Critical Humanities (CSAC)
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)
- Experiential Education Unit (EEU)
- Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
- Indigenous Centre (IC)
- International Education Centre (IEC)
- Office of the Registrar (OR)
- Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)
- Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)
- UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)

FUTURE STUDENTS

Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s. More information is available at utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook.

NOTE: During the application process, applicants will select the Humanities admissions category but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

Sneak Peek

How does religion shape popular culture? How does popular culture shape religion? Trace the history of these questions from the early modern period through the twenty-first century in RLG211H5. Learn about the vast array of global Indigenous religions, with a focus on North American traditions, in RLG209H5.

History of Religions is excellent preparation for living and working in a cosmopolitan and multiconfessional world.

Student Recruitment & Admissions

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905-828-5400
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