

# School of Religion, Philosophy & Classics

## Religion & Social Transformation

Religion explores more than one religious tradition and engages the phenomena of religion comparatively across and within cultures. It teaches students to examine and engage religious phenomena, including issues of ethical and social responsibility, from a perspective of critical inquiry and analysis of both the other and the self. The academic study of religion is an inherently interdisciplinary field of study, it draws together theoretical resources and disciplinary methods from a wide variety of human and social sciences.

Given South Africa's recent emergence from colonialism and apartheid, this programme studies the past and current significance of our religions both in Africa and globally. It foundationally introduces students to the requisite research methodologies and theories and guide students to embark on their own research projects in areas relevant to their own career paths.

Furthermore, students are encouraged to engage and constructively embrace the plurality of our social constitution, learning to collaborate in important socially-responsible ways on social problems facing the nation. Throughout the course of study, students are also challenged to develop their own informed and learned positions on a variety of social and cultural issues faced by our country as well as our faith traditions and texts.

### Degree Structure

1<sup>st</sup> semester: 16 + 16 + 32 C = 64 C

2<sup>nd</sup> semester: 16 + 16 + 32 C = 64 C

TOTAL: 128C

## SEMESTER 1

### *RSTR701 Research Methodology in Religion and Theology (16 C)*

**Co-ordinator: Prof JA Smit**

**Aim:** To introduce students to a broad understanding of qualitative and quantitative methods drawn from the Social Sciences and applied to the study of Religion and Theology.

**Content:** The course includes critical and analytical reading and interpretation of research, as well as different empirical research approaches.

### *RSTR702 Method and Theory in Religion and Theology (16 C)*

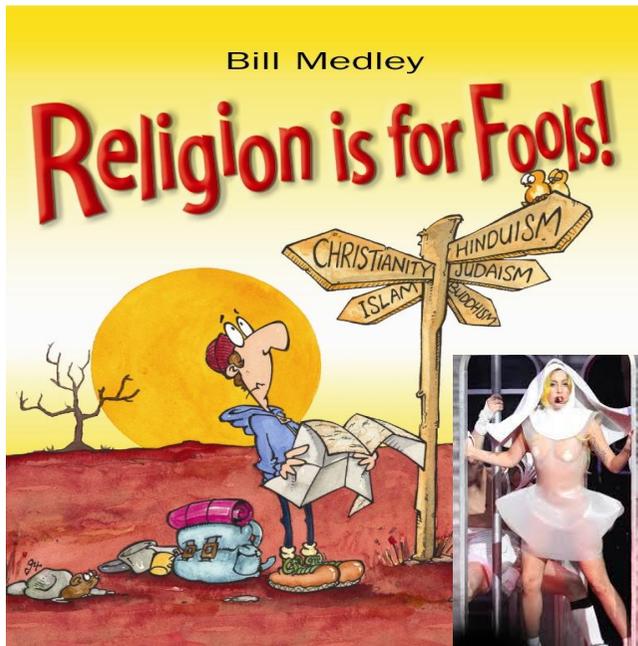
**Co-ordinator: Prof JA Smit**

**Aim:** To introduce students to a broad understanding of the method of scientific research and the role of theory in the scientific study of Religion and Theology, e.g. theological, hermeneutical, historical, sociological, etc.

**Content:** The course includes critical and analytical reading and interpretation of research, as well as different theoretical approaches.

### **Degree Requirements – 1st Semester**

In addition to these two compulsory 16 credit modules, students must register for one of the following 32 credit modules.



## BA Honours in Religion & Social Transformation

Howard College  
Campus  
2014



## RSTR704 Introduction to African Religion & History (32 C)

**Aim:** To introduce students to a broad understanding of Africa's religions and cultures.

**Content:** The course includes introduction to the history and development of Africa's religions and cultures in different regions and phases of African history.

## RSTR705 African Culture and Christian Literature (32 C)

**Aim:** To introduce students to a broad understanding of Africa's cultures, and how these are interpreted and represented in Christian Literature.

**Content:** The course includes introduction to a selection of themes like sagacity, prophecy, law, tradition, institutional foundations, critical thinking, gender and conflict studies in and between cultures of Africa in Religious Literature perspective; archaeology; and knowledge systems.

## RSTR706 Text and Interpretation (Asian Religions) (32 C)

**Aim:** To introduce students to a broad understanding of a variety of Eastern religions through texts and their commentaries.

**Content:** This module deals with the issues related to text and interpretation within the context of Asian religions. Students can select one of the following Asian religions for intensive focus on textual study: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. A selected text will be used for the course.

## RSTR707 Primary and Secondary Sources in Islam (32 C)

**Aim:** To introduce students to a broad understanding of Islam and its sources.

**Content:** Revelation of the Qur'an; compilation; textual divisions; subject matter; origin and development of Hadith; and the 6 major Hadith collections.

## RSTR708 Directed Study: RSTR 1 (32 C)

**Aim:** To have students develop their conceptual knowledge, under supervision, in their area of interest.

**Content:** Directed reading from the area of specialisation in consultation with the Programme Leader.

## SEMESTER 2

### RSTR734 Directed Study: RSTR 2 (16 C)

**Aim:** To have students develop their conceptual knowledge, under supervision, in their area of interest.

**Content:** Directed reading from the area of specialisation in consultation with the Programme Leader.

### RSTR735 Directed Study: RSTR 3 (16 C)

**Aim:** To have students develop their conceptual knowledge, under supervision, in their area of interest.

**Content:** Directed reading from the area of specialisation in consultation with the Programme Leader.

## RSTR7RP H2 Research Project (32 C)

**Aim:** To have students engage in the research process, and writing up a research project of approximately 8 000 – 12 000 words or twenty-five – thirty-five pages.

**Content:** Any relevant subject or topic in the area of specialization in consultation with the Programme Leader.

### **Degree Structure Requirements: 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

In addition to the two 16 credit modules, students need to register for the 32 credit point research project that must be submitted for examination by the end of October 2013.

#### Contact information

#### Howard College Campus

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*Image taken from:*

<http://www.orbusafrica.org/uploads/images/Religion%20is%20For%20Fools%20new%20cover.JPG>