

Core Curriculum Course Description

The first course in RTC aims to enhance critical reflection on religious belief and practice. It introduces students to the basic approaches by which scholars seek to understand what religion reveals about human beings — their societies, traditions, convictions, and aspirations. It provides an opportunity for students to enrich their understanding of their own religious lives and to better comprehend the diverse local and global communities of which they are a part. By attending to the cognitive and affective dimensions of human experience, this component of the core supports Complexity, Critical Thinking, and Religious Reflection

Pedagogies

With course caps at 40: Reflection blended with critical thinking; engaged, inner-directed inquiry; intentional learning (reflection + analysis + critical thinking)
 With course caps at 25, add: Active learning; seminar-like experience; faculty-student mentoring; peer learning

Additional Notes

Integrations with Pathways and experiential learning are possible at this level.

Clarifying Goals & Drafting Student Learning Objectives

Goals

Knowledge	Global Cultures	The intertwined development of global, including western, cultures, ideas, institutions, and religions.
Habits of Mind & Heart	Complexity	An approach to understanding the world that appreciates ambiguity and nuance as well as clarity and precision.
Habits of Mind & Heart	Critical Thinking	The ability to identify, reflect upon, evaluate, integrate, and apply different types of information and knowledge to form independent judgments. (<i>identify, reflect, evaluate, integrate, apply, judge</i>)
Habits of Mind & Heart	Religious Reflection	Questioning and clarifying beliefs through critical inquiry into faith and the religious dimensions of human existence.

Objectives

- Students will be able to describe and compare the central religious ideas and practices from several traditions or within one, and from at least two globally distinct regions. (*knowledge of global cultures; complexity of content as well as of method; ambiguity*)
- Students will be able to use critical approaches to reflect on their own beliefs and the religious dimensions of human existence. (*critical thinking; complexity of method; reflection*)

Core Curriculum Proposal: Course Description

The second course in RTC invites students to deeper engagement with the study of religion through the application of multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches to complex religious phenomena, past and present. By providing multiple, integrated perspectives, this course seeks to enrich students' appreciation for the diversity of human religious expression. This course, which may be either lower or upper division, is to be taken only after completion of RTC 1. It would be an appropriate place to continue the Core's current openness to courses offered by faculty from a variety of disciplines, such as those in the humanities.

Additional Notes

Integrations with Pathways, third writing and experiential learning encouraged. Team teaching encouraged. This is the place where courses taught outside the Religious Studies Department would be located (on campus and study abroad; see attached list for courses that have been approved in the past).

Clarifying Goals & Drafting Student Learning Objectives

Goals

Habits of Mind & Heart	Complexity	An approach to understanding the world that appreciates ambiguity and nuance as well as clarity and precision.
Habits of Mind & Heart	Critical Thinking	The ability to identify, reflect upon, evaluate, integrate, and apply different types of information and knowledge to form independent judgments. (<i>identify, reflect, evaluate, integrate, apply, judge</i>)
Habits of Mind & Heart	Religious Reflection	Questioning and clarifying beliefs through critical inquiry into faith and the religious dimensions of human existence.

Objectives

- Students will be able to analyze complex and diverse religious phenomena (such as architecture and art, music, ritual, scriptures, theological systems, and other cultural expressions of religious belief).
(*complexity; critical thinking*)
- Students will be able to integrate and compare several different disciplinary approaches to a coherent set of religious phenomena.
(*complexity of content as well as of method; critical thinking*)
- Students will be able to clarify and express beliefs in light of their critical inquiry into the religious dimensions of human existence.
(*reflection; critical thinking*)

Core Curriculum Proposal: Course Description

Building upon the first two courses, the third course in RTC applies insights from the study of religion to difficult, open-ended questions of vital interest to contemporary societies. From historical or current perspectives, this course takes critical engagement to a creative level either in theory or in practice. This course is taken only after completion of 88 units and RTC 1 and 2.

Additional Notes

Integrations with Pathways and third writing encouraged.

Clarifying Goals & Drafting Student Learning Objectives

Goals

Habits of Mind & Heart	Critical Thinking	The ability to identify, reflect upon, evaluate, integrate, and apply different types of information and knowledge to form independent judgments. <i>(identify, reflect, evaluate, integrate, apply, judge)</i>
Habits of Mind & Heart	Religious Reflection	Questioning and clarifying beliefs through critical inquiry into faith and the religious dimensions of human existence.
Habits of Mind & Heart	Ethical Reasoning	Drawing on ethical traditions to assess the consequences of individual and institutional decisions.
Engagement with the World	Perspective	Seeking out the experience of different cultures and people, striving to view the world through their eyes.

Objectives

- Students will be able to identify diverse perspectives and evaluate ethical positions on contemporary questions.
(critical thinking, ethical reasoning, perspective)
- Students will be able to evaluate and apply insights from the study of religion to open-ended questions facing contemporary society.
(critical thinking, religious reflection)