

## DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAMS 2010–11

### Overview of Master of Arts Degree Programs

The Religious Studies Department offers three graduate degrees:

MA in Religious Studies  
MA in Religious Studies with Language (Sanskrit or Tibetan)  
Master of Divinity

The **MA in Religious Studies** offers two concentrations: Contemplative Religions and Indo-Tibetan Buddhism.

The Contemplative Religions concentration is especially designed for the student who wishes to join the study of comparative religions with related contemplative practices and interreligious dialogue. Students develop literacy in the living practice traditions of world religions, with a special emphasis on dialogue skills and an appreciation for religious pluralism. Graduates of this program will be especially suited for higher degree studies in religion, as well as teachers within their respective faith communities and secondary school teachers in the humanities, and as adjunct faculty in religious studies at colleges and universities

The Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentration is an in-depth study of Tibetan Buddhism and its Indian roots, with a balance between study and the practice of meditation. These students seek personal enrichment and career enhancement through systematic study of Buddhism and applied meditation. Completion of this degree provides a foundation for further academic work in Buddhism and in the humanities, in general, as well as preparation for careers in nonprofit agencies, dharma centers, secondary school teaching and social service, and as adjunct faculty in religious studies at colleges and universities.

The **MA in Religious Studies with Language** is designed for those students who wish to pursue a PhD in Religious Studies or Buddhist Studies, with the eventual career goal of college or university teaching, or who wish to become professional translators. Students in these degree programs take an additional four courses of Sanskrit or Tibetan; some students elect to study both languages. Graduates who do well in this program regularly enroll in competitive PhD programs.

The **Master of Divinity** degree prepares students for professional work in the fields of pastoral care, chaplaincy, service in spiritually-based communities and socially engaged community development. Please see the Master of Divinity fact sheet for a description of this degree program.

### Master of Arts in Religious Studies: Contemplative Religions

Students who select this degree integrate academic study and personal investigation, through exploring the spiritual and meditative dimensions as well as the teachings, history and cultural expressions of many traditions. Building on a foundation of methodologies for studying religious traditions, the program explores these religions with faculty members who are both academically trained and spiritually practiced in their respective traditions. In addition, students are trained in interreligious dialogue as an avenue to communicate across religious differences in an environment of global

pluralism. The degree is designed to be flexible through incorporating many electives that enable students to select from the departmental course offerings in accordance with their interests.

### MA RELIGIOUS STUDIES: CONTEMPLATIVE RELIGIONS REQUIREMENTS\*

#### First year, fall

REL 645 Methods and Issues in the Study of Religion (3)  
REL 779 Interreligious Dialogue (3)  
Religious Studies Elective (3)  
Contemplative Practice Elective (3)  
**SUBTOTAL 12**

#### First year, spring

REL 585 Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)  
REL 651 Contemplative Practice Retreat<sup>†</sup> (noncredit)  
Three Religious Studies Electives (9)  
**SUBTOTAL 12**

#### Second year, fall

REL 655 Trends in Religious Studies (3)  
Contemplative Practice Elective (3)  
Two Religious Studies Electives (6)  
**SUBTOTAL 12**

#### Second year, spring

REL 672 Non-Dualism in Theory and Practice (3)  
REL 885 Master's Project (noncredit)  
Contemplative Practice Elective (3)  
Religious Studies Elective (3)  
**SUBTOTAL 9**

### TOTAL CREDITS 45

*\*This fact sheet describes the 2009–10 curriculum for the MA Religious Studies: Contemplative Religions program. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the Department of Religious Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

*<sup>†</sup>It is recommended that students complete the noncredit monthlong Contemplative Practice Retreat requirement (REL 651) no later than the winter break between the fall and spring semesters of their second year. This requirement can be done in two-week sections.*

### Religious Studies Electives

#### General Electives

REL 525 Contemplative Christianity (3)  
REL 529 Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer and Acts of Kindness (3)  
REL 530 Contemplative Hinduism (3)  
REL 535 Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)  
REL 545 Contemplative Islam (3)  
REL 623 Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos,

	Ritual & Community (3)
REL 625	Prayer and Prophecy: Biblical Literatures (3)
REL 634	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL 676	Contemplative Jewish Practice (3)
REL 740	Contemporary American Religion (3)

#### Buddhism Electives

REL 546	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL 611	First Turning of the Wheel: Nature of Mind and Emotions (3)
REL 614	Mind and Its World I (3)
REL 624	Mind and Its World II (3)
REL 661	The Second Turning of the Wheel: The Bodhisattva Path (3)
REL 701	The Middle Way School (3)
REL 710	The Third Turning of the Wheel (3)
REL 750	Path to Enlightenment (3)
REL 751	Buddhism in Tibet (3)

#### Contemplative Practice Electives

REL 504W	The Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL 554W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 571	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL 600	Meditation Practicum I: Seeds of Peace (3)
REL 609W	Mindfulness Instructor Training I** (1)
REL 620	Meditation Practicum II: Self & No Self* (3)
REL 635	Meditation Practicum III: Mind-Training* (3)
REL 690W–791W	Shambhala Training Levels I–XII (1)
REL 709W	Mindfulness Instructor Training II ** (1)
REL 780	Meditation Practicum IV: Maitri & Mandala* (3)
REL 809W	Mindfulness Instructor Training III** (1)

\*These courses must be taken in sequence.

\*\*These courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisites for REL 609W are Meditation Practicum I and II as well as a Buddhist monthlong meditation intensive, two weeks of which must be completed before the class begins.

### Master of Arts in Religious Studies: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism

The Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentration spans two years involving the broad, in-depth study of Buddhism as a spiritual, theological and cultural tradition. Course work emphasizes Indian and Tibetan Buddhism. Selective attention is also given to Buddhism in Southeast and East Asia, and the contemporary West.

Tibet played a central role in the development of Buddhism in Asia, preserving the scholastic traditions and texts from its Indian progenitors while deepening the meditative practices and insights from the Indian oral traditions. This MA degree surveys Indian and Tibetan Buddhism with emphasis on textual and meditative lineages, integrating study and practice approaches each semester. The faculty includes Western-trained academics and Acharyas (master teachers) who are steeped in Indo-Tibetan Buddhist practice as well as English-speaking Tibetan lamas extensively trained in their own traditions.

The approach of these programs is nonsectarian, scholarly and critical, relying on the best of contemporary Western and traditional Buddhist scholarship. At the same time, they are also informed and nourished by students' "hands-on" exploration of the major Buddhist meditative traditions and by contact with the living lineages of Asian and Western teachers. The study of Buddhism is carried out within a context of respect for the tradition and appreciation for its humane values and profound spiritual perspectives.

The Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentration combines a western-style History of Religions approach and a classic Tibetan Tradition approach to the study of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism in their first year of study. The History of Religions approach includes cultural, social, artistic, historical, phenomenological and religious perspectives that have been developed over more than twenty-five years of teaching Buddhism to westerners at Naropa University. The Tibetan Tradition approach presents the in-depth foundational material of the traditional educational system of a Tibetan monastic college (shedra), based on the Western-style classes and materials developed at Nitartha Institute since 1995 when it was founded by the Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche. (The Tibetan Tradition emphasis fulfills the core and intermediate curriculum of Nitartha Institute.) By the end of their first year, students chose either a History of Religions emphasis or a Tibetan Tradition emphasis for their remaining courses in Buddhism. The curriculum of both emphases is arranged according to the Three Turnings of the Wheel of Dharma.

### Additional Courses of the History of Religions and Tibetan Tradition Emphases

All students share the same curriculum in the first year. Following that, students selecting the History of Religions emphasis have a 3-credit course called The Third Turning of the Wheel based on the History of Religions methodology, plus 9 credits in religious studies electives, of which at least 3 credits should be a Buddhism elective. Students selecting the Tibetan Tradition emphasis have 6 credits of courses based on the Tibetan monastic college teachings that include attending a monthlong summer program of Nitartha Institute with two courses of the Third Turning called The Mind Only School and Buddha Nature and Shentong Traditions that together constitute 3 credits; their other 3-credit course is Path to Enlightenment, which is offered at Naropa, plus there are 6 credits of religious studies electives.

For details on individual courses, see [www.naropa.edu/religiousstudies](http://www.naropa.edu/religiousstudies).

### MA RELIGIOUS STUDIES: INDO-TIBETAN BUDDHISM: HISTORY OF RELIGIONS & TIBETAN TRADITION EMPHASES REQUIREMENTS\*

The courses students take vary slightly after the first year depending on whether they choose the History of Religions or the Tibetan Tradition emphasis.

#### First year, fall

REL 600	Meditation Practicum I: Seeds of Peace (3)
REL 611	First Turning of the Wheel: The Nature of Mind & Emotions (3)
REL 614	Mind and Its World I (3)
REL 645	Methods and Issues in the Study of Religion (3)

**SUBTOTAL 12**

#### First year, spring

REL 620	Meditation Practicum II: Self and No-Self (3)
REL 624	Mind and Its World II (3)
REL 650	Dathun: Monthlong Meditation Intensive <sup>†</sup> (noncredit)
REL 661	Second Turning of the Wheel: The Bodhisattva Path (3)

**SUBTOTAL 9**

#### First year, summer

*Tibetan Tradition emphasis students only will attend Nitartha Institute<sup>‡</sup>*

REL 705	The Mind Only School (1.5) <i>Tibetan Tradition students only</i>
REL 720	Buddha Nature and Shentong Traditions (1.5) <i>Tibetan Tradition students only</i>

**SUBTOTAL 3 (Tibetan Tradition emphasis)**

## Second year, fall

REL 635	Meditation Practicum III: Mind-Training (3)
REL 701	The Middle Way School (3)
Religious Studies Electives (6)	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

## Second year, spring

REL 710	Third Turning of the Wheel (3) <i>History of Religions students only</i>
REL 750	Path to Enlightenment (3) <i>Tibetan Tradition students only</i>
REL 751	Buddhism in Tibet (3) or
REL 760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography and Ritual (3)
REL 780	Meditation Practicum IV: Maitri & Mandala (3)
REL 885	Master's Paper/Project (noncredit)
Religious Studies Elective (3) <i>History of Religions students only</i>	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>9 (12 History of Religions emphasis)</b>

## TOTAL CREDITS 45

*\*This fact sheet describes the 2009–10 curriculum for the MA Religious Studies: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the Department of Religious Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

*†It is recommended that History of Religions emphasis students complete the noncredit monthlong dathun requirement (REL 650) by the winter break between the fall and spring semesters of their first year, or at the latest during the summer following their first year. Tibetan Tradition emphasis students are only required to attend two weeks of dathun.*

*‡Tibetan Tradition emphasis students are required to attend a monthlong Nitartha Institute program in the summer following their first year. This is integral to the sequence of the curriculum.*

## Religious Studies Electives

At least one of the two electives of the History of Religious emphasis must be a Buddhism elective. The other elective of both emphases can be a Buddhism elective, Religious Studies elective or Contemplative Practice elective.

## Buddhism Electives

REL 540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL 546	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL 710	Third Turning of the Wheel (3)
REL 750	Path to Enlightenment (3)
REL 751	Buddhism in Tibet (3)
REL 760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography and Ritual* (3)

## General Electives

REL 525	Contemplative Christianity (3)
REL 529	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL 530	Contemplative Hinduism (3)
REL 535	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)
REL 545	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL 585	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL 623	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual and Community (3)
REL 625	Prayer and Prophecy: Biblical Literatures (3)
REL 634	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL 676	Contemplative Jewish Practice (3)
REL 749	Contemporary American Religion (3)

## Contemplative Practice Electives

REL 504W	The Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 540	Zen Buddhism (3)

REL 554W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 571	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL 609W	Mindfulness Instructor Training I* (1)
REL 690W–795W	Shambhala Training I–XII (1)
REL 709W	Mindfulness Instructor Training II* (1)
REL 809W	Mindfulness Instructor Training III* (1)

*\*These courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisites for REL 609W are Meditation Practicum I and II as well as a Buddhist monthlong meditation intensive, two weeks of which must be completed before the class begins.*

## Master of Arts in Religious Studies with Language

The MA in Religious Studies with Language is designed for those students who wish to pursue a PhD in Religious Studies or Buddhist Studies, with the eventual career goal of college or university teaching, or who wish to become professional translators. Students in these degree programs take an additional four courses of Sanskrit or Tibetan; some students elect to study both languages. Graduates who do well in this program regularly enroll in competitive PhD programs.

The MA Religious Studies with Language degree offers two concentrations: Contemplative Religions and Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. This 61-credit MA degree includes all the course work of either the Contemplative Religions or the Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentrations described above, plus training in either Sanskrit or Tibetan through two years (16 credits) of language course work. Some students elect to do additional course work to study both languages.

## Sanskrit

The lingua franca of Buddhism, Sanskrit stood close to the spoken tongue of the Buddha himself; it was the idiom of Indian Buddhist texts, and it functioned as the common language of Buddhism throughout Asia. The Sanskrit language option provides students with a knowledge of Sanskrit grammar and vocabulary, as well as initial reading knowledge providing access to the world of Buddhist texts.

## Tibetan

Study of the Tibetan language provides access to the rich and diverse world of Tibetan Buddhist literature, to the oral teachings of contemporary Tibetan masters, and to a great body of Indian texts that survive only in Tibetan translation. The Tibetan language option provides training in both classical Tibetan and the spoken language. Study of classic Tibetan involves learning grammar and vocabulary of the classical language and the reading of texts. Modern Tibetan is learned through the study of the contemporary idiom with practice in hearing and speaking Tibetan.

## MA RELIGIOUS STUDIES WITH LANGUAGE: CONTEMPLATIVE RELIGIONS REQUIREMENTS\*

(Please note that many students choose to complete the program in three rather than two years. For a complete three-year plan, please see your academic advisor.)

## First year, fall

REL 503	Tibetan I (4) or
REL 507	Sanskrit I (4)
REL 645	Methods and Issues in the Study of Religion (3)
REL 779	Interreligious Dialogue (3)
Religious Studies Elective (3)	
Contemplative Practice Elective (3)	

## SUBTOTAL 16

## First year, spring

REL 533	Tibetan II (4) or
REL 537	Sanskrit II (4)
REL 585	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)

REL 651 Contemplative Practice Retreat<sup>†</sup> (noncredit)  
Three Religious Studies Electives (9)  
**SUBTOTAL 16**

#### Second year, fall

REL 553 Tibetan III (4) or  
REL 557 Sanskrit III (4)  
REL 655 Trends in Religious Studies (3)  
Contemplative Practice Elective (3)  
Two Religious Studies Electives (6)  
**SUBTOTAL 16**

#### Second year, spring

REL 583 Tibetan IV (4) or  
REL 587 Sanskrit IV (4)  
REL 672 Non-Dualism in Theory and Practice (3)  
REL 885 Master's Project (noncredit)  
Contemplative Practice Elective (3)  
Religious Studies Elective (3)  
**SUBTOTAL 13**

#### TOTAL CREDITS 61

*\*This fact sheet describes the 2009–10 curriculum for the MA Religious Studies with Language: Contemplative Religions. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the Department of Religious Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

*†It is recommended that students complete the noncredit monthlong Contemplative Practice Retreat requirement (REL 651) no later than the winter break between the fall and spring semesters of their second year. This requirement can be done in two week sections.*

#### Religious Studies Electives

##### Buddhism Electives

REL 546 Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)  
REL 611 First Turning of the Wheel: Nature of Mind and Emotions (3)  
REL 614 Mind and Its World I (3)  
REL 624 Mind and Its World II (3)  
REL 661 The Second Turning of the Wheel: The Bodhisattva Path (3)  
REL 701 The Middle Way School (3)  
REL 710 The Third Turning of the Wheel (3)  
REL 750 Path to Enlightenment (3)  
REL 751 Buddhism in Tibet (3)

##### General Electives

REL 525 Contemplative Christianity (3)  
REL 529 Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer and Acts of Kindness (3)  
REL 530 Contemplative Hinduism (3)  
REL 535 Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)  
REL 545 Contemplative Islam (3)  
REL 623 Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual & Community (3)  
REL 625 Prayer and Prophecy: Biblical Literatures (3)  
REL 634 Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)  
REL 676 Contemplative Jewish Practice (3)  
REL 740 Contemporary American Religion (3)

##### Contemplative Practice Electives

REL 504W The Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)  
REL 540 Zen Buddhism (3)  
REL 554W Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)

REL 571 Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)  
REL 600 Meditation Practicum I: Seeds of Peace (3)  
REL 609W Mindfulness Instructor Training I\*\* (1)  
REL 620 Meditation Practicum II: Self & No Self\* (3)  
REL 635 Meditation Practicum III: Mind-Training\* (3)  
REL 690W –791W Shambhala Training Levels I–XII (1)  
REL 709W Mindfulness Instructor Training II\*\* (1)  
REL 780 Meditation Practicum IV: Maitri & Mandala\* (3)  
REL 809W Mindfulness Instructor Training III\*\* (1)

*\*These courses must be taken in sequence.*

*\*\*These courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisites for REL 609W are Meditation Practicum I and II as well as a Buddhist monthlong meditation intensive, two weeks of which must be completed before the class begins.*

#### MA RELIGIOUS STUDIES WITH LANGUAGE: INDO-TIBETAN BUDDHISM

The Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentration spans two years involving the broad, in-depth study of Buddhism as a spiritual, theological and cultural tradition. Course work emphasizes Indian and Tibetan Buddhism. Selective attention is also given to Buddhism in Southeast and East Asia, and the contemporary West.

Tibet played a central role in the development of Buddhism in Asia, preserving the scholastic traditions and texts from its Indian progenitors while deepening the meditative practices and insights from the Indian oral traditions. This MA degree surveys Indian and Tibetan Buddhism with emphasis on textual and meditative lineages, integrating study and practice approaches each semester. Faculty include Western-trained academics and Acharyas (master teachers) who are steeped in Tibetan Buddhist practice as well as English-speaking Tibetan lamas extensively trained in their own traditions

The approach of these programs is nonsectarian, scholarly and critical, relying on the best of contemporary Western and traditional Buddhist scholarship. At the same time, they are also informed and nourished by students' "hands-on" exploration of the major Buddhist meditative traditions and by contact with the living lineages of Asian and Western teachers. The study of Buddhism is carried out within a context of respect for the tradition and appreciation for its humane values and profound spiritual perspectives.

In addition to Sanskrit and/or Tibetan language study, the MA Indo-Tibetan Buddhism with Language combines a western-style History of Religions approach and a classic Tibetan Tradition approach to the study of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism in their first year of study. The History of Religions approach includes cultural, social, artistic, historical, phenomenological and religious perspectives that have been developed over more than twenty-five years of teaching Buddhism to westerners at Naropa University. The Tibetan Tradition approach presents the in-depth foundational material of the traditional educational system of a Tibetan monastic college (shedra), based on the Western-style classes and materials developed at Nitartha Institute since 1995 when it was founded by the Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche. (The Tibetan Tradition Emphasis fulfills the core and intermediate curriculum of Nirtartha Institute.) By the end of their first year, students chose either a History of Religions Emphasis or a Tibetan Tradition Emphasis for their remaining courses in Buddhism. The curriculum of both emphases is arranged according to the Three Turnings of the Wheel of Dharma.

#### Additional Courses of the History of Religions and Tibetan Tradition Emphases

All students share the same curriculum in the first year. Following that, students selecting the History of Religions emphasis have a 3-credit course called "The Third Turning of the Wheel" based on the History of Religions methodology, plus 9 credits in religious studies electives,

of which at least 3 should be a Buddhism elective. Students selecting the Tibetan Tradition emphasis have 6 credits of courses based on the Tibetan monastic college teachings that include attending a monthlong summer program of Nitartha Institute with two courses of the Third Turning called The Mind Only School and Buddha Nature and Shentong Traditions that together constitute 3 credits; their other 3-credit course is called Path to Enlightenment which is offered at Naropa, plus there are 6 credits of religious studies electives.

### **MA RELIGIOUS STUDIES WITH LANGUAGE: INDO-TIBETAN BUDDHISM: HISTORY OF RELIGIONS AND TIBETAN TRADITION EMPHASES REQUIREMENTS\***

The courses students take vary slightly after the first year depending on whether they choose the History of Religions or the Tibetan Tradition emphasis, as noted below. For details on individual courses, see [www.naropa.edu/religiousstudies](http://www.naropa.edu/religiousstudies).

(Please note that many students complete the program in three rather than two years. For a complete three-year plan, please see your academic advisor).

#### **First year, fall**

REL 503	Tibetan I (4) or
REL 507	Sanskrit I (4)
REL 600	Meditation Practicum I: Seeds of Peace (3)
REL 611	First Turning of the Wheel: Nature of Mind and Emotions (3)
REL 614	Mind and Its World I (3)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

#### **First year, spring**

REL 533	Tibetan II (4) or
REL 537	Sanskrit II (4)
REL 620	Meditation Practicum II: Self and No-Self (3)
REL 624	Mind and Its World II (3)
REL 650	Dathun: Monthlong Meditation Intensive <sup>†</sup> (noncredit)
REL 661	Second Turning of the Wheel: The Bodhisattva Path (3)
	Religious Studies Elective (3)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>

#### **First year, summer**

*Tibetan Tradition emphasis students will attend Nitartha Institute<sup>‡</sup> only*

REL 705	The Mind Only School (1.5) <i>Tibetan Tradition students only</i>
REL 720	Buddha Nature and Shentong Traditions (1.5) <i>Tibetan Tradition students only</i>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>3 Tibetan Tradition only</b>

#### **Second year, fall**

REL 553	Tibetan III (4) or
REL 557	Sanskrit III (4)
REL 635	Meditation Practicum III: Mind-Training (3)
REL 645	Methods and Issues in the Study of Religion (3)
REL 701	The Middle Way School (3)
	Religious Studies Elective (3)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>

#### **Second year, spring**

REL 583	Tibetan IV (4) or
REL 587	Sanskrit IV (4)
REL 710	Third Turning of the Wheel (3) <i>History of Religions students only</i>
REL 750	Path to Enlightenment (3) <i>Tibetan Tradition students only</i>
REL 751	Buddhism in Tibet (3) or
REL 760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography & Ritual (3)
REL 780	Meditation Practicum IV: Maitri & Mandala (3)
REL 885	Master's Project (noncredit)

Religious Studies Elective (3) *History of Religions students only*

**SUBTOTAL 13 (16 for History of Religions students)**

**TOTAL CREDITS 61**

*\*This fact sheet describes the 2009–10 curriculum for the MA Religious Studies with Language: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the Department of Religious Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

*†It is highly recommended that students complete the noncredit monthlong dathun requirement (REL 650) by the winter break between the fall and spring semesters of their first year, or at the latest during the summer following their first year.*

*‡Students are required to attend a monthlong Nitartha Institute program in the summer following their first year. This is integral to the sequence of the curriculum.*

### **Religious Studies Electives**

#### **Buddhism Electives**

REL 540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL 546	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL 710	Third Turning of the Wheel (3)
REL 750	Path to Enlightenment (3)
REL 751	Buddhism in Tibet (3)
REL 760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography & Ritual (3)

#### **General Electives**

REL 525	Contemplative Christianity (3)
REL 529	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL 530	Contemplative Hinduism (3)
REL 535	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)
REL 545	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL 585	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL 623	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual & Community (3)
REL 625	Prayer and Prophecy: Biblical Literatures (3)
REL 634	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL 676	Contemplative Jewish Practice (3)
REL 749	Contemporary American Religion (3)

#### **Contemplative Practice Electives**

REL 504W	The Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL 554	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL 571	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL 609W	Mindfulness Instructor Training I *(1)
REL 690W–795W	Shambhala Training I–XII (1)
REL 709W	Mindfulness Instructor Training II *(1)
REL 809W	Mindfulness Instructor Training III *(1)

*\* These courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisites for REL 609W are Meditation Practicum I and II as well as a Buddhist monthlong meditation intensive, two weeks of which must be completed before the class begins.*

### **Note on Fees:**

There are several expenses associated with noncredit requirements in the Religious Studies Department programs. These do not involve any Naropa tuition cost but do involve costs paid to the organizations offering these programs. For all students, there is the cost of the noncredit dathun (approx. \$1,000). There are also occasionally smaller course fees, which are subject to change, associated with individual classes. For students choosing the Tibetan Tradition emphasis, there may be additional costs associated with attending the monthlong summer

program of Nitartha Institute. These students register for a 3-credit course through Naropa that will cover the tuition cost (approx. \$1,500), but not the room and board, text and teaching gift of the Nitartha program (approx. \$1,500). The Religious Studies Department and the Nitartha Institute both work to provide partial scholarships for these additional costs. The net additional cost to the students may be on the order of \$500, but this can vary. Scholarships are offered through the Fredrick P. Lenz Foundation and other donors to help pay for a portion of these program costs.

## Careers

Students have taken their understanding of Buddhism, as well as the heightened sense of clarity, insight and warmth that the program seeks to develop, into a wide variety of postgraduation career directions. Some students apply the theoretical, ethical and practical knowledge learned in the program in the concrete contexts of service projects and organizations. Some students also move on to further involvement with one or the other of the Buddhist traditions studied in the program as practitioners, translators or teachers. Most of our students find the time they have spent studying Buddhism an ongoing source of inspiration, knowledge and practical wisdom in the contemporary world.

A small but steady number of our students do go on to further graduate study of Buddhism or religious studies at the PhD level with long-range objectives of university teaching, research, writing or translation. Some also choose the goal of becoming independent translators. Others seek further professional training or move directly into the workforce.

Below are some specific careers found by recent graduates of the Religious Studies degree programs:

- Accepted into PhD program, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- Case manager, Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, Boulder, CO
- Professor, Colorado University, Religious Studies Dept., Boulder, CO
- Accepted into PhD program, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
- Independent Tibetan translator, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church, Laramie, Cheyenne WY
- Accepted into PhD program, University of Santa Barbara, CA
- Tibetan translator to the Ven. Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso, Rinpoche
- Minister, Tri State Buddhist Temple, Denver, CO
- Accepted into PhD program, University of Virginia
- Member of Nalanda Translation Committee, Halifax, Canada
- Accepted into PhD program, University of the West, Rosemead, CA
- Professor, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA
- Accepted into PhD program, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA

## Religious Studies Department Ranked Faculty

**Roger Dorris, PhD (sabbatical 2009–10)**

**AAS, BA, Metropolitan State College of Denver;  
MA, The Naropa Institute; PhD, Union Institute.**

Roger Dorris recently completed doctoral work with a focus on community-building and large-group transformation. He has worked extensively with marginalized populations including the homeless, the incarcerated and those suffering from addiction. He's been a practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism since the mid-'70s and was ordained as a Buddhist minister in 1999. He has been ranked faculty at Naropa University since 1995 where he helped establish the Master of Divinity program.

**Lama Sarah Harding**

**BA, Naropa University.**

Sarah Harding is a lama in the Shangpa Kagyü tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, completing the first three-year retreat for westerners in 1980 under H.E. Kalu Rinpoche. She works as a teacher, oral interpreter and translator. She has published many of her translations, including *Creation*

*and Completion* and *Machik's Complete Explanation*. She has been an instructor in the Religious Studies Department since 1992 and also received a BA in religious studies from Naropa University. She is currently working on translations as a fellow of the Tsadra Foundation and continues to run her Tibetan Language Correspondence Course.

**Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen**

**Ka-Rabajampa, Nalanda institute.**

Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen excelled in his studies at Karma Shri Nalanda Institute of Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim under some of the greatest living masters in the Kagyü lineage. He then completed the traditional three year retreat. Acharya Tenpa served for several years as the resident teacher of Thegsum Tashi Chöling in Hamburg, Germany. He is a senior teacher of the Nitartha Institute, which presents the teachings of the Tibetan monastic educational tradition to westerners.

**Victoria Howard, PhD**

**BA, Barnard College of Columbia University;**

**PhD, Clinical psychology, Union Institute.**

Victoria Howard is a Buddhist minister in the Shambhala tradition. She has worked extensively with the aged and the dying and co-founded and co-directed Dana Home Care, a national, nonprofit organization providing in-home care for frail seniors. She currently teaches in the Master of Divinity program at Naropa. Dr. Howard has assisted in the development of a number of innovative senior care residences and consults for elder care agencies and facilities in the Denver-Metro area. She also works with the Hospice of Boulder County.

**Acharya Judith Simmer-Brown, PhD**

**BA, Cornell College; MA, Florida State University;**

**PhD, Walden University; PhD (cand.), Columbia University.**

Judith Simmer-Brown became a Zen student of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi in 1971, and a student of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche in 1974. She has been a ranked faculty member in Religious Studies at the university since 1978. She lectures and writes on Tibetan Buddhism, women and Buddhism, Buddhist-Christian dialogue and American Buddhism, and is an Acharya (senior dharma teacher) in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition. She is on the board of the Society of Buddhist-Christian Studies and a member of the Lilly Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter. Her books are *Dakini's Warm Breath: The Feminine Principle in Tibetan Buddhism* (Shambhala, 2001), and with Brother David Steindl-Rast, et al., *Benedict's Dharma: Buddhists Comment on the Rule of St. Benedict* (Riverhead, 2001).

**Phillip Stanley, PhD**

**BA, University of North Carolina-at-Chapel-Hill; MBA, University of Michigan; MA, University of Virginia; PhD, University of Virginia.**

Phillip Stanley is chair of the Religious Studies Department. He is dean of academic affairs for Nitartha Institute, a member of the Executive Council of the International Association of Buddhist Universities, and co-director of the Tibetan Buddhist Canonical Collections Cataloging Project of the Tibetan Himalayan Library that will launch an online catalog of multiple editions of the Tibetan Kangyur and Tengyur collections with links to scans of all 5,000 plus texts in the summer of 2009. He has been selected to lead the Union Catalog of Buddhist Texts project that will launch a prototype online catalog of all the major Buddhist canonical collections by 2011. He received a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for doctoral research on the nine-vehicle texts of the Nyingma school of Tibet. A member of the Nalanda Translation Committee, he has been a student of Trungpa Rinpoche since 1974 and has taught Buddhism and Shambhala Training since 1981. He is writing a book on the canons of Buddhism and the history of the Tibetan Buddhist canon. He developed the first-year primer of literary Tibetan used at Naropa.

**Rabbi Zvi Ish-Shalom**

**BA, McGill University; MA, Brandeis University;**

**PhD (cand.), Brandeis University.**

Rabbi Zvi Ish-Shalom descends from a long lineage of rabbis in the mystical tradition of Hasidism. He trained in rabbinical schools in New York and Israel and was ordained as a rabbi in both the Orthodox and neo-Hasidic traditions. Before coming to Naropa University, he served for four and a half years as the rabbi for Congregation Har Shalom in Fort Collins, Colorado. His current areas of academic interest include Comparative Mysticism, Kabbalah, Hasidism, East-West Studies, Psychology of Religion, Somatic Spirituality, and Contemplative Ecumenism, inter alia. Rabbi Zvi is also a Certified Rolfer® and has a contemplative bodywork practice in Boulder.

**Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, PhD, Professor Emeritus**

**PhD, Hebrew Union College.**

Rabbi Schachter has held the World Wisdom Seat at Naropa University and is Professor Emeritus at Temple Institute. He is a major figure in the Jewish spiritual renewal movement, presenting the central teachings of Hasidism and Kabbalah in a contemporary and heartfelt manner. He was ordained in 1947 and received a PhD in 1968 from Hebrew Union College. He has published more than 150 articles and monographs on the Jewish spiritual life and has translated many Hasidic and Kabbalistic texts. In 1989 Rabbi Schachter founded the Spiritual Eldering Institute to meet the needs of the current generation of elders.

### **Guest Faculty**

**Ven. Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche**

**Ka-rabajampa, Nalanda Institute; Acharya degree, Sanskrit University.**

Ven. Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche is acknowledged as one of the foremost scholars and educators of his generation in the Nyingma and Kagyü schools of Tibetan Buddhism. He received the Kagyü and Nyingma lineages of teachings and empowerments from His Holiness Karmapa, H. H. Dilgo Khyentse, Rinpoche, and other great teachers. H. H. the 16th Karmapa recognized him as a reincarnate master, the 7th in the line of the Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoches. Rinpoche founded and continues to direct Nitartha International, Nalandabodhi and the Nitartha Institute, which focus, respectively, on the preservation of endangered ancient texts, study and meditation training, and traditional Buddhist education.

**Ven. Khenpo Anyen Rinpoche**

Ven. Khenpo Anyen Rinpoche is a tulku from Amdo, Tibet, and is an esteemed scholar as well as the heart son of his root Lama, Tsara Dharmakirti Rinpoche. He is the fifth in an unbroken lineage of heart sons who received their uncommon lineage of the Longchen Nyingthig and introduction to the Dzogchen teachings directly from the renowned Dzogchen master Patrul Rinpoche. Anyen Rinpoche's training included more than fourteen years of intensive study combined with solitary retreat before he obtained the degree of khenpo and became the head scholar of his root Lama's monastic university in Kham, Tibet.

### **Ranked Faculty from Other Departments**

**Acharya Dale Asrael** (Transpersonal Counseling Psychology), **Jane Carpenter** (Contemplative Psychology), **Acharya Gaylon Ferguson** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Fr. Alan Hartway** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Andrew Schelling** (Writing and Poetics), **Robert Spellman** (Visual Arts), **Candace Walworth** (Peace Studies)

### **Adjunct Faculty**

**Sreedevi Bringi, Patrick D'Silva, David Frenette, Stephen Hatch, Rabbi Howard Hoffman, Giovannina Jobson, Jeremy Lowry, Rev. Penny Rather, L. S. Summer, Gerry Shishin Wick Roshi, Stephanie Yuhas**

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

You are strongly encouraged to visit Naropa University. Events for prospective students are scheduled every fall and spring. See [www.naropa.edu/admissions/grad\\_events.cfm](http://www.naropa.edu/admissions/grad_events.cfm) for more information. The visitation coordinator will be happy to arrange for you to meet with an admissions counselor or a member of our faculty, visit a class or take a campus tour. Arapahoe Campus tours are offered Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. in the main lobby of the Administration Building. The visitation coordinator can be contacted at 303-546-3548 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) or by email at [admissions@naropa.edu](mailto:admissions@naropa.edu). You can also use the online Visitation Request form or you may view our campus from the online tour.

If you decide you would like to apply for admission, we prefer that you do so electronically via [www.naropa.edu/apply](http://www.naropa.edu/apply).

### **Suggested Deadline**

Naropa University uses a rolling admission policy. Applicants may apply as early as September for summer and fall admission. Applications received between September 1 and the suggested deadline will be given equal consideration. Applications received after the suggested deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

- January 15 for fall semester admission

## **GRADUATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution is required for admission to all graduate programs.

A completed graduate application for one of the Master of Arts degree programs in the Religious Studies Department consists of the following:

1. Completed application form.
2. \$60 nonrefundable application fee in the form of a check or money order, payable to "Naropa University." Applicant's name must be clearly indicated on the check.
3. Three-to-five-page typed, double-spaced statement of interest.
4. Resumé.
5. Three letters of recommendation (all must be on the forms provided and not from family members or current therapists).
6. Official transcripts of all previous college-level study that reflect the completion of a bachelor's degree, sent directly to Naropa's Admissions Office from the registrar of previous institutions or in a sealed envelope with the application.
7. Telephone or in-person interview.
8. An academic writing sample of no less than five pages. It may be either previously written (please indicate when) or a new essay on a specific topic that is different from that of your statement of interest.
9. Applicant must demonstrate personal maturity and strong academic skills.
10. Applicant must have an interest in studying Buddhist principles and mindfulness meditation practices in a nonsectarian context.