In keeping with Georgetown’s traditions, the curriculum of the Religion Department emphasizes the study of Christianity but does so in the broad context of religious studies as they are encountered in the past and present. To accomplish this task, the department requires majors to demonstrate:

- a basic understanding of the content of the Bible and an ability to interpret it in light of academic approaches;
- an understanding of the cultural and historical dimensions of religious phenomena and demonstrate a capacity to analyze them critically by focusing on special historical and cultural topics of study;
- a basic understanding of Christian theology and an ability to analyze it academically;
- a basic understanding of other world religions and a capacity to analyze them academically; and
- an ability to think critically about issues involving religious studies and to base conclusions on data from the appropriate major disciplines of religious studies.

Through the core courses, the department additionally seeks to introduce students to the varieties of religious expression. Majors and minors in the department have the opportunity to gain experience in ministry through courses and an optional supervised internship.

**Major**

**B.A. degree** Thirty-three semester hours required, including a 200-level course from each of the four areas of inquiry: Bible (REL231, 233, 235, 237), Cultural/Historical Studies (REL243, 245, 247, 249), World Religions (REL253, 255), and Christian Theological Studies (REL257); a 300-level course from each of the four areas of inquiry: Bible (REL325, 327, 371, 373), Cultural/ Historical Studies (REL341, 343, 345), World Religions (REL353), and Christian Theological Studies (REL357); either REL440 or REL450; and six additional hours of electives in the Religion Department. 18 hours must be at the 300 level or above.

**Minor**

Eighteen semester hours required, including one 200-level course from three of the following areas: Bible (REL231, 233, 235, 237), Cultural/ Historical Studies (REL243, 245, 247, 249), World Religions (REL253, 255), and Christian Theological Studies (REL257); one 300-level course from three of the following four areas: Bible (REL325, 327, 371, 373),
Cultural/Historical Studies (REL341, 343, 345), World Religions (REL353), and Christian Theological Studies (REL357).


203. Greek New Testament. (3 hours) Intermediate-level Greek grammar and reading of selected texts. Prerequisites: REL101 and 102. Even Falls

204. Greek New Testament II. (3 hours) Reading of selected texts from all major divisions of the Greek New Testament. Prerequisite: REL203. Odd Springs

211. Introduction to Christian Ministry. (3 hours) Presentation of biblical, historical, and practical information related to Christian ministry as a career. Designed for those interested in ministry, the course should aid students in making more mature, informed career decisions. Odd Falls

213. Missional Community. (3 hours) An examination of the biblical, historical, and theological basis for missional communities. This course will introduce students to missional strategies in the twenty-first century. Students will engage in practical projects and assignments that will help develop best practices in developing missional communities. Even Springs

215. Biblical Storytelling. (3 hours) A biblical, historical, and theological study of the forms of address employed by the church to share the Gospel. Particular attention will be given to the Gospel as narrative and biblical storytelling in the twenty-first century. Students will engage in practical projects and assignments that will help develop best practices and methods of biblical storytelling. Odd Springs

219. Youth and Family Ministries. (3 hours) A biblical, historical, and theological study of youth and family ministries. Particular attention will be given to ministering to young people and families in the twenty-first century. Students will engage in practical projects and assignments that will help develop best practices and methods for ministry. Even Falls

231. New Testament I. (3 hours) A survey of the content of the Gospels; attention to historical setting, basic literary problems, the history and teachings of Jesus, and the nature and interpretation of Gospel literature. Fall
233. **New Testament II.** (3 hours) A survey of the content of Acts, the New Testament Epistles, Hebrews, and Revelation. Special attention will be devoted to the historical, cultural, and literary contexts of these texts. **Spring**

235. **Old Testament Law and History.** (3 hours) A study of the content, historical and social context, literary structure, and theological value of the Old Testament books Genesis to Esther. **Fall**

237. **Old Testament Prophecy and Poetry.** (3 hours) A study of the content, historical and social context, literary structure, and theological value of the Old Testament prophets, the poetic books, and the book of Daniel. **Spring**

243. **The Christian Heritage.** (3 hours) A survey of major events, personalities, and issues in the history of Christianity. Attention will be given to Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism in all its varieties, including Pentecostalism. The course emphasizes the connections between the various Christian “pasts” and current events and issues within Christianity. **Fall and Spring**

245. **Religion and Popular Culture.** (3 hours) An introduction to the study of religion and popular culture. Special attention is given to the ways in which religious and secular values interact and find expression in mass media products such as literature, film, music, and television. **Fall**

247. **Religion and Politics.** (3 hours) A study of the complex relationship between religion and politics in colonial North America and in the history of the United States. Special attention is focused upon both the founding period and upon the modern context. **Odd Springs**

253. **Religions of the Modern World.** (3 hours) An introduction to the history, beliefs, practices, and overarching worldviews of the major religions of the modern world. Emphasis is placed upon understanding the perspective of the adherents of each tradition, rather than using a comparative method to make evaluative judgments about the merits of the various traditions. **Even Springs**

255. **Religions of the Ancient World.** (3 hours) An introduction to the religious texts, traditions, rituals, and ideas of the ancient Mediterranean world and the ancient Near East. The focus will be on a comparative analysis of the varieties of religious expression, with particular attention paid to the conceptual approaches to the study of religion, as well as to the historical, social, literary, and cultural contexts of religious practices. **Odd Falls**
257. Basic Christian Thought. (3 hours) A survey of Christian theology, examining the central ecclesial teachings of the Christian faith with special emphasis given to their biblical foundation, historical context, and contemporary relevance. Fall and Spring

341. Women in the Christian Tradition. (3 hours) An exploration of the involvement of women in the Christian tradition from the time of Jesus to the present. (Same as WST341.) Even Falls

343. Life and Faith of the Baptists. (3 hours) A survey of the history and vitality of the Baptists. Topics include the variety of Baptist groups, church life and style, controversies, institutional expression, and the future of Baptists. As needed

345. Advanced Topics in Cultural/Historical Studies. (3 hours) The study of special areas in cultural/historical studies. Among the topics that this course might include is Christianity in the modern era. Even Springs

353. Advanced Topics in World Religions. (3 hours) Advanced study in one of the world’s major religious cultures. It traces the origin of that culture and surveys its major beliefs, practices, traditions, scriptures (when applicable), values, and modern-day challenges. Spring

357. Advanced Topics in Theological Studies. (3 hours) The study of special areas in Christian theology. Examples might include Trinitarian theology, patristic theology, feminist theology, ecclesiology, liberation theology, or the theology of Jürgen Moltmann. Springs and Odd Falls

371. Advanced Topics in New Testament Interpretation. (3 hours) A study of individual books or areas within the New Testament with emphasis on topics of current interest in New Testament studies. Odd Springs

373. Advanced Topics in Old Testament Interpretation. (3 hours) A study of individual books or areas within the Old Testament with emphasis on topics of current interest. Odd Falls

375. Tutorial Topics. (3 hours) The study of a specific topic in Religion using the tutorial method adopted from the Oxford University humanities classes. Fall and Spring

379. Advanced Studies in Specialized Areas of Christian Ministry. (3 hours) Students will engage in practical projects and assignments that will help develop best practices for ministry. As needed

440. Independent Study. (1-3 hours) Fall and Spring
450. **Seminar.** (3 hours) Group study of a specialized area of religion including preparation and defense of a seminar paper. Prerequisite: Senior standing and major in department. As needed

460. **Internship.** (1-3 hours) Supervised experiences through a cooperative program with a religious worker or an institution as closely related as possible to the type of ministry the student is considering. Prerequisites: Consent of the supervising instructor. As needed