

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

www.philosophy.neu.edu

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Philosophy addresses questions and theories related to morality, society, religion, and the natural and social sciences. The study of philosophy challenges students to examine, through critical reflection, their beliefs in many areas.

Courses aim to provide students with an understanding of the methods and traditions of philosophical and religious thought. Through readings, discussion, and writing, students examine questions concerning the nature and validity of religious beliefs, moral judgments, political ideas, and scientific theories, as well as questions about values and social policy in such areas as law, medicine, and technology.

Course work in philosophy can strengthen the student's work in other areas. Philosophy majors enter diverse careers, ranging from college-level teaching to law and business. The program strives to help students sharpen their critical abilities. The department offers three ways to major in philosophy: the standard major, the concentration in law and ethics, and the concentration in religious studies.

The program in religion offers students the opportunity to acquire an understanding of religious experience within its social, historical, literary, and political context. Students study specific religious traditions such as Judaism, Islam, and Hinduism, and using a comparative approach they explore themes across faith traditions. Through the major, a student has the opportunity to study a range of religions and a variety of methods of understanding the key dimensions of religious life.

Transferring to the Major

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 is required to transfer to the major. Acceptance into the major will be based on students' meeting the department's criteria for admission and availability of space in the programs.

Academic Progression Standards

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 is required to remain in good standing in the major.

BA/BS in Philosophy

NU CORE REQUIREMENTS

See page 42 for requirement list.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA (BA STUDENTS ONLY)

See page 69 for requirement list.

CONCENTRATION

Complete the philosophy generalist requirements, the concentration in law and ethics, or the concentration in religious studies.

Philosophy Generalist

PHILOSOPHY REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following three courses:

PHL U115	Introduction to Logic	4 SH
or PHL U215	Symbolic Logic	4 SH
PHL U325	Ancient Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U330	Modern Philosophy	4 SH

ADVANCED PHILOSOPHY ELECTIVE

Complete one course from the following list:

PHL U435	Moral Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U500	Theory of Knowledge	4 SH
PHL U505	Metaphysics	4 SH
PHL U535	Philosophy of Mind	4 SH

PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR

Complete one philosophy seminar:

PHL U547	Seminar: Apocalypticism	4 SH
PHL U605	Advanced Seminar: Spinoza	4 SH
PHL U606	Seminar: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U901	Topics in Philosophy Seminar	4 SH
PHL U902	Great Philosophers Seminar	4 SH
PHL U903	Seminar in Religion	4 SH

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Complete four additional electives in philosophy.

Concentration in Law and Ethics

PHILOSOPHY REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following four courses:

PHL U115	Introduction to Logic	4 SH
or PHL U215	Symbolic Logic	4 SH
PHL U325	Ancient Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U330	Modern Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U435	Moral Philosophy	4 SH

PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR

Complete one course from the following list:

PHL U547	Seminar: Apocalypticism	4 SH
PHL U605	Advanced Seminar: Spinoza	4 SH
PHL U606	Seminar: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U901	Topics in Philosophy Seminar	4 SH
PHL U902	Great Philosophers Seminar	4 SH
PHL U903	Seminar in Religion	4 SH

ETHICS-RELATED ELECTIVES

Complete two courses from the following list:

PHL U102	Introduction to Contemporary Moral Issues	4 SH
PHL U130	Ethics: East and West	4 SH
PHL U145	Technology and Human Values	4 SH
PHL U165	Moral and Social Problems in Health Care	4 SH
PHL U170	Business Ethics	4 SH
PHL U180	Environmental Ethics	4 SH
PHL U272	Ethics in the World's Religions	4 SH
PHL U301	Philosophical Problems of Law and Justice	4 SH
PHL U302	Philosophical Problems of War and Peace	4 SH
PHL U303	Social and Political Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U304	Philosophical Problems of Economic Justice	4 SH
PHL U480	Environmental Philosophy	4 SH

PHILOSOPHY ELECTIVE

Complete one elective course in philosophy.

LAW-RELATED ELECTIVES

Complete two courses from the social science departments listed below. These courses are to be chosen in consultation with department:

AFR, ECN, HS, HST, IAF, LIN, POL, PSY, SOA, or SOC.

Concentration in Religious Studies

PHILOSOPHY REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following four courses:

PHL U115	Introduction to Logic	4 SH
or PHL U215	Symbolic Logic	4 SH
PHL U325	Ancient Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U330	Modern Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U435	Moral Philosophy	4 SH

PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR

Complete one philosophy seminar:

PHL U547	Seminar: Apocalypticism	4 SH
PHL U605	Advanced Seminar: Spinoza	4 SH
PHL U606	Seminar: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U901	Topics in Philosophy Seminar	4 SH
PHL U902	Great Philosophers Seminar	4 SH
PHL U903	Seminar in Religion	4 SH
PHL U904	Major Figures in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U906	Topics in Religious Studies	4 SH

RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSES

Complete three elective courses. See department for an approved list.

PHILOSOPHY ELECTIVE

Complete one elective course in philosophy.

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR CREDIT REQUIREMENT

Complete 32 semester hours in the major.

UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVES

Complete three general electives at 300-level or above.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

Additional courses taken beyond college and major course requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

If elected

UNIVERSITY-WIDE REQUIREMENTS

128 total semester hours required

Minimum 2.000 GPA required

Major in Religious Studies

The religious studies major is designed to introduce students to a wide variety of religious experience and expression in the world. Through this major, students are exposed to the basic features of the world's religions and the ethical systems that accompany them and explore diverse methodological approaches to the study of religions in general. This major is designed to give students the expertise to prepare them for graduate school in religious studies or to enhance their abilities in any career that requires a liberal arts education.

BA in Religious Studies**NU CORE REQUIREMENTS**

See page 42 for requirement list.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA

See page 69 for requirement list.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**Religious Areas**

Complete one course from each of the following five religious areas. *Note:* A course cannot be used to meet the requirement for more than one area.

COMPARATIVE RELIGION

PHL U130	Ethics: East and West	4 SH
PHL U230	Sound, Music, and Religion	4 SH
PHL U270	Western Religions	4 SH
PHL U272	Ethics in the World's Religions	4 SH
PHL U275	Eastern Religions	4 SH
PHL U300	Mysticism	4 SH
PHL U390	Cults and Sects	4 SH

ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICAN WORLD TRADITIONS

PHL U150	Understanding the Bible	4 SH
PHL U280	Islam	4 SH
PHL U285	Jewish Religion and Culture	4 SH
PHL U314	Biblical Prophets and Their Interpreters	4 SH
PHL U316	Interpreting the Bible	4 SH
PHL U327	Medieval Western Philosophy	4 SH

PHL U390	Cults and Sects	4 SH
PHL U445	Philosophy of Religion	4 SH

ASIAN TRADITIONS

PHL U272	Ethics in the World's Religions	4 SH
PHL U276	Indian Religions	4 SH
PHL U290	Chinese Philosophy and Religion	4 SH
PHL U393	Asian Religions in the United States	4 SH
PHL U398	Religion and Culture in Indian Cinema	4 SH
PHL U545	Religion and Politics in South Asia	4 SH

RELIGION AND CULTURE

PHL U103	Women's Studies	4 SH
PHL U220	The Meaning of Death	4 SH
PHL U230	Sound, Music, and Religion	4 SH
PHL U285	Jewish Religion and Culture	4 SH
PHL U316	Interpreting the Bible	4 SH
PHL U398	Religion and Culture in Indian Cinema	4 SH

RELIGIOUS TEXTS

PHL U150	Understanding the Bible	4 SH
PHL U314	Biblical Prophets and Their Interpreters	4 SH
PHL U316	Interpreting the Bible	4 SH
PHL U395	Ramayana	4 SH

Required Courses

Complete one of the following courses:

PHL U606	Seminar: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U904	Major Figures in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U906	Topics in Religious Studies	4 SH

Religious Studies Electives

Complete three religious studies electives. Two electives must be above the 300-level.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR CREDIT REQUIREMENT

Complete 36 semester hours in the major.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

Additional courses taken beyond college and major course requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

If elected

UNIVERSITY-WIDE REQUIREMENTS

128 total semester hours required

Minimum 2.000 GPA required

Dual Major in Jewish Studies and Religion

The dual major in Jewish studies and religion offers students an integrated program of study of two naturally complementary fields. Study of Judaism as a religion, which forms an important core of the interdisciplinary field of Jewish studies, is greatly enhanced by broad familiarity with the world's religious traditions; conversely, in-depth knowledge of Jewish history,

identity, and culture provides students of religion with valuable insight into the ways in which religion interacts with a wide variety of forces to shape the experiences of the adherents of a particular faith. The dual major is designed to enable students to understand the history, culture, and religion of the Jewish people; analyze and apply theoretical understanding to the interaction between religious, social, and historical factors that have shaped the experiences of the Jewish people; and demonstrate fluency in understanding the major religious traditions of the world.

Students in the dual major receive an interdisciplinary introduction to the field of Jewish studies, followed by courses in Jewish religion and thought, Jewish history, and Jewish arts and culture; electives allow for exploration of Northeastern's Jewish studies offerings, which focus particularly on modern Jewish life and identity. Religion course work provides a grounding in the Bible, central to understanding Judaism and other Western religions, followed by broader course work in world religion and upper-level thematic courses. Capstone courses bring the two fields closely together by integrating the study of Judaism into the broader study of religion or the study of religion into the study of the broader Jewish experience. Students fulfill their language requirement with Hebrew, and they are encouraged to fulfill their experiential education requirement through study abroad or an internship or co-op in a Jewish organization.

The dual major in Jewish studies and religion is designed to prepare students for graduate work in Jewish studies, religion, or many of the other disciplines that make up Jewish studies or for work within the Jewish community or in communal organizations associated with other religions. It is an ideal foundation for the integrative five-year program through which students can earn a BA from Northeastern and an MA or MEd from Hebrew College.

BA in Jewish Studies and Religion**NU CORE REQUIREMENTS**

See page 42 for requirement list.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA

See page 69 for requirement list.

JEWISH STUDIES**Required Course**

Complete the following course:

PHL U285	Jewish Religion and Culture	4 SH
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Jewish Religion and Thought

Complete one course from the following list. *Note:* This course may also count as a religious studies elective:

PHL U286	American Judaism	4 SH
PHL U314	Biblical Prophets and Their Interpreters	4 SH
PHL U385	History of Jewish Rationalism	4 SH

PHL U387	Religion, Nation, and Identity in Modern Jewish Thought	4 SH
PHL U605	Advanced Seminar: Spinoza	4 SH
Jewish History		
Complete two courses from the following list:		
HST U280	Hitler, Germany, and the Holocaust	4 SH
HST U281	Holocaust	4 SH
HST U294	Strangers in a Strange Land? European Jewish History 1750–1945	4 SH
HST U431	American Jewish History	4 SH
Jewish Art and Culture		
Complete one course from the following list:		
CIN U460	Jewish Film	4 SH
MUS U132	Music of the Jewish People	4 SH
SOC U249	(pending approval)	
Jewish Studies Electives		
Complete three courses from the following list:		
AFR U365	Blacks and Jews	4 SH
CIN U460	Jewish Film	4 SH
HS U560	Religion, Human Services, and Diversity in the United States	4 SH
HST U281	Holocaust	4 SH
HST U290	Modern Middle East	4 SH
HST U294	Strangers in a Strange Land? European Jewish History 1750–1945	4 SH
HST U431	American Jewish History	4 SH
HST U670	Topics in European History	4 SH
HST G306	Research Seminar in Twentieth-Century Europe	4 SH
INT U280	Latin American Jewish Literature	4 SH
INT U460	Jewish Film	4 SH
INT U640	Topics in Jewish Studies	4 SH
INT U660	Jewish Studies Module	1 SH
INT U924	Directed Study	4 SH
MUS U132	Music of the Jewish People	4 SH
PHL U110	Introduction to Religion	4 SH
PHL U150	Understanding the Bible	4 SH
PHL U270	Western Religions	4 SH
PHL U286	American Judaism	4 SH
PHL U300	Mysticism	4 SH
PHL U314	Biblical Prophets and Their Interpreters	4 SH
PHL U322	Responses to the Holocaust	4 SH
PHL U387	Religion, Nation, and Identity in Modern Jewish Thought	4 SH
POL U370	Religion and Politics	4 SH
POL U465	Government and Politics in the Middle East	4 SH
POL U470	Arab-Israeli Conflict	4 SH
SOC U240	Sociology of Prejudice and Violence	4 SH
SOC U259	Women in Jewish Culture	4 SH
SOC U270	Race and Ethnic Relations	4 SH
SOC U924	Directed Study	4 SH

RELIGION REQUIREMENTS**Required Course**

Complete the following course:

PHL U150	Understanding the Bible	4 SH
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Religion

Complete two courses from the following list:

PHL U270	Western Religions	4 SH
PHL U275	Eastern Religions	4 SH
PHL U280	Islam	4 SH
PHL U325	Ancient Philosophy	4 SH

Comparative Religions

Complete one course from the following list:

PHL U230	Sound, Music, and Religion	4 SH
PHL U272	Ethics in the World's Religions	4 SH
PHL U300	Mysticism	4 SH
PHL U327	Medieval Western Philosophy	4 SH

Philosophy or Religion Seminar

Complete one seminar from the following list:

PHL U547	Seminar: Apocalypticism	4 SH
PHL U605	Advanced Seminar: Spinoza	4 SH
PHL U606	Seminar: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U901	Topics in Philosophy Seminar	4 SH
PHL U902	Great Philosophers Seminar	4 SH
PHL U903	Seminar in Religion	4 SH
PHL U904	Major Figures in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U906	Topics in Religious Studies	4 SH

Religious Studies Electives

Complete four courses from the following list:

PHL U110	Introduction to Religion	4 SH
PHL U130	Ethics: East and West	4 SH
PHL U150	Understanding the Bible	4 SH
PHL U220	The Meaning of Death	4 SH
PHL U230	Sound, Music, and Religion	4 SH
PHL U231	Image and Icon in South Asia	4 SH
PHL U265	Latin American Religions	4 SH
PHL U270	Western Religions	4 SH
PHL U272	Ethics in the World's Religions	4 SH
PHL U273	Jainism	4 SH
PHL U275	Eastern Religions	4 SH
PHL U276	Indian Religions	4 SH
PHL U280	Islam	4 SH
PHL U285	Jewish Religion and Culture	4 SH
PHL U286	American Judaism	4 SH
PHL U290	Chinese Philosophy and Religion	4 SH
PHL U295	Religious Perspectives on Health and Healing	4 SH
PHL U300	Mysticism	4 SH
PHL U314	Biblical Prophets and Their Interpreters	4 SH
PHL U316	Interpreting the Bible	4 SH
PHL U322	Responses to the Holocaust	4 SH
PHL U327	Medieval Western Philosophy	4 SH

PHL U385	History of Jewish Rationalism	4 SH
PHL U387	Religion, Nation, and Identity in Modern Jewish Thought	4 SH
PHL U390	Cults and Sects	4 SH
PHL U393	Asian Religions in the United States	4 SH
PHL U395	Ramayana	4 SH
PHL U398	Religion and Culture in Indian Cinema	4 SH
PHL U410	Religion and Spirituality in the African Diaspora	4 SH
PHL U445	Philosophy of Religion	4 SH
PHL U545	Religion and Politics in South Asia	4 SH
PHL U546	Advanced Biblical Studies: Hebrew Bible	4 SH
PHL U547	Seminar: Apocalypticism	4 SH
PHL U605	Advanced Seminar: Spinoza	4 SH
PHL U606	Seminar: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U901	Topics in Philosophy Seminar	4 SH
PHL U902	Great Philosophers Seminar	4 SH
PHL U903	Seminar in Religion	4 SH
PHL U904	Major Figures in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U906	Topics in Religious Studies	4 SH
PHL U910	Research Internship	4 SH
PHL U915	Teaching Internship	4 SH

INTEGRATIVE REQUIREMENT

Integrative Course

Complete one of the following courses. *Note:* This course may count as a religion seminar or a Jewish history course:

HST U294	Strangers in a Strange Land? European Jewish History 1750–1945	4 SH
HST U431	American Jewish History	4 SH
PHL U547	Seminar: Apocalypticism	4 SH

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Hebrew Language Introduction

Complete the following two courses. These courses also count toward the BA language requirement:

LNH U101	Elementary Hebrew 1	4 SH
LNH U102	Elementary Hebrew 2	4 SH

GENERAL ELECTIVES

Additional courses taken beyond college and major course requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

If elected

UNIVERSITY-WIDE REQUIREMENTS

128 total semester hours required
Minimum 2.000 GPA required

BA in Cinema Studies and Philosophy

See page 119.

BA in Environmental Studies and Philosophy

See page 130.

BS in Physics and Philosophy

See page 196.

Minor in Philosophy

REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following two courses:

PHL U325	Ancient Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U330	Modern Philosophy	4 SH

ELECTIVE COURSES

Complete three philosophy courses.

GPA REQUIREMENT

2.000 GPA required in the minor

Minor in Ethics

REQUIRED COURSES

Complete four courses from the following list. Two courses must be at the 300-level or above:

PHL U102	Introduction to Contemporary Moral Issues	4 SH
PHL U130	Ethics: East and West	4 SH
PHL U145	Technology and Human Values	4 SH
PHL U165	Moral and Social Problems in Health Care	4 SH
PHL U170	Business Ethics	4 SH
PHL U180	Environmental Ethics	4 SH
PHL U272	Ethics in the World's Religions	4 SH
PHL U301	Philosophical Problems of Law and Justice	4 SH
PHL U302	Philosophical Problems of War and Peace	4 SH
PHL U303	Social and Political Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U304	Philosophical Problems of Economic Justice	4 SH
PHL U435	Moral Philosophy	4 SH
PHL U465	Advanced Medical Ethics	4 SH
PHL U480	Environmental Philosophy	4 SH

GPA REQUIREMENT

2.000 GPA required in the minor

Minor in Religious Studies

REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following four courses:

PHL U150	Understanding the Bible	4 SH
PHL U275	Eastern Religions	4 SH
PHL U280	Islam	4 SH
PHL U390	Cults and Sects	4 SH

ELECTIVE COURSE

Complete one religious studies elective.

GPA REQUIREMENT

2.000 GPA required in the minor