



Religious Studies

The Passion

Gonzaga's Mission and Vision Statements identify the distinguishing characteristics of Gonzaga as Jesuit, Catholic and humanistic. These pillars of the Jesuit tradition emphasize: finding God in all things, caring for the whole person, promoting justice, and being women and men for and with others, especially the poor. The Catholic tradition affirms the centrality of Christ at work in the world, the guidance of scripture, the task of faith seeking understanding, and the importance of social responsibility. The humanistic tradition affirms humanity's creativity and intelligence, reflected in its societies and cultures, especially within the arts and sciences.

All Gonzaga students—independent of their majors—take religious studies courses. These courses advance the essential values of the Gonzaga mission. The three-course sequence of the Religious Studies Core develops an integration of Biblical Foundations (100-level courses) with Christian Thought or History (200-level courses), and with an emphasis on Engagement (300-level courses).

The Program

Gonzaga's religious studies major requires 33 credits, including 12 elective credits, a course in non-Christian religious tradition, and a senior symposium. Electives vary widely and allow students to focus in areas as diverse as scripture, spirituality, systematic theology, liturgy, ministry studies, and religion and culture. Examples of elective courses in religious studies include Dead Sea Scrolls, Human Rights and Religion, American Catholicism, and Christian Spiritual Traditions. A minor in religious studies requires only 18 credits. This means that all students at Gonzaga are halfway to a minor in religious studies simply by completing the Core requirements!

In addition to a major and minor, the Religious Studies Department also offers a 12-credit Certificate of Ministry Program for students in other academic disciplines who wish to pursue their work in ministry. The Department also offers a Master of Arts in Religious Studies with a concentration in either Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, or Spirituality.

The Potential

Students and graduates from the Religious Studies department can be found working in a variety of fields and studying in a wide array of graduate programs. Many students use their religious studies background as part of their preparation for careers in law, counseling, education, business, health care, journalism, ministry, and in the administration of hospitals, schools, and church communities. Recent graduates have joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps

and the Peace Corps, as well as other social service agencies.

Many students use their Gonzaga undergraduate studies as a springboard to prestigious graduate programs. After receiving their bachelor's degree, religious studies majors have attended graduate schools such as Boston College, The University of Chicago, Marquette University, and the University of Notre Dame.

The People

The Religious Studies Department faculty hold the distinction of being among the most widely published in the University. They have received their doctoral degrees from some of the most prestigious institutions in both the United States and Europe. They are nationally- and internationally-known scholars, highly sought after for presentations, workshops, conferences and retreats. They are best known, however, for being mentors, advisors, and friends of Gonzaga students studying in their classes and chatting in their offices. They are a high caliber, face-to-face faculty known for their teaching and advising of undergraduate students.

A Sample of Faculty Publications:

Mary Garvin, S.N.J.M., "Dusting off the Document?—Reflections on the 10th Anniversary of the Jesuit General Congregation's Document on Women," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education: Listening to Women—Equity and Impact*. Spring 2006.

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Fr. Patrick Hartin, James, First Peter, Jude, Second Peter. New Collegeville Bible Commentary: New Testament. Vol. 10. Series Editor Daniel Durken. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2006.

Patrick McCormick, "Catholic Social Teaching & Health Care for All," *Verbum Incarnatum*, October 2008.

Kevin McCrudden, "Solidarity Perfected: Beneficent Christology in the Epistle to the Hebrews." *BZNV* 159 (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2008).

John Sheveland, "The Meaningfulness of Yoga to Christian Discipleship." *The Way: A Review of Christian Spirituality*. Published by the British Jesuits 47 (July 2008): 49-62.

Faculty Contacts and Specialties:

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Amy Merrill Willis, Ph.D., Emory University; specializes in Hebrew scriptures. (willis@gonzaga.edu)

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