

The people make a laughing stock of the philosopher as a person harmlessly absorbed in his ideals, though really he is a terrifying force and his thought has the effect of dynamite. He sticks to his own course, conquers inch by inch, asserts his grip on the masses, until eventually the day dawns when he triumphantly overcomes all obstacles and is free to determine the destiny of mankind – or spread a shroud over its remains. Therefore those who wish to know in what direction they are going would do well to give their attention not to the politicians but to the philosophers, for what they propound today will be the faith of tomorrow.

– I. M. Bochenski

A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.

– Abraham Joshua Heschel

For more information, contact:

The Department of Philosophy and Religion
University of Central Arkansas
224 Harrin Hall
201 Donaghey Avenue
Conway, AR 72035-3208

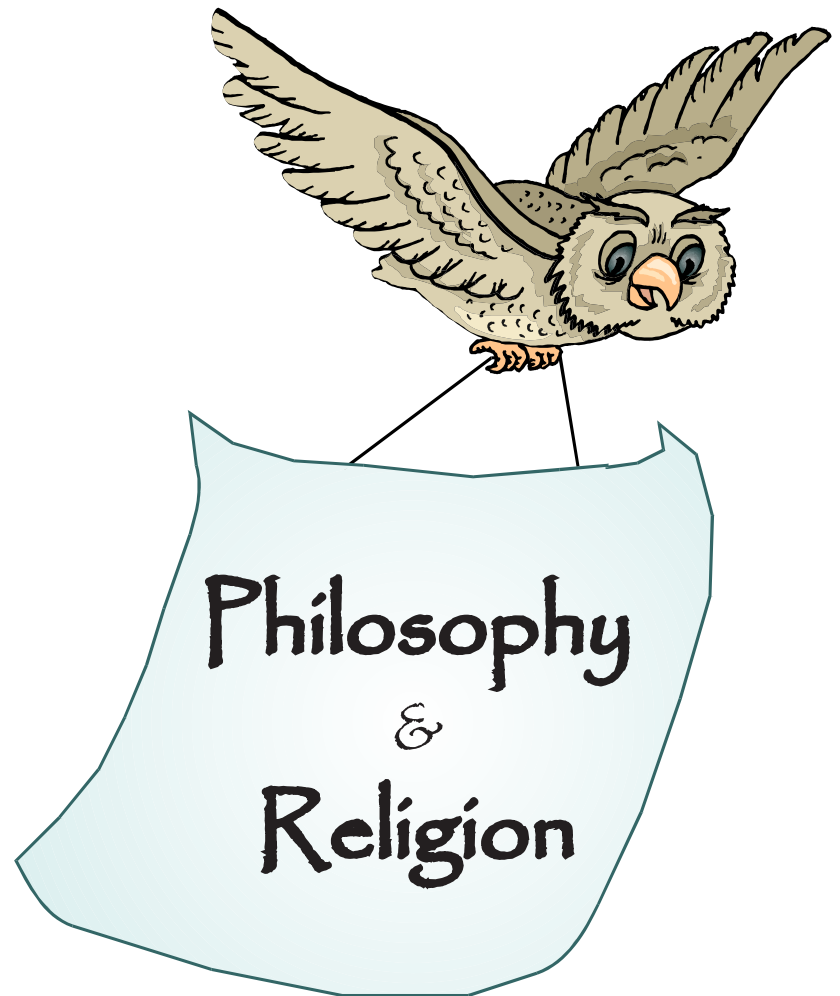
Phone: 501-450-3179

Fax: 501-450-3208

Website: <http://www.uca.edu/philosophy/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/UCA-Philosophy-and-Religion/>

An Invitation to Study



at

The University of Central Arkansas

Religious Studies Courses

ART 2325: Asian Art Survey
ENGL 3325: Advanced Readings in World Literature, The Bible as Literature
ENGL 4341: Milton
HIST 3303: Asian Civilization I
HIST 3320: History of Christianity I
HIST 3321: History of Christianity II
HIST 4387: The Islamic Middle East
PHIL 2300: Existential Problems in Philosophy
PHIL 3301: Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 3303: Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
PHIL 3331: Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 3343: Philosophy of Sex and Love
PHIL 3352: Asian Philosophy and Religion
PHIL 3370: Metaphysics
PHIL 4340: The Meaning of Life
RELG 1320: World Religions or RELG 1330: Exploring Religion
RELG 2300: Religion in the United States
RELG 2332: Jewish Scriptures
RELG 2333: Christian Scriptures
RELG 3301: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies
RELG 3315: Religion and Culture
RELG 3320: Modern Religious Thought
RELG 3325: Buddhism
RELG 3330: Religion and Gender
RELG 3335: Judaism
RELG 3340: Religion, Science, and Technology
RELG 3345: African American Religious Thought
RELG 3380: Internship in Religious Studies
RELG 4320: Contemporary Religious Thought
RELG 4330: Readings in Religious Studies
SOC 3315: Native American Cultures
SOC 4300: Sociology of Religion



Dr. Ron Novy, Ph.D. University of Missouri, Lecturer II: University College, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy.

Ms. Tanya Jeffcoat, ABD Southern Illinois University, M.A. English, Arkansas Technical University, Resident Master EDGE Residential College, Adjunct Instructor, American Philosophy, Asian Philosophy.

Dr. Julia Winden Fey, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Associate Vice-President of Enrollment Management, Adjunct Instructor, Gender & Religion, African American Religious Thought.

What is philosophy?

The word “philosophy” is derived from two Greek roots, *philein* which means “to love,” and *sophia* which means “wisdom.” So, philosophy is the love of wisdom. It originated as the attempt to find satisfactory answers to certain fundamental questions that are of universal concern.

What is the nature of the universe? What is the foundation for ethical principles? What is the human person? Is there a being worthy of the title, “God?” Can humans acquire genuine knowledge? Is there consciousness after death?

Philosophy can be seen as the collection of thoughts recorded by people who attempt to answer the question: “What does it mean to be human?”

Why study philosophy?

There are many reasons to study philosophy. Not least of these are wonder and curiosity -- just wanting to know. Some people want to understand themselves and the rest of reality about them. Knowing what others have thought and why they thought it opens up many alternatives, and gives us an informed basis for thinking our own thoughts. Philosophical inquiry will help sharpen one’s abilities in reasoning clearly. A student of philosophy becomes a critical thinker, internalizing the two fundamental questions of critical thinking: “What do you mean?” and “How do you know?” The study of philosophy affects a person’s awareness of ethical issues, for wisdom is as much about values as it is about knowledge of reality. All of this makes for a deeper appreciation of what it means to be a human being. Hence, Socrates once remarked that the unexamined life is not worth living. (Woody Allen has added that “the examined one isn’t a bowl of cherries either!”)

The Philosophy and Religion Faculty

2011-2012

Dr. Charles W. Harvey, Ph.D. Florida State University, Professor, Chair, 19th Century Philosophy, Aesthetics, Existentialism, Phenomenology.

Dr. Jim Shelton, Ph.D. University of Kansas, Professor, Philosophy of Science, Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology.

Dr. Peter J. Mehl, Ph.D. University of Chicago, Professor, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts, Religion & Culture, Ethics, Kierkegaard.

Dr. Clayton Crockett, Ph.D. Syracuse University, Associate Professor, Modern & Contemporary Religious Thought, History of Christian Thought, Director of Religious Studies.

Dr. James Deitrick, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Associate Professor, Social Ethics, Comparative Philosophy & Religion, Biblical Studies.

Dr. Jacob M. Held, Ph.D. Marquette University, Assistant Professor, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Medieval Philosophy.

Dr. Jesse Butler, Ph.D. University of Oklahoma, Assistant Professor, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, Epistemology.

Dr. Benjamin Rider, Ph.D. University of Texas, Austin, Assistant Professor, Ancient Philosophy, Ethics.

Dr. Taine Duncan, Ph.D. Duquesne University, Assistant Professor, Feminist Philosophy, Critical Theory, 20th Century Continental Philosophy.

Mr. Nicholas S. Brasovan, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Instructor, East Asian Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy.

Mr. Phillip Spivey, M.A. University of Kansas, M.L.A. Arkansas Technical University, Lecturer II, History of Philosophy, World Religions, Judaism.

Dr. Gary Thiher, Ph.D. University of Missouri, Lecturer I, Ethics, Social & Political Philosophy.

Philosophy Courses

1301: Philosophy for Living*
1330: World Philosophies**
2300: Existential Problems in Philosophy
2305: Critical Thinking*
2310: Introduction to Logic
2325: Contemporary Moral Problems*
2360: Gender, Race, and Class*
3300: Greek and Roman Philosophy
3301: Medieval Philosophy
3302: Modern Philosophy
3303: Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
3304: American Pragmatism
3310: Symbolic Logic
3320: Ethics
3325: Political Philosophy
3330: Philosophy of Law
3331: Philosophy of Religion
3340: African American Philosophy
3341: Theories of Knowledge
3343: Philosophy of Sex and Love
3345: Feminist Philosophy
3352: Asian Philosophy and Religion
3360: Philosophy of Art
3370: Metaphysics
3375: Philosophy of Mind
3380: Philosophy of Science
3390: Internship in Philosophy
3395: Topic in Philosophy
4300: Readings in Philosophy
4301: Philosophy for Honors Tutorial
4305: Continental Philosophy
4306: Analytic Philosophy
4310: Senior Thesis in Philosophy
4330: Philosophy of Language
4340: Meaning of Life
4350/5350: Healthcare Ethics

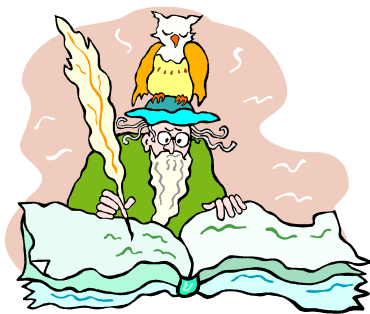
Religion Courses

1320: World Religions**
1330: Exploring Religion*
2300: Religion in the United States
2332: Jewish Scriptures
2333: Christian Scriptures
3301: Theories of Religion
3315: Religion and Culture
3320: Modern Religious Thought
3325: Buddhism
3330: Religion and Gender
3335: Judaism
3340: Religion, Science, and Technology
3345: African American Religious Thought
3380: Internship in Religious Studies
4300: Religious Studies Honors Tutorial
4320: Contemporary Religious Thought
4325: Postmodern Theology
4330: Readings in Religious Studies

* Satisfies Humanities General Education Requirement

** Satisfies World Cultural Traditions General Education Requirement





Philosophy as a Preparation for Graduate School

The study of philosophy develops the skills necessary to succeed in a host of other areas of study. As a second major or a minor, for example, along with the study of a theoretical field (physics, psychology, history, etc.) or in literature and art, philosophy is excellent preparation for graduate work in those fields. Philosophy deepens and broadens one's understanding of almost any other subject area.

The philosophy major does well on all significant graduate entrance exams: GRE, LSAT, and GMAT. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is usually required for admission to graduate studies in the sciences and humanities. A study showed that of students who took this exam, philosophy majors scored higher on the verbal sections than all other majors, with the exception of English majors. On the quantitative section, philosophy majors outscored all others majoring in a humanities field, and were themselves outscored only by those majoring in mathematics and physics.

Graduates of UCA's Philosophy program have been accepted for graduate study at universities such as the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Ohio State University, Oxford University, University of Texas, Marquette University, University of British Columbia at Vancouver, Baylor University, George Mason University, and many other top universities in the nation.

The Major or Minor in Religious Studies

<u>AREA</u>	<u>COURSE</u>
Theory and Method	RELG 3301: Theories & Methods in Religious Studies
Asian Religious Traditions	<u>One of the following:</u> HIST 3303: Asian Civilization I PHIL 3352: Asian Philosophy & Religion RELG 3325: Buddhism
Western Religious Traditions	<u>One of the following:</u> RELG 2300: Religion in the U.S. HIST 3320: History of Christianity I HIST 3321: History of Christianity II HIST 4387: The Islamic Middle East RELG 3335: Judaism
Sacred Art, Ritual, and Literature	<u>One of the following:</u> ART 2325: Asian Art Survey ENGL 3325: Readings: Bible as Literature ENGL 4341: Milton RELG 2332: Jewish Scriptures RELG 2333: Christian Scriptures
Religion, Culture, & Society	<u>One of the following:</u> RELG 3315: Religion & Culture RELG 3330: Religion & Gender RELG 3340: Religion, Science, Technology SOC 4300: Sociology of Religion
Religious Thought	<u>One of the following:</u> PHIL 3331: Philosophy of Religion PHIL 4340: The Meaning of Life RELG 3320: Modern Religious Thought RELG 3345: African American Rel. Thought RELG 4320: Contemporary Relg. Thought RELG 4325: Postmodern Theology

For the major: five additional Religious Studies courses (15 units).

For the minor: two additional Religious Studies courses (6 units).

What is Religious Studies?

Religious Studies at UCA is the sympathetic, critical, and objective study of religion in all its aspects and forms. This involves the sympathetic attempt to *understand* religions from the inside, from the perspective of those who practice them. As well, it involves attempting to *explain* religion from the outside, from the perspective of natural and social science.

Why Study Religion?

We live in a diverse and pluralistic world where religious faiths exist not in isolation from one another, but in close proximity and contact. Living well in such a world entails understanding it in all its diversity. As Judge Clark argued, writing for the majority in a 1963 U. S. Supreme Court case that encouraged the study of religion, "one's education is not complete without a study of comparative religion or the history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization." Study of the world's religions thus leads to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role and importance of religion in society. It can also benefit those who are personally involved in the perennial human search for meaning and purpose in life through its critical exploration of the most enduring ways in which people from around the world have responded to this search.

A degree in Religious Studies is excellent preparation for those interested in religious occupations, as well as those with interests in broader professional careers where an understanding of the human condition in all its variety is the best foundation. As with any liberal arts degree, the skills developed in the study of religion help develop abilities and sensitivities that transfer to all dimensions of life.

The Interdisciplinary Degree in Religious Studies

The Religious Studies Program makes available to students an opportunity to study religion from the perspectives of several different disciplines. The Program emphasizes the public non-sectarian, non-confessional examination of the role of religion in human life and history; it is not a program that focuses on any particular religious tradition or denomination. The study of religion serves as a basic social need for globally educated citizens and serves the more specific needs of students interested in advanced study in seminary, work in religious institutions, or the study of religion in graduate school. It also helps prepare persons for careers in various fields such as law, journalism, social work, or counseling.

A Note for Pre-Law Students...

The kinds of skills and habits of reasoning required in the study and practice of law are more similar to those skills and habits utilized in the study of philosophy than to any other single discipline. Some of these are;

- careful, critical reading of texts
- analysis of arguments
- refutation of arguments
- gathering evidence
- precise and clear writing
- persuasive and logical verbal skills
- understanding of ethical principles

The study of philosophy will deepen one's understanding of the nature of law, government, and the theories behind ethical and legal reasoning.

The Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) places emphasis on correct reasoning. Courses in logic and critical thinking are especially recommended, but *every* philosophy course will help in the improvement of reasoning skills.



Records of law school admissions indicate that philosophy majors were more likely to be admitted to law schools than all other humanities majors and business students, and more likely than almost all social science majors.

Distribution Requirements for Philosophy Majors

thirty-three (33) total degree hours

Required of ALL majors:

- 2310: Introduction to Logic OR 3310: Symbolic Logic
- 3320: Ethics OR 3325: Political Philosophy
- 3300: Greek and Roman Philosophy
- 3302: Modern Philosophy

In addition to the twelve hours listed above, the major is required to take 21 hours (seven courses) of electives. These electives must be distributed in the following ways. (No course may satisfy two requirements. For instance, if taking Ethics as a requirement, one is not permitted to count this course as an elective but must choose a different course from the Social, Political, and Values area.) These electives should be carefully chosen, for different ones may be relevant to different goals: graduate school in philosophy, graduate school in religious studies, law school, business, seminary, etc.

At least TWO courses from the History of Philosophy area:

- 3301: Medieval Philosophy
- 3303: Nineteenth Century Philosophy
- 3304: American Pragmatism
- 4305: Continental Philosophy
- 4306: Analytic Philosophy

At least ONE course from the Social, Political, and Values area:

- 2300: Existential Problems in Philosophy
- 3320: Ethics
- 3325: Political Philosophy
- 3330: Philosophy of Law
- 3331: Philosophy of Religion
- 3340: African American Philosophy
- 3343: Philosophy of Sex and Love
- 3345: Feminist Philosophy
- 3352: Asian Philosophy and Religion
- 3360: Philosophy of Art
- 4340: Meaning of Life
- 4350/5350: Health Care Ethics

At least ONE course from the Epistemology & Metaphysics area:

- 3310: Symbolic Logic
- 3341: Theories of Knowledge
- 3370: Metaphysics
- 3375: Philosophy of Mind
- 3380: Philosophy of Science
- 4306: Analytic Philosophy
- 4330: Philosophy of Language

Students should select three additional elective courses from any group. Courses at or above the 2000 level with the prefix RELG may also function as electives for the Philosophy major or minor, with permission of advisor and chair.

The following are special courses that, depending on content, may or may not substitute for a requirement or elective:

- 3390: Internship in Philosophy
- 3395: Topic in Philosophy
- 4300: Readings in Philosophy
- 4301: Honors Tutorial in Philosophy
- 4310: Senior Thesis in Philosophy

Distribution Requirements for Philosophy Minors

twenty-one (21) hours total

Required of ALL minors:

- 2310: Introduction to Logic OR 3310: Symbolic Logic
- 3320: Ethics OR 3325: Political Philosophy

In addition to the six hours listed above, the minor is required to take 15 hours (five courses) of electives. These electives must be distributed in the following ways. (No course may satisfy two requirements. For instance, if taking Ethics as a requirement, one is not permitted to count this course as an elective, but must choose a different course from the Social, Political, and Values area.) These electives should be chosen carefully, for different ones may be relevant to different goals: graduate school in philosophy, graduate school in religious studies, law school, business, seminary, one's major field of specialization, etc.

At least TWO courses from the History of Philosophy area:

- 3300: Greek and Roman Philosophy
- 3301: Medieval Philosophy
- 3302: Modern Philosophy
- 3303: Nineteenth Century Philosophy
- 3304: American Pragmatism
- 4305: Continental Philosophy
- 4306: Analytic Philosophy

Minors must also choose one course from the Social, Political, & Values area, one from the Epistemology & Metaphysics area, and one from any area of their choice.

