

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Hibbard Humanities Hall 632

715-836-2545

Department Website (<https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/departments-programs/philosophy-religious-studies/>)

Philosophy is the disciplined and critical inquiry into fundamental questions of human existence: What is the nature of reality? What is knowledge? Does God exist? Is my will free? What is the difference between right and wrong? What is the relation between the mind and the body? What is the meaning of life? Philosophers use reason and argument in the attempt to answer these questions. Philosophy is at the very heart of a liberal education. Students of philosophy learn to think critically and clearly, argue forcefully, and read carefully. They also learn how the history of philosophy has shaped modern thought and culture. A major in philosophy is excellent preparation for advanced study in a wide range of fields, including law. A minor in philosophy will enrich and complement any major field of study.

Religious Studies is the multi-disciplinary exploration of the phenomena of human experience commonly called “religious.” This includes study of the genesis and interpretation of religious texts; the formation, history, beliefs, and practices of religious communities and traditions; the role of religion in society and culture; issues in religion and science, including the psychology of religious experience; religion in literature and the arts; religious morality; philosophy of religion. The academic study of religion provides an excellent “window” into other cultures, while enhancing students’ understanding of their own society and its history. A degree in Religious Studies provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers, as well as preparing students for demanding graduate programs.

Student Organizations

Theta Alpha Kappa (Honor Society in Religious Studies)

Philosophy Club

Honors Program in Philosophy and Religious Studies

The Honors Program in Philosophy and Religious studies enables outstanding students to engage in challenging Honors coursework and creative Honors research experiences.

Eligibility: Admission is by departmental invitation to students who have demonstrated excellent intellectual potential. To be considered, students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA in the major and in all university coursework.

Requirements:

1) Complete an Honors Capstone Thesis as the outcome of the departmental seminar — either PHIL 485 (Seminar in Problems in Philosophy) or RELS 490 (Seminar in Religious Studies) — or an appropriately crafted Independent Study project.

2) Present the thesis research at or in a suitable local, regional, or national venue.

Faculty

Sean McAleer, Chair

Steven Fink

Troy Kozma

Yaakov Levi

Matthew Meyer

Kristin Schaupp

Majors

- Major: Philosophy, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/philosophy-religious-studies/philosophy-major-ba-bs/>)
- Major: Religious Studies, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/philosophy-religious-studies/religious-studies-major-ba-bs/>)

Minors

- Minor: Philosophy, Liberal Arts (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/philosophy-religious-studies/philosophy-minor/>)
- Minor: Religious Studies, Liberal Arts (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/philosophy-religious-studies/religious-studies-minor/>)

Certificates

- Certificate: Analytical Reasoning (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/philosophy-religious-studies/analytical-reasoning-certificate/>)
- Certificate: Ethics (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/philosophy-religious-studies/ethics-certificate/>)
- Certificate: World Religions (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/philosophy-religious-studies/world-religions-certificate/>)