RELIGIONS OF THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST MAJOR

http://jewishstudies.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate/rame-ba/

Program Director: Maxine Grossman, Ph.D.

The major in Religions of the Ancient Middle East (RAME) (30 cr) offers students the opportunity to explore the world out of which biblical Israel and ancient Judaism, Christianity, and early Islam emerged, as well as the wide array of other religious and cultural beliefs, practices, and institutions that flourished between about 1200 BCE/BC and 850 CE/AD. In *Foundations* courses students take at least one course that addresses a significant question about the nature of religion and religious change or the interplay of religious groups. In addition they must take two courses that survey two geographical, cultural, or chronological sub areas. In addition to *Electives*, all students take an interdisciplinary *Capstone* seminar, typically in their final year.

Language Track (min. 36 cr). Although there are no language requirements for the major, students who wish to incorporate ancient languages into their work are encouraged to pursue a language enhanced track. Students take six credits of language at the second year level as part of their major. They are also are expected to make use of their target languages in completing the research project for the Capstone course.

The University currently offers Arabic, Hebrew, and Greek. The number of credits per course varies by language. Other languages such as Aramaic, Akkadian, or Syriac taken through CourseShare or the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area may be substituted.

Note: Students pursuing the language track may need to take up to 12 credits in language prerequisites to attain the second year level.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental methodological, historical, and/or comparative approaches to the study of religion and culture in the ancient Near East and apply this understanding to specific relevant examples.
2. Describe and illustrate the development of at least two chronological, geographical, or cultural subareas.
3. Formulate and defend an argument about religion and culture in the ancient near east informed by the modern scholarship and amply illustrated with reference to ancient evidence.
4. Language Track: Demonstrate the ability to use the languages they have studied as a tool for deep engagement with ancient source material.

REQUIREMENTS

Course	Title	Credits
Foundations		
One approved I-Series course		3
JWST230	Inventing Traditions: The Making of Rabbinic Judaism	
RELS271	What is Religion?	
RELS273	Jesus, Mani, and Muhammad: The Dynamics of New Religious Movements	
RELS274	Jerusalem in Antiquity: The History of Sacred Space in a Holy City	
Three courses in two or more geographical, chronological, or cultural sub-areas		9
HIST120	Islamic Civilization	
RELS264	Introduction to the New Testament	
JWST225	Religions of the Ancient Near East	
JWST231	Jewish Texts and Cultures of the Second Temple Period	
JWST262	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	
Electives (four must be at the upper level) [1]		**15**
CLAS305	Archaeological Methods and Practice	
HIST110	The Ancient World	
HIST320	Early Christianity: Jesus to Constantine	
HIST428	Selected Topics in History (HIST428R: Transition to Islam: From the Ancient to the Medieval Muslim World)	
JWST324	Biblical History and Culture	
JWST325	Jews and Judaism in Antiquity I: Sixth Century BCE through the First Century CE	
JWST326	Jews and Judaism in Antiquity II: First through Seventh Century	
JWST430	Dead Sea Scrolls	
JWST468	Readings in the Hebrew Bible	
JWST469	Readings in Rabbinic Hebrew	
Capstone		**3**
RELS408	Capstone Seminar for Religions of the Ancient Middle East	
Total Credits		**30**

[1] Other courses by permission.

Tracks
Language Track
- Minimum six additional credits; minimum 36 credits total
- Prerequisite: First year language (6-12 credits)
- Six credits in Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, or other relevant language beyond the first year level
- **Note:** Students who place directly into second year language or above need only complete six credits of language. The number of prerequisite language credits varies by language

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

Click here (https://www.arhu.umd.edu/academics/advising/academic-plans/) for roadmaps for four-year plans in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Additional information on developing a four-year academic plan can be found on the following pages:

- http://4yearplans.umd.edu
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/#success) section of this catalog