

Religion

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Religion is an attempt to understand the meaning of human existence. Different religious and cultural communities express that meaning in many ways. Located within an ELCA-related university, the Department of Religion stands within a Lutheran Christian and global context.

In a university setting this means the serious academic study of the Bible, of the history of the Christian tradition, of Christian theology, and of world religious traditions. Critical study calls for open and authentic dialogue with other religious traditions and seeks to understand a common humanity as each tradition adds its unique contribution. It calls for a critical yet constructive interchange with contemporary society. Finally, it calls for a sharing of insights with other disciplines in the university as each sheds light on the human condition.

To these ends the Department of Religion offers a wide range of courses and opportunities. Furthermore it calls students, majors and non-majors alike, to consider questions of meaning, purpose, and value in a society that all too often neglects these questions.

Faculty: Breazeale, *Chair*; Crawford-O'Brien, Finitis, Finstuen, Frenz, Hickey-Tiernan, Ihssen, Killen, Oakman, O'Brien, Torvend, Trelstad, Zbaraschuk

General Education Program Elements

Eight semester hours are required for students entering as first-year students or sophomores. Four lower-division hours should be taken before the end of the sophomore year.

Transfer students entering as juniors or seniors are required to take four semester hours from Religion Line One only, unless presenting eight transfer hours of religion from other regionally-accredited colleges or universities. Courses offered through correspondence, on-line, and independent studies are not accepted to meet the GenEd Program Element in Religion.

The General Education Program Element in Religion Eight semester hours

Students are required to take one course from Line One and from Line Two.

- **Line One: Christian Traditions (RC)**
 RELI 121, 212, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 331, 332, 361 (341, 351), 362, 364 (344, 354), 365, 367 (347, 357), 368
- **Line Two: Global Religious Traditions (RG)**
 RELI 131, 132, 211, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 246, 330, 367 (347, 357), 390, 391, 392, 393

Perspectives on Diversity Requirement

The following Religion courses fulfill the GenEd Program requirement for Perspectives on Diversity.

- **Cross-Cultural:** RELI 131, 132, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237, 247, 341, 344, 347, and 392

- **Alternative Perspectives:** RELI 236, 257, 351, 354, 357, 368 and 393

BACHELOR OF ARTS MAJOR

32 semester hours, including 12 hours in upper-division courses (not including RELI 301 and 499)

- **Majors Requirements:**
 - Two courses from Line One (RC)
 - Two courses from Line Two (RG)
 - Majors may select two additional courses from either line or from one line only to complete their required hours.
 - Four semester hours in RELI 301: Research in Religion
 - Four semester hours in RELI 499: Capstone: Research Seminar
- Transfer majors will normally take 20 semester hours in residence.
- Majors should plan their program early in consultation with departmental faculty. Closely related courses taught in other departments may be considered to apply toward the religion major in consultation with the chair of the department.
- The B.A. in Religion requires completion of the College of Arts and Sciences requirements.
- A minimum grade of C- in all courses in the major or minor department and a cumulative 2.00 GPA in those courses is required.

MINOR

(Teacher Education Option)

24 semester hours, at least four hours in each of the two lines. Transfer minors under this option normally take 16 semester hours in residence.

Intended primarily for parochial school teachers enrolled in the Department of Instructional Development and Leadership.

MINOR

16 semester hours with no more than eight in one of the lines listed above.

Transfer minors under this option must take at least eight semester hours in residence.

To view Religion (RELI) courses, go to the PLU Directory of Approved Courses on page 211.

Scandinavian Area Studies

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PLU's Scandinavian Area Studies Program offers students a detailed examination of Scandinavia's innovative and internationally engaged societies, drawing on a broad range of academic disciplines to explore the peoples, languages and cultures of the region. The major provides a rigorous liberal arts education, developing a detailed understanding of Scandinavia while equipping students with critical intellectual tools and practices that prepare them for constructive engagement with the world.

PSYC 499: Capstone Seminar – SR

Required for Psychology majors. Student will complete and present a project at an on-campus Psychology Research Conference held fall and spring terms. Students earning the B.S. degree must conduct empirical research projects whereas students earning the B.A. degree may choose nonempirical projects. The projects may emerge from ideas and experiences in an upper-division psychology course, advanced research activity, or in response to an internship completed by the student. **Prerequisites:** PSYC 242, senior standing, and permission of instructor. (4)

Recreation (RECR)

RECR 296: Teaching Methods: Recreation Activities

Learning to plan and implement a variety of recreational activities, including outdoor education.

Prerequisite: PHED 279. (2)

RECR 330: Programming and Leadership in Sport and Recreation

Examines the principles, procedures, techniques, and strategies essential to successfully program and lead experiences for diverse populations in sport, fitness, recreation and leisure service organizations. (4)

RECR 360: Professional Practicum

Students work under the supervision of a coach, teacher, recreation supervisor, or health care provider.

Prerequisite: Departmental approval. (1-2)

RECR 387: Special Topics in Recreation

Provides the opportunity for the exploration of current and relevant issues in the areas recreation studies. (1-4)

RECR 483: Management in Sport and Recreation

Examines the principles, procedures, techniques, and strategies essential to successfully manage human resources, finances and marketing in sport, fitness, recreation and leisure service organizations. (4)

RECR 491: Independent Studies

Prerequisite: Consent of the dean. (1-4)

RECR 495: Internship - SR

Pre-professional experiences closely related to student's career and academic interests. **Prerequisites:** Declaration of major, junior status, and a minimum of ten hours of RECR coursework (2-8)

RECR 499: Capstone: Senior Seminar – SR (2-4)

Religion (RELI)

RELI 121: The Christian Tradition – R2, RC

The study of selected theological questions and formulations examined in their social and historical contexts. (4)

RELI 131: The Religions of South Asia – C, R3, RG

Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism — their origins and development, expansion, and contemporary issues. (4)

RELI 132: The Religions of East Asia – C, R3, RG

Confucianism, Taoism, Chinese and Japanese Buddhism, Shinto, and the “new religions” of Japan — their origins, development, and contemporary issues. (4)

RELI 211: Religion and Literature of the Hebrew Bible – R1, RG

The literary, historical, and theological dimensions of the Old Testament, including perspectives on contemporary issues. (4)

RELI 212: Religion and Literature of the New Testament – R1, RC

The literary, historical, and theological dimensions of the New Testament, including perspectives on contemporary issues. (4)

RELI 220: Early Christianity – R2, RC

The origins, thought, and expansion of the Christian Church; the growth of Christian involvement in culture to the end of the papacy of Gregory I (604 CE). (4)

RELI 221: Medieval Christianity - R2, RC

A study of the ideas, practices, forms of community among Christians from 600-1350, with an emphasis on how they understood their relationship to God, each other, and the natural world. (4)

RELI 222: Modern Church History – R2, RC

Beginning with the Peace of Westphalia (1648), interaction of the Christian faith with modern politics, science, and philosophy; expansion in the world, modern movements. (4)

RELI 223: American Church History – R2, RC

Interaction of religious and social forces in American history, especially their impact on religious communities. (4)

RELI 224: The Lutheran Heritage – R2, RC

Lutheranism as a movement within the church catholic: its history, doctrine, and worship in the context of today's pluralistic and secular world. (4)

RELI 225: Faith and Spirituality – R2, RC

Reflection on Christian lifestyles, beliefs, and commitments. (4)

RELI 226: Christian Ethics – R2, RC

Introduction to the personal and social ethical dimensions of Christian life and thought with attention to primary theological positions and specific problem areas. (4)

RELI 227 (247, 257): Christian Theology – R2, RC

Survey of selected topics or movements in Christian theology designed to introduce the themes and methodologies of the discipline. RELI 247 for cross cultural GUR and RELI 257 for alternative perspective GUR. (4)

RELI 230: Religion and Culture – A, R3, RG

Explores the interrelation and interaction of religion and culture in a variety of world religious traditions. Incorporates recognized methodologies in academic religious studies. (4)

RELI 231: Myth, Ritual, and Symbol – R3, RG

The nature of myth and its expression through symbol and ritual. (4)

RELI 232: The Buddhist Tradition – C, R3, RG

Introduction to the history and practice of Buddhist tradition in its South Asian, East Asian, and Western cultural contexts. (4)

RELI 233: The Religions of China – C, R3, RG

Introduction to the major religious movements of China. (4)

RELI 234: The Religions of Japan – C, R3, RG

Introduction to the major religious traditions of Japan. (4)

RELI 235: Islamic Traditions – C, R3, RG

An introduction to the history, teachings, and practices of Islam. (4)

RELI 236: Native American Religious Traditions - A, R3, RG

Introduction to a variety of Native American religious traditions, emphasizing the way in which religion works to construct identity, promote individual and collective well being and acts as a means of responding to colonialism. Approaches the topic using academic religious studies methodologies. (4)

RELI 237: Judaism – C, R3, RG

Historical development of Judaism's faith and commitment from early Biblical times to the present. (4)

RELI 239: Environment and Culture – R3, RG

Study of the ways in which environmental issues are shaped by human culture and values. Major conceptions of nature, including non-western perspectives and issues in eco-justice. Critical evaluations of literature, arts, ethics, conceptual frameworks, history, and spirituality. Cross-listed with ENVT 239. (4)

RELI 246: Ethics and Diversity - Experimental C, RG

This course investigates how diverse religious traditions respond to the diversity of global cultures. Students will study the interaction of religious ethical traditions and comparatively analyze moral positions from multiple perspectives, building to their own constructive response to the variety of religious and cultural traditions in our world. (4)

RELI 301: Research in Religion

Introduces majors to the scholarly questions, literature, bibliographical assessment, forms of scholarly criticism in the field, and the necessary elements in the creation of a research paper in the field. Topic and content to be determined by the instructor. Required for majors. (4)

RELI 330: Old Testament Studies – R1, RG

Major areas of inquiry: the prophets, psalms, wisdom literature, mythology, theology, or biblical archeology. (4)

RELI 331: New Testament Studies – R1, RC

Major areas of inquiry: intertestamental, synoptic, Johannine, or Pauline literature, or New Testament theology. (4)

RELI 332: Jesus and His Early Interpreters – R1, RC

Historical survey of "Life of Jesus" research; form and redaction criticism of the gospel tradition; the religious dimensions of Jesus' life and thought. **Prerequisite:** One lower-division RELI course or consent of instructor. (4)

RELI 361 (341, 351): Church History Studies – R2, RC

Selected area of inquiry, such as Orthodox church history, religious experience among American minority communities, and the ecumenical movement. RELI 341 for cross cultural GUR and RELI 351 for alternative perspective GUR. (4)

RELI 362: Luther – R2, RC

The man and his times, with major emphasis on his writing and creative theology. (4)

RELI 364 (344, 354): Theological Studies – R2, RC

Selected topic or movement within Christian theology. RELI 344 for cross cultural GUR and RELI 354 for alternative perspective GUR. (4)

RELI 365: Christian Moral Issues – R2, RC

In-depth exploration from the perspective of Christian ethics of selected moral issues such as peace and violence, the environment, sexuality, political and economic systems, hunger, and poverty. (4)

RELI 367 (347, 357): Major Religious Thinkers, Texts, and Genres – R2, RC or RG

In-depth study of major figures, texts, or genres in Christian and non-Christian religious traditions, focusing especially on the theology and religious thought of these traditions. Fulfills either line 1 or 2 as appropriate. **Prerequisite:** Consent of instructor. (4)

RELI 368: Feminist and Womanist Theologies – A, R2, RC

A study of major theological themes and issues through global women's perspectives on gender. (4)

RELI 390 (393): Topics in Comparative Religions – R3, RG

Historical study of specific non-Christian religions such as the traditions of India and China, Judaism, and Islam. RELI 393 for alternative perspective GUR. (4)

RELI 391: Sociology of Religion – R3, RG

Multi-cultural investigation of religious experience, belief, and ritual in relation to their social settings with particular attention to new forms of religion in America. Cross-listed with SOCI 391. (4)

RELI 392: God, Magic, and Morals – C, R3, RG

Anthropology of religion. Cross-listed with ANTH 392. (4)

RELI 491: Independent Studies

For religion majors only and consent of the department is required. (1-4)

RELI 499: Capstone: Research Seminar – SR

Discussion of common readings and a major research and writing project with public presentation around the student's area of interest. (4)