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

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

What is a learning goal?
Department of Philosophy and World Religions

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:
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 (650:153g) Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 3330 Death, Sex and the Body: Phenomenology and Foucault
PHIL/RELS 3340 Existentialism
PHIL 3360 Virtues and Vices of the Mind
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.)
PHIL 2120 Philosophy of Art
PHIL 2130 Philosophy of Science
PHIL 2140 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 3320 (650:172) Political Philosophy *
PHIL 3350 Theories of Knowledge
PHIL 3370 Philosophy of Law
PHIL 3620 Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein

* 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:
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.

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

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**

**A. Religion and Culture**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 2600</td>
<td>Religion and the Public Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 3110/CAP 3194 (CAP:194)</td>
<td>Perspectives on Death and Dying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3150</td>
<td>Women and Christianity *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3310/ HUM 3138 (680:138)</td>
<td>Malcolm, Martin, and Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3320 (640:140)</td>
<td>Black Liberation and the Black Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3500 (640:171)</td>
<td>Religion and Ethics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B. Textual and Analytical Explorations of Religion**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 2140</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3120</td>
<td>Myth and Symbol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3140</td>
<td>Religion and Its Critics *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3170</td>
<td>Why We Believe *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3200</td>
<td>Religion and Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3340</td>
<td>Existentialism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 2100</td>
<td>Great Living Religions: Hinduism and Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 2110</td>
<td>Great Living Religions: Confucianism, Daoism, and Zen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B. Interactions Within and Among Religions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 1030 (640:030)</td>
<td>What is Religion?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 2225</td>
<td>Meditation and Mystical Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 2220</td>
<td>Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3160</td>
<td>Religion and Society *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3180</td>
<td>Religion and Politics: (Topics)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELS 1020</td>
<td>Religions of the World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 1510</td>
<td>Religion, Ethics, and Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/ANTH 2401</td>
<td>Tribal Religions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 3080/5080</td>
<td>Individual Readings in Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/ANTH 3103</td>
<td>Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/CAP 3157</td>
<td>Monsters, Vampires, and Religion: An Awesome Alliance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 4186/5186</td>
<td>Studies in Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 4550</td>
<td>Ethics Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS 4600</td>
<td>Internship in Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 1540</td>
<td>Ethics in Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 2550</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 2570</td>
<td>Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELS/PHIL 3510/CAP 3173</td>
<td>Bio-Medical Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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

Electives: select one of the following: 3

Business:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 3100</td>
<td>Legal and Social Environment of Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Communications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4447/5447</td>
<td>Performance and Social Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4217/5217</td>
<td>Freedom of Speech</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4236/CAP 3128</td>
<td>Ethics in Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Education:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPED 4180/5180</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Study of Disability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 4170/5170</td>
<td>U.S. Environmental History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 4260/5260</td>
<td>United States Women's History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP 3131</td>
<td>Analysis of Social Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Department of Philosophy and World Religions

Study of Religion:
- RELS 3140: Religion and Its Critics

Philosophy:
- PHIL 3320: Political Philosophy
- PHIL 3610: Nietzsche, Nihilism, and Technology
- PHIL 3680: Marxism

Philosophy or Study of Religion:
- RELS/PHIL 3110/CAP 3194 (CAP:194): Perspectives on Death and Dying
- RELS/PHIL 3340: Existentialism
- RELS/PHIL 4550: Ethics Practicum

Political Science:
- POL COMP 3125 (944:125): Politics of Nonviolence
- POL THRY 3160 (941:160): Classical Political Theory
- POL THRY 3161 (941:161): Modern Political Theory

Psychology:
- PSYCH 2201 (400:060): Psychology of Gender *
- PSYCH 2203 (400:160): Social Psychology *
- PSYCH 3404/5404 (400:106g): Psychology of Human Differences *

Sociology:
- CAP 3151 (CAP:151): Money, Sex and Power: Theories of Race, Class and Gender
- CRIM 3314: Ethics in Crime, Law and Justice *

Technology:
- TECH 1015: Introduction to Sustainability
- CAP 3140 (CAP:140): Environment, Technology, and Society

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).

Philosophy Minor

Philosophy:
- PHIL 1020 (650:021): Philosophy: The Art of Thinking

One course in the history of philosophy:
- PHIL 2210: Dawn of Western Thought: Ancient Philosophy
- PHIL/REL 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 in philosophy (PHIL xxxx) 12
Total Hours 18

Religion Minor

Required:
- RELS 1020 (640:024): Religions of the World
- 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:
  - RELS 1020 (640:024): Religions of the World
- Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership:
  - RTNL 2150: Foundations of Youth Work
  - RTNL 3120: Programming for Recreation, Tourism and Nonprofit Leadership
  - RTNL 3340: Prevention & Intervention Programs in Youth Work
- Electives (choose two from the following): 6
  - RELS 1510 (640:040): Religion, Ethics, and Film
  - RELS/PHIL 1540: Ethics in Business
  - RELS 2001: Old Testament and Other Hebrew Scriptures
Learning Goal 1: Skills: Philosophy majors will demonstrate proficiency in analyzing, evaluating, writing, and constructing arguments.

1-A: Philosophy majors will be able to produce written documents that offer coherent and consistent arguments for clearly articulated positions.

1-B: Philosophy majors will be able to read complex texts, and identify the author's thesis, reconstruct the author's argument for the thesis, and evaluate the argument by identifying its logical strengths and weaknesses.

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

2-A: Philosophy majors will be able to explain some of the major ethical theories.

2-B: Philosophy majors will be able to reconstruct philosophers' arguments for their theories.

2-C: Philosophy majors will be able to identify some of the strengths and weaknesses of major ethical theories.

2-D: Philosophy majors will be able to illustrate how major ethical theories can be applied to practical issues.

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.

3-A: Philosophy majors will be able to explain key views of the major figures in the history of philosophy.

3-B: Philosophy majors will be to reconstruct philosophers' arguments for their views.

3-C: Philosophy majors will be able to analyze philosophers' arguments for their views and identify some of their strengths and weaknesses.

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

4-A: Through reading key philosophical texts, philosophy majors will be able to explain important philosophical views of what it is to be human.

4-B: Through reading key philosophical texts, philosophy majors will be able to explain important philosophical views of basic human practices (language, knowledge, science, religion, politics, art, etc.).

Learning Goal 5: Philosophy majors will be able to relate their major to their career and to their future goals, and demonstrate skills that are highly valued by employers.

Study of Religion, B.A.

GOAL #1: Majors in the Study of Religion reflect critically and empathetically on the subject.

To demonstrate that they have fulfilled this goal they are able to: differentiate between devotional practices and the academic study of religion, examine the meanings and functions of religion in human life and/or think critically about themselves and their place in the world.

GOAL #2: Majors in the Study of Religion have knowledge of the practices, beliefs, values, and worldviews of major religions:
Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

To demonstrate that they have fulfilled this goal they are able to: describe similarities and differences among traditions, explain diverse religious viewpoints within each tradition, identify the impact of religions on a local, national, and/or global scale, and/or describe examples of important religious disagreements, controversies, or issues.

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.

To demonstrate that they have fulfilled this goal they are able to: explain and interpret a variety of texts, produce professional-quality documents for a variety of audiences, identify and use quality resources to conduct research on religion, competently and comfortably present research or ideas orally, and/or work effectively in teams. They can also persuasively explain to prospective employers outside the field of religion how what they have learned in the study of religion will enable them to be excellent employees who can do a variety of different tasks competently.