

RELIGION

The study of religion and its impact on our world is an integral part of the liberal education offered by Saint Joseph's College. Every student is required to deal with religious and philosophical concepts throughout the Core Curriculum. As a part of its Catholic identity, the College offers a deeper reflection and study of religion through a combined major with philosophy or a minor in religion.

Religious experience is universally a part of the human condition. The religion minor offers the student the opportunity to study and reflect on the foundational sources and the human response to the Divine through a system of beliefs, worship and morality. Both the Core Curriculum and the religious studies department recognize the importance of dialogue in our contemporary pluralistic world. The study of religion requires an integrative mind, utilizing the natural and humane sciences (psychology, sociology, anthropology, linguistics, etc.) and challenges the student toward an expanded world view.

MAJOR IN RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY (36 credits):

REQUIRED: 8 Courses (24 credits)

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| PHL 101 Introduction to Philosophy or | REL 112 Christian Scriptures |
| 111 Human Nature | REL 201 Moral Theology |
| PHL 121 Phil of Religion | |
| PHL 421 Metaphysics | |

Choose one course from each area:

Dogma

REL 231 Ecclesiology & Ecumenism
REL 232 Christianity in History
REL 234 Christology

Worship/Sacraments

REL 331 Sacraments: Encounter w/God
REL 332 Worship, Belief & Praxis
REL 333 Theology & Prac of Ministry

History of Philosophy

PHL 221 Ancient Philosophy PHL 231 Modern Philosophy
PHL 222 Medieval Philosophy PHL 232 Contemporary Thought

ELECTIVES: Any 12 credits from Philosophy or Religion.

MINOR IN RELIGION (18 credits)

REQUIRED: 3 courses (9 credits):

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| 111 Intro to Hebrew Scriptures | 112 Intro to Christian Scriptures |
| 121 Philosophy of Religion | |

ELECTIVES: Any 9 credits in Religion.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

111. Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures 3 credits

This course introduces the student to the study of the Hebrew Scriptures. A principle goal of the course is to become familiar with the various methodologies utilized in contemporary scripture study and to become aware of the major themes in the Hebrew Scriptures.

112. Introduction to Christian Scriptures 3 credits

This course provides an introduction to the Christian Scriptures utilizing the tools of modern biblical scholarship. One of the goals of this course is to introduce the student to the sources and foundational themes of the Christian faith through a historical critical investigation of the Christian Scriptures.

121. Philosophy of Religion (PHL 121) 3 credits

This is the departmental introduction to the study of religion. Emphasis is placed on human experience of the divine and seeks to awaken an awareness of the diversity of the human response to the concept of the divine.

142. Christian Bioethics (PHL 142) 3 credits

This course examines significant issues in contemporary biomedical ethics. Students learn the major theological/philosophical principles employed by bioethicists and application of these principles to important cases. Students discuss current issues in contemporary health care within the context of the Christian perspective of respect for the dignity of human persons. The central question of the course is whether certain actions and practices affecting human life and health are consistent with an understanding of human beings as created in the *image and likeness of God*.

201. Studies in Moral Theology 3 credits

An examination of Christian morality within its historical, theological, and psychological framework. This course will examine the principles affecting the moral life as a response to the Divine. It investigates themes such as formation of conscience, sin and guilt, grace and salvation, and the historical development of Christian morality. Special attention will be paid to contemporary concerns in Christian morality.

231. Ecclesiology and Ecumenism 3 credits

A study of the Church through an investigation of several models to assist the student in understanding the nature and role of the Church throughout Christian history into contemporary times. There is special emphasis on ecumenical theology.

232. Christianity in History 3 credits

This course provides a survey of Christian history. Special attention will be given to the methodological concerns of historical investigation. In some cases, a particular historical period may be the focus of the course.

234. Christology 3 credits

An examination of the person Jesus the Christ. Students will be encouraged to investigate the development of the understanding and significance of Jesus through various Conciliar documents, to arrive at their own understanding of Jesus the Christ.

258-9. Religious Thinkers**3 credits**

An in-depth study of various major figures in the history of Christianity. This course offers the opportunity for serious investigation of a variety of religious thinkers utilizing interests of department members and student interest.

331. Sacraments: the Encounter with God**3 credits**

This course examines the sacraments as privileged ways of encountering God through human experiences of prayer in an assembled community. The relationship of the sacraments to Jesus and the Church will also be examined. Special attention will be paid to growing ecumenical agreement about sacraments.

332. Worship, Belief, and Praxis**3 credits**

A study of the expression of Christian worship through art and symbol. There is special concern for the nature and function of worship in Christianity. Attention will also be focused on the interaction of the liturgical life and life in the world.

333. Theology and Practice of Ministry**3 credits**

A study of Christian ministry, a theology of ministry, and the contributions to ministry made by other humane disciplines. The role of ordained and lay ministry will be examined as well as assisting the student in beginning to formulate her/his theology of ministry. This course would be recommended for students wishing to participate in some form of Church-related ministry.

355. Independent Study**1-3 credits****358-9. Special Studies in Religion****1-3 credits**

A study in a major religious topic. Courses reflect the interest and research of department members.

391. Ministry practicum**1 credit**

Offered in coordination with Campus Ministry, this offers the student an opportunity to reflect theologically on various ministries that the student has experienced, such as: retreats, youth groups, counseling, advocacy, and service work.

392. Liturgy practicum**1 credit**

Offered in coordination with Campus Ministry, this offers the student an opportunity to reflect theologically on his or her work with campus liturgies, parish liturgical planning, and other liturgical ministries.