

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Philosophy and Religious Studies

Each program in the department has numerous desired outcomes. Students will be able to do the following:

Selected Educational Outcomes (Philosophy Track)

1. Explain and analyze central issues, topics, and philosophers in the history of philosophy, from the ancient to the modern periods.
2. Write and speak critically and logically, applying various theories to specific cases and examples.
3. Explain their own value system, evaluating their values in the context of a diverse range of ideas that inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. Create independent philosophical research, synthesizing a variety of sources, including traditional primary philosophical texts and secondary source commentaries.
5. Demonstrate a working familiarity with current research methods, citation styles, and presentation techniques.

Selected Educational Outcomes (Religious Studies Track)

1. Explain and interpret the world's religious traditions and their influence on values, norms, and public policies.
2. Apply critical and analytical skills in analyzing multiple religious perspectives.
3. Identify and evaluate their self-understanding in the context of diverse ideas that inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. Create independent research, synthesizing sources including sacred texts, religious autobiographies, and other secondary sources.
5. Demonstrate a working familiarity with current research methods, citation styles, and presentation techniques.

Examples of Outcome Assessments (Philosophy Track and Religious Studies Track)

The department assesses the extent to which the program requirements create the desired outcomes by using a variety of techniques. Examples of these assessments (and related educational outcomes) include the following:

1. The on-going evaluation of student examinations and research papers using rubrics, comparing quantitative data over time.
2. Exit surveys to be administered to each student completing work for the major.
3. Exit examinations administered during the senior Metaphilosophy/Religious Studies Capstone combined course.
4. Surveys of alumni to assess the relevancy of the program to their current work and their suggestions for refinements.
5. The use of university or external data that may become available to assess the quality of the program and the performance of graduates.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|------------|
| Core Curriculum | | 60 |
| Core Curriculum Areas A-E (See VSU Core Curriculum) | | 42 |
| Core Curriculum Areas F | | |
| PHIL 2030 or REL 2010 | Ethics and Contemporary Society Introduction to Religion and Culture | |
| PHIL 2010 & REL 2020 | Fundamentals of Philosophy and World Religions | |
| Foreign Language and Culture sequence | | |
| Senior College Curriculum ¹ | | 60 |
| Select from the following Tracks: | | 60 |
| Philosophy | | |
| Religious Studies | | |
| Total hours required for the degree | | 120 |

¹ Must include at least 39 hours of coursework numbered 3000 or above.

Philosophy Track

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|-------|
| Logic and Argumentation | | 3 |
| PHIL 2020 | Principles of Logic and Argumentation | |
| History of Philosophy | | 6 |
| PHIL 3060 | History of Ancient Philosophy | |
| PHIL 3070 | History of Medieval Philosophy | |
| PHIL 3080 | History of Early Modern Philosophy | |
| PHIL 3090 | History of Late Modern Philosophy | |
| Ethics | | 3 |
| PHIL 3100 | Ethics and Health Care | |
| PHIL 3120 | Ethical Theory | |
| PHIL 3130 | Social and Political Philosophy | |
| PHIL 3140 | Ethics and Law | |
| PHIL 3150 | Ethics and Business | |
| PHIL 3160 | Ethics and Media | |
| PHIL 3170 | Ethics and Sport | |
| PHIL 3180 | Ethics and the Environment | |
| PHIL 3190 | Ethics and the Social Sciences | |
| PHIL 3210 | Ethics and Technology | |
| PHIL 4120 | Ethics and Public Policy | |
| PHIL 4220 | Ethics and Public Administration | |
| Philosophy, Society, and Culture | | 3 |
| PHIL 3110 | Aesthetics | |
| PHIL 3300 | Philosophy of Religion | |
| PHIL 3400 | Existentialism | |
| PHIL 3430 | American Philosophy | |
| PHIL 3530 | Christian Ethics | |
| PHIL 3540 | Ecology and World Religions | |
| PHIL 3610 | Native American Thought and Cultures | |
| PHIL 3620 | Post-Colonization Issues in Indigenous Cultures | |
| PHIL 3630 | Native American Women | |
| PHIL 3650 | Mysticism and Social Justice | |
| PHIL 3700 | Buddhism | |
| PHIL 3710 | Hinduism | |
| PHIL 3800 | Philosophy, Religion and Film | |
| PHIL 3801 | Philosophical Themes in Film | |
| PHIL 3850 | Philosophy of Race | |
| PHIL 3900 | Philosophy of Happiness | |
| Epistemology, Metaphysics, & Scientific Reasoning | | 3 |
| PHIL 3200 | Philosophy of Science | |
| PHIL 3220 | Cosmology | |
| PHIL 3230 | Philosophy of Mind | |
| PHIL 3920 | Fate, Free Will, and Time | |
| Senior-Level Curriculum | | 3 |
| PHIL 4800 | Special Topics in Philosophy | |
| PHIL 4810 | Directed Study in Philosophy | |
| PHIL 4900 | Special Topics in Ethics | |
| PHIL 4910 | Directed Study in Ethics | |
| Senior Capstone | | 3 |
| PHIL 4920 | Metaphilosophy | |

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| Upper Division REL courses | 6 |
| Minor and/or Elective Courses | 30 |

Religious Studies Track

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|--|-------|
| Religious Traditions | | 6 |
| REL 3510 | Judaism | |
| REL 3520 | Islam | |
| REL 3610 | Native American Thought | |
| REL 3700 | Buddhism | |
| REL 3710 | Hinduism | |
| History of Religions and Sacred Texts | | 6 |
| REL 3220 | Inter-Religious Dialogue and Understanding | |
| REL 3300 | Philosophy of Religion | |
| REL 3330 | New Testament | |
| REL 3340 | Old Testament/Hebrew Bible | |
| REL 3350 | Religious Autobiography and Spiritual Transformation | |
| REL 3360 | Reading Sacred Texts: Hebrew Bible | |
| REL 3500 | Women and Gender in Early Christianity | |
| REL 3504 | The Archaeology of Ancient Israel | |
| REL 3505 | Varieties of Early Christianity | |
| REL 3600 | Women and Religion | |
| REL 3630 | Native American Women | |
| REL 3640 | Alternative Religions of the World | |
| Religion, Ethics, and Society | | 3 |
| REL 3210 | Religion, Violence, and Nonviolence | |
| REL 3240 | Philosophy of Sex | |
| REL 3270 | The Human Quest for Faith and Values | |
| REL 3400 | Existentialism | |
| REL 3540 | Ecology and World Religions | |
| REL 3620 | Post Colonization Issues in Indigenous Cultures | |
| REL 3650 | Mysticism and Social Justice | |
| REL 3800 | Philosophy, Religion and Film | |
| REL 3920 | Fate, Free Will, and Time | |
| Senior Capstone | | 3 |
| REL 4920 | Senior Capstone Course | |
| Upper Division REL electives 3000-, 4000-level | | 6 |
| Upper Division PHIL Courses 3000-, 4000-level | | 6 |
| Minor and/or Elective Courses | | 30 |