

**AFAS 4323 Internship****3 Credit Hours**

Students wishing to enroll must consult with the program coordinator for review and selection of internship positions and approval of a specific internship project.

**Prerequisite: One of the following courses:**

**Offered: As Needed**

**AFAS 2319, HIST 1381, HIST 3382, OR SOCI 3319**

## **THE MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELI)**

### **Description and objectives**

In this program students will become familiar with a diverse range of religious phenomena. They will be able to compare foundational beliefs among many religious traditions (including the Zulu religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) about such topics as human nature, the origin of the universe, life after death, gender roles, the relation between science and religion, the relation between religion and philosophy, and the grounding of ethics. The instruction will focus on helping students develop 1) their own approach to religious diversity, 2) their own perspective on religion and spirituality, 3) an ability to interpret scripture, 4) credentials for ministry and/or further scholarship, 5) an awareness and understanding of key 21<sup>st</sup> century issues surrounding religion, such as the manner of promoting religious tolerance, the role of religion in global ethics, the ability of religion to promote environmental awareness, the compatibility of deep religious differences, the role of religion in local and global politics, the part religion plays in race relations, the role of gender in the world's religion, and the relation between science and religion.

### **Requirements for the Minor in Religious Studies**

The minor comprises 18 semester hours of courses beyond the Core Curriculum requirement of 3 semester hours of either "Philosophy and Ethics" or "Comparative Religion."

1. The following 12 hours are required for the minor:
  - RELI 2302 Comparative Religion or PHIL 2301 Philosophy and Ethics.  
*One of these two classes satisfies the Core Curriculum requirement. The other satisfies a requirement for the minor. Both classes must be taken to graduate with the minor.*
  - RELI 3303 Philosophy of Religion
  - RELI 3304 Interpretation of the Bible
  - RELI 3305 Science and Religion
2. Six hours of elective courses chosen from the following:
  - RELI 3306 History of Christianity
  - RELI 3308 Special Topics in Religion: "American Religious History," "Chinese Religions," "Religion and Ethics," "Methodology for Inter-religious Dialogue."
3. Students must also fulfill 20 hours of service learning engaged in a project centered on a particular religious community. The service learning can be ministry or research oriented.

## **COURSES IN RELIGION (RELI) AND PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)**

### **RELI 2302 Comparative Religion**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course describes and compares the fundamental beliefs and practices of many religions from the East and West, from the North and the South, and from both pre-historic and historic times, although emphasis will be on present day religions. This course compares the religions with respect to their views on: 1) the origin of our universe, 2) the nature and meaning of the individuality of persons, 3) the individual's relation to society, 4) the natural environment, and 5) the role of women. Other topics include the future of religion, the relation between religious belief and science, the diversity within religions, and the basis for dialogue among religions. Emphasis is placed on the challenge religious diversity gives to belief retention.

**Prerequisite: ENGL 1301**

**Offered: Fall/Spring Yearly**

### **PHIL 2301 Philosophy and Ethics**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course presents foundational and diverse perspectives on key issues engaged in philosophy and ethics. We compare thinkers from the East and West, the North and South, in order to highlight the unique qualities of each. We discuss, in a comparative fashion, central philosophers from many different periods of philosophy. Stressing primary texts, we consider the philosophers in their historical contexts, and discuss their answers to central philosophical issues such as the foundations of 1) religion, 2) ethics, 3) reality, 4) knowledge, 5) individuality, and 6) freedom. Emphasis is placed on the challenge religious and philosophical diversity gives to belief retention.

**Prerequisite: ENGL 1301**

**Offered: Fall/Spring Yearly**

### **PHIL 2307 Logic**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course will rigorously introduce students to central forms of argumentation. Emphasis will be on helping students learn how to argue better in speech and writing. Skills learned here will help students deepen and better organize their thoughts and arguments in speech and writing so as to express better what is meant in an argument and to be more convincing. We will learn several systems of logic: categorical, propositional, predicate, and modal. We will investigate some of the most central and difficult issues within the study of logic.

**Prerequisite: ENGL 1301**

**Offered: Once Every Two Years**

### **RELI 3303 Philosophy of Religion**

**3 Credit Hours**

In this class we explore answers to some of the most important issues surfacing during the long history of the philosophy of religion. The course will facilitate the development of each participants' views on crucial life issues such as: 1) The relation between reason and faith, 2) The nature of religious experience, 3) The possibility of a rational justification for religious belief, 4) The possibility of miracles, 5) The problem of evil, 6) The relation between science and religion, 7) The

possibility of unity among religions, and 8) The nature of religious knowledge. Students will produce research papers arguing for what they believe is the best way of relating faith and reason.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301

**Offered:** Once Every Two Years

### **RELI 3304 Interpretation of the Bible**

**3 Credit Hours**

Contemporary understandings of both the Old Testament and New Testament will be explored in this class. The course will take a historical approach to the study of scripture, pointing out the influences of temporal context wherever possible. This course introduces students to the central tools within the study of the Bible. The historical-critical method is thoroughly described. Students will produce two exegetical papers using the tools they have learned for interpreting and understanding the Bible.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301

**Offered:** Once Every Two Years

### **RELI 3305 Science and Religion**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course explores many ways of relating religion and science, and starts with the fourfold classification system developed by Ian Barbour for relating science and religion (they conflict, can be integrated, are independent, or can dialogue). The course compares how knowledge is attained in the sciences to how knowledge is acquired in religion. The course describes the history of attempts to relate science and religion, focusing on Galileo, Newton, and Darwin. It describes the evolutionary theory within modern Biology and discusses different ways religious people respond to it. It examines the significance modern perspectives on the origin of the universe have for competing religious views. Developments in neuroscience and quantum physics are discussed as they related to religious views about the individual and the nature of reality.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301

**Offered:** Once Every Two Years

### **RELI 3306 History of Christianity**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course presents the history of Christianity. It discusses the Roman, Jewish, and Near Eastern contexts in which Christianity was born, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and asks the question “To what extent can we have knowledge about the life of Jesus?” The course explores the teaching of St. Paul and his impact on the development of Christianity. The course describes the formation of New Testament scripture, explains the major developments in the Patristic, Medieval, and Modern periods of Christian history, and discusses the key ideas, events, figures, and developments of the Protestant Reformation.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301

**Offered:** Once Every Two Years

### **RELI 3308 Special Topics in Religion**

This course investigates a particular topic of current interest in religious studies. The topic will vary from year to year depending on student interest and faculty research.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Offered:** Once Every Two Years