

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

Gayle Young-Dohrman, MA (Gonzaga U.)
Ancient Philosophy, Plato, History of Philosophy, Spinoza



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

RELS 494 Undergraduate Thesis Preparation* (2)

RELS 495 Undergraduate Thesis* (3) or RELS 497 Honors Thesis* (3)

Total: 25 **per advisor's approval*

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

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

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

Religious Studies Minor - 20 credits

Required Course:

RELS 101 World Religions

Select one course from the following:

(5) RELS 102 Food, Sex, and the Other
PHIL 305 Philosophy of Religion

Select one course from the following:

(5) RELS 351 Religions of China and Japan	RELS 354 Christianity
RELS 352 Religions of India	RELS 355 Islam
RELS 353 Judaism	

Select any one upper-division RELS course (5) or

PHIL 305 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 378 Philosophy of Love

PHIL courses used for a Philosophy program cannot be used here.

Total Credits: 20

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	Two Upper-Division Electives
Winter	Upper-Division Elective Large Plan Elective RELS 494 Undergraduate Thesis Preparation
Spring	Large Plan Elective RELS 495 Undergraduate Thesis or RELS 497 Honors Thesis

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