Philosophy and Religious Studies

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Phone: 718.489.5235

Chairperson
Dr. John Edwards

Associate Professor
Edwards

Assistant Professors
Falkenstern
Labendz
Shoppa

Professors Emeriti
Berman
Galgan
Pedersen
Udoff

Adjuncts
Alvaro
Delescu
Egler
Freeman
Garrera-Tobert
Johansson
Jove
LaForge
Marino
Mixon
Norris
Sparks
Warden

Mission of the Philosophy Major

Students receive a solid foundation for graduate study in philosophy and for training in any field that demands developed analytical and critical skills such as law, health care, journalism, and business. Philosophy offers students the instruments, methods, and sources needed to develop their intellectual lives and to promote human transformation. Only insofar as students achieve this has the College succeeded in its goal as a liberal arts college, namely, to form minds capable of responsible self-determination.

Goals and Objectives

- To promote in students an understanding of the nature, purpose, and importance of the philosophical enterprise by inviting them to engage in it personally, by raising and working to answer philosophical questions of their own.
- To respect reason as a definitive human characteristic and the truth as its primary pursuit. Students will sharpen their abilities to think critically, to consider issues from multiple perspectives and in depth, and to relate parts to wholes. The program emphasizes the value of critical thinking as the best way to distinguish what is worth doing and what is not.
- To address some of the major philosophical questions, which are none other than the fundamental questions confronting human beings as such, through a historical study of the views of philosophers from antiquity to today. Learning how to read a primary text from the history of philosophy, and to derive nourishment from it, constitutes an essential goal of the program.

Mission of the Religious Studies Major

Religious Studies trains students to critically examine the data of religious beliefs and practices in order to understand how humans establish values, maintain social orders, and cope with metaphysical anxieties.

In keeping with the Catholic and Franciscan heritage of the College, Religious Studies at St. Francis includes both descriptive study of religious history, literature and practice and constructive inquiry into religious ideas and meaning through the study of religious thought and of ethics with an emphasis on contemporary issues.

Goals and Objectives

- To provide students with a substantive knowledge of religious traditions and a critical understanding of the enterprise of the study of religion.
- To develop in students the ability to deal comparatively with the basic themes of religion and to look at issues of religion in the light of evidence and reasonable reflection. Each student majoring in Religious Studies will achieve competence in his or her area of concentration in an overall program of study designed in consultation with the faculty.
- To foster among students a spirit of positive critical engagement with the data of religion through class work, research and site visits.
- To serve not only the professional aspirations and academic needs but also the personal concerns of all students who enter the program, whatever their religious background or affiliation.
Program Requirements

**Major in Philosophy**

Students receive a solid foundation for graduate study in philosophy and for training in any field that demands developed analytical and critical skills such as law, health care, journalism, or business. The Philosophy major stresses the history of philosophy and practical applications. It also respects the diversity of students’ interests and goals by allowing them the flexibility to tailor their own program by selecting courses that interest them and that complement their minor and programs such as those in Psychology, Education, English, Women’s and Gender Studies, or Communication Arts. The 123 credits, with 30 of them counting toward the Philosophy degree, are to be distributed in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Prerequisite(s)</th>
<th>Co-Requisite(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bodies of Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PEM - Take a 1000 Level PHI course</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Any 1000-level PHI course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select <strong>TWO</strong> foreign language courses in sequence</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIS 1101 Survey of Western Civilization (to 1500)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIS 1102 Survey of Western Civilization (since 1500)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select <strong>ONE</strong> additional Mathematics course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 2431 Greek Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Any 1000-level PHI course</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 2441 Early Modern Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Any 1000-level PHI course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI 3318 19th Century Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Any 2000-level PHI course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select <strong>ONE</strong> of the following courses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 2403 The Good Life</td>
<td></td>
<td>Any 1000-level PHI course</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 3404 Political Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Any 2000-level PHI course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select <strong>ONE</strong> of the following courses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 3333 Philosophical Theology</td>
<td></td>
<td>Any 2000-level PHI course</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHI 3432 Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Any 2000-level PHI course</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select <strong>FIVE</strong> 2000 or higher level PHI courses</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts† (for specific academic subjects, see page 15)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General electives</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total credits required: 123

† Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree must complete 2/3 of their degree credits (i.e., minimum 90 credits) from courses in the Liberal Arts category. For specific academic subjects, see page 15.

* 2000-level PHI courses have a PHI 1000-level pre-requisite.

Philosophy majors will be given an oral comprehensive examination in their last semester before graduation. Two weeks prior to the examination, the student will submit to the department, in writing, a list of all Philosophy courses taken at St. Francis College, along with a designation of a particular area, course, or philosopher that he/she would like examination questions to emphasize. However, students must also expect to be questioned on their philosophic education as a whole. Full-time professors, as well as any adjunct professor who wishes, will take part in administering this examination.
## Program Requirements

### Major in Religious Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Prerequisite(s)</th>
<th>Co-Requisite(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education Program [see page 15]</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RS - Take REL 1101 Survey of World Religions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bodies of Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select <strong>TWO</strong> foreign language courses in sequence¹</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select <strong>ONE</strong> of the following courses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 1301 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 1302 Introduction to the New Testament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select <strong>TWO</strong> of the following courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 1201 The Christian Tradition</td>
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<td>REL 1202 Judaism</td>
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<td>REL 1203 Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 1206 Buddhism</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 3701 Approaches to the Study of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Any 1000- or 2000-level REL course.</td>
<td>Senior standing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 4991 Independent Study: Thesis Direction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chairperson’s approval</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select <strong>SIX</strong> REL courses</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select <strong>SIX</strong> HIS, ICS, PSC, PSY, or SOC courses, any combination relevant to student’s concentration</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General electives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total credits required</td>
<td>123</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Student must elect 6 credits or demonstrate the equivalent ability in one language.
Minor in Philosophy

This flexible minor allows students to tailor their own program by selecting courses that interest them and that complement their major. Combining theory with practical application, students personally engage with fundamental questions facing human beings, as they as read historical and contemporary texts addressing these issues. The analytical and critical thinking and writing skills gained through philosophy will serve you well in any career or area of graduate study, including those in health care, law, the sciences, business, psychology, English, education, and communications. The 15 credits are to be distributed in the following manner.

Courses | Credits | Prerequisite(s) | Co-Requisite(s)
--- | --- | --- | ---
Select **TWO** of the following courses | 6 | Any 1000-level PHI course | 
PHI 2201 Human Nature |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2203 Theories of Knowledge |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2204 Utilitarianism |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2205 Happiness and Pleasure |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2210 Descartes |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2211 Existentialism |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2212 Latin American Philosophy |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2310 American Philosophy |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2316 Art and Aesthetics |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2341 Authority and Law |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2342 Business Ethics |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2344 Philosophy and the Natural World |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2403 The Good Life |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2431 Ancient Greek Philosophy |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2441 Early Modern Philosophy |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
PHI 2502 Medical Ethics |  | Any 1000-level PHI course |
Select **THREE** of the following courses | 9 | Any 2000-level PHI course | 
PHI 3312 Gender and Philosophy |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3315 Meaning of History |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3317 Renaissance Philosophy |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3318 19th Century Philosophy |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3319 Philosophy and Literature |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3326 Philosophy of Science |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3327 Theory of Being |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3333 Philosophical Theology |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3343 Philosophy of Sport |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3404 Political Philosophy |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3432 Medieval Philosophy |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 3442 Twentieth-Century Philosophy |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 4000-4199 Special Topics in Philosophy |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |
PHI 4995 Independent Study |  | Any 2000-level PHI course |

Total credits required | 15 |

Minor in Religious Studies

The minor consists of three required courses and three elective religious studies courses for a total of 18 credits.

Courses | Credits | Prerequisite(s) | Co-Requisite(s)
--- | --- | --- | ---
REL 1101 Survey of the World's Religions | 3 |  | 
Select **ONE** of the following courses | 3 |  | 
REL 1301 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible |  |  |
REL 1302 Introduction to the New Testament |  |  |
Select **FOUR** REL courses | 12 |  | 

Total credits required | 18 |