

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Philosophy Program

PHILOSOPHY FACULTY *Professor Scharle; Assistant Professors Greene, Kelley.*

The philosophy program offers courses designed to serve a variety of academic needs by providing a confrontation with the principal thinkers and the fundamental issues that have shaped humankind's intellectual heritage, by providing a philosophical perspective of several other fields, and by providing – as preparation for graduate study – a solid grounding in the chief figures, methods, division, and problems of philosophy. Regardless of the students' vocational interests, academic major program, or plans for graduate work, the program seeks to stimulate their intellectual involvement in the continuing re-exploration of basic and meaningful questions. The program emphasizes that the student demonstrate, in philosophy courses, the ability to communicate effectively and acceptably in both written and oral English.

Major

To major in philosophy a student must:

1. complete not less than 24 semester hours in philosophy, including not less than 20 hours in courses numbered 200 or above;
2. have a grade point average exceeding 2.0 in all philosophy courses numbered 200 or above; and
3. select a member of the philosophy faculty as an academic advisor in order to plan the choice and sequence of philosophy courses, and obtain approval of this plan by the philosophy faculty; and
4. complete the all-University course requirements and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences course requirements.

Philosophy majors may earn either a B.S. or B.A. degree. Philosophy majors intending to pursue a graduate degree in philosophy, however, are urged to fulfill the B.A. requirements.

The philosophy program provides individualized curricula for students majoring in philosophy. Besides preparation for teaching on the college level, a major in philosophy serves as an excellent pre-law curriculum. In addition, students majoring in economics, the political and social sciences, arts and humanities, history, communications, psychology, and business will find a second major in philosophy eminently beneficial in their own fields of academic emphasis.

Minor

To minor in philosophy a student must:

1. complete not less than 15 semester hours in philosophy;
2. have a minimum gradepoint average of 2.0 in all philosophy courses;
3. select a member of the philosophy faculty as an academic advisor in order to plan a coherent structured course of study developed according to the needs and interests of the student.

Course Descriptions

PHL 102 Logic

3 hrs.

Develops skills in analysis and evaluation of reasoning in everyday situations; improves insights into argument construction and exact methods of proof.

PHL 103 An Inquiry Into Values

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

Major value issues addressed by the world's most influential philosophers.

PHL 300 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

3 hrs.

Development of ideas having a significant influence on Western thought during ancient and medieval times.

PHL 304 Renaissance and Modern Philosophy

3 hrs.

Development of ideas having a significant influence on Western thought during the Renaissance and modern periods, terminating with the philosophy of Hegel.

PHL 306 Recent Philosophy

3 hrs.

Development of ideas having a significant influence on Western thought during the 19th and 20th centuries.

PHL 307 Classical Political Philosophy

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

Systematic political thought in Western philosophy during ancient and medieval times. Cross listed as PLS 307. Prerequisite: junior standing.

PHL 308 Modern Political Philosophy

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

From the beginning of the modern period through the 19th century. Cross listed as PLS 308. Prerequisite: junior standing.

PHL 311 Existentialism

3 hrs.

Philosophical meaning of existentialism and its relation to literature, theology, psychology, and psychiatry. Prerequisite: 3 hours of philosophy or religious studies, or consent of instructor.

PHL 320 Symbolic Logic

3 hrs.

Logical systems: propositional and predicate calculi. Truth tables, proofs, tautologies, principles of inference, Boolean algebra, DeMorgan's Laws, quantifiers, representations, and set theory. Cross-listed as CS 320. Prerequisite: MTH 120.

PHL 344 Philosophy of Religion

3 hrs.

Nature of religion; function and validity of religious concepts in the modern world. Cross listed as RLS 344. Prerequisite: 3 hours of religious studies or philosophy.

PHL 347 Ethics

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

Major ethical theories as they provide insights into our existence as moral beings; how we exhibit this in moral decision and behavior.

PHL 350 Art in Human Experience

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. FA)

Detailed examination and explanation of various forms of visual, musical, literary, and dramatic arts; function of artistic creation in offering direct experience and appreciation of the essence of human feeling. Background in the arts recommended.

PHL 403, 404 Seminar in Philosophy

3 hrs. each

Advanced study of a particular thinker, system, work, or movement in philosophy. Prerequisite: 6 hrs. in philosophy, or consent of instructor.

PHL 407 American Political Philosophy

3 hrs.

Systematic political thought in American philosophy from colonial times to the present. Cross listed as PLS 407. Prerequisite: PHL/PLS 307 or 308, or consent of instructor.

PHL 551, 552 Reading in Philosophy

1-3 hrs. each

Directed individual study. Prerequisites: 6 hours in philosophy; senior or graduate standing; consent of department chair.

Religious Studies Program

RELIGIOUS STUDIES FACULTY *Professor Fuller; Associate Professors Getz, Meyer, Pucelik (chair).*

The primary concern of the program is for the undergraduate student who would elect study in this significant area of human culture and life. A comprehensive and non-sectarian program of studies is provided to meet the special interests and needs of all students. The program is also appropriate for students electing a major in religious studies with the intention of preparing for matriculation for the Master of Arts degree in religious studies (or religion) at another institution.

Major

To major in religious studies a student must:

1. complete not less than 24 semester hours in religious studies, including not less than 20 in courses numbered 200 or above; and
2. have a gradepoint average exceeding 2.0 in all religious studies courses numbered 200 or above;
3. select a member of the religious studies faculty as an academic advisor in order to plan the choice and sequence of religious studies courses; and
4. complete the all-University course requirements and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences course requirements.

Religious studies majors may earn either a B.S. or B.A. degree. Religious studies majors intending to pursue a graduate degree in religious studies, however, are urged to fulfill the B.A. requirements.

Minor

To minor in religious studies a student must:

1. complete not less than 15 semester hours in religious studies;
2. have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in all religious studies courses;
3. complete the following courses:
 - a. RLS 101 Introduction to Religious Studies
 - b. RLS 331 and RLS 332 Religions of the World
 - c. One of the following: RLS 300 Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, RLS 302 New Testament, RLS 308 Christian Beliefs and Teachings
 - d. An elective.
4. select a member of the religious studies faculty as an academic advisor in order to plan a coherent structured course of study developed according to the needs and interests of the student.

Course Descriptions

RLS 101 Comparative Religion

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

Survey of human values and religious experiences found in major religions of the world.

RLS 120 Religion and Culture in the Middle East

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. NW)

Survey of religious experience, beliefs, and practices that emerged and developed in the cultures of the Middle East. Emphasis on origins of Semitic, Hebrew, and Arabic religions, and their influence on social, political, artistic, and literary expression of the area.

RLS 200 Contemporary Religion in the United States

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

Analysis of religious faith, worship, and practice in an age of transition. Emphasis on challenges that confront a person's faith. Survey of major American religious denominations.

RLS 290 Religion and the Life Cycle

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. SF)

Religious aspects of human development: childhood through adolescence into maturing adulthood.

RLS 300 Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

Human values relevant to contemporary life found in ancient writings of Judaism and Christianity.

RLS 302 New Testament

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

Human values in the early Christian experience as reflected in its scriptures.

RLS 308 Christian Beliefs and Teachings

3 hrs.

Traditional teachings and contemporary developments in the study of the Christian religion.

RLS 310 Religion and Society

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. SF)

Major social scientific theories that explain social needs and functions served by religion.

RLS 317 Judaeo-Christian Ethics

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

"New morality" and "situation ethics" compared to traditional Judaeo-Christian ethical principles.

RLS 325 Religion and Existentialism

3 hrs.

Philosophical and theological atmosphere of the 19th and 20th centuries: reading and analysis of existentialist writers.

RLS 330 The Human Condition

3 hrs.

Multidisciplinary examination of the limits and possibilities of human nature. Evolutionary biology, developmental psychology, philosophical ethics, and contemporary religious thought. Prerequisite: junior/senior standing.

RLS 331 Religions of the Eastern World

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. NW)

Historical and cultural study of the religions of India, Southeast Asia, and China.

RLS 332 Religions of the World

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. HP)

Historical and literary study of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

RLS 336 Buddhism and Asian Civilizations

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. NW)

Historical survey of the development of Buddhism in the civilizations of India, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Tibet. Origins of the Buddhist tradition and the development of its basic beliefs, practices, and institutions within the context of Asian civilizations.

RLS 338 China: Religion and Culture

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. NW)

Historical and cultural survey of Chinese religions. Development of Chinese religion and philosophy from ancient times until the present. Major traditions of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism, as well as popular belief and culture.

RLS 340 Japan: Religion and Culture

3 hrs. (Gen. Ed. NW)

Historical and cultural survey of religion in Japan, primarily Buddhism and Shinto. Folk religion, Chinese influences, and the New Religions.

RLS 344 Philosophy of Religion

3 hrs.

Nature of religion; function and validity of religious concepts in the modern world. Cross listed as PHL 344. Prerequisite: 3 hours of religious studies or philosophy.

RLS 350, 351 Topics in Religious Studies

3 hrs. each

Topics of special interest which may vary each time course is offered. Topic stated in current Schedule of Classes.

RLS 387 Contemporary Trends in Religious Thought

3 hrs.

Writings of present-day theologians. Emphasis on their influence on various aspects of modern thought and culture. Prerequisite: 3 hours of religious studies, or consent of instructor.

RLS 497, 498 Problems in Religious Studies

1-3 hrs. each

Primarily for undergraduate RLS majors: comprehensive and integrated survey of the discipline at an advanced level; projects in special areas. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.