

CAP COMMITTEE - CAP COURSE REVIEW GUIDELINES

Revised 09/05/2017

ADVANCED STUDY IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES, PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY

As a Catholic and Marianist institution of higher education, the University regards religious studies and philosophy as having special roles in the undergraduate curriculum and in the attainment of University-wide learning goals. Students are expected to deepen their knowledge of the religious and philosophical traditions that inform the Catholic and Marianist education. Advanced study in these areas, especially when conducted through interdisciplinary courses, also assists students in constructing integrated knowledge of the central human questions examined in a liberal education. The fields of philosophy and religious studies, together with historical study are indispensable for students' education in the Catholic intellectual tradition. Students will take courses beyond the 100 level in these fields to further their understanding of the resources that the Catholic intellectual tradition offers for their own personal, professional, and civic lives and also for the just transformation of the social world. By requiring every student to take six hours of courses in the areas of religious studies or philosophy and three hours in history beyond the 100 level, the University expects students to engage in liberal learning that connects theory and practice and to draw upon the resources of the Catholic intellectual tradition as they consider how to lead wise and ethical lives of leadership and service.

Students will have flexibility in fulfilling these requirements. First, these courses will frequently focus on issues related to, and satisfy the criteria for the Faith Traditions, Practical Ethical Action, Inquiry, and Integrative components of the CAP. Second, the criteria for these requirements are disciplinary-based in the fields of religious, philosophical, and historical studies and, therefore, not limited to specific departments. Courses offered outside the Departments of Philosophy, Religious Studies, and History may count towards the advanced religious, philosophical, and historical studies requirements if the courses draw extensively from those disciplinary perspectives and address in significant ways aspects of the Catholic intellectual tradition. Courses satisfying the advanced religious studies component might examine the central beliefs, texts, or practices of one or more religious traditions or movements; examine ethics as a central feature of a religious tradition including the use of Catholic social teaching as a resource; or examine cultural expressions of religious identity or tradition as the central focus of theological or religious studies. Courses satisfying the advanced philosophical studies component might evaluate competing solutions to theoretical or ethical options in the present day, or draw on the philosophical resources of the Catholic intellectual tradition to address the challenges of their times. Courses satisfying the advanced historical studies component might engage students in the study and analysis of primary materials to further develop students' historical sensibilities in a way that illuminates the historical dimensions of *Habits of Inquiry and Reflection* learning goals. The course could examine a historical topic drawing on the work of historians to show how interpretations of the past may change over time.