The Study of Religion major is a designated capstone major. Students must complete an advanced seminar that provides them with unique opportunity to work closely with a faculty member on a focused topic of research. The experience culminates in a paper or other research project. Through their capstone experience, students are expected to:

• demonstrate the ability to plan a major project and carry it through a lengthy process that concludes with writing a cogent and convincing document.

• apply knowledge of a wide-ranging bibliography and of methods of research to prepare thoroughly for seriously engaging the person to be interviewed for 5-6 hours or for writing the prospectus describing the major project.

• develop skills essential to taking oral histories or to doing field research in the vast resources of Los Angeles’ multi-cultural population.

• further polish their ability to organize research data into a coherent and persuasive form for oral presentation to their peers in the seminar.

• prove in all the work described above that they have indeed become “empathetic critics” of a wide array of religious traditions, institutions, and practices.