

**PROGRAM REVIEW**  
**RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT**  
**2010-2011**

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## **Religion/Philosophy Department: General Profile**

The Religion/Philosophy Department offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in Religion, Philosophy, and Religion/Philosophy. A Minor is also available in Religion or Philosophy. In addition, the department is closely affiliated with the Peace Studies Program, Off-Campus Religion Programs in Minority Communities, Campus Ministry, the Honors Program, Institute for Multicultural Research and Campus Diversity, the Fasnacht Chair of Religion, the General Education Program, and field studies programs.

The Director of the Peace Studies Program has been an adjunct member of the Religion/Philosophy Department (R/P) faculty. She has attended all department meetings, developed her curriculum in conversation with the (R/P) department faculty, and her instructors are hired through the R/P budget. Students in the Peace Studies Program receive a Minor in Peace Studies and are included in the Senior Project Presentations with the R/P students. This position is currently vacant and its future is not clear.

Opportunities are offered through the R/P Department for students in minority communities to continue their education in off-campus locations. This program is the Off-Campus Religion Program and has existed since 1978. The program has its own budget and the Director is also a full-time faculty member in the R/P department. There are approximately forty students and fifteen faculty involved in these programs.

The university Campus Minister has been an adjunct member of the R/P department faculty. This position has been re-defined as an Inter-faith Chaplaincy. The Inter-faith Chaplain will no longer be an adjunct instructor, but will work closely with the R/P Department.

The R/P department works with the Honors Program in developing interdisciplinary courses like: Religion and the City, The Family in Society, The Good Life, as well as the entry course for freshman: Global Ideas 1. A full-time R/P faculty member serves on the Honors Committee.

The R/P department helps to support the Institute for Multicultural Research and Campus Diversity by providing a one course release time for one full-time R/P faculty member in order for him to work with the Institute.

The donations made thus far to the future endowment of a full-time chair in the R/P department have made it possible for the R/P department to sponsor a series of lectures and presentations by outstanding scholars in the fields of Religion and Ethics. The chair of the Fasnacht Committee which oversees these funds is also the chair of the R/P department, and one other full-time R/P faculty member is also a member of that committee.

The R/P department takes a leading role in providing Core courses in the ULV General Education Program. The department offers Values and Critical Thinking for the traditional on-campus population, and oversees the delivery of this course in several off-campus and on-line formats. In addition, the R/P department faculty continually provide new courses needed for interdisciplinary requirements. Examples of these include Religion and Ecology, Mapping Religion Through Visual Arts, Pathways to Peace, and those listed as Interdisciplinary Honors courses.

The R/P department provides opportunities for archeological field studies in Winter or Summer Terms. These trips are made possible by one full-time R/P department faculty member and have included traditional age students, other ULV faculty members, and ULV Trustees.

## **Faculty:**

The faculty of the Religion/Philosophy Department is comprised of three full-time professors, two part-time adjunct instructors and five part-time instructors. With Jonathan Reed serving as interim Dean, the department is without one of its three full-time faculty. This situation will not be resolved for at least one more year.

### *Full-time professors:*

Daniel A. Campana, Ph.D. Philosophy of Religion and Theology, Claremont Graduate University

Jonathan L. Reed, Ph.D. New Testament, Claremont Graduate University

Richard A. Rose, Ph.D. Philosophy of Religion and Theology, Claremont Graduate University

### *Part-time adjunct:*

Marshall Osman, Ph.D. Philosophy of Religion and Theology, Claremont Graduate University

John Khanjian, Ph.D. Old Testament, Claremont Graduate University

### *Part-time instructors:*

Dane Sawyer, Ph.D. Religion (in progress), Claremont Graduate University

Shannon Hensley, Ph.D. Philosophy in progress, Claremont Graduate University

Zandra Wagoner, Ph.D. Women's Studies in Religion, Claremont Graduate University

Ryan Harrison, Psy.D. Health and Wellness, College of the Rockies

Tracy Hawkins, Ph.D. Women's Studies in Religion/Islamic Studies, Claremont Graduate University

The nature of a small department is such that full-time faculty members must be able to teach a broad spectrum of courses within the discipline, however, areas of specialization for our three full-time and part-time adjunct faculty members include: Campana: philosophy of religion and ethics; Reed: New Testament studies and the archeology of Greco-Roman Palestine; Rose: religious pluralism and peace and social justice; Osman: ancient philosophy and existentialism; Khanjian: Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures.

For Publications and professional involvements, see Vitas.

## **Courses:**

The Religion/Philosophy department offers approximately eight R/P courses per semester (including Humanities courses), two R/P courses in the January Interterm, and several sections of Values and Critical Thinking and interdisciplinary courses for the General Education Core requirements and the Honors Program. With the phasing out of the last General Education program, the number of Values and Critical Thinking and Core interdisciplinary courses is reducing. In addition, R/P faculty are involved in several Independent Study courses each year because a) one requirement for the Philosophy Major is to do an Independent Study on a Major Philosopher, and b) the Senior Project required for all Majors in the department is an Independent Study. Average enrollments for R/P courses is around 19 for Fall and Spring courses, and 20 for Winter Term courses. Full-time faculty are also involved in several Independent Studies as well.

See table of enrollments and table of four-year course rotation.

**Students:**

According to Institutional Research, there are thirteen active undergraduate ULV students majoring in one of the degrees offered in the on-campus Religion/Philosophy department.

**Secretarial Support:**

The Religion/Philosophy department receives secretarial support from Melanie Brown who serves as the Administrative Assistant for the Humanities division, including Modern Languages and English. Her responsibilities include some work for the coordinators of the Honors Program and General Education Program, the Photography department, and support to thirty-four part-time instructors in the Humanities division.

**Office Space:**

The three full-time and one temporary half-time faculty have their own offices on the first floor of Miller Hall. All part-time instructors in the R/P department share an office in Miller Hall with several other part-time instructors in the Humanities division.

## **The Mission of the Religion/Philosophy Department:**

The mission of the Religion/Philosophy Department is to serve students from all academic and professional schools in the university by providing an educational environment in which students will be challenged both academically and personally to become involved in the ongoing dialogue between a broad spectrum of religious and philosophical ideologies. The department, therefore, emphasizes critical thinking and self-awareness while affirming the diversity of perspectives arising from the various religions, philosophies, ethnicities, genders, and sexual orientations comprising the global community. Students will be prepared for further formal education in a graduate school or seminary, and/or to serve the larger community as they pursue career goals.

Consistent with its church-related origin, the Religion/Philosophy department's mission to the greater University of La Verne community includes the promotion of the values explicit in the university's Mission Statement. Specifically, the department stimulates awareness and implementation throughout the university community of the values basic to the university's identity.

## **Curricular Goals in relation to accomplishing this mission include:**

- C1 Offer a range of courses of instruction that offer students the opportunity to explore a representative sample of the religious and philosophical traditions that have had the most formative impact on the history of ideas.
- C2 Offer courses that cover the range of material expected by graduate schools and seminaries.
- C3 Offer courses that hone the skills necessary for success in continued learning.
- C4 Be a proactive voice in the curricular decisions of the university at large.

## **Extra-Curricular Goals in relation to accomplishing this mission include:**

- EC1 Create and maintain opportunities for learning that take place out of the classroom, like lectures, travel-trips, study abroad opportunities, internships, etc.
- EC2 Create and maintain opportunities for community service and inter-cultural/international experiences for students in and outside of the department.
- EC3 Create community-wide opportunities for stimulating awareness of the university's values and identity.

## **Personnel Goals in relation to accomplishing this mission include:**

- P1 Hiring faculty who model to students the kind of academic and personal integration described in the mission of the department.
- P2 Hiring faculty who bring with them the kinds of expertise to achieve curricular and extra-curricular goals.
- P3 Providing faculty with resources to accomplish curricular and extra-curricular goals.
- P4 Providing faculty with resources necessary for them to model the value of continued intellectual growth and participation in the intellectual community.
- P5 Provide faculty enrichment.

## **Where Specific Learning Outcomes Are Being Addressed And How Outcomes Are Assessed**

### ***Learning Outcomes related to Goal C1:***

- <Students will acquire a basic knowledge of the historical development of western philosophy, the major figures, and the major issues.
- <Students will acquire a basic knowledge of the origins of Christianity and the development of the various Christian theologies: the major figures and the major issues.
- <Students will develop an awareness of non-western religious and philosophical traditions.

### **Addressed:**

- >In course material. See Course Syllabi Evaluation.

### **Assessed:**

- >By strategies particular to each course. See Assessment of strategies per course.

### ***Learning Outcomes related to Goals C2 and C3:***

- <Students will obtain admission to quality graduate schools.
- <Students will perform well in graduate schools.
- <Students will practice habits of continuing their own education whether formally or not.
- <Students will use their skills in their job setting.

### **Assessed:**

- >By Alumni Survey. See Alumni Survey results.

### ***Learning Outcomes related to Goal EC1 and EC2:***

- <Students will be exposed to high quality scholars in religion and philosophy.
- <Students will develop an awareness of inter-cultural issues in religion and philosophy.
- <Students will obtain practical experience in an internship setting.

### **Addressed:**

- >By sponsoring guest lecturers in specific classes.
- >By bringing quality scholars to the campus through the Fasnacht Lecture series and the Baccalaureate speakers. See Lists.
- >By providing archeological field trips.
- >By incorporating travel trips into specific courses.
- >By encouraging study abroad through BCA.
- >By encouraging participation in Summer Service and other internship and community service programs.

### **Assessed:**

- >Course-related travel trips are assessed within the framework of the course.
- >Summer Service and internship opportunities are assessed through these programs' own methods.
- >Alumni Survey questions indicate the students who have taken advantage of these types of opportunities. See Alumni Survey questions.

## **Assessment of Curricular, Extra-Curricular, and Personnel Goals Not Related to Learning Outcomes**

***C4 Be a proactive voice in the curricular decisions of the university at large.***

**Assessed:**

>In terms of faculty involvement on university committees. See Faculty Vitas.

***EC3 Create community-wide opportunities for stimulating awareness of the university's values and identity.***

**Assessed:**

>See List of Fasnacht Lecturers.

>See List of Baccalaureate speakers.

>See Faculty Vitas and participation of faculty in teaching outside of the department.

***P1 Hiring faculty who model to students the kind of academic and personal integration described in the mission of the department.***

***P2 Hiring faculty who bring with them the kinds of expertise to achieve curricular and extra-curricular goals.***

***P3 Providing faculty with resources to accomplish curricular and extra-curricular goals.***

***P4 Providing faculty with resources necessary for them to model the value of continued intellectual growth and participation in the intellectual community.***

***P5 Provide faculty enrichment.***

**Assessed:**

>See Faculty Vitas.

>See Department Profile.



## Summary of Program Review Results

### Introduction:

The Program Review for the Religion/Philosophy Department is a living document. As such, its value lies not only in the snapshot it provides of the department over the past three years, but more importantly in the opportunity it provides to see the results of processes put in place since the last program review.

In that review, new processes were created for: Course Syllabi evaluation, a strategy for contacting and surveying department alumni, a rubric for formal evaluation of course syllabi, a rubric for formal evaluation of student Senior Projects, and a system for surveying exiting seniors.

### Current Status of the Department: Curricular Goals

*C1 Offer a range of courses of instruction that offer students the opportunity to explore a representative sample of the religious and philosophical traditions that have had the most formative impact on the history of ideas.*

The analysis of Course Syllabi indicates that R/P courses are strong in History and Diversity, as well as broad in scope. Alumni Survey results indicate agreement that courses offered are appropriate and provide sufficient preparation for graduate school work, however they also indicate that there are not enough electives offered in the department.

*C2 Offer courses that cover the range of material expected by graduate schools and seminaries.*

*C3 Offer courses that hone the skills necessary for success in continued learning.*

In addition to the indication that department courses are appropriate and sufficient preparation for graduate school work, both Alumni Survey results and anecdotal data show that graduates from the P/R department who seek acceptance to a graduate school are very successful in being admitted to outstanding graduate schools. Analysis of Course Syllabi indicates that R/P department courses emphasize critical thinking and writing. The analysis also indicates that there is a broad spectrum of expectations regarding reading.

*C4 Be a proactive voice in the curricular decisions of the university at large.*

The full-time faculty of the R/P department directly influence the curriculum of the university at large by participation on numerous committees that deal with curricular issues (See faculty Vitas).

### Current Status of the Department: Extra-Curricular Goals

*EC1 Create and maintain opportunities for learning that take place out of the classroom, like lectures, travel-trips, study abroad opportunities, internships, etc.*

*EC3 Create community-wide opportunities for stimulating awareness of the university's values and identity.*

An analysis of Syllabi indicates that several courses take students out of the classroom. (See Syllabi and Syllabi Evaluation)

### Current Status of the Department: Personnel Goals

*P1 Hiring faculty who model to students the kind of academic and personal integration described in the mission of the department.*

*P2 Hiring faculty who bring with them the kinds of expertise to achieve curricular and extra-curricular goals.*

Faculty vitas indicate that the full-time R/P department faculty are very active in their professional fields and societies as well as in numerous forms of community service. They model the scholarship and personal values that the department seeks to cultivate in its students. Part-time faculty are filling in the missing full-time position, and are bringing courses like Spiritual Cinema, Islam, etc. into the curriculum.

With Jonathan Reed serving as interim Dean, the department is in need of a strong, full-time faculty member. This will not be resolved for at least one more year.

*P3 Providing faculty with resources to accomplish curricular and extra-curricular goals.*

*P4 Providing faculty with resources necessary for them to model the value of continued intellectual growth and participation in the intellectual community.*

*P5 Provide faculty enrichment.*

There is a need for office space for Part-time faculty.

### **Action Plans:**

The R/P department has researched the current Wilson Library holding for books relevant to their courses and made recommendations to the library.

**Goal: Follow through on these new acquisitions.**

Increased contact with department alumni is now more realistic. For the first time, the department has been able to obtain an Alumni list that is comprehensive.

**Goal: Increase the number of contacts and more successfully administering Alumni Survey.**

The department has had an Exit Survey for graduating seniors, but it has been returned intermittently.

**Goal: Implement the Exit Survey and collect data more consistently.**

The department is not able to offer its archeological field trips because of Jonathan Reed's position as interim Dean, and because of political issues in Israel.

**Goal: Seek a replacement location for archeologically based courses.**

There is an on-going need for more space for Part-time faculty in Miller Hall. Jonathan Reed's vacant office is providing *some temporary* relief.

**Goal: Seek office space for Part-time faculty.**

Comparisons with other Universities indicate that the department web site is out of date.

**Goal: Update the web site.**