

## Studying Religion Off-Campus

*A variety of opportunities exist for students interested in the study of religion to take related classes in another part of the world. In addition to blocks which may be taught off-campus by CC professors during the year and in the summer, many options exist on CC-approved semester and year-long programs around the world. Here are some options that you might consider; this list is not exhaustive.*

*If you have questions about participating in one of these programs, please visit the website for CC's Center for Global Education ([www.coloradocollege.edu/globalandfield](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/globalandfield)), where you can learn **how to apply**, see a **guide to credit transfer processes**, and also search the **course approval database** to see previous approvals from past semesters. For questions about credit transfer to your major or minor, or specific questions about academic planning and goals, check with your academic advisor(s) or Religion department faculty members.*

### **Augsburg University – New Activisms, Human Rights, and Social Justice in Central America**

This multi-country comparative semester program travels through three countries, and explores the struggles of people in Mesoamerica, a region that stretches from central Mexico to Costa Rica. Learn more about the human rights crisis the region currently faces from the perspective of historically marginalized communities (*such as: Indigenous and Afro-descendant people, peasant communities, women, members of LGBTQ+, and youth*). From the use of history and memory in local struggles for reparation and justice, to reflections about how religion and liberation theology has informed feminist, Afro-descendant, queer, and environmental initiatives -- it would be nearly impossible to truly understand issues of peace, justice, and social change in Latin America without developing an understanding of Latin American liberation theologies and their relationship to community-based movements for social change. These important theologies began with the premise that God is a God of liberation who helps communities liberate themselves from political and economic oppression, and today are extended to other forms of oppression such as sexist and heterosexist oppression and environmental injustice. This program is open to all students, with no Spanish language prerequisite; Spanish language courses are offered at whatever level you place into.

### **Augsburg University – Conflict, Peace, and Transition in Northern Ireland**

Throughout its history, Northern Ireland has grappled with an ongoing identity-based conflict that divides neighbors, communities, and the country itself. This history is physically present in the form of imposing walls (some 400 years old, others much more recent), and a border that has divided the island of Ireland for 100 years. Deeply segregated communities are byproducts of the trauma caused by years of violence, split by religious and political allegiances of Protestants and Catholics. The conflict and its legacy ripples out into the language, governance, and everyday life of Northern Irish citizens. Students critically examine the work of justice, reconciliation, and repair. Students live, work, and learn in the city of Derry-Londonderry. There and other parts of Northern Ireland, including Belfast and border areas, students meet with community members directly impacted by violence, who now work to share stories and foster healing dialogue. Individual internships allow students to be actively involved in the ongoing work of peacebuilding and community development. Past internship sites include Children in Crossfire, The Rainbow Project, and The Playhouse Theatre.

### **Carleton Global Engagement: Buddhist Studies in Bodh Gaya, India**

The program weaves together the diverse resources of Bodh Gaya, a unique pilgrimage center in northern India. It was here in Bodh Gaya, under the Bodhi tree, that the prince-ascetic Gotama became the fully enlightened Buddha. For two and a half millennia, Bodh Gaya has been a magnet for pilgrims from all Buddhist cultures who come to venerate this sacred site, each in a fashion unique to his or her own tradition. Thus, within a two-mile radius, temples have been constructed to function with the cultural traditions of Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Japan, China, Bhutan, and Tibet. As well as being a pilgrimage center for Buddhists, Bodh Gaya is home to several thousand Hindus and Muslims. Religious and cultural festivals abound here. Bodh Gaya is home to more than 40 Buddhist temples within a largely Hindu and Muslim community. Each temple offers a gateway for students to explore a particular culture and region where Buddhism manifests around the world, including Tibet, Sri Lanka, Burma, Japan, Bhutan, and others. Through comparative study, the program examines each of the three major Buddhist traditions and their historical development: Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana. Students are introduced to the meditation practice of Burmese Vispassana (Theravada), Japanese Zen (Mahayana), and Tibetan Vajrayana in three-week blocks.

### **CET Prague Semester: Jewish Studies concentration**

Few European cities can boast a better-preserved Jewish quarter than Prague: with six synagogues, a Jewish Town Hall, and a Jewish cemetery, Prague is a vibrant city with rich historical roots. On the CET program, you can select the Jewish Studies concentration, with the Core course "Modern History of the Jews in East Central Europe," and additional coursework can be taken in areas such as:

“Jewish Life in Contemporary Europe,” “Jews, Anti-Semitism, and Holocaust Memory in Central Europe,” and “Nationalism, Minorities, and Migrations in Europe.” On the Core course, students examine the nature of the Jewish experience in Central Europe by comparing the differences among the individual Habsburg lands (Bohemia, Lower Austria, Galicia, Hungary) in the era prior to WWI. Then, particular attention is devoted to the treatment/status of the Jewish minority by/in the newly created nation-states in Eastern Central Europe after the WWI, both in the era between the world wars, as well as after 1945. The course is designed for students of Jewish studies, Central European history and general history as well as for all those interested in Jewish patrimony of the region. Students will also participate in a weeklong traveling field seminar related to the Jewish Studies concentration.

### **SIT Indonesia: Arts, Religion, and Social Change**

Explore Indonesia’s arts, agriculture, and six officially recognized religions shaping sociocultural discourses on the side-by-side islands of Bali and Java. Dive deep into the arts and religion for nearly three weeks in Java, the most populous island in Indonesia. Visit Chinese temples, a Buddhist monastery, and the mosque at Sangsit for interfaith discussion. Attend a ballet version of the Hindu epic the Ramayana, and visit some of the most famous ancient temples of Southeast Asia. In Solo, learn about Confucianism in Indonesia. In East Java, visit an Islamic boarding school. Create medicines after a lecture from traditional healers, and study how the arts are configured where religious activities are still closely tied to agricultural cycles and rhythms. Finally, trace Hindu-Buddhist history from the dynasties of Central Java to an empire of East Java, which continues in Bali to the present day.

### **SIT Tunisia and Italy: Politics and Religious Integration in the Mediterranean**

Tunisia and Italy sit at the crossroads of the Mediterranean. Here, you will study the interplay between migration, regional politics, and religion. In Tunis, the country’s capital, less than 100 miles south of Europe and the birthplace of the Arab Spring, you will examine Tunisia’s peaceful transition to democracy. During a three-week excursion to Sicily, a port of call for immigrants, explore migration to Europe and meet with members of the North African immigrant community to discuss the impact of religious practice and formation of social identity. You’ll also visit the holy city of Kairouan, a UNESCO World Heritage site; built in the 7th century, it was the first Muslim settlement in North Africa. Visit El Jem’s Roman amphitheater, the third largest in the world. On the island of Djerba, you’ll visit Turkish and Spanish forts, Africa’s oldest synagogue, and a Talmudic school in the Jewish quarter. Meet with a local rabbi and residents of the community to learn about challenges of maintaining their faith in a Muslim region.

### **Hebrew University Jerusalem: Rothberg International School**

People come from all over the world to visit Jerusalem, which is holy to Jews, Muslims, and Christians. You’ll hear the Friday evening siren marking the beginning of *Shabbat*, the evening call to prayer in the Old City, the ringing of church bells, and more. While studying at HebrewU, you’ll experience Jerusalem’s incredible mosaic of cultures, foods, religions, history, and peoples. You can discover first-hand Jerusalem’s rich history, as well as its vibrant and innovative culture. In addition to studying either Hebrew or Arabic language, you have extensive course choice to take classes (in English) in academic departments including Jewish Civilization, Religion and History and also Middle East and Islamic Studies, as well as a variety of other content areas offered at the Rothberg International School (RIS). You can also select courses in English taught at Hebrew University Jerusalem’s larger academic program.

### **IES Granada**

The area where Granada rests in southern Spain was settled since ancient times by Iberians, Romans, and Visigoths; the current settlement became a major city of Al-Andalus in the 11th century during the Zirid Taifa of Granada. In the 13th century it became the capital of the Emirate of Granada under Nasrid rule, the last Muslim-ruled state in the Iberian Peninsula. Granada was in the eleventh century the center of Sephardic Jewish civilization at its peak, and from 1027 until 1066 Granada was a powerful Jewish state. Granada was conquered in 1492 by the Catholic Monarchs and progressively transformed into a Christian city over the course of the 16th century, through the expulsion or forced conversions of the Muslim and Jewish residents. The Alhambra, a medieval Nasrid citadel and palace, is located in Granada, which is a fascinating blend of religious power, histories, and architecture, all within the city confines. The IES Granada program is open to students with at least one year of college-level Spanish language study completed, and offers courses in a variety of areas at both the IES Center and the University of Granada, including IES class options such as “Memory and Identity of Sephardic Jews” and “Islamic Civilization in Spain Until 1492.”

### **CIEE Arts & Sciences - Cape Town, South Africa (in conjunction with the University of Cape Town)**

At the southern tip of the African continent, Cape Town is a city of religious diversity, from the indigenous African religions and spiritual traditions to those of the European colonizers, and more recent migrations from diverse areas and cultures. The University of Cape Town allows students from the CIEE program to study in their Religious Studies department, taking courses such as: “African Religious Traditions,” and “Religion and Politics.” It is also an option to enroll in the African Studies Centre (Department), the Philosophy Department, and the History Department at UCT, and mix and match your classes across programmes.

### **Kansai Gaidai: Asian Studies Program in Hirakata, Japan**

Kansai Gaidai University is located in the city of Hirakata (pop. 400,000) in Osaka prefecture. Located on the Yodo River, Kansai Gaidai is in the center of this region, midway between the ancient capital of Kyoto and the dynamic business center of Osaka, with Nara and its Daibutsu (Great Buddha) and “sacred deer” only a short train ride away. Choose from courses such as *Religion in Japan*, *Shinto* (the ancient religion of Japan), *Zen Buddhism*, *Death in East Asian Thought*, as well as a variety of other course options in history, philosophy, politics, literature, and the arts. Each semester, professors and students explore dimensions of Japanese society and culture that cannot be learned from books, through a variety of field trips to places such as: Kyoto National Museum, Takarazuka Theater, Byodoin Temple, Daitokuji Temple, Horyuji Temple, and Toji Temple. No Japanese language prerequisite to participate; all students take a Japanese language class at whatever level you place into. If you also take the connected Kanji writing class, you can fulfill the entire CC 2-block Language Requirement on this semester.

### **Syracuse University in Florence**

Syracuse Florence offers one of the oldest programs for American college students studying in Firenze, and Villa Rossa where the program is housed overlooks Piazza Savonarola. Named for Fr. Girolamo Savonarola, the Dominican religious reformer known for his “bonfires of the vanities” in the quest to purify society, it is a fascinating location to study religious history of Europe. A popular course offered on this program is “A History of Witchcraft: Popular Culture, Folk Magic, and Religious Reform in Europe in the 14th–17th Centuries,” and students can also take courses in areas such as “Classical Mythology,” “Contemporary Politics and the Return of Religion: A Global Perspective,” and “Sex, Politics, and Religion in Italian Literature.” No Italian language prerequisite; all students take Italian on site.

### **College Year in Athens**

Study religion in the ancient capital city of Athens on this program for American undergraduates, with all courses in English and extensive field trips and on-site coursework throughout the semester. Classes are available in areas such as: “The Orthodox Church,” “The Religions of the Middle East: A Comparative Approach,” and “Ancient Greek Mythology and Religion,” as well as in the philosophy, history, and political science fields.

### **DIS Copenhagen**

Religious freedom is an essentially unchallenged value in Denmark; the official religion of Denmark is Lutheran, and Roman Catholic churches and Jewish synagogues have long existed in the larger cities, with the first mosque in the country built in 1967. By the early 21st century Islam had become an increasingly important minority religion, and a significant number of Danes were not religious at all. DIS in Copenhagen offers options for you to take courses both at the DIS center in Religion alongside your peers (including: “Muslims in the West,” “Religion and Politics in Europe,” and “Nordic Mythology”) and also to enroll in select courses at the University of Copenhagen in subjects such as “Religion in Crisis,” exploring the evolution of religious thinking in the 19th and early 20th centuries through a historical lens, alongside local Danish students.

### **Direct Enroll at Global Universities through Institute for Study Abroad (IFSA)**

Colorado College partners with a variety of universities around the world through IFSA, and many of these universities allow visiting students to direct-enroll in their Religion or Religious Studies Departments, and take classes alongside local students in a variety of academic concentrations. See the CC Global Education website for a list of the current partner universities around the world (England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and Chile) through our IFSA partnership, and then search on the IFSA website for which universities offer what kind of courses in Religion and Religious Studies

***For more information about any of these programs, or to explore other options, please visit  
[www.coloradocollege.edu/globalandfield](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/globalandfield)***