



# Religious Studies DEPARTMENT

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## MAJORS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES WITH  
CONCENTRATIONS IN:

- Biblical Studies
- Pre-Theological Studies
- Christian Ministries
- Social & Ecological Justice

## MINORS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Rooted in the Catholic and Dominican traditions where “faith seeks understanding,” Religious Studies at Edgewood College employs academic inquiry, scholarly research, experiential learning and intellectual reflection to examine the religious experience and its multiple expressions.

In so doing, we

- develop our critical and intellectual capacities;
- expand the understanding of ourselves and our world;
- deepen our own spiritualities and commitments; and
- cultivate genuine respect and appreciation for the truths and values expressed in the traditions and spiritualities of others.

The Religious Studies Department welcomes women and men of diverse backgrounds, religious affiliations, ethnic and racial identifications, and sexual orientations—indeed the entire community—to join us in the Dominican Search for Truth.

Students interested in the *Biblical Studies concentration* may focus on Hebrew Scriptures and/or Christian Scriptures.

Those considering graduate school or seminary complete *Pre-Theological Studies*.

The *Christian Ministries concentration* includes additional coursework, practica, and internships in religious education, youth ministry, campus ministry, family ministry, pastoral ministry, liturgical ministry, pastoral musicianship, social justice ministry, and/or church administration.

*Social and Ecological Justice*, like the Religious Studies major and other concentrations, helps prepare students for careers in justice advocacy, sustainability, political activism, law, journalism, social work, government, education, business, and public policy.

A second major or minor in religious studies provides students studying History, Art, Music, Philosophy, Peace and Conflict studies, Political Science, Healthcare, Education, Child Life or Ecology with a better understanding of religious communities and the many longstanding ideological conflicts that have shaped the contemporary world.

## SAMPLE COURSES

### RS 147 - Spirituality and Justice

While focusing on your own Spirituality, this course examines the worldviews, beliefs, values, and practices that characterize the spiritualities of Jesus of Nazareth and others who have been inspired by his vision of justice throughout history. Includes opportunities to observe and collaborate in local efforts and ritual celebrations advocating racial, ethnic, gender, economic, and/or ecological justice. How is your own spirituality involved in building a more just and compassionate world?

### RS 210 - Jesus and the Gospels

What about Jesus? Who was he? Who is he? We cannot attend to these questions without a close reading of early Christian literature. This course examines the Gospels and selected documents created by the earliest Christians through lenses drawn from historical, theological, and narrative methodologies. After examining one of the Gospels in detail, we engage a selection of Jesus' moral and ethical teachings and the impacts the Jesus event had on the literary world of early Christianity. Rather than definitive answers, however, we seek relevant questions. We discover the power these documents have to draw us deeply into their world and to see our own with more clarity and precision.

### RS 344 - Women & Multi-Cultural Theologies

How do women theologians from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds understand and discuss God, Jesus, Human Beings, the Bible, Spirituality, Ecology and the Roles of Women in religion and society today? From multicultural perspectives, this course explores the questions, experiences, values, concerns, and challenges that women bring to the understanding and practice of Christian faith and its implications for building a more just and compassionate world.

## FACULTY

JOHN LEONARD, PH.D.  
Department Chair  
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“From Christianity to Hinduism and Native American Spirituality; from Biblical studies to Ecology & Social Justice, I study the ways people explore, explain & celebrate the mysteries of life--as a way to figure out how to live mine.”

HALIE TENOR '17

RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR