Religious Studies

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 tradition of faith seeking understanding, the importance of social responsibility, and appreciation of religious difference. The humanistic tradition affirms humanity's creativity and intelligence reflected in its societies, cultures, and religious traditions.

THE PROGRAM
All Gonzaga students—indeed of their majors—take Religious Studies courses as part of the University Core Curriculum. These courses advance the essential values of the Gonzaga mission. They consist of one course in Christianity and Catholic Traditions, and one course in world or comparative religions.

Gonzaga's Religious Studies major requires 36 credits, including an eight course integrated core (24 credits) and one of two concentrations (either Christian Theology or Religious Pluralism—each 9 credits). Each concentration requires students to complete one course in three of four areas, plus a Senior Seminar. A minor in Religious Studies requires only six courses (18 credits). That means that all students at Gonzaga are on their way to a minor in Religious Studies simply by completing the University's Core requirements.

The Religious Studies/Law 3+3 program consists of three years in the Department and three years in the Law School, resulting in a B.A. in Religious Studies and a J.D. from the Gonzaga University School of Law in six years. This program allows students to engage in furthering justice and the common good in our complex and diverse world. Students should begin the program in their freshman year.

OUTCOMES
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.

Religious studies is often good preparation for careers in law, counseling, education, business, health care, journalism, ministry, and 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 who are 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 work teaching and advising undergraduate students.

Sample Faculty Publications


FACULTY CONTACTS & SPECIALITIES

Kevin Mccruden | Dept. Chair
Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago
New Testament
mccruden@gonzaga.edu

Fr. Patrick Wanakuta Baraza
Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley)
Islamic studies and African traditional religions
baraza@gonzaga.edu

I-ling (Gloria) Chien
Ph.D., University of Virginia
Buddhism, asian religions
chien@gonzaga.edu

Emily Clark
Ph.D., Florida State University
American religion and culture
clarke2@gonzaga.edu

Michael Cook, S.J.
Professor Emeritus
Th.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley)
systematic theology and Christology
cookm@gonzaga.edu

John Downey
Professor Emeritus
Ph.D., Marquette University
fundamental and political theology
downey@gonzaga.edu

Shannon Dunn
Ph.D., Florida State University
comparative Islamic and Christian ethics,
gender and religion, and use of violence in religious discourses
dunns@gonzaga.edu

Elizabeth Goldstein
Ph.D., University of California, San Diego
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Jewish studies
goldstein@gonzaga.edu

Robert Hauck
Ph.D., Duke University
history of early Christianity
hauck@gonzaga.edu

Steve Kuder, S.J.
Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley)
religion and literature
kuder@gonzaga.edu

Ron Large
Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley)
Christian ethics and non-violence studies
large@gonzaga.edu

Megan McCabe
Ph.D., Boston College
theological ethics
mccabem@gonzaga.edu

Patrick McCormick
S.T.D., Gregorian University (Rome)
Christian ethics and Catholic social thought
mccormick@gonzaga.edu

Joy Milos, C.S.J.
Ph.D., Catholic University of America
Christian spirituality and spiritual direction studies
milos@gonzaga.edu

Joseph Mudd
Ph.D., Boston College
sacramental/liturgical theology
mudd@gonzaga.edu

Joseph Nguyen, S.J.
S.T.D. Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University
theology
nguyen@gonzaga.edu

Matthew Rindge
Ph.D., Emory University
New Testament and Christianity and culture
rindge@gonzaga.edu

Linda Scheiring
Ph.D., Emory University
Hebrew scriptures
scheiring@gonzaga.edu

John Sheveland
Ph.D., Boston College
interreligious dialogue and comparative theology
sheveland@gonzaga.edu

R. Brian Siebeking
Ph.D., University of Virginia
Quran and Sufism
siebeking@gonzaga.edu

Cate Siejk
Professor Emerita
Ph.D., Boston College
religious education and feminist studies
siejk@gonzaga.edu

Scott Starbuck
Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary
Hebrew Bible
starbuck@gonzaga.edu

Bernie Tyrrell, S.J.
Professor Emeritus
Ph.D., Fordham University
A.B. Gonzaga University
philosophy of religion
tyrrell@gonzaga.edu

Anastasia Wendlinger
Ph.D., Notre Dame University
systematic and sacramental theology
wendlinger@gonzaga.edu

Kevin M. Vander Schel
Ph.D., Boston College
systematic theology
vanderschel@gonzaga.edu