HANDBOOK FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2011 - 2012
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WELCOME TO THE THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The faculty and staff of the Theology Department are delighted you are interested in our programs. Our Department has a distinguished faculty who teach in the areas of biblical studies, Christian theology, Christian ethics, and world religions. In addition to our undergraduate programs, we offer a Master’s program and a Doctoral program. At the undergraduate level, we offer two majors, Theology and Religious Studies, as well as minors in each area along with a minor in Pastoral Leadership.

Majors and minors are encouraged to stay in contact with the Department. Keep us informed of your current address, phone number and email address. We sponsor a number of speaker visits throughout the year and want to be able to invite you to all of our departmental events. Dr. Aana Marie Vigen is the Undergraduate Programs Director. She will serve as your primary advisor regarding program requirements. Our departmental website contains helpful information about the program as well as student progress report sheets that can be printed out to assist you in tracking your progress in completing all the requirements for your program.

If you have any questions or concerns as you go through your program with us, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Vigen (avigen@luc.edu; 773-508-2342) or Ms. Catherine Wolf, Office Manager (cwolf1@luc.edu; 773-508-2351) or Ms. Marianne Wolfe, Administrative Assistant, (mwolfe5@luc.edu; 773-508-2353).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The two Majors and three Minors offered by the Department of Theology provide students with essential resources for engaging Christian theology and studying the beliefs and practices of other religions. Although this Department has a particular strength in the Roman Catholic tradition, substantive attention is paid towards other Christian traditions as well as to Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. The aim of the curriculum in the various programs within the Department of Theology is to foster the ability to reflect critically and sympathetically upon one’s own faith tradition or worldview as well as sympathetically appreciate the beliefs of others. In sum, the curriculum promotes opportunities for students to grow and to be transformed by reflection upon their own and other’s religious traditions.

Theology and Religious Studies Majors and Minors, along with Pastoral Leadership Minors, often double-major/minor in ways that enhance their graduate school applications or other vocational endeavors. For example, our majors and minors strongly complement the curricula found in: Anthropology, Asian Studies, Biology, Bioethics Minor, Catholic Studies, Classical Studies, Education, History, International Studies, Islamic World Studies, Nursing, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, and Women’s Studies.
MAJOR IN THEOLOGY

The Theology Major provides students with essential resources for engaging the depth and breadth of Christian theology. It also includes exposure to other religious traditions. Through a rich array of class offerings, students learn skills that will help them to achieve the following objectives. These objectives will be measured by the corresponding outcome criteria so that we may continually assess how well we achieve our goals for this major.

Objectives

The Theological Studies Major concentration within the Department of Theology will:

1. Investigate the sources and historical development of the beliefs and practices of Christianity with particular attention to the Roman Catholic tradition;
2. Read and interpret sacred scriptures using scholarly methods;
3. Understand the significance of theological central concepts and doctrines as elaborated by pivotal theological thinkers and faith communities – both historically and in the contemporary world;
4. Develop foundational knowledge of at least one other religious tradition outside of Christianity;
5. Thoughtfully deliberate upon and debate pressing ethical questions of our times, using the sources and methods employed in Christian ethics.

Outcomes

Having fulfilled these objectives, students completing the Theological Studies Major should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the sources and historical development of the beliefs and practices of Christianity with particular attention to the Roman Catholic tradition;
2. Apply scholarly methods to the understanding of scripture;
3. Demonstrate familiarity with key concepts and doctrines of the Christian faith (e.g., Christology, Trinity, Ecclesiology, Sacramental Theology) as articulated by at least two theologians;
4. Demonstrate foundational knowledge of at least one other religious tradition outside of Christianity;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how the sources and methods employed in Christian ethics inform responses to pressing ethical questions.
Requirements

1. **Entry-level courses**: One course from each of the four areas in the theological curriculum – Doctrine, Biblical Literature, Religious Traditions, and Christian Life and Practice.

2. **Compulsory Courses**: Two to four compulsory courses (depending on Entry-level course choices)
   a. an Old Testament or New Testament course (whichever was not taken at entry level);
   b. a 300-level course in the History of Christian Thought (Theo 317 or 318);
   c. a course in a religious tradition other than Christianity (if not taken at the entry level);
   d. an Ethics course (if not taken at the entry level).

3. **Elective Courses**: Four to six additional courses to complete coursework for the major (36 total credits required)

4. **Capstone Course**: In their junior or senior year, students must complete a capstone course, which is designed to give students an opportunity to integrate various aspects of their theological education. Students will be expected to draw upon the major sources and disciplines (Scripture, History, Systematic Theology, Ethics) of the Christian tradition with particular attention to the Roman Catholic tradition. The particular faculty member teaching the course may also decide to include at least one other religious tradition outside of Christianity as part of the course content.

**Capstone Course**

This 3 credit capstone course is designed to give students an opportunity to integrate various aspects of their theological education. To this end a theme or topic would be set by the faculty member teaching the course for every capstone course. Through a series of readings, discussions, short papers, and a longer research paper, students would address topics related to the overriding theme of the course. In the course of the semester students would be expected to draw upon the major sources and disciplines of Christian and Catholic tradition, including Scripture, History, Systematic Theology, and Ethics. They would be expected to show that they can read and interpret scripture applying scholarly methods, know the historical development of beliefs and practices of Christian and Catholic tradition, and demonstrate that they are familiar with the theological motifs of at least two theological thinkers. It is expected that they would also show knowledge of how Christian perspectives and sources address ethical questions. The faculty member teaching the course may also decide to include at least one other religious tradition outside of Christianity as part of the course content.
MAJOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Religious Studies Major provides students with essential resources for engaging the depth and breadth of two or more religious traditions. Through a rich array of class offerings, students learn skills that will help them to achieve the following objectives. These objectives will be measured by the corresponding outcome criteria so that we may continually assess how well we achieve our goals for this major.

Objectives

The Religious Studies Major concentration within the Department of Theology will:

1. Lay solid grounding in the major teachings, practices, and historical development of two or more religious traditions, and expose students to major scriptures/sacred texts (e.g., Bible, Qur’an, Sutras) and the methods used to study them, both within the academy and within faith traditions;
2. Provide familiarity with a range of methods employed in the academic study of religion, for example, anthropological, theological, sociological, and psychological approaches;
3. Enable students to acquire the background and skills to understand, assess and interpret the role of religion in society and human history including popular culture and world events, and to appreciate cultural diversity within and across religious traditions;
4. Expose students to diverse religious approaches to ethical reflection.
Outcomes

Having fulfilled these objectives, students completing the Religious Studies Major should be able to:

1. Demonstrate conceptual understanding of the general concept of religion and specific knowledge of key features of two or more religions: For example:
   a. Delineate the key features of a religion and discuss how they interact;
   b. Describe and compare the central elements of two or more world religions;
   c. Demonstrate knowledge of the major scriptures, doctrines and practices of two or more religions.
2. Know and use academic and analytical scholarly methods and terminology employed in the field of Religious Studies. For example:
   a. Demonstrate knowledge of a range of scholarly methodologies;
   b. Accurately use the academic and scholarly terminology employed in the field of religious studies.
   c. Be able to apply scholarly methodologies to research questions.
3. Analyze how a religion’s components interact with the culture to which it belongs, explaining how it shapes and is shaped by the surrounding society. For example:
   a. Articulate how religions shape aspect of people’s everyday lives. Discuss such aspects as: family organization and relationships, social structure, food choices, clothing choices, ethical behavior, or gender roles;
   b. Describe how religions interact with popular culture (as evidenced by literature, visual arts, film, music, TV, the Internet, etc.) and how that interaction functions to influence public opinion and belief.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religious approached to ethics and ethical issues.

Requirements

The Religious Studies major consists of 12 courses (36 credit hours) of which at least 5 courses must be taken at the 300 level or higher. The major has five components:

1. One course on the Christian traditions;
2. Three courses on the non-Christian traditions;
3. Two courses on the religious comparisons or themes from the following: 170, 174, 177, 178; selected 180 sections including Women and Religion in India, Religion and Psychology, Ancient Community and Values; 192 and 193.
4. Five elective courses that include any other courses offered by the Theology Department, any courses not yet taken from the above listings, as well as up to three courses from other departments focusing on religious traditions or dimensions of religious life, if approved in advance by the student’s advisor.
5. Capstone Course: THEO 353 Studies in Religious Traditions. In their junior or senior year, students must complete this course which is designed to give them an opportunity to integrate various aspects of religious studies. This course focuses on the methodological approaches to the study of religion.
SUGGESTED CURRICULUM OUTLINE FOR BOTH MAJORS

FRESHMAN PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English 105 – 3 credit hours</td>
<td>English 106 – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History 101 – 3 hours</td>
<td>History (2nd Core requirement) – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Science Core – 3 hours</td>
<td>Social Science Core – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicative/Philosophy Core – 3 hours</td>
<td>Expressive Arts – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology Core – 3 hours</td>
<td>Theology Core – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15 credit hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 credit hours</strong></td>
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SOPHMORE PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Core – 3 hours</td>
<td>Literature Core – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Core – 3 hours</td>
<td>Philosophy Core – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Science Core – 3 hours</td>
<td>Social Science Core – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy Core – 3 hours</td>
<td>Theology 300-level – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology Core – 3 hours</td>
<td>Natural Science Core – 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15 credit hours</strong></td>
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JUNIOR & SENIOR PROGRAMS

The program outlined above provides that all the core requirements will be met by the end of the second year except for one last Literature Core course. This frees up Junior and Senior year for concentration in your major and minor and for elective offerings.
MINORS IN THEOLOGY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, & PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

MINOR IN THEOLOGY
The minor in Theology requires six courses: three that are already required by the College of Arts & Sciences Theology Core and three electives taken at the 300-level. The college core requires that students take three 100-level Theology courses. It stipulates that these courses must be spread across at least two of the four areas of core offerings: Doctrine, Biblical Literature, Religious Traditions, and Christian Life and Practice. Students should consult with the Undergraduate Programs Director regarding any questions about this program.

MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
The Minor in Religious Studies requires six courses. Students must take one course in Christianity (either Theo 100, 103, 104, 112, 171, 173, 175, 179, 181, 317, or 318). Students need to take two courses in other world religions (Theo 114, 172, 177, 195, 196, 197, 198, and 199.) Students must take Theo 353 Studies in Religious Traditions. And students must take two electives that are at the 300 level. One may be taken from outside the department if the course deals with some aspect of religion and is pre-approved by the director of minors. Students are recommended to consider taking one of the following: CLST 371-Ancient Greek and Roman Religion, HIST 309-History of Primitive Christianity, HIST 312 Islamic Societies, HIST 388-Social History of American Religion, PHIL 271-Knowledge and Reality: Religion, PHIL 391-Philosophy of Religion, and SOCL-245 Religion and Society. Even for these courses the Undergraduate Programs Director must be notified that you wish to count this course toward your minor program requirements. Other courses are also offered occasionally so students need to consult course schedules widely.

MINOR IN PASTORAL LEADERSHIP
The Minor in Pastoral Studies requires six courses. Students must take three courses at the 100 level – specifically a course in Christian doctrine, a biblical course and an ethics course. The remaining three courses are at the 300 level. One 300-level course is an elective related to the student’s area of pastoral service. The second course is Theo 348: Supervised Ministry, an internship in an area of pastoral service; and the third is Theo 347: Creative Ministry, a capstone course integrating one’s service and theology. This minor is offered in collaboration with University Ministry. Students should consult the Undergraduate Programs Director or the Director of University Ministry regarding questions about this program.
GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT HONORS
The department presents First Honors and Second Honors to those graduating seniors who have achieved a distinguished record of scholarship. Students who have an overall G.P.A. of 3.5 or above and a G.P.A. in their Theology or Religious Studies major of 3.7 or above are awarded First Honors. Students who have an overall G.P.A. of 3.3 or above and a departmental G.P.A. of 3.5 or higher receive Second Honors. Students eligible for Honors who have taken two extra 300 level courses beyond the requirements for the major will receive Honors with Departmental Distinction.

DIRECTED READING COURSES
On rare occasions students are allowed to take a one-on-one reading course with a member of the theology department faculty. Students who wish to try to take such an option must make a case that the topic is not covered by our ordinary course listings and they must secure the permission of a professor who is willing to take on this directed reading obligation. The student and the faculty member must draw up a written course contract outlining the readings and evaluation procedure (tests, paper etc.) and secure he permission of the director of majors. Permission needs to be secured prior to the start of the semester. Only full-time faculty may do a directed readings course and only juniors or seniors may be eligible for this option. Under no circumstances may majors take more than two directed readings courses. Directed readings courses count as a 300 level elective.

CROSS-LISTED COURSES
Courses that are cross-listed with theology and another department may be taken to satisfy requirements for majors and minors. One simply signs up for the course at registration through the Theology Department’s listing. Cross-listed courses can only be taken for credit toward one major.

COURSES FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT COUNT TOWARD YOUR MAJOR
The study of Christianity and other world religions is not confined to the Theology Department’s offerings. Students are encouraged to watch for courses in Philosophy that deal with Medieval Philosophy and Theology and the Philosophy of Religion and courses in the English Department that focus on Religion and Literature. Students likewise are encouraged to engage the social scientific perspectives on religious belief and practice through courses in the Psychology Department and from the Sociology and Anthropology department. See also the list under the Minor in Religious Studies.

ROTATION OF COURSES
All courses required for the major will be offered regularly at the Lake Shore Campus. We will also try to schedule one upper-level course each semester during the evening in order to accommodate students who work full-time.
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MAJORS AND MINORS

**Majors and Minors Lunches:** The Theology Department sponsors a luncheon once or twice a year for majors, minors, and prospective majors. The lunches provide an opportunity for students and faculty to meet informally, both to enjoy each other’s company and to explore areas of mutual interest.

**Lectures and Public Presentations:** Majors are encouraged to attend the public lectures and conferences sponsored by the Department in order to expand their theological horizons and to stimulate or deepen interest in particular theological topics and areas.

HOW TO DECLARE A MAJOR OR MINOR

It’s Easy! Come by the Department office, Crown Center, 3rd floor, and speak with Dr. Vigen, or with Ms. Catherine Wolf, Office Manager (773-508-2351), or with Ms. Marianne Wolfe, Administrative Assistant (773-508-2353). One of us will give you the proper form—a declaration of major or minor card and a student information sheet. These can be filled out at the office. We’ll make a copy of the declaration card for our files and send the original over to the HUB for their official notification and filing. If possible, email Dr. Vigen in advance of dropping by and make an appointment: avigen@luc.edu.

RELATED INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Our majors and minors should examine the many opportunities that exist for complementing your program of study by minoring in one of these interdisciplinary programs. Students interested in religious and theological perspectives on gender would do well to explore the opportunities offered by the Women’s Studies program. Those interested in peace and justice issues might explore the Peace Studies Program and those interested in the history of Christian theology might consider Loyola’s Medieval Studies Program. Students who plan on attending Loyola’s Rome Center should consider the Rome Studies minor. Students who have a particular interest in the peoples and religious experience of Latin America, Asia and Asian-Americans, and Africa and African-Americans should investigate the excellent programs Loyola offers in Latin American Studies, Asia and Asian American Studies, and in Black World Studies.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS

Chicago is a vital city with a wide array of internship possibilities for interested students. Students should contact the Internship and Career Center located in the Sullivan Center Students should feel free to call them about setting up an appointment to explore the many opportunities. Also take a look at their website: http://www.luc.edu/career/index.shtml for more details on these opportunities.
SERVICE LEARNING
Loyola offers a wide array of service-learning courses. Students in theological studies and religious studies may be interested in exploring these opportunities to combine course credit with community service. The Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola’s Water Tower Campus maintains a website listing numerous opportunities for service projects throughout the Chicago region. Check these out at www.chicagoserves.org.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Many of our majors have found their work in theology to be excellent preparation for careers in law, social work, medicine, business, education, nursing, public policy and administration, politics, and international relations. Graduate level professional programs look favorably upon applicants with a Theology or Religious Studies major. Other students find that our major helps prepare them for graduate study in fields like international studies, history, philosophy, women’s studies, sociology, and anthropology—especially when combined with a second major in one of these other fields.

A number of graduates go on to pursue graduate studies in theology and religious studies with an eye toward college level teaching. Others take education courses and go directly into high school teaching positions. Still others enter divinity schools and seminaries in preparation for ordained ministry (in both Catholic and Protestant settings). And some become either lay or ordained chaplains in hospitals, prisons, social services organizations, and on college campuses.

Whether one pursues theological and religious studies for preparation for a particular career or out of personal interests, these studies can offer intellectual enrichment that lasts a lifetime.