SSC 327 Research Methods (3 crs)  S
A multi-faceted approach to problems of research design, data collection, data analysis. The course is intended to provide majors in social science fields an opportunity to explore and develop a topic for the senior thesis. It is, however, open to students in all fields who seek a fundamental introduction to doing research. Prerequisites: junior standing.

SSC 415 Statistical Analysis (3 crs)  S
A study of the different techniques used in the social sciences to analyze, interpret and evaluate data. The course is intended to provide students conducting a senior thesis, in social science, the necessary skills to organize and summarize their data using descriptive and inferential statistics. Prerequisites: senior standing, MAT 105, SSC 327.

SSC 488 Senior Thesis (3 crs)  F
This course is designed to allow students to develop and conduct research in their area of study/interest. Students will formulate a thesis question and utilize various research methodologies to collect data in support of their hypotheses, as well as conduct a thorough review of the literature regarding their topic. Upon completion of the project, a formal presentation/defense will be made in front of the other members of the class and the entire faculty of the department. Prerequisites: senior standing, MAT 105, SSC 327.

SSC 489 Senior Seminar (3 crs)  S
Students participate in an integrative seminar designed to enable them to identify significant issues which arise in the serious study of society, and to relate their personal philosophies and Judeo-Christian perspectives to alternative courses of action. The seminar also includes a comprehensive oral examination which each student must pass in order to graduate. Prerequisites: senior standing, SSC 488.

Theology and Religious Studies

Contact Persons: Daniel M. O’Hare, Ph.D
Michael F. Steltenkamp, S.J., Ph.D.
Kristopher L. Willumsen, Ph.D.

Theology and Religious Studies are academic disciplines and essential branches of knowledge in a liberal education. They provide an opportunity for one to explore religious commitment, the relationship between faith and reason, and religion and culture. Wheeling Jesuit also offers a minor in Catholic Studies that majors are encouraged to consider pursuing.

Graduates will be able to:
1. Show how religion fills a vital role in the way people view their world.
2. Recognize the ethical implications of religion.
3. Use critical skills for the interpretation of texts, rituals, religious art and other forms of religious experience.
4. Foster spiritual growth and care for human life that such growth includes.

Requirements for Theology and Religious Studies Major
In order to earn a major in theology/religious studies, students must:
A. Complete the following in Theology and Religious Studies:
   RST 106      The Religious Quest or
B. Take ONE course from three of the following groups:
   a) RST 206 The Church in the Modern World (3 crs)
      RST 207 Christian Marriage (3 crs)
      RST 304 The Quest for God (3 crs)
      RST 306 Christian Ritual and Worship (3 crs)
      RST 307 Studies in Church History (3 crs)
   b) RST 201 Introduction to the New Testament (3 crs)
      RST 202 The Gospels (3 crs)
      RST 300 Studies in the Old Testament (3 crs)
      RST 301 Studies in the New Testament (3 crs)
      RST 302 Paul’s Letters (3 crs)
   c) RST 208 A Theology of War and Peace (3 crs)
      RST 209 Issues in Sexual Morality (3 crs)
      RST 230 Catholic Social Thought (3 crs)
      RST 308 Issues in Bioethics (3 crs)
      RST 309 Christianity and Capitalism (3 crs)
   d) RST 401 Contemporary Theological Trends and Issues (3 crs)
      RST 402 Action and Contemplation in Christian Life (3 crs)
      RST 403 Great Theologians: Past & Present (3 crs)
      RST 404 Religion and Science (3 crs)

C. Complete SIX other theology electives.
   * Additional courses are listed under the Catholic Studies Minor.

Special Notes on Major Requirements:
1. All majors will complete 42 credits in theology, 9 of which simultaneously fulfill the core requirements.
2. If approved by the department, senior theology majors may elect to write a thesis under the guidance of a faculty member from Theology/Religious Studies and defend the thesis orally.
3. French or German is recommended for majors.

Requirements for Minor
To earn a minor in Theology and Religious Studies, students must:
A. Complete the following courses:
   RST 106 The Religious Quest or
   RST 107 Catholicism (3 crs)
   RST 203 World Religions or
   RST 303 Studies in Living Religious Traditions (3 crs)
   RST 305 Christian Morality Today (3 crs)
B. Complete Three other theology electives.
Core Fulfilling Courses
1. RST 106 or RST 107 (prerequisite for all other RST courses)
2. All other courses except RST 484.*
3. RST 305 Christian Morality Today (juniors and seniors only)

*Note: Courses numbered 400 are advanced and require of non-majors permission of the instructor for admission.

Course Descriptions:

**RST 106 The Religious Quest**  (3 crs)  F,S
An introduction to how people address such “religious” issues as faith, doubt, deity, good, evil, community, salvation and worship. Particular attention is given to ways of interpreting the Bible, and how this sacred literature addresses the lives of its many readers.

**RST 107 Catholicism**  (3 crs)  F,S
An introduction to the great religious questions within the context of Catholicism. Ecumenism and Catholicism’s relation to other religions will be a component. This course is recommended for Catholic students.

**RST 200 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament**  (3 crs)  F,S
A sounding of the different kinds of literature represented in the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament, with emphasis on their diverse theologies, literary features, cultural and historical contexts and influences, ethical concerns, and continued relevance.

**RST 201 Introduction to the New Testament**  (3 crs)  F,S
An exploration of the types of New Testament literature with special attention to their different portraits of Jesus, their literary features, cultural and historical contexts and influences, understanding of the Old Testament, ethics, and ongoing influence.

**RST 202 The Gospels**  (3 crs)  F
A sustained inquiry into the nature of the Gospels and how they compare with one another, their relationship to Jesus of Nazareth, their literary and theological features, conceptions of Jesus, historical and cultural contexts, and understanding of the Old Testament.

**RST 203 World Religions**  (3 crs)  F
A study of the origins, history and beliefs of the major Western and Eastern religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, with an emphasis on interreligious understanding.

**RST 204 Jesus the Christ**  (3 crs)  S
A study of the person and meaning of Jesus as presented in scripture and as understood throughout the Christian tradition.

**RST 206 The Church in the Modern World**  (3 crs)  D
A presentation of the Church’s understanding of itself, its membership, ministry and mission to the world, with emphasis on the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

**RST 207 Christian Marriage and Sexual Morality**  (3 crs)  F,S
An examination of moral issues pertaining to marriage, family, and sexuality in light of both Christian theology and trends in contemporary society. Possible topics include gender roles, premarital sexuality, homosexuality, divorce and remarriage, contraception, pornography, and the influence of communications media on sexuality and marriage.
RST 208 Theologies of War and Peace  (3 crs)  F
A comparative study of the teachings of Christianity and other traditions (Islam, Buddhism, international law) on war and peace and their impact on significant contemporary conflicts and issues such as humanitarian intervention, terrorism, and the use of nuclear weapons. Attention will also be given to emerging strategies for international cooperation and peacebuilding.

RST 209 Issues in Sexual Morality  (3 crs)  D
A critical study of current efforts to reexamine the Christian tradition’s views on sexual morality; a detailed analysis of select topics such as premarital sexuality, homosexuality, pornography and gender roles in today’s world.

RST 210 Religion and Literature  (3 crs)  S
An examination of significant religious issues as they are reflected in literature. Topics treated might include spiritual awakening, decision-making, suffering and death, prayer.

RST 230 Catholic Social Thought  (3 crs)  S
An introduction to basic principles of Catholic Social Thought (e.g., the sacredness of human life, the common good, preferential option for the poor, subsidiarity) with a particular focus on the economic, social, political, and ecological issues raised by globalization in the early twenty-first century.

RST 300 Studies in the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament  (3 crs)  F,S
A focused analysis of a particular body of literature in the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament (Torah, prophets, writings), a theological movement (apocalypticism), a historical time period (pre-exilic Israel), or a theological theme (repentance, suffering).

RST 301 Studies in the New Testament  (3 crs)  F

RST 302 Paul's Letters  (3 crs)  F,S
An investigation of the letters associated with the Apostle Paul, exploring their developing theology, their literary and rhetorical features, the historical and cultural contexts in Paul's life in which they were written, the authorship of the disputed letters, and their continued relevance.

RST 303 Studies in Living Religious Traditions  (3 crs)  F,S
An introduction to the historical, cultural and theological aspects of one of several religious traditions other than Catholic Christianity (e.g. Protestant or Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, Islam,American Indian) An examination of its history, its beliefs and practices and its lived-reality today.

RST 304 The Quest for God  (3 crs)  D
An exploration of questions about the existence and nature of God as they have been treated in Christian history and shaped by 20th century concerns: a Christian trinitarian understanding of God contrasted to the concept of divinity in other religious traditions.

RST 305 Modern Moral Issues  (3 crs)  F,S
An issues-based introduction to Christian reflection on contemporary issues (e.g., war, economic ethics, health care, abortion, sexuality and gender, and environmental sustainability).
RST 306 Christian Ritual and Worship (3 crs)  D
A study of the ritual responses of human beings to divinity, with specific focus on the Christian ritual response; an analysis of the Christian Eucharistic liturgy, festal celebrations, special liturgies like weddings and funerals, sacred time and space, and popular religious practices.

RST 307 Studies in Church History (3 crs)  D
A study of the history of the Christian Church focusing either on a comprehensive overview of its history or on a particular period or theme in its development.

RST 308 Issues in Bioethics (3 crs)  D
An analysis of contemporary issues in bioethics and medical ethics (e.g., the ethics of medical research and experimentation, the distribution and cost of health care, end-of-life issues, and reproductive technologies) in light of the Christian vision of human life.

RST 309 Christian Economic Ethics (3 crs)  D
An analysis and evaluation of economic systems and theories in light of Biblical and theological perspectives on wealth and economic activity. The course will also address economic questions that have arisen with particular force at the end of the twentieth and first decade of the twenty-first centuries, including the nature of the banking industry, the globalization of commerce, the role of government intervention in markets, and economic inequality.

RST/POS 310 Catholicism and Modernity (3 crs)  D
An exploration of the interaction between Catholicism and modern political philosophy, focusing upon the major issue of the relationship between church and state.

RST 312 Religion and Film (3 crs)  F,S
An examination of select films which present religious issues in a way that stimulates the religious imagination and theological reflection. The films may be organized around a theme (e.g., suffering, death and hope; the sacramentality of everyday life; the quest for God; religious commitment and moral decision-making) or around a selection of filmmakers whose films reveal various religious interests.

RST 314 Religious Traditions of Native North America (3 crs)  F,S
In considering how historians, anthropologists and Indians understand the peopling of North America, this course will look at the variety of sacred stories which tell of the Native genesis. Classes will focus on American Indian religion as it has been passed down through the generations before and after 1492. Special focus will be upon traditions which arose during the historical period which remain vital today within different communities (e.g., sacred stories, pipe usage, the sweatlodge ceremony, peyotism, etc). The reasons for, and content of, “revitalization movements” which have arisen over the past three hundred years also will be included. Finally, the spirituality associated with contemporary Indian people will be addressed by examining “New Age” and “ecology” themes.

RST 315 Judaism (3 crs)  S
An introduction to the history, sacred teachings, contemporary issues, and attitudes of the Jewish people. The goal of the course is to gain a knowledge and an appreciation for the Jewish Tradition that invites students of disparate backgrounds to reconsider the beliefs and practices of their own religious heritage in comparison with those of this ancient but still vital community.

RST 401 Contemporary Theological Trends & Issues (3 crs)  D
Intensive study of new developments and current issues in theology and church life with a view to understanding their origins and implications. (Permission of instructor required.)
RST 402 Action and Contemplation in Christian Life (3 cr.) D
Reflections on the understanding of ministry and vocation in contemporary Christian life; the role of the laity in the Church; a survey of different spiritualities that undergird these ministries. (Permission of the instructor required.)

RST 403 Great Theologians: Past and Present (3 crs) D
Intensive study of major theological figures, their development, influence and significance for the Church and intellectual history (e.g., St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, St. Teresa of Avila, Ignatius of Loyola, Martin Buber, Karl Rahner). (Permission of instructor required.)

RST 404 Religion and Science (3 crs) D
An examination of the numerous issues raised by the relationship between religion and science with special attention devoted to the writings of major theologians and scientists who have dealt with these issues. (Permission of instructor required.)

RST 460 Theology of Communication (3 crs) D
Study of the theology of social communication and its application to communication concepts, skills and communication work—including a critical evaluation of current trends in the reporting of religion and other religious communication. Writing intensive. Prerequisites: 2.0 or better in the completed English and theology cores or permission of instructor.

RST 480 Pastoral Practicum (3 crs) D
A “service learning” course designed primarily for persons planning a career in professions that “minister” to the public, e.g., theology majors, social science majors, health professions. Students do weekly “pastoral” work in places like the Catholic Neighborhood Center, campus ministry, and Wheeling area outreach centers that value Wheeling Jesuit interns. Readings in pastoral ministry and spirituality supplement one-on-one meetings with the instructor focused on the student’s volunteer experience.

RST 484 Senior Thesis (3 crs) S
Independent research and preparation of a thesis written under the supervision of a department member or person designated by the department on a topic chosen by the student with the approval of the department.

Web Mastering/Web Authoring

Contact Person: Richard Cain

In support of the overall mission of Wheeling Jesuit University, the programs in Web Mastering provide courses in web authoring, web programming, graphic design, networking, and systems administration. For additional related courses, see Information Science and Communication.

Core Fulfilling Courses
- FAS/COM 142 Digital Photography
- FAS 143/COM 232 Image Editing with Photoshop
- ISC 110 Information Infrastructure