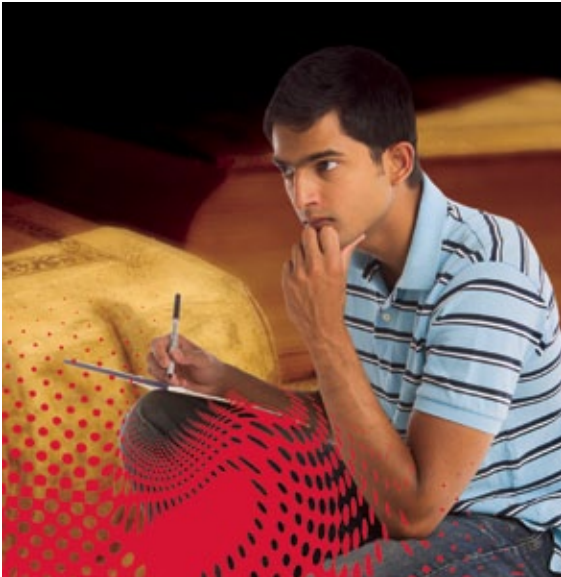


Graduate Division of Religion



EMORY
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The Graduate Division of Religion (GDR) prepares scholars and teachers of religion and theology, requiring mastery of a specialized field in the context of a general knowledge of the study of religion and the varieties of religious expression and practice.

The GDR brings together the resources of Emory University in a rigorous interdisciplinary program of graduate doctoral education. The GDR is unique because of the collegiality and collaboration that characterize this mix: not only faculty working with students, but also theologians working with sociologists, ethicists working with lawyers, Islamicists working with Buddhist scholars, ethnographers working with historians.

Intellectual Community

The GDR stands at the center of one of Emory's deepest and broadest communities of inquiry. At Emory, religion is a major focus of interest and research for scholars not only in religion and theology, but also in such areas as: African-American studies, anthropology, comparative literature, history, law, medicine, Middle Eastern studies, neurophysiology, nursing, psychology, public health, sociology, South Asian studies, and women's studies.

GDR faculty and students are also deeply involved in several signature institutions and programs at Emory. The collections of the MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM of Emory University span the globe and the centuries. Housed in a distinguished building by renowned architect Michael Graves, the Carlos maintains the largest collection of ancient art in the Southeast with objects from ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Near East, and the ancient Americas. The Museum is also home to collections of nineteenth- and twentieth-century sub-Saharan African art and European and American works on paper from the Renaissance to the present day.

The CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND RELIGION (CSLR) is home to world-class scholars and forums on the religious foundations of law, politics and society. The CSLR is designed to explore the religious dimensions of law, the legal dimensions of religion, and the interaction of legal and religious ideas, institutions, and methods. The CSLR's work is inter-religious, with an emphasis on the traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It is international in orientation, seeking to situate American debates over interdisciplinary religious issues within an emerging global conversation.

Emory University's CENTER ON MYTH AND RITUAL IN AMERICAN LIFE (MARIAL) is one of five Sloan Centers on Working Families, supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Program on Dual-Career Working Middle Class Families. The Emory Center focuses its research on the functions and significance of ritual and myth in dual wage-earner middle-class families in the American South.

DISCOVER

the unexpected

Some other key initiatives involving GDR members are the EMORY-TIBET PARTNERSHIP, the RELIGIONS AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT STRATEGIC INITIATIVE, and the YOUTH THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE.

No less important, the study of religion lies at the root of Emory's signature commitment to ethical concern and social engagement as an exemplary community of moral inquiry and civic responsibility. GDR students and faculty have been participants in projects partnering academics and community leaders through the OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (OUCP) and in the research, educational and leadership activities of the CENTER FOR ETHICS.

Emory University has exceptional library resources as well. The nine Emory Libraries house more than 3.1 million volumes, at least 55,000 of which are electronic. With over 520,000 volumes, the primary emphasis at the PITTS THEOLOGY LIBRARY is on Christian history and thought. The library also acquires materials in contiguous areas that are related to the history of other religious traditions, especially early Judaism. WOODRUFF LIBRARY, the largest campus library, has strong collections in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam including materials in Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Arabic. Not least among its resources are librarians specializing in South Asia, Islamic, and Jewish Studies who are always willing to offer research assistance. MARBL, the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, holds unique collections in African American history and culture and in the history of Georgia and the South.

And, of course, the context of Atlanta offers a variety of research and learning possibilities, including the Carter Center and the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. There are also many research possibilities available amidst Atlanta's rich religious diversity. GDR faculty and students have gone out into the city to study Hindu temples, Islamic mosques, African-American mega-churches, Buddhist sanghas, and multi-racial and multi-ethnic Christian congregations. Attention is paid not only to formal religious institutions but also to religiously connected groups and organizations, including bakeries, publishing companies, political groups, educational institutions, etc.



The vibrancy of this mix can be seen in the kinds of projects undertaken by both faculty and students, ranging from the effects of Buddhist contemplation on mind and emotions to moral imagination in the book of Job, from ethnographic study of a female Muslim folk healer in India to the history of pastoral care, from the study of funeral practices in the U.S. to theological reflection on LGBT identities, and from the political role of denominational offices in Washington, D.C., to questions of the relationship of theology and science.

There are several GDR-wide colloquia each year which give some opportunity for sharing this diversity, but many of the connections occur through ongoing relationships in courses, committee and department meetings, etc.

Curriculum

The GDR is organized into ten Courses of Study:

- American Religious Cultures
- Comparative Literature and Religion
- Ethics and Society
- Hebrew Bible
- Historical Studies in Theology and Religion
- Jewish Studies
- New Testament
- Person, Community, and Religious Life
- Theological Studies
- West and South Asian Religions

Each of these Courses of Study offers a variety of colloquia and special events.

Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. program requires two years of coursework. While specific requirements vary from program to program, all students must take at least five doctoral seminars during the two years of coursework. Individual courses of study may have certain required seminars, and independent studies may be arranged with professors. The equivalent of two seminars must be taken in an area of study outside one's field of specialization, leading to a qualifying exam in that area. In the first year, there is a non-graded colloquium, run by the GDR directors, which serves as an introduction to both the GDR and to the professional study of religion and theology.

In the third year, students take doctoral (qualifying) examinations, proceed to a dissertation prospectus, and, by the fourth year, should be writing the dissertation. Dissertation committees are composed of at least 3 faculty members, not all of whom need be in the student's particular Course of Study. Research funds are available to support travel and other expenses necessary for completing the dissertation.

Students in the Ph.D. program must demonstrate their ability to read two modern languages (other than English), normally German, Spanish and/or French, but another modern language may be substituted if appropriate to the student's research and approved by the student's department. Competence in a first language is to be demonstrated by written examination at the beginning of the first semester in residence, and competence in a second must be demonstrated before preliminary examinations are administered. The biblical courses of study have additional requirements in the pertinent primary languages. Funds are available to support additional language training.

The academic program is supplemented by rigorous teacher training and ample teaching opportunity. All students participate in the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity (TATTO) Program as part of their course of study. The program involves:

- a summer workshop, run by the Graduate School, held in August before entering the GDR;
- a specialized teaching seminar/workshop taken in the second year; and
- two required Teaching Assistantships, and one Teaching Associateship, normally started in the second semester of the first year (generally connected to classes in either the Department of Religion or the Candler School of Theology).

There are also increasing numbers of special workshops and lunches being offered for exploration of specific professional issues, including writing practices, conference presentation, and pedagogical questions.

Special Programs

In addition to the ten Courses of Study, the GDR has specialized program possibilities that combine resources from more than one program and from other graduate faculties in the university. A concentration in Religious Practices and Practical Theology is available within any program, as well as a joint JD/PhD program (see below).

The Concentration in Religious Practices and Practical Theology

The Concentration is a minor track that enables students in any Course of Study within the GDR to incorporate a focus on religious practices as part of their doctoral training and to be part of an emerging vital conversation important to both religious and theological studies. It is a way of augmenting and focusing work, while fulfilling the normal program requirements. It is designed especially for students who either:

- want to specialize in one of the practical theological fields (e.g. religious education, pastoral care, homiletics, liturgics, congregational leadership), or

- wish to specialize in any other area within the study of religion (e.g., Asian religions, ethics, Hebrew Bible, history, New Testament, psychology or sociology of religion, theology) in relation to the teaching and scholarship of religious practices.

The Concentration offers special opportunities to participate in colloquia and to apply for funds to support travel for research or conferences, teaching assistantships, field-based research, or dissertation preparation in relation to scholarship in religious practices and practical theology.

The Doctor of Law/Doctor of Philosophy (JD/PhD)

This joint degree enables students to pursue training in law while simultaneously receiving the highest level of academic education in one of the divisions of the Graduate School. Many recipients of the JD/PhD will be interested in academic career paths, but all recipients will be fully equipped to practice law and to teach on the university or college level.

A prospective candidate must apply separately to both the School of Law and to the Graduate School, indicating on the applications a desire to study for the joint JD/PhD. A successful candidate must be accepted by both schools before matriculating in the joint degree program. A student already enrolled in the School of Law or the Graduate School may apply to the other school for admission to candidacy for the JD/PhD. If admitted, the student's previous degree work will be counted toward the joint degree requirements.

A candidate spends the first full year in either the Law School or the Graduate School; the second year is spent in the remaining school. Thereafter, the candidate must spend three semesters in residence at the Law School and one semester in classes at the graduate school. This represents a one-semester reduction in the normal course requirements within each school. Beyond classes, the candidate is required to put in whatever additional time is needed to meet successfully the requirements of the Ph.D. program.

Faculty

We have 64 faculty members. Most have appointments in the Department of Religion or in the Candler School of Theology, but some have primary appointments in other areas of the University, including Comparative Literature, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, and the School of Law.

On our website you can find a list of our faculty with links to individual faculty pages that usually have information about research and teaching interests, publications and more. Visit www.gdr.emory.edu/faculist.htm.

Students

Typically, we have about 150 students in residence, and accept approximately 20-23 new students each year, distributed across the Courses of Study. Interests range broadly, as some recent dissertation titles suggest:

- Felix Peccabilitas: Fallibility and Christian Heroism in the Hamartiology of Soren Kierkegaard
- Leaping Across the Ocean: Narrative in a Transnational Hindu Family
- Consumer Capitalism and Adolescent Vocational Imagination: An Explanation of the Pedagogical Dynamics of Ongoing Conversion
- Metaphor and Masculinity in Hosea
- Rereading the “Shepherd Discourse” Back into the Fourth Gospel: Restoring the Internal and Contextual Integrity of John 9:39-10:21
- From Martyrdom to Self-Preservation in Seventeenth Century England
- Language, Power, and Identity in the Lament Psalms of the Individual
- Encountering the Other Through Interfaith Dialogue: A Constructive Look at Praxis of Religious Identity and the Promotion of Peace
- Dancing Ourselves Free: Black Women, Violence, and the Art of Re-Creation
- Disorienting Dharma: Ethics and the Poetics of Suffering in the Mahabharata
- The Iconography of Yahweh’s Winged Form in the Psalms
- An Ethics of Biodiversity: Moral, Theology, Ecology, and Environmentalism
- “May Your Heart Dissolve”; Duality and Relation in Mechthild of Magdeburg and Lalla of Kashmir

- A Witness of Words: The United Methodist Social Principles as Moral Discourse and Institutional Practice
- The Full Price of Freedom: African American’s Shared Responsibility to Repair the Harms of Slavery and Segregation

In the last few years, GDR graduates have been hired in tenure-track positions at a variety of types of educational institutions including: Boston College, Boston University, Candler School of Theology, Denison University, Hebrew Union College, Loyola University (Chicago), McAfee School of Theology, McCormack School of Theology, Pacific Lutheran University, Rhodes College, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University.

Admissions

The work of the Graduate Division of Religion is oriented entirely toward the doctor of philosophy degree. Thus, admission to one of the Courses of Study presupposes a master’s-level degree related to the field. Students wishing to do master’s-level degrees are encouraged to consider the Master of Theological Studies program in Emory’s Candler School of Theology or the master’s degree offered by Jewish Studies in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Application is made to one Course of Study (noted on application form) although a second choice may also be noted. If you wish to do the Concentration in Religious Practices and Practical Theology, please check the appropriate box on the form and note your interest in the statement of purpose. If you are applying to both the Law School as part of the Joint JD/PhD, please mention this in the statement of purpose. The Courses of Study do the primary reading of all applications submitted to them. Their recommendations are forwarded to a GDR-wide Admissions Committee which makes the final selection. Top candidates are invited to a Recruitment Weekend in February and offers are made shortly afterwards.

More Information

For more information, please visit our website, www.gdr.emory.edu, where you can find detailed information about the graduate program, the requirements for the doctoral degree, and the application process.



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Requests for Additional Information:

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies
209 Administration Building
201 Dowman Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322

404-727-6028 (ask for the Graduate Division
of Religion program)
Fax: 404-727-4990

<http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu>
<http://www.gdr.emory.edu>