

---

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

Sheila E. McGinn	Chair; Biblical Studies; Early Christianity
Elizabeth L. Antus	Systematic Theology; Feminist Theology; Spirituality
Michael Fitzgerald, M.Afr.	Tuohy Lecturer of Interreligious Studies (Islam)
Edward P. Hahnenberg	Systematic Theology; Ecclesiology
Joseph F. Kelly	Early Christianity; Historical Theology
Paul J. Lauritzen	Bioethics; Religious Ethics
Paul K. Nietupski	Asian Religions
Michael A. Oppenheimer	Tuohy Lecturer of Interreligious Studies (Judaism)
Zeki Saritoprak	Islamic Theology and Spirituality
Kristen Tobey	Sociology of Religion; American Religious History

The Department of Theology & Religious Studies offers graduate courses in scripture, historical theology, systematic theology, religious ethics, world religions, and spirituality, leading to the Master of Arts degree. The department also hosts three certificate programs: a post-master's Certificate of Advanced Studies in Theology & Religious Studies; a certificate in Ignatian spiritual direction, offered through the Ignatian Spirituality Institute; and a certificate in Spiritual Wellness, offered in collaboration with the Counseling Department. The Master of Arts program meets the educational requirements of those interested in continued academic study; the master and the certificate programs also address the needs of those interested in religious education, ministry, and other professional careers related to theology and religion. For more information, visit our website: <http://go.jcu.edu/trs>.

---

### **Master of Arts Program**

Students seeking to enroll in the Master of Arts program should have completed at least six undergraduate courses in theology or religious studies. Since few undergraduates major in theology *per se*, the department offers an introductory course in systematic theology (TRS 430) to acquaint students with the basic themes and methods in the field, and to introduce students to standard research procedures and tools in the discipline.

### **Program Learning Goals**

The successful Master of Arts graduate:

1. Exhibits a nuanced understanding of the key terms and methodologies of the diverse subfields within the academic study of religion, including knowledge of diversity and development within these subfields; is able to articulate and apply in depth a particular methodology to a specific religious question or topics.
2. Critically analyzes religious texts, art, doctrines, practices, and other expressions in light of their historical, cultural, and social contexts; understands the methods, sources, and research tools necessary for academic research of these expressions.
3. Demonstrates a deep awareness of multiple religious world-views and is able to engage in the kind of interreligious dialogue that leads to mutual respect and understanding.
4. Assesses and applies multiple religious or ethical frameworks to complex issues, with an awareness of the various inter-related causes of injustice and a commitment to respond evidenced in action for the common good.
5. Exhibits a nuanced understanding of the key terms and methodologies within Catholic systematic theology, and the ability to address strengths and weaknesses of differing theological approaches.
6. Demonstrates aptitude and facility with standard practices of advanced academic research in theology and religious studies and a potential for original work in the field.

### **M.A. Admission Requirements**

Applicants to the master's program are required to submit the following:

- Official academic transcript of bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year institution.
  - Two letters of recommendation from persons acquainted with the applicant's academic qualifications. If appropriate, one letter may be from someone familiar with the applicant's professional work.
  - A 500-word statement indicating the applicant's purpose in seeking admission to the master's program.
  - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) scores also may be submitted in support of the application.
-

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

### M.A. Requirements

- 30 semester hours of graduate study.
- Four required courses:
  - TRS 430, Introduction to Systematic Theology
  - One course in Biblical Studies
  - One course in Religious Ethics
  - One course in World Religions
- At least 15 semester hours of 500-level coursework (including TRS 593 or TRS 599).
- A comprehensive examination.
- For students in Plan A (see page 16)
  1. Successful completion of a foreign language examination demonstrating a reading knowledge of a classical or modern language consistent with the student's plan of study.
  2. Completion of a master's thesis (TRS 599), for six semester hours of course credit.
- For students in Plan B (see page 16): the completion of a research essay (TRS 593).

**Note:** Students accepted under the degree requirements listed in previous Graduate School and Graduate Studies bulletins normally should fulfill those requirements, but they may petition for permission to follow the requirements introduced in this *Bulletin* instead.

### Course of Studies

Ordinarily graduate courses are three semester hours; no more than nine semester hours toward the degree may be taken in one-credit or two-credit courses. No more than six semester hours or the equivalent of two comparable John Carroll University courses may be transferred from another institution. A student's program typically may include no more than two independent studies and no more than three online courses. Initial acceptance of students is made under Plan B, the non-thesis option. A change from Plan B to Plan A, the thesis option (see page 14), is accomplished by academic petition, and is contingent upon the successful completion of at least one 500-level course, and the foreign language exam.

Since the Master of Arts degree in Theology & Religious Studies is designed to provide students with the necessary background for diverse careers and ministries or for further graduate or professional study, the student and advisor will work out a program of study best suited to the student's particular needs and goals. This program may include a concentration in a particular area.

### Financial Assistance

Scholarships are available for all students enrolled in the Theology & Religious Studies M.A. 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 Financial Aid provides assistance with student loans.

### Five-Year Integrated B.A./M.A. Program

The five-year integrated B.A./M.A. program in Theology & Religious Studies is designed for undergraduate theology and religious studies majors who wish to earn the master's degree with an additional year of study beyond the baccalaureate degree. Undergraduate students majoring in Theology & Religious Studies may apply for admission to the M.A. program in their junior year. Once accepted, they may begin taking graduate courses in their senior year, in order to complete the M.A. in their fifth year. Normally students will complete 6 graduate credits between the fall and spring of senior year, 6 credits in the summer between their fourth and fifth years, and 18 credits in the fifth year. More information about this program is available in the *Undergraduate Bulletin* and on the department's website: <http://go.jcu.edu/trs>.

---

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

### Certificate Programs

#### Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS)

The department offers a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in addition to the Master of Arts degree. The Certificate program is designed for students who already have acquired a master's degree in a recognized academic discipline. While in itself this certificate does not guarantee Religion Teacher or Pastoral Ministry Certification in the Diocese of Cleveland, the proper selection of courses within the program may lead to such certification.

#### CAS Admission Requirements

Applicants to the CAS Program are required to submit the following:

- Evidence of achievement of a master's degree in a recognized academic discipline.
- Evidence of completion of 18 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate work in religious studies, theology, or their equivalent.
- Official transcripts of all university-level studies.
- Two letters of recommendation from persons acquainted with the applicant's academic qualifications. If appropriate, one letter can be from someone familiar with the applicant's professional work.
- A 500-word statement indicating the applicant's purpose in seeking admission to the certificate program.

#### CAS Program Requirements

To attain the Certificate of Advanced Studies a student must complete 18 graduate credits in Theology and/or Religious Studies beyond the master's degree. Specific courses and requirements will be determined according to the individual student's needs and interests in consultation with the student's academic advisor, and with the approval of the chair of the department. Ordinarily the program will include at least one course in each of the following areas: Scripture, Historical Theology, Systematic Theology, Religious Ethics, and World Religions. Students who already have graduate-level experience in a specific subject need not fulfill further requirements in that area. For the Certificate, no transfer credits are allowed.

#### Ignatian Spirituality Institute (ISI)

The department is also home to the Ignatian Spirituality Institute (ISI), which offers a certificate program for the training of spiritual directors in the tradition of the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius Loyola. It is ideally suited to those interested in the ministry of spiritual direction and/or retreat work. More generally, the ISI offers adult Christians of any denomination theological and spiritual tools for deepening Christian life and ministry, whether in the home, parish, congregation, or workplace. Since the ISI is an affiliate program of the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, all of its courses are conducted at John Carroll University. The ISI is endowed by a grant from the F. J. O'Neill Charitable Corporation and by gifts from other generous donors.

#### ISI Admission Requirements

Applicants to the ISI Program are required to submit the following:

- An education history and official transcripts of all university-level studies.
- An employment history.
- Three letters of recommendation from persons acquainted with the applicant's academic qualifications, professional work, and/or ministerial experience.
- A 1000-word spiritual autobiography, including a statement of the applicant's purpose in seeking admission to the ISI program.
- A personal interview with the ISI Admissions Committee.

**Note:** Generally it is expected the ISI candidates will have completed a college degree, spent several years at steady work, and had a variety of life experiences. The admissions committee may make exceptions to these criteria if circumstances warrant.

---

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

### ISI Program Requirements

The ISI certificate program runs concurrently with the fall-spring academic calendar and is designed around three areas of study: theology/scripture, spirituality, and psychology/communications skills. Year I is academically focused, and classes meet twice a month in the evenings along with occasional weekend workshops. Year II is focused on the supervised practicum in spiritual direction.

Four courses are required for the certificate program:

- TRS 472 (ISI) 401
- TRS 473 (ISI) 402
- TRS 474 (ISI) 403
- TRS 475 (ISI) 404

Upon academic petition, students who have completed the Ignatian Spirituality Institute certificate program may be granted up to 6 credits toward the Master of Arts degree program in Theology & Religious Studies. An information night for those interested in the program is held annually, typically during the first week of February.

The inaugural director of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute is Dr. Joan Nuth. For further information about the ISI program and admission, contact the ISI director at 216-397-1638, [jnuth@jcu.edu](mailto:jnuth@jcu.edu), or visit the ISI website at <http://sites.jcu.edu/ISI>.

### Spiritual Wellness and Counseling (SWC)

The certificate program in Spiritual Wellness & Counseling (SWC) is a five-course, fifteen-semester-hour program offered in partnership with the Counseling Department. The certificate program in Spiritual Wellness and Counseling can be taken for credit, non-credit, or continuing education credit. It is specifically designed for pastoral care professionals, mental health professionals, and medical professionals. The program brings together these professionals to broaden their understanding of the helping process, and to ensure they have a more nuanced understanding of spirituality, counseling, and the complexity of the whole person.

The certificate program helps students enhance their knowledge and abilities to:

- Respond appropriately to individuals who express mental health and/or spiritual concerns.
- Assist those who desire to integrate their spiritual perspective with their psychotherapeutic or medical treatment.
- Discern when referral to another professional is needed and how to locate an appropriate professional for the referral.

The program also helps pastoral care, mental health, and medical professionals develop the skills needed to collaborate to best serve the interests of those they are endeavoring to assist.

### SWC Admission Criteria

- For applicants without a master's degree, a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75.
- Official transcripts for highest degree earned.
- Two letters of recommendation (preferably one academic and one professional).
- Interview with the program coordinator.
- Admission interview.

### SWC Program Requirements

The SWC program consists of a sequence of five required courses:

- |                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| • Spirit & Psyche            | CG/TRS 582 |
| • Tradition & Theory         | CG/TRS 583 |
| • Holiness & Wholeness       | CG/TRS 584 |
| • Enlightened Self-Centering | CG/TRS 585 |
| • Encountering Each Other    | CG/TRS 586 |

---

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

Six credits from the Spiritual Wellness and Counseling Certificate Program may be applied to the M.A. in Theology & Religious Studies.

### Special Programs

#### **Bediüzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies**

The Bediüzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies was established in 2003, as an integral part of the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, in order to enhance intellectual life at John Carroll University through the teaching of courses on Islam and Islamic culture. Such intellectual enrichment is part of John Carroll's mission as a Jesuit, Catholic university. Named in honor of Bediüzzaman Said Nursi (1879-1960), a prominent Islamic scholar from Turkey, the Nursi Chair arose from the gracious gift of two Turkish businessmen and other members of the Muslim and Turkish communities of Cleveland.

The primary goals of the Nursi Chair are (1) to foster a better understanding of Islam and Islamic theological traditions among the students of John Carroll University, the other members of the John Carroll community, residents of the greater Cleveland area, and various national and international audiences; and (2) to promote dialogue on issues pertaining to Islam among the various members of the John Carroll University community, with other residents of the greater Cleveland area, and with wider national and international audiences.

The inaugural holder of the Nursi Chair is Dr. Zeki Saritoprak. For further information on the Nursi Chair, contact the office at 216-397-6279, [nursi@jcu.edu](mailto:nursi@jcu.edu), or visit the website: <http://go.jcu.edu/Nursi>.

#### **Breen Chair in Catholic Systematic Theology**

The Jack and Mary Jane Breen Chair in Catholic Systematic Theology was established in 2011, as an integral part of the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, through a generous endowment gift from Jack and Mary Jane Breen, alumni of John Carroll University. The Breen Chair enhances the Jesuit and Catholic mission of John Carroll University by supporting the continued teaching and publication of Catholic systematic theology. The goal of the Breen Chair is to foster a better understanding of the Catholic theological tradition among John Carroll students, the other members of the John Carroll community, residents of the greater Cleveland area, and various national and international audiences.

The inaugural holder of the Breen Chair is Dr. Edward P. Hahnenberg. For further information about the Breen Chair, contact the director, at 216-397-1674, [ehahnenberg@jcu.edu](mailto:ehahnenberg@jcu.edu), or visit the website: <http://go.jcu.edu/Breen>.

#### **Walter and Mary Tuohy Chair in Interreligious Studies**

The Walter and Mary Tuohy Chair in Interreligious Studies was founded in 1966 in honor of the late Walter Tuohy and his wife, Mary. Mr. Tuohy was a dedicated Catholic layman, active member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and a zealous promoter of religious understanding. Established as an integral part of the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, the goal of the Tuohy Chair is to enhance the mission of John Carroll University by fostering interreligious dialogue among members of the University community, with other residents of the greater Cleveland area, and with wider national and international audiences.

Past Tuohy lecturers have included such major figures in theological scholarship as John Cobb, David Tracy, Theodore Stephanopoulos, Thomas Hopko, Demetrios Constantelos, Anglican Bishop R. C. P. Hanson, Michael A. Fahey, S.J., Martin McNamara, M.S.C., William H. C. Freund, Roderick A. F. Mackenzie, S.J., W. Norman Pittenger, Sophie Laws, Robert Eno, S.S., Fredrick W. Norris, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Brian Daly, S.J., Charles S. McCoy, Joseph T. Lienhard, S.J., Alastair Campbell, Maria Harris, Francis Clooney, S.J., John Haughey, S.J., James Keenan, S.J., Diana L. Hayes, Robin Jensen, John Kelsay, William J. Harmless, S.J., Sidney H. Griffith, S.J., Joseph A. Bracken, S.J., Paul Heck, Anne Clifford, C.S.J., Kelley E. Spoerl, George M. Smiga, William S. Campbell, Thomas Michel, S.J., David Barr, Scott C. Alexander, Maria R. Heim, and Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, M.Afr.

For more information about the Tuohy Chair and its programs, contact the office at 216-397-4700, [tuohy@jcu.edu](mailto:tuohy@jcu.edu), or visit the website: <http://go.jcu.edu/Tuohy>.

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**400. BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION 3 cr.** Problems of and approaches to understanding the Jewish and Christian scriptures. Special focus on the methods essential to exegesis and biblical interpretation; digital and text-based tools for biblical research; and contemporary uses of the scriptures.

**405. “REJECTED BOOKS” OF THE BIBLE 3 cr.** Introduction to the non-canonical writings of formative Judaism and early Christianity. Intensive study of selections from the intertestamental, apocryphal, and pseudepigraphical literature of the Old and New Testaments, the Mishnaic and later Talmudic literature, and the writings of early Christian authors.

**406. NEW TESTAMENT ETHICS FOR CONTEMPORARY CULTURE 3 cr.** Seminar centering on the ethical perspectives and prescriptions conveyed by the New Testament. The teaching and praxis of Jesus, including his concern for the poor and solidarity with the marginalized, provide the center of gravity for analysis of a cross-section of the paraenetic teaching and ethical traditions in the New Testament. Students develop sophisticated tools for understanding the New Testament’s contribution to contemporary ethical debates.

**408. LIFE AND LETTERS OF PAUL 3 cr.** Introduction to the cultural and historical background of the life and career of the Apostle Paul; examination of his major writings, writings in the Pauline traditions, their impact in their original historical-cultural settings, and uses of these texts in other settings today.

**420. THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY 3 cr.** Emergence and growth of Christianity into the Greek and Roman world from the first to the sixth centuries. Key topics include: establishment of Trinitarian theology and Christology; relations of church and state; roles of women; origins of monasticism; interaction with pagan culture; establishment of ecclesiastical structures; early Christian art; major figures (Constantine, Athanasius, Augustine); and the Church’s growing self-understanding.

**421. CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY: EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN SYRIA & ASIA MINOR 3 cr.** Exploration of the rise of Christianity in the Roman provinces of Syria and Asia Minor (modern Turkey) through study of literature and significant sites. Traces the route of Christian development from northern Palestine through Cappadocia and Anatolia, to the coastal city of Ephesus, the “metropolis of Asia.” Often done “on location” in conjunction with a study tour of Syria, Turkey, and/or Greece.

**422. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO: LIFE, THEOLOGY, INFLUENCE 3 cr.** Introduction to the life, theology, and influence of Augustine of Hippo (CE 354–431), a magisterial figure in the history of Christian thought who remains significant for contemporary Christianity. Topics include Augustine’s views of church and state, marriage and sexuality, original sin, dynamics of human freedom.

**430. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 3 cr.** Consideration of key concepts necessary for understanding how theology works: faith, revelation, scripture, symbol, tradition, community, and method. Exploration of how these concepts work in the writings of a few significant theologians contextualized within their historical and cultural worlds. Tools and methods for research in systematic theology.

**431. FEMINIST THEOLOGY 3 cr.** Exploration of the ways in which the feminist movement has affected the articulation of Christian doctrine through a reading and analysis of the works of contemporary feminist theologians. Includes a survey of feminist theory from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

**445. FAITHS OF ABRAHAM: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM 3 cr.** Cross-cultural approach to the study of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, all of which claim Abraham, the Biblical patriarch, as their “father in faith.” Uses American and selected international religious communities as case studies.

**451. PILGRIMAGE 3 cr.** Study of the phenomenon of pilgrimage as a unifying theme in world religions and as a key component of religious life. Treats pilgrimage as a perspective on the unity of spirit, mind, and body as an expression of the inseparability of individuals and larger religious communities. Uses pilgrimage to investigate symbols, rituals, myths, laws, doctrines, faiths, and visions manifested in world religions. Sometimes offered with a travel component.

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

**471. RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE 3 cr.** Study of the authentic and inauthentic manifestations of religious experience and the biblically-based criteria that might be applied to validate Christian religious experience. Draws on the theoretical readings of Jonathan Edwards, William James, Rufus Jones, and Evelyn Underhill and the recorded experiences of Dionysius the Areopagite, Meister Eckhart, John of the Cross, Elizabeth of the Trinity, and Simone Weil.

**472. THEOLOGY OF THE *SPIRITUAL EXERCISES* I (ISI 401) 3 cr.** Prerequisite: acceptance into the Ignatian Spirituality Institute. First of a two-part sequence exploring the theological foundations of Ignatius of Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises*. Focuses on theological themes underlying the First Principle and Foundation and the First Week of the *Exercises*: creation, the nature and images of God, theological anthropology (human nature, grace, and sin), and a theology of prayer. Emphasis on practical application to directing the *Exercises*.

**473. THEOLOGY OF THE *SPIRITUAL EXERCISES* II (ISI 402) 3 cr.** Prerequisite: TRS 472 or ISI 401. Second of a two-part sequence exploring the theological foundations of Ignatius of Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises*. Focuses on theological themes underlying the Second, Third, and Fourth Weeks of the *Spiritual Exercises*: the reality of Jesus, human and divine; the historical Jesus and the Risen Christ of faith; the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ; an introduction to exegetical skills necessary for spiritual direction.

**474–475. PRACTICUM IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** Prerequisite: TRS 473 or ISI 402. A praxis approach to the ministry of spiritual direction, this supervised internship is combined with readings and seminar discussions exploring the broader areas of knowledge that have an impact on that practice: discernment of spirits, ethical issues, adult psychological and faith development, and sexual and gender differences.

**474. PRACTICUM IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION I (ISI 403) 2 cr.** Prerequisite: TRS 473 or ISI 402. The first semester of the supervised spiritual-direction internship that constitutes the culmination of the student's work leading to the Ignatian Spirituality Institute certificate.

**475. PRACTICUM IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION II (ISI 404) 2 cr.** Prerequisite: TRS 474 or ISI 403. The last semester of the supervised spiritual-direction internship that constitutes the culmination of the student's work leading to the Ignatian Spirituality Institute certificate.

**491. INTERNSHIP 0–4 cr.** Prerequisites: permission of department chair and instructor; completion of Internship Contract Form. A practical internship experience in the field(s) of ministry, religious studies, and/or theology. Supervised work at a religiously affiliated institution or agency engaged in direct service and/or advocacy in the Cleveland community, based on individual skills and interests. Approval for the course should be obtained no later than three weeks prior to the semester in which the student wishes to enroll.

**499. SPECIAL TOPICS 1–3 cr.** Selected topics in one of the areas of theology and religious studies. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**501. OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS 3 cr.** Detailed exegetical analysis of a major Hebrew Bible text that will be specified when the course is offered.

**505. NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS 3 cr.** Detailed exegetical analysis of a major New Testament book that will be specified when the course is offered.

**506. JESUS IN FILM AND HISTORY 3 cr.** History of research on the historical Jesus from David Friedrich Strauss through Wilhelm Wrede and Albert Schweitzer to the present. Analysis of the primary data using the standard criteria of authenticity. Comparisons with contemporary appropriations of the figure of Jesus in visual media, especially film. Examination of the value of historical Jesus research for contemporary Christology.

**507. SYNOPTIC GOSPELS 3 cr.** In-depth analysis of current research on theories of synoptic relations; the relationship of the Synoptic Gospels to such non-canonical gospels as the *Gospel of Peter* and *Gospel of Thomas*; and the literary and theological characteristics of each of the Synoptic Gospels.

**508. HEALING IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY & THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD 3 cr.** Exploration of understandings of health and healing in the gospels and other early Christian traditions, and of Jesus' role as healer,

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

in comparison to contemporaneous Greco-Roman religious traditions (e.g., Galen, the author of the most influential medical textbook in the western world, and the Asclepius cult, the world's first system of holistic medicine).

**509. SPECIAL TOPICS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES 1–3 cr.** Selected questions from the text and background of the Old or New Testament. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**519. SPECIAL TOPICS IN JEWISH STUDIES 1–3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the history, culture, faith, and practice of the Jewish people. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**521. WHAT HAPPENED AT VATICAN II 3 cr.** Study of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) as an historical, sociological, and theological event. Explores what happened at Vatican II, in particular, its causes and effects in the life of the Roman Catholic Church.

**522. WOMEN IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION 3 cr.** Lives and writings of prominent women within the Christian tradition from the viewpoint of contemporary feminist theology. Emphasis on women's contribution to theology in light of their historical context.

**525. GOD AND RADICAL EVIL 3 cr.** Development of the idea of God's relation to evil from the Renaissance until today; emphasis on the changing notion of evil in response to cultural changes such as the Enlightenment and Darwinism; the demonic and the Gothic in the nineteenth century; modern literary, scientific, and philosophical approaches; theological responses.

**529. SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY 1–3 cr.** Selected topics on the history of the Christian community in its various manifestations. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**530. GOD IN CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY 3 cr.** Investigation into the various ways in which the classic Christian confession of a Triune God has been explored in recent theological reflection.

**531. SIN, GRACE AND WHOLENESS 3 cr.** Introduction to theological anthropology, the study of the human being in relation to God and in conflict with evil, in order to secure a doctrinal foundation for the understanding of Christian spirituality. Readings include the Jewish Scriptures, Paul, Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, the Council of Trent, Karl Rahner, and feminist and liberation theology.

**532. CHRISTOLOGY 3 cr.** Study of the principal developments in theological reflection on the meaning and significance of Jesus Christ in the New Testament and in later church tradition; consideration of how contemporary Christology is both affected by and responds to some crucial concerns of today's culture.

**533. THEOLOGY OF THE CHURCH 3 cr.** Study of the origin, nature, and mission of the Church in light of its evolution from the preaching and mission of Jesus and his disciples, through its developing history, to its current self-understanding since Vatican II.

**534. SACRAMENTS 3 cr.** Introduction to the concept and nature of "sacrament" and to the historical, liturgical and theological development of the seven sacraments. Emphasis upon sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation/chrismation, Eucharist) with consideration of sacraments of healing (penance, healing of the sick) and of Church service/government (matrimony, holy orders). Also examines the "sacramental imagination" as a way to understand theological assumptions that play a large part in Catholic spiritual tradition.

**536. CHURCH AND MINISTRY 3 cr.** Study of the theology of church and ministry. Taking into account the biblical background and historical developments, the course focuses on issues and ideas surrounding ministry today. With an emphasis on the Roman Catholic experience, the course locates ministry and church mission within a broadly Christian ecumenical perspective.

**539. SPECIAL TOPICS IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 1–3 cr.** Selected problems or authors in systematic theology. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**541. ISLAM IN AMERICA 3 cr.** Introduction to the history of Islam and its arrival in the New World. The experience of American Muslims, including African-Americans, immigrants, and new American converts. Considers all levels of the Muslim public sphere in the U.S. and current U.S. relations with Muslim countries.



## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

**542. ISLAM AND THE ENVIRONMENT 3 cr.** Overview of environmental issues and Islamic approaches to these challenges based on the major sources of Islam: the Qur'an and the Hadith. Islamic principles regarding the natural world and humanity's place within it, and Islamic legal strictures to protect the environment. Special emphasis on contemporary Islamic activism to protect the natural world.

**544. ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY 3 cr.** An elaboration of the mystical/Sufi tradition of Islam and the emergence of Islamic spirituality. Detailed study of the Qur'anic verses and paradigms from the sayings of the Prophet that constitute the main sources for the spiritual dimensions of Islam, as well as an examination of the writings of historical and contemporary Muslim mystical figures.

**549. SPECIAL TOPICS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES 1–3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the Qur'an and/or the history, faith, and practice of the Muslim community. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**550. INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDIES 1–3 cr.** A course offered by a visiting Tuohy scholar. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**551. BUDDHISM 3 cr.** Begins with the Indian contexts and messages of the life story of the historical Buddha, and traces the evolutions of Buddhist thought in India. Explores Theravada, Mahayana, and tantric Buddhist theories and practices in selected Asian contexts in Tibet, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

**559. SPECIAL TOPICS IN ASIAN RELIGIONS 1–3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the religions of Asia and/or manifestations of western religions in an Asian context. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**561. LIBERATION ETHICS 3 cr.** Focuses on the ethics that arose out of the moral indignation of Latin Americans, Africans, and Asians in response to injustices. This ethics begins with the concrete reality of the poor and oppressed and moves towards the transformation of persons and structures as its goal. Includes reflection on a people's experience in light of social-scientific analysis and scripture.

**562. RELIGION, ETHICS, AND PUBLIC POLICY 3 cr.** Focuses on debates about the role religion should play in the formulation of public policy in the United States. Considers works of Rawls, Hauerwas, Stout, and others.

**563. BIOETHICS 3 cr.** Examines the ethical principles and forms of moral reasoning that typically guide decisions in health care and frame public policy debates generated by contemporary biomedicine. Includes materials from both religious and secular traditions of thought, with particular attention given to Catholic teaching on bioethical issues. Issues to be covered include: assisted reproductive technology, euthanasia, and stem cell research.

**568. CHRISTIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE 3 cr.** Examination of Catholic and Protestant social teachings that contribute to a social ethics. Special focus on political, economic, and cultural problems, including war and peace, poverty, and prejudice.

**569. SPECIAL TOPICS IN RELIGIOUS ETHICS 1–3 cr.** Selected issues or authors in the history of Christian ethics. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**570. CLASSICS IN SPIRITUALITY 3 cr.** Selected readings from the works of religious leaders with attention to historical and cultural background, theological and psychological insights, and practical application. Authors may include: Pseudo-Dionysius, Catherine of Siena, Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Ávila, Evelyn Underhill, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, and Henri Nouwen. Specific texts and authors to be announced when offered.

**571. IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT 3 cr.** Study of the life and writings of Ignatius Loyola and the spirituality that emerged from his religious experience, the dissemination of Ignatian spirituality across the globe through the creation of the Jesuit order, the mission and ministry of the first Jesuits, the development of Ignatian spirituality through the centuries, and a focus on its contemporary relevance.

**579. SPECIAL TOPICS IN SPIRITUALITY 1–3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the work of great spiritual leaders and/or to spiritual practices such as prayer, worship, and meditation. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

**582. SPIRIT & PSYCHE (CG 582) 3 cr.** Prerequisite: permission of program coordinator. Draws from works of literature, psychology, and religion to investigate the role of spirit and psyche in the development of a healthy individual. Students compare spiritual and psychological developmental theories, assess individual development from a psychological and spiritual perspective, and compose a personal narrative of psycho-spiritual development.

**583. TRADITION & THEORY (CG 583) 3 cr.** Prerequisite: permission of program coordinator. Reviews major religious traditions and major psychological theories. Students explore the religious traditions, which have influenced their clients, and/or patients, summarize and explain major psychological theories, and analyze potential conflicts between a particular spiritual tradition and a specific psychological theory. Attention will be given to discriminating between the roles of spiritual guide and psychological helper.

**584. HOLINESS & WHOLENESS (CG 584) 3 cr.** Prerequisite: permission of program coordinator. Investigates religious and spiritual views of human wholeness, identifies impediments to spiritual and psychological growth, and distinguishes between a spiritual and psychological crisis. Students learn how to discern when an individual needs to be referred for either spiritual or psychological guidance.

**585. ENLIGHTENED SELF-CENTERING (CG 585) 3 cr.** Prerequisite: permission of program coordinator. Focuses on the responsibility for caregivers to attend to their own needs in order to avoid undermining their effectiveness, falling into ethical lapses, or suffering from compassion fatigue. Students will demonstrate an understanding of their ethical responsibility for self-care by designing a program to guard against caregiver burnout.

**586. ENCOUNTERING EACH OTHER (CG 586) 3 cr.** Prerequisite: permission of program coordinator. A capstone course in which students return to their professional settings to apply what they have learned by implementing a personally designed project or conducting a case study. Faculty and peers provide mentorship and support throughout this process. Students analyze and assess the effectiveness of their interventions. Concludes with students designing a personal development plan to continue their professional and personal growth.

**589. SPECIAL TOPICS IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY 1–3 cr.** Selected topics relating to pastoral ministry, pedagogy, and other practical contexts for application of contemporary theology. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**592. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH 1–3 cr.** Prerequisites: permission of department chair and instructor; completion of Independent Study Contract Form. Directed research on a topic selected by the student, in consultation with a faculty member who will supervise the project, and culminating in one or more papers. Approval for the course should be obtained no later than three weeks prior to the semester in which the student wishes to enroll.

**593. M.A. ESSAY 0–3 cr.** Culmination of the work leading to the Master of Arts degree. A research essay or creative project designed to show skills at analysis, organization, and expression. Research is less extensive than that for the thesis. The essay or project must be approved by one faculty reader.

**593A. M.A. ESSAY 3 cr.** Prerequisites: permission of department chair and instructor. Students should register for this course in the semester in which they intend to begin work on the M.A. essay. Approval for the course must be secured no less than three weeks prior to the semester in which the student wishes to enroll, and requires completion of the M.A. Essay Contract form, <http://webmedia.jcu.edu/trs/files/2015/06/2015.0601-TRS-MA-Essay-Registration-Form.pdf>.

**593B. CONTINUING M.A. RESEARCH 0 cr.** Prerequisite: TRS 593A. Continuation of work on the M.A. essay. Required if the M.A. essay is not completed in the first semester during which the student takes TRS 593. Students must continue to enroll in TRS 593B each semester until the M.A. essay is completed, approved, and accepted toward the Master of Arts degree.

**599. M.A. THESIS 6 cr.** Prerequisite: approval of thesis topic. As a demonstration of a student's research ability, the M.A. thesis is expected to show originality, clarity of thought, and power of mature expression. It may bring new facts to light, organize facts available in standard sources, or evaluate critically a technique, method, or trend. The completed thesis must be approved by the thesis advisor and an additional faculty reader.

## THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES (TRS)

---

**599A. M.A. THESIS I 3 cr.** Prerequisites: acceptance into Track A of the TRS Master of Arts program and permission of department chair and instructor. The first semester of work on the M.A. thesis, which constitutes the culmination of the student's work leading to the Master of Arts degree. Approval for the course must be secured no less than three weeks prior to the semester in which the student wishes to enroll, and requires completion of the M.A. Thesis Contract form, <http://webmedia.jcu.edu/trs/files/2013/11/TRS-599-MA-Thesis-Contract.pdf>.

**599B. CONTINUING M.A. THESIS RESEARCH 0 cr.** Prerequisite: TRS 599A. Continuation of work on the M.A. thesis. Required if the student anticipates that the thesis will not be completed in the first semester following TRS 599A. Students must continue to enroll in TRS 599B each semester until the M.A. thesis is completed, approved, and accepted toward the Master of Arts degree.

**599C. M.A. THESIS II 3 cr.** Prerequisites: TRS 599A and permission of the department chair and thesis advisor.





 **John Carroll**  
UNIVERSITY

## GRADUATE STUDIES BULLETIN



2016 – 2018