

# Religious Studies



## What Can I Do With a Religious Studies Major?

A major in Religious Studies, like other humanities majors, gives students the skills that employers say they want most: the ability to think and research, to speak and write clearly, and to work with diverse groups. Beyond that, however, religious studies majors have an understanding of key issues in personal life and society, and a commitment to making the world a better place. In addition to going on to graduate school in a variety of disciplines, they gain jobs in business, government, non-profits and charitable organizations, law, social services and education, among other areas.

## Faculty Spotlight



**Dr. Emily Clark**  
Assistant Professor

A graduate of Florida State University, Dr. Clark specializes in American religious history, African American religions, and Native American religions.

Currently, she is developing a course entitled "Native American Religions," which will debut in the spring of 2016. She actively encourages students to take courses with her and other religious studies professors because she believes it can help shrink misconceptions about the role of religion in American history and culture. With the 2016 presidential elections rapidly approaching, she pushes students to allow themselves to learn how to identify the religious rhetoric often hidden behind the language a candidate espouses. To this line of thinking, what Dr. Clark cherishes most about teaching is the rewarding feeling she experiences when watching her students form previously unknown connections between religion, gender, politics, culture and history.



**Dr. April Hughes**  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Hughes was originally set on a pre-medicine track in her undergraduate career, however, an enlightening trip to Thailand left her with a plethora of questions concerning Asian religions. That summer trip spurred some elective classes in religion, beginning with a Buddhism course. Eventually Dr. Hughes changed her major to religious studies and hasn't looked back since. Her favorite course to teach, not surprisingly, is Visions of the Buddha. Scheduled for both fall and spring of this academic year, the course focuses on practice and iconography in addition to dispelling some inaccurate Western representations of Buddhism. When asked to comment on the merit of studying in her area as a student, Dr. Hughes remarked "it is important for students to understand and be exposed to ideas outside of their own cultural realm...to gain more of a global perspective."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 9, 2015**

Fall Flannery Lecture  
Speaker: Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF  
"Evolution and The Power of Love: Towards a Holistic Consciousness"

Cataldo Hall, Globe Rm.  
6:30 p.m./ FREE & Open to all

## GET CONNECTED

For more event information, go to [www.gonzaga.edu/religious-studies](http://www.gonzaga.edu/religious-studies)

Visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/GUreligiousstudies](https://www.facebook.com/GUreligiousstudies)

Contact us at (509) 313-6782

Fall  
**15**

## Major & Minor in Religious Studies

The major consists of a core of 24 credits, in Scripture, Christian history and thought, ethics, and interreligious dialog. Students are then able to choose a 12-credit concentration in either Christian theology or religious pluralism, resulting in 36 credits for the major.

A minor is an excellent complement to a variety of majors. It consists of 18 credits, or 9 credits in addition to the 9 credits required by the University Core. Students take a course each in Scripture, Christianity/Catholic traditions, and World/Comparative Religions, plus three elective courses.



For worksheets specific to your degree, look for "CAS Degree Workshop" on our website!

## Fast Track to Change the World

### Religious Studies & Law 3+3

The Religious Studies Department and Gonzaga School of Law have established a dual degree program that enables students to complete the undergraduate major in three years and a law degree in three years, shortening the normal seven years for a B.A. and a J.D. to six (or five, with the accelerated law program). Students will normally enter this program in their freshman year, complete the undergraduate core and major programs in three years and enter the law school in their fourth year. Their first year of law school will complete their bachelor of arts degree and they will then move on to complete their law degree. Contact Robert Hauck (hauck@gonzaga.edu), Religious Studies Department Chair, if you are interested in this program.

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## Fun, Food and Friends at the Major/Minor Social

The Religious Studies Department held a Major/Minor social at the Huetter Mansion on Sept. 16. Dr. John Sheveland and Dr. Joe Mudd talked about the importance of studying religion today. Students and faculty enjoyed appetizers and great conversation. It was a big success!



## Student Spotlight

**Lauren Doscher**  
Class of 2015

Lauren was honored as the 2015 recipient of the Theta Alpha Kappa Award for her academic achievement, leadership skills, outstanding public service and promise for further graduate study in the disciplines of theology and religious studies. She graduated with a B.A. degree, sporting a double major in english and religious studies. While pursuing her goal of teaching English at a Jesuit high school, she took on a major in Religion to better understand the subject as it shapes the policies and environment of Jesuit schools. She loves studying the role religion had in shaping interpersonal relationships and hopes to use her education to her advantage as a career in education advances. Currently, she is living in her hometown of Tacoma, Washington and preparing to move to Boston, Massachusetts in the fall of 2015. While in Boston, she will be studying to earn her master's degree in education.

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