

Philosophy and Religious Studies



The **Religious Studies** program enables interested students to examine world religions from philosophical, historical, and text-critical viewpoints. Faculty are committed to a comparative approach in the study and teaching of religious studies, with specializations in Western and Eastern traditions.

Our department is also home to a lively student club and a religious studies honor society, *Theta Alpha Kappa*. Undergraduate conferences, study abroad, and field trips provide additional learning opportunities.

Tenured Faculty/Advisors



Matthew Altman, PhD (U. Chicago)
Kant, 19th-Century Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Normative Ethics

Gary Bartlett, PhD (Rutgers U.)
Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Cognitive Science



Cynthia Coe, PhD (U. Oregon)
Continental Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy

Jeffrey Dippmann, PhD (Northwestern U.) [Chair]
Asian Religion & Philosophy, World Religions



Michael Goerger, PhD (U. California, Riverside)
Ethical Theory, Ancient Greco-Roman Philosophy

Lily Vuong, PhD (McMaster U.)
Early Judaism, Early Christianity, New Testament Apocrypha, Feminist Theory



What Employers Want

Skills and qualities fostered by our programs:

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Analytical skills | Attention to detail |
| Written communication | Critical thinking |
| Verbal communication | Creativity |
| Ethical awareness | Initiative |
| Interpersonal skills | Leadership skills |

Non-Tenure-Track Faculty



Clayton Bohnet, PhD (Duquesne U.)
Continental Philosophy, Critical Thinking, Philosophy of Art

Michael Hundley, PhD (U. Cambridge)
Ancient Religions, Hebrew Bible, World Religions



Lauren Nuckols, PhD (The Pennsylvania State U.)
Environmental Philosophy, Ethics, Pragmatism

David Schwan, PhD (Bowling Green State U.)
Critical Thinking, Philosophy of Emotion, Moral Psychology



Karen Turcotte, MA (CWU)
Comparative Religions, Indian Religion & Philosophy

Philosophy & Religious Studies alumni find a wealth of employment opportunities in such fields as:

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|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Academia | Business | Information | Science | Consulting | Ethics Compliance |
| Education | Engineering | Government | Journalism | Law | Marketing |
| Medicine | Ministry | Non-Profits | Publishing | Finance | Technical Writing |

Application Process: Meet with any of our program faculty and complete the major or minor form, or contact us at philo@cwu.edu or 509-963-1818.

Religious Studies Curriculum

Courses are five (5) credits unless otherwise specified.

Religious Studies Major - 50 credits or 60 credits

Students may choose either a 50- or a 60-credit major.

In order to graduate, a student who completes the 50-credit major must also have a minor or a second major in another discipline.

Required Courses:

RELS 101 World Religions

RELS 102 Food, Sex, and the Other or RELS 103 World Mythologies

PHIL 352 Greek and Roman Philosophy or

RELS 403 Buddhist Thought and Practice

RELS 376 Contemporary Religious Thought

Capstone Project: Choose either the senior seminar or the two quarter thesis sequence.

RELS 488 or Senior Methodologies Seminar

OR Thesis Sequence:

RELS 494 Undergraduate Thesis Preparation* (2)

RELS 495 Undergraduate Thesis* (3) or RELS 497 Honors Thesis* (3) **per advisor's approval*

Total: 25

Select one Eastern tradition course: (5)

PHIL 345 Chinese Philosophy

RELS 350 Korean Religion and Philosophy

RELS 351 Religions of China and Japan

RELS 352 Religions of India

RELS 401 The Daoist Tradition

Select one Western religion course: (5)

RELS 353 Judaism

RELS 354 Christianity

RELS 355 Islam

RELS 413 Varieties of Early Christianity

Electives: 15 (for small plan) or 25 (for large plan)

Any RELS courses at 300-level or above. Select upper-division PHIL courses or upper-division courses related to religion in other disciplines by permission.

Total Credits: 50 or 60

Religious Studies Minor - 24-25 credits

Required Courses:

Select two from the following: (10)

RELS 101 World Religions

RELS 102 Food, Sex, and the Other: Everyday Religion and Morality

RELS 103 World Mythologies

Select one Eastern tradition course: (5)

PHIL 345 Chinese Philosophy

RELS 351 Religions of China and Japan

RELS 352 Religions of India

RELS 401 The Daoist Tradition

RELS 403 Buddhist Thought and Practice

Select one Western religion course: (5)

RELS 353 Judaism

RELS 354 Christianity

RELS 355 Islam

RELS 356 Early Jewish and Christian Apocalyptic Literature

RELS 410 The Legacy of the Hebrew Bible

RELS 413 Varieties of Early Christianity

Electives: (4-5)

Any unused RELS or approved course

Total Credits: 24-25

Ethics Minor - 25-27 credits

Required Courses:

PHIL 104 Moral Controversies

PHIL 485 Capstone Project (2)

Select two courses from the following: (10)

PHIL 302 Ethical Theory

PHIL 308 Medical Ethics

PHIL 304 Business Ethics

PHIL 309 Ethics through Film

PHIL 306 Environmental Ethics

PHIL 465 Advanced Ethics

Electives: (no more than 5 credits can be taken from one discipline) 8-10

COM 202 Communication Ethics and the First Amendment (4)

POSC 475 International Human Rights

COM 333 Communication Ethics (4 credits, for COM majors only)

RELS 353 Judaism

IT 301 Information Technology Security, Privacy and Ethics (3)

RELS 354 Christianity

LAJ 401 Ethics, Diversity and Conflict in Criminal Justice (4 credits, for LAJ majors only)

RELS 355 Islam

PHIL 309 Ethics through Film

RELS 376 Contemporary Religious Thought

PHIL 325 Women and Philosophy

RELS 401 Daoist Tradition

PHIL 345 Chinese Philosophy

RELS 403 Buddhist Thought and Practice

PHIL 357 Philosophy of Race

SOC 320 Death and Dying

POSC 452 The Constitution and Human Rights

SOC 354 Minority Experience (4)

or other ethics-related courses as approved by minor advisor.

Special topics courses, cooperative education credit, and independent study courses may also count toward elective credit.

Total Credits: 25-27

Recommended Two-Year Plan

The Religious Studies major is highly flexible and allows for an additional major or minor. Below is a sample plan that will allow the program to be completed in two years.

Year One

Fall	RELS 101 World Religions Select One: - PHIL 352 Greek and Roman Philosophy or - RELS 403 Buddhist Thought and Practice (Winter)
Winter	Select One: - RELS 102 Food, Sex, and the Other or - RELS 103 World Mythologies Select One: - RELS 403 Buddhist Thought and Practice or - PHIL 352 Greek and Roman Philosophy (Fall) Eastern/Western Elective
Spring	RELS 376 Contemporary Religious Thought Eastern/Western Elective

Year Two

Fall	RELS 488
Winter	Upper-Division Elective Large Plan Elective RELS 494 Undergraduate Thesis Preparation
Spring	RELS 495 Thesis

CWU is an AA/EEO/Title IX Institution. For accommodation: DS@cwu.edu



Central Washington University