The Philosophy of Religions area at the University of Chicago Divinity School considers philosophical issues arising from various religious beliefs and practices, and from critical reflection upon them.

Work in this area requires historical understanding of the discipline as it developed in the West, but the faculty’s breadth of expertise enables students to specialize in the philosophical thought of a non-Western religious tradition, as well as to do constructive philosophical work that draws upon the resources of more than one tradition.

For more information, contact

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UChicago Divinity School
The University of Chicago Library

Our 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 visit library.uchicago.edu.

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, 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.

UChicagoGRAD

UChicagoGRAD is a University-wide office committed to ensuring that students and postdocs have the skills they need to become the next generation of leaders in academia, government, industry and non-profits.

grad.uchicago.edu

In keeping with its long-standing traditions and policies, the University of Chicago considers students, employees, applicants for admission or employment, and those seeking access to University programs on the basis of individual merit. The University’s complete non-discrimination statement and full contact information for the compliance officer, Sarah Wake (swake@uchicago.edu) can be found online: http://harassmentpolicy.uchicago.edu/page/non-discrimination-statement.

Recent Courses

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.

- Buddhist Sutras Reading in Traditional Tiantai “Classification of Teachings” Rather than Historical Order (Ziporyn)
- Indian Philosophy I & II (Kapstein/Arnold)
- Death: Some Aspects (Arnold/Brudney)
- Spiritual Exercises and Moral Perfectionism (Davidson)
- Spinoza and the Question of Being (Marion)
- Derrida’s ‘Of Grammatology’ (Hammerschlag)
- Seminar on the Black Notebooks: Heidegger and the Problem of Evil (Coyne)
- Readings in Tibetan Buddhist Texts (Kapstein)
- Topics in the Philosophy of Judaism: Soloveitchik Reads the Classics (Davidson)
- De-theologizing Christianity (Coyne)
- Knowledge of the Other (Marion)
- Anglo-American Philosophy of/and Religion (Hector)
- Recent Work on Self and Non-Self in Indian Philosophy (Kapstein)
- Philosophy of Language Seminar: Quotations, Pictures, Words (Stern)
- Topics in Philosophy of Judaism: Ethics and Halakhah (Davidson)
- Buddhist Thought in Tibet (Kapstein)
- Simone Weil (Meltzer)
- Philosophical Thought and Expression, Twentieth-Century Europe (Davidson)
- Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy and Theology (Davidson)
- The End of Metaphysics (Marion)
- Madhyamaka (Arnold)
- Saints: Economies of Transgression (Meltzer/Eisner)
- Modern Ideas of Human Freedom (Coyne)
- American Religious Naturalism following James (Arnold)
- “Imaginaire” and “Imaginal” in the History and Philosophy of Religions (Kapstein)
- Lacan’s Ethics (Coyne)
- The Philosophical Career of Vasubandhu (Arnold)
- Music, Meaning, and Mantra in Aspects of Indian Thought (Kapstein)
- Franciscan Thought and Images (Davidson)
- Religious Diversity as a Philosophical Problem (Arnold)
- Theories of Desire (Meltzer)
- Brauer seminar: Intentionality and Belief (Arnold/Coyne)