



Purpose of the Collection: To support the curricular and research needs of faculty and students in the Department of Religious Studies. The Department offers courses of study leading to the Bachelor Arts and Master of Arts (thesis, non-thesis, and non-profit management concentrations are offered). At the undergraduate level, the interdisciplinary course of study in comparative religion brings together perspectives from a variety of areas, including anthropology, African-American studies, art history, history, music, philosophy, political science, and sociology. The Masters of Religious Studies trains students in a range of world religious traditions and modern theoretical perspectives. All students gain an understanding of comparative approaches to the study of religion while having the opportunity to specialize in one or more specific religious tradition(s), including: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, religions of Africa, Native American religions, and new religious movements.

General Collection Guidelines:

a. **Languages:** English is the primary language of the collection. Materials in languages other than English are added upon request.

b. **Chronological Guidelines:** No limitations. Materials relevant to the study of the various religious traditions from their ancient beginnings to the present are collected.

c. **Geographical Guidelines:** No restrictions. The religions of all countries and cultures are collected. The diverse nature of religion is emphasized, not only in world traditions, but also in American traditions and contemporary movements.

d. **Date of Publication:** Both current and retrospective material are acquired. No preference is given to original printings or editions over reprints.

e. **Types of Materials:** Monographs and periodicals form the basis of the collection. Audio-visual materials and electronic resources are collected selectively in consultation with faculty.

f. **Treatment of the Subject:** Emphasis is on the texts of sacred works, the works and biographies of major religious figures, histories of religion and of the major religions, methodology, and anthropological, sociological, philosophical, literary, and psychological studies of religion. Theology, commentaries, concordances, popular religious literature, practical theology, and missionary literature are rarely collected.

Related Collection Development Policies:

- African-American Studies

- Anthropology
- Art and Design
- English
- Global Studies
- History
- Music
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Revised: 08/2017