

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES Master of Arts and Certificate of Advanced Studies

### Program Overview

The goal of the Theology & Religious Studies graduate program is to provide students with advanced knowledge of the content and method of various disciplines of theology & religious studies (church history, ethics, scripture, systematic theology, and world religions).

Students pursue a Master of Arts or Certificate of Advanced Studies in Theology & Religious Studies in order to achieve a variety of goals. Some of our students hold prior degrees or concentrations in theology and come to John Carroll to update their knowledge. Some are engaged in religious education, ministry, and professional careers in church and religion, while others are planning teaching careers. Some seek to expand their knowledge of theology and religion for personal enrichment. Still others intend to continue their work in doctoral programs after completing the M.A. at John Carroll.

### Master of Arts Degree Requirements

#### 30 graduate semester hours of study

- TRS 400, Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (taught each fall)
- TRS 430, Introduction to Systematic Theology (taught each spring)
- One course in Religious Ethics
- One course in World Religions
- At least 15 semester hours in 500-level courses
- A comprehensive examination
- A research essay or master's thesis

### Certificate of Advanced Studies Requirements

#### 18 graduate credits beyond the master's degree

Specific courses and requirements will be determined according to the needs and interests of each student by the student's advisor after discussion with the student and with the approval of the chair of the department. Ordinarily the program will comprise at least one course in each of the following areas: church history, ethics, scripture, systematic theology, and world religions. Students who already have graduate-level experience in a specific area need not fulfill further requirements in that area. For the certificate, no transfer credits are allowed.

### Admission Requirements

#### Master of Arts:

- Two letters of recommendation from persons acquainted with the applicant's academic qualifications. If appropriate, one letter from a person familiar with the applicant's professional work is acceptable.
- A 500-word written statement of purpose from the applicant, indicating his/her purpose in seeking admission to the master's program.
- The GRE General Test or the Miller Analogies Test is optional.

#### Certificate of Advanced Studies:

- A master's degree in a recognized academic discipline.
- Eighteen semester hours of undergraduate or graduate work in religious studies, theology or their equivalent.
- Two letters of recommendation from persons acquainted with the applicant's academic qualifications. If appropriate, one letter from a person familiar with the applicant's professional work is acceptable.
- A 500-word written statement of purpose from the applicant, indicating his/her purpose in seeking admission to the certificate program.

### Program Coordinator

Sheila E. McGinn, Ph.D.

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# Graduate Studies College of Arts and Sciences

[www.jcu.edu/graduate](http://www.jcu.edu/graduate)



## Financial Assistance

- Theology & Religious Studies Scholarships, equivalent to a 1/3 reduction in tuition, are available for all students enrolled in the Theology & Religious Studies graduate program.
- A limited number of graduate assistantships are available, which provide a tuition waiver for 15-18 credit hours per year and a stipend for working 20 hours weekly in the department.
- The University's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid offers assistance on student loans.

## The Department of Theology & Religious Studies

The Department of Theology & Religious Studies, with roots in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition, shares the mission of John Carroll University to reflect the value system of the Gospels. In particular, the Jesuit spirit brings to education a rationality appropriately balanced by human affection, an esteem for the individual as a unique person, training in discerning choice, openness to change, and a quest for God's greater glory in the use of the world's goods. The department offers courses that span a wide range of religious and theological thought and provide a context for ecumenical dialogue and study.

As a University department, Theology & Religious Studies is committed to academic excellence among its faculty and students. The faculty are nationally and internationally known in the areas of Asian religions, church history, contemporary systematic theology, interreligious studies, Islam, pastoral theology, religious ethics, and scripture. Furthermore, members of the faculty are prominent in professional activities and draw their educational backgrounds from outstanding universities. Faculty have served as officers of professional societies; as advisors to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the President of the United States, and the Vatican; as editors of professional journals; and as members of boards of trustees. They also have published numerous books and articles in scholarly journals.

## Faculty

### Full-time Faculty:

**Doris Donnelly, Ph.D.** (Claremont University). Professor of systematic theology. Specializations: sacramental theology; Christian spirituality.

**Edward P. Hahnenberg, Ph.D.** (University of Notre Dame). Professor of systematic theology. Specialization: Catholic systematic theology.

**Joseph F. Kelly, Ph.D.** (Fordham University). Professor of Christian history. Specialization: patristics and medieval Christianity.

**Paul Lauritzen, Ph.D.** (Brown University). Professor of religious ethics. Specialization: bioethics, religious ethics.

**Sheila E. McGinn, Ph.D.** (Northwestern University). Chair and professor of biblical studies. Specialization: New Testament and early Christianity.

**Paul K. Nietupski, Ph.D.** (Columbia University). Professor of Asian religions. Specialization: Buddhism.

**Joan M. Nuth, Ph.D.** (Boston College). Associate Professor of systematic theology. Specializations: contemporary Catholic and feminist theology; Ignatian spirituality.

**Zeki Saritoprak, Ph.D.** (University of Marmara, Turkey). Associate Professor of Islamic studies. Specialization: Islamic theology and eschatology.

**Thomas Schubeck, S.J., Ph.D.** (University of Southern California). Professor of Christian ethics. Specializations: Christian social ethics; Latin American liberation theology.

**John R. Spencer, Ph.D.** (University of Chicago). Professor of biblical studies. Specializations: Hebrew bible; biblical archaeology.

### Other Faculty:

**Donald B. Cozzens, Ph.D.** (Kent State University). Writer in Residence. Specializations: pastoral theology; Christian spirituality.

**Valentino Lassiter, D. Min.** (Eden Theological Seminary). Pastor in Residence. Specialization: African-American theology and history.

