DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Jeffrey Samuels, Interim Department Head
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Degree(s)
- Religious Studies (MA) (http://catalog.wku.edu/archives/2017-18/graduate/arts-letters/philosophy-religion/religious-studies-ma)

Certificate Program(s)
- Religious Studies (Certificate) (http://catalog.wku.edu/archives/2017-18/graduate/arts-letters/philosophy-religion/religious-studies-certificate)

Faculty
Professor
Isabel Mukonyora, PhD, University of Oxford, 1999
Jeffrey Samuels, PhD (Religious Studies), University of Virginia, 2002
Lawrence W. Snyder, PhD (Religious Studies), University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 1992

Associate Professor
Audrey L. Anton, PhD (Philosophy), The Ohio State University Main Campus, 2011
Paul A. Fischer, PhD (East Asian Languages and Civilizations), University of Chicago, 2007

Assistant Professor
James W. Barker, PhD (Religion), Vanderbilt University, 2011
Benjamin J. Lennertz, PhD (Philosophy), University of Southern California, 2014

Philosophy Courses
PHIL 401G Readings in Philosophy 3 Hours (repeatable max of 6 hrs)
An intensive study of selected philosophic classics or readings in a selected area of philosophy.
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; fall 2017

PHIL 415G Advanced Logic 3 Hours
Advanced topics in First Order Logic, through Quantification Theory with Identity, and topics in the Philosophy of Logics. The course will emphasize Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) and will use the campus VAX network.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

PHIL 426G Philosophy and Old Age 3 Hours
Examination of philosophical themes bearing on old age, such as: meaning, memory, selfhood, autonomy, im/mortality, euthanasia, filial obligation, intergenerational justice, authority, dignity, virtue/vice, beauty.
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

PHIL 427G Philosophy of Law 3 Hours
A study of theories on the nature and origin of law, basic legal concepts (obligation, right, equality, liberty, justice), legal moralism, church and state, civil disobedience, and other topics.
Prerequisite(s): Graduate student status and one philosophy course or permission of instructor.
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

PHIL 499G Independent Research in Philosophy 3 Hours (repeatable max of 12 hrs)
Directed study and research in one area of philosophy. The research will culminate in an acceptable thesis.
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

Religious Studies Courses
RELS 401G Religious Studies Seminar 3 Hours (repeatable max of 12 hrs)
A seminar with rotating topics designed primarily for advanced students in religious studies.
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; fall 2015

RELS 430G Christianity to 1517 3 Hours
An investigation of the development of Christian thought and institutions from the first century of the Church until the Reformation.
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

RELS 431G Christianity 1517 to the Present 3 Hours
An investigation of the development of Christian thought and institutions from the Reformation to the present.
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015

RELS 499G Independent Research Religious Studies 3 Hours
Directed study and research in one area of religious studies.
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

RELS 500 Theory and Method in the Study of Religion 4 Hours
An introduction to key theoretical and methodological approaches to the comparative study of religion - including sociological, psychological, anthropological, textual and other approaches.
Recent Term(s) Offered: fall 2015; fall 2016; fall 2017

RELS 501 Seminar in Religious Studies 3 Hours
Specific issues in one of the areas of concentration.
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

RELS 510 Seminar in Religious Literature 3 Hours (repeatable max of 12 hrs)
Selected literature from one or more major religious traditions.
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; fall 2015; spring 2016; fall 2016; spring 2017

RELS 520 Seminar in Religious History 3 Hours (repeatable max of 12 hrs)
Significant topics, movements, or events in the development of one major religious traditions.
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

RELS 530 Seminar in Religious Thought 3 Hours (repeatable max of 12 hrs)
Selected topics or thinkers from one or more major religious traditions.
Recent Term(s) Offered: summer 2015

RELS 598 Independent Study in Religion 1-3 Hours (repeatable max of 6 hrs)
Directed study and research in selected topics in religious studies.
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; summer 2015; fall 2015; winter 2016; spring 2016; fall 2016; spring 2017; fall 2017
RELS 599   Thesis Writing   1-3 Hours (repeatable max of 6 hrs)
Directed research and writing toward the completion of a master’s thesis.
Grade Mode: Pass/Fail
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; fall 2015; spring 2016; spring 2017

RELS 600   Maintaining Matriculation   1 Hour (repeatable max of 3 hrs)
Maintaining Matriculation
Prerequisite(s): Graduate student in Religious Studies.
Grade Mode: Non-graded
Recent Term(s) Offered: None

RELS 601   Graduate Seminar in Religious Studies   4 Hours (repeatable max of 12 hrs)
An intensive study of one or more central aspects of religion, focusing on one or more religious traditions. Content areas of the seminar will vary by semester and instructor.
Prerequisite(s): Graduate student in religious studies or consent of the instructor.
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; fall 2015; fall 2016; spring 2017; fall 2017

RELS 602   Thesis and Project Development Seminar   1 Hour
A forum for graduate students in religious studies to facilitate the development of thesis or project proposals.
Prerequisite(s): Graduate student in religious studies.
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; spring 2016; fall 2016; spring 2017

RELS 603   Thesis and Project Capstone Colloquium   1 Hour
A forum for graduate students in religious studies to facilitate the completion of thesis or projects. Includes a concluding colloquium for the public presentation of work.
Prerequisite(s): Graduate student in religious studies.
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; spring 2016; spring 2017

RELS 610   Teaching Practicum in Religious Studies   1 Hour (repeatable max of 4 hrs)
A forum for graduate students to learn about curriculum design and pedagogy for courses in Religious Studies and to discuss their current work.
Prerequisite(s): Graduate teaching assistant in religious studies or permission of instructor.
Grade Mode: Pass/Fail
Recent Term(s) Offered: spring 2015; fall 2015; spring 2016; fall 2016; spring 2017; fall 2017