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 undergraduate programs. Specific requirements for these programs are listed within this Department of Philosophy and World Religions section in the following order:

Undergraduate Majors (B.A.)

• Philosophy (p. 1)
• Study of Religion (p. 3)

Minors

• Ethics (p. 4)
• Philosophy (p. 5)
• Religion (p. 5)

Program Certificate (p. 5)

• Youth Work in Religious Settings (p. 5) (also listed in Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services)

Bachelor of Arts Degree Programs

Philosophy Major

The Philosophy major requires a minimum of 120 total hours to graduate. This total includes Liberal Arts Core 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 (650:045) Elementary Logic

Reading for Arguments and Assumptions

Required: at least two courses from the following: 6

PHIL 2140 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 3310 (650:153g) Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 3320 (650:172) Political Philosophy *
PHIL 3330 Death, Sex and the Body: Phenomenology and Foucault
PHIL 3350 Theories of Knowledge
PHIL 3360 Virtues and Vices of the Mind
PHIL 3370 Philosophy of Law
PHIL 3610 Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology
PHIL 3620 Philosophy of Language: Wittenstein

Analytic Writing

Required: at least two courses from the following:

PHIL 2120 Philosophy of Art
PHIL 2140 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 3310 (650:153g) Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 3320 (650:172) Political Philosophy *
PHIL 3330 Death, Sex and the Body: Phenomenology and Foucault
PHIL 3340 Existentialism
PHIL 3360 Virtues and Vices of the Mind
PHIL 3370 Philosophy of Law
PHIL/RELS 3510/CAP 3173 (CAP:173)  
Bio-Medical Ethics *^  
PHIL 3610 Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology *  
PHIL 3620 Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein  

On a semester-by-semester basis, other courses will occasionally count toward meeting this requirement. Check the “notes” posted to list of course offerings for a given semester; if “writing enhanced” appears there, then this specific course will count toward meeting 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:  

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 2500</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
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</table>

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:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 2210</td>
<td>Dawn of Western Thought: Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL/RELS 2220</td>
<td>Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 2230</td>
<td>The Age of Reason: Philosophy in the Renaissance and Enlightenment</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 2240</td>
<td>The Limits of Reason: Modern Philosophy</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 3310</td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind</td>
<td>(650:153g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 3330</td>
<td>Death, Sex and the Body: Phenomenology and Foucault</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL/RELS 3340</td>
<td>Existentialism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3360</td>
<td>Virtues and Vices of the Mind</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3610</td>
<td>Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology *</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.)

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 2120</td>
<td>Philosophy of Art</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 2130</td>
<td>Philosophy of Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 2140</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3320</td>
<td>Political Philosophy *</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3350</td>
<td>Theories of Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3370</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3620</td>
<td>Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Courses followed by asterisk (*) count toward the Ethics minor (18-hour minor).

^ Courses followed by the symbol (^) also satisfy the Liberal Arts Core Capstone requirement.

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

Required:  

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 4490</td>
<td>Professional Development Seminar</td>
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</table>

Required:

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.

Additional electives in Philosophy. No more than two courses in applied ethics (PHIL 1520, PHIL 1540 PHIL 2550, PHIL 2570, PHIL 3110 (650:194), PHIL 3510 (650:173), PHIL 4550) count toward the philosophy major:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 1020</td>
<td>Philosophy: The Art of Thinking</td>
<td>(650:021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 1520</td>
<td>Reasoning About Moral Problems *</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL/RELS 1540</td>
<td>Ethics in Business</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL/RELS 2550</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics *</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 2570</td>
<td>Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality *</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL/RELS 3110/CAP 3194 (CAP:194)</td>
<td>Perspectives on Death and Dying ^*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3186</td>
<td>Studies in Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL/RELS 3510/CAP 3173 (CAP:173)</td>
<td>Bio-Medical Ethics ^*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 4080</td>
<td>Individual Readings in Philosophy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 4550</td>
<td>Ethics Practicum *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total hours 36
Study of Religion Major

The Study of Religion major requires a minimum of 120 total hours to graduate. This total includes Liberal Arts Core requirements, 36 hours of coursework in the major, plus electives to complete the minimum of 120 hours.

The Study of Religion 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 Study of Religion 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 empathetically on the subject.

Courses support Learning Goal 1:

A. Religion and Culture

One course from the following:

- RELS 2600 Religion and the Public Schools
- RELS/PHIL 3110/CAP 3194 (CAP:194) Perspectives on Death and Dying
- RELS 3150 Women and Christianity *
- RELS 3310/ HUM 3138 (680:138) Malcolm, Martin, and Justice
- RELS 3320 (640:140) Black Liberation and the Black Church
- RELS 3500 (640:171) Religion and Ethics

B. Textual and Analytical Explorations of Religion

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 3120 Myth and Symbol
- RELS 3140 Religion and Its Critics *
- RELS 3170 Why We Believe *
- RELS 3200 Religion and Law
- RELS 3340 Existentialism

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:

- RELS 2100 Great Living Religions: Hinduism and Buddhism
- RELS 2110 Great Living Religions: Confucianism, Daoism, and Zen

One course from the following:

- RELS 2120 Great Living Religions: Judaism and Islam
- RELS 2130 Great Living Religions: Christianity

B. Interactions Within and Among Religions

One course from the following:

- RELS 1030 (640:030) What is Religion?
- RELS 2225 Meditation and Mystical Experience
- RELS/PHIL 2220 Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages
- RELS 3160 Religion and Society *
- 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:
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 1020</td>
<td>Religions of the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>(640:024)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS 1510</td>
<td>Religion, Ethics, and Film</td>
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<tr>
<td>(640:040)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS/ANTH 2401</td>
<td>Tribal Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS 3080/5080</td>
<td>Individual Readings in Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>(640:189g)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS/ANTH 3103</td>
<td>Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/CAP 3157</td>
<td>Monsters, Vampires, and Religion: An Awesome Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS 4186/5186</td>
<td>Studies in Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>(640:186g)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 4550</td>
<td>Ethics Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS 4600</td>
<td>Internship in Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 1540</td>
<td>Ethics in Business</td>
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<td>RELS/PHIL 2550</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 2570</td>
<td>Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 3510/CAP 3173</td>
<td>Bio-Medical Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>(CAP:173)</td>
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</table>

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.

Required

Study of Religion: 3
**Study of Religion:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3140</td>
<td>Religion and Its Critics</td>
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**Philosophy:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 3320</td>
<td>Political Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3610</td>
<td>Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology</td>
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<td>PHIL 3680</td>
<td>Marxisms</td>
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**Philosophy or Study of Religion:**

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 3110/CAP 3194 (CAP:194)</td>
<td>Perspectives on Death and Dying</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 3340</td>
<td>Existentialism</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 4550</td>
<td>Ethics Practicum</td>
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**Political Science:**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL COMP 3125 (944:125)</td>
<td>Politics of Nonviolence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL THRY 3160 (941:160)</td>
<td>Classical Political Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL THRY 3161 (941:161)</td>
<td>Modern Political Theory</td>
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**Psychology:**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 2201 (400:060)</td>
<td>Psychology of Gender *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 2203 (400:160)</td>
<td>Social Psychology *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 3404/5404 (400:106g)</td>
<td>Psychology of Human Differences *</td>
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**Sociology:**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAP 3151 (CAP:151)</td>
<td>Money, Sex and Power: Theories of Race, Class and Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 3314</td>
<td>Ethics in Crime, Law and Justice *</td>
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**Technology:**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TECH 1015</td>
<td>Introduction to Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP 3140 (CAP:140)</td>
<td>Environment, Technology and Society</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours**: 15

*These courses have additional prerequisites as follows:

- MGMT 3974/5974 (150:174g) has a prerequisite of MGMT 3100 (150:100).
- PSYCH 2201 (400:060) has a prerequisite of PSYCH 1001 (400:001).
- PSYCH 2203 (400:160) has a prerequisite of PSYCH 1001 (400:001).
- PSYCH 3404/5404 (400:106g) has a prerequisite of PSYCH 1001 (400:001).
- CRIM 3314 has a prerequisite of SOC 1000 (980:001); CRIM 2022 (982:022).

**One course in the history of philosophy:**

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<tr>
<td>PHIL 2210</td>
<td>Dawn of Western Thought: Ancient Philosophy</td>
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<td>PHIL 2240</td>
<td>The Limits of Reason: Modern Philosophy</td>
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</table>

**Electives in philosophy (PHIL xxxx)**

**Total Hours**: 12

**Religion Minor**

**Required:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 1020 (640:024)</td>
<td>Religions of the World</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives: 15 hours of RELS xxxx courses**

**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.

**Youth Work in Religious Settings Certificate**

The Youth Work in Religious Settings Certificate interdisciplinary program is jointly offered by the Recreation, Tourism, and Nonprofit Leadership program within the Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services 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:**

<table>
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<th>Course Code</th>
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<td>Religions of the World</td>
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</table>

**Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RTNL 2150</td>
<td>Foundations of Youth Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTNL 3120</td>
<td>Programming for Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTNL 3340</td>
<td>Prevention &amp; Intervention Programs in Youth Work</td>
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</table>

**Electives (choose two from the following):**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 1510 (640:040)</td>
<td>Religion, Ethics, and Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 1540</td>
<td>Ethics in Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 2001</td>
<td>Old Testament and Other Hebrew Scriptures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 2002</td>
<td>New Testament and Early Christian Writings</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
proof techniques and recognizing logical fallacies. Enhances reading,
critical thinking, using both formal and informal methods, including
PHIL 1030 (650:045). Elementary Logic — 3 hrs.
Critical thinking, using both formal and informal methods, including
writing, and thinking in any area of study, and in preparing for grad-
school exams (e.g., LSAT, GMAT, and GRE). (Fall and Spring)

Introduction to critical thinking and writing about moral and social
problems. Topics may include hunger, economic justice, anti-
Semitism, sexism, animal rights, affirmative action, abortion, and
homosexuality. (Variable)

PHIL 1540. Ethics in Business — 3 hrs.
Application of ethical principles and analytic methods to contemporary
issues in business. Topics include moral responsibility of corporations
and their regulation; economic policy, business practices, and
social justice; rights and obligations of employers and employees;
meaningful work, motivation, and the worker; affirmative action and
reverse discrimination; environment and natural limits of capitalism.
(Same as RELS 1540) (Variable)

PHIL 2120. Philosophy of Art — 3 hrs.
Examines the question of the nature of art through a discussion of the
major philosophical theories: imitation theory, expression theory, and
formalism, as well as a critique of these theories. Field trips included.
Prerequisite(s): One philosophy course or consent of instructor. (Even
Falls)

PHIL 2130. Philosophy of Science — 3 hrs.
Philosophical problems of the sciences; nature of laws and theories,
causation, explanation and scientific method, and relation between
natural and social sciences. (Variable)

PHIL 2140. Philosophy of Religion — 3 hrs.
Examination of philosophical discussions on the nature and function of
religion and religious language; special attention to how philosophical
frameworks and methods shape understanding of religion and talk
about God and human fulfillment. (Same as RELS 2140) (Variable)

PHIL 2150. Philosophy of Science — 3 hrs.
History of philosophy from the Pre-Socratics to late antiquity, with
emphasis on Plato and Aristotle. (Odd Falls)

PHIL 2160. Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages — 3
hrs.
Traces the historical development of philosophical thought on the
interrelation of religious faith and reason, from late Roman
times through the Middle Ages, in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic
philosophical traditions. (Same as RELS 2160) (Even Springs)

PHIL 2170. The Age of Reason: Philosophy in the Renaissance
and Enlightenment — 3 hrs.
History of philosophy from Renaissance through Hume, with emphasis
on continental rationalism and British empiricism. (Even Falls)

PHIL 2200. The Limits of Reason: Modern Philosophy — 3 hrs.
History of philosophy from Kant to present; emphasis on idealism,
romanticism, materialism, positivism, phenomenology, existentialism.
(Variable)

PHIL 2220. Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages — 3
hrs.
Introduction to and application of ethical theory to environmental
issues, including responsibility for plants and animals, pollution,
natural resources, and population growth. (Same as RELS 2550) (Variable)

PHIL 2570. Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality — 3 hrs.
This course introduces students to a range of ethical perspectives (religious and non-) on what constitutes good sex, morally speaking. It then brings these perspectives to bear on a number of issues in the realm of sexual ethics including: homosexuality, casual sex, sex for sale, and abortion. [Same as RELS 2570] (Even Springs)

PHIL 3110 (650:194). Perspectives on Death and Dying — 3 hrs.
Multidisciplinary study of death, dying, and bereavement across cultures, religious and ethnic groups, and historical periods, with attention to ritual and memoir, ethical dilemmas at the end of life, and psychology of mourning. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as CAP 3194 (CAP:194) and RELS 3110 (640:194)) (Fall and Spring)

PHIL 3186. Studies in Philosophy — 3 hrs.
Study of a philosophical thinker or a problem listed in Schedule of Classes. (Fall and Spring)

PHIL 3310 (650:153g). Philosophy of Mind — 3 hrs.
Examines fundamental questions about the nature of mind, soul, consciousness, artificial intelligence, personal identity and free will, with emphasis on contemporary philosophical theories. (Odd Springs)

PHIL 3320 (650:172). Political Philosophy — 3 hrs.
Critical investigation of contexts of engagement and responsibility of persons as members of social institutions and as participants in public discourse on policy and law. Prerequisite(s): junior standing or consent of instructor. (Even Springs)

PHIL 3330. Death, Sex and the Body: Phenomenology and Foucault — 3 hrs.
Examination of phenomenology, the description of basic structures of human experience. Focus on Martin Heidegger and others on conscious, practical, social, mortal, and embodied life; then Michel Foucault on forms of power in social science and modern culture. (Odd Falls)

PHIL 3340. Existentialism — 3 hrs.
The unique contribution of existentialism to philosophy in its sustained focus on everyday life: the contradictions of human existence, the human body, the existence of others, and human freedom. (Same as RELS 3340) (Variable)

PHIL 3350. Theories of Knowledge — 3 hrs.
Examines fundamental questions about the conditions, sources, functions and limits of human knowledge, and the nature of belief, truth, evidence, rationality and objectivity, with emphasis on contemporary philosophical theories. (Even Falls)

PHIL 3360. Virtues and Vices of the Mind — 3 hrs.
This course will provide students with opportunities to accomplish four objectives: 1. Gain a rigorous understanding of virtues and vices, and in particular intellectual virtues (such as intellectual humility, courage, and autonomy, as well as wisdom) and vices (such as closed-mindedness, epistemic injustice, and epistemic indifference). 2. Investigate the relevance of intellectual virtues and vices to specific domains such as education, science, business, leadership, politics and social activism, religious belief and practice, interpersonal relationships, and mental health and well-being. 3. Foster self-improvement to character by cultivating intellectual virtues and mitigating intellectual vices. 4. Develop skills essential to critical thinking and effective communication. (Fall)

PHIL 3370. Philosophy of Law — 3 hrs.
This course provides an introduction to philosophy of law that is both thematically and historically oriented. Our chief concern will be to understand the nature of law and its implications for morality and our social and political existence together. The first part of the seminar focuses on the nature of law: We will begin by considering the essence and nature of law in trying to find answers to questions such as "What is law?", "Can anything be law?", "Do laws have moral content?". The second part inquires into the relationship between law and morality, drawing on the normative standing of law: We will try to answer questions such as "Is there an obligation to obey the law?" and "Is civil disobedience justified?". In the third part, we will turn to the specific context of interpreting the U.S. Constitution, and attempt to understand how to do legal analyses of actual court decisions pertaining to significant issues such as reproductive freedom, equality, and freedom of speech. Prerequisite(s): junior standing or consent of instructor. (Variable)

Application of principles and analytic methods of ethical theory to contemporary issues in medical practice and research. Topics include fundamental concepts of health and disease, life and death; rights and obligations of medical practitioners and their patients; informed consent and confidentiality; abortion and euthanasia; reproductive and transplantation technologies; and health policy and the provision and rationing of health care. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as CAP 3173 (CAP:173) and RELS 3510 (640:173)) (Fall and Spring)

PHIL 3610. Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology — 3 hrs.
Examination of Nietzsche's genealogy, diagnosis, and prognosis of contemporary nihilism, the experience of one's values as empty or meaningless. Examination of Heidegger's later critique of Nietzsche's views as expressions of problematic aspects of the modern technological age. (Odd Springs)

PHIL 3620. Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein — 3 hrs.
Examination of Wittgenstein, sometimes called "the two most important philosophers" of the 20th century. Topics include language and formal logic, language as social practice, and ways in which classic philosophical problems arise from a misunderstanding of how we use common words. (Even Springs)

PHIL 3680. Marxisms — 3 hrs.
Marxism as a critical method to examine social, political, and economic issues. Includes classic works of Marx and Engels, varieties of socialism and communism, 60s New Left, socialist feminism, liberation theology, third world liberation, and anti-globalization movements. (Variable)

PHIL 4080. Individual Readings in Philosophy — 1-3 hrs.
Individually arranged readings and reports drawn from history of philosophy or contemporary philosophical problems. May be repeated for maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite(s): junior standing; consent of department head. (Fall and Spring)

PHIL 4490. Professional Development Seminar — 3 hrs.
Through reflection and concerted involvement in a reciprocal relationship with a community organization, philosophy students will bring their work in philosophy to thoughtful integration, clarifying what they have done and linking their achievements with their long-term goals and preparation for professional careers. This critical service-learning course is required of all junior and senior philosophy majors. Prerequisite(s): junior standing or consent of instructor. (Even Falls)
PHIL 4550. Ethics Practicum — 1-3 hrs.
Combines service-learning with study of theoretical and applied ethics. Students work 4-6 hours per week in a community agency and meet with instructor. May be repeated once. Prerequisite(s): one completed or concurrent ethics course; consent of instructor. (Same as RELS 4550) (Variable)

Religion Courses

Living religions with emphasis on texts, beliefs, tradition, values, and practices. (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Basic forms and views of religious phenomena, such as encounter, tradition, ritual, community, divine law, meditation, mysticism, response to life-crisis, and personal growth and fulfillment. (Variable)

RELS 1510 (640:040). Religion, Ethics, and Film — 3 hrs.
Introduction to study of religion through critical examination of a variety of contemporary films. Draws on student visual literacy as an approach to the study of religion. (Variable)

RELS 1540. Ethics in Business — 3 hrs.
Application of ethical principles and analytic methods to contemporary issues in business. Topics include moral responsibility of corporations and their regulation; economic policy, business practices, and social justice; rights and obligations of employers and employees; meaningful work, motivation, and the worker; affirmative action and reverse discrimination; and environment and natural limits of capitalism. (Same as PHIL 1540) (Variable)

Introduction to history and ideas of Old Testament and other Hebrew scriptures. (Fall)

Introduction to history and ideas of New Testament and early Christian writings. (Spring)

RELS 2100. Great Living Religions: Hinduism and Buddhism — 3 hrs.
Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Islam. (Even Falls)

RELS 2110. Great Living Religions: Confucianism, Daoism, and Zen — 3 hrs.
Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shintoism. (Odd Falls)

RELS 2120. Great Living Religions: Judaism and Islam — 3 hrs.
Study of the doctrines and practices of Judaism and Islam in their cultural context with attention to historical development and current situation. (Odd Springs)

RELS 2130. Great Living Religions: Christianity — 3 hrs.
Introductory survey of development, beliefs, practices, and varieties of Christianity. (Even Springs)

RELS 2140. Philosophy of Religion — 3 hrs.
Examination of philosophical discussions on the nature and function of religion and religious language; special attention to how philosophical frameworks and methods shape understanding of religion and talk about God and human fulfillment. (Same as PHIL 2140) (Variable)

RELS 2200. Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages — 3 hrs.
Traces the historical development of philosophical thought on the interrelation of religious faith and reason in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic philosophical traditions. (Same as PHIL 2220) (Even Springs)

RELS 2401. Tribal Religions — 3 hrs.
Tribal Religions is designed to provide students with an introduction to the religions and spirituality of indigenous societies from around the world. Special attention is given to the relationships between religion and the environment, and between religion and the social, political and economic organizations of a society. (Same as ANTH 2401) (Fall)

RELS 2550. Environmental Ethics — 3 hrs.
Introduction to and application of ethical theory to environmental issues, including responsibility for plants and animals, pollution, natural resources, and population growth. (Same as PHIL 2550) (Variable)

RELS 2570. Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality — 3 hrs.
This course introduces students to a range of ethical perspectives (religious and non-) on what constitutes good sex, morally speaking. It then brings these perspectives to bear on a number of issues in the realm of sexual ethics including: homosexuality, casual sex, sex for sale, and abortion. [Same as PHIL 2570] (Even Springs)

RELS 2600. Religion and the Public Schools — 3 hrs.
This course is a study of the relationship between religion, law, and public education in the United States. Through this course, students will understand how and why the role of religion in public education has been lived, legislated, and adjudicated in complicated (and sometimes contradictory) ways. This interdisciplinary course draws from studies of education, law, political science, history, and religion. (Even Falls)

RELS 3080/5080 (640:189g). Individual Readings in Religion — 1-3 hrs.
Individually-arranged readings and reports from: (1) biblical studies, (2) history of religions, or (3) contemporary religious thought. Can be repeated for maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite(s): junior standing; consent of department head. (Fall and Spring)

This course emphasizes a comparative and anthropological approach to the study of religion, magic and witchcraft. Course content includes the study of classical theoretical frameworks that explain religious beliefs and practices and in-depth discussions on diverse religious systems. Prerequisite(s): ANTH 1002 (990:011) and junior standing; or consent of instructor. (Same as ANTH 3103 (990:161)) (Spring)

RELS 3110 (640:194). Perspectives on Death and Dying — 3 hrs.
Multidisciplinary study of death, dying, and bereavement across cultures, religious and ethnic groups, and historical periods, with attention to ritual and memoir, ethical dilemmas at the end of life, and psychology of mourning. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as CAP 3194 (CAP:194) and PHIL 3110 (650:194)) (Fall and Spring)

RELS 3120. Myth and Symbol — 3 hrs.
Investigation of meaning and significance of religious myths and symbols, and theories used to study them. (Variable)

RELS 3140. Religion and Its Critics — 3 hrs.
Issues raised by encounter between traditional Christian faith and modern concepts and methods of philosophy, science, history, sociology, and cultural criticism. Examination of positions of both 19th- and 20th-century theologians. (Variable)
RELS 3150. Women and Christianity — 3 hrs.
Examination of history and function of gender in symbolization of Christian tradition; exploration of institutionalization of sex roles in Christianity; discussion of interaction between the Christian religion and cultural patterns that define the social role, status, and image of women. Interested students are encouraged to contact the instructor. (Variable)

As they read Religion and its Monsters by Timothy Beal and Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, students enhance their knowledge of the role monsters play in religion and develop proficiency in recognizing and analyzing religious undercurrents in our contemporary fascination with monsters. Students draw on skills/interests from their majors to complete a project about monsters in a contemporary novel. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. [Same as CAP 3157] (Summer)

RELS 3160. Religion and Society — 3 hrs.
Religious institutions and their social context; key issues located at the intersection of religion and society (e.g., violence), and social function of religion. (Variable)

RELS 3170. Why We Believe — 3 hrs.
What do witches, monsters, and gods have in common? This course draws on psychology to explore the origins of human religious belief among children and to understand how we develop our capacity for religious belief. (Variable)

RELS 3180. Religion and Politics: (Topics) — 3 hrs.
In this course, students will examine the relationship between religion and politics. Students will familiarize themselves with the ways religion shapes several aspects of political life, such as elections, public activism, policy-making, civil service, and civic discourse. Focusing on interactions within and among religious traditions, students will develop their knowledge of critical thinking methods in Religious Studies by analyzing the role of religion in political participation and political structures. Special emphasis will be given to understanding contemporary issues, rotating international and domestic topics each time it is offered. May be repeated for up to 6 hours. (Odd Falls)

RELS 3200. Religion and Law — 3 hrs.
Americans have long argued about the proper role of religion in public life: can the Bible be taught in schools? What about contemporary flashpoints like abortion and same-sex marriage? Why do religious groups receive special privileges and exemptions under American law? As a class, we will consider how religious groups work alongside and against U.S. law and how, in turn, American law engages, encourages, and restricts religious practice in America. Challenges and debates in American religion and law have reflected the changing nature of the people who make up the United States. We will explore these questions through examining how religion and law affects American politics, education, and the marketplace. (Even Springs)

How might religious leaders insert themselves in the struggle for justice and human rights? Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. represent the intricate involvement of black religious leaders in the African American struggle for social, political, and economic justice. (HUM 3138 (680:138)) (Variable)

RELS 3320 (640:140). Black Liberation and the Black Church — 3 hrs.
Explores black liberation in America through advancing the understanding of black nationalism, the black church, and black liberation theology from an historical and social/political perspective. Some knowledge of African American culture and thought recommended. (Variable)

RELS 3340. Existentialism — 3 hrs.
The unique contribution of existentialism to philosophy in its sustained focus on everyday life: the contradictions of human existence, the human body, the existence of others, and human freedom. (Same as PHIL 3340) (Variable)

RELS 3500 (640:171). Religion and Ethics — 3 hrs.
Examination of key issues having to do with religion and ethics, including the moral function of religion, religious pluralism, war and peace, freedom and responsibility, religion and politics, religion and gender, and social justice. (Variable)

Application of principles and analytic methods of ethical theory to contemporary issues in medical practice and research. Topics include fundamental concepts of health and disease, life and death; rights and obligations of medical practitioners and their patients; informed consent and confidentiality; abortion and euthanasia; reproductive and transplantation technologies; and health policy and the provision and rationing of health care. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as CAP 3173 (CAP:173) and PHIL 3510 (650:173)) (Fall and Spring)

RELS 4186/5186 (640:186g). Studies in Religion — 3 hrs.
Topics listed in Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Fall and Spring)

RELS 4230/5230 (640:117g). Religion in America — 3 hrs.
Investigation of religious movements and beliefs from colonial times to present, with attention to religion and the U.S. Constitution. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Same as HIST 4250/5250) (Odd Springs)

RELS 4490. Professional Development Seminar — 3 hrs.
Through reflection, integration, and professional discernment, majors in the study of religion will bring their work in the major to critical integration, clarifying what they have done and linking their achievements with life goals. Prerequisite(s): junior standing. (Even Falls)

RELS 4550. Ethics Practicum — 1-3 hrs.
Combines service-learning with study of theoretical and applied ethics. Students work 4-6 hours per week in a community agency and meet with instructor. May be repeated once. Prerequisite(s): one completed or concurrent ethics course; consent of instructor. (Same as PHIL 4550) (Variable)

RELS 4600. Internship in Religion — 1-3 hrs.
Experiential learning combined with skills and knowledge learned in the Study of Religion major. Prerequisite(s): 12 hours in RELS courses; junior standing. (Fall and Spring)