

Religious Studies



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 23, 2017

Spring Flannery Lecture
Speaker: Dr. Patrick McCormick
Professor of Religious Studies,
Gonzaga University
Hemmingson Center Ballroom
6:30 PM/ FREE & Open to all

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Introducing Internships

Are you looking for ways to gain work experience, explore a variety of careers, build a resume, connect your interests in religion, theology, ethics, and social justice with organizations that are engaged in practical work in the world, and get academic credit? The Religious Studies Department offers RELI 497: Internship.

A Religious Studies internship offers valuable professional experience in non-profit, faith based, ecclesial, or governmental organizations, while creating opportunity to explore potential career paths. We are currently pursuing internships with organizations like the Arc of Spokane, and the Spokane Faith and Values website, but the possibilities are endless. Internships can be from 0-6 credits and be paid or unpaid. If you are interested in pursuing an internship, please contact Rob Hauck, Chair of the Religious Studies Department (hauck@gonzaga.edu) or Chris Ryman, Internship Manager in the Career and Professional Development office (ryman@gonzaga.edu).

Faculty Spotlight

Happy Retirement Dr. Siejk!



After more than two decades of teaching at Gonzaga University, the Religious Studies departments very own Dr. Cate Siejk will be retiring following this Spring semester. Dr. Siejk came to Gonzaga in the fall of 1991, while completing her Ph.D. in Theology and Education at Boston College. Like Gonzaga, her undergraduate had Religious Studies requirements and during her junior year she took a course entitled Patristic Theology and found her passion. Dr. Siejk regularly teaches Feminist Christian Doctrine and Feminist Theologies but regards graduate courses in Religious Education as her favorite since they correspond closely with her Ph.D. Although she will miss her friends

and colleagues in the Gonzaga community she will also miss the way in which her classes impact a student's life. A former student once told Dr. Siejk that her class gave that student a voice. In her retirement, she looks forward to spending time with her loved ones and horseback riding!

SPRING
17

Seminar Spring 2017

The Religious Studies Department is always working on how best to serve our majors and minors. This coming Spring, Dr. Goldstein is designing a new Junior seminar experience. Part of the goal of this seminar is to introduce students to different ways and methods of thinking about Religious Studies. Dr. Goldstein is inviting her colleagues into the seminar over the course of the semester to introduce students to the Religious Studies faculty. The hope is that the faculty will explain how they were trained, how their careers have evolved, and share their passion for the study of religion. In this way, we hope the students will see a multifaceted approach to what they can study and to what they can apply their studies as they think beyond Gonzaga.

The seminar will be studying *Nine Theories of Religion* by Daniel Pals. Students will be reading and applying these theories to Valerio Valeri's *Forest of Taboos* about the Huauilu people (a religion they know nothing about). Applying different methods to the study of a religion that is unfamiliar often provides the opportunity to look anew at one's own faith tradition. Having more contact with our faculty and engaging in the study of religion from a variety of perspectives will hopefully expand and enrich the experience of our majors and minors.

For more information, please contact Dr. Goldstein at goldstein@gonzaga.edu.

First MATL Cohort moves towards Graduation

The Religious Studies Graduate Program began its new Master of Arts in Theology and Leadership with its first cohort of 14 students in the Summer of 2015. The students from this cohort are now beginning to make their way towards graduation in December 2017. The MATL is an innovative 2 ½ year online program built upon Ignatian pedagogy and framed around 4 themes: Leadership, Social Justice, Intercultural Communication and Reconciliation. The curriculum is grounded by a strong theological core including Scripture, Systematic theology, Christian History and Ethics. However, unlike traditional graduate programs in Theology, the MATL also includes courses in Organizational Leadership, Faith in Dialogue, Contemporary Issues, and Ignatian Spirituality.

Students in this program come from a diversity of backgrounds and are involved in a variety of ministry and mission-related vocations, such as campus ministry, religious education and non-profit administration. The program includes two intensive on-site summer residencies, which include workshops, presentations and retreats. A second cohort of 16 began last summer and as the program continues to grow, a third cohort will begin this summer.

For more information, go to <https://online.gonzaga.edu/masters-theology-leadership> or contact the program co-directors, Dr. Anastasia Wendlinder at wendlinder@gonzaga.edu or Dr. Joe Mudd at mudd@gonzaga.edu.



Congratulations Fr. Patrick Baraza!

Fr. Baraza earned 100% on his citizenship exam and is now a citizen of the United States of America.



Janine Warrington '17

Where are you from? What drew you to Gonzaga?

I grew up in Medical Lake, WA. I was always told that I would be a Zag because my mom works here.

What made you choose religious studies as your major?

During my freshman year, I was standing in my dorm room when I was suddenly struck by the question: "What if I'm wrong?" I became abruptly aware that there are thousands of people who believe in gods unfamiliar to me at least as strongly as I believed in Jesus. The only course of action I could think of was to learn as much about my own tradition and other religious traditions as possible.

What has been the best religious studies class you have taken?

The most transformative class I have taken was Interreligious Dialogue with Dr. Sheveland.

What is next after graduation?

In a couple of years, I hope to go to school for a Master's in Divinity, Pastoral Care, or Counseling. In the more immediate future, I will hopefully get some social justice/service experience. I also intend to write a few more graphic novels!

Why is it important to learn about different religions?

God is huge. We can't understand him/her/them. People are complex and varied. We can't understand them, either. Being open to various religious traditions helps us to be aware of the complexity of the world and to ward off pride in thinking that we understand the cosmos.