Religion and Literature uses the tools of poetics and literary theory, aesthetics, and hermeneutics to study the ways that religions harness the human imagination, and the ways that human recourse to imaginative expression often—some would say always—engages religion. Students who concentrate in the area pursue intensive work in criticism, usually via study of particular historical periods and genres; they supplement this work with studies in the history and philosophy of interpretive theory. Students in the area also complete significant work in at least one other area of study in the Divinity School, and are strongly encouraged to develop a curriculum in a department or division of the University that is relevant to their program.

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

Joel Harter, PhD 2008
“The Word Made Flesh and the Mazy Page: Symbol And Allegory in Coleridge’s Philosophy of Faith”
Lilly Pastoral Resident, Hyde Park Union Church; Project Director, Urban Dolorosa

Zhange Ni, PhD 2009
“The Pagan Writes Back: Religion and Literature in Four Contemporary Novels”
Assistant Professor, Department of Religion and Culture, Virginia Tech University

Ed Upton, PhD 2010
Lecturer in Humanities, Christ College (the Honors College), Valparaiso University

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. For more information, visit http://grad.uchicago.edu/academic_resources/council_on_advanced_studies/. In addition, the Divinity Students Association offers a range of workshops and clubs: one for each area and others according to student interest. Groups include Buddhist Studies, Feminist Theories and the Study of Religion, and Pedagogy and Professionalization. To learn more, visit http://divinity.uchicago.edu/clubs-and-workshops-0.

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 us online for full lists of current and past course offerings.

- Jewish Liturgical Poetry (Fishbane)
- Levinas and Derrida on Religion and Literature (Hammerschlag)
- Irony (Hammerschlag and Rosengarten)
- Comparative Mystical Literature: Islamic, Jewish, and Christian (Sells)
- Styles of Catholicism: Kahlo, O’Connor, Weil (Rosengarten)
- Poetics of Midrash (Fishbane)
- Art and Religion in Late Antiquity (Elsner)
- The Citation in Jewish Religious Culture (Fishbane)
- Illuminating the Bible in Byzantium (Krause)
- Art and Ritual in Byzantium (Krause)
- Arabic Sufi Poetry (Sells)
- The Narration of America in Literature and Film (Rosengarten and Howell)
- Interactions Between Jewish Philosophy and Literature During the Middle Ages (Robinson)
- The Other and the ‘Exotic’ in Postwar Jewish Writing (Hammerschlag)
- Autobiography (Wedemeyer and Rosengarten)
- Theory of Literature: The Twentieth Century (Hammerschlag)
- Pilgrimage in Antiquity and the Early Christendom (Elsner)
- Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages (Robinson)
- History of Criticism: 16th-19th Centuries (Rosengarten)
- Between Vienna and Hamburg: From Deutschland to America: The Writing of Art History Between 1900 and 1960 (Elsner)
- The Veneration of Icons in Byzantium: History, Theory, and Practice (Krause)
- Byzantine Art: Special Topics in Iconography (Krause)
- Derrida’s ‘Of Grammatology’ (Hammerschlag)

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.