Philosophy and Religious Studies Major

Professor: R. Geenen (Chair), J. McRae

Contact: Rich Geenen
Email: Rich.Geene@wcmo.edu

CIP CODE: 38.0199

The Philosophy and Religious Studies major provides students with a foundation in metaphysics (the nature of ultimate reality and religious/spiritual experiences), epistemology (the study of truth, knowledge, and critical thinking), ethics (moral theory, applied ethical issues, theological frameworks, and political theory), textual studies (analysis of literary genres, composition and redaction histories, and reception histories of sacred texts), ritual studies (exploring varieties of spiritual practices in various contexts), and aesthetics (the study of beauty and art).
Beyond the major, students may additionally choose between two optional concentrations of study: (1) Ethics and Social Justice or (2) Religious Literacy. Courses taken toward the major can also count toward these optional concentrations.

The major serves as a preparation for graduate study in philosophy, religious studies, and related fields, but also complements work in other disciplines such as political science, pre-law, history, English, business, environmental science, and pre-health care. Additionally, the major is designed to help students to flourish in a complex and diverse world.

Philosophy and Religious Studies Major

Student's Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Advisor Date Major Declared

Course Code	Course Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
Required Courses (Choose three courses from the following list: 9 hours)				
PHL 120	History of Philosophy	3		
PHL 212	Introduction to Ethics	3		
PHL 218	Introduction to Logic	3		
PHL/REL 102	World Religions	3		
REL 101	Introduction to the Bible	3		
Three Upper-Level Courses in PHL/REL (9 hours)				
PHL/REL 300/400		3		
PHL/REL 300/400		3		
PHL/REL 300/400		3		
Three Additional Elective either from PHL/REL or from courses outside of the department with significant overlap with philosophy/religious studies themes (see sample list below) (9 hours)				
ECN/ENV 377	Environmental and Resource Economics	3		
POL 314	American Constitutional Law and Politics	3		
POL 326	Environmental Politics and Policy	3		
POL/SEC 337	Human Rights and Security	3		
POL 351	Women and Politics	3		
PSY 374	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Group Conflict	3		
SEC 325	Issues in Homeland Security	3		
WGS/SOC 315	Gender and Society	3		
WGS/REL 335	Sex and Gender in the Christian Tradition	3		
WGS/POL 351	Women and Politics	3		

Optional Concentrations: Students may either declare a general major in Philosophy and Religious Studies or elect to add a concentration in one of two different areas (see below). Concentrations allow students to demonstrate expertise in an academic area related to a field they might pursue in graduate or professional school (e.g., pre-law students might pick Ethics and Social Justice, while students bound for seminary might choose Religious Literacy). Concentrations do not increase the total number of hours required for the major (27 hours total). The courses in the concentrations below count towards the three upper-level courses and three electives that are required by the major (which are taken in addition to the required courses indicated on the previous page).

Track One: Ethics and Social Justice Concentration (Choose 4 courses from list below; 3 of which must be from REL or PHL: 12 Hours)				
LST 330	Diversity & Ethics in Leadership	3		
PHL 244	Business Ethics	3		
PHL 242	Biomedical Ethics	3		
PHL 246	Environmental Ethics	3		
PHL 324	Genetic Manipulation	3		
POL/SEC 337	Human Rights and Security	3		
POL/WGS 351	Women and Politics	3		
PSY 374	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Group Conflict	3		
REL 307	Social Justice in Modern Christian Thought	3		
Track Two: Religious Literacy Concentration (Choose 4 courses from the following list: 12 hours)				
REL 101	Introduction to the Bible	3		
REL/PHL 102	World Religions	3		
REL/PHL 333	Asian Philosophy and Religion	3		
REL 319	Recent Christian Thought	3		
REL 316	The Teachings of Jesus	3		
REL 305	Perceptions of Death	3		
REL 342	Philosophy, Religion, and Science	3		
	Total Hours	39		