

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

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The goal of the Department of Religion and Philosophy is to provide for students of the liberal arts a means of understanding human history, experience, and society through the examination of religious traditions. The study of religion provides a unique opportunity to develop an analytical understanding of human culture and to explore personal questions of life and thought.

Courses in the department pursue this understanding primarily in the historical and contemporary texts of the world's religions. In addition to gaining a knowledge of the sacred texts and historical features of western religions and a familiarity with world religions, students will gain skill in the following central disciplines of the liberal arts:

1. historical and critical methods
2. critical thinking and reading
3. clear and reasoned communication

PHILOSOPHY

The Department of Religion and Philosophy offers a minor program in philosophy. The program is very flexible and can be a profitable complement to any major in the College. Students in religion, English, and politics will find it especially beneficial. To minor in philosophy, a student must take six courses for a total of 18 hours. The minor requirements are as follows:

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| Philosophy 180: Introduction to Philosophy | 3 hours |
| Philosophy 200: Philosophical Ethics | 3 hours |
| Philosophy 300: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy or Philosophy 310: Modern Philosophy | 3 hours |
| Philosophy Electives (200-level or above) | 9 hours |
| TOTAL HOURS | 18 hours |

Certain courses offered by other departments in the College, as well as certain philosophy courses offered at Wofford, may count toward the minor. Generally, no more than two such substitutions will be allowed. Courses for the minor program should be selected in consultation with the philosophy adviser.

*100. INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC/THREE CREDITS

A study of the fundamental principles of correct reasoning directed toward improving reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking. Students learn to recognize, analyze, evaluate, construct, and refute arguments.

*180. INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY/THREE CREDITS

A study of some of the best contemporary and historical work in philosophy. Reading, lectures, discussions, and written assignments examine such topics as God, knowledge, responsibility, mind, morality, and life after death.

*199H. FRESHMAN HONORS SEMINAR/THREE CREDITS

A study of a selected subject within the discipline which will vary from term to term. The course is designed to encourage student participation in the intellectual processes through class discussion, research, writing, special projects, problem solving, and evaluation and defense of positions. When the subject matter duplicates that of another course, credit toward graduation will be granted for only one of the courses. *Offered periodically in rotation with seminars in other disciplines.*

*200. PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS/THREE CREDITS

Careful study of major texts in Western ethical thought, from Plato to the present. Emphasis on textual analysis, and on developing the skills needed to conduct philosophical discussions in writing and in the classroom.

*210. PHILOSOPHY OF WOMEN/THREE CREDITS

A study of selected philosophical works by women or on women and issues of concern to women. Authors, works, and topics will vary. Focus may be on historical or contemporary works or both. Topics may include woman's nature, man's nature, sexual equality, preferential hiring, sexism in language, work, family, sexuality, education, and childcare.

299H. INTERDISCIPLINARY HONORS COURSE

This course is team taught by members in two departments and is open to Nisbet Honors Program members and to others who meet Honors Program guidelines. All students registering for these courses must register not only through the Honors Program but also with their adviser and the Registrar's Office.

*300. ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY/THREE CREDITS

A study of the first 2,000 years of Western philosophy, examining the beginnings in myth and poetry, the classical philosophies of Plato and Aristotle, and the medieval systems of Augustine and Aquinas.

*310. MODERN PHILOSOPHY/THREE CREDITS

A study of major philosophers of the modern period, from 1600-1900. Typical figures would include Descartes, Hume, Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche.

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*320. INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC/ THREE CREDITS

An introduction to contemporary symbolic logic, including logical symbols and deductive principles. Students learn to symbolize arguments, and to construct formal proofs and truth tables.

*325. ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, AND RENAISSANCE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY/THREE CREDITS

A survey of the major works in the Western tradition of political thought from Plato to Machiavelli. *Cross-listed with POL 310.*

*330. MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY/ THREE CREDITS

A survey of the major works in the Western tradition of political thought from Hobbes to Marx. *Cross-listed with POL 312.*

340. SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY/THREE CREDITS

Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Intensive study of a topic or area in philosophy such as philosophy of language, advanced symbolic logic, early analytical philosophy, or contemporary feminist philosophy. *May be repeated for credit if topic changes.*

*342. PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION/THREE CREDITS *See REL 342.*

360. PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY OF AMERICAN EDUCATION/THREE CREDITS *See EDU360.*

*400. WAYS OF KNOWING/THREE CREDITS
A study of the various philosophical theories of knowledge and of the range of human knowledge claimed by each of these theories.

401. STUDIES IN HUMANITIES: PHILOSOPHY/ THREE CREDITS

Exploration of philosophical and humanistic issues as they relate to the modern world. *May be taken more than once with the approval of the instructor.*

491. DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SPECIAL TOPICS/THREE CREDITS

Intensive study of a topic of the student's choice under the direction of a faculty member whose course or courses are listed in the philosophy curriculum.

495. INTERNSHIP IN PHILOSOPHY/ THREE OR SIX CREDITS

Prerequisite: permission of department. Pass/fail grading.

RELIGION

A major in religion consists of 30 hours of course work. A minor consists of 18 hours of course work. The major requires one course from each of the four categories below, plus the Junior and Senior Seminars. The minor requires one course from each of the four categories. Additional courses are to be selected in consultation with the student's adviser. No more than three 100-level courses may be included in the major. Majors are also required to complete the Junior and Senior Seminars.

- A. Biblical Studies 3 hours
 - 101: Intro. to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
 - 102: Introduction to the New Testament
 - 103: Introduction to Sacred Texts
 - 203: Images of Jesus
 - 300: Studies in New Testament Literature
 - 301: Studies in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
- B. Western Religious History 3 hours
 - 110: The Christian Tradition
 - 201: The Christian Experience I
 - 202: The Christian Experience II
 - 203: The Christian Experience III
 - 215: Religion in America
 - 250: Studies in Western Religion
- C. Non-Western Religious Traditions 3 hours
 - 100: Introduction to Religion
 - 104: Introduction to Religion: World Religions
 - 260: Studies in World Religion
- D. Ethical or Theological Analysis 3 hours
 - 303: Issues in Ethics
 - 305: Women and Religion
 - 313: Studies in Modern Religious Thought
 - 320: Christianity and the Family
 - 340: Religion and Modern Literature
 - 342: Philosophy of Religion
- E. Required for Majors
 - Junior Seminar 3 hours
 - Senior Seminar 3 hours

With departmental approval, students may apply up to two courses or six hours of work in other departments toward the major. No more than six internship hours will apply toward the major. No more than two classes or six hours taken at Wofford will be accepted toward the major. Classes in religion from Wofford may be taken for major credit only if subject matter is not duplicated by courses offered at Converse.

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*100. INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION/ THREE CREDITS

This course is an introductory study of human religious beliefs and practices, including ritual, myth, symbol, and the sacred. The application of these concepts to the contemporary world is emphasized.

*101. INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT/ THREE CREDITS

A survey of the historical development of the ancient Hebrews and their writings (2,000 B.C.E.—165 C.E.).

*102. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT/ THREE CREDITS

A survey of New Testament writings within the historical contexts in which they were produced.

*103. INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SCRIPTURES/ THREE CREDITS

As an introduction to historical and contemporary biblical interpretation, this course explores widely ranging approaches to the academic study of sacred scripture, particularly (but not exclusively) the Hebrew Bible and the Christian New Testament. We will look at the possibilities and limitations of different methods of biblical study and begin the process of understanding how interpretations of sacred texts have shaped and continue to shape our religious traditions and, more broadly, our society. An integral part of this study will be the exploration of the historical contexts in which these sacred texts were written and the development of an awareness of the contemporary contexts in which they are interpreted. The study of different methods of scriptural studies and interpretive approaches should lead to a more sophisticated understanding of the complexity of the biblical text as literature, as history, and as scripture.

*104. INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION: WORLD RELIGIONS/ THREE CREDITS

A study of the basic forms of religious belief, activity, and experience in the major world religions. Traditions to be discussed may include tribal religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religion, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

*110. THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION/THREE CREDITS

This course is an introduction to Christianity that focuses on examination of the major theological themes and problems that have commonly occupied Christians and how these issues have developed over time. We will use primary sources for the most part in our explorations. While this course focuses on Christian thought (theology), we will also make connections between theology and worship, ethics, and other aspects of Christianity.

*199H. FRESHMAN HONORS SEMINAR/ THREE CREDITS

A study of a selected subject within the disciplines which will vary from term to term. The course is designed to encourage student participation in the intellectual processes through class discussion, research and writing, special projects, problem solving, and evaluation and defense of positions. When the subject matter duplicates that of another course, credit toward graduation will be granted for only one of the courses. *Offered periodically in rotation with seminars in other disciplines.*

*201. THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE I: EARLY AND MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY/THREE CREDITS

A survey of the history of Christianity from its beginnings to the late Middle Ages. This course will focus on the issues, thought, and historical events which shaped Christianity, and on its contribution to western culture.

*202. THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE II: THE REFORMATIONS/THREE CREDITS

This course is a survey of the development of Christianity from the late Middle Ages through the Early Modern Period, covering institutional and theological developments, spirituality, and popular movements. The course will focus on various types of reform during this period.

*203. THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE III: MODERN CHRISTIANITY/THREE CREDITS

A survey of the history of Christianity from 1650 to the present, with focus on the issues, thought, and events which shape Christianity in its present forms. A special focus of the course will be the development of Christianity beyond Europe and North America. *Note: The history of Christianity in the United States is not covered in this course. (see REL 215)*

*204. IMAGES OF JESUS/THREE CREDITS

This course is an historical examination of the central figure in Christianity, Jesus of Nazareth. The literary and archaeological sources will be closely examined to determine what can and cannot be known about Jesus based on historical research.

210. ANCIENT LANGUAGES/THREE CREDITS

An introduction to the vocabulary, grammar, and syntax of koine Greek or biblical Hebrew. *May be repeated for credit if subject matter is not duplicated.*

*215. RELIGION IN AMERICA/THREE CREDITS

Historical survey of religious life and thought in America, with attention given to the diversity of religious experience in the United States. Emphasis is given to the role of religion in American life and the impact of the American experience on religious traditions.

*250. STUDIES IN WESTERN RELIGION/ THREE CREDITS

Studies in selected topics in Western religious thought and history. Topics may include the Reformation, Islam, and Roman Catholicism. *May be repeated for credit if subject matter is not duplicated.*

*260. STUDIES IN WORLD RELIGION/ THREE CREDITS

Studies in selected topics in non-Western religious thought and history. Topics may include mysticism, the Buddhist tradition, myth, history, and religion. *May be repeated for credit if subject matter is not duplicated.*

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*300. STUDIES IN NEW TESTAMENT LITERATURE/ THREE CREDITS

An intensive study of a selected portion of the New Testament, designed to help the student develop some facility in analyzing and researching biblical texts. Topics will vary yearly. *May be repeated for credit if subject matter is not duplicated.*

*301. STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT/ THREE CREDITS

A study of selected portions of the Old Testament, designed to help the student develop some facility in analyzing and researching biblical texts. Topics announced yearly. *May be repeated for credit if subject matter is not duplicated.*

*303. ISSUES IN ETHICS/THREE CREDITS

Studies in selected contemporary ethical problems and the process of making decisions. *May be repeated for credit if subject matter is not duplicated.*

*305. WOMEN AND RELIGION/THREE CREDITS

A study of the contributions and theological perspectives of women in major religious traditions.

*306. FIELD STUDIES IN RELIGION/ THREE CREDITS

Offers a combination of academic study with travel. Two weeks of instruction on campus and two or more weeks of travel to one or more religious centers. Topics of discussion will include religious literature, theology, archaeology, and geography of the site. The travel itinerary and the specific subject of the class may vary from year to year.

*313. STUDIES IN MODERN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT/ THREE CREDITS

Studies in selected issues, figures, or movements in modern and contemporary theology. Topics may include backgrounds of contemporary religious thought, liberation theology, Christianity and the encounter of world religions, and religious existentialism. *May be repeated for credit if subject matter is not duplicated.*

*320. CHRISTIANITY AND THE FAMILY/ THREE CREDITS

This course examines the relationships between Christianity and the family from Christianity's origins through contemporary America. Attention will be given to sexuality, marriage, gender roles, parenting and children's education, "family values," and the intersection between society, Christianity, and the family in a variety of historical contexts. *Prerequisites: one course in Bible, history of Christianity, REL 100, or permission of instructor.*

*330. STUDIES IN RELIGION/THREE CREDITS

Studies of significant humanistic issues in religion. *May be taken more than once with the approval of the instructor.*

*340. RELIGION AND MODERN LITERATURE/ THREE CREDITS

A study of religious thought and problems reflected in the writing of selected contemporary authors.

*342. PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION/THREE CREDITS

A study of philosophical problems relevant to religious belief. Topics to be considered may include proofs for the existence of God, the problem of evil, miracles, the nature of religious belief, the relation of religion and morality, and the nature of God. *Cross-listed with Philosophy 342.*

350. RELIGION INTERNSHIPS/THREE OR SIX CREDITS

Prerequisite: permission of the department. Pass/fail grading. Offered as needed.

391. JUNIOR SEMINAR/THREE CREDITS

This seminar introduces juniors majoring in religion to critical theories currently employed in the academic study of religion, and to the classic works in which those theories were first expressed.

490. DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SELECTED TOPICS/THREE CREDITS

Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. An independent course of study in a topic not covered by regular course offerings. *May be repeated for credit.*

491. SENIOR SEMINAR IN RELIGION/THREE CREDITS

In this seminar seniors majoring in religion will perform the reading, research, writing, editing, and final presentation of a significant original paper in the study of religion.