Department of Philosophy and World Religions

(College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences)

www.uni.edu/philrel

The Department of Philosophy and World Religions offers the following programs:

Undergraduate Majors (B.A.)

- Philosophy (p. 1)
- Religious Studies (p. 2)

Minors

- Ethics (p. 3)
- Philosophy (p. 4)
- Religious Studies (p. 4)

Program Certificate (p. 5)

- Religious Literacy (p. 5)
- Youth Work in Religious Settings (p. 5) (also listed in Department of Learning, Leadership, and Community)

Bachelor of Arts Degree Programs

Philosophy Major

The Philosophy major requires a minimum of 120 total hours to graduate. This total includes UNIFI/General Education requirements, 36 hours of coursework in the major, plus electives to complete the minimum of 120 hours.

The philosophy major is designed to provide depth and breadth in the study of philosophy, emphasizing the skills of logical reasoning, analytic reading, effective writing, and ethical reasoning, as well as focused study of the history of western philosophy, and fundamental conceptions of human nature and human practices. The major is also flexible, so that students can take courses of interest to them. Courses in the philosophy major give students an opportunity to gain useful conceptual tools, increase their flexibility of mind, and improve their ability to view issues from multiple perspectives. Philosophy is one of the best pre-law majors; philosophy majors typically do extremely well in admission tests to graduate and professional schools.

The philosophy major stresses learning goals that enable students to achieve the skills deemed essential by employers, in particular, strong critical thinking and communication skills. Because the major is organized around learning goals, students know exactly why they are taking each class. As they explore philosophy, they also see that each class is helping them to become college graduates who possess knowledge and skills valued by employers as well as professional and graduate schools.

Philosophy Major - Learning Goals and Courses

What is a learning goal?

A learning goal is a set of skills or body of knowledge that a student should expect to acquire or expand their mastery of by completing a particular major.

By establishing learning goals, majors in Philosophy know exactly why they are taking each class. These learning goals divide the classes taken by majors in Philosophy into categories that are easily understood and that guide the student through the major and the learning process.

Learning Goal 1: Skills: Philosophy majors will demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, analytical writing, reading and understanding complex materials; as well as analyzing, evaluating, and constructing arguments.

Courses that support Learning Goal 1:

Logical Reasoning		
Required:		3
PHIL 1030	Elementary Logic [QR]	
Reading for Arguments and Assumptions		
Students who have completed Learning Goal 4 will have satisfied this requirement.		
Analytic Writing		
Students who have completed Learning Goal 4 will have satisfied this requirement.		

Learning Goal 2: Ethical Reasoning: Philosophy majors will understand ethical theories and use this understanding to think through moral and ethical problems in a principled and systematic way.

Courses that support Learning Goal 2:

Required:		
PHIL 2500	Ethics [*]	3

Learning Goal 3: History of Philosophy: By reading key texts from the rich western philosophical tradition, Philosophy majors will gain useful conceptual tools, increase their flexibility of mind, and improve their ability to view issues from multiple perspectives.

Courses that support Learning Goal 3:

Required: at least three course from the following:		9
PHIL 2210	Dawn of Western Thought: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL/RELS 2220	Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages	
PHIL 2230	The Age of Reason: Philosophy in the Renaissance and Enlightenment	

PHIL 2240	The Limits of Reason: Modern Philosophy	

Learning Goal 4: Philosophy majors will investigate fundamental conceptions of what it means to be a person and to engage in essential human activities.

Courses that support Learning Goal 4:

A. Understanding Human Nature

Required: at least two courses from the following:		6
PHIL 3310	Consciousness and Mind: Philosophical Perspectives	
PHIL 3330	Death, Sex and the Body: Phenomenology and Foucault	
PHIL 3360	Character, Wisdom, and Mind: Philosophical Perspectives	
PHIL 3610	Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology *	

B. Basic Human Practices

Required: at least two courses from the following. At least one of these courses must be in "analytical philosophy": either PHIL 3350 or PHIL 3620. (Taking both of these courses will completely satisfy this requirement.)		6
PHIL 2140	Philosophy of Religion	
PHIL 3320	Political Philosophy *	
PHIL 3350	How We Know: Philosophical Perspectives	
PHIL 3370	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 3620	Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein	

Learning Goal 5: Career Preparation: Philosophy majors will be able to relate their major to their careers and to their future goals.

Required:		
PHIL 4490	Professional Development Seminar	3
Through thoughtful reflection and critical discernment, students synthesize their work in the major, clarifying what they have done and linking their achievements with life goals, while they also explore how deep learning outcomes in the major offer preparation for a career, graduate or professional school.		

Electives: in order to reach 36 hours, students can choose from courses not used above or from the following courses in Philosophy. No more than two courses in applied ethics (PHIL 1540, PHIL 1560 PHIL 2550, PHIL 2570, PHIL 3110, PHIL 3510) count toward the philosophy major:

PHIL 1040	Justice and the Good Life: Philosophical Perspectives R	
PHIL 1050	The Art of Critical Thinking and Writing WC	
PHIL 1080	World Philosophies HCG	
PHIL/RELS 1540	Ethics in Business	
PHIL 1560	Science, Technology, and Ethics (STE) R	
PHIL/RELS 2550	Environmental Ethics *	
PHIL 2570	Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality *	
PHIL/RELS 3110/ CAP 3194	Perspectives on Death and Dying *^HCG	
PHIL 3186	Studies in Philosophy	
PHIL/RELS 3510/ CAP 3173	Bio-Medical Ethics *^R	
PHIL 4080	Individual Readings in Philosophy	
Total hours 36		

* Courses followed by asterisk (*) count toward the Ethics minor (15-hour minor).
^ Courses followed by the symbol (^) also satisfy the Liberal Arts Core Capstone requirement.
QR Courses followed by (QR) also satisfy the UNIFI Quantitative Reasoning category.
R Courses followed by (R) also satisfy the UNIFI Responsibility category.
WC Courses followed by (WC) also satisfy the UNIFI Written Communication category.
HCG Courses followed by (HCG) also satisfy the UNIFI Human Condition: Global category.

Religious Studies Major

The Religious Studies major requires a minimum of 120 total hours to graduate. This total includes UNIFI/General Education requirements, 36 hours of coursework in the major, plus electives to complete the minimum of 120 hours.

The Religious Studies major is designed to provide depth and breadth in the study of religion, emphasizing the beliefs and practices of the major world religions, as well as focused study of the multiple ways that religions shape and reflect the world around us. The major is also flexible, so that students can take courses of interest to them. Courses in the study of religion give students an opportunity to become reflective and respectful global citizens in our increasingly diverse world.

In planning the Religious Studies major, we have listened to employers. The major prioritizes learning goals that enable students to learn about religion and achieve outcomes that employers value. We know that employers want to hire college graduates who have strong communication and critical thinking skills and who can interact empathetically and effectively with persons from different cultural and religious backgrounds. Because the major is organized around learning goals, students always know exactly why they are taking each class. As they explore religion, they also see that each class is helping them to become college graduates who possess knowledge and skills valued by employers.

Study of Religion Major - Learning Goals and Courses

What is a learning goal?

A learning goal is a set of skills or body of knowledge that a student should expect to acquire, or expand their mastery of, by completing a particular major.

Having established "learning goals" allows majors in Religion to know exactly why they are taking each class. These learning goals

divide the classes taken by majors in Religion into categories that are easily understood and that guide the student through the major and the learning process.

Learning Goal 1:

Majors in the Study of Religion demonstrate an ability to reflect critically and emphathetically on the subject.

Courses support Learning Goal 1:

A. Religion and Culture		
One course from the following:		3
RELS 2600	Religion and the Public Schools	
RELS/PHIL 3110/ CAP 3194	Perspectives on Death and Dying	
RELS 3150	Women and Christianity *	
RELS 3400	Religion and Race	
RELS 3500	Religion and Ethics	
RELS 4230/5230	Religion in America *	
B. Textual and Analytical Explorations of Religion		**3**
One course from the following:		
RELS 2001	Old Testament and Other Hebrew Scriptures	
RELS 2002	New Testament and Early Christian Writings	
RELS/PHIL 2140	Philosophy of Religion *	
RELS 3200	Religion and Law	

Learning Goal 2:

Majors in the Study of Religion have knowledge of the beliefs, practices, and worldviews of major living religions.

Courses support Learning Goal 2:

A. Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion		
One course from the following:		3
RELS 2100	Hinduism and Buddhism	
RELS 2110	Confucianism, Daoism, and Zen	
One course from the following:		3
RELS 2120	Judaism and Islam	
RELS 2130	Christianity	
B. Interactions Within and Among Religions		
One course from the following:		3
RELS 1040	The Power of Myth: (Topic)	
RELS 1060	American Religious Diversity	
RELS/PHIL 2220	Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages	
RELS 3180	Religion and Politics: (Topics)	

Learning Goal 3:

Majors in the Study of Religion have skills that are highly valued by employers; they are able to relate their major to their career and to their future goals.

Courses support Learning Goal 3:

Writing Enhanced Courses		
Two writing enhanced courses are required. Students must take at least two courses marked with an asterisk (*) for the Study of Religion major.		
Senior Seminar		
Required:		
RELS 4490	Professional Development Seminar	3

Through thoughtful reflection and critical discernment, students synthesize their work in the major, clarifying what they have done and linking their achievements with life goals, while they also explore how deep learning outcomes in the major offer preparation for a career, graduate or professional school.

Electives: in order to reach 36 hours, students can choose from courses not used above or from the following courses in Religion. All courses 3000 level or higher (including any RELS 3159 course) that do not already fulfill other requirements for the major are considered Electives:		
RELS 1020	Religions of the World	
RELS 1510	Religion, Ethics, and Film	
RELS 3080/5080	Individual Readings in Religion	
RELS 4186/5186	Studies in Religion	
RELS 4600	Internship in Religion	
and not more than two courses from:		
RELS/PHIL 2550	Environmental Ethics	
RELS/PHIL 2570	Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality	
RELS 1540	Ethics in Business	
RELS/PHIL 3510/ CAP 3173	Bio-Medical Ethics	
Total hours 36		

Pre-Theological Emphasis

Students preparing for ministry or for graduate professional education in theology at a seminary or divinity school, regardless of major, are advised to consult with the pre-theological advisor, who will help them to know the requirements of individual schools and to plan an undergraduate program appropriately designed for their professional interests.

Minors

Ethics Minor

The Ethics minor is intended to provide students of diverse major fields of study a way to focus and develop their interest in ethics both by offering them a core of courses essential to an understanding of the field of ethics and by advising them in the selection of courses that enable them to develop depth and detail in theoretical, professional and applied ethics.

Ethics Core--Required:		
Philosophy:		3
PHIL 2500	Ethics	

Religious Studies:		3
RELS 3500	Religion and Ethics	
Introductory Courses: select one of the following:		**3**
Religious Studies:		
RELS 1020	Religions of the World	
RELS 1060	American Religious Diversity	
Philosophy or Religious Studies:		
PHIL/RELS 1540	Ethics in Business (can count in introductory, applied, or elective categories, but only one)	
Philosophy:		
PHIL 1040	Justice and the Good Life: Philosophical Perspectives	
Applied Ethics: select one of the following:		**3**
Philosophy:		
PHIL 1560	Science, Technology, and Ethics (STE) (Can also count as an elective, but not as both)	
Philosophy or Religious Studies		
PHIL/RELS 2550	Environmental Ethics (Can also count as an elective, but not as both)	
PHIL/RELS 2570	Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality (Can also count as an elective, but not as both.)	
PHIL/RELS 3510	Bio-Medical Ethics (Can also count as an elective, but not as both)	
Management:		
MGMT/PHIL/RELS 3974	Business, Ethics, and Society (Can also count as an elective, but not as both) *	
Electives: select one of the following:		**3**
Business:		
MGMT 3100	Legal and Social Environment of Business	
Communications:		
COMM 3236/ CAP 3128	Ethics in Communication	
COMM 4217/5217	Freedom of Speech	
Economics		
ECON 1001	Economics of Social Issues	
History:		
HIST 3110	Conflict and Justice in History: (Topic)	
HIST 4170/5170	U.S. Environmental History	
HIST 4260/5260	United States Women's History	
Philosophy:		
PHIL 3320	Political Philosophy	
PHIL 3360	Character, Wisdom, and Mind: Philosophical Perspectives	
PHIL 3610	Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology	
Philosophy or Religious Studies:		
PHIL/RELS 3110	Perspectives on Death and Dying	
Political Science:		
POL COMP 3125	Politics of Nonviolence	
POL THRY 3160	Classical Political Theory	
POL THRY 3161	Modern Political Theory	
POL THRY 3162	Power: Political Theories & Applications	
Psychology:		
PSYCH 2201	Psychology of Gender *	
PSYCH 2203	Social Psychology *	
Public Health		
PH 1101	Introduction to Public Health	
Sociology:		
CRIM 3314	Ethics in Crime, Law and Justice *	
Special Education:		
SPIE 4180/5180	Interdisciplinary Study of Disability	
Technology:		
TECH CM 1015	Introduction to Sustainability	
Total Hours		**15**

* *These courses have additional prerequisites as follows:
MGMT 3974/5974 has a prerequisite of MGMT 3100 or 3 hours in Philosophy (PHIL XXXX) or 3 hours in Religious Studies (RELS XXXX); junior standing.
PSYCH 2201 has a prerequisite of PSYCH 1001.
PSYCH 2203 has a prerequisite of PSYCH 1001.
CRIM 3314 has a prerequisite of SOC 1000; CRIM 2022.

Philosophy Minor

Philosophy:		
PHIL 1040	Justice and the Good Life: Philosophical Perspectives	3
One course in the history of philosophy:		3
PHIL 2210	Dawn of Western Thought: Ancient Philosophy	
PHIL/RELS 2220	Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages	
PHIL 2230	The Age of Reason: Philosophy in the Renaissance and Enlightenment	
PHIL 2240	The Limits of Reason: Modern Philosophy	
Electives: 12 hours of PHIL xxxx courses		**12**
Total Hours		**18**

Religious Studies Minor

Select one of the following:		3
RELS 1020	Religions of the World	
RELS 1060	American Religious Diversity	

Electives: 15 hours of RELS xxxx courses		15
Total Hours		18

Program Certificates

The University of Northern Iowa makes available, in addition to traditional programs, the opportunity for students to earn program certificates. Program certificates provide an alternative to programs leading to a degree, a major, or a minor; they certify that an individual has completed a program approved by the university. For information on the following program certificates, contact the Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services or the Office of the Registrar, which serves as the centralized registry.

Religious Literacy Certificate

The Certificate in Religious Literacy emphasizes the ways that religion interacts with many different areas of social, cultural, and political life, and will be beneficial to those preparing for careers in a wide variety of fields, including--but not limited to--health, education, business, social work, law, politics, criminology, psychology, family services, and communications. Using the American Academy of Religion's guidelines for teaching and learning religious literacy in K-12 schools and in higher education, UNI's Religious Literacy Certificate provides students with content knowledge and transferable skills based in the academic study of religion.

Required: (Choose 2)		6
RELS 1020	Religions of the World	
RELS 1040	The Power of Myth: (Topic)	
RELS 1060	American Religious Diversity	
Electives: select two of the following		6
RELS 2001	Old Testament and Other Hebrew Scriptures	
RELS 2002	New Testament and Early Christian Writings	
RELS 2600	Religion and the Public Schools	
RELS 3180	Religion and Politics: (Topics)	
RELS 3200	Religion and Law	
RELS 3400	Religion and Race	
RELS 4230/ HIST 4250/5250	Religion in America	
Total Hours		12

Youth Work in Religious Settings Certificate

The Youth Work in Religious Settings Certificate interdisciplinary program is jointly offered by the Department of Learning, Leadership, and Community and the Department of Philosophy and World Religions. The Youth Work in Religious Settings Certification Program prepares students for work in a variety of religious organizations and contexts.

Required:		
Philosophy and World Religions:		
RELS 1020	Religions of the World	3
Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership:		
RTNL 2150	Foundations of Youth Work	3
RTNL 3120	Programming for Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership	3
RTNL 3340	Prevention & Intervention Programs in Youth Work	3
Electives: 6 hours of RELS xxxx courses		6
Total Hours		**18**