DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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Programs of the Department

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies offers a major and minor in Philosophy, and a major and minor in Religious Studies.

Program in Philosophy

The Philosophy Program pays close attention to the history of philosophy. The program also attends to the diverse social and cultural settings out of which philosophy develops, to which it speaks and with which it interacts. Philosophy cultivates and nourishes rigorous thinking; the development and the practice of analytic and dialectical skills are strongly emphasized. The program encourages students to take as great a diversity of courses as possible. It is flexible enough to ensure the incorporation of new interpretations and new schools of philosophy.

The program prepares students for advanced work in philosophy, humanistic studies and various professions. The sound, clear and systematic thinking that philosophy emphasizes also makes philosophical education relevant to other disciplines. Hence, the program is designed to meet not only the needs of the majors and minors but also the needs of other students in TU. Furthermore, philosophy courses foster reflection, a prerequisite for leading a good life.

Program in Religious Studies

Religious studies as an academic endeavor takes as its subject matter two distinct but related objects of investigation. On one hand, it focuses on the varied religious traditions that figure prominently in any adequate account of the development of human culture. On the other hand, it theorizes about the phenomenon of religion itself, abstracting from its concrete manifestations and subjecting it to explanation and evaluation. Both orientations reveal religion to be complex by nature. Any specific religious tradition is impressively multifaceted. Typically, it is the outgrowth of an intricate history and the embodiment of a distinctive program for communal existence. Its vision of the nature of the cosmos and its understanding of the meaning of human life may find expression through ritual, myth, doctrine, art or philosophy. When religion is treated in more general terms, investigation may explore its psychological, sociological, anthropological, artistic, ethical or metaphysical dimensions. These considerations make it apparent that religious studies is well conceived as a multidisciplinary enterprise whose subject matter is best understood through the employment of a variety of approaches.

Majors

- Major in Philosophy
- Major in Religious Studies

Minors

- Minor in Philosophy
- Minor in Religious Studies

Faculty

Professors: Anne Ashbaugh, Suk Gabriel Choi, Kristen Hine, Timothy Jankowiak, John Murungi, Stephen Scales

Associate Professors: Emily Bailey, Deborah Barer, Emily Parker, Makmiller Pedroso, Robert Tappan (Chairperson), Nick Tebben

Assistant Professors: Brian Hillman, Gilad Sharvit, Jillian Stinchomb

Lecturers: Jake Bartholomew, Steven Quach, Patrick Roney