

THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Department Mission Statement

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies explores the human quest for the transcendent as expressed in the world's diverse religious traditions. It makes an essential contribution to the mission of Saint Joseph's University as a Catholic Jesuit institution to strive "to be an inclusive and diverse community that educates and cares for the whole person, encouraging and modeling a lifelong commitment to thinking critically, making ethical decisions, pursuing social justice, and finding God in all things." We endeavor to engage ourselves and our students in the critical study of theological and religious traditions, praxis, and intellectual inquiry, both historically and in the contemporary world. We are committed to a rigorous presentation of the methods and content of both Christian Theology and Religious Studies as academic disciplines.

In pursuit of this mission, the department recognizes four primary goals:

- Instill in students a capacity for methodical analysis and understanding of the world's diverse theological and religious traditions;
- Provide students with a scholarly, multifaceted understanding of the foundations of Christian faith, its development in different times and cultures, and its implications for life in society, especially within the Roman Catholic tradition;
- Engage students in exploring the richness of the spiritual expressions and experiences encountered through the study of religions other than Christianity;
- Foster in students and professional colleagues an appreciation for the diversity that exists within the contemporary study of theology and religion as reflected in the department's faculty and their research endeavors.

Student Organizations

The Department sponsors a chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honor society for theology and religious studies. Students also participate in the activities of Campus Ministry and the post-graduate volunteer service programs. Faculty members advise students and alumni on career opportunities, job placements, and on professional and graduate school programs.

Faculty

An active department in research and scholarship, faculty members within the Department of Theology and Religious Studies have been featured in several impressive publications and have received awards and grants for their innovative teaching methods. Many are directors and members of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations (<https://sites.sju.edu/ijcr/>) at Saint Joseph's University and have developed research on everything from the implications of technology and media on spiritual and moral practices to economic justice, human rights and human development.

Department of Theology & Religious Studies Faculty & Staff (<https://www.sju.edu/departments/theology-religious-studies/faculty-staff/>)

Theology and Religious Studies in the GEP

All students must successfully complete the Signature Core course, "Faith, Justice and the Catholic Tradition," as well as any one of a number of courses designated as Religious Difference courses.

Signature Core

THE 154 Faith, Justice and the Catholic Tradition

This course is designed to introduce students to central theological themes (such as the doctrines of Christ, the human person, sin/grace/salvation, and the sacraments) and moral claims (such as the preferential option for the poor, solidarity, and the common good) typical of the Roman Catholic Tradition. Through a critical examination of primary texts, students will investigate the historic grounds of faith and will learn how and why a concern for social, economic and political justice is rooted not only in the Christian Gospel but also in fundamental Christian doctrines and liturgical practices.

Variable Core

Religious Difference - 1 course

This course will require students to gain a critical understanding of one or more religious worldviews that differ from the Roman Catholic perspective. Students will engage in either in-depth study of the beliefs and practices of one or more non-Christian religious traditions or take a comparative religions course that in some measure addresses the issue of religious diversity. This course will also address issues related to the construction of religious identity in today's pluralistic world.

Students will be able to:

- Identify some of the general features typical of many religions, such as conceptions of deity, transmission of traditions, religious community, ritual practice, religious experience, and ethical norms.
- Recognize and discuss examples of the impact of historical, socio-political, and cultural contexts on the teachings, sacred texts and/or material culture, and other manifestations over time of at least one non-Christian religious tradition.
- Articulate how some of the categories of the discipline of Religious Studies outlined in the previous points are expressed in at least one non-Christian religion.
- Discuss some of the implications of living in a religiously diverse world.

Some Typical Religious Difference courses include:

Code	Title	Hours
THE 211	Hebrew Bible	3
THE 380	Interreligious Dialogue	3
THE 384	Jews/Chr. Theologies Compared (when Team-taught)	3
THE 385	Jesus the Jew in History (when Team-taught)	3
REL 101	Comparative Religion	3
REL 211	Hebrew Bible	3
REL 212	Israelite Religion	3
REL 231	Judaism	3
REL 241	Islam	3
REL 261	Hinduism	3
REL 270	Special Topics in Relig Stud ¹	3

REL 271	African & Caribbean Religions	3
REL 336	Jewish Thought	3
REL 338	Jew&Chr Responses to Holocaust	3
REL 351	Indian Buddhism	3
REL 352	East Asian Buddhism	3
REL 356	Death & Afterlife Chinese Rel	3
REL 357	Food Practices & Chinese Relig	3
REL 383	Ancient Greek Religions	3
THE 387	Jews&Chr. Entwined Histories (when Team-taught)	3

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Not all "Special Topics" courses meet this requirement. Please check individual sections of REL 270 or REL 370 for specific information.

Programs

Undergraduate Majors

- Theology (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/arts-sciences/theology-religious-studies/theology-major/>)
- Religious Studies (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/arts-sciences/theology-religious-studies/religious-studies-major/>)

Undergraduate Minor

- Theology and Religious Studies (<https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/arts-sciences/theology-religious-studies/minor-theology-religious-studies/>)

Courses

Religious Studies

REL 101 Comparative Religion (3 credits)

An Introduction to the comparative study of religion which examines the historical evolution of religions, nature and diversity of religious experience, the concept of a religious world and the diverse types of religious worldviews, the role of myth and ritual in the maintenance of religious worlds, the problem of religious change and the concept of transcendence.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 102 What is Religion? (3 credits)

This course is an opportunity for students to be initiated into the critical study of religion. Best described as intensive and experimental, this class offers students an opportunity to analyze classical and contemporary theories of religion. We will challenge attempts to classify an experience as mythic, mystical, magical, functional, or numinous. All readings, evaluations, and discussions will address the contested question, what is religion?

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 150 First Year Seminar (3 credits)

Seminar subjects vary.

Attributes: First-Year Seminar, Undergraduate

REL 170 Special Topics (3 credits)

Topic and content varies from semester to semester. Course may be taken twice for credit as the topic changes. Certifications differ by section.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 211 Hebrew Bible (3 credits)

This course will examine the biblical traditions and texts of the Hebrew Scriptures as products of particular historical and cultural communities, and as literary and theological documents.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 212 Israelite Religion (3 credits)

Combining the evidence of biblical texts and ancient Near Eastern texts, this course analyzes the historical and social context of religion in ancient Israel. Special topics include the worship of different deities; the priesthood and the system of sacrifices in the Temple; the relationship between politics and religion, and some specific religious practices maintained by kings David, Solomon and their successors (such as prophecy, holy war and child sacrifice); popular religious practices (such as devotion to the dead and magic); and the origins and development of monotheism, the concept of the messiah and other ideas central to the origins of Judaism and Christianity.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 221 Intro to the New Testament (3 credits)

This course will examine the biblical traditions and texts of the Christian Scriptures as products of particular historical and cultural communities, and as literary and theological documents.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Undergraduate

REL 231 Judaism (3 credits)

A comprehensive survey of the development of Judaism from its pre-exilic roots to the present, to include the evolution of its theology, ethics, and traditions. The impact of the modern world upon traditional Judaism; major movements within Judaism today and their beliefs about God, Torah, and Israel.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 241 Islam (3 credits)

An introduction to the historical development of Islam together with its basic beliefs and practices, from the time of Muhammad to the modern period. The prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an and Hadith, the Shari'ah, Kalam, Shiism, Sufism, and Islamic modernism will be examined.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 261 Hinduism (3 credits)

A survey of the Hindu religious traditions on the Indian subcontinent with a focus on the period from the Epic (c. 200 BCE-200 CE) until modern times. The major forms of Hindu belief and practice will be covered: Vaishnavism, Shaivism, traditions of the Goddess, and popular village traditions.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 262 Modern Hinduism (3 credits)

This course explores the ideas, beliefs, and practices of lived Hinduism. We will compare and contrast diverse Hindu cultures that are found in rural and urban India, in the United States, and here on campus. Our study will include a variety of examples taken from the expressive arts and architecture, literature, rituals and festivals, fashion and film, current events, online communities and bloggers.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 265 Daoism (3 credits)

In an effort to see and experience Daoist thought and practice on its own terms, approximating the worldview of its practitioners, this course takes an interdisciplinary approach, examining three distinct kinds of religious phenomena: 1) ritual performance, 2) sacred scripture, and 3) art and material culture. Through this interdisciplinary approach, students will learn how to investigate these phenomena according to corresponding sets of methodologies, namely 1) ethnography; 2) translation and hermeneutics; and 3) art-historical and visual and material analyses. Because both scripture and art cannot be removed from liturgy in the Daoist tradition, students will also learn to engage with and employ frameworks from the field of ritual theory, specifically anthropological approaches to ritual practice.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 270 Special Topics in Relig Stud (3 credits)

Concentrated focus on a selected theme in theology or religion at an advanced level. Topic and content varies from semester to semester. Course may be taken twice for credit as the topic changes. Certifications differ by section.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 271 African & Caribbean Religions (3 credits)

An examination of selected indigenous African religious traditions in their native contexts and/or religious traditions of indigenous African origin that have developed in the Caribbean and related contexts outside of Africa. Topics may vary, but representative samples may include a focus on individual systems (such as Haitian Vodou) or phenomena found in a number of systems (such as rites of passage).

Attributes: Africana Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 272 Religion/Global/Rights-Bolivia (3 credits)

This class will first examine central religious beliefs of indigenous Bolivian religions (e.g., cosmology, communal origin myths, spirits and divine figures, rituals and ritual spaces, and the relationship of natural and supernatural). Along the way, the class will wrestle with broader questions in the study of religion, such as interpreting the archaeological record, inducing religious experience, and the relationship between religious authority and social or political power. The class will then explore the moral implications of these beliefs alongside the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The course will pay particular attention to the economic sphere, using case studies to explore how indigenous beliefs and practices are shaping distinctive economic forms that contrast those promoted by global capitalism.

Attributes: Diversity Course, Globalization Course, International Business Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 300 Religious Song and Poetry (3 credits)

How do we express love, loyalty, and devotion to people, saints, and God/gods? This class will explore poetry, hymns, pop music, and visual arts that praise various divine beings and religious figures. Our study will include diverse expressions and acts of devotion, the lives of the artists who created them, and their religious and historical contexts. Examples will be taken from Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and American pop culture (be prepared to share your playlist!).

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 310 Welcoming the Stranger (3 credits)

This course will examine how ancient communities grappled with welcoming the stranger and how various communities negotiated interpersonal relations. In addition, the course will focus on how to articulate an ethical response to the issue of migration in light of the diverse theological and philosophical ethical perspectives on the topic. Key themes in the historical and religious traditions will include: the biblical representation of the ger (stranger); ancient comparative hospitality rituals; and legal discourse in rabbinic and contemporary Jewish sources. Key topics in the theological and philosophical ethical traditions will include: distinctions between forced migrants in theory and law— including internally displaced people, asylum seekers, refugees, economic migrants, and ecological/environmental migrants. These distinctions will be explored through both an empirical/legal lens as well as an ethical lens informed by the overlapping consensus of the post-war Universal Declaration of Human Rights tradition and Catholic Social Teaching.

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 311 Comparative Religious Ethics (3 credits)

Comparative religious ethics is a field of study that explores what different religious traditions say (and have said) about important ethical and moral questions, past and present. This course aims to provide students with the tools and knowledge to understand, comparatively analyze, and evaluate the ethical teachings and moral prescriptions of the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will examine the similarities and differences between the ways in which each of these religious traditions form and inform the ethical and moral aspects of the lives of their adherents. Prior knowledge of Judaism, Christianity, and/or Islam is preferred but not required. Students with no knowledge of one or more of these traditions will be assigned extra readings for the first few weeks of class.

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 312 Spirit Disc in Compar Perspect (3 credits)

Throughout the world's religious traditions we find a variety of spiritual disciplines pursued by individuals in the hope of transforming an existence experienced as sinful, delusory, fragmented or otherwise unsatisfactory into one that is graced, enlightened, whole. The specific methods employed vary widely, as do their specific goals. Nevertheless, when viewed from a comparative perspective many of these practices share elements in common. This course will examine a number of such spiritual disciplines, drawn from the traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Greco-Roman Hellenism, and Christianity. Attention will be given to issues of their historical development, diversity of form, points of similarity and contemporary relevance.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 321 Religion&Law in the Anc World (3 credits)

This course looks at the world's earliest known law: the law of ancient Sumer, Babylon, Egypt, and other ancient Near Eastern societies. The course goes on to examine the relationship between these legal systems and the legal texts of ancient Israel and Judah found in the Hebrew Bible, as well as other issues related to the study of biblical law. Finally, the course considers the legacy of ancient Near Eastern law and its impact on the development of modern legal institutions and systems.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 322 Myth and History in the Bible (3 credits)

This course examines a range of narratives from the Bible and considers how they functioned in the ancient communities from which they come. It looks at the role of myth and the nature of history writing in the ancient world and explores ways to identify both genres in biblical texts. It also examines current debates over what should count as history in the Bible and the impact of archaeological and extra-biblical literary evidence on these debates. The course will focus primarily on narratives from the Hebrew Bible (e.g., creation myths, ancestral and royal legends, political-historical narratives), though some stories from the New Testament may be considered as well. Please note: This course can be used to satisfy the GEP Religious Difference requirement or the GEP Faith and Reason requirement, but not both.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Faith-Reason Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 323 Psalms (3 credits)

The most influential of all Old Testament books for Christian spirituality, the Psalms offer a special glimpse into the religious life of ancient Israel. Placed within their larger historical background, psalms of various types (laments, hymns, royal and wisdom psalms, etc.) will be studied for their literary and religious character. The question of the Psalter's theology as a whole will be addressed as well.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Undergraduate

REL 325 Synoptic Gospels (3 credits)

This course will progress in two movements. It first will investigate the historical background of the growth of the gospel tradition. It then will read the Gospels as viable literary texts, making use of the most recent advances in the literary critical study of Matthew, Mark, and Luke-Acts. In this way, the course will focus upon the theological uniqueness of each book, as well as tracing their interrelatedness.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Undergraduate

REL 326 Letters of Paul (3 credits)

The aim of this course is to examine the main characteristics of Paul's faith as found in his epistles. The course will establish the broad argument of each of the letters, their historical setting, and their literary and rhetorical character, and demonstrate how these elements work together to express Paul's gospel.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

REL 327 Religion & Race in Phila (3 credits)

This course examines the co-constitution of religious beliefs, racial identities, and regional cultures from an historical perspective primarily in the urban Northeast. We will examine how transatlantic and transnational African and European religious traditions (real, imagined, historical, invented) shaped that history. Because this is a religious studies course, we will think about religions as institutions that profoundly influence individual's epistemologies and actions, as well as the communities, societies, and nations, in which they are located. We will understand race as a social construction that emerged in recent centuries in concert with religious (and scientific) ideas about human origins and anthropologies. Most importantly, we will see how these two constructs - "race" and "religion" - developed and evolved in a particular region of the United States to make visible place-based distinctions and geo-cultural histories. A complicated, multi-scalar picture will emerge of the varied ways in which beliefs, identities, and places influence and are implicated by one another.

Prerequisites: ENG 101

Attributes: Africana Studies Course, American Studies Course, Diversity Course, Undergraduate

REL 328 Global Christianities (3 credits)

Africa is home to the largest population of many Christian denominations in the world and home of the fastest growing concentration of Christians in the world. This course will examine the variety of Christianities in Africa in their global context and explore how Christianity there is influencing and being influenced by Christianity worldwide. Students will learn to problematize, to complicate, and to relentlessly question prevailing religious and cultural ideas about the other, where those ideas originate, how they are constructed and maintained, and who that maintenance and construction serves.

Attributes: Diversity Course, Undergraduate

REL 329 Indigenous Ecologies (3 credits)

This course offers case studies in the diversity of relationships between religion and indigenous ecology, which is the interaction between an indigenous culture and its environment. The approach is anthropological and historical. This includes attention to the evolutionary origins of religion, emic-etic tensions, and the use of archaeology to recover the stories of marginalized peoples. Sample topics are Traditional Ecological Knowledge, attributions of personhood, relations between herbalism and shamanism, and ways that environments shape rituals and beliefs. These reveal alternatives to western assumptions that distinguish "natural" from "supernatural" and "science" from "religion." They also suggest policies for addressing environmental challenges.

Attributes: Diversity Course, Globalization Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 331 Topics in Ancient Judaism (3 credits)

Study of a selected topic in Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman periods. Sample topics include collections of texts, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls or works of Josephus; regions or cities, such as Judaism in Egypt or Jerusalem; a series of events, such as the Maccabean Revolt; an individual or group, such as the Herodian dynasty; or a theme, such as Judean interactions with imperial powers. Course may be taken more than once for credit as topic changes.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 332 Past/Present in ISR and PLS (3 credits)

Digging at Tel Dor: This study tour combines excavating the archeological site of Tel Dor, Israel with travel in the country before, during, and after the excavation season. By participating on a dig, students gain first-hand knowledge of both historical and modern day Israel and the rich history that gives rise to the complexities of the modern Middle East. Digging brings the social, economic, political, intellectual, and religious history of the site "to life" through uncovering and then analyzing the ancient remains-the architecture with associated vestiges of daily life. Students will be part of every step of the archeological process from digging, processing, and analyzing to recording and storage. To witness the full range of historical periods presented in lectures, we will visit the archeological sites of Caesarea, Megiddo, Sepphoris, Beth Shean, Belvoir, Masada and Qumran, spanning the Canaanite through the Crusader periods (20th c. BC - 12th c. AD: the Early, Middle and Late Bronze and Iron Ages, and the Persian Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, First Moslem, and Crusader Periods). Before, during and after the excavation season the group will tour the cities of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Nazareth, focusing on the historical interaction of Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Study Tour, Undergraduate

REL 333 Jerusalem: History & Holiness (3 credits)

The city of Jerusalem has had a nearly unsurpassed historical and religious prominence for three millennia, right up through the present. In this course we will explore Jerusalem from multiple, complementary perspectives. We will consider the history of the city as well as religious developments within the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. We will begin with biblical Jerusalem and then move forward in time, highlighting periods, events, and ideas that have lasting influence through close studies and discussions of selected topics. We will draw on theoretical approaches to the study of sacred space using tools from the field of comparative religion.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 334 Rise of Rab Judaism & Xianity (3 credits)

In the aftermath of the Nazi genocide of Jews in the 20th century, and with new discoveries such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, scholars from many disciplines have sought to better understand the origins of Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity. A growing consensus sees their emergence in the Roman period as the result of a complex series of responses to historical events, particularly the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E. Not only were defining features of each tradition established, but the basic dynamic of their interrelationship was set and would prevail for nearly two millennia. This course provides an in-depth study of religious differentiation by surveying the history, beliefs, and practices of biblical Israel, late Second Temple Judaism, the church as a Jewish eschatological movement, and ultimately Rabbinic Judaism and patristic Christianity in the post-Temple Roman world. Special attention is devoted to the construction of their distinctive and sometimes opposed religious identities.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 335 Christian Origins (3 credits)

A study of the cultural and historical matrices of the early Jesus movement, its rise and early developments, and the emergence of institutionalized practices and belief systems that coalesced in the formation of Christianity. The course is organized chronologically and employs the standard tools and theoretical approaches of modern historical-critical methodology, such as those derived from anthropology, sociology, literary criticism, and classical archaeology.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, European Studies Course, Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Undergraduate

REL 336 Jewish Thought (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to Jewish theology from biblical to modern times. It will focus on selected topics such as God, revelation, ethics and human nature, chosenness, Jewish views of other religions, messianism, the afterlife, and suffering and evil (with special reference to the Holocaust).

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 337 Sabbath in Judaism&Christianty (3 credits)

In our modern lives, it is hard to imagine 'shutting off'. However, the observance of a Sabbath is valued in Judaism and Christianity. This course considers the Sabbath as not just abstention from work but entry into sacred time. It covers the biblical period through the present, and includes diverse forms of observance and claims for its significance. We will study the Sabbath primarily in the Jewish tradition, and explore the tensions between adherence to biblical models and adaptation to new circumstances. We will focus on biblical interpretation as context within which the Sabbath evolved and was (re)defined, and consider the Sabbath as mythological time, as a marker of social identity, and as a practice governed by religious law. We will also consider the Sabbath in the Christian tradition, especially where Christian observance diverges from Jewish observance, such as the shift from Saturday to Sunday.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 338 Jew&Chr Responses to Holocaust (3 credits)

The Jewish Holocaust represents the classic negative event of our age, a manifestation of evil transcending the human imagination. This course will examine how Jews and Christians have responded to this event and why it caused changes in both Jewish and Christian self-understandings. The course will introduce students to the personages, issues and events of the Holocaust, before turning to religious and moral issues such as suffering and guilt.

Attributes: European Studies Course, Faith Justice Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 341 The Quran and Its Interpreters (3 credits)

This course will explore a basic source of Islamic faith and practice, the Quran and its interpretation. We will examine compilation of the Quran, its major themes, and samples from its reception history, both classical and modern. We shall investigate how this 1400-years old text has been interpreted in many different ways, by analyzing legal, theological, mystical, existential, feminist and critical perspectives on it. We shall also make occasional comparisons with the bible and its interpretation. The course will enable the student to have better insight not only on the Quran, but also on the process of interpretation of sacred texts.

Attributes: Africana Studies Course, Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 342 Women in Muslim Tradition (3 credits)

This course will seek to comprehend and explain some of the major aspects of the life and culture of Muslim women. Women are and have always been an integral part of the Muslim society, contrary to what might be generally portrayed and perceived. Far from being a monolithic culture or society, the Muslim world comprises many diverse cultural tendencies, which makes it difficult to generalize. Thus in order to study Muslim women and their status, role and situation, we will touch upon the difference historical, political, and economic forces that have shaped the culture of the Muslim world as a whole. We will be exploring the religious and social issues that have been central during the modern transformation of Muslims societies and will touch upon how Muslim women are portrayed in the media and the ramification of such portrayal.

Attributes: Africana Studies Course, Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 343 Reason Science&Faith in Islam (3 credits)

This course has three major parts. In the first part, we shall look at primary sources of Islam tradition, that of Qur'an and hadith, which will give us a starting point as we turn to the ways in which miracles have been discussed in the tradition. In the second part, we shall look at two classical Muslim thinkers, Ghazali and Ibn Rushd, who differed on miracles as well as on the relation between reason and faith. Analyzing their disagreement will offer us critical insights about common sense, science, rationality and dynamics of Quranic interpretation. In the third part, we shall look at contemporary interpretation of miracles as well as the relation between faith and reason by looking at a crucial Muslim thinker, Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, as well as some of the other approaches to science in modern era. In this part we shall also engage with the epistemological and scientific implications of Islamic understandings of miracles with the help of two Western thinkers, David Hume and Charles S. Peirce. In the final portion of the course, students will present their research on the issue of the relation between reason, science and faith in Muslim context. Please note: This course can be used to satisfy the GEP Religious Difference requirement or the GEP Faith and Reason requirement, but not both.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Faith-Reason Course, Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 351 Indian Buddhism (3 credits)

The development of the Buddhist religion from the time of its founder, Siddhartha Gautama, until its decline in India in the 12th century. The basic teachings of the Buddha, the early Buddhist community or Sangha, the elaboration of the Abhidharma, the rise of Mahayana Buddhism and the development of Tantra will be covered.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 352 East Asian Buddhism (3 credits)

The focus of this course will be on the form of Buddhism that has been dominant in East Asia, a form known as "Great Vehicle" or Mahayana Buddhism. After quickly examining the origin and development of Buddhism in India this course will examine its development in China in some depth, as well as its spread to Korea and Japan.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 355 Superhumans in Chinese Relig (3 credits)

Immortals, Ancestors, Ghosts and Gods: This course examines four religions of China-Confucianism, Daoism, Chinese "folk" or popular religion, and Buddhism-in their historical and contemporary contexts. As its title suggests, the class is built around an exploration of the important role that superhumans such as demons, dragons, buddhas, and ghosts play in each of these traditions. Taking as our starting point the Ming period (1368-1644) popular novel, *Monkey*, in this class we will examine a wide range of primary and secondary sources including paintings, websites, poetry, scripture, articles of clothing, miracle stories, newspapers, statuary, and ritual implements. By combining an historical overview of the topic with a hands-on exploration of the manner in which practices and 445 beliefs related to superhumans remains relevant in China today, the class aims to deepen students' appreciation of the ways religion continues to shape world events, national policy, daily life, and cultural production within and beyond the region.

Attributes: Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 356 Death & Afterlife Chinese Rel (3 credits)

Across regions and millennia, human beings have pondered the perennial question of what happens when we die. This class takes a close look at the fascinating ways this question has been answered in the part of the world now called China. From the very outset, we enter into a world of tombs and transcendence, exploring some of China's earliest burial sites. As the course progresses, we turn to the Daoist quest for immortality, the Buddhist conception of reincarnation, and the Confucian practice of ancestor worship. The class considers points where these worldviews diverge, but takes a more interested look at the places where they have harmonized throughout China's long history. Upon completion of the course, students will have a map of China's afterlife, and an introduction to the beings who preside there, from the Supreme Gods of its Heavens, to the Ten Kings of its Hells.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 357 Food Practices & Chinese Relig (3 credits)

This course examines the practices and beliefs surrounding food associated with Chinese religious traditions such as Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Chinese "folk" or "popular" religion, and Islam. The topics we will cover include religious prescriptions and prohibitions related to food, connections between food-practices and hierarchy, and the roles that food plays in creating and sustaining relationships between, for instance, the living and dead or humans and nonhumans. In addition to studying a variety of texts and objects, we will learn about religious observances related to food cultivation, storage, distribution, preparation, and consumption from guest speakers and through field trips to Philadelphia area sites including a restaurant and a temple.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course

REL 358 Yoga: Ancient & Modern Paths to Freedom (3 credits)

In this course we will explore the fascinating world of yoga as it has evolved in South Asia (the Indian subcontinent), where it has for millennia been associated with a pronounced South Asian interest in both "world renunciation," and "Axial Age" value that has significantly shaped the worldviews of at least three religions of South Asian origin: Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, as well as in the acquisition of power, both "worldly" and "supernatural." We will also examine how yoga traditions were transformed by India's encounter with the West both during colonial times and during the second half of the 20th century. Issues of particular concern, as we trace these developments, will be the historical and cultural contexts of yoga in South Asia, the relationship between yoga practice and South Asian religious beliefs, in particular traditions of religious renunciation, the role of South Asian constructions of concepts of the role of "body" and "mind" in spiritual practice (and the relationships of health, spirituality and religion), the role of yoga as a symbol of the "spiritual East" in the contexts of colonialism and post-colonial nationalism in India as well as its commodification in the contemporary global environment. We will also be examining yoga's "journey to the West" and its status in contemporary American life by examining the genesis of "modern postural yoga," the form of yoga with which most people are familiar (the form of yoga that focuses on the performance of various yoga postures or asana, such as triangle pose, head stand, etc.) While the focus will be on the specific traditions labeled "yoga," the course will also serve as an introduction of the religious of South Asia, since historically yoga and all its varieties has been embedded in specific South Asian religious worldviews. While some attention will be given to Buddhist forms of yoga, the principal focus will be on the traditions associated with the Vedic and Hindu religious traditions, and their modern transformations.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 359 Meditation, Yoga, and the Dao (3 credits)

Asian Spiritual Practices and their Modern Concepts: What is the purpose of life, and how is this purpose to be realized? This course will examine four influential Asian spiritual traditions that offer a variety of answers to these questions, two of which originated in ancient India (Buddhism and that component of the Hindu religious traditions known as yoga) and two in China (Confucian and Daoist traditions of self-cultivation). Each of these traditions in its own way argues that the true potential of a human being is realized only through a process of transformation, which leads from a condition of deficiency (characterized variously as suffering, ignorance, lack of vitality, imbalance, and ultimately mortality) to a condition of true freedom and happiness. The course will examine these traditions both in their original Asian contexts and in the adaptations in Western culture, paying particular attention to research that provides scientific models for thinking about the value of such transformative practices.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 360 Religion & Art in East Asia (3 credits)

Vision and Visualization: This class is about ways of seeing in East Asian religions, with an emphasis on the Buddhist and Daoist traditions. It investigates the visual arts of these religious traditions with special attention to how these materials function in the context of ritual practice. Specific topics include the production of mandalas (or sacred circles) and their uses in the visualization practices of China, Tibet, and Japan; the uses of maps, charts, diagrams, and talismans in the Daoist ritual traditions of China and Taiwan; the relationship between sacred texts and ritual visualizations in late imperial Daoism; the religious and ritual dimensions of Chinese landscape painting; and the practices surrounding sacred icons in the Buddhist and Shinto traditions of Japan. In addition to providing a comprehensive introduction to the visual culture of several East Asian religions, this class also asks students to consider the implications these diverse practices have for how we ourselves perceive, understand, and engage with the visual world around us.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 365 Sacred Stuff Material Religion (3 credits)

Sacred Stuff approaches the study of religious experience through the material world, objects, feelings, and sensations. What does religion feel like? How does it taste or smell? We will explore varieties of religion through our senses and study sacred objects crafted by artists inspired by the divine.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 370 Spec Topics in Relig Studies (3 credits)

Concentrated focus on a selected theme in theology or religion at an advanced level. Topic and content varies from semester to semester. Course may be taken twice for credit as the topic changes. Certifications vary by section. Does not fulfill the GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 380 Prophecy in the Ancient World (3 credits)

Who were the ancient prophets, both biblical and non-biblical? When do gods speak directly to humans via prophets, and when is a third-party human intermediary necessary to mediate between that prophet and the ruler? This course will probe the scope of political authority in Mesopotamia, Ancient Israel, and Ancient Greece with a particular focus on the role of prophets and diviners in society. Through critical analysis of a spectrum of ancient sources from Mari (modern-day Syria), Ancient Israel and Judah, and Delphi and Claros (Greece), we will investigate the system of mediation among prophets, intermediaries, and kings to undertake an interdisciplinary study of ancient prophecy.

Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 382 Women & Religion in Anc Wrld (3 credits)

An investigation of issues related to women and gender through case studies from the Ancient Near East and Ancient Israel through Late Antiquity. In addition to literary sources, students will also consider the importance of archaeology in the discussion of ancient religions and women's ritual practices. Primary sources will illustrate issues such as gender identity, difference, sameness, subordination, privilege, cultural dynamics, marginalization, oppression, resistance, and the role of women in historical and social change. Emphasis will be placed on developing epistemological theoretical, and methodological awareness and critical understanding of the implications for the broader study of religion, gender, and human diversity.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Diversity Course, Gender Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 383 Ancient Greek Religions (3 credits)

This course will be an introduction to the world of thought and practice that contemporary scholars call ancient Greek religion. The main materials of the course will be drawn from the ancient Greeks themselves—from poets, artists, playwrights, and mythographers. Emphasis will be placed on the myths and festivals that formed the fabric of ancient Greek religious practice and outlook. Ancient perspectives on cosmos (universe), polis (city and its society), psyche (self) and theos (gods) will be explored.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 392 Directed Readings in Religion (3 credits)

A study of significant themes or issues in Theology or Religious Studies under the direction of faculty in the department. Frequent consultations and written reports are required. Prior written permission of the instructor and approval from the chair is required. Does not fulfill the Theology/Religious Studies GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 395 Approaches to Study of Religion (3 credits)

A selected survey of the variety of theories and methodological approaches employed in the modern academic study of religion. Approaches to be examined in class include the psychological, sociological, anthropological, archeological, theological, feminist, and socio-biological. Classic thinkers may be included, but most of the course will focus on authors who represent recent developments, such as the new evolutionary approaches to religion. Course work will emphasize direct engagement with the writings of the major theorists themselves (reading and analysis of primary texts).

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

REL 470 Spec Topics in Religs Studies (3 credits)

Concentrated focus on a selected theme in theology or religion at a highly-advanced level. Topic and content varies from semester to semester. Course may be taken twice for credit as the topic changes. Certifications vary by section. Does not fulfill the GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 491 Intern in Religious Studies I (3 credits)

This course is an experiential learning experience in which students work 10 hours per week (total 130 hours) in an organization related to the Religious Studies. The internship is a way to see how different areas of religious studies are used "on the ground" in public, private, non-profit, community, and church-related organizations. In addition to their hours, students must keep a journal, meet regularly with their faculty adviser, and complete a final essay that connects their learning experience in the internship to their other coursework and the goals of the major. For the required application, please see the department chair.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 492 Intern in Religious Studies II (3 credits)

This course is an experiential learning experience in which students work 10 hours per week (total 130 hours) in an organization related to the Religious Studies. The internship is a way to see how different areas of religious studies are used "on the ground" in public, private, non-profit, community, and church-related organizations. In addition to their hours, students must keep a journal, meet regularly with their faculty adviser, and complete a final essay that connects their learning experience in the internship to their other coursework and the goals of the major. For the required application, please see the department chair.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 493 Ind Research in Religion (3 credits)

Directed independent reading and research supported by discussion with other students and instructors. Open to senior theology majors and minors and other senior students by permission of the Chair. Does not fulfill the Theology/Religious Studies GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 494 Ind Research in Religion (3 credits)

Directed independent reading and research supported by discussion with other students and instructors. Open to senior theology majors and minors and other senior students by permission of the Chair. Does not fulfill the Theology/Religious Studies GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

REL 495 Theory & Method Study Religion (3 credits)

A survey of a wide array of theories and methods employed in the modern study of religion, such as psychological, sociological, anthropological, phenomenological, feminist, socio-biological, and other approaches. Both classic and recent theoretical models will be discussed, with special interest in current methodological developments in the academic study of religion. Emphasis will be placed on direct engagement with the writings of the major theorists themselves. Open to junior and senior theology majors and minors and other junior and senior students by permission of the Chair.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

Theology

THE 150 First Year Seminar (3 credits)

Seminar subjects vary.

Attributes: First-Year Seminar, Undergraduate

THE 153 Encountering the New Testament (3 credits)

This course examines the biblical traditions and texts of the Christian Scriptures as products of particular historical and cultural communities, and as literary and theological documents. Although it focuses on the New Testament, the course will also introduce biblical studies more generally, including the relationship between the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. Special attention will be paid to the need for historical- and literary-critical methods to interpret the Bible as mandated by the 1943 Papal encyclical, "Divino Afflante Spiritu," and later Church documents. This course will also help students acquire familiarity with the great diversity in the New Testament about regarding the person and significance of Jesus, the role and structure of the Christian community, and how discipleship is understood.

Attributes: Signature Course, Undergraduate

THE 154 Catholic Theological Tradition (3 credits)

This course critically engages the Christian, particularly Catholic, understanding of humanity in relation to God. It undertakes this study from historical/chronological, philosophical, or thematic/topical approaches. It introduces central Christian theological concepts, such as the doctrines of Christ, the human person, sin/grace/salvation, sacramentality, and moral principles such as the preferential option for the poor, solidarity, and the common good.

Attributes: Signature Course, Theology Level 1, Undergraduate

THE 155 Catholic Social Tradition (3 credits)

This course engages students in study of Christian teachings and practices related to the call to social responsibility, particularly in what is known as Catholic Social Teaching. Students examine the theological, historical, and biblical foundations of ethical commitments, explore a variety of central principles within the tradition (for instance, human dignity, social justice, rights, solidarity, and preferential option for the poor); and analyze how these ethical insights inform analysis of situations in the contemporary world (for instance, economic justice, international development, human rights, war and peace, the forced migration, and care for the global environment).

Attributes: Signature Course, Undergraduate

THE 170 Special Topics in Theology (3 credits)

Topics will vary according to the semester in which the class is offered.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 211 Hebrew Bible (3 credits)

This course will examine the biblical traditions and texts of the Hebrew Scriptures as products of particular historical and cultural communities, and as literary and theological documents.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 241 Intro to Systematic Theology (3 credits)

An investigation into the sources, norms, and key categories of Christian theology from its origins to the present. The ancient sources, contemporary issues, and related political, social and economic contexts will be studied using analytical, autobiographical, and narrative resources.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 261 Christian Social Ethics (3 credits)

This course provides a general overview of the forms and teachings of Christian ethics and how they impact the broader society. Specific social forms based upon human rights, theological virtues, conceptions of justice and the common good will be analyzed through teachings on war, the conquest, race, gender, class and the relationship between church and state. Particular attention will be given to the recent papal encyclicals.

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Faith Justice Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Justice Ethics and the Law , Undergraduate

THE 270 Special Topics in Theology (3 credits)

Concentrated focus on a selected theme in theology at an advanced level. Topic and content varies from semester to semester. Course may be taken twice for credit as the topic changes. Certifications differ by section.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 323 The Psalms (3 credits)

The most influential of all Old Testament books for Christian spirituality, the Psalms offer a special glimpse into the religious life of ancient Israel. Placed within their larger historical background, psalms of various types (laments, hymns, royal and wisdom psalms, etc.) will be studied for their literary and religious character. The question of the Psalter's theology as a whole will be addressed as well.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 324 NT&Chr Atts to Jews/Judaism (3 credits)

The New Testament and Christian Attitudes toward Jews and Judaism: Although the New Testament conveys God's love in Christ to billions of readers, over the centuries "erroneous and unjust interpretations... relative to the Jewish people" (Pope John Paul II, 1997) promoted hostility and violence. This course explores this recurring "anti-Jewish" dynamic with a special focus on contemporary Catholic teaching on Gospel interpretation and particularly problematic scriptural passages.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 325 Synoptic Gospels (3 credits)

A study of each Synoptic Gospel in its own unique historical and cultural context with special emphasis on the application of the most recent critical methodology. Students will grapple with the problems of historical distance by applying recent literary and historical methods to questions such as the identification of literary genre, narrative structure, agendas and target audience, rhetorical techniques, and tensions between author's creativity and use of older sources.

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 326 Letters of Paul (3 credits)

The aim of this course is to examine the main characteristics of Paul's faith as found in his epistles. The course will establish the broad argument of each of the letters, their historical setting, and their literary and rhetorical character, and demonstrate how these elements work together to express Paul's gospel.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 331 Early Christn Thought (3 credits)

An historical and theological investigation of the Christian community during the first four centuries. Among the topics to be considered are the relationship of the early church to classical culture, conflicts over issues of orthodoxy and heresy, and the links between historical context and early Christian doctrinal claims. The course will also investigate the development of the canon of Scripture, Christian leadership structures, the creeds, and early Christian traditions of martyrdom, monasticism, the sacraments and worship.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 333 Knowl & Love of God: Mid Ages (3 credits)

A study of major figures in the history of Latin Christian thought from 400 C.E. to 1500 C.E. with a concentration on theories concerning how we know God and what it means to love both God and neighbor. Emphasis is on the reading of primary sources, both scholastic and monastic, in translation. Course content will require that we consider who God is, who we are in relation to God, Jesus Christ's role in both our knowledge of God and our capacity to love, and the relationship between faith and reason.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Undergraduate

THE 334 Revolt, Reform, Reunion? (3 credits)

This course explores the religious, social, political, and cultural factors that precipitated the Protestant Reformation, with particular emphasis given to theological issues, such as justification, the role of scripture in the life of the church, church structure, the nature of ministry, and the sacraments. In addition, the course examines the progress that has been made in the 20th and 21st centuries to overcome the difference of the 16th century as a result of ecumenical dialogue between Roman Catholic Church, various Protestant churches, and the Anglican Communion.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 335 Gendr & Christian Spirituality (3 credits)

An examination of some of the spiritual classics written by both the men and women of the Christian faith. Emphasis on reading and study of primary texts, largely medieval, with an eye to any discernible differences between men as spiritual authors and women as spiritual authors. Course will also examine the given perceptions of gender, spirituality and eroticism.

Attributes: Diversity Course, Faith Justice Course, Gender Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 339 Darwin, Dogma, and Ecology (3 credits)

In his 2015 encyclical, *On Care for our Common Home* (Laudato Si'), Pope Francis makes an urgent appeal to "every person living on this planet" for dialogue and action in the face of impending environmental collapse. Of course, the pope's argument is grounded in Roman Catholic teaching; however, his critique is more philosophical than theological. It concerns not just the detrimental effect modern technology has had on the environment, but, more fundamentally, how modern science understands our knowledge of the world, and how in turn this understanding has adversely affected human action. The course will investigate the development within Catholicism of an evolutionary worldview that critically embraces neo-Darwinian science, but also distinguishes between religious faith-traditions and secular faith-traditions, suggesting how the former might prove more effective than the latter in addressing the ecological crisis.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 340 Atheism and the Case for God (3 credits)

Over the past twenty years several best-selling authors have mounted a concerted attack on religion, advancing an argument that is, purportedly, so fresh and compelling as to earn them the title, "The New Atheists." The more important and enduring cultural phenomenon affecting religious practice today is the secularism that has increasingly dominated modern civilization, religious belief and practice became significant options rather than cultural givens. This course deals with the question of whether secularism arose in reaction to religion, or as one of religion's greatest success stories. Much of the analysis will be historical: When and how did the secular movement arise? What notion of "God" did it reject? But the course will also address questions that are more philosophical and theological in nature: Has natural science disproved religion? And is secularism properly understood as necessarily concurrent with scientific advance?

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 341 Jesus through the Centuries (3 credits)

An inquiry into Western Christianity's understandings of the meaning and significance of Jesus Christ, including New Testament Christologies, the controversies of the 4th and 5th century councils, medieval atonement theories, post-Enlightenment problems and reformulations, and contemporary liberation Christologies. Students will be encouraged to develop their own Christological position as an integral part of the course.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 342 Does God Exist? (3 credits)

"Is there a God?" is the first and foremost question for many. In this course, students will explore a variety of theories regarding the question of whether or not a singular (monotheistic) God exists. The arguments that address this age-old question will be evaluated epistemologically, that is, through the lens of what kind of knowledge is being considered and how this knowledge is attained. In grappling with the topic, the course will also consider such related questions as the following: What is there a great nothingness and silence from the heavens? What is the meaning of life? Can we attain true happiness and fulfillment in this life? If God exists, why is there so much evil, violence and hunger in the world? Does life end at death or is it just changed?

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 343 Theology of Word and Sacrament (3 credits)

The course explores the Christian's experience of God speaking and acting in the world and the Christian's response of listening and praising God in the Christian community. The interrelationship of the words and actions of God and His people are examined.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 344 Theology of the Church (3 credits)

The spirit of the Church as Christian community, the people of God who witness to the Christian mission between the resurrection of Christ and his Parousia. The foundations of the church in the Scriptures, modern interpretations of its composition, relationship to the world, and goals. Readings from Vatican II and contemporary theologians.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 345 Evil as a Theological Problem (3 credits)

An examination of the profound challenge both to religious understandings of a meaningful and ordered existence and to theological claims regarding an omnipotent, beneficent deity rendered by the occurrence of evil and the suffering that accompanies it. The course will contextualize particular manifestations of evil and investigate how evil is identified, explained, challenged and interpreted through texts in theology and popular culture, with particular attention to its modern and contemporary manifestations.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 211)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 346 Salvation as Story & Belief (3 credits)

In this course, redemption is presented in its two simultaneous dimensions - the unique and salvific role of Christ in the plan of Salvation, as well as the role of individual persons in response to Christ. This two-fold nature of salvation results in the paradoxical formulation of redemption as both an accomplished event as well as an unfinished, developing relationship. The mysteries of the Incarnation will be investigated as the already, complete aspect of redemption, while an inquiry into human morality and moral values will address the developing, relational dimension of redemption.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 347 Death and Rebirth (3 credits)

The course deals with the systematic theological topic of eschatology, the study of the "last thing" (eschaton), which is God or the Reign of God; and the "last things" (eschatata), which are death, individual judgment, heaven, hell, purgatory, the Second Coming of Christ, the resurrection of the body, general judgment, and the consummation of all things in the perfection of the Kingdom of God. The course includes a survey of traditional, (especially biblical) approaches to eschatology, but its methodology will proceed largely "from below" as an exercise in "hope seeking understanding." Thus, the course will include an ecumenical perspective, and community service in the form of care for the dying (especially hospice). Students will be expected to make critical judgments concerning cultural practices relating to care of the dying, treatment of the dead, and the acceptance of death as an event of life.

Attributes: Health Care Ethics Course, Undergraduate

THE 348 Theology and Science (3 credits)

An exploration of the Galileo Case, evolution, contemporary Big Bang cosmology, and quantum theory show how the relationship between theology and science has developed to the present day. The scientific, methodological and theological issues will be critically evaluated for their significance today. Students will thus be provided with the basic tools for understanding and participating in the contemporary dialogue between science and theology.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 349 Theology of Disability (3 credits)

This course will examine the relationship between the way in which human disability is approached, on the one hand, from the perspective of the theological anthropology found in the Christian faith and, on the other hand, how it is approached by other contemporary discourses. More specifically, the course will examine the adequacy of certain contemporary approaches to disability and inquire into ways in which the Christian theological tradition can contribute to the project of rethinking and re-imagining the nature of human disability as well as the nature of the human person in general.

Attributes: Diversity Course, Faith Justice Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Undergraduate

THE 350 The Beauty of God (3 credits)

This course explores how beauty serves as a way to God. In the history of all three major monotheistic faith traditions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), it was believed that God identified himself through various divine names. Focusing primarily, though not exclusively, on the Judeo-Christian tradition, this course examines beauty as one of these divine names. Consequently, the mode of theology that will ground this exploration is what has recently come to be called theological aesthetics. As a mode of theology, or a theo-logic, theological aesthetics draws from the principles of human reason as the art of thinking well (hence as a logic) and the event of divine revelation. Insofar as it unites theology with beauty, a theological aesthetic not only draws from the grammar, language, and thinking associated with beauty and art, but attempts to tie these more deeply to both human reason and divine revelation. Taking its cue from aesthetic experience, this course is divided into three basic parts: part 1 is the encounter with the object of interest, namely God's existence; part 2 examines the subjective aspects of the encounter, namely, the socio-cultural dimensions of how we come to understand God, "religion," faith, etc.; and part 3 examines the results inspired by the encounter, namely, the reception of divine beauty in revelation, music, responding to evil and human suffering, and mysticism.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Undergraduate

THE 351 Ignatian Spirit in Jesuit Trad (3 credits)

An examination of and reflection on the religious vision of Ignatius of Loyola and its embodiment in the life of the Society of Jesus, including a reading of the Spiritual Exercises. An overview of the major movements and influential persons in Jesuit history, a study of Jesuit spirituality and theology, and a consideration of the role of the Jesuits in broader church life.

Attributes: European Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 352 Recent Trends in Roman Cathol (3 credits)

Recent Trends in Roman Catholicism: This course will deal with the documents of Vatican II, current understandings of the sacraments of the Catholic Church, the movements towards unification among the Christian churches, recent suggestions for the exercise of the papacy in the future, and the modern emphasis on social justice as part of Catholic life and practice.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 353 American Catholicism (3 credits)

American Catholicism: This course deals with the diverse dynamics within the life of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States with a main focus on the 19th and 20th centuries. It will study the theological development of this indigenous Catholic tradition and situate it within its broader historical and cultural context.

Attributes: American Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 354 Beauty&ConsciousnessInTheArts (3 credits)

This course is designed to enable students to examine the relationship between faith and reason in the context of beauty and consciousness. It will do this in two ways. First, with the goal to acquiring a relative mastery, it will offer students an opportunity to engage and explore certain themes pertaining to beauty and consciousness that are relevant to major figures within the Christian theological tradition. Second, it will enable students to demonstrate their relative mastery over these themes by bringing them into conversation with contemporary presentations of those themes as they appear in artistic form.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Undergraduate

THE 355 American Religious Thought (3 credits)

An historical survey of the traditions of American religious thought with special regard for the 19th and 20th centuries; a critical examination of representative religious thinkers and theologians; a study of the role of religion in American life and society.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 356 Liberation & Pol Theologies (3 credits)

An inquiry into the critique and vision brought to theology by the perspective of the poor and oppressed in the 20th century via the paradigm known as liberation and political theology. An extensive examination of the context and methods of Latin American liberation theology followed by an examination of European political theology and African-American liberation theology. Other topics for consideration may include the work of Hispanic, Asian, African, and North American feminist liberation theologians.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith Justice Course, Faith-Reason Course, Latin American Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 357 Feminist Theologies (3 credits)

An inquiry into the sources, contexts, methods, and symbols of Christian theology from the perspective of women in the process of human liberation. The roles of women in church and society, the history of the women's movement in North America, and the experiences and theological perspectives offered by feminists of differing racial, ethnic and socioeconomic background will be examined. Feminist reflections within other religious traditions may also be considered.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith Justice Course, Faith-Reason Course, Gender Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 358 Faith, Justice & Jesuit Miss (3 credits)

This course will challenge students to reflect theologically on the historic grounds of the Christian faith and how and why, for many throughout Christian history, a concern for social, economic, and political justice is rooted in the Christian Gospel. It will also familiarize students with the historical, social, religious, economic, political, educational and cultural context of contemporary Bolivia; teach students how to stand outside their own epistemological system and more fully understand the reality of the cultural "other;" and assist students to integrate this knowledge into a complex understanding of the demands of faith and the work of justice within the specific context of contemporary Bolivia. When taught as a study tour, the class will spend 10 days over Spring Break in Bolivia visiting the mission sites of the Jesuit organization Fe y Alegria.

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Latin American Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Undergraduate

THE 359 Religion, Violence & Terrorism (3 credits)

Religiously motivated violence constitutes one of the most important socio/economic/political factors in the twenty-first century. This course will probe both the roots and the recent manifestations of violence and terrorism in the name of religious convictions and traditions. Through rigorous investigation of both primary and secondary literature, this course will provide a thorough presentation of the theological roots of religious violence, as well as its contemporary manifestations. The course will unfold in three parts: 1) the roots of religious violence: scripture, sacrifice and ancient conquest; 2) cosmic struggle: the violence of apocalypticism then and now and 3) contemporary manifestations: sexism and racism; recent religious wars and genocides; and terrorism. When taught as a study tour, will include international travel.

Attributes: Globalization Course, Irish Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 360 Rel Vision in Film & Fiction (3 credits)

This course introduces fiction and films that are driven by religious sensibilities and theological insights. Issues rising throughout the course include deity, sin, forgiveness, grace, redemption, virtue, and community. Student expectations entail critical analysis and theological reflection, as well as a very basic grasp of the phenomenon of human religiosity.

Attributes: American Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 361 Catholic Social Teaching (3 credits)

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the tradition of Catholic social teaching with a view to developing skills for critical reading and integrated appropriation of these documents. Beginning with *Rerum Novarum* (1891), we will examine the most important papal, conciliar, and episcopal social teaching texts up to the present time, identifying foundation principles, tracing central theological, ethical, and ecclesial concerns, and locating each document in its proper historical context.

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Faith Justice Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Undergraduate

THE 362 Fth & Jus: Sctpt & Soc Values (3 credits)

Faith and Justice: Scripture and Social Values: How and why a concern for social, economic, and political justice is rooted in and demanded by the Christian gospel, and what this has to say about the nature and mission of the church. An overview of the social teaching of the Catholic Church in the past century with emphasis on the thought of the most recent popes. Consideration of certain social justice issues: war and peace, crime and punishment, world hunger, racism, human rights, and the international economic order.

Attributes: Faith Justice Course, Latin American Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 363 Ignatius & Cty: Jesuit Urb Mis (3 credits)

Ignatius and the City: Jesuit Urban Missiology: This course reviews the theology and spirituality of Ignatius of Loyola and how his early followers in the Society of Jesus established a particular missiology. Study of the network of ministries created by the first generation of Jesuits in Rome will be the first part of the course with particular emphasis on the urban context. An examination of how that missiology has been used in and around the City of Philadelphia in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries will also be included in the course.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 364 Pursuit of Love: Sexual Ethics (3 credits)

This course explores some basic questions: What is love, and what does it mean for Christians to try to live as God-like lovers in all that they do, and specifically in living as sexual beings? If love is considered a necessary context for genital involvement, what specific characteristics must this love have in order to render its genital expression morally acceptable? How do we distinguish morally appropriate genital activity from that which is not? These questions are addressed within the general theological framework of Christianity that recognizes human sexuality as a multi-faceted reality involving our bodies, minds and hearts. In dealing with the moral questions and arguments surrounding premarital sexual activity, contraception, same-sex genital acts, masturbation and abortion, how can we resolve the possible tension that may arise between the promptings of our personal conscience and the official moral teachings regarding sexuality that are put forth by the Catholic Church, other Christian churches and some major religions of the world?

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Undergraduate

THE 365 Marriage/Same Sex Union/Divorc (3 credits)

Marriage, Same Sex Unions, and Divorce: Examining the Ethical Issues: The Judeo-Christian tradition regards marriage as a divinely instituted reality designed, not only to enhance the humanity of men and women and to establish a stable environment for the nurturing of children, but to serve also as a reminder and embodiment of God's loving relationship with His people. This course lays bare the tension between the biblical and theological texts highlighting the sacred status of marriage and the many secular aspects of contemporary society that portray marriage as "just a piece of paper" or as little more than a legal fiction. This tension shapes discussions of the psychological, social and ethical dimensions of love, marriage, and sexuality. People who marry today do so in the face of numerous questions and challenges: the "hook-up" culture, accepted, even expected, cohabitation, the extended meaning of "family," recognition of same-sex civil unions and/or marriages, undefined gender roles, and high divorce rates that are supported, perhaps even encouraged, largely by "no-fault" divorce laws. These issues are addressed, along with the ethical arguments surrounding various kinds of reproductive technology and family-planning methods. In addition, the course explains the Catholic Church's laws regarding the "impediments" or obstacles to a valid marriage, and the granting of annulments, and delves, finally, into the social, ethical and theological controversies surrounding divorce and remarriage, with particular attention given to their effects on children.

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Undergraduate

THE 366 Christian Medical Ethics (3 credits)

With the technological inauguration of the age of new medicine we have at our disposal more means than norms for intervention in the life, health, and death processes of human existence. Even more crucial is the question: "Should we do everything that is within our capacity to do?" Consideration will be given to the contribution of Christian ethicists in their reflection on the issues involved in abortion, reproductive engineering (AIH, AID, IVF, cloning, etc.), care of the dying, euthanasia, medical experimentation, organ transplantation, and the rights of patients.

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Faith Justice Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Justice Ethics and the Law , Latin American Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 367 Suffering and Death (3 credits)

Biblical, Systematic and Ethical Perspectives: Dramatic advances in medical information and technology increase daily and these advances are being implemented almost immediately. As a result, people who have succumbed to their illnesses only a few years ago can now have their lives extended by being treated aggressively. This treatment does prolong the lives of many people, but in the process it also causes people to endure much pain and suffering. As a result many Christians are focusing on the age old question of "why do innocent openly have to suffer?" Various answers have been given to this question by society: Dr. Kevorkian's "death machine," Oregon's "Death With Dignity Act," direct abortion of defective fetuses, and even infanticide. It has been said that "only the suffering human person knows that he/she is suffering and wonders why; and he/she suffers in a humanly speaking still deeper way if he/she does not find a satisfactory answer." This course will examine the meaning of personal suffering, as well as the Christian response to the suffering of others from biblical and systematic perspectives. Students will then apply these insights to two specific medical ethics issues-physician-assisted suicide and medical treatments for handicapped newborns.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 368 Just Hlth Care in Dev Nations (3 credits)

Just Health Care in Developing Nations: An investigation of adequate health care as a fundamental human right. The course will proceed from the premise that socially induced needs are a result of historical development of material and social conditions, coupled with a social consensus that some things are necessary for happiness, social life, or some other goal. It will consider the inability of many societies to supply adequate health care as an issue of basic personal dignity, a claim against society, and as a matter of justice. The course will examine the issue of just health care for all peoples from both public health and ethical perspectives. When taught as a study tour, students will travel internationally.

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Globalization Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Justice Ethics and the Law , Latin American Studies Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 370 Special Topics in Theology (3 credits)

Concentrated focus on a selected theme in theology or religion at an advanced level. Topic and content varies from semester to semester. Course may be taken twice for credit as the topic changes. Other certifications differ by section.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 371 Christianity and Media (3 credits)

This course offers an opportunity to explore the relationships between Christianity and the wide variety of modes of communication that we refer to as "media." In the course, students will engage in two basic tasks. First, students will engage in the descriptive task of identifying the current state of the media with respect to religion. How are religions and religious issues portrayed in various media? How do Christians understand and use media for their various purposes? Second, the class will engage in the normative task of judging the social and moral worth of the various modes of communication using the resources of the discipline of Christian social ethics. Does the current media landscape support human flourishing and the just society? If so, what should be done to ensure that this continues? If not, how might it be shaped so that it supports such development?

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Faith Justice Course, Undergraduate

THE 372 Technology Ethics (3 credits)

This course will engage in critical reflection on technology, its role in human lives, and its impact on society. The course will examine various theories of the nature technology. It will also investigate particular resources available within the discipline of Christian social ethics that are central to understanding and evaluation the moral worth of various technologies, such as common good, justice, human dignity, development, and solidarity. These conceptual tools will then be used to explore the ethical implications of technology will be the assessment of a variety of particular cases of both commonplace and emerging technologies (e.g., civil engineering, cellular telecommunications, social media, surveillance, digital divide, data security, product manufacturing and disposal, intellectual property, body modification, and the post-human movement).

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Faith Justice Course, Justice Ethics and the Law , Undergraduate

THE 373 Economic Ethics (3 credits)

Economic Ethics: This course will examine the historical, social and philosophical conditions that gave rise to economics as a distinct discipline. Both the theory and practice of economics will be subjected to an ethical analysis drawing upon biblical and theological sources, particularly emphasizing Catholic teaching. Different economic systems will be compared and different forms of economic life and teaching within the Christian church will be discussed.

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Faith Justice Course, Globalization Course, Justice Ethics and the Law , Undergraduate

THE 374 War and Peace (3 credits)

Throughout Christian tradition, theologians have argued for and against Christian participation in war. This course will examine these arguments through reading relevant biblical, theological, historical and philosophical materials. We may explore how the various arguments have been represented (or misrepresented) in popular culture through film.

Prerequisites: PHL 154

Attributes: Ethics Intensive, Faith Justice Course, Irish Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 380 Interreligious Dialogue (3 credits)

This course will involve both study and immersion: study of the history and theology of dialogue chiefly but not exclusively in Catholic Christian circles; immersion by writing and by regular involvement with local temples, mosques, synagogues, meditation centers, etc. Lecture with discussion and meditation. Reflection and research papers, focusing on one's own interior dialogue as well as exterior dialogue.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 381 One True Religion? (3 credits)

This course examines Christian responses to two important questions: Can the world's many religions, which have different beliefs and different practices, all be true, or must only be true? If, as Christianity has claimed throughout its history, salvation is possible only through the mediation of Jesus the Christ, does this mean that anyone who is not Christian is not "saved," or is consigned to hell? Among the topics explored: classical and contemporary theories of truth; the relationship of truth and salvation; Christian theories of exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism, and particularism.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 382 Religion, Society, and God (3 credits)

This course is an inquiry into the theological and philosophical nature of religion. What is the origin and development of religious traditions? Are there characteristics which are universal and how does theology and philosophy view them? The course will look at diverse modes of religious experience and conceptions of God, human existence and community. The philosophical and theological perspectives on the meaning of belief, symbolism and ritual in the spiritual quest for the transcendent.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate

THE 384 Jews/Chr. Theologies Compared (3 credits)

The course studies fundamental religious questions as understood from various Jewish and Christian perspectives. Christian and Jewish students will gain an understanding of the other religious community while also deepening their understanding of their own. Other students will encounter the two traditions through a comparative lens. Topics to be discussed include the experience of God; the Bible; how Christians and Jews understand their relationship to God and the world; worship and prayer; and the destiny of the created universe.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 385 Jesus the Jew in History (3 credits)

For centuries Jesus' Jewish identity was ignored. To understand him and the movement that emerged after him it is essential to study him as a first century Jew. In this course we will engage scholarly research into the historical Jesus and the ancient Jewish context in which he lived. We will consider how he is presented in early Christian writings and analyze how his Jewishness was perceived in later Jewish and Christian thought. Finally, we will consider the important implications of this issue for Jewish-Christian relations.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 387 Jews&Chr. Entwined Histories (3 credits)

Why has the relationship between Christians and Jews been frequently hostile? How have the two communities influenced each other, for good and for ill? Is there a relationship between the Nazi genocide and historical church teaching? Has there been improvement in the two traditions' relationship in recent decades? What are today's pressing challenges? This course will examine all these questions.

Attributes: Diversity Course, Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 388 Jews&Chr. Bible Interpretation (3 credits)

Although Jews and Christians share many of the same scriptural books, their respective collections are differently organized and named. Christians refer to their collection as the "Old Testament," while Jews call their texts the "Tanakh" (an acronym for the Hebrew words for Teaching, Prophets, and Writings). Despite, or because of this commonality, Christians and Jews have often battled over these scriptures' meanings. This course explores the ways that Jews and Christians have interpreted key texts, separately and together, over two millennia of learning from and disputing with each other. It also examines why the Bible has been a source of conflict between the two groups, with a focus on certain key passages, and why that is currently changing - as evidenced in recent official Catholic instructions.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 389 Abrahamic Peoples I (3 credits)

Past, Present and Future I: The three monotheistic religions all originated in the Middle East. In their origins and spread to other parts of the world, their interactions formed a complex tapestry of theologies, rituals, texts and histories. This two- semester course surveys the origins, practices, beliefs, and interactions among the Muslim, Christians, and Jewish peoples. Both semesters are taught by a Jewish, a Christian, and a Muslim professor, all three of whom will be present for each class session. Fall semester, the class will explore the early beginnings of all three traditions up to the year 1492. Spring semester brings their stories from 1492 to the present. Certain overarching themes, topics, or questions will be considered in each era to illustrate the interlacing similarities and differences among the three communities in the past, in today's world, and with a view to future possibilities. Offered over two consecutive semesters for six credits, although students may choose to take only Fall or Spring semester for 3 credits.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 390 The Abrahamic Peoples II (3 credits)

Past, Present and Future II: The three monotheistic religions all originated in the Middle East. In their origins and spread to other parts of the world, their interactions formed a complex tapestry of theologies, rituals, texts, and histories. This two semester course surveys the origins, practices, beliefs, and interactions among the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish peoples. Both semesters are taught by a Jewish, a Christian, and a Muslim professor, all three of whom will be present for each class session. Fall semester, the class will explore the early beginnings of all three traditions up to the year 1492. Spring semester brings their stories from 1492 to the present. Certain overarching themes, topics, or questions will be considered in each era to illustrate the interlacing similarities and differences among the three communities in the past, in today's world, and with a view to future possibilities. Offered over two consecutive semesters for six credits, although students may choose to take only Fall or only Spring semester for 3 credits.

Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 392 Directed Readings in Theology (3 credits)

A study of significant themes or issues in Theology or Religious Studies under the direction of faculty in the department. Frequent consultations and written reports are required. Prior written permission of the instructor and approval from the chair is required. Does not fulfill the Theology/Religious studies GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 470 Special Topics in Theology (3 credits)

Topics will vary according to the semester in which the class is offered.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 491 Internship in Theology I (3 credits)

This course is an experiential learning experience in which students work 10 hours per week (total 130 hours) in an organization related to Religious Studies. The internship is a way to see how different areas of theological study are used "on the ground" in public, private, non-profit, community, and church-related organizations. In addition to their hours, students must keep a journal, meet regularly with their faculty adviser, and complete a final essay/presentation that connects their learning experience in the internship to their other coursework and the goals of the major. For more information and for the required application, please see the department chair. Does not fulfill the GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 492 Internship in Theology II (3 credits)

This course is an experiential learning experience in which students work 10 hours per week (total 130 hours) in an organization related to Religious Studies. The internship is a way to see how different areas of theological study are used "on the ground" in public, private, non-profit, community, and church-related organizations. In addition to their hours, students must keep a journal, meet regularly with their faculty adviser, and complete a final essay/presentation that connects their learning experience in the internship to their other coursework and the goals of the major. For more information and for the required application, please see the department chair. Does not fulfill the GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 493 Ind Research in Theology (3 credits)

Independent research and writing under the direction of faculty in the department. Prior written permission of the instructor and approval from the chair are required. Course may be taken twice for credit as the topic of research changes. Does not fulfill the Theology/Religious studies GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 494 Ind Research in Theology (3 credits)

Independent research and writing under the direction of faculty in the department. Prior written permission of the instructor and approval from the chair are required. Course may be taken twice for credit as the topic of research changes. Does not fulfill the Theology/Religious studies GEP.

Attributes: Undergraduate

THE 495 Theor & Meth in Study of Relg (3 credits)

A survey of a wide array of theories and methods employed in the modern study of religion, such as psychological, sociological, anthropological, phenomenological, feminist, sociobiological, and other approaches. Both classic and recent theoretical models will be discussed, with special interest in current methodological developments in the academic study of religion. Emphasis will be placed on direct engagement with the writings of the major theorists themselves. Permission of the Chair required.

Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 153 or THE 154 or THE 155 or THE 221)

Attributes: Faith-Reason Course, Undergraduate