



COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND
SCIENCES

"The focus of all programs is developing the conceptual understanding and critical thinking skills that define the educated person."

Philosophy and Religious Studies

Understanding ourselves, the human community and the ultimate character of reality

The Major

What gives life meaning? What is the character of value or ethics? What is ultimately real? These are some of the questions philosophy asks. On the other hand, religious studies examines the various ways in which religious experience is understood and expressed in the world. These two separate but related disciplines are combined at Winthrop into one department — the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Each discipline examines the fundamental assumptions, concepts, and values we employ in understanding ourselves, the human community, and the ultimate character of reality. The focus of all programs is developing the conceptual understanding and critical thinking skills that define the educated person.

The Program

The philosophy and religious studies major requires 36 semester hours, of which 18 semester hours must include: history of philosophy, introduction to religious studies, a study in logic, world religions, philosophy of religion and a senior seminar. The remaining 18 semester hours may be chosen from the philosophy track, the religious studies track or a combined track. Eighteen-semester hour minors are also available in either philosophy or religious studies or both combined. While study abroad programs are not required, students are encouraged to consider them during their academic career at Winthrop.

Careers/Graduate School

Philosophy and religious studies majors are prepared for a variety of career opportunities. Graduates have gone on to careers in banking, teaching and public administration. Others have pursued graduate work at law schools,

divinity schools and theological seminaries, including Harvard Divinity School; University of Georgia; University of Arizona; University of South Carolina and USC Law School; College of William and Mary Law School; Graduate Theological Union; University of Louvain, Belgium; Union Seminary in Richmond, Va.; and Florida State University. Still other Winthrop graduates have secured employment in various areas of business with major corporations such as Bank of America and Duke Power. With their strong background in analytical and critical thinking, philosophy and religious studies majors are uniquely prepared not just for specific jobs, but for a broad array of career possibilities.

Student organizations

Students in philosophy and religious studies have organized a club called the Symposium. This group is open to all students who wish to discuss current ideas and issues in philosophy and religious studies in an informal setting. The Symposium also sponsors outside speakers. Additionally, the department sponsors Phi Sigma Tau and Theta Alpha Kappa, national honorary student organizations that recognize superior academic performance in philosophy and religious studies, respectively.

Faculty

The faculty at Winthrop has been consistently recognized as an outstanding group of highly motivated and dedicated professionals. Philosophy and religious studies faculty maintain this high level of expectation. All permanent teaching faculty hold a terminal degree, a Ph.D., indicating a high level of knowledge of their specialty areas.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Peter J. Judge, Chair
Department of Philosophy
and Religious Studies
Winthrop University
322 Kinard Hall
Rock Hill, SC 29733
803/323-4652
judgep@winthrop.edu