

The Department of Theology
Loyola University of Chicago

**Handbook for Undergraduate Programs
in Theology and Religious Studies
2008**

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WELCOME TO THE THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Theology Department is pleased with your interest in our programs. Our department has a distinguished faculty teaching in the areas of biblical studies, Christian theology, Christian ethics, and world religions. In addition to our undergraduate programs we offer a masters program and doctoral programs. At the undergraduate level we offer two majors, theology and religious studies with minors in each area. In the spring 2007, a new minor in pastoral leadership was added.

Majors and minors are encouraged to stay in contact with the department so that we will have 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. We have a director of majors and a director of minors who serve your primary advisor regarding program requirements. Our departmental website contains 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, do not hesitate to contact our Departmental Assistant, Ms. Catherine Wolf (773/508-2351), our director of majors – Dr. Aana Vigen or our director of minors – Dr. Marcia Hermansen.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The programs of the Department of Theology are designed to provide students with resources for analysis of religion, for investigation of the sources, historical development and contemporary practice of particular religious traditions, and for critical appropriation of personal faith and sympathetic appreciation of the beliefs of others. Although our department has a particular strength in the Roman Catholic tradition, attention is directed to other Christian traditions as well as to Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Thus the curriculum promotes the student's growth as a person who reflects upon their own and others' religious traditions.

THEOLOGY MAJOR

This major allows students with an interest in Christianity to explore the tradition in-depth. The major is designed to allow students a wide range of elective courses and the opportunity to examine the teachings and practices of religious traditions other than Christianity as well. It also allows students to explore the contributions that various disciplines bring to the study of religious life and practice. This major requires the student to take 12 theology courses, including at least two in Christian thought or doctrine, two in biblical studies, one in Christian life and practice, one in ethics, and one in a religion other than Christianity. The remaining courses are electives. A minimum of five (5) courses must be taken at the 300 level or above. Advanced students are allowed into certain 400 level graduate courses when the director, the instructor, and the Dean of the Graduate School agree. Students are encouraged but not required to take up to two

courses outside the department that pertain to the study of religion when the director of majors approval is secured prior to the beginning of that class.

Components of the Theology Major

- 1) **Entry Level Courses:** one course from each of the four areas in the core: Doctrine, Biblical Literature, Religious Traditions, and Christian Life and Practice.
- 2) **Compulsory Courses:** two to four compulsory courses (depending on the choices at entry level) to fulfill these criteria:
 - 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 (317, 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) **Majors Paper:** Graduating seniors must complete a major paper, a substantial academic paper 20-25 pages in length. In the spring semester graduating seniors are invited to a departmental colloquium where they can give a brief presentation of their project and findings.

Major Paper Description

Beginning Process

The student must begin the paper process in the first semester of their senior year and work with a faculty member who will function as the student's major paper director. The project must be completed by the last day of classes of the student's last semester before graduation. The paper may build on one of the student's papers from an earlier course or it may be developed in conjunction with one of their theology courses in the first semester of their senior year. Under rare circumstances students may develop their paper in conjunction with a course they are taking in the second semester of their senior year. Many students find it advantageous to develop their paper in conjunction with one of their 300-level courses.

Faculty director

Students must ask a faculty member to serve as their major paper director. Only full-time members of the department faculty may serve in this capacity. The paper director determines when the paper is of sufficient depth and polish to warrant the department's acceptance of it as fulfilling the requirement for graduation. The paper does not get formally graded.

Major Paper Contract

The deadline for submission of the contract is November 15th. In the beginning of the student's senior year they work with their paper director in drawing up a brief major paper contract outlining the general topic, the paper title, and the main books and articles to be employed as resources, and a brief statement of the paper's thesis. The contract must include the student's current mailing address, the student's local phone number, and their e-mail address. This

contract must be submitted to the Departmental Assistant, Ms. Catherine Wolf, who will copy it for the student's file and pass one copy on to the department's director of majors.

Writing Process and Final Deadline

The faculty member and the student need to establish their own schedule for the completion of various drafts of the paper. Students may aim to complete the paper during the first semester of their senior year but most aim for a completed rough draft to be done two months before the end of the student's last semester before graduation. This allows sufficient time for rewriting and polishing to follow the faculty member's evaluation. A final draft of the paper -- one that has received the acceptance of the faculty director -- is due on the last day of classes. A copy of this final draft must be given to the departmental assistant, Ms. Catherine Wolf, for the department records.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR

This major is designed for students who wish to explore the thought and practices of a number of world religions and the contributions that a variety of disciplines bring to the study of religion. Students must take at least one course in Christianity, three courses in other religions of the world, two courses focusing on particular themes in the study of religion, and a seminar that examines methodological approaches to the study of religion. Students may take up to two of their courses from other departments as long as the course centers on the study of religion and the student receives the prior permission of the director of majors. Examples of such courses include: "Sociology of Religion," "Philosophy of Religion," and "Asian Philosophy."

Components of the Religious Studies Major

- 1) **Christian Traditions:** One course on the Christian traditions from the following: 100, 103, 104, 112, 171, 173, 175, 179, 181, 317, and 318.
- 2) **Non-Christian Traditions:** Three courses on non-Christian traditions from the following: 195, 196, 197, 198 and 199.
- 3) **Religious Comparison or Themes:** Two courses on religious comparison or themes from the following: 170, 174, 177, 178, selected 180 courses including "Women and Religion in India," "Religion and Psychology," "Ancient Community and Values," "Gender and Values," 192, 353, and 393.
- 4) **Electives:** Five elective courses which 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, if approved in advance by the student's advisor, focusing on religious traditions or dimensions of religious life. Examples of these courses might be "Sociology of Religion," "Philosophy of Religion," "Asian Philosophies" and "Medieval Pilgrimage." In addition, two of the student's courses may be taken at the 400 level. In all, at least five out of the twelve course, must be taken at the 300-level or higher.

- 5) **Major's Seminar:** A required Major's Seminar, namely Theology 353 ("Studies in Religious Traditions"). This course will focus on the methodological approaches to the study of religion.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM OUTLINE FOR BOTH MAJORS

FRESHMAN PROGRAM

First Semester	Second Semester
English 105 – 3 credit hours	English 106 – 3 hours
History 101 – 3 hours	History (2 nd Core requirement) – 3 hours
Natural Science Core – 3 hours	Social Science Core – 3 hours
Communicative/Philosophy Core – 3 hours	Expressive Arts – 3 hours
Theology Core – 3 hours	Theology Core – 3 hours
15 credit hours	15 credit hours

SOPHMORE PROGRAM

First Semester	Second Semester
Literature Core – 3 hours	Literature Core – 3 hours
Mathematics Core – 3 hours	Philosophy Core – 3 hours
Natural Science Core – 3 hours	Social Science Core – 3 hours
Philosophy Core – 3 hours	Theology 300-level – 3 hours
Theology Core – 3 hours	Natural Science Core – 3 hours
15 credit hours	15 credit hours

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.

THEOLOGY, RELIGIOUS & PASTORAL STUDIES MINOR PROGRAMS

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 director of minors 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 172, 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 director of minors 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 (new as of spring 2007)

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 Director of Theology Minors 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 First Honors who have taken two extra 300 level courses beyond the requirements for the major will receive First 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 the 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.

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES FROM THEOLOGY AND THE INSTITUTE OF PASTORAL STUDIES

Third and fourth year majors are encouraged to consider taking graduate courses – 400-level courses--taught by the Institute of Pastoral Studies and by the Theology Department. These courses can count toward the major as fulfillment of one of the required five courses that must be taken at the 300-level or higher. Students should examine the course schedules to identify such courses that might be of interest. Then they need to get the permissions of the director of majors, the instructor, the chairperson, and the Dean of the Graduate School. These permissions need to be secured prior to the start of the course in order for that course to count toward the major.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR MAJORS AND MINORS

- 1) **Majors and Minors Events:** The Theology Department sponsors an event once or twice a year for majors, minors, and prospective majors. These events provide an opportunity for students and faculty to meet informally, both to enjoy each other's company and to explore areas of mutual interest.
- 2) **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.
- 3) **World Theology Club:** Majors and Minors are encouraged to join and help lead this club. It promotes a series of events and speakers throughout the year on a wide range of topics having to do with theology and the practice of religion. It recently hosted a panel discussing Irish, Mexican, and Filipino Halloween traditions and in the past has hosted events such as "The Theology of Star Trek," "The Spirituality of Vincent van Gogh," and "Christianity and Snake-Handling." This club is open to all students, not just Theology majors or minors.

HOW TO DECLARE A MAJOR OR MINOR

Easy. Come by the department offices in Crown Center, 3rd floor, and speak with Ms. Catherine Wolf (773/508-2350). She 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 Deans’ offices for their official notification and filing.

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 Sullivan Center at LSC or the office at Lewis Tower, room 800 at the Water Tower Campus. Students should feel free to call them about setting up an appointment to explore the many opportunities.

See also the Career Center’s website: luc.edu/resources/career. Students interested in religious ethics with an eye toward policy studies should consider the Washington, D.C. Internship Program that places students in the nation’s capitol with Congressional offices, think tanks, or administrative departments for a semester. Contact the chair of the Political Science Department at 773/508-3066 for further details.

FOREIGN STUDIES OPTIONS

Loyola’s Rome Center offers a fine study abroad opportunity that allows students to study theology and philosophy in Rome. Students get the opportunity to travel and many have gone on to see the great mosques of Istanbul, Turkey, or Cordova, Spain, or even on to the vibrant life of Israel. The theology courses offered at the Rome Center are mostly at the 100-level.

Loyola also has a number of agreements with foreign universities to accept our students for a course of study. Among these universities are Alcala in Spain and Hebrew University in Tel Aviv. Students interested in a year in India should contact the University of Wisconsin for it has a number of well respected programs for undergraduates to study language and various aspects of cultural and religious life there.

Students interested in shorter trips should consult with Loyola’s University Ministry because it regularly offers plunge trips -- to Appalachia, south Texas, but also to Belize and Guatemala. Likewise the Philosophy department sponsors a summer course in ethics that takes students to Africa for two weeks to examine development and ecological issues.

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.

Also Loyola has instituted the Magis Program to facilitate student placements with service learning opportunities that combine course credit. See the programs website at www.luc.edu/magis. The Magis Program's director is Dr. Alan Gitelson and his phone number is 773/508-7098. The Theology Department also regularly offers a Theo 192: Moral Problems: Urban Issues course that has a significant service-learning component. Ms. Elizabeth Collier teaches this at the Water Tower Campus. Students are also encouraged to consider taking a course with Loyola's Institute of Pastoral Studies that offers a service/ministry dimension.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Many of our majors have found their work in theology to be excellent preparation for careers in law, social work, medicine, and business. 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, sociology, and anthropology, especially when combined with a second major in one of these fields. A number of recent graduates have gone on to pursue graduate studies in theology and religious studies with an eye toward college level teaching, while others have taken education courses and have gone directly into high school teaching positions. Others have entered divinity schools and seminaries to gain training for ministry. 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.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES ON THE WEB

General and Comprehensive Sites

"Virtual Religion Index," sponsored by Rutgers University Department of Religious Studies. <http://religion.rutgers.edu/vri>. This is an award-winning and excellent site, tremendously comprehensive covering both Christian theology and World Religions.

"Comprehensive Sites for the Academic Study of Religion," sponsored by The University of Georgia. www.uga.edu/~religion/links.html. This is a superb site listing many sites for Christian Theology and World Religions.

"Wabash Center: Guide to Internet Resources for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion" www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/front.htm "A remarkably wide-ranging trove of listings.

"Religion Religions Religious Studies," sponsored by the University of Florida. <http://web.religion.ufl.edu/links.html>

"Internet Resource Guide for the Academic Study of Religion," sponsored by the Department and Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto. www.chass.utoronto.ca/religion/pathfinder.htm A superb resource

"Religious Studies Resources," sponsored by Saint Michael's College. A vast array of sites and listings. <http://academics.smcvt.edu/relstudies/links.htm>

"Internet Theology Resources," sponsored by College of St. Benedict and Saint Joseph's University. www.csbsju.edu/library/internet/theosubj.html

"Religious Studies Web Guide," sponsored by the University of Calgary. www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~lipton/ Two-thumbs up.

Site for Biblical Studies

"Resource Pages for Biblical Studies," one of the most complete collections of Biblical Studies links. www.torreys.org/bible/

Sites for Ancient and Medieval Studies

Medieval Sourcebook, sponsored by Fordham University. Excellent resource. www.fordham.edu/halsall

"Worlds of Late Antiquity," sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania. <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jod/wola.html>

"The Labyrinth: Resources for Medieval Studies," sponsored by Georgetown University. Excellent site. www.georgetown.edu/labyrinth/

Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers in translation. <http://ccel.wheaton.edu/fathers/npnf1-13>

Luther Studies Site

"Project Wittenberg," focusing on Martin Luther and Lutheranism. www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/

Sites for Catholic Studies

"Catholic Social Teaching," sponsored by the Office for Social Justice, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. <http://www.osjspm.org/>
http://www.osjspm.org/catholic_social_teaching.aspx

"Jesuits USA—Society of Jesus," www.jesuit.org

"The Vatican," www.vatican.va

"The Holy See: Pope John Paul II," www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/index.htm

"Archdiocese of Chicago," www.archdiocese-chgo.org.

"National Conference of Catholic Bishops" website of the U.S. Bishops with various publications. www.nccbuscc.org

Traditional Catholic Reflections & Reports, a wide-ranging digest of current and historical news. www.tcrnews.com

Centre for Faith & Culture, Oxford, an important journal on faith and culture from a “third way,” or Communio approach. www.secondspring.co.uk

Contemporary liturgical issues. www.adoremus.org

1908 Catholic encyclopedia on line. www.newadvent.org

Interdisciplinary Catholic Studies resource. www.stthomas.edu/CathStudies

"Thomistic Philosophy Page," various texts. www.aquinasonline.com/Texts/

"Thomas Aquinas Links," <http://www.domcentral.org/study/TA.htm>

Sites for World Religions

"Buddhism," an award-winning site. www.aril.org/Buddhist.html

"Judaism,"

"Islam Islamic Studies," one of the most comprehensive Islamic sites. www.arches.uga.edu/~godlas/

"The Hindu Universe," a wide collection of sites. www.hindunet.org

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

- 1. Question:** How many courses and what kinds of courses will the department accept from another school for the theology or religious studies major or minor?

Answer: The Department will not accept more than 50% of the courses for its major taken at another university. The courses that will be accepted must fulfill the requirements for the major or minor as are listed in the University catalogue and this Handbook.

- 2. Questions:** Do all courses that I get with a passing grade count toward the major? May the student take courses for the major on a pass/fail basis? If a student gets a grade below “C” in a major course, may the student retake the course to raise the grade? The same questions apply to the minor.

Answers: Any theology or religious studies course in which a grade of “D” or “F” has been granted will not apply toward the fulfillment of requirements for the major or minor in Theology or Religious Studies at Loyola University.

If more than two grades of “D” or “F” are received in theology courses by a major or a minor, that student will no longer be considered a major or minor in good standing.

The department will not accept a course that a student has taken on a pass/fail basis as credit toward the major or the minor.

A student must retake a course in which a grade of “D” or “F” has been received. This applies to both majors and minors.

3. **Question:** May a student who is double-majoring take one course and have it apply to both majors?

Answer: Yes. So long as the course fulfills the requirements stated for both majors and the two departments do not have any special rule against it. Our department has no problem with the same course being applied to both our major and that of another.

4. **Question:** Can a major take an IPS course and have it count as a 300-level requirement?

Answer: Upon consultation with the Director of Majors, the IPS director, and the Graduate Dean, a major may take no more than one IPS theology or ministry course for a 300-level requirement.

5. **Question:** Are there criteria for qualifying for a Theology major or minor. Must certain courses be completed before a major or minor can be declared?

Answer: There are no criteria for qualifying for a Theology major or minor. The declaration itself is sufficient. The accomplishment of the degree that has been declared is determined later.

6. **Question:** What are the criteria for retaining a Theology major or minor? Must a certain overall GPA or a certain GPA in Theology courses be maintained?

Answer: A Student must maintain a minimum grade of “C” in each course.

CONTACTING THE THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

-Ms. Catherine Wolf is the department administrative assistant and she can be reached at 773/508-2351 and at cwolf1@luc.edu . Aana Vigen is the director of majors and she can be reached at 508-2342 and at avigen@luc.edu . Marcia Hermansen is the director of minors and he can be reached at 508-2345 mherman@luc.edu . Dr. Susan Ross is the Department’s chairperson. She can be reached at 508-2364 and at sross@luc.edu .