THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Department Mission Statement

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies is committed to a rigorous presentation of the methods and content of both Christian Theology and Religious Studies as academic disciplines. We view these combined disciplines as an important component within the liberal arts curriculum of a Roman Catholic university in the Jesuit tradition. We strive 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.

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

• Provide students with an understanding of the foundations of Christian faith and its implications for life in society, especially within the Roman Catholic tradition;
• Instill in students a capacity for the examination of theological and religious traditions from a critical distance;
• Foster in students and professional colleagues an appreciation for the diversity that exists within the contemporary, scholarly study of theology and religion and within 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.

Professor: Peter A. Clark, S.J., Ph.D.; Philip A. Cunningham, Ph.D.
Associate: Allen Kerkeslager, Ph.D.; David W. Carpenter, Ph.D.; James F. Caccamo, Ph.D.; Katie Oxx, Ph.D.; Millicent C. Feske, Ph.D.; Ms. Shawn Madison Krahmer, Ph.D.
Assistant: Aaron K. Reich, Ph.D.; Adam Gregerman, Ph.D.; Brendan Sammon, Ph.D.; Gerard M. Jacobitz, Ph.D.; Katie Oxx, Ph.D.; Millicent C. Feske, Ph.D.; Ms. Shawn Madison Krahmer, Ph.D.

Chair: James F. Caccamo, Ph.D.

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:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>THE 211</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible</td>
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<td>THE 380</td>
<td>Interreligious Dialogue</td>
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<td>THE 384</td>
<td>Jews/Chr. Theologies Compared</td>
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<td>THE 385</td>
<td>Jewish Jesus as Savior</td>
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<td>REL 101</td>
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<td>REL 212</td>
<td>Israelite Religion</td>
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<td>REL 231</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
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<td>REL 241</td>
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<td>REL 261</td>
<td>Hinduism</td>
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<td>REL 270</td>
<td>Special Topics in Relig Stud</td>
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<td>REL 271</td>
<td>African &amp; Caribbean Religions</td>
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<td>REL 336</td>
<td>Jewish Thought</td>
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<td>REL 338</td>
<td>Jew&amp;Chr Responses to Holocaust</td>
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<td>REL 351</td>
<td>Indian Buddhism</td>
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<td>REL 352</td>
<td>East Asian Buddhism</td>
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<td>REL 356</td>
<td>Death &amp; Afterlife Chinese Rel</td>
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<td>REL 357</td>
<td>Food Practices &amp; Chinese Rel</td>
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<td>REL 383</td>
<td>Ancient Greek Religions</td>
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<td>THE 387</td>
<td>Jews&amp;Chr. Entwined Histories</td>
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1 Not all "Special Topics" courses meet this requirement. Please check individual sections of REL 270 or REL 370 for specific information.
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 Minors

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

Graduate Program

- Theology and Society M.A. (moratorium) (https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/arts-sciences/theology-religious-studies/minor-theology-religious-studies)

Religious Studies

REL 101 Comparative Religion (3 credits)
Comparative Religion: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 150 First Year Seminar (3 credits)
First Year Seminar: Seminar subjects vary.
Attributes: First-Year Seminar, Undergraduate

REL 211 Hebrew Bible (3 credits)
Hebrew Bible: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 212 Israelite Religion (3 credits)
Israelite Religion: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 221 Intro to the New Testament (3 credits)
Introduction to the New Testament: 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, Theology Level 1, Undergraduate

REL 231 Judaism (3 credits)
Judaism: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 241 Islam (3 credits)
Islam: 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. Non-Western Studies, Religious Difference.
Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 251 Religions of Ancient India (3 credits)
REL 261 Hinduism (3 credits)
Hinduism: 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. Non-Western Studies, Religious Difference.
Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 270 Special Topics in Relig Stud (3 credits)
Special Topics in Religious Studies: 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: Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 271 African & Caribbean Religions (3 credits)
African & Caribbean Religions: 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). Non-Western Studies, Religious Difference.
Attributes: Africana Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate
REL 272 Religon/Global/Rights-Bolivia (3 credits)
Indigenous Religions, Economic Globalization and Human Rights in Bolivia: Emil Durkheim has described a religion as a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to the sacred that unite into a single moral community those who adhere to them. This course will apply the methods of the History of Religions to discover those religious beliefs and practices shared by indigenous populations of Bolivia that, in some senses, unite them into a “single moral community.” The 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 archeological record, inducing religious experience, and relationship between religious authority and social or political power. The class will then explore the moral implications of these beliefs. 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 typically promoted by global capitalism. Ethics Intensive, Non-Western Studies, Religious Difference.
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Latin American Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Undergraduate

REL 311 Comparative Religious Ethics (3 credits)
Comparative Religious Ethics: 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. Religious Difference, Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 312 Spirit Disc in Compar Perspect (3 credits)
Spiritual Practices in Comparative Perspective: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 321 Religion&Law in the Anc World (3 credits)
Religion and Law in the Ancient World: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 322 Myth and History in the Bible (3 credits)
Myth and History in the Bible: 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. Religious Difference. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 323 Psalms (3 credits)
The Psalms: 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)
Synoptic Gospels: 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, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 326 Letters of Paul (3 credits)
Letters of Paul: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Faith-Reason Course (New GEP)
REL 327 Religion & Race in Phila (3 credits)
Religion & Race in Philadelphia: 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. Diversity, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format).
Prerequisites: ENG 101
Attributes: Africana Studies Course, American Studies Course, Diversity Course (New GEP)

REL 328 Global Christianities (3 credits)
Global Christianities: 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. Diversity.
Attributes: Diversity Course (New GEP)

REL 331 Topics in Ancient Judaism (3 credits)
Topics in Ancient Judaism: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 332 Past/Present in ISR and PLS (3 credits)
Past and Present in Israel/Palestine: 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. Religious Difference, Study Tour.
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 333 Jerusalem: History & Holiness (3 credits)
Jerusalem: History & Holiness: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 334 Rise of Rab Judaism & Xianity (3 credits)
The Rise of Rabbinic Judaism & Christianity: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate
REL 335 Christian Origins (3 credits)
Christian Origins: 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, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 336 Jewish Thought (3 credits)
Jewish Thought: 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). Religious Difference.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 337 Sabbath in Judaism & Christianity (3 credits)
The Sabbath in Judaism and Christianity: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 338 Jew & Chr Responses to Holocaust (3 credits)
Jewish and Christian Responses to Holocaust: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: European Studies Course, Faith Justice Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 341 The Quran and Its Interpreters (3 credits)
The Quran and Its Interpreters: 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-year 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. Religious Difference. Non-Western Studies.
Attributes: Africana Studies Course, Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 342 Women in Muslim Tradition (3 credits)
Women in Muslim Tradition: 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 ramifications of such portrayal. Religious Difference, Non-Western Studies.
Attributes: Africana Studies Course, Asian Studies Course, Gender Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 343 Reason, Science & Faith in Islam (3 credits)
Reason, Science, and Faith in Islam: 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. Religious Difference, Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Religious Difference Course

REL 351 Indian Buddhism (3 credits)
Indian Buddhism: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

REL 352 East Asian Buddhism (3 credits)
East Asian Buddhism: 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. Religious Difference, Non-Western Studies.
Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate
REL 353 Buddhist Ethics (3 credits)
REL 354 China & Creation E Asian Buddh (3 credits)
REL 355 Superhumans in Chinese Relig (3 credits)
   Immortals, Ancestors, Ghosts and Gods: Superhumans in Chinese Religions: 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. Religious Difference, Non-Western Studies.

REL 356 Death & Afterlife Chinese Rel (3 credits)
   Death and the Afterlife in Chinese Religion: 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. Religious Difference, Non-Western Studies.
   Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course

REL 357 Food Practices & Chinese Relig (3 credits)
   Food Practices and Chinese Religion: 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. Religious Difference, Non-Western Studies.
   Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course

REL 358 Yoga: Ancient & Modern Paths to Freedom (3 credits)
   Yoga: Ancient and Modern Paths to Freedom: 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 it 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 to 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. Religious Difference, Non-Western Studies.
   Attributes: Asian Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 359 Meditation, Yoga, and the Dao (3 credits)
   Meditation, Yoga, and the Dao: 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. Religious Difference.
   Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

REL 363 Ethical Tradns of East Asia (3 credits)
REL 370 Spec Topics in Relig Studies (3 credits)
   Special Topics in Religious Studies: 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.
   Attributes: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate
REL 382 Women & Religion in Anc Wrld (3 credits)
Women and Religion in the Ancient World: Investigation of issues related to women and gender through case studies from selected religions in periods from the Paleolithic to Late Antiquity. Primary sources will illustrate problems such as gender identity, difference, sameness, subordination, privilege, cultural dynamics, marginalization, oppression, resistance, and the role of women in biological, social and cultural change. Examples may include materials from the complex of Israelite, ancient Jewish, and early Christian religions, but appreciation for diversity will be encouraged by giving significant attention to religions outside of these traditions. 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. Religious Difference, Diversity. 
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Diversity Course (New GEP), Gender Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 383 Ancient Greek Religions (3 credits)
Ancient Greek Religions: 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. Religious Difference, Ancient Studies. 
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 392 Directed Readings in Religion (3 credits)
Directed Readings in Religion: 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. Normally this course is restricted to theology majors and minors. Does not fulfill the Theology/Religious Studies GEP.

REL 395 Approaches to Study of Religion (3 credits)
Approaches to the Study of Religion: 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). Faith and Reason. Faith and Reason, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format). 
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP)

REL 470 Spec Topics in Relig Studies (3 credits)
REL 493 Ind Research in Religion (3 credits)
Independent Research in Religion: 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

REL 494 Ind Research in Religion (3 credits)
Independent Research in Religion: 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)
Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion: 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. Faith and Reason, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format). 
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)

Theology

THE 150 First Year Seminar (3 credits)
First Year Seminar: Seminar subjects vary. 
Attributes: First-Year Seminar, Undergraduate

THE 154 Faith, Justice & the Cath Trad (3 credits)
Faith, Justice and the Catholic Tradition: This course is designed to introduce students to the values that have shaped the Roman Catholic institution that they have chosen to attend and the ways in which these values are historically grounded in Roman Catholic Doctrine and shaped by its present articulation. It will therefore introduce students to central theological themes (such as the doctrines of Christ, the human person, sin/grace/salvation, and sacramentality) and moral claims (such as the preferential option for the poor, solidarity, and the common good). It is a course concerned with elemental questions of meaning and action and, as such, seeks to give students the skills they need not only to understand and analyze the texts and concepts under consideration but also to put these ideas and texts into dialogue with contemporary issues, their own lives, and the world. This course will also introduce students to the critical, academic study of religion and to the particular problems that such study raises (e.g., historicity, pluralism, faith versus scientific knowledge of the world). 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. This is an academic course that requires the student to engage the course material in a critical fashion so as to facilitate her/his mastery of it. Signature Core Course for all Students. 
Attributes: Signature Course (New GEP), Theology Level 1, Undergraduate

THE 211 Hebrew Bible (3 credits)
Hebrew Bible: 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. Religious Difference. 
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 2, Undergraduate
THE 221 Intro to the New Testament (3 credits)
Introduction to the New Testament: 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: Theology Level 1, Undergraduate

THE 241 Intro to Systematic Theology (3 credits)
Introduction to Systematic Theology: 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. Formerly Introduction to Christian Thought.
Attributes: Theology Level 1, Undergraduate

THE 261 Christian Social Ethics (3 credits)
Christian Social Ethics: 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. Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Theology Level 1, Undergraduate

THE 270 Special Topics in Theology (3 credits)
Special Topics in Theology: 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: Theology Level 2, Undergraduate

THE 323 The Psalms (3 credits)
The Psalms: 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, Theology Level 3, 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. Religious Difference when team taught.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 325 Synoptic Gospels (3 credits)
Synoptic Gospels: 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, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 326 Letters of Paul (3 credits)
Letters of Paul: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Ancient Studies Course, Faith-Reason Course (New GEP)

THE 331 Early Christn Thought (3 credits)
Early Christian Thought: 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 333 Knol & Love of God: Mid Ages (3 credits)
Knowledge and Love of God in the Middle Ages: 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. Faith and Reason, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format).
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 334 Revolt, Reform, Reunion? (3 credits)
Revolt, Reform, Reunion?: 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. Writing Intensive (when offered in that format).
Attributes: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 335 Gendr & Christian Spirituality (3 credits)
Gender & Christian Spirituality: 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. Diversity, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format).
Attributes: Diversity Course (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Gender Studies Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate
THE 339 Darwin, Dogma, and Ecology (3 credits)
Darwin, Dogma, and Ecology: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Undergraduate

THE 340 Atheism and the Case for God (3 credits)
Atheism and the Case for God: “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.” But 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 given. 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? Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Undergraduate

THE 341 Jesus through the Centuries (3 credits)
Jesus through the Centuries: 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 Cristological position as an integral part of the course. Faith and Reason. Writing Intensive (when offered in that format).
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 342 Does God Exist? (3 credits)
Does God Exist?: “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? Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 343 Theology of Word and Sacrament (3 credits)
Theology of Word and Sacrament: 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 344 Theology of the Church (3 credits)
Theology of the Church: 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 345 Evil as a Theological Problem (3 credits)
Evil as a Theological Problem: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 211)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 346 Salvation as Story & Belief (3 credits)
Salvation as Story & Belief: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate
THE 347 Death and Rebirth (3 credits)
Death and Rebirth: 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" (eschatia), 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, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 348 Theology and Science (3 credits)
Theology and Science: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 349 Theology of Disability (3 credits)
Theology of Disability: 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 reimagining the nature of human disability as well as the nature of the human person in general. Diversity, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format).
Attributes: Diversity Course (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Undergraduate

THE 350 The Beauty of God (3 credits)
The Beauty of God: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 351 Ignatian Spirit in Jesuit Trad (3 credits)
Ignatian Spirituality in the Jesuit Tradition: 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, Theology Level 3, 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: Theology Level 3, 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, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate
THE 354 Beauty & Consciousness in the Arts (3 credits)
Beauty and Consciousness in the Arts: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Medieval, Ren & Reform Studies, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 355 American Religious Thought (3 credits)
American Religious Thought: 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 356 Liberation & Pol Theologies (3 credits)
Liberation and Political Theologies: 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. Faith and Reason, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format). Latin American Studies.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith Justice Course, Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 357 Feminist Theologies (3 credits)
Feminist Theologies: 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 socio-economic background will be examined. Feminist reflections within other religious traditions may also be considered. Faith and Reason, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format).
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith Justice Course, Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Gender Studies Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 358 Faith, Justice & Jesuit Mission in Bolivia (3 credits)
Faith, Justice and Jesuit Mission in Bolivia: 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;" an 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. The class will spend 10 days over Spring Break in Bolivia visiting the mission sites of the Jesuit organization Fe y Alegria. Ethics Intensive, Non-Western Studies. Latin American Studies.
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Latin American Studies Course, Non-Western Studies (GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 359 Religion, Violence & Terrorism (3 credits)
Religion, Violence and Terrorism: 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. Globalization.
Attributes: Globalization Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 360 Religion, Violence & Terrorism (3 credits)
Religious Vision in Fiction and Film: 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

THE 361 Catholic Social Teaching (3 credits)
Catholic Social Teaching: 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 foundational principles, tracing central theological, ethical, and ecclesial concerns, and locating each document in its proper historical context. Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate
THE 362 Fth & Jus: Script & 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, Theology Level 3, 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 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 364 Pursuit of Love: Sexual Ethics (3 credits)
In Pursuit of Love: Sexual Ethics: 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? Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Theology Level 3, 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. Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 366 Christian Medical Ethics (3 credits)
Christian Medical Ethics: 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. Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Health Care Ethics Course, Justice Ethics and the Law , Latin American Studies Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 367 Suffering and Death (3 credits)
Suffering and Death: 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate
THE 368 Just Health 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. Ethics Intensive, Globalization.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Globalization Course (New GEP), Health Care Ethics Course, Justice Ethics and the Law, Latin American Studies Course, Undergraduate

THE 370 Special Topics in Theology (3 credits)
Special Topics in Theology: 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 371 Christianity and Media (3 credits)
Christianity and Media: 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? Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 372 Technology Ethics (3 credits)
Technology Ethics: 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). Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Justice Ethics and the Law, Theology Level 3, 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. Ethics Intensive, Globalization.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Globalization Course (New GEP), Justice Ethics and the Law, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 374 War and Peace (3 credits)
War and Peace: 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. Ethics Intensive.
Prerequisites: PHL 154
Attributes: Ethics Intensive (New GEP), Faith Justice Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 375 Special Topics (3 credits)
Special Topics: 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: Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 376 One True Religion? (3 credits)
One True Religion?: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 380 Interreligious Dialogue (3 credits)
Interreligious Dialogue: 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. Religious Difference.
Attributes: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 381 One True Religion? (3 credits)
One True Religion?: 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. Faith and Reason.
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 382 Religion, Society, and God (3 credits)
Religion, Society, and God: 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. Faith and Reason, Writing Intensive (when offered in that format).
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Undergraduate
THE 384 Jews/Chr: Theologies Compared (3 credits)
Jews and Christians: Theologies Compared: 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. Religious Difference when team taught.
*Attributes*: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 385 Jewish Jesus as Savior (3 credits)
Jewish Jesus as Savior: In the wake of the groundbreaking conciliar declaration, Nostra Aetate, the Catholic Church now authoritatively teaches that "Jesus was an always remained a Jew," and that the Jewish people remain in an eternal covenant with God. These teachings challenge Christians to creatively re-imagine Jesus' Jewish life and also how they think about Christ as the Savior of all humanity. This course considers relevant New Testament texts, research into the Jewishness of Jesus, the development of the Church's Christological tradition, the rise and demise of anti-Jewish theologies, and new theological approaches being proposed today. Religious Difference when team taught.
*Attributes*: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 387 Jews&Chr: Entwined Histories (3 credits)
Jews and Christians: Entwined Histories: 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. Diversity, Religious Difference when team taught.
*Attributes*: Diversity Course (New GEP), Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 388 Jews&Chr: Bible Interpretation (3 credits)
Jews and Christians: Bible Interpretation: 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. Religious Difference when team taught.
*Attributes*: Religious Difference Course, Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 389 Abrahamic Peoples I (3 credits)
The Abrahamic Peoples 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, 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. 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. Religious Difference when team taught.
*Attributes*: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate

THE 390 The Abrahamic Peoples II (3 credits)
The Abrahamic Peoples 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. Religious Difference when team taught.
*Attributes*: Religious Difference Course, Undergraduate
THE 495 Theor & Meth in Study of Relg (3 credits)
Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion: 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. Faith and Reason, Writing intensive (when offered in that format).
Prerequisites: PHL 154 and (THE 154 or THE 221)
Attributes: Faith-Reason Course (New GEP), Theology Level 3, Undergraduate

THE 521 Gospels and Discipleship (3 credits)
Gospels and Discipleship: This course is an exploration of the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. Using the framework described in the Pontifical Biblical Commission's "Instruction on the Historical Truth of the Gospels," each Gospel will be examined in turn in order to discover each evangelist’s unique understanding of the meaning of Jesus, the duties of his followers, and the nature of Jesus’ historical ministry. While coming to appreciate the unique insights of each writer, students will bring the perspectives of their four narratives into dialogue with our twenty-first century context.
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to students with a major in Theology and Society. Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

THE 583 Islam & Christian-Muslim Relat (3 credits)
Islam & Christian-Muslim Relations: Globally, Christianity and Islam have the greatest number of adherents. This course examines the theological, historical, and current contexts in which Christianity and Islam encounter each other. Students will explore: 1) the emergence of Islam in seventh century Arabia, its major sacred texts, its key beliefs and practices, and Islamic law, theology and mysticism; 2) the distinctive interactions between Islam and Eastern and Western Christianity, including peaceful coexistence, political confrontation, and theological discussions, 3) modern interactions, such as common challenges (skepticism, secularization of public sphere, interpreting sacred texts for a modern age, relation between religion and science) and sources of tension (colonialism, terrorism, nationalism, and media caricatures). The course will also look at actual and potential avenues for reconciliation and cooperation for the sake of God and for the common good of the common humanity.
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.

THE 694 Integrative Concluding Project (3 credits)
Integrative Concluding Project: As one of their elective courses and following the successful completion of 30 credits (10 courses), students may prepare with a faculty advisor and a local mentor a 40-page research paper that brings a real world experience related to their career or ministerial activity or goal into interaction with theological reflection. Three credits are earned upon completion of the paper.