

ing in an analytic and synthetic manner. *Prerequisite: Environmental Studies major or permission.*

## **Philosophy and Religious Studies**

**Professor Wolters**

**Assistant Professor Betz**

Both philosophy and religious studies offer students the opportunity to explore deep-rooted values and ideals that have shaped the development of human culture, particularly in the West. Questions about the nature of being human, the nature of our private and social obligations, and faith and its relation to reason are discussed in many of the courses. Discussed are the historical dimensions of these questions, how answers to them have developed historically, and how questions have shaped the growth of our civilization. In religious studies, students do this through introductory and upper-level course work in Biblical studies, theology, and comparative religious traditions. In a non-religious context, they see many of the same concerns arising in such courses as Ethics or Ancient and Medieval Philosophy.

In all courses, a major emphasis is to help students develop the ability to think knowledgeably, rationally and critically for themselves. Thus, at the end of either major, each student completes a senior thesis, in which he or she has the opportunity to work closely with one member of the department to explore in-depth an issue of the student's choosing.

### **Requirements for the Philosophy Major:**

Complete the following 33 credits:

1. One course chosen from Philosophy-Religion 110, 111, 231
2. Philosophy 114 (or 214), 210
3. One course chosen from Philosophy 311, 411, or 371 (3 credits)
4. Nine additional credits in philosophy, three of which must be at the 400 level
5. Philosophy-Religion 120 (or 121)
6. Two additional Religious Studies courses at the 300 or 400 level
7. Philosophy 495

### **Requirements for the Philosophy Minor:**

Complete the following 18 credits:

1. One course chosen from Philosophy-Religion 110, 111, 231
2. Philosophy-Religion 120 (or 121) plus three additional credits in Religious Studies
3. Philosophy 210 (or 214)
4. One course chosen from Philosophy 311, 411, 317, 417
5. Three additional credits in Philosophy at the 300 or 400 level

**Requirements for the Religious Studies Major:**

Complete the following 33 credits:

1. Philosophy-Religion 120, 121
2. Fifteen credits in Religious Studies, three of which must be at the 400 level, excluding Religious Studies 495
3. One course chosen from Philosophy-Religion 110, 111, 231, Philosophy 114
4. Two courses chosen from Philosophy 210, 214, 311, 317, 371, 411, 417, 471
5. Religious Studies 495

**Requirements for the Religious Studies Minor:**

Complete the following 18 credits:

1. Philosophy-Religion 120, 121
2. Six credits in Religious Studies at the 300 or 400 level
3. Six credits in Philosophy

**PHILOSOPHY-RELIGION (PRE)**

**110 Philosophical Problems (3)**

An examination of several major philosophical problems and traditionally influential solutions to them. The student is encouraged to develop his or her own solutions to the answers provided by the philosophers discussed. **A student cannot count both Philosophy-Religion 110 and 111 toward a major or minor in Philosophy or Religious Studies.**

**111 Ethics (3)**

An examination of theories and forms of reasoning about moral problems. Procedures for reasoning about ethical issues are examined as well as several major philosophical theories, such as Utilitarianism, which attempt to provide guidance in these issues. The student is encouraged to seek his or her own solution, guided by the theories discussed. **A student cannot count both Philosophy-Religion 110 and 111 toward a major or minor in Philosophy or Religious Studies.**

**120 Understanding the Old Testament (3)**

An introductory exploration of the Old Testament within the context of the ancient Near East. Students will become acquainted with the various types of literature that constitute the Old Testament canon and the people who produced it. As modern readers of a different time and culture, students will learn to approach the Old Testament using sound strategies that are sensitive to these differences. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have an understanding of: 1) the general contents of the Old Testament; 2) its presumed historical context in the ancient Near East; and 3) fundamental interpretive strategies.

**121 Understanding the New Testament (3)**

An introductory exploration of the New Testament within the context of the first-century Mediterranean world. Students will become acquainted with

the gospels, letters, and other literary types that constitute the New Testament canon. As modern readers of a different time and culture, students will learn to approach the New Testament using sound strategies that are sensitive to these differences. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have an understanding of: 1) the general contents of the New Testament; 2) its presumed historical context in Greco-Roman antiquity; and 3) fundamental interpretive strategies.

**231 History and Philosophy of Technology (3)**

A focus on aspects of the history of technology; the moral and social dilemmas that past technologies gave rise to (even when those dilemmas were not clearly acknowledged); the potentials of selected current technologies; and the moral and social dilemmas that those technologies raise. Students study the ways major thinkers have tried to deal with the dilemmas technologies have posed, and are asked to think through their own responsibilities concerning the technologies discussed.

**PHILOSOPHY (PHI)**

**114 Informal Logic (3)**

A course providing a non-formal examination of the nature of good reasoning. Students will examine and learn the nature of cognitive argument, the role of inductive and deductive reasoning, and the effects of non-cognitive aspects of language on the cognitive. Students will examine informal fallacies and apply what is studied to examples of reasoning in such areas as science and law.

**210 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3)**

An examination of Greek philosophy, concentrating on Plato's Republic and ending with Aristotle. This is followed by a brief study of the spiritual renaissance seen in Plotinus and culminating in the works of St. Augustine. *Offered alternate years.*

**214 Formal Logic (3)**

A study of propositional logic, including truth tables, symbolization, deductive formal proof, quantification theory, and deductive completeness of formal systems.

**271, 371, 471 Selected Topics (1-3) (1-3) (1-3)**

An investigation of topics not offered in other courses, selected on the basis of student interest and available instruction. *Offered alternate years.*

**290, 390, 490 Directed Study (1-3) (1-3) (1-3)**

An opportunity for supervised, independent study of a particular topic based on the interest of the student and the availability and approval of the faculty.

**301 Philosophy of Yoga (3)**

How do we conduct an inquiry in the self? This is the central question asked in Philosophy of Yoga. Students will study and integrate an inquiry into the self through the ancient philosophy of hatha yoga. Students are introduced to three preparatory stages in yoga: asana (poses), pranayama (breath),

and meditation. By studying these three stages of practice, students will begin to ponder the steps necessary to understand a contemplative discipline. Heavy emphasis is placed on experiential and participatory study of yoga. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a broad spectrum of direct experience with yoga and a grounded perspective on the application of philosophy to their own life.

**305 World Views (3)**

An overview of major ideas and events shaping Western civilization through the examination of narratives, discourses, artworks, films and popular culture. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a better understanding of classical mythology and philosophy, the biblical concept of reality, modern secularism, the intellectual foundations of totalitarianism, post-modernism, New Age spirituality and alternative concepts of history. **This course fulfills the Cultural Perspectives requirement of the Doane Plan. Offered alternate spring terms.**

**311, 411 Philosophy of Science (3) (3)**

An examination of the philosophical questions raised by science – particularly physics – and the implications science has for other areas of thought and practice, such as religion. **Students may complete at one level only. Prerequisite: One course in philosophy or religious studies, or permission. Offered alternate years.**

**317, 417 Human Rights (3) (3)**

An examination of theories about the nature, scope, and importance of human rights. There will be an exploration of both religious and non-religious roots of these doctrines, their developments through the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the role human rights play today in both the national and international arenas. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to trace the origins of the belief in human rights and articulate at least two ways in which the doctrine of human rights is justified. **Students may complete at one level only. Prerequisite: Philosophy-Religion 110 or 111 or permission. Offered alternate years.**

**395 Proseminar I (1)**

A course to supplement a student's background in the history of philosophy. Students independently watch a previously agreed upon number of videotapes on the history of philosophy and complete essays reviewing them. Videos will be supplemented by various readings, by resources from the Internet, and by regular discussions with the professor. Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to continue learning about philosophy on their own, with minimal guidance from a professor. **Prerequisite: Philosophy or Religious Studies major or minor.**

**396 Proseminar II (1)**

A concentrated examination of current journal literature in philosophy. Students read from, and do research in, specified journals on a given topic. The work is reviewed regularly by the course professor. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to identify the major journals in their area of interest, and articulate the major positions in the journal litera-

ture on an area of their interest. *Prerequisite: Philosophy or Religious Studies major or minor.*

**495 Examination and Thesis (3)**

A comprehensive examination, emphasizing depth and interrelationships among ideas, is required of every major. An individually chosen thesis is read to the faculty and other students. *Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.*

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RST)**

**271, 371, 471 Selected Topics (1-3) (1-3) (1-3)**

An investigation of topics not offered in other courses, selected on the basis of student interest and available instruction.

**290, 390, 490 Directed Study (1-3) (1-3) (1-3)**

An opportunity for supervised, independent study of a particular topic based on the interest of the student and the availability and approval of the faculty.

**309 Introduction to Judaism (3)**

An exploration of the beliefs and practices of Judaism. Careful reading of classical Jewish texts and participation in Jewish religious services constitutes the major component of the course. Upon successful completion, students will have an understanding of Judaism as defined by sacred time, space, and leadership. Students will also be able to engage a variety of contemporary issues pertaining to Judaism. *Offered alternate fall terms.*

**310 The Historical Jesus (3)**

Beginning with historical critical study of the Bible in the 18th century enlightenment, scholars of the New Testament and early Christian literature have sought to separate the historical figure of Jesus from the image of Jesus within the early church. This course traces the various quests for the historical Jesus based on New Testament writings and other related literature. Upon successful completion of the course, students will: 1) have an understanding of the New Testament and early Christian literature as it pertains to the historical Jesus; 2) have an understanding of basic interpretive methods used to reconstruct the historical Jesus; and 3) be able to engage fundamental issues in the form of a presentation and research project. *Offered alternate spring terms.*

**312 The Letters and Life of Paul (3)**

An introduction to the content and background of the new Testament letters attributed to the Apostle Paul. Particular attention is devoted to the literary structure of the letters and the social context of Christian communities in the Mediterranean world of the first century. There is also a consideration of the biography of Paul according to early Christian sources. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have an understanding of: 1) the general contents of Paul's letters; 2) Greco-Roman antiquity as it serves as a backdrop for Paul; and 3) basic interpretive strategies. *Offered alternate spring terms.*

**316, 416 The Book of Genesis (3) (3)**

A seminar-style study of Genesis. As a backdrop to the book, the course first explores ancient Near Eastern history and literature. Students are then introduced to classical and contemporary interpretive approaches and apply them to portions of Genesis. Careful reading of Genesis over the course of the semester will result in a deeper understanding of the stories, both in their antiquity and as they speak to us today. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have an understanding of: 1) the ancient Near East as it serves as a backdrop for Genesis; 2) the general contents of Genesis; and 3) basic interpretive strategies. **Students may complete one level only. Offered alternate fall terms.**

**328 Religions and Culture in the Middle East (3)**

An exploration of the religious traditions of the Middle East (Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Islam, and Bahai) and the way these traditions affect the daily lives of Middle Eastern people. Special attention is devoted to the geography and history of the region as it pertains to religion, culture, and politics. There is also a consideration of current events in the Middle East and how the perception of these events impacts the life of Middle Eastern people in the United States. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be conversant with the major religious traditions of the Middle East and have a better understanding of the Middle East as it is depicted in the modern media. **This course fulfills the Cultural Perspectives requirement of the Doane Plan.**

**495 Examination and Thesis (3)**

A comprehensive examination, emphasizing depth and interrelationships among ideas, is required of every major. An individually chosen thesis is read to the faculty and other students. *Prerequisite: One course in religious studies.*

**498 Honors in Religious Studies (3)**

Students who have demonstrated outstanding performance in religious studies are offered opportunities for academic enrichment, such as: reading projects, research and writing, teaching and tutorial assistance in courses. Upon successful completion of this experience, students will have gained a better understanding of research, professional writing, or instruction within the context of the discipline. *Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.*