

## MASTER OF ARTS – Specialization: Religious Studies

### SAMPLE DEGREE PLAN

#### GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: 36 CREDIT HOURS

##### CORE STUDIES: 9 CREDIT HOURS

###### **MAPC 601. GRADUATE TRANSFORMATION I: WRITING AND RESEARCH (3).**

Explores strategies, methods and skills for locating and evaluating graduate research literature. Familiarizes students with specialized academic journals and literature within specializations. Explores graduate research methods, including qualitative and quantitative research paradigms.

###### **MAPC 602. ETHICS AND MULTICULTURALISM (3).**

Focuses on multicultural ethics. Introduces ethical theories for analyzing ethical situations and for making ethical decisions within and across cultures. Explores role of ethics in various academic disciplines and professional fields. NOTE: MA Program students only.

###### **MAPC 603. GRADUATE TRANSFORMATION II: DIRECTION AND CONTEXT (3).**

Includes attendance and participation in graduate seminars, preparation and presentation of graduate portfolio, degree planning, assessment of learning outcomes and documenting progress toward learning goals. NOTE: MA Program students only.

##### RELIGIOUS STUDIES SPECIALIZATION COURSES: CHOOSE 21 CREDIT HOURS

###### **MARS 600A. RELIGION AND CULTURE: KEY APPROACHES (3).**

Provides a historical introduction and explores nine key approaches to the study of religions.

###### **MARS 600B. RELIGION AND CULTURE: KEY TOPICS (3).**

Examines key topics in the study of religions (e.g. gender, new religious movements, mysticism and spirituality and myth and ritual) and religions in the modern world (e.g. politics, economics, environment, science and media). Prerequisite(s): MARS 600A.

###### **MARS 610. HEBREW BIBLE/TORAH (3).**

Examines the literature of the Hebrew Bible (Torah). Students will read and discuss the Hebrew Bible (in English) using Jewish methodology of interpreting biblical writings while increasing the students awareness of the Jewish religious foundation.

###### **MARS 630. INTRODUCTION TO THE CATHOLIC TRADITION (3).**

Introduction to basic Roman Catholic teaching for lay ministers and administrators. Topics include the Church's self-understanding, sources of Catholic belief, social justice, Canon Law, morality, liturgy and sacraments.

###### **MARS 650. CHRISTIANITY: AN EVOLVING MOVEMENT (3).**

Exploration of the relationship between Christianity and culture, examining how it has been influenced and shaped by both internal forces (e.g. doctrinal debates) and external forces (e.g. cultural and contemporary issues).

###### **MARS 658. JUDAISM (3).**

Studies Judaic religious history and traditions, sacred scriptures, key historic figures, and contemporary issues facing the local and international Jewish community as well as its connection to and relationships with members of other faith perspectives.

###### **MARS 659. ISLAM, FAITH, HISTORY, AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (3).**

Investigates and introduction to Islamic scripture, beliefs and practices alongside contemporary issues throughout the diverse Muslim world, including Sunni-Shi'a sectarianism, women and gender, politics and conflict, and contemporary democratic movements.

###### **MARS 661. INTERFAITH DIALOGUE (3).**

Examines the influence of a faith tradition/practice on public and workplace discourse on a variety of topics. Explores the skills and techniques used by leaders of faith based organizations to facilitate inter, intra, and secular-faith dialogue. Cross listing: MNM 661.

###### **MARS 662. LETTING GO: PSYCHOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS FACTORS AT THE END OF LIFE (3).**

Focuses on the processes of death and dying from psychological, social, and religious perspectives. The student will analyze academic research as well as examine their own beliefs on death and dying. Cross-listing: MAPY 662.

###### **MARS 675. OUR COMMON HOME: RELIGION, ANIMALS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT (3).**

Comparative exploration of religious teachings with the aim of cultivating compassion and identifying our obligations to each other, the environment, and animals in an age of exploitation, climate change, and animal extinction.

##### CAPSTONE: 6 CREDIT HOURS

###### **MAPC 688, MAPC 697 OR MAPC 694**

The purpose of this course is for students to design discipline specific deep questions focused on core competencies in their specialization, write graduate level responses, and integrate content from course work and research as necessary to provide a comprehensive response to each question. Questions include specific connections to the Regis mission.

*\*This degree plan serves as an example of this specialization.*