

Religious Studies Collection Development Policy

Purpose of the Collection

The research and instruction of the Department of Religious Studies is supported jointly by collections in the Fondren and Bridwell libraries. The multidisciplinary program is supported by collections in a wide range of disciplines outside the boundaries of the Religion classification of the Library of Congress.

Description of the Academic Program

SMU awards a Bachelor of Arts, a Masters, and a PhD in Religious Studies, as well as an undergraduate minor. The requirements of both the undergraduate major and minor are flexible. Courses employ one or more of the following methodological approaches: philosophical, historical, social scientific, and literary. Undergraduates are required to take a least one course in either the Hebrew Bible or the New Testament, and one class in Hinduism, Buddhism, or Religions of China.

The requirements for the graduate program (both Masters and PhD) include seminars in the Philosophical Study of Religion; Approaches to Asian Religion; History, Theory and Method in Religious Studies; and Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion.

Collection Description

The Bridwell Library in the Perkins School of Theology acquires and houses the majority of materials on the Christian religion and Christian church, and Fondren makes an effort not to duplicate those holdings. Fondren attempts to collect primarily in the subjects of Asian religions and in aspects of the Abrahamic religions in culture and society.

Because the program is multidisciplinary, there is overlap within Fondren Library collections in a wide range of areas, including Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Literature, and Political Science.

Languages

The Religious Studies collection is mainly in English, but works in French, German, Latin, and Sanskrit are also collected.

Format

The religious studies collection in Fondren consists primarily of books. The Bridwell Library collects most periodicals and serials in this subject. Very little microform is bought. Retrospective collecting occurs when historical works are reprinted, but this is relatively rare. The faculty works almost exclusively with modern editions.

Special Collections and Manuscripts

The DeGolyer Library houses some materials related to religious movements and churches in the Western U.S.

Collection Levels by Library of Congress Call Number Range

For a description of collection levels, see [Collection Depth Indicators](#).

LC Call Number Range	LC Subject Heading	Goal Level
BL1-2790	Religions. Mythology. Rationalism	3
BL1-50	Religion (General)	3
BL51-65	Philosophy of religion. Psychology of religion. Religion in relation to other subjects	3
BL70-71	Sacred Books (General)	2
BL71.5-73	Biography	2

BL74-99	Religions of the World	3
BL175-265	Natural theology	2
BL270	Unity and plurality	2
BL290	The soul	2
BL300-325	The myth. Comparative mythology	3
BL350-385	Classification of religions	2
BL410	Religions in relation to one another	2
BL425-490	Religious doctrines (General)	2
BL500-547	Eschatology	2
BL624-629.5	Religious life	2
BL630	Religious organization	2
BL660-2680	History and principles of religions	3
BL660	Indo-European. Aryan	3
BL685	Ural-Altai	3
BL685	Mediterranean region	3
BL689-980	European. Occidental	2
BL700-820	Classical (Etruscan, Greek, Roman)	3
BL700-820	Germanic and Norse	2
BL900-980	Other European	2
BL100-2370	Asian. Oriental.	3
BL1000-1035	General	2
BL1100-1295	Hinduism	3
BL1300-1380	Jainism	2
BL1750-2350	By region or country	2
BL1790-1975	China	3
BL1830-1883	Confucianism	3
BL1899-1942.85	Taoism	3
BL2000-2032	India	2
BL2017-2018.7	Sikhism	2
BL2195-2228	Japan	2
BL2216-2227.8	Shinto	2
	Judaism	
BM1-990	Judaism	2
BM1-449	General	2
BM70-135	Study and teaching	2
BM150-449	History	2

BM201-449	By region or country	2
BM545-582	Principles of Judaism (General)	2
BM650-747	Practical Judaism	2
BM651-652.7	Priests, rabbis, etc.	2
BM653-653.7	Congregations. Synagogues	2
BM654-655.6	The tabernacle. The temple.	2
BM656-657	Forms of worship	2
BM660-679	Liturgy and ritual	2
BM690-695	Festivals and fasts	2
BM700-720	Rites and customs	2
BM723-729	Jewish way of life. Spiritual life. Mysticism. Personal religion. Moral Theology.	2
BM750-755	Biography	2
	Islam	
BP1-68	General	2
BP42-48	Study and teaching	2
BP50-68	History	2
BP70-80	Biography	2
BP75-77.75	Muhammad, Prophet, d. 632	2
BP87-89	Islamic literature	2
BP100-157	Sacred books	2
BP100-134	Koran	2
BP160-165	General works on Islam	2
BP171-173	Relation of Islam to other religions	3
BP173.25-173.45	Islamic sociology	2
BP174-190	The practice of Islam	2
BP188-190	Islamic religious life	2
BP188.2-188.3	Devotional literature	2
BP188.45-189.65	Sufism. Mysticism. Dervishes	2
BP189.68-189.7	Monasticism	2
	Buddhism	
BQ1-9800	Buddhism	2
BQ251-799	History	2
BQ1001-1045	Buddhist literature	2
BQ4000-4060	General works	2
BQ4061-4570	Doctrinal and systematic Buddhism	2

BQ4620-4905	Buddhist pantheon	2
BQ4911-5720	Practice of Buddhism. Forms of worship	2
BQ5360-5680	Religious life	2
BQ6200-6240	Asceticism. Hermits. Wayfaring life	2
BQ6300-6388	Monasteries. Temples. Shrines. Sites	2
BQ7001-9800	Modifications, schools, etc.	2
	Christianity	
BR1-1725	Christianity	2
BR60-67	Early Christian literature. Fathers of the Church, etc.	1
BR115	Christianity in relation to special subjects	2
BR130-133.5	Christian antiquities. Archaeology. Museums	1
BR140-1510	History	2
BR1600-1609	Persecution. Martyrs	2
BR1609.5	Dissent	2
BR1610	Tolerance and toleration	2
BR1615-1617	Liberalism	2
BR1620	Sacrilege (History)	2
BR1690-1725	Biography	2
	The Bible	
BS1-2970	The Bible	2
BS500-534.8	Criticism and interpretation	2
BS535-537	The Bible as literature	2
BS650-667	Bible and science	2
BS670-672	Bible and social sciences	2
BS701-1830	Old Testament	2
BS1901-2970	New Testament	2
	Christian Theology	
BT10-1480	Doctrinal Theology	1
BV1-5099	Practical Theology	1
BX1-9999	Christian Denominations	2
BX800-4795	Catholic Church	2
BX940-1745	History	2

BX2347-2377	Practical religion. Christian life	2
BX2380-2386	Religious life. Religious state	2
BX2400-4563	Monasticism. Religious orders	2
BX4650-4705	Biography and portraits	2
BX4800-9999	Protestantism	2
BX4800-4861	General	2
BX4872-4924	Pre-Reformation	2
BX4929-4951	Post-Reformation	2
BX6101-9999	Other Protestant denominations	2