Philosophy and Religious Studies

In support of the mission of the College the mission of the Philosophy and Religious Studies program in the Department of Liberal and Creative Arts is to expose students to the breadth of ideas and disciplines that constitute the fields of Philosophy and Religious Studies. We seek to help students develop a broad understanding of the historical and contemporary impact of philosophical and religious ideas on human culture and human problems, as well as the logical and critical reasoning skills to take and defend reasoned positions on important philosophical and religious issues.

Learning Outcomes: Philosophy and Religious Studies

The Philosophy and Religious Studies program has the goal of achieving the following principle outcomes for its majors:

1. Students will acquire awareness and critical understanding of the formative religious traditions of human beings in a variety of cultures.
2. Students will acquire awareness and critical understanding of major philosophers and issues in the Western philosophical tradition.
3. Students will become appreciatively critical of their own religious traditions by engaging in a process of formulating their own mature questions and beliefs.
4. Students will become able to develop and defend their own well-reasoned position on one or more important philosophical issues.

Honors in Philosophy and Religious Studies

A major may receive the designation of "Honors on Philosophy and Religious Studies" upon meeting the following criteria:

1. Achieving a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in all course work and of 3.3 of better in courses in the major;
2. Completing two three-credit guided independent studies with members of the program faculty;
3. Presenting an honors thesis of project on a topic acceptable to the program faculty; and
4. Defending the honors thesis or project in a comprehensive oral examination before an examining committee comprising at least one faculty member in the program, one faculty member outside the program, and one additional outside examiner.

Requirements: B. A. in Philosophy and Religious Studies 31 Credits

Courses in Philosophy and Religious Studies (31 credits at least 18 of which must be at the 300-400 level)

Of these thirty-one credit hours:

- Successful completion of PHI 203 and RST 100 6
- Successful completion of three credits from EACH of the following four areas: 12

1. History of Philosophy:

PHI 100	Introduction to Philosophy
PHI 216	Existentialism
PHI 301	The Beginnings of Philosophy
PHI 302	Jewish, Christian and Islamic Philosophy
PHI 303	Modern Philosophy and Scientific Revolutions
PHI 304	Recent Philosophy and Technological Revolutions
PHI 324	Critical Studies in Philosophy (1.5 credits)
PHI 325	American Philosophy.

2. Scriptural Studies:

RST 120	The Bible Today
RST 224	Hebrews, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature
RST 320	The Pentateuch
RST 322	Hebrew Prophets
RST 330	The Synoptic Gospels
RST 332	The Life and Letters of the Apostle Paul
RST 334	Johannine Literature

3. Applied Philosophy:

PHI 212	Ethics
PHI 231	Business Ethics

PHI 245	Ethical Issues in Technology and Society
PHI 246	Environmental Philosophy
PHI 318	Social and Political Philosophy
PHI 333	Philosophy of Law
PHI 341	Philosophical Issues in Mass Communication
PHI 349	Bioethics (1.5 credits)

4. Religious Thought:

RST 203	Sex, Gender, and Religion
RST 205	Religion in Stories, Plays and Films
RST 240	Christian Origins
RST 242	Spiritual Journey
RST 270	Religion in the Middle East
RST 272	Religions of India and South Asia
RST 301	Religion and Women's Studies
RST 340	History of Christian Thought
RST 345	Foundations of Modern, Western Religious Thought
RST 350	Modern Christian Theology
RST 355	Theological Roundtable

- Successful completion of Junior Seminar (2) and Senior Seminar (2) 4
- Courses selected from list of Philosophy and Religious Studies courses 9

Contract Major in Philosophy and Religious Studies

In addition to the regular major, the Philosophy and Religious Studies Program offers students options for designing and contracting a major which has an emphasis in some area (or areas) or study the student wishes to relate to philosophy and religion (such as psychology, politics, history, literature, art). Specific courses which define the terms of these contracts are determined by the student in consultation with a member of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Program and with the approval of the chairperson of the Department of Creative and Liberal Arts. The only general requirements are that:

a. Contracts include a minimum of 18 credits in Philosophy and Religious Studies, at least 9 of which are at the 300-400 level;
b. Contracts include 30 credits, at least 15 of which are at the 300-400 level;
c. The student submits with the contract a one-page statement of rationale in which s/he articulates the reasons for including each specified course within a single, comprehensive, contracted major.

Requirements for a Minor in Philosophy

Requirements for a minor are 18 credit hours in Philosophy, at least nine of which are at the 300-400 level. PHI 203 must be taken as part of the minor contract.

Requirements for a Minor Religious Studies

Requirements for a minor are 18 credit hours in Religious Studies, at least nine of which are at the 300-400 level.