

Philosophy and Religious Studies

Office: Room 6009
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

Johannson

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:

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
General Education Program (see page 15).....	48		
First Year College			
Bodies of Knowledge.....			
➔ PEM - Take a 1000 Level PHI course*			
➔ PEM - Take a 2000 Level PHI course*		Any 1000-level PHI course	
Select TWO foreign language courses in sequence.....	6		
HIS 1101 Survey of Western Civilization (to 1500).....	3		
HIS 1102 Survey of Western Civilization (since 1500).....	3		
Select ONE additional Mathematics course	3		
PHI 2431 Greek Philosophy	3	Any 1000-level PHI course	
PHI 2441 Early Modern Philosophy	3	Any 1000-level PHI course	
PHI 3318 19 th Century Philosophy	3	Any 2000-level PHI course	
Select ONE of the following courses:.....	3		
PHI 2403 The Good Life.....		Any 1000-level PHI course	
PHI 3404 Political Philosophy		Any 2000-level PHI course	
Select ONE of the following courses:.....	3		
PHI 3333 Philosophical Theology.....		Any 2000-level PHI course	
PHI 3432 Medieval Philosophy		Any 2000-level PHI course	
Select FIVE 2000 or higher level PHI courses.....	15		
Liberal Arts ¹ (for specific academic subjects, see page 15).....	6		
General electives	24		
Total credits required	123		

¹ 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

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
General Education Program (see page 15).....	48		
First Year College			
➔ RS - Take REL 1101 Survey of World Religions			
Bodies of Knowledge.....			
Select TWO foreign language courses in sequence ¹	6		
Select ONE of the following courses.....	3		
REL 1301 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible.....			
REL 1302 Introduction to the New Testament.....			
Select TWO of the following courses	6		
REL 1201 The Christian Tradition.....			
REL 1202 Judaism.....			
REL 1203 Islam			
REL 1206 Buddhism.....			
REL 3701 Approaches to the Study of Religion	3	Any 1000- or 2000-level REL course.	
REL 4991 Independent Study: Thesis Direction.....	3	Senior standing Chairperson's approval	
Select SIX REL courses	18		
Select SIX HIS, ICS, PSC, PSY, or SOC courses, any combination relevant to student's concentration.....	18		
General electives.....	18		
Total credits required	123		

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		
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		
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 19 th 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		