Discover World Religions

LOCALLY

The Twin Cities encompasses significant religious diversity. Joining the early established Native American, Christian and Jewish groups, Muslims arrived in the mid-twentieth century, and changes in immigration laws in 1965 brought Hindus and Sikhs. Recent immigration has brought Hmong indigenous practices; Laotian, Cambodian and Thai Buddhists; Russian (Orthodox) Jews; East African Muslims and Orthodox Ethiopians.

We hope to propose a course that will look at the varieties of religious practice in the Twin Cities as a way of exploring world religions. We would look at Native American practice as well as the religious practices of immigrants, from Scandinavian Lutherans to Somali Muslims. The course would stress the ways in which global religions have become neighborhood practices in the Twin Cities. We would look not only at the religions in and of themselves but the ways in which they interact (both positively and in tension) to form the Twin Cities religious landscape.
Religion is a fundamental part of human experience and meaning. It informs all aspects of human society, from individual and collective identity to personal relationships to political sympathies to scientific investigation to artistic creativity. The study of religion, as a result, ranges widely across human experience and the various academic disciplines.

The interdepartmental religious studies major brings together perspectives, approaches, questions, and expertise from many disciplines. Students in the major focus their work on a specific theme, religious tradition, region, or time period, while also gaining a breadth of knowledge across different traditions.
Maple Grove
Hindu Temple of Minnesota

Minneapolis
St.Paul

Roseville
Chua Phat An,
Vietnamese Buddhist Temple

Hampton
Watt Munisotaram,
Cambodian Buddhist Temple

Rochester
Hindu Samaj Temple of Minnesota
Contemporary Religious Diversity

Store shrine to the earth god. Minneapolis.

Minaret and neon “Allah” on Lake Plaza market. Minneapolis.

Buddhist shrine and offering materials in a Lao grocery store. Minneapolis.


St. Mary’s Orthodox Church. Minneapolis.
Hinduism

Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Architect: Muthu Muthiah Stapathy & Leo A. Daly.
Historical Religious Diversity

Spirit Island, Mississippi River. Downtown Minneapolis. Razed, early 20th century.

Immanuel Evangelical Slovak Lutheran Church, Bohemian Flats, Minneapolis. Photograph, ca. 1900.

Mikro Kodesh Synagogue, 720 Oak Lake Avenue, Minneapolis. Photograph, ca. 1910.

St. Mary’s Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, Fifth Street and Seventeenth Avenue Northeast, Minneapolis. Photograph, ca. 1910 by Charles J. Hibbard.
Buddhism


Watt Munisotaram. Hampton, Minnesota.

An altar created for a Tibetan Buddhist Losar (new year) celebration.
