
Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

General: 120 minimum total hours, including 45 hours of upper-level courses (3000-4000 level), and 30 hours in residence

First-Year Colloquium (0-3 hours)

Required of full-time freshmen entering college for the first time and transfer students with less than 12 hours of credit. (See page 36 for details)

Core (35 hours)

See "General Education Requirements."

Second Language Proficiency (0-9 hours)

Completion of 2000-level second language course or demonstrate equivalent proficiency. See page 25 for details.

Major (60 hours)

Required Courses (6 hours)

IDST 3350 Reasoning Across the Disciplines
IDST 3350 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone

Three Disciplines of Study (18 hours in each; 54 hours total).

Students will choose 2 areas from Category I and a 3rd area from either Category I or from any other department or program offering an approved 18-hour course of study. This includes any minor available at UALR. Consult with the BAIS Education Counselor for other options.

Category I areas:

Anthropology, Art (Studio), Art History, Creative Writing, Dance, English (Literature), French, Gender studies, Geography, History, International Studies, Legal Studies, Linguistics, Music, Nonprofit Professional Studies, Philosophy, Philosophy/Religious Studies, Photography, Political Science, Presidential Studies, Professional and Technical Writing, Psychology, Race and Ethnicity Studies, Religious Studies, Theater Arts, Sociology, Spanish
Minor (none required)

Unrestricted General Electives

Remaining hours, if any, to reach 120 minimum total hours, 45 hours of upper-level courses (3000-4000 level), and/ or 30 hours in residence.

Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Online

The major in Interdisciplinary Studies is a degree completion program that can be completed wholly online. Interested students should contact Angela Bell at (501) 569-3411 or by email at arbell@ualr.edu.

Program requirements are the same as the on-campus program, but the areas that can be completed on line are limited to the following areas in Category I (student must select 2 areas of study from this list):

History Legal Studies Philosophy and Religious Studies Political Science	Professional and Technical Writing Psychology (General) Sociology
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Category II areas for the online degree are (students may select one area from this list)

Criminal Justice Health, Human Performance & Sport Management	Management Mathematics Speech Communication
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For more information about the Interdisciplinary Studies major online, visit ualr.edu/interdisciplinary/.

Minor in Philosophy (18 hours)

Foundation: 2 courses, 6 hours Required

PHIL 1310 Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 1330 Critical Thinking
or PHIL 2350 Logic

Electives: 4 courses, 12 hours Required

PHIL 2320 Ethics and Society
PHIL 3310 Theories of Knowledge
PHIL 3312 Science and Culture
PHIL 3315 Philosophy and Narrative
PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy
PHIL 3321 19th and 20th Century Philosophy
PHIL 3335 Medical Ethics
PHIL 3341 Contemporary Ethical Theory
PHIL 3345 Ancient Greek Philosophy
PHIL 3347 Philosophy of Law
RELS 3350 Eastern Thought
RELS 3360 Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 3370 Existentialism
PHIL 3372 Philosophy and the Arts
PHIL 4333 Feminist Theory
PHIL 4350 Classical Political Theory
PHIL 4350 Modern Political Theory
PHIL 4373 Philosophy of Race
PHIL 4380 Topics in Philosophy
PHIL 4385 Seminar in History of Philosophy
PHIL 4386 Seminar in Social / Political
PHIL 4387 Seminar in Moral Philosophy
PHIL 4388 Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology
PHIL 4390 Independent Study

Minor in Philosophy/Religious Studies (18 hours)

3 required foundation courses (9 hours)

PHIL 1310 Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 1330 Critical Thinking
or PHIL 2350 Logic
RELS 2305 World Religions

3 elective courses (9 hours)

1 upper-level course in Philosophy (PHIL)
1 upper-level course in Religious Studies (RELS)
1 elective course in either Philosophy or Religious Studies

Minor in Religious Studies (18 hours)

Most people experience religion from within some particular religious tradition. However, to study religion from the academic standpoint is to adopt the perspective of a detached but empathetic observer. Using the tools and methodologies of the humanities and social sciences, the student of religion seeks to better understand the perspective of religious people, to map and explain the various elements of religious life, and finally, to evaluate the claims made by religious people and the role of religion in human life.

The minor is of value to students preparing for further study in religious studies or allied fields after graduation, such as graduate school or seminary, and to those who want to understand one of humanity's most basic responses to life.

Foundation: 1 course, 3 hours Required

RELS 2305 World Religions

Major Religious Traditions: 1 course, 3 hours Required

RELS 3320 Christianity

RELS 3370 Judaism

RELS 3350 Eastern Thought

RELS 3336 Islam

RELS 4385 Seminar in Major Religions

Electives: 4 courses from any unused courses above and any of the below, 12 hours Required

RELS 2333 Introduction to Religious Studies

RELS 3330 Religious Countercultures

RELS 3333 Reading Sacred Texts

RELS 3338 Religion & Modern S. Asia

RELS 3340 Meditation Techniques

RELS 3360 Philosophy of Religion

RELS 3363 Psychology of Religion

RELS 4321 Religion, Society & Culture

RELS 4380 Topics in Religion

Courses in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST)

IDST 3350 Reasoning Across the Disciplines

Students will study interdisciplinary processes and concerns that apply to the liberal arts, including reading and thinking critically, making effective arguments, exploring research techniques, and writing effectively. Three credit hours.

IDST 4350 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone

A capstone course for the Interdisciplinary Studies major. Students will employ interdisciplinary methodology and critical thinking skills to examine and evaluate a topic. Students will also use critical thinking skill to reflect on their chosen areas of concentration and on the value of an interdisciplinary studies major. Three credit hours.

Courses in Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 1110 Introduction to Ethics

Overview of ethical theory and moral reasoning; case-based approach emphasizing ethical issues in business and technology. Same as IFSC 1110. One hour lecture per week. One credit hour.

PHIL 1310 Introduction to Philosophy

Prerequisite: RHET 1311. Survey of basic themes in philosophy. Addresses such fundamental concerns as the nature of morality and beauty, the reasonableness of religious conviction, the nature of persons and the existence of free will, the status of animals and the environment, the relation of mind and body, the structure of a just society, and the nature of art through discussion and analysis of readings. Three credit hours. (ACTS Course Number PHIL 1103)

PHIL 1330 Introduction to Critical Thinking

An introduction to reasoning skills. Focus on the recognition of informal fallacies, the nature, use, and evaluation of arguments, and the characteristics of inductive and deductive arguments. Three credit hours. (ACTS Course Number PHIL 1003)

PHIL 2320 Ethics and Society

Prerequisite: RHET 1311. Study of selected texts reflecting a variety of ethical systems from Western and non-Western literary heritages and ethical traditions. Assigned works represent several national ethical literatures, with at least one major ethical text from each of four periods (antiquity, medieval, early modern, and contemporary). Three credit hours.

PHIL 2350 Introduction to Logic

Prerequisite: instructor consent. Introduction to deductive logic including translation of sentences into formal systems, immediate inferences, syllogisms, formal fallacies, proofs of validity, and quantification. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3310 Theories of Knowledge

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310 or PHIL 2320 or instructor consent. Introduction to the field of epistemology. Skeptical and realist positions will be assessed by analyzing internal and external accounts of knowledge (including coherence, foundation, naturalized, and reliabilist theories). The connection between epistemology and artificial intelligence will also be examined. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3312 Science and Culture

Prerequisite: PHIL 2320 or PHIL 1310 or consent of instructor. Examination of the methods, presuppositions, and implications of empirical science. Special emphasis will be given to the metaphysical assumptions that ground the scientific enterprise, and the interface between the pursuit of science and the moral interests of society. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3315 Philosophy and Narrative

This course will focus on philosophical issues relevant to one or more of the following topic areas: philosophical issues in literature and film, theories of drama and performance, the politics of narrative, and recent hermeneutical theory. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310 or PHIL 2320, or instructor consent. This course will examine the writings of early modern philosophers (including Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant) and their influence on nineteenth century philosophers (including Hegel, Marx, and Kierkegaard). Three credit hours.

PHIL 3321 Kant & 19th Century Philosophy

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310, PHIL 2320, or instructor consent. This course investigates the work of Immanuel Kant and its influence on selected philosophical figures and works of the nineteenth century. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3322 Contemporary Philosophy

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310, PHIL 2320, or instructor consent. This course will explore major developments in twentieth and twenty-first century philosophy. The themes and central figures under investigation will vary, but special emphasis will be placed on topics of current philosophical debate as well as those that bear directly on wider contemporary concerns. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3335 Medical Ethics

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310 or PHIL 2320 or instructor consent. Analysis of ethical issues in medicine affecting patients, health-care workers, and the public. Materials drawn from medical, legal, philosophical, and psychiatric sources, addressing such issues as euthanasia, abortion, assisted suicide, involuntary commitment, resource distribution, AIDS, and health insurance. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3341 Contemporary Ethical Theory

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310, or PHIL 2320, or instructor consent (granted on the basis of similar preparation). This course examines some fundamental issues in 20th-21st century ethical theory. In addition to exploring recent defenses and criticisms of leading normative theories, the course focuses on recent work in meta-ethics-in particular, debates about moral realism and non-realism. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3345 Ancient Greek Philosophy

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310 or PHIL 2320 or instructor consent. Philosophical positions of ancient Greek philosophers (Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, and others) and their influence on medieval philosophers (Augustine, Aquinas, Averroes, and others). Three credit hours.

PHIL 3346 Social and Political Philosophy

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310, PHIL 2320, or instructor consent. This course will survey a number of different approaches to social and political philosophy. Students will have the opportunity to investigate and consider the role of the government, the engagement of individuals within society, and the relationship between law and politics. Similarly, students will read texts from throughout the history of philosophy in an effort to gain an appreciation of the varieties of theoretical approaches to society and the state.

PHIL 3347 Philosophy of Law

Prerequisite: PHIL 2320 or PHIL 1310 or consent of instructor. Examination of topics and areas of study in jurisprudence such as the justification for coercion and punishment; the nature, moral foundation, and authority of law; liberty and freedom of expression under the law; feminist legal theory; critical race theory and other contemporary challenges. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3350 Eastern Thought

Prerequisite: 3 hours of Philosophy, or 3 hours of Religious Studies, or instructor consent. Survey of the beliefs, practices, and group structures of the major Eastern religious and social traditions (including Hinduism, Mahayana and Zen Buddhism, Shintoism, and Confucianism). Three credit hours.

PHIL 3360 Philosophy of Religion

Prerequisite: 3 hours of Philosophy, or 3 hours of Religious Studies, or instructor consent. Major issues in the philosophy of religion including the knowledge of God, the problem of evil, life after death, religious language and experience, and the relationship of faith and reason. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3370 Existentialism

Prerequisite: introductory philosophy course or instructor consent. Survey of the existential philosophers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries including Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, Jaspers, Marcel, and Tillich. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3372 Philosophy and the Arts

This course investigates influential historical and/or contemporary contributions to aesthetics, philosophy of the arts, and philosophy of arts criticism. Topics may include: the nature of art and beauty; principles of criticism, standards of taste, and uniquely correct interpretations; the nature of an appropriate response to an artwork; the reality of aesthetic properties; and the relations between art, morality, and emotion. Three credit hours.

PHIL 3375 Environmental Philosophy

Prerequisite: PHIL 1310, PHIL 2320, or instructor consent. This course explores key texts and themes within the field of Environmental Philosophy. It will explore a variety of questions concerning the relationship between human beings and the natural world. Such questions may include, but are not limited to: what constitutes nature, what the relationship is between humanity and our environment, and what our obligations are toward non-human animals and natural habitats.

PHIL 3177, 3277, 3377 Applied Ethics Practicum

This course offers students an opportunity to apply normative ethical theories across a wide spectrum of real world case studies. The three hour option of this course includes travel to regional and/or national ethics bowl competitions. One and two credit hour options are available for students unable to travel. Additionally, and depending on specific term, students have the option of working with local high schools and organizations in preparation for ethics bowl events like the Arkansas Regional High School Ethics Bowl.

PHIL 4333 Feminist Theory

This course will study major issues in feminist theory, including historical and contemporary debates, and seeks a broad understanding of the development of various strands of feminist thought and the resulting range of interpretive possibilities. It may include explorations of feminist perspectives on epistemology, metaphysics, social and political theory, and ethics, as well as race, class, sexuality, and nationality. Three credit hours.

PHIL 4350 Classical Political Theory

Prerequisite: POLS 1310 or junior standing. Major political ideas and doctrines of political thinkers from Plato to Montesquieu, with emphasis on the contributions of each to the theory and practice of government. Dual-listed in the UALR Graduate Catalog as POLS 5380. Three credit hours.

PHIL 4360 Modern Political Theory

[See course description for POLS 4390 Modern Political Theory.]

PHIL 4373 Philosophy of Race

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of race and ethnicity. It will explore the philosophical assumptions behind concepts of race, including: 1) historical origins and contemporary views of race and racial identities; 2) the intersection of racism and other forms of oppression; or 3) race in the history of philosophy.

PHIL 4280, 4380 Topics in Philosophy

Feminism, philosophy of art, metaphysics, and race theory are possible topics. Topics and course offering varies on demand. Two or three credit hours.

PHIL 4385 Seminar in History of Philosophy

Prerequisites: Phil 1310 and PHIL 2320 or Instructor Consent. This seminar allows participants to pursue intensive study of a pivotal movement or central figure in the history of philosophy or the development of a particular idea. Topics may include Plato, Hellenistic Philosophy, Stoicism, Skepticism: Ancient and Modern, German Idealism, Marx and Marxism, Rationalism, Logical Positivism, Analytic Philosophy, or Post-structuralism. Three credit hours.

PHIL 4386 Seminar in Social/Political Philosophy

Prerequisites: Phil 1310 and PHIL 2320 or Instructor Consent. This seminar allows participants to pursue intensive study of a pivotal movement or central figure in the history of philosophy or the development of a particular idea. Topics may include Plato, Hellenistic Philosophy, Stoicism, Skepticism: Ancient and Modern, German Idealism, Marx and Marxism, Rationalism, Logical Positivism, Analytic Philosophy, or Post-structuralism. Three credit hours.

PHIL 4388 Seminar in Metaphysics / Epistemology

Prerequisites: Phil 1310 and PHIL 2320 or Instructor Consent. This seminar course offers an opportunity to either explore in greater depth a topic within metaphysics or epistemology that has been introduced in other courses offered by the department or explore a topic that is not covered in other regularly offered courses. Three credit hours.

PHIL 4387 Seminar in Moral Philosophy

Prerequisites: Phil 1310 and PHIL 2320 or Instructor Consent. This seminar course offers an opportunity to either explore in greater depth a topic within moral philosophy that has been introduced in other courses offered by the department or explore a topic that is not covered in other regularly offered courses. Three credit hours.

PHIL 4290, 4390 Independent Study

Prerequisites: senior standing, 15 hours of philosophy, consent of instructor. Selective reading and written project on a topic submitted by the student and approved by the instructor before registration. Open only to students with demonstrated ability to write research papers of superior quality in philosophy. Applicants unknown to the instructor should submit academic transcripts and samples of their research papers in philosophy. Two or three credit hours.

Courses in Religious Studies (RELS)

RELS 2305 World Religions

Prerequisite: RHET 1311 recommended. This course examines the histories and contemporary global patterns of major religions, as total symbol systems and expressions of civilizational world views. It focuses on the development of the beliefs, practices, and ethics of different religious traditions- including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Three credit hours.

RELS 2333 Introduction to Religious Studies

This course will familiarize students with a variety of theoretical approaches and social-scientific methods used in this interdisciplinary field. It will also highlight central issues that arise in studying religion from the academic standpoint for example: the difficulties of defining religion, the differences between "insider" and "outsider" perspectives, the challenges that arise in comparing religions, and attempts to explain the origin of religion. Three credit hours.

RELS 3320 Christianity

Prerequisite: RELS 2305 or consent of instructor. A survey of major developments in the history of Christian thought from its origins in the New Testament through the Protestant Reformation. Three credit hours.

RELS 3330 Religious Countercultures

A cross-cultural survey of sects and cults throughout history, emphasizing contemporary groups in America. Examination of relevant issues concerning cults; the definitions of sect and cult; the relationship between cults and main line religions; brainwashing, deprogramming, government regulation. Same as ANTH 3366. Three credit hours.

RELS 3333 Reading Sacred Texts

This course is designed to provide both an opportunity to examine the texts of a particular religious tradition in detail and to introduce students to interdisciplinary methods for interpreting such texts. Three credit hours.

RELS 3336 Islam

Prerequisite: RELS 2305 or consent of instructor. An examination of the role of Islam as the primary cohesive element in the social, political, and cultural development of the modern Middle East. Comparison and contrast of Western and Middle Eastern perspectives on relevant current issues. Same as HIST 3336. Three credit hours.

RELS 3338 Religion and Modern South Asia

The role of religion (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity) in the formulation of South Asian responses to the processes of Anglicization, Westernization, and Modernization. Same as HIST 3338. Three credit hours.

RELS 3340 Meditation Techniques

Theoretical framework for understanding the meditation experience, namely, Jung's depth psychology, yoga psychology, and Buddhist psychology; training in specific meditation techniques of various religious traditions, including Hatha Yoga, Zen, and the Silence, as well as the self-analysis of dreams. Three credit hours. Cross-listed as PYSC 3340.

RELS 3350 Eastern Thought

Prerequisite: 3 hours of Philosophy, or 3 hours of Religious Studies, or instructor consent. Survey of the beliefs, practices, and group structures of the major Eastern religious and social traditions (including Hinduism, Mahayana and Zen Buddhism, Shintoism, and Confucianism). Three credit hours.

RELS 3360 Philosophy of Religion

Prerequisite: 3 hours of Philosophy, or 3 hours of Religious Studies, or instructor consent. Major issues in the philosophy of religion including the knowledge of God, the problem of evil, life after death, religious language and experience, and the relationship of faith and reason. Three credit hours.

RELS 3363 Psychology of Religion

See PSYC 3363. Three credit hours.

RELS 3370 Judaism

Prerequisite: RELS 2305 or consent of instructor. A survey of major developments in the history of Jewish thought from its origins in the Hebrew Bible through the present. Three credit hours.

RELS 4180, 4280, 4380 Topics in Religion

Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Analysis of selected issues in religious studies. Course content will change. For descriptive title of the content, refer to the semester class schedule. One, two, or three credit hours.

RELS 4313 Apocalypse Now...and Then: A History of Apocalyptic Thought and Movements

See HIST 4313.

RELS 4315 Religious History of the United States

See HIST 4315.

RELS 4321 Religion, Society, and Culture

Introduction to the role of shamans, witches, diviners, cultic and magic belief systems, function of myth, ritual, religious symbolism, meaning of spirit possession, revitalization, and ancestor worship in tribal, peasant, and modern societies. Same as ANTH 4321. Three credit hours.

RELS 4180, 4280, 4380 Topics in Religion

Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Analysis of selected issues in religious studies. Course content will change. For descriptive title of the content, refer to the semester class schedule. One, two, or three credit hours.

RELS 4385 Seminar in Major Religions

This course provides for a more in-depth examination of a particular religious tradition. The tradition is typically non-Western and varies by semester. Check with the department for details. Three credit hours.

RELS 4290, 4390 Independent Study

Prerequisites: consent of instructor, see philosophy website for independent study guidelines. Selective reading and a formal written project on a topic submitted by the student and approved by the instructor at a conference in advance of registration. Open only to students with demonstrated ability to write research papers of superior quality in religious studies. Applicants unknown to the instructor should submit academic transcripts and samples of their research papers in religious studies. Two or three credit hours.