Guidelines for Qualifying Exams in Philosophy of Religion  
(as of fall 2009)

The Philosophy of Religion area offers four qualifying examinations: PR 1 – The Modern Background; PR 2 – Anglo-American Philosophy of Religion in the Twentieth Century; PR 3 – Continental Philosophy of Religion in the Twentieth Century; and PR 4 – Comparative Philosophy of Religion.

Students concentrating in Philosophy of Religion are required to take PR 1, and one of the two examinations focused on particular thinkers and trends from the twentieth century: either PR 2 or PR 3. The faculty expects students who concentrate in Philosophy of Religion to do a third qualifying examination that emphasizes work in the field. For students pursuing a program of comparative work, this will normally be PR 4 (resulting in a set of exams as follows: PR 1, either PR 2 or PR 3, and PR 4). Students working on Indian Buddhist materials, for example, may take the exam listed below in “Indian Buddhist philosophy of the scholastic period.” For students not pursuing a program of comparative work, the third exam will normally be the second exam in twentieth-century materials (resulting in a set of exams as follows: PR 1, PR 2, and PR 3). In some cases, students not pursuing a program in comparative work may select as the third exam one of those offered by the Committee on Constructive Studies (“Metaphysics”; “Hermeneutics and Religious Reflection”; or the one in “Issues in Contemporary Theory”).

Requirements for completion of Divinity School qualifying examinations include the stipulation that the student’s examining committee include at least four examiners. Accordingly, students should select their exams so that at least three members of the Philosophy of Religion faculty are administering exams and thus participate in the oral component.

> Philosophy of Religions 1: The Modern Background

Students are responsible for all of the following primary works (with secondary readings simply representing possibly useful suggestions):


David Hume, *The Natural History of Religion* (1757)
David Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (posthumously, 1779)


Immanuel Kant, *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason* (1793).


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> Philosophy of Religions 2: Anglo-American Philosophy of Religion in the Twentieth Century

Students are responsible for all of the following works:


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> Philosophy of Religions 3: Continental Philosophy of Religion in the Twentieth Century


Secondary text:

Dominique Janicaud. . [et. al], *Phenomenology and the” Theological Turn”: the French Debate.* Fordham University Press, 2000.

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**Philosophy of Religions 4: Comparative Philosophy of Religions**

Exams in Comparative Philosophy of Religions may in some cases be negotiated, depending on the student’s program, advisor’s counsel, available faculty expertise, etc. Set exams in the field include: Philosophy of Religions 4a, “Indian Buddhist Philosophy of the Scholastic Period”; Philosophy of Religions 4b, “Early Indian Philosophy”; and Philosophy of Religions 4c, “Indian Scholastic Philosophies.” Please consult the separate bibliographies for these.