

## BACHELOR OF ARTS MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2012-13

### Program Description

Through the 36-credit Religious Studies major, students explore religion in a variety of ways, with an emphasis upon the expression of historical traditions in contemporary life. Special emphasis is placed upon the role of contemplative practice in the world's great religions. All students must take a series of 16 credits that introduce the study of religion and contemplative practice. Students choose 9 credits from the Religious Traditions courses, which serve as introductory studies of major world religions. The additional 11 credits may be selected from core areas of study: contemporary issues in religion, contemplative practice, and practice intensives.

The study of Buddhism and other religious traditions at Naropa takes place within a context of respect for contemporary human values and profound spiritual perspectives. Students are challenged in classes to develop powers of observation, hone critical skills, refine intuitive understanding, and heighten emotional appreciation for other ways of seeing the world. The major is informed and nourished by students' exploration of meditative traditions and by contact with the living lineages of contemporary meditation teachers.

### BA in Religious Studies Requirements

#### Required Courses

REL328W	BA Group Retreat (0.5) Year one
REL328W	BA Group Retreat (0.5) Year two
REL351	Religious Studies Seminar: Theory and Method (3)
REL479	Capstone Seminar and Senior Project (3)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

#### Choose 3 credits from the following courses:

(Prerequisites for 300-level classes)

REL160	Meditation Practicum I: Freeing the Mind (3)
REL271	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL390W-392W	Shambhala Training I-III (3)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>

#### Choose 6 credits from the following courses:

(Prerequisites for 300-level classes)

REL150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL210	Religion and Mystical Experience (3)
REL247	Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

#### Choose 9 credits from the following Religious Traditions courses:

REL150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL229	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer, and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL240	Foundations of Buddhism (3)
REL314	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL321	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)
REL323	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual, and Community (3)
REL325	Contemplative Christianity (3)
REL330	Contemplative Hinduism (3)

REL334	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL346	Wisdom and Compassion: The Buddhist Path (3)
REL349	Tibetan Buddhism: Inside the Mystique (3)
REL355	Sanskrit in the Sacred Traditions of India (3)
REL376	Psychodrama: Role Playing the Ancient Torah (3)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>

Undergraduate students may petition to take MA courses in Buddhism after REL160, 240 and 346 are completed.

#### Choose 11 credits from the following two categories:

##### Contemporary Issues in Religion

REL210	Religion and Mystical Experience (3)
REL212	Queer Theory, Feminism, and Religion (3)
REL247	Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)
REL312	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL348	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)

##### Contemplative Practice

REL158W	Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL160	Meditation Practicum I: Freeing the Mind (3)
REL170	Meditation Practicum II (3)
REL250	Spirituality and Creative Expression (3)
REL255W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL258	Monthlong Meditation Intensive: A Program of Buddhist Practice and Study (1.5-3)
REL271	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL345	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL390W-495W	Shambhala Training Levels I-XII (1)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

#### **TOTAL CREDITS 36**

*\*This fact sheet describes the 2011-12 curriculum for the major in Religious Studies. 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 School of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

### Minor in Sanskrit Language or Tibetan Language

Undergraduate students may also choose to minor in Buddhist languages, either Sanskrit or Tibetan. A sequence of four courses (4 credits each) is offered in each language. The requirement of the minor is to take the first three of these four courses. However, students are encouraged to consider taking the fourth semester of the language as an elective. Students who have completed all four Tibetan courses are eligible to apply to the Nalanda Translation Committee Apprenticeship Program, which provides funding for one year (or more) for further Tibetan language training with the Translation Committee after graduation.

Sanskrit I-III (12) or Tibetan I-III (12)

## TOTAL CREDITS 12

Normally, students are not able to fulfill their minor requirement through courses that are offered in their major department. However, the language courses offered by the Religious Studies Department do not qualify as courses specifically on religion and at other colleges are generally offered in separate departments. For these reasons, Religious Studies majors may elect to take a minimum of three 4-credit courses in either Sanskrit or Tibetan (12 credits) in order to fulfill their minor.

### Minor in Religious Studies

Choose 3 credits from the following:

REL150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL210	Religion and Mystical Experience (3)
REL247	Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)

Choose 9 credits from the following:

REL150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL158W	Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL160	BA Meditation Practicum I: Freeing the Mind (3)
REL170	BA Meditation Practicum II (3)
REL210	Religion and Mystical Experience (3)
REL212	Queer Theory, Feminism and Religion I (3)
REL229	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer, and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL240	Foundations of Buddhism (3)
REL247	Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)
REL250	Spirituality and Creative Expression (3)
REL255W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL271	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL312	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL314	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL321	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)
REL323	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual, and Community (3)
REL325	Contemplative Christianity (3)
REL330	Contemplative Hinduism (3)
REL334	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL345	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL346	Wisdom and Compassion: The Buddhist Path (3)
REL348	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL349	Tibetan Buddhism: Inside the Mystique (3)
REL355	Sanskrit in the Sacred Traditions of India (3)
REL376	Psychodrama: Role Playing the Ancient Torah (3)
REL390W	Shambhala Training Levels I-XII (1-3)
-495W	

## TOTAL CREDITS 12

### Certificate Program in Religious Studies

This 30-credit certificate program is designed for those who wish to immerse themselves in a study of contemplative religious traditions and is open to students who have completed at least 60 semester credits prior to entering Naropa University.

#### Required Courses

REL328W	BA Group Retreat (0.5) Year one
REL328W	BA Group Retreat (0.5) Year two
REL351	Religious Studies Seminar: Theory and Method (3)
REL479	Capstone Seminar and Senior Project (3)
SUBTOTAL	7

Choose 3 credits from the following courses:

(Prerequisites for 300-level classes)

REL160	Meditation Practicum I: Freeing the Mind (3)
REL271	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL390W	Shambhala Training I-III (3)
-392W	
SUBTOTAL	3

Choose 6 credits from the following courses:

(Prerequisites for 300-level classes)

REL150	Buddhist Journey of Transformation: An Introduction (3)
REL210	Religion and Mystical Experience (3)

REL247 Embodying Sacred Wisdom: Modern Saints (3)

SUBTOTAL 6

Choose the following from the course guide:

Religious Studies Courses (14)

**TOTAL CREDITS 30**

### Career Preparation

The BA in Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary degree, providing graduates with the knowledge base and intellectual, communication, and interpersonal skills essential to success in any career. It provides preparation for graduate education in law, business, and the helping professions as well as in any area of the social sciences or humanities where in-depth knowledge of religion will be a distinct advantage in one's career. More specifically, knowledge of religion—and the ability to think clearly and communicate effectively about it—is valuable in fields that involve public affairs, international and cross-cultural relations, religious issues and groups, or interaction with diverse individuals and populations. While it provides insights into the role of religion in personal, group, and societal identity and conflict, studying religion does not require any particular religious background or commitment.

### Religious Studies Ranked Faculty

Roger Dorris, PhD

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

Roger Dorris recently completed doctoral work in the field of engaged Buddhist studies with a focus on community-building and large-group transformation. He has worked extensively with marginalized populations including the homeless, those 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 Engaged Buddhism and Master of Divinity programs.

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.

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.

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, CO. His current areas of academic interest include comparative mysticism, Kabbalah, Hasidism, East-West studies, psychology of religion, somatic spirituality, and contemplative ecumenism, among others. Rabbi Zvi is also a certified Rolfer® and has a contemplative bodywork practice in Boulder.

### Donald Matthews

BS, Northwestern University; MA, Northwestern University Graduate School; MDiv, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley; PhD, The Divinity School, The University of Chicago

Donald Matthews received his PhD in Religion and Human Sciences with concentrations in The Sociology and Psychology of Religion; and Theological Ethics. He has taught at numerous universities and seminaries in the areas of Religion and Society, African American Studies, Sociology, and Anthropology. His clinical training includes certification in Clinical Pastoral Education and as a licensed Speech and Language Pathologist. His current research interests are in the abuse of power, social oppression; and ministry to the homeless. Dr. Matthews has published in the fields of pastoral care, African American religion and social ethics. He was ordained by the United Methodist Church.

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Professor Emeritus  
PhD, Hebrew Union College.

Rabbi Schachter-Shalomi 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-Shalomi founded the Spiritual Eldering Institute to meet the needs of the current generation of elders.

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 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 launched an online catalog of multiple editions of the Tibetan Kangyur and Tengyur collections with links to scans of all five thousand 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 Chögyam 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.

### Guest Faculty

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 includes 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), Andrew Schelling (Writing & Poetics), Robert Spellman (Visual Arts), Candace Walworth (Peace Studies)

### Adjunct Faculty

Patsy Barnes, Sreedevi Bringi, Patrick D'Silva, David Frenette, Fr. Alan Hartway, Stephan Hatch, Rabbi Howard Hoffman, Giovannina Jobson, Rev. Penny Rather, Nora Smith, L. S. Summer, Stephanie Yuhas

### Declaring a Major in Religious Studies

Most students enter Naropa University as first-year students and declare a major after completing 30 credits.

### BA in Religious Studies Admission Requirements

#### Campus Tours

Prospective students are invited to visit Naropa University. There are events scheduled every fall and spring for prospective students. See [www.naropa.edu/admissions/ugrad\\_events.cfm](http://www.naropa.edu/admissions/ugrad_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 [admissionevents@naropa.edu](mailto:admissionevents@naropa.edu). You can also use the online Visitation Request form or view our campus from the online tour.

#### Priority Deadlines

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 priority deadline will be given equal consideration. Applications received after the priority deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

- January 15 for fall semester admission
- October 15 for spring semester admission

Please contact the Office of Admissions at 303-546-3572 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) for more information.

#### Application Requirements

There are three ways of applying to Naropa University:

1. Apply online at [www.naropa.edu/apply](http://www.naropa.edu/apply) or [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).
2. Download the Naropa undergraduate application form at [www.naropa.edu/ugradapply](http://www.naropa.edu/ugradapply).
3. Request that an application be sent to you in the mail.

To apply for admission to the Religious Studies major, the following is required:

1. Parts A and B of application form.
2. \$50 nonrefundable 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. Part C of the application form—three essays (all must be typed).
4. Official college transcript for every university attended (must be sent in a sealed envelope from the registrar), showing proof of 30 semester credits.
5. Letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor. If you have been out of school for more than three years, please request a letter

of recommendation from a supervisor. This letter must be on or attached to the form provided.

6. A phone or in-person interview.

If you have fewer than 30 semester credits, you must apply to Naropa University as an undeclared student. See [www.naropa.edu/ugradapply](http://www.naropa.edu/ugradapply) for specific admission requirements. If you have 30 or more semester credits, you may apply directly to the major.