

Theology and Religious Studies

Jeanette Rodriguez, PhD, Chair

Objectives

The Theology and Religious Studies curriculum prepares students to participate in creating a more just, humane, and sustainable world. Theology and Religious Studies contributes to the formation of students' personal and intellectual growth by developing the skills and knowledge they need to analyze and interpret the religious dimension of human life. In keeping with the Catholic and Jesuit identity of the university, Phase II courses equip students to identify and appreciate the presence and function of the sacred in human life, history, and the cosmos through engagement with the Catholic intellectual tradition. Phase III courses provide advanced studies in methodology, contemporary biblical scholarship, world religious traditions, interreligious dialogue, and ethical investigations.

Students must take a Phase II course before they can register for a Phase III course. Transfer students with 90 or more credits and no equivalent 200- or 300- level theology/religious studies course are granted a waiver for Phase III (300-level) and are required to take a Phase II (200-level) course at Seattle University.

Degrees Offered

Bachelor of Arts

Majors Offered

Theology and Religious Studies

Theology and Religious Studies with Departmental Honors

Minor Offered

Theology and Religious Studies

Bachelor of Arts

Major in Theology and Religious Studies

In order to earn the bachelor of arts degree with a major in theology and religious studies, students must complete a minimum 180 credits with a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 2.00, including the courses listed below. With the exception of 200- and 300- level Theology and Religious Studies courses taken to fulfill Phase II and III Core requirements, courses taken to fulfill major requirements in Theology and Religious Studies may not simultaneously be used to fulfill core or college requirements. For example, a single course may not count as both a core interdisciplinary course and a major elective.

I. Core Curriculum Requirements

ENGL 110	College Writing: Inquiry and Argument	5
PHIL 110	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	5
HIST 120	Origins of Western Civilization	5
ENGL 120	Introduction to Literature	5
MATH 107 or 110 or above	.....	5
Lab Science	.....	5
Fine Arts (one approved 5 credit course; see course descriptions)	.....	5
PHIL 220	Philosophy of the Human Person	5
Social Science I	.....	5

Social Science II (different discipline from Social Science I).....	5
Ethics (upper division).....	5
Interdisciplinary	3 to 5
Senior Synthesis	3 to 5

II. College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

Modern Language 115, 125, 135, or equivalent	15
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NOTE: All students with a major in the College of Arts and Sciences must demonstrate competency through the level of 135 in a language other than English. This competency is ordinarily achieved by successful completion of the three-course sequence: 115, 125, and 135. Because these courses are a college requirement, no course in the sequence may be taken on a pass/fail, correspondence, or audit basis. Placement into other than the beginning course of the sequence is achieved by acceptable performance on the Modern Language Competency Examination. See the Modern Languages Department for details on the examinations. Courses used to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences modern language requirement may not be used to fulfill Religious Studies major requirements.

Choose one of the following two courses:

HIST 121	Studies in Modern Civilization	5
HIST 231	Survey of the United States	

III. Major Requirements

60 credits in theology and religious studies, including:

Introductory and Intermediate Courses

Choose one of the following World Religion courses:

THRS 230	Spiritual Traditions: East and West	5
THRS 231	Christian-Buddhist Dialogue	
THRS 232	Christian-Muslim Dialogue	

Choose one of the following Hebrew Bible courses:

THRS 300	The Hebrew Bible	5
THRS 301	Torah: The Birth of a People	
THRS 302	Women and the Hebrew Bible	

Choose one of the following New Testament courses:

THRS 303	The Gospel of Jesus Christ	5
THRS 304	The Message of Paul	
THRS 305	John: A Different Gospel	
THRS 306	Women and the New Testament	
THRS 307	Apocalypse Then and Now	

Choose two of the following systematics courses:

THRS 200	God in Human Experience	10
THRS 201	Catholic Traditions	
THRS 202	God and Evil	
THRS 203	Themes of Christian Faith	
THRS 204	Women and Theology	
THRS 205	Theology of the Person	
THRS 206	Christology	
THRS 207	Church as Community	
THRS 208	Sacraments: Doors to the Sacred	
THRS 209	Jesus and Liberation	

THRS 310	Rethinking God	
THRS 311	Latin American Liberation Theology	
THRS 312	African-American Religious Experience	
THRS 313	Religion and Science	
Choose one of the following ethics courses:		5
THRS 220	Faith and Morality	
THRS 221	Contemporary Ethical Issues	
THRS 222	Theology of Peace	
THRS 320	Catholic Social Teaching	
THRS 321	God, Money, and Politics	
THRS 322	Human Sexuality: The Challenge of Love	
THRS 323	Biomedical Ethics: The Giving and Taking of Life	
THRS 324	Religion and Ecology	
Advanced Courses		
Choose one of the following two courses:		5
THRS 407	Interpreting the Hebrew Bible	
THRS 414	Interpreting the Synoptics	
Complete the following:		
THRS 401	Theology of Religions	5
THRS 419	Early Christian Theology.	5
THRS 420	Medieval and Reformation Theology	5
THRS 428	Modern and Contemporary Theology	5
THRS Elective (approved by advisor)	.....	*5

NOTE: *Students who transfer with 90 or more credits and no applicable religious studies may waive this requirement, reducing their major credit total to 55.

Bachelor of Arts Major in Theology and Religious Studies with Departmental Honors

The honors major in theology and religious studies offers an opportunity for motivated and capable students to engage in more extensive interaction with faculty and to complete challenging individual research projects that will further their personal and professional goals.

Application to the major: To be accepted to the program, students must have a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 3.50. Interested students should apply to the department Honors Coordinator in spring quarter of the junior year or early fall quarter of the senior year. A Change of Major, Degree or Specialization form must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar upon acceptance.

Completion of the major: During senior year, departmental honors students will complete 10 credits of independent study and write a 25-40 page thesis under the direction of a faculty member. The thesis is to be presented orally in an appropriate context to be determined by the Departmental Honors Coordinator. The 10 credits must be taken as THRS 477 Theology and Religious Studies Honors Directed Reading and THRS 479 Theology and Religious Studies Honors Thesis Supervision. In order to complete the requirements for departmental honors and receive a notation to that effect on their transcripts, students must earn 70 credits in Theology and Religious Studies courses (10 more than the usual major requirement), earn a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 3.50, and receive an A or A- for THRS 479 Theology and Religious Studies Honors Thesis Supervision. In addition to the bachelor of arts major in theology and religious studies requirements, the honors major also includes:

Ten credits in departmental honors, including:

THRS 477	Honors Directed Reading.....	5
THRS 479	Honors Thesis Supervision	5

Minor in Theology and Religious Studies

In order to earn a minor in theology and religious studies, students must complete 30 credits in theology and religious studies, including:

Choose three courses in one of the following specializations: 15

Biblical Studies

Systematic Theology

Historical Theology

Theological Ethics

World Religions

Choose one course (or a total of five credits)

from each of three areas outside the chosen specialization:..... 15

Biblical Studies

Systematic/Historical Theology

Theological Ethics

World Religions

Spirituality

NOTE: 1. Students considering a minor should contact the department chair as soon as possible to discuss options. 2. Brochures with sample courses for each area of specialization are available in the departmental office. 3. All minors will work closely with a faculty advisor in their chosen area of specialization. 4. It is strongly recommended that students take one or more 400-level courses. 5. If students design their programs carefully, courses taken to fulfill the Theology and Religious Studies core requirement will count toward the minor. See policy for minors (84-1) for more information.

Theology and Religious Studies Courses

Courses numbered in the 200's are Core Phase II; those in the 300's are Phase III and each has a Phase II Religious Studies prerequisite. Advanced courses for majors and minors as well as interdisciplinary core courses carry 400 numbers. See core curriculum section of this *Bulletin*. Courses that fill requirements for theology and religious studies minors are designated by the following code:

B	Biblical Studies
S	Systematic Theology
H	Historical Theology
TE	Theological Ethics
WR	World Religions
SP	Spirituality

Core Phase II: Person in Society—Religious Experience

Phase II courses provide students with a theological framework for thinking critically about and reflecting on religious traditions and experience. Within this larger context, students will be introduced to the Catholic theological tradition with an emphasis on the nature of the human person in society.

NOTE: Sophomore standing is required for enrollment in THRS 200 level courses. If you have already taken this course under its previous number, you may not take it again and receive credit for it.

- THRS 200 God in Human Experience 5**
 Exploration of religious experience and the understandings of the Sacred, the natural world, person, and society that flow from such experience. Major themes include: revelation and faith; experiences of God and their expression in symbols, stories, and concepts; implications of one's view of God for understanding persons and community; challenges to the contemporary believer. S.
- THRS 201 Catholic Traditions 5**
 Description of the historical roots and the characteristic set of beliefs, values, structures, and practices that give rise to, shape, and vitalize the continuing faith-life of Roman Catholics. Scriptural sources and life-effects of the tradition. S.
- THRS 202 God and Evil 5**
 Study of the question of evil in relation to belief in God (theodicy). Exploration of the seeming conflict between innocent suffering and faith in the goodness and omnipotence of God. Investigation of classic resources for the discussion of this issue (e.g., the Book of Job) along with contemporary theological reflection on modern instances of suffering from colonialism and slavery to the Holocaust, fascism, and Third World struggles. S.
- THRS 203 Themes of Christian Faith 5**
 Origins, continuing relevance, and integrating connections of some of the principal beliefs that shape and sustain Christian living over time: faith, revelation, creation, incarnation, redemption, life in the Spirit. Relation of beliefs to continuing life-evaluations and decisions. S.
- THRS 204 Women and Theology 5**
 Exploration of central topics in feminist theology, e.g., naming the sacred, the self in relation, transformation of the world. Discussion of what is involved in "doing theology" and what women bring to this discipline by attending to their own experience, interpretation, and the power of their heritage. S.
- THRS 205 Theology of the Person 5**
 Theological reflection on the nature of human persons understood in relation to self, community, natural world, and God. Major themes include origins and destiny; sin and grace; embodiment; creativity, play, and work; gender and sexuality; suffering and oppression; human dignity and responsibility. S.
- THRS 206 Christology 5**
 Exploration of Jesus Christ's continuing redemptive significance for today's world. Sources and methods for addressing questions about who Jesus is and what he does. Investigation of the Christian community's deepening understanding of and response to the mystery of Jesus' person, presence, and power. S.
- THRS 207 Church as Community 5**
 An examination of the Christian community's attempt to represent Jesus' expression of the love of the triune God for all creation. Study of the Church's beliefs, values, structures, and activities in the past and in today's pluralistic world. Role of the Christian community in the lives of its members and in society. S.
- THRS 208 Sacraments: Doors to the Sacred 5**
 Study of the sacraments in the Christian tradition, including Christ and the church as primary sacraments; biblical roots and historical development of sacraments; contemporary challenges to sacramental practice; relation between sacraments and Christian living. S.
- THRS 209 Jesus and Liberation 5**
 Examination of the subject and methods of liberation theologies, such as Latin American, feminist, black, Asian; reflection on the life, mission, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in light of oppressive situations; role of church; nonviolence, revolution, and the drive for freedom. S.

THRS 210	Catholic Imagination and Film	5
	Catholics appear in U.S. movies more than any other religious group. This course uses film as an entry for dialogue and critical reflection on how Catholic worship, theology, and social teachings both shape and are shaped by the Catholic cinematic imagination. SP.	
THRS 220	Faith and Morality	5
	Examination of connections between Christian faith expressions and decisions/actions in everyday life. Topics include: development of persons as moral agents in society; the place of Christian scriptures and tradition in the formation of people as agents in history; methods of moral decision-making and tools for evaluating personal decisions and public policies; application to central issues of the day. TE.	
THRS 221	Contemporary Ethical Issues	5
	Exploration of selected contemporary moral problems in the light of the challenge they present to Christian ethics; emphasis upon components of an adequate Christian ethical framework; dialogical character of Christian ethics between the natural/social sciences and theological/philosophical perspectives; issues such as nonviolence, war and peace, capital punishment, racism, sexism, etc. TE.	
THRS 222	Theology of Peace	5
	A theological investigation into the four major Christian responses to issues of war and peace: pacifism, just-war theory, nonviolent resistance and, most recently, "just peacemaking." Resources include the Bible, recent reflections on the nature of war, and historic statements by Catholic popes, US Catholic Bishops, historic peace Churches, World Council of Churches, etc. Specific cases of resistance considered include Oscar Romero and the martyred Jesuits of El Salvador. TE.	
THRS 230	Spiritual Traditions: East and West	5
	Study of the revelation-authority religions of the West (Judaism-Christianity-Islam) compared with the wisdom-experience traditions of Asia (Hindu-Buddhist-Tao-Shinto). Focus on historical data and Scriptural texts of each tradition to understand different views of person, community, sacred world, and meditation as experienced relationship to the divine. Attention to Catholic perspectives on interreligious dialogue. WR.	
THRS 231	Christian-Buddhist Dialogue	5
	Comparative study of Christianity and Buddhism emphasizing the unity and diversity in both traditions. Exploration of major Christian theological concepts of the divine Trinity, the divine and human nature of Jesus Christ, revelation and redemption; as compared to the Buddhist teachings of sunyata and nirvana, enlightenment, Buddha-nature, and Zen philosophy. Special attention will be given to new approaches in inter-religious dialogue, such as comparative hermeneutics of scriptures and classics. Attention to Catholic perspectives on interreligious dialogue. WR.	
THRS 232	Christian-Muslim Dialogue	5
	The objective of the course is to study and cultivate the human ability to cross cultural and religious boundaries. Its subject matter is the encounter of two major monotheistic religions: Christianity and Islam. Topics include: comparative themes in the Christian Bible and the Qur'an, the lives and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and the prophet Muhammad, as well as contemporary ethical and political issues in these two traditions. Attention to Catholic perspectives on interreligious dialogue. WR.	
THRS 291-293	Special Topics	2 to 5
THRS 296	Directed Study	1 to 5

Core Phase III: Responsibility and Service— Theological Reflection

Phase III courses build on foundational theological frameworks. Utilizing diverse methods, these courses critically examine contemporary biblical scholarship, world religious traditions, interreligious dialogue, and ethical issues. Phase III courses explore the implications of theological understanding for responsibility, service, and justice in the world.

NOTE: All 300-level courses have a prerequisite of a Phase II 200-level theology and religious studies course and sophomore standing. If you have already taken this course under its previous number, you may not take it again and receive credit for it.

THRS 300 The Hebrew Bible 5

Study of central traditions and texts of the Hebrew Bible in their historical, cultural, political, and religious contexts. Extensive reading in the narrative and prophetic books and the Psalms, and an intensive study of selected texts, with attention to their role as foundational in the Jewish and Christian religions, both traditionally and recently. B.

THRS 301 Torah: The Birth of a People 5

Study of the Torah or Pentateuch, the core of the Hebrew Bible. Stories of world creation and flood, of Israel's ancestors, of slavery and liberation, of covenant and wandering. Critical reflection on the use of these stories in both Jewish and Christian traditions and in the theologies of contemporary marginalized groups. B.

THRS 302 Women and the Hebrew Bible 5

Investigation of a selection of narrative, legal, prophetic, and wisdom texts dealing with themes relating to women's lives: the frequent absence or trivialization of women; images of women—both individuals and types—as victims, as evil, as strong, and as loyal; and gendered imagery of the divine. Secondary literature will include interpretations by Jewish and Christian women around the world as well as white women and women of color in the United States. B.

THRS 303 The Gospel of Jesus Christ 5

Introductory study of the New Testament with a focus on the Jewishness of Jesus of Nazareth; his unique view of the relationship between God, human persons, communities, and the cosmos as a revolutionary perspective on human identity and freedom. The literary forms in which the Christian community proclaimed him. Appropriations of the Jesus tradition from the diverse perspectives of culture, gender, class, and race. B.

THRS 304 The Message of Paul 5

Paul's letters as the earliest New Testament writings of Christian faith and experience; his evolving understanding of Jesus; influence of the believing community and its culture on Paul's theology; dominant themes and ethical perspectives within the letters, relating especially to modern concerns and issues (e.g., Jewish-Christian dialogue, ministry, sexuality). B.

THRS 305 John: A Different Gospel 5

Investigation of John's distinctive understanding of Jesus as the divinely incarnate Christ; John's cultural and religious background and its shaping of the picture of Jesus as divine light and life; John's theology of indwelling and stress on the commandment of love; the relevance of the Johannine Jesus for contemporary believers. B.

THRS 306 Women and the New Testament 5

Investigation of stories, images, and texts within the New Testament that touch directly on women's lives. Use of feminist hermeneutics, in conversation with modern historical and literary methods, to explore the meaning and value of these stories and images in terms of their ancient cultural context, traditional interpretations, and modern application. Special focus on the portrayal of Jesus in relationship to women within the gospel tradition. B.

- THRS 307 Apocalypse Then and Now..... 5**
 Examination of ancient Jewish and Christian apocalyptic traditions beginning with the book of Daniel in the Hebrew Scriptures and the Book of Enoch in the Dead Sea Scrolls, through to the New Testament traditions about Jesus, the letters of Paul, the book of Revelation, and other noncanonical early Christian documents. Explores how “end of the world” scenarios have challenged and encouraged peoples from ancient to modern times who have felt marginalized and oppressed by powers beyond their control. Drawn from contemporary film and fiction in order to describe the major themes, purposes, and communities that stand behind apocalyptic traditions; and the theological value of apocalyptic for issues of peace and justice in the world today. Prerequisite: 200-level theology course. B.
- THRS 310 Rethinking God 5**
 Exploration of some major themes in the doctrine of God (e.g., power, love, transcendence, involvement in the world, trinitarian life, etc.) in light of questions raised by contemporary understandings of basic issues like suffering, gender and cultural diversity, humanity’s place in the ecosystem, etc. Reflection on images and understandings of God in the Bible, Christian tradition, contemporary theology. Influence of one’s view of God upon one’s sense of responsibility for the world. S.
- THRS 311 Latin American Liberation Theology 5**
 This course will examine the subject and method of Latin American liberation theology, which offers a dynamic approach to the issues of faith, human freedom, and liberation. This course explores and deepens our understanding of human choice, evil, salvation, from the lived faith experience in Latin America. It examines the oppression and exploitation that characterize Latin America, both past and present, and considers the challenges liberation theologians pose to all Christians. S.
- THRS 312 African-American Religious Experience 5**
 Effect of experiences and understandings of God (esp. providence, justice, power, knowledge, goodness) on African-American history, struggle, and concepts of reality. Contributions of African-Americans to biblical interpretation and theological understanding. Impact of African roots, slavery, segregation, and the civil rights movement upon the African-American collective psyche. S.
- THRS 313 Religion and Science..... 5**
 The emergence of modern science has proved to be one of the biggest challenges to religious faith in our times. What was inspired in part by religious faith in many early scientists has today inspired to rejection of the possibility of transcendence. The image of religion and science as competing worldviews prevails not only in popular culture but even within academic circles. What often are missed are the complex historical and cultural contexts that give shape to the encounter between religion and science. This course will introduce students to three key historical moments in the encounter between religion and science, specifically that of the birth of modern physics, of the birth and development of evolutionary biology, and of contemporary cosmology. The course will examine the historical, epistemological, and ontological challenges presented by these pivotal scientific case studies along with theological responses to these challenges. The development of modern science has led to developments in theology, something that is often not appreciated in the pop-culture image of a progressive science pitted against an archaic religion. The course is will enable the students to understand the roots of these popular images and move beyond them to a more nuanced understanding of the implications of science for theology and theology for science. S.
- THRS 314 Religion and Film 5**
 This course enables students to interpret religious traditions and symbols through the medium of film and film criticism, history, and theory. Specialized courses will focus on general religious themes such as the human condition, spirituality, grace, sin, salvation, and ethics. SP.

- THRS 320 Catholic Social Teaching** 5
 This course examines the dynamic relationships between the gospel messages of peace and justice, love and liberation, and contemporary social and political issues. We will emphasize the general frameworks of social analysis and will utilize the biblical accounts of the Judeo-Christian communities and the tradition of Catholic Social Teachings. The basic component of this tradition is the question of social justice in pursuit of the common good. TE.
- THRS 321 God, Money, and Politics** 5
 A critical examination of the relationship between wealth and power and the Christian tradition; relationship between faith and the social, political, and economic orders; faith and justice; Christian social teachings; Christian responses to issues of poverty, hunger, and injustice. TE.
- THRS 322 Human Sexuality: The Challenge of Love** 5
 Study of ethical standards for human sexuality in relation to Scripture, Christian tradition, and human experience; dialogue between the natural/social sciences and theological perspectives on sexuality; role of gender in sexuality; examination of ethical norms on marriage, same-sex relationships, being single, and dysfunctional and abusive relationships; sacramental character of marriage; sexuality and the sacred. TE.
- THRS 323 Biomedical Ethics: The Giving and Taking of Life** 5
 Reflection on the ethical challenges that modern scientific and medical advances present to the Christian tradition in the areas of human reproduction and death; the proper relationship between science and Christian faith; the personal and relational character of human persons and their ways of moral knowing vs. the technological, scientific ways of determining knowledge. TE.
- THRS 324 Religion and Ecology** 5
 Exploration of the role and responsibility of humans in the natural world; place of nature in Christian teachings and practices; examination of biblical themes, such as domination, co-creation, Promised Land, and Exodus; Christianity in the face of the environmental crisis and its dialogue with nature religions; myth and symbols of the sacred in nature. TE.
- THRS 325 Core Ethics: Christian Perspective** 5
 Core ethics requirement as offered from Christian theological perspectives. Examines the theological contributions which Christian faith brings to bear upon normative ethics by exploring the constitutive elements of an adequate ethical framework within the Christian tradition; theological method, requisite sources of knowledge informing an ethical framework, the prioritization of sources in normative ethics, modes of ethical reasoning. TE.
- THRS 330 World Religions in America** 5
 This course will phenomenon of religion and study religious traditions as communities shaped by the past and continually evolving. The religious traditions studied in this course include Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam. A key component of this course includes a study of contemporary religion in the United States. Students will be introduced to the diversity of religious traditions in the U.S. by exploring on their own a contemporary faith community based in multi-ethnic and multi-religious Seattle. Students will study the main tenets and practices of each religious tradition and have a general understanding of the historical development and main schools of thought characterizing the traditions. Emphasis will be placed on the internal diversity found within living traditions. WR.
- THRS 331 Jewish Faith and Life** 5
 Examination of monotheism, covenant, morality and ethics as law, halacha (an intricate system of law governing the daily life of the individual), the lifecycle from birth to death, Sabbath and holidays, kosher dietary laws, messiah and messianism, theological Zionism, political Zionism, and the modern Jewish state of Israel. Analysis of antisemitism as a major factor in the development of Judaism and the Jewish psyche. WR.

THRS 332 Introduction to Buddhism 5

This course will consider the many ways that Buddhists have defined and engaged with the “Three Jewels” of Buddhism: the Buddha, the Dharma (the teaching) and the Sangha (the Buddhist community). Using this framework, students will examine doctrines, practices, and cultures in different parts of the Buddhist world in a variety of historical periods and reflect upon the many ways people have lived and continue to live as Buddhists. Special focus will be placed on the particular dimensions/diversity of Buddhist thought and practice unique to Theravādin Buddhism, Pure Land Buddhism, and Tibetan Buddhism. Students will engage in close interpretive readings of a wide range of Buddhist materials including Buddhist sutras (“scriptures”), anthropological studies, autobiographical and biographical works, and modern guides to Buddhist thought and practice written by and for practitioners. WR.

THRS 333 Buddhism and Gender 5

This course examines how male and female imagery and gender roles are constructed and transformed in various Buddhist traditions—Theravada (Southeast Asia), Mahayana (China, Japan and Korea) and Vajrayana (Tibet). The course explores how women who have traditionally been excluded from full participation in monastic life in various sects of Buddhism, have nonetheless made significant spaces and contributions to the religious tradition. Students will examine how traditional Buddhism may have placed limits on the full participation of women and how, in turn, women throughout history have sought to recreate and revise these teachings in order to develop their own subjectivities as active agents in the Buddhist world. By examining Buddhism in the contemporary world, particularly in Seattle’s Asian American communities, students will be introduced to the multi-ethnic and racial diversity that comprises Seattle. WR.

THRS 334 Asian Religions 5

An exploration of some major religious traditions of Southeast and East Asia including Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism and Buddhism along with their intersections with indigenous traditions. Classical traditions of Confucianism and Taoism which influence much of the later traditions of Buddhism. Hinduism in India, noting historical developments throughout the regions of India and the beginnings of Buddhism in India, its movement to China and finally Tibet. Prerequisite: 200 level theology and religious studies course. WR.

THRS 340 Psychology and Religion 5

Exploration of experiences of the Sacred as religious and psychological phenomena. Reflection on theories of faith development and development of persons through the lifecycle. Study of the Gospel story of Jesus as paradigm of authentic human life. SP.

THRS 341 Ignatian Spirituality 5

In this course, students will learn about some of the primary characteristics of spirituality in the tradition of Ignatius of Loyola and how this spirituality has shaped the approach of Jesuits and others to education, the arts, interreligious dialogue, and issues of social justice. Ignatian spirituality as a resource for lay Christians and for decision making in the contemporary context will be emphasized. SP.

THRS 391-393 Special Topics 2 to 5**THRS 396 Directed Study 1 to 5****Major Courses****THRS 401 Theology of Religions 5**

The study of theologizing the world’s religious history; in Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Taoist-Confucian, and Japanese traditions. An in-depth exploration of inter-religious dialogue. Topics considered include the persistence of religion, science, and religious experience; revelation and transcendence; invisible harmony, cosmic confidence in reality, and anthropomorphic categories. Christocentrism and Buddhacentrism, Brahmanic transcendence and Muslim mysticism. WR.

THRS 407	Interpreting the Hebrew Bible	5
	Intensive study of selected texts in the Hebrew Bible focusing on a specific theme; emphasis on inductive study followed by reading a variety of interpretations; attention to the use made of these texts in various strands of Jewish and Christian traditions. B.	
THRS 414	Interpreting the Synoptics	5
	Discussion of the synoptic problem; use of historical (source, form, redaction criticisms) and literary methods to uncover the unique portraits of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke; the Gospels as narrative theologies embodying images of self, God, community, and world; critical reflection on interpretative uses of Gospel traditions from diverse perspectives. B.	
THRS 419	Early Christian Theology	5
	An exploration of the development of Christian theology from the sub-apostolics through the early Middle Ages, emphasizing the Christological and Trinitarian controversies and the writings of Augustine. H.	
THRS 420	Medieval and Reformation Theology	5
	An exploration of the development of Christian theology from Bonaventure through the Council of Trent emphasizing the contributions of Aquinas, Luther, and Calvin. H.	
THRS 428	Modern and Contemporary Theology	5
	Exploration of the development of Christian theology from the Enlightenment to the present, emphasizing the relationship between religion and modern culture through the study of major thinkers and streams of theological thought, e.g., Liberal Protestantism, Neo-Orthodoxy, Transcendental Thomism, Liberation Theologies, and Postmodernism. H.	
THRS 465	Theology of Ministry	3
	Investigation into Jesus of Nazareth's motives and practice of ministry as well as that of his early disciples; how these have been expanded and adopted in the history of the Christian community. Learning objectives are to enable the student to have Jesus' own attitude of ministry as service and to see the skills and practices that have implemented that attitude in the past as well as the skills that should inform Christian ministry today. SP.	
THRS 470	Internship in Ministry	2
	Application of the learning and skills developed in THRS 465 in a practical internship in an institution or agency. The student will sharpen ministerial skills with the on-site supervisor and reflect on the theological meaning of his or her experience with the professor of the course. Prerequisite: THRS 465. SP.	
THRS 477	Honors Directed Reading	5
THRS 479	Honors Thesis Supervision	5
THRS 480-483	Interdisciplinary Core Course	3 to 5
	Title and content may change each term.	
THRS 491-493	Special Topics	2 to 5
THRS 496	Independent Study	1 to 5
THRS 497	Directed Reading	1 to 5
THRS 498	Directed Research	1 to 5