

# PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Welcome to Philosophy and Religious Studies

Welcome to Youngstown State University and the programs of Philosophy and Religious Studies! Our programs have a lot to offer on matters of central importance to the lives of our students, our community, and the mission of YSU. In addition to our wonderful course offerings, we have a vibrant student organization, organize a speakers series with world-class scholars, and are home to both the James Dale Ethics Center and the Center for Islamic Studies. I encourage you to explore our website (<http://philrel.ysu.edu/>) to learn more about the offerings of the Philosophy and Religious Studies programs at Youngstown State University!

The YSU Programs of Philosophy and Religious Studies offer a wealth of productive studies for life and technical knowledge for career opportunities. Our programs make an excellent addition to complement any career. The majors in Philosophy or Religious Studies are also sound preparations for a wide range of graduate programs. The department offers degrees in Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Pre-Counseling (with either a Philosophy or a Religious Studies focus), as well as a number of minors.

-Alan Tomhave, Chair, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Contact Information

Alan Tomhave, Chair and Program Coordinator - [aetomhave@ysu.edu](mailto:aetomhave@ysu.edu) - (330) 941-3447

For more information, call (330) 941-3448 or visit the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies (<http://www.yzu.edu/philrel/>).

I am located in 520 DeBartolo Hall.

## Specialized Centers

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies houses The Dr. James Dale Ethics Center and the Center for Islamic Studies.

### The Dr. James Dale Ethics Center

The Dr. James Dale Ethics Center was founded in 1993 to support the study and teaching of ethics and to promote moral reflection and conduct in personal and professional life. Its activities are guided by the conviction that institutions of higher education play a crucially important role in creating and sustaining a democratic people, concerned not only with private but also common purposes. To accomplish its mission, the Center:

- Sponsors ethics seminars, workshops, and conferences for regional professionals;
- Offers lectures to the University and general community;
- Provides ethics consultation for regional organizations;
- Promotes the scholarship of teaching and learning of ethics

The Director of the Ethics Center is Dr. Mark Vopat, Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

### The Center for Islamic Studies

The Center for Islamic Studies is devoted to the scholarly study of Islam and to educating the community about Islamic religion, history, and culture. It was created through an agreement between the Youngstown Muslim community and Youngstown State University. To accomplish its mission, the Center:

- Offers lectures to the University and general community;
- Co-publishes (with the Iqbal Academy Pakistan) the *Iqbal Quarterly*, which aims to introduce the works of the South Asian poet-thinker Muhammad Iqbal to general readers in the English-speaking world;
- Participates in The Pluralism Project of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, which publishes *E Pluribus*, a newsletter devoted to interfaith activities in the Mahoning Valley and to events of general interest in the field of religious pluralism.

The Director of the Center for Islamic Studies is Dr. Mustansir Mir, University Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

## Philosophy Circle

The Philosophy Circle is a group of more than 140 faculty, alumni, and friends whose donations support special departmental activities, including awards for outstanding student papers and funding for the Dr. Thomas and Albert Shipka Speakers Series. The Shipka Speakers Series has sponsored over 40 lectures by outstanding scholars, on topics related to philosophy and religious studies that are of wide interest to both the university and the larger community. For videos of recent talks, see the Shipka Speakers Series (<http://philrel.ysu.edu/shipka-speakers-series/>) page.

## Departmental Scholarships

The programs of Philosophy and Religious Studies offer the following scholarships. Please contact the department office for more information.

- Evangelos Michelakis Meshel Scholarship in Philosophy
- Robert G. & S. Ann Berich Meigetter Scholarships in Philosophy
- Dr. Earl Eugene Eminhizer Scholarship in Religious Studies
- Sister Jean Gillespie Memorial Award in Religious Studies
- Bevan-Dillingham Scholarship in Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Helen Pavlov Memorial Scholarship in Philosophy and Religious Studies

## Philosophy and Religious Studies Club

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Club is a student-run group open to all persons interested in philosophy and religious studies. The club hosts an annual educational fundraiser that showcases the interests of a department faculty member. Topics vary for this popular evening complete with music, food, and wine tasting. The students also organize bi-monthly "Eat Drink Think" events (EDT), which are social events focused on classic and modern texts held over food and drinks. EDT events provide a nice forum for majors, non-majors, and community members to delve deeply into persistent questions in philosophy and religion and their relation to public policy, national and global events, and academics. For more information, please visit Philosophy and Religious Studies (<http://www.yzu.edu/philrel/>) website and join our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/YSU-Philosophy-and-Religious-StudiesDepartment/188613781180674/>) group, "YSU Philosophy and Religious Studies Club," for updates about upcoming events.

### Chair

**Alan E. Tomhave**, Ph.D., Professor, Chair

### Professor

**Mustansir Mir**, Ph.D., Professor

**Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez**, Ph.D., Professor

**Mark C. Vopat**, Ph.D., Professor

### Lecturer

**Robyn Gaier**, Ph.D., Lecturer

## Majors

- Philosophy Major (<http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-philosophy-religious-studies/philosophy-major/>)
- Religious Studies Major (<http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-philosophy-religious-studies/religious-studies-major/>)
- Philosophy Major, Pre-Counseling Tracks (<http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-philosophy-religious-studies/philosophy-major/>)
- Religious Studies Major, Pre-Counseling Tracks (<http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-philosophy-religious-studies/religious-studies-major/>)

## Minors

- Professional Ethics Minor (<http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-philosophy-religious-studies/professional-ethics-minor/>)
- Philosophy Minor (<http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-philosophy-religious-studies/philosophy-minor/>)
- Religious Studies Minor (<http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-philosophy-religious-studies/religious-studies-minor/>)
- Islamic Studies Minor (<http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-philosophy-religious-studies/islamic-studies-minor/>)

## Philosophy

### PHIL 1560 Introduction to Philosophy 3 s.h.

The nature of philosophy and its relation to science, religion, and art; study of the philosophical approach and attitude, the basic problem areas in philosophy, and some typical philosophical viewpoints.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 1561 Technology and Human Values 3 s.h.

An examination of the impact of technology and science on contemporary human values and investigations of social and political perspectives on modern technocracy, based on case studies in science, medicine, and engineering.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 1565 Critical Thinking 3 s.h.

An examination of the logical skills needed for critical thinking in practical situations. Topics include procedures and guidelines for identifying and evaluating arguments, recognizing and eliminating informal fallacies, and writing and critiquing argumentative essays.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 2608 The Examined Life 3 s.h.

Considers the nature of happiness and well-being and their relation to social institutions. Addresses the roles that civic and personal relations, morality, aesthetics, education, and religion play in providing happiness, purpose, and meaning in one's life. Cross listed as REL 2608.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 2610 Global Ethics 3 s.h.

Examination of morality and justice from a global perspective, including such topics as war, terrorism, and states; poverty and the global economy; religion, gender, and identity; globalization and the environment; and markets and intellectual property. Cross-listed as REL 2610.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 2612 Ancient & Medieval Philosophy 3 s.h.

An examination of philosophers and philosophical systems in Western civilization from the pre-Socratics until the Renaissance.

### PHIL 2619 Introduction to Logic 3 s.h.

Introduction to syllogistic or classical logic, symbolic and inductive logic. Emphasis on the rules of syllogism, immediate inferences, propositional functions, classes, truth tables, Venn diagrams; the use of analogy, generalization, the verification of hypotheses, and scientific method.

**Prereq.:** MATH 1501 or at least Level 20 on the Mathematics Placement Test.

**Gen Ed:** Mathematics.

### PHIL 2625 Introduction to Professional Ethics 3 s.h.

An examination of the ideals and virtues central to professionalism; study of selected codes of professional ethics and their roots in classical ethical traditions; and analysis of selected ethical issues and problems in a variety of professions.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 2626 Engineering Ethics 3 s.h.

An examination of ethical problems in the major fields of engineering and an explanation of the methodology needed to address them; an analysis of the rights and duties of engineers in their relations to clients, employers, the public, and the engineering profession.

**Prereq.:** One 2600-level PHIL course, or PHIL 1560 or ENTC 1505 or ENGR 1550.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 2627 Law and Criminal Justice Ethics 3 s.h.

Examination of major theories in philosophy of law and justice, and the study of ethical issues and professional standards in criminal justice practice.

**Prereq.:** Any 2600-level PHIL course or PHIL 1560 or CJFS 2601, CJFS 2602 or CJFS 2603.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 2628 Business Ethics 3 s.h.

Examines ethical problems in business, ethical responsibilities of business professional, and business as a global institution. Topics include the corporation, at-will employment, unions, technology, privacy, advertising, whistle-blowing, globalization, environmental impact, human rights, just distribution, affirmative action and cultural diversity.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 2631 Environmental Ethics 3 s.h.

Application of ethical theories in evaluating human interaction with the natural environment, analysis of rights and duties regarding other species and future generations, the ethics of environmental activism, and philosophical and religious perspectives on environmental issues.

**Gen Ed:** Environmental Sustainability, Social and Personal Awareness.

### PHIL 2635 Ethics of War and Peace 3 s.h.

Examines reasons for making war, for restraint on the conduct of war, and for rejecting war as an instrument of national policy as understood within a variety of moral traditions, both secular and religious.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

### PHIL 2698 Introductory Individual Study in Philosophy 1 s.h.

Introductory study of a philosophical problem, movement, thinker, or the relationship of philosophy to problems in other disciplines. Intended to be an independent study course with subject matter dependent upon approval of the faculty member and student. May be repeated up to 3 s.h.

### PHIL 3702 History of Modern Philosophy 3 s.h.

Study of major Western philosophical figures and movements from the Renaissance through the 19th century.

**Prereq.:** One 2600-level PHIL course or PHIL 1560.

### PHIL 3708 Social and Political Philosophy 3 s.h.

A study of the philosophical foundations of democracy, dictatorship, and communism, especially their views of reality, knowledge, human nature, and morality, with attention to rights, duties, freedom, authority, dissent, censorship, crime and punishment, and religion.

**Prereq.:** PHIL 1560.

**PHIL 3711 General Ethics 3 s.h.**

Examination and evaluation of the major ethical theories in classical, dialectic, pragmatic and naturalistic, analytic and positivist, and existentialist thought.

**Prereq.:** PHIL 1560.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

**PHIL 3712 Philosophy of Religion 3 s.h.**

The philosophical investigation of religious questions such as existence and nature of the divine, the problem of evil, death and immortality, religion and science, and religious experience.

**Prereq.:** PHIL 1560 or REL 2601.

**Cross listed with** REL 3712.

**PHIL 3713 Philosophy of the Family 3 s.h.**

Examines the family from philosophical, political, and historical perspectives and considers issues of justice in familial relationships. Explores the relationship among parents, children, and the state, and reviews the evolving conceptions of childhood, child well-being, and children's rights.

**Prereq.:** ENGL 1551.

**PHIL 3714 Language and Mind 3 s.h.**

Introduction to the study of traditional philosophical problems in the analysis of linguistic structures and functions and of their implications for the nature of mind, including meaning, mental representation and causation, information processing, and psychological explanation.

**Prereq.:** One 2600-level PHIL course or PHIL 1560.

**PHIL 3715 Philosophy of Science 3 s.h.**

A philosophical consideration of some of the fundamental concepts and assumptions of the sciences: the nature of scientific knowledge; the relation of scientific to other kinds of knowledge and experience.

**Prereq.:** PHIL 1560.

**PHIL 3719 Symbolic Logic 3 s.h.**

The structure and properties of axiomatic systems; the theory of propositional and relational logic; the algebra of classes; related topics.

**Prereq.:** PHIL 2619.

**PHIL 3723 Philosophy of Law 3 s.h.**

Examination of the nature and limits of law, the justification of the legal system, the relationship between law and morality, state punishment of individuals, the justification for punishment, citizens' rights and issues of privacy, liberty, discrimination, and civil disobedience.

**Prereq.:** One 2600-level PHIL course or PHIL 1560.

**PHIL 3725 Biomedical Ethics 3 s.h.**

An examination of ethical issues posed by biomedical research and technology, including issues of informed consent, patients' rights, experimentation, genetic research and intervention, death and dying, and the allocation of scarce resources.

**Prereq.:** One 2600-level PHIL course or SOC 3703 or SOC 3745 or PSYC 3780 or admission to the NEOMED-YSU program or the BS in Nursing program.

**PHIL 3735 Ethics and Scientific Research 3 s.h.**

Definition and examination of the ethical basis of scientific conduct in reporting experimental results, using human and animal subjects, adopting protocols, and pursuing research with broad impact on human rights and social welfare.

**Prereq.:** PHIL 1560 or PHIL 2625.

**PHIL 3740 Muslim Thinkers and Thinkers 3 s.h.**

Examination of the theological, philosophical, legal, and political writings and ideas of major Muslim thinkers and mystics from the classical through the modern period, covering the continuities and differences.

**Prereq.:** any 2600-level REL course or PHIL 1560.

**Cross listed with** REL 3740.

**PHIL 3745 Classical Asian Philosophy 3 s.h.**

Focus is on selected classical philosophical texts in Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism.

**Prereq.:** Any lower division course in Philosophy or ASST 1550.

**PHIL 3798 Intensive Individual Study of Philosophy 1 s.h.**

Intensive study of a philosophical problem, movement, thinker, or the relationship of philosophy to problems in other disciplines. Intended to be an independent study course with subject matter dependent upon approval of the faculty member and student. May be repeated up to 3 s.h.

**Prereq.:** One 3700-level PHIL course.

**PHIL 4805 Direct Readings in Philosophy 3 s.h.**

Independent study course with subject matter dependent upon approval of the faculty member in consultation with student.

**Prereq.:** Any 3700 level PHIL course.

**PHIL 4820 Seminar in Philosophy 3 s.h.**

Study in depth of a particular philosopher, topic, or area in philosophy, as determined by the instructor; may be repeated once with different course content.

**Prereq.:** One 3700-level PHIL course.

**PHIL 4859 Capstone Cooperative Seminar 1 s.h.**

The course aids capstone students in developing and following a schedule for timely completion of a major research project, provides general direction on effective methods for working on such a project, and encourages and facilitates cooperative work among advanced students by providing peers with whom to discuss their ideas, exchange drafts, and provide constructive comments on ongoing written work. Must be taken concurrently with PHIL 4861.

**PHIL 4861 Senior Capstone Project 3 s.h.**

Research and writing of a paper, or other committee approved project, on a philosophical topic, under the supervision of a full-time faculty member and in consultation with a committee of at least two other members of the department.

**Prereq.:** Philosophy major with senior standing and completion of at least 21 s.h. of PHIL courses.

**Gen Ed:** Capstone.

**PHIL 4870 Internship in Ethical Practice 1-3 s.h.**

Students work with professionals in a local organization, thereby gaining direct access to the ethical issues involved in such an environment. Students will be supervised by an appropriate working professional and either a faculty member of the Dr. James Dale Ethics Center or another faculty member in the department selected for this purpose. The course grade shall be assigned by the YSU supervisor, based on the project journal, an evaluation of the student's on-site work by the participating professional and the YSU supervisor, and a final project paper. Registration by permit only. 1 s.h., repeatable to a total of

**Prereq.:** One 3700-level PHIL or REL course.

## Religious Studies

**REL 2601 Introduction to World Religions 3 s.h.**

A survey of the major world religions exploring their distinctive features and common threads. A study of their founders, systems of thought, symbols, and sacred literatures.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities, International Perspectives, Social and Personal Awareness.

**REL 2602 Introduction to Religious Studies 3 s.h.**

Examines the religious features of doctrines, myths or practices and surveys various methods by which religion is explored and scrutinized.

**REL 2605 Myth, Symbol, and Ritual 3 s.h.**

An introduction to the nature and function of myth, symbol, and ritual. Myth interpretation, the relationship between societies and their myths, and the cultural use of myths, symbols, and rituals in religious and spiritual contexts.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

**REL 2608 The Examined Life 3 s.h.**

Considers the nature of happiness and well-being, their relation to social institutions, and the roles that civic and personal relations, morality, aesthetics, education, and religion play in providing happiness, purpose, and meaning in one's life. Cross listed as PHIL 2608.

**REL 2610 Global Ethics 3 s.h.**

Examination of morality and justice from a global perspective, including such topics as war, terrorism, and states; poverty and the global economy; religion, gender, and identity; globalization and the environment; and markets and intellectual property. Cross-listed as PHIL 2610.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

**REL 2611 Judaism Christianity and Islam 3 s.h.**

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Examines the origins, foundational texts, beliefs and practices, intellectual and spiritual dimensions, and cultural norms and values of each religion, as well as the structures of authority in the community founded by each religion and the factors that have promoted the survival of each.

**REL 2617 Introduction to Asian Religions 3 s.h.**

A survey of the religions of India, China, and Japan, their systems of thought, moral values, and methods of personal transformation.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities, International Perspectives, Social and Personal Awareness.

**REL 2621 Religion and Moral Issues 3 s.h.**

The relation of specific religious and moral issues to questions of personal conduct and social policy.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities.

**REL 2623 Introduction to Christianity 3 s.h.**

Introduction to the Christian religion, exploring its origins, emergence as the official religion of the Roman Empire, and global expansion into one of the largest religions of the world. Attention is given to core beliefs, events, and persons of significant impact, to the diversity of approaches available within the Christian tradition, and to such contemporary issues as gender, the environment, and war. No familiarity is presupposed with the Bible, Christianity, or the academic study of religion.

**REL 2624 Introduction to Buddhism 3 s.h.**

Introduces the wide range of Buddhist traditions throughout the world and especially in the diverse area of Asia. By examining unique Buddhist practices, beliefs, rituals and ideas, a better understanding of those who practice Buddhism is gained.

**REL 2631 Religion and the Earth 3 s.h.**

A cross-cultural survey of the religious beliefs and values that have shaped our thinking about the earth. An exploration of the shifts in religious thought called for by the ecological crisis of sustainability.

**Gen Ed:** Arts and Humanities, Environmental Sustainability, Social and Personal Awareness.

**REL 2632 Jesus and the Gospels 3 s.h.**

The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels.

**REL 2699 Introductory Individual Study in Religious Studies 1 s.h.**

Introductory study of a religious studies problem, movement, thinker, or the relationship of religious studies to problems in other disciplines. Intended to be an independent study course with subject matter dependent upon approval of the faculty member and student. May be repeated up to 3 s.h.

**REL 3708 African-American Religion 3 s.h.**

Development of African-American religion and theology from the days of slavery to the present.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3710 African and Neo-African Religion 3 s.h.**

A study of African religious traditions and their pivotal role in the formation of African civilizations and communities in the African diaspora, including their adaptations of Islam and Christianity.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3712 Philosophy of Religion 3 s.h.**

The philosophical investigation of religious questions such as existence and nature of the divine, the problem of evil, death and immortality, religion and science, and religious experience.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**Cross listed with** PHIL 3712.

**REL 3720 The World of Islam 3 s.h.**

The study of the origins and development of classical and modern Islam, including the Prophet Muhammad, the Quran, and Muslims in America.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3722 Popes Saints and Rebels 3 s.h.**

The origin and development of Christianity; examination of the life and teachings of Jesus; Christian theology, liturgy, and symbolism; and divisions of contemporary Christianity.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3726 Buddhist Beliefs Practices and Debate 3 s.h.**

An Introduction to Buddhist traditions, their historical development in countries like India, China, Tibet and Thailand, and Buddhist positions on contemporary issues. Special attention to practices, beliefs, and ethics.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3728 Hindu Traditions 3 s.h.**

Examines Yoga, meditation, karma, reincarnation, and major devotional and ceremonial traditions that have developed around Shiva, Vishnu, and the Goddess. A central part of the course is the study of the dynamics between popular worship and the contemplative traditions of Hindu culture.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3731 Hebrew Scriptures 3 s.h.**

A critical analysis of the Hebrew scriptures in terms of historical background, textual development, and religious and ethical themes.

**Prereq.:** One 2600-level REL course or HIST 2600.

**REL 3732 Jesus and the Gospels 3 s.h.**

The life and teachings of Jesus in their historical context. Examination of the ways in which Jesus is interpreted within the synoptic gospels. **Prereq.:** One 2600-level REL or PHIL course 3740. Muslim Thinkers. Examination of the theological, philosophical, legal, and political writings and ideas of major Muslim thinkers from the classical through the modern period, covering the continuities and differences.

**Prereq.:** any 2600-level REL course or PHIL 1560.

**Cross listed with** REL 3740.

**REL 3733 Women And the Bible 3 s.h.**

A study of Biblical interpretation utilizing narratives that portray women in Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Students will learn analytical skills required for narrative interpretation and exegetical analysis.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3740 Muslim Thinkers and Mystics 3 s.h.**

Examination of the theological, philosophical, legal, and political writings and ideas of major Muslim thinkers and mystics from the classical through the modern period, covering the continuities and differences.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**Cross listed with** PHIL 3740.

**REL 3743 Reform, Revolt, or Revolution in Islam 3 s.h.**

Critical examination of the movements of change in Islam intended to (1) reassert the primacy of Islamic religious norms in society (reform); (2) challenge the dominant political structures (revolt); or (3) bring about a radical societal change (revolution). The course examines in depth the use of Islamic motifs and symbols in all these movements.

**Prereq.:** REL 2601 or POL 1550 or permission of instructor.

**REL 3744 Islamic Culture and Literature 3 s.h.**

Introduction to the diversity of Muslim culture and literature across the world. Emphasis on classical and premodern literature, art and architecture.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3748 Islam and the West 3 s.h.**

Examination of the historical relationship between the and Islamic and Western worlds, as well as their interaction in modern contexts.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3750 Religion and Race 3 s.h.**

Examines race theory and its relation to religious studies through consideration of immigration patterns and the ways in which religion has been affixed to markers of identity over the last two hundred years.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**Cross-listed:** SOC 3750 and ANTH 3750.

**REL 3751 Liberation Theologies and Revolutionary Change 3 s.h.**

Study of liberation theologies in the Third World and in minority communities in the West, in relation to questions of underdevelopment, poverty, and oppression.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3753 Religion and Violence 3 s.h.**

Examines the various approaches to explaining religiously justified violence, focusing on examples from the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. A central element of the course explores the gap between religious ideals and practices and the importance of recognizing that distinction.

**Prereq.:** REL 2601 or POL 1550.

**REL 3754 Feminism, Ecology and Religion 3 s.h.**

Investigation of religious perspectives related to women and nature, the relationship of the sacred to the natural world, scriptural and theological influences, and deep ecology and other environmental movements from a feminist perspective.

**Prereq.:** 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 3756 Psychology of Religion 3 s.h.**

Survey of developments in depth psychology that have shaped our understanding of religious experience and spirituality.

**Prereq.:** PSYC 1560 or one 2600-level REL course.

**REL 3760 Sex and Religion 3 s.h.**

Explores the tensions between religion and sex through the Western and non-Western lens. Divided into sections, this course covers attitudes toward sex by early modern Christians, a few non-Western religious traditions and contemporary Western religion.

**Prereq.:** h.

**REL 3799 Intensive Individual Study in Religious Studies 1 s.h.**

Intensive study of a religious studies problem, movement, thinker, or the relationship of religious studies to problems in other disciplines. Intended to be an independent study course with subject matter dependent upon approval of the faculty member and student. May be repeated up to 3 s.h.

**Prereq.:** One 3700 level REL course.

**REL 4810 Directed Readings in Religious Studies 3 s.h.**

Independent study course with subject matter dependent upon approval of the faculty member in consultation with student.

**Prereq.:** Any 3700 level REL course.

**REL 4820 Special Topics in Religious Studies 3 s.h.**

Selected topics in religious studies. Topic to be announced each time the course is offered. Prereq. 12 credits of undergraduate coursework.

**REL 4825 Methods and Study of Religion 3 s.h.**

This course explores the principal methodological issues in the scholarly study of religion and enables students to expand and synthesize disciplinary knowledge.

**Prereq.:** REL 2601.

**REL 4850 Seminar in Religious Studies 3 s.h.**

Study in depth of a particular figure, topic or area in religious studies, as determined by the instructor; may be repeated once with different course content.

**Prereq.:** One 3700-level REL course.

**REL 4860 On-Site Studies in Religion 3-9 s.h.**

An on-site investigation of the beliefs and practices of a particular religion or sect through readings, lectures, interviews, and travel to locations vital to its origin or development.

**Prereq.:** Two 3700-level REL courses.

**REL 4869 Capstone Cooperative Seminar 1 s.h.**

The course aids capstone students in developing and following a schedule for timely completion of a major research project, provides general direction on effective methods for working on such a project, and encourages and facilitates cooperative work among advanced students by providing peers with whom to discuss their ideas, exchange drafts, and provide constructive comments on ongoing written work. Must be taken concurrently with REL 4871.

**REL 4871 Senior Capstone Project 3 s.h.**

Research and writing of a paper, or other committee approved project, on a topic in religious studies, under the supervision of a full-time faculty member and in consultation with a committee of at least two other members of the department.

**Prereq.:** Religious Studies major with senior standing and completion of at least 21 s.h. of REL courses.

**Gen Ed:** Capstone.