
Religion (major; major with ministerial concentration; minor)

Department of Theology: Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, chair. W. Christopher Stewart, Associate Dean

Faculty: John N. Brittain, Jonathan P. Case, Richard K. Eckley, Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, Paul W. Shea, J. Michael Walters

Web site: www.houghton.edu/academics/programs/religion-philosophy

Phone: 585.567.9460

Major: BA (34-38 hours)

General Information

The **comprehensive major in religion** is provided for those who want a liberal arts degree with a maximum of Biblical and theological studies. This curriculum is generally accepted for entrance into seminary or other graduate institutions and is satisfactory for students going into missionary work that requires a liberal arts degree.

The **religion major with ministerial concentration** curriculum is a four-year terminal program designed to prepare students for pastoral ministry service. This curriculum is so structured that all academic requirements for ministerial ordination in The Wesleyan Church can be fulfilled. Students interested in Wesleyan ordination should consult the religion department chair or the director of ministerial education for particular course requirements. This program will also contribute to the ordination requirements of other denominations. A student in this program will complete 34-38 hours in a specified core of religion courses and 16 hours in the ministerial concentration.

Specific requirements are: (34-38 hours)

BIBL 355, 356	Biblical Theology I, II	2, 2
THEL 313	Systematic Theology (required for Wesleyan ordination).....	4
THEL 350	Reason and Religious Belief (or PHIL course).....	2
THEL 220	History of Christianity (required for Wesleyan ordination)	4
REL 482	Senior Capstone: Seminar in Religion.....	2
And two of the following:		
REL 221	Hinduism and Buddhism	2
REL 231	Judaism	2
INCL/MISS 360	Introduction to Islamic Foundations	4
REL 222	New Religious Movements I	2
REL 232	New Religious Movements II	2
12 hours of Bible:		
BIBL 221	Biblical Interpretation (required for Wesleyan ordination)	4
	Bible electives	8
At least 2-4 hours from the following:		
THEL 210	Theology of Creation	2
THEL 315	Wesleyan Tradition (required for Wesleyan ordination).....	4
MISS 222	The Contemporary Church in Missions (required for Wesleyan ordination).....	4
THEL 337	Theological Foundations of the Family	4

Students electing the comprehensive major in religion must satisfy all normal integrative studies requirements. Students are strongly encouraged to satisfy I.S. language requirements by taking one of the Biblical languages (Greek or Hebrew). A curriculum plan for this major is available through the Department of Theology.

Major with Ministerial Concentration (BA): This combines the above major in religion (34-38 hours) with a 21-25 hour ministerial concentration. Students who choose the ministerial curriculum must satisfy all normal integrative studies requirements. Students are strongly encouraged to satisfy I.S. language requirements by taking one of the Biblical languages (Greek or Hebrew). A curriculum plan for this program is available through the Department of Religion and Philosophy. The concentration curriculum is as follows:

CRFM 231	Foundations of Educational Ministry	2
MIN 316	Worship in the Church.....	4
MIN 317	Leadership in the Church.....	4
MIN 324	Principles of Expository Preaching	4
MIN 410	Ministerial Field Education	4-8
Select one of the following:		
URMN 250	Evang & Social Action in the Urban Context.....	3
MIN 328	Community and Society in Australia and New Zealand.....	4

Religion Minor: (12-14 hours)

Required courses:

PHIL 350	Reason and Religious Belief	2
----------	-----------------------------------	---

Select 2 of the following:

REL 221	Hinduism and Buddhism.....	2
REL 231	Judaism.....	2
INCL/MISS 360	Introduction to Islamic Foundations.....	4

Select additional courses from the following: (6-8 hours)

THEL 215	Christian Apologetics	4
THEL 313	Systematic Theology	4
BIBL 355	Biblical Theology I	2
BIBL 356	Biblical Theology II	2
THEL 220	History of Christianity	4

World Religions Minor: (14 hours)

REL 221	Hinduism/Buddhism.....	2
REL 225	Taoism/Confucianism.....	2
REL 231	Judaism.....	2
REL 222	New Religious Movements I.....	2
REL 232	New Religious Movements II.....	2
INCL/MISS 360	Introduction to Islamic Foundations.....	4

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GREK 101, 102 Beginning Greek Level 1, Level 2 (4/4, F/S)

Elements of the Koine Greek language. Stress on facility in reading selections from New Testament and Hellenistic literature. Cultural backgrounds in Greek civilization. This course or its equivalent is a prerequisite for all other Greek courses. GREK 102 satisfies Foreign Language Competency.

HEBR 101, 102 Beginning Hebrew Level 1, Level 2 (4/4, F/S)

Elements of Biblical Hebrew. Reading from Old Testament. HEBR 102 satisfies Foreign Language Competency.

MIN 210 Introduction to Christian Ministries (2, F11 & alternate years)

Investigation of the Biblical, historical, and practical foundations for ministry as essential components of Christian vocation. Lay and professional aspects of ministry are explored in the context of the vocational call. A broad overview of ministry-related fields will be presented, including parish, educational, cross-cultural, and parachurch ministries. This course is recommended for anyone who is interested in any form of full-time ministry.

MIN/THEL 316 Worship in the Church (4, F12 & alternate years)

An introduction to liturgical theology including explorations into the Biblical and theological foundations for worship and the sacramental life of the church. Special emphasis is given to the task of contextualization in planning worship services, and examining the pastoral role in the church's liturgical life and witness.

MIN 317 Leadership in the Church (4, S13 & alternate years)

Study of the pastoral office as it relates to the roles of counselor and administrator. Theories and techniques of pastoral counseling are considered. The administrative duties of the pastor are emphasized, with particular focus on church management, Parliamentary Law, and *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

MIN 324 Principles of Expository Preaching (4, S)

Focus is on the preparation and delivery of sermons. Combines the theory of organizational structure along with the tools and techniques for biblically-based preaching. Includes practice in preparing and preaching various types of expository sermons. Prerequisite: Presentational Speaking or permission.

-
- MIN 325 Life in the City** (3, F)
(See Off Campus Programs – Houghton College City Semester for description.)
- MIN/INCL/MISS/PSY/SOC/URMN 328 Community and Society in Australia and New Zealand** (4, F)
Examines social institutions in urban Australia and New Zealand. Analyzes social problems and institutional and community responses by churches and faith-based organizations, and compares them with those of governments, non-government organizations and prosocial community organizations. Community: Psychology or Sociology.
- MIN 410 Ministerial Field Education** (4, summer)
Professional field experience in a local church during a summer internship. Combines theory and practice of ministry through seminars and on-site supervision; focuses upon pastor as worship leader and pastor as shepherd.
- REL 221 Hinduism and Buddhism** (2, F11)
Examines the history, major beliefs and current practice of the Indic (Hindu, Buddhist) religious traditions. Special emphasis is given to the Christian encounter with these world faiths.
- REL 222 New Religious Movements I: Eastern Branches** (2, F11)
Examines the history and major beliefs of New Religious Movements that take their orientation from, or derive their impetus from critical confrontation with, one of the major Eastern traditions. Movements studied include Theosophy, Transcendental Meditation, Soka Gakkai, New Age.
- REL 225 Taoism and Confucianism** (2, OD)
Examines the history, major beliefs and current practice of the Sinic (Taoist and Confucian) religious traditions. Special emphasis is given to the Christian encounter with these faiths.
- REL 231 Judaism** (2, F12)
Examines in critical perspective the history and major beliefs of the Semitic religious traditions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). Special emphasis is given to the Christian encounter with Judaism and Islam.
- REL 232 New Religious Movements II: Western Branches** (2, F12)
Examines the history and major beliefs of New Religious Movements that take their orientation from, or derive their impetus from critical confrontation with, one of the major Western traditions. Movements studied include Jehovah's Witnesses, Nation of Islam, Satanism, and Wicca.
- REL 482 Senior Capstone: Seminar in Religion** (2, S)
A senior capstone colloquium required of all students with a major in religion or educational ministries.
- URMN 212 Urban Ministry** (4, F)
What is the ministry of the church and individual Christians within diverse, complex metropolitan areas? Introduction to the Bible and to research in behavioral sciences on the city with field trips and projects in the community.
- URMN 250 Evangelism and Social Action in the Urban Context** (3, May)
Examination of the biblical basis of evangelism and social justice. Through biblical, historical, and sociological/anthropological analyses and personal observation projects, students will assess ways in which evangelism and social action are related and will have an opportunity to develop their own theology and strategy of outreach. Taught in urban setting.