The Religious Ethics area at the University of Chicago Divinity School is concerned with the meaning of religion for the lives of persons and the ordering of societies, and, therefore, with problems of the good life, justice, and the common good.

Study in the history and methods of religious and nonreligious ethics is essential to work in the area. The examination of specific moral problems and the study of comparative religious ethics require work in the relevant social and historical sciences or in the professions.

For more information, contact Teresa Hord Owens, Dean of Students, tdowens@uchicago.edu, 773.702.8217.
Recent Graduates

Elizabeth Sweeny Block, PhD 2013
“The Virtue of Conscience: Valuing the Labor of the Moral Life.”
Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics, Saint Louis University

Matthew Petruske, PhD 2013
“Catholic Social Ethics and the (In)Vulnerability of Human Dignity”
Assistant Professor of Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University

Tony Banout, PhD 2012
“Islamic Modernism and the Possibility of Democratic Religious Freedom”
Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Interfaith Youth Core

Joe Blosser, PhD 2011
“Ethics Before God and Markets: A Theory of Moral Action in Conversation with Adam Smith and Ernst Troeltsch”
Robert G. Culp Jr. Director of Service Learning and Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy, High Point University

Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar, PhD 2010
“I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food: Agape, Justice, and Special Relations Seen Through the Lens of Dependent Care”
Assistant Professor of Theology, Loyola University Chicago

Graduate Workshops

The Council on Advanced Studies (CAS) sponsors interdisciplinary graduate research workshops in the humanities, social sciences, and divinity, designed to bring together faculty and graduate students from the University of Chicago and the wider Chicago area to create scholarly dialogue, to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration, and to foster the exchange of ideas. Workshops include Middle East History and Theory, Medieval Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Religions in America, Early Christian Studies, Jewish Studies, and Hebrew Bible. In addition, the Divinity Students Association offers a range of workshops and clubs: one for each area and others according to student interest. Current groups include Buddhist Studies, the Women’s Caucus, and The Sacred Flame. To learn more, visit divinity.uchicago.edu/clubs-and-workshops.

Recent Courses

This is merely a sample of coursework available at the Divinity School. Our faculty teach over 100 courses each year in the academic study of religion. Please visit divinity.uchicago.edu/courses for current and past course offerings.

- Sustainability (Fredricks)
- Methods and Theories in Comparative Religious Ethics (Schweiker)
- Reinhold Niebuhr: Theology and Ethics (Gamwell)
- Seminar: Greek Tragedy and Philosophy (Nussbaum)
- Alfred North Whitehead: Metaphysics and Ethics (Gamwell)
- The Place of Science in Religious Environmental Ethics (Fredricks)

The University of Chicago Library

The University of Chicago Library is one of the largest and richest research collections (both in print and online formats) in the world. Religious Studies has been a core component of the collection since the University’s founding, and its current strengths match the research needs of the areas of study in the Divinity School. The Library has a full-time Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy who holds workshops specifically designed for those studying religion. To learn more about library resources at the University of Chicago, visit library.uchicago.edu.

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