

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Bachelor of Arts

Rachel Wagner, *Professor and Chairperson*

The Department of Philosophy and Religion offers courses that develop critical and creative skills, as well as broad-ranging knowledge of fundamental beliefs and ideas. Such skills and knowledge are brought about by:

1. training students in the analysis and clarification of concepts involved in all forms of thinking, whether legal, medical, political, scientific, or metaphysical;
2. systematically analyzing and evaluating topics of perennial human interest, such as religion, art, and morality; and
3. challenging students to articulate and develop their own ideas in the context of argumentation.

The Introduction to Philosophy course (PHIL 10100) is highly recommended as stepping-stones to all other courses in philosophy.

The courses Religion Matters (RLST 10100), Religion in Global Contexts (RLST 10500), and A History of God (RLST 10600) are highly recommended as stepping stones to all other courses in religious studies.

Philosophy Major and Minor

Philosophy is the most conceptually fundamental of the liberal arts. It is that academic discipline that is most concerned with ideas. The student studying philosophy is trained to understand abstract ideas and their relations to one another and the world, and to learn what have been among the most influential ideas in human history from ancient times to the present. Philosophy majors and minors develop valuable career skills, such as reading and understanding complex materials, making logical arguments, explaining ideas clearly in oral and written form, and thinking creatively about things from multiple perspectives.

Religious Studies Major and Minor

Religion is one of the most pervasive, persistent, and influential components of the human experience. Students in religious studies come to see religious traditions as evolving historical phenomena and a global force in the modern world, while developing an enhanced awareness of different worldviews—including their own. They also cultivate critical reading, writing, and thinking skills highly valued by graduate schools and employers, while studying a fascinating array of texts, rituals, myths, and material culture from around the globe

JEWISH STUDIES Minor

Jewish studies approaches the history and culture of the Jewish people from multicultural and interdisciplinary perspectives. Jewish Studies minors gain knowledge about Jewish history, religion, and culture by exploring who Jews are in their geographic and cultural diversity. Students focus on Jewish religious beliefs and practices, philosophy, literature, folklore, visual arts, music, and the media. The Jewish studies minor is useful for students pursuing careers in which multicultural awareness is important, in addition to students considering professional careers related to Jewish religion, education, or community service.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HONORS IN PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Honors in the Department of Philosophy and Religion are offered for the purpose of encouraging, challenging, and recognizing majors and minors who undertake advanced academic work.

Majors and minors in the department may apply for honors by submitting an honors thesis. Written application to the honors program must be made to the department chair early in the senior year. A minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major or minor is required.

An adviser and a second reader are appointed by the chair in consultation with the student and members of the faculty. The adviser supervises the writing of the thesis, which should be at most 30 pages long and must be completed by March 31. The departmental faculty decides whether the thesis has earned honors designation. Then, if the student wishes, the adviser arranges for an oral presentation of the accepted thesis to the departmental faculty, guests, and other philosophy and religion majors and minors.

Majors & Minors

- Philosophy Major — B.A. (<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-humanities-sciences/department-philosophy-religion/philosophy-major-ba/>)
- Religious Studies - B.A. (<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-humanities-sciences/department-philosophy-religion/religious-studies-ba/>)
- Jewish Studies Minor (<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-humanities-sciences/department-philosophy-religion/jewish-studies-minor/>)
- Philosophy Minor (<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-humanities-sciences/department-philosophy-religion/philosophy-minor/>)
- Religious Studies Minor (<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-humanities-sciences/department-philosophy-religion/religious-studies-minor/>)

Subjects in this department include: Philosophy (PHIL) (p. 1) and Religious Studies (RLST) (p. 5)

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 10100 Introduction to Philosophy (LA)

Introduction to philosophy that focuses on perennial philosophical problems, such as the relation of the mind to the body, the possibility of truth and objectivity, the purpose of human life, and the existence of God, utilizing classical, early modern, or contemporary works. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: HM, LMSP, LSCO, TIDE, TMBS
4 Credits

PHIL 17500-17502 Selected Topics in Philosophy (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest. This course may be repeated when topics vary, for a total of eight credits. (IRR)

4 Credits

PHIL 20100 Plato and Aristotle (LA)

Study of selected texts and ideas of the founders of classical Western philosophy. Texts include selected dialogues of Plato and selections from Aristotle's writings, including the *Metaphysics* and *Nichomachean Ethics*. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (O,S)
Attributes: CSA
4 Credits

PHIL 20300 Introduction to Logic (LA)

An introductory treatment of contemporary symbolic logic. Topics include argument structure, validity/invalidity, an exploration of formal propositional logic including truth-functions and formal proofs, and an exploration of elementary quantificational logic including interpretations and formal proofs. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (F,S,Y)
Attributes: ESTS, HM, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, QL, TIII, TWOS
4 Credits

PHIL 20400 Choosing Wisely: An Introduction to Rational Choice (LA)

An introduction to rational choice theory, a theory that proposes rules that prescribe how individuals ought to behave so as to best satisfy their preferences. Special attention is paid to representing preferences numerically and using that formal representation to determine which action among a set of possible actions should be chosen. Applications include uses of probability and decision theory in epistemology, the philosophy of religion, and ethics. Some applications outside of philosophy are discussed as well, including economics, voting theory, and biology. General topics covered include probability, decision theory, game theory, and social choice. Additionally, time will be spent questioning the assumptions made by classical rational choice theory and considering alternatives. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (F,S,Y)
Attributes: QL
4 Credits

PHIL 20800 Puzzles and Paradoxes (LA)

This course provides an overview of some famous paradoxes and attempts to resolve them. We explore how some of the central historical paradoxes, like Zeno's paradoxes of motion, have brought about revolutionary advances in our thought. Central issues in philosophy of language, logic, metaphysics, decision theory, epistemology, and ethics will be introduced through the study of these paradoxes. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course; WRTG 10600 or ICSM 10800. (IRR)
Attributes: WI
4 Credits

PHIL 20900 Plato and Aristotle (LA)

Study of selected texts and ideas of the founders of classical Western philosophy. Texts include selected dialogues of Plato and selections from Aristotle's writings, including the *Metaphysics* and *Nichomachean Ethics*. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (O,S)
Attributes: CSA
4 Credits

PHIL 21200 Introduction to Ethics (LA)

Introduction to the problems and theories of ethical thinking. Is there a right thing to do, and how can we tell what it is? Competing answers to these questions are examined, such as virtue-based approaches, consequentialist approaches, and Kantian approaches. Application of these approaches to current issues related to equality, harm, and truth-telling are explored. Readings selected from both classical and modern sources. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (Y)
Attributes: HM, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, TIDE
4 Credits

PHIL 22000 Political Philosophy (LA)

Introduction to the central questions of political philosophy. Topics include the disputed necessity of a political authority; various attempts to justify a political obligation to comply with the demands of the state; an examination of the merits and weaknesses of democracy as a legitimate form of governing; the proper scope of a right to liberty within a democratic society; and questions of distributive justice, including the justice of redistribution of wealth to rectify large social inequities. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (IRR)
Attributes: HM, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, TPJ
4 Credits

PHIL 22300 Introduction to the Philosophy of Art (LA)

An overview of the historically significant problems and movements in the aesthetics and philosophy of art, addressing questions such as the source of value of art, its relationship to social and psychological functioning, and its cultural and historical significance. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (IRR)
Attributes: HM, TIII
4 Credits

PHIL 23000 Bioethics (LA)

This introductory course in bioethics focuses on ethical and philosophical issues that arise in today's medicine. Topics include ethical, religious, and legal aspects of abortion, end of life issues, ethical boundaries of assisted reproductive technology (for example, genetic enhancement and reproductive cloning), allocation of scarce medical resources, and ethical issues related to disability. The course aims to relate these applied issues in today's medical ethics to philosophical concepts such as 'autonomy', 'benefit', 'harm', 'justice', and 'empathy'. (S)
Attributes: ENHU, ENVE, ESHU, HM, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, TMBS
4 Credits

PHIL 24000 Philosophy of Film (LA)

Exploration of various issues in contemporary philosophy of film. The course considers the questions and problems that arise when we consider film as both a distinctive art form and a political, social, public medium. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (IRR)
Attributes: ENHU, ESHU, MAP, SCE
4 Credits

PHIL 25200 Environmental Ethics (LA)

A critical examination of various moral problems raised when considering environmental issues. Questions regarding the moral status of animals, and the environment as a whole are explored. Also taken up are ethical issues raised by global climate change, such as our obligations to future generations, and how to resolve tensions between economic growth and environmental protection. These issues and others generate challenging and fundamental questions of moral philosophy: What is the basis of obligation? Do animals have rights? What does it mean to say something is intrinsically valuable? ENV5 25200 and PHIL 25200 are cross-listed courses; students cannot receive credit for both. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (Y)
Attributes: ABSS, AN2, AN3, HM, LMEL, LSCO, TPJ, TQSF
4 Credits

PHIL 26500 Philosophical Problems in Law (LA)

Examination and evaluation of basic practices and principles of law, focusing on such topics as the nature and extent of legal authority, the interpretation of law, and the justification of punishment, including capital punishment. Examination of prominent legal cases and their underlying principles, with applications to international law and to freedom of expression. Emphasis is placed on philosophical analysis and moral evaluation. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (Y)

Attributes: HM, TPJ

4 Credits

PHIL 27500-27502 Selected Topics in Philosophy (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest. This course may be repeated when topics vary, for a total of eight credits.

Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (IRR)

4 Credits

PHIL 28300 Seeking the Buddha (LA)

Engages the historical evolution and lived experience of Buddhist religious traditions by exploring how people have variously attempted to search for, discover, imagine, understand, become, and even kill the Buddha. Considers how the Buddha and his teachings have been interpreted through stories, philosophies, rituals, images, and objects across Asia and beyond. Special attention is paid to the transmission and modernization of Buddhist traditions in the contemporary western world. PHIL 28300 and RLST 28300 are cross-listed courses; students may not receive credit for both. Prerequisites: One three credit liberal arts course. (E)

Attributes: DV, G, H, INBG

3 Credits

PHIL 28600 Philosophy and Literature (LA)

Explores philosophical issues related to literary fiction and focuses on philosophical questions related to literary discourse. Questions range from 'Do fictional entities exist?' and 'How is it possible to be emotionally moved by fictional events and characters?' to 'How do metaphors work?' and 'Who are the genuine authors of literary texts?' Prerequisites: WRTG 10600, ICSM 10800 or ICSM 11800. (S)

Attributes: WI

4 Credits

PHIL 30300-30900 Plato and Aristotle (LA)

Study of selected texts and ideas of the founders of classical Western philosophy. Texts include selected dialogues of Plato (such as the Meno and the Republic) and selections from Aristotle's writings (such as the Metaphysics and Nichomachean Ethics). Emphasis on writing a research paper in history of philosophy. Prerequisites: One 200-level PHIL course. (O,S)

4 Credits

PHIL 31100 Philosophy of Religion (LA)

Study and discussion of a broad range of issues in the philosophy of religion, such as religious epistemology, the ontological argument, the cosmological argument, the teleological argument, religion and science, and the problem of evil. Primary source readings. Prerequisites: At least one 200-level PHIL course. (IRR)

Attributes: LMSP

4 Credits

PHIL 32100 Intermediate Logic (LA)

Topics include a review of propositional logic, first-order quantificational logic including relations and identity, and elementary logical metatheory for both propositional logic and basic first-order logic, including soundness and completeness proofs. The Incompleteness of higher first-order logics is presented conceptually but without formal proof techniques. Prerequisites: PHIL 20300 or MATH 27000. (IRR)

Attributes: NS

3 Credits

PHIL 32600 Seminar in Aesthetics (LA)

Examination of traditional and contemporary aesthetic concepts such as empathy, psychic distance, the beautiful and the sublime, and expressive form, with special attention to the nature of aesthetic responsiveness and judgment, and the kind of meaning to be found in art. Prerequisites: One 200-level PHIL course. (IRR)

4 Credits

PHIL 33000 The Good Life (LA)

This course examines one of the oldest and most compelling questions of all time: What is a good life? We all want good lives and we all strive to achieve good lives, but despite the overriding importance of the question, we give little reflective thought to what a good life might be. Is there one particular form that a life must exemplify in order to be good, or are there many kinds of good lives? Is judging a life to be good sufficient for it to be good, or is this the sort of thing one can get wrong? The course will consider what great thinkers – classical, modern, and contemporary – have written on this issue. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)

Attributes: HU

3 Credits

PHIL 33500 Socialism, Capitalism, Justice (LA)

This course examines, from a philosophical perspective, the debate between supporters of socialism and capitalism. After examining competing definitions of both capitalism and socialism, we will examine what philosophers (past and present) have had to say for and against each system of economic production. In particular, we will compare accounts of justice that endorse a capitalist mode of production with accounts of justice that endorse a socialist mode of production. Assigned authors will include (among others) John Locke, Adam Smith, Thomas Paine, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, Rosa Luxemburg, Friedrich Hayek, John Rawls, and Robert Nozick. Prerequisites: One 200-level PHIL course. (IRR)

4 Credits

PHIL 34000 Global Ethics (LA)

The course surveys significant ethical challenges that are global in scope: Are there such things as universal human rights, or is morality ultimately relative to one's particular culture? What, if any, duties do we have to the global environment? What is the difference between a just and unjust war, and between just and unjust ways of combating terrorism? Morally speaking, what can be said in defense of economic globalization, and against it? Are global inequalities in wealth morally defensible? Prerequisites: At least one 200-level PHIL course. (IRR)

Attributes: INBG, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO

4 Credits

PHIL 34800 Epistemology: Theories of Knowledge and Justified Belief (LA)

Philosophical study of knowledge and justified belief. The course will look at both classic epistemological topics including skepticism; analyses of knowledge; and the ethics of belief; and more contemporary epistemological topics including formal epistemology; disagreement; and fake news. Prerequisites: At least one 200-level PHIL course. (IRR)
4 Credits

PHIL 35000 Philosophy of Science (LA)

A comprehensive survey of issues in the philosophical foundations of science. Topics include the structure and function of scientific theories; the dispute over the existence or nonexistence of theoretical entities; reductionism and antireductionism; laws of nature and models of scientific explanation; Kuhn and historicist models of science; the realism/antirealism dispute over the philosophical implications of scientific theories. Prerequisites: PHIL 20300 or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 35200 Moral Philosophy (LA)

Critical exploration of foundational issues in metaethics and normative ethical theory. Topics for consideration include moral relativism, moral realism, and morality and self-interest, along with utilitarian, deontological, natural law, and contractarian theories of ethics. Moral concepts such as rights, duty, and value will also be considered. Readings will be from both classical and contemporary sources. Prerequisites: At least one 200-level PHIL course. (IRR)
Attributes: LMEL, LMS, LSCO
4 Credits

PHIL 35500 Metaphysics (LA)

Metaphysics is the philosophical investigation into the ultimate nature of reality. This course examines issues and answers in traditional and contemporary metaphysics. Topics covered include some of the following: ontology, universals and particulars, issues surrounding material objects, the nature of time, persistence through time, necessity and possibility, causation, free will, and realism and anti-realism debates. Prerequisites: At least one 200-level PHIL course. (IRR)
4 Credits

PHIL 36000 Philosophy of Mind (LA)

The distinctive feature of human beings that traditionally has been held to separate us from the rest of the universe is our supposed possession of a special thing/capacity called "mind." In this course we investigate what kind of thing (or non-thing) the mind is, what relation it has to bodily behavior, and how and why the mind has the extraordinary ability to represent the world truly or falsely. Topics include such questions as, Is the mind physical or non-physical? What is a mental state? What kinds of beings can possess minds? Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: 1, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 36200 Philosophy of Language (LA)

Investigation of philosophical questions concerning linguistic representation, particularly concerning the meanings of names, definite descriptions, and sentences, and how those linguistic expressions acquire their meanings. Further topics include whether metaphors have meaning, whether meaning is subjective or public, and whether representation is the only function of language. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
3 Credits

PHIL 37500-37510 Selected Topics in Philosophy (LA)

Topics to be determined according to student and teacher interest, with primary focus on a problem or a person. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
1-4 Credits

PHIL 38100 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy (LA)

Major philosophical movements in the 19th century. Emphasis is placed on selections from the works of Hegel, Mill, Marx, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 38200 Language, Mind, and Meaning: Themes in Twentieth Century Philosophy (LA)

Investigates the main trends and concerns of 20th century analytic philosophy. Readings will be from important works in logical positivism, the philosophy of the later Wittgenstein, and recent varieties of pragmatism and naturalism. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

PHIL 38300 Tradition, Interpretation, and Authority: Themes in Twentieth Century Philosophy (LA)

Examines some of the key debates among the key figures in 20th century European philosophy concerned with the problems of intellectual and political authority, the effectiveness and limits of interpretation in preserving, re-directing, or subverting authority, as well as the historically formed nature of institutions and social practices charged with maintaining the integrity of responsible and authoritative intellectual discourse. Focuses particularly on the work of Derrida, Gadamer, and Habermas. Prerequisites: one 200-level course in philosophy, or permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: GERM, HU
3 Credits

PHIL 38400 Existentialism (LA)

In-depth philosophical analysis of concepts such as authenticity, the meaning of life, freedom of choice, responsibility, and mortality in the works of 20th-century existentialist thinkers such as Heidegger, Sartre, and Camus, and their 19th-century precursors such as Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, and Kierkegaard. Prerequisites: At least one 200-level course in PHIL. (F,O)
Attributes: GERM
4 Credits

PHIL 39100-39101 Independent Study: Philosophy (LA)

Study or research project of the student's own devising. Minimal consultation with professor; final projects evaluated by professor. Offered on demand only. May be repeated for credit for different projects. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: UND
1-4 Credits

PHIL 39300-39301 Tutorial in Philosophy (LA)

Work by student and teacher on a problem or project of interest to both. Prerequisites: At least one 20000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: UND
1-4 Credits

PHIL 41000 Philosophy Capstone Seminar (LA)

Serves as the capstone for philosophy majors and minors. Synthesizes students' experience in the program by having students apply the philosophical skills they have acquired in previous classes to a faculty-guided, largely independent research project on a prominent philosophical position, movement, or debate. Facilitates student reflection on achievements in both the major/minor and the Integrative Core Curriculum, and how these relate to personal intellectual formation while at Ithaca College. Prerequisites: WRTG 10600, ICSM 10800, or ICSM 11800. (S,Y)
Attributes: CP, WI
4 Credits

PHIL 49100-49101 Independent Study: Philosophy (LA)

Study or research project of the student's own devising. Minimal consultation with professor; final projects evaluated by professor. Offered on demand only. May be repeated for credit for different projects. Prerequisites: At least one 30000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: UND
1-4 Credits

PHIL 49300-49301 Tutorial in Philosophy (LA)

Work by student and teacher on a problem or project of interest to both. Prerequisites: At least one 30000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: UND
1-4 Credits

PHIL 49500-49501 Philosophy Seminar (LA)

Small group study of a topic not otherwise offered in the curriculum or not offered at the same level. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: At least one 30000-level PHIL course and permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
1-4 Credits

Religious Studies (RLST)**RLST 10100 Religion Matters (LA)**

What is religion? Why is it important for understanding our rapidly changing world? This course investigates what religion is all about, drawing illustrations from various traditions around the globe. Students cultivate skills used in the academic study of religion, while exploring issues of belief, atheism, mysticism, morality, sex, and more. (F)
Attributes: HM, TIII
3 Credits

RLST 10300 Hebrew Scriptures (LA)

This course treats the books of the Bible critically as literature, as religious and moral texts, and as a source of sociological knowledge. It surveys the biblical literature, acquaints students with critical methods for the study of the Bible, situates the Bible within the literature and culture of the ancient Near East, and discusses the religion of ancient Israel. The course will deal with questions of history and archaeology and with questions of meaning: what the biblical text meant to its ancient readers and what meanings it has today. Cross-listed as JWST 10300. (F,Y)
Attributes: H, HM, INBG, TIDE, TMBS
3 Credits

RLST 10400 Introduction to the New Testament (LA)

A survey of the life and teaching of Jesus, and major themes in the Pauline Epistles and the Book of Revelation. (IRR)
Attributes: HM, INBG, TIDE, TIII
3 Credits

RLST 10500 Religion in Global Contexts (LA)

Introduces students to the academic study of religious traditions prevalent in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Specific topics vary, but may include Native American shamanism, Islam in China, African witchcraft, the politics of Tibetan Buddhism, celebrity Hindu gurus, and Brazilian megachurches. The course considers what it means to label these phenomena 'religious' as well as how traditional religious practices have adapted to the challenges of a modern, globalized world. (F,Y)
Attributes: AN3, G, H, HM, INBG, NACI, NASE, TMBS
3 Credits

RLST 10600 A History of God (LA)

Explores historical developments and living practices within Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions as they encounter other peoples and traditions around the world. Engages with historical events, politics, and changing cultural contexts of the three traditions. Issues covered may include ways of thinking about God in monotheistic traditions; sacred texts and rituals; understandings of gender and sexuality; fundamentalism; science; and encounters with polytheistic, feminine, and/or pagan views of the divine. (S,Y)
Attributes: AN3, G, H, HM, INBG, TIDE, TMBS
3 Credits

RLST 15600 What Is Belief? (LA)

Designed to familiarize students with the field of Religious Studies, this course provides a rigorous but accessible introduction to the phenomenon of religious belief, a phenomenon that is currently debated by scholars of religion and is of significant interest to the wider public. We will consider the relationship between belief and knowledge, doubt, and practice; the possibility of multiple forms of religious belief; and the problem of belief's utility as a tool of comparative analysis. (F)
1 Credit

RLST 17500-17510 Selected Topics in Religion (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

RLST 20100 Religion and Culture (LA)

Study of the mutual relations between religion and culture. The course explores the religious dimension of art, music, and other contemporary media, and considers the way religious symbols influence cultural and social movements. Students study both Western and non-Western examples, of the intersection between religion and culture in art, music, literature, ritual, film, and games. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (Y)
Attributes: AN3, HM, INBG, SCE, TIII
3 Credits

RLST 20300 Living Judaism (LA)

Introduces Judaism as a lived tradition, with a focus on ethical, ritual, and cultural practices and beliefs from a wide variety of Jewish communities. Readings include texts from the biblical, rabbinic, medieval, and modern periods. Theological and ethical issues addressed include God, good and evil, covenant, death and afterlife, justice, and social responsibility, as lived out through practices associated with birth and death; marriage and commitment; sexuality; and the life of study, prayer, and devotion. Course cross-listed with JWST 20300; students may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisites: One three credit Liberal Arts course. (S,Y)
Attributes: G, HM, INBG, TIDE, TMBS
3 Credits

RLST 20400 Christianity: Contexts and Conflicts (LA)

Explores some of the varieties of Christianity in its two thousand year history, with special attention to the women who have played a critical role in shaping its tradition. Surveys the features Christianity shares with other religious traditions, as well as how Christianity has been transformed in global contexts. Examines how Christianity has both defended the vulnerable (e.g., liberation theology) and harmed others (e.g., colonial missionary activity). Also considers the ways that Christianity figures into contemporary politics in America in volatile discussions about issues like abortion, race, gender and sexuality. No previous knowledge of Christianity necessary. Prerequisites: One three credit liberal arts course. (O)

Attributes: ESE, INBG

3 Credits

RLST 20500 Engaging Islam (LA)

Introduces the origins and historical development of Islamic religious traditions, while exploring the wide spectrum of beliefs, practices, and interpretations of Muslims. Particular attention is given to historical and contemporary Muslim engagements with mysticism, empire, nationalism, race, and notions of sexuality and gender. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (F,Y)

Attributes: DV, ESE, G, H, HM, INBG, TIDE, TMBS

3 Credits

RLST 20700 Death, Dying, and Immortality (LA)

What is death? What, if anything, lies beyond it? This course investigates how different religious traditions from around the world imagine death, dying, and the afterlife. Topics may include reincarnation, end-of-life care, funerary rites, and suicide. Students are invited to explore their relationship with mortality in light of other traditions' perspectives.

Prerequisites: One three credit course in the liberal arts. (Y)

Attributes: 1, AN3, H, HM, HU, TMBS

3 Credits

RLST 21000 Religion, Race, and Social Justice (LA)

Explores the intersection of race and religion in the context of historical and contemporary movements in North America and globally. Challenges students to think about how religion is implicated in the construction of racial identities and theories, and how particular racialized communities utilize religion to resist racial oppression. Case studies may include religion and #BLM, Black Liberation Theology, the Nation of Islam, and Rastafarianism. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (O)

Attributes: DV, ESE, HM, TPJ

3 Credits

RLST 21100 Religion, Gender, and Sexuality (LA)

Where do attitudes about gender roles and sexual orientations come from? How do religious traditions reflect, reinforce, or subvert those attitudes? This course explores issues of gender and sexuality in the context of different religious traditions, past and present. Special attention is given to religion's role in current debates surrounding, for example, gender politics, sexual ethics, masculinity, feminist and queer theory, etc. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (O)

Attributes: ESE, WGS, WGSJ

3 Credits

RLST 23500 The Nature of Nature (LA)

Investigates why different religious traditions view our planet so differently. To what extent do these traditions shape peoples' perceptions of and interactions with the natural environment? Also explores how religious communities around the globe are responding to deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change. Makes use of a wide range of materials, including religious texts, documentaries, ethnographic studies, and science fiction. Prerequisites: One three-credit course in the liberal arts. (E)

Attributes: ABSS, AN3, ENVE, HM, TMBS, TQSF

3 Credits

RLST 24000 Writing about Religion: Heaven and Hell (LA)

An interdisciplinary introduction to how portrayals of heaven and hell have been transformed over time, with a focus on learning how to write about religion from a secularly minded but religiously-informed perspective. The course explores two thousand years of the history of heaven and hell with a focus on human meaning-making in religious practice, poetry, art, and digital media. Includes significant attention to the development of research and writing skills in the humanities.

Prerequisites: WRTG 10600, ICSM 10800, or ICSM 11800. (IRR)

Attributes: WI

4 Credits

RLST 25200 Introduction to Mysticism (LA)

Focuses on mystical journeys and ecstatic experiences from around the world. Draws from a variety of disciplines to analyze mystical paths in different cultural contexts, including philosophy, anthropology, ethnobotany, neurophysiology, psychology, and religious studies. Topics include voices and visions, the use of psychotropic substances, bridal mysticism, meditation, and the occult. Prerequisites: One three credit course in the liberal arts. (E)

Attributes: HU

3 Credits

RLST 25500 Religions in America (LA)

A sociohistorical survey of the varieties of religions in North America, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, new religious movements, and religions of various ethnic groups, such as Native American religions and African American religions. Emphasizes the role religion plays in the political and ethical spheres of American life. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (IRR)

Attributes: HU

3 Credits

RLST 27500-27510 Selected Topics in Religion (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest.

Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (IRR)

Attributes: HU

3 Credits

RLST 28100 Hindu Worlds (LA)

Introduces students to the richly diverse yet interrelated traditions of practice and thought that have contributed to what is today called "Hinduism". Emphasizes how these traditions have evolved from ancient times to the present, as well as the persistent tension between their textual and performative dimensions. Students examine Hindu religious literature and philosophy, temples and pilgrimage, iconography and mythology, in addition to issues pertaining to gender, colonialism, and the diaspora. Prerequisites: One liberal arts course in any of the following departments: ANTH, ARTH, CMST, CLTC, CSCR, ECON, EDUC, ENGL, GERO, HIST, JWST, LGST, PHIL, POLT, PSYC, RLST, SOCI, WGST, WRTG. (O)
Attributes: DV, G, HM, INBG, TMBS
3 Credits

RLST 28300 Seeking the Buddha (LA)

Engages the historical evolution and lived experience of Buddhist religious traditions by exploring how people have variously attempted to search for, discover, imagine, understand, become, and even kill the Buddha. Considers how the Buddha and his teachings have been interpreted through stories, philosophies, rituals, images, and objects across Asia and beyond. Special attention is paid to the transmission and modernization of Buddhist traditions in the contemporary western world. Prerequisites: One three credit liberal arts course. (E)
Attributes: DV, G, H, HU, INBG
3 Credits

RLST 31000 Epic Adventures: Readings in Hindu Mythology (LA)

Explores the rich narrative traditions of India's twin epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, which have constituted the core of Hindu mythology for over two millennia and profoundly shaped the cultures of South and Southeast Asia. Examines these myths in their diverse literary, philosophical, and performative dimensions and addresses broad thematic issues raised in the texts, including the nature of war, deception, gender, fate, friendship, duty, and divinity. No previous knowledge of Hinduism is presumed. Prerequisites: One 200-level RLST course; WRTG 10600 (or equivalent). (E,S)
Attributes: WI
3 Credits

RLST 31100 Philosophy of Religion (LA)

Study and discussion of a broad range of issues in the philosophy of religion, such as religious epistemology, the ontological argument, the cosmological argument, the teleological argument, religion and science, and the problem of evil. Primary source readings. Prerequisites: One 20000-level PHIL course. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

RLST 32300 Gender and Sexuality in Judaism (LA)

Exploration of what it means to be a Jewish man or woman. The course addresses how Jewish gender roles have changed throughout history, as well as how contemporary Jews deal with changes in women's roles and demands for gender equality. Topics covered include what is "gender" and how to study it; traditional roles of men and women in Judaism; the gendered Jewish body; family and sexuality; homosexuality; Jewish feminism; the gender of God; and changing women's religious roles. Cross-listed with JWST 32300. (Y)
Attributes: 1, DV, HU
3 Credits

RLST 33300 Jewish Mysticism (LA)

This course traces the history of Jewish mysticism. After a brief overview of early Jewish mysticism from the biblical and rabbinic periods, students will concentrate on the medieval flowering of Kabbalah, and its further development in the 16th-century Kabbalah of Safed and Israel and 18th-century Eastern European Hasidism. The emphasis will be placed on understanding both the theoretical and experiential aspects of Jewish mysticism and on examining some of the key texts of Jewish mysticism. Cross-listed with JWST 33300. (Y)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

RLST 35600 Religion and Literature (LA)

This course explores the ways in which religious ideas and practices appear in contemporary novels associated with various cultures and religious traditions. We consider how authors utilize religious themes to negotiate challenges and questions posed by modernity, as well as how they engage questions of religious identity through the medium of modern literary forms. We read these works against the background of contemporary changes in the relationship between the religious and the secular. Cross-listed with ENGL 35600; students may not receive credit for both. Prerequisites: One course in RLST or ENGL; WRTG 10600, ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or equivalent. (IRR)
Attributes: WI
3 Credits

RLST 37500-37513 Selected Topics in Religion (LA)

Topics to be determined according to teacher and student interest. Prerequisites: One 20000-level RLST course. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

RLST 39100 Independent Study: Religion (LA)

Study or research project(s) of the student's own devising carried out in consultation with faculty sponsor; final project(s) evaluated by faculty sponsor. Offered on demand. May be repeated for credit for different projects. Prerequisites: One 20000-level RLST course and permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: UND
0.5-3 Credits

RLST 39300 Tutorial in Religion (LA)

Work by student and teacher together on a problem or project of interest to both. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: One 20000-level RLST course and permission of instructor. (IRR)
Attributes: UND
1-4 Credits

RLST 39800 Internship: Religious Studies (NLA)

Enables students to participate in an internship opportunity with the collaboration of a faculty sponsor in Religious Studies. In addition to internship-based activities, assignments include related readings and a final paper. Completion of H&S dean's office internship form is required. Can be repeated to a maximum of Prerequisites: Three RLST courses; permission of instructor. (IRR)
0.5-3 Credits

RLST 41000 Religious Studies Capstone (LA)

Serves as the capstone for religious studies majors and minors. Engages students in organizing interdisciplinary community discussions about contemporary issues in global religious practice. Facilitates reflection on studies in the major/minor and the Integrative Core Curriculum, and how these connect to the student's personal intellectual formation at Ithaca College. Prerequisites: At least three courses in religious studies, with at least one RLST course at the 300 level. (S,Y)

Attributes: CP, HU, WI

1 Credit