

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Mission Statement

The mission of the Religious Studies program is to facilitate our students' learning about Orthodox Christianity and their critical appreciation – with fairness and respect – of its distinctiveness in relation to other Christian and religious traditions. To this end, the program provides a curriculum in four areas of study: the Bible in the Orthodox Church; Christian Theology and Spirituality; Philosophy, the Anthropology of Religion, and Service; and Liturgical Arts and Culture. Students will be prepared to contribute to society and the Church through either helping professions, or church ministries; others, will further their studies in graduate programs. Students who are enrolled as Seminarians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America will also complete additional courses in Modern and Classical Greek language, sacred chant, and theology to be eligible for the three-year Master of Divinity program offered by Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Religious Studies Program Goals

During their course of study:

1. Students will be prepared for careers in the helping professions, including ministry in the Church, and for further studies in graduate programs.
2. Seminarian students will be prepared for ordained service in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America or in other Orthodox jurisdictions.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students of the Religious Studies program will:

1. Demonstrate the impact of the Bible on Orthodox Christian theology.
2. Apply various critical and historical approaches to the study of religion.
3. Appreciate the distinctiveness of Orthodox Christian theology within the mosaic of the world's religious traditions.
4. Engage in theological discourse within the historical trajectory of Christian theology in general and Orthodox Christian theology in particular.

5. Demonstrate theological thinking that equips them to advance the gospel entrusted to the Orthodox Church, while respecting the diversity of viewpoints within the Orthodox Christian tradition and in the academy.
6. Incorporate practical competencies, including spiritual practices and theological reflection.
7. Articulate the moral and practical implications of the Orthodox Christian tradition which address social issues and contribute to the well-being of others.
8. Demonstrate the applied skills of research, project management, and academic writing.

Religious Studies Course Requirements

Old Testament in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
New Testament in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
Great Christian Thinkers	3 cr.
Theories and Methods of Religion	3 cr.
New Testament Greek I	3 cr.
New Testament Greek II	3 cr.
Religious Studies Capstone Seminar	3 cr.

Additional Sub-Program Requirements

Orthodox Studies	21 cr.
Non-GOA Seminarian Studies	24 cr.
GOA Seminarian Studies	33 cr.

Total: 42cr.; 45 cr.; 54 cr.

Religious Studies Capstone Seminar

All students will complete the Religious Studies Capstone Seminar during their senior year, resulting in a Capstone paper. The completed Capstone paper should bring together one of the Program Learning Outcomes of the Religious Studies program, a student's research expertise, and the student's future vocational direction. The Capstone necessitates multiple drafts that are subjected to heightened peer review and regular feedback from the instructor.

Religious Studies Sub-Programs

All Religious Studies majors will choose one of three sub-programs. Each sub-program has its own requirements. The sub-programs are:

- Orthodox Studies
- Non-GOA Seminarian Studies

GOA Seminarian Studies

Program Categories with Example Course Topics

The Religious Studies curriculum includes courses in four broad categories: the Bible in the Orthodox Church; Christian Theology & Spirituality; Philosophy, the Anthropology of Religion, and Service; and Liturgical Arts and Culture. Students in the major are encouraged to distribute their religious studies electives across the four program categories, when possible.

Category One: The Bible in the Orthodox Church includes courses related to New Testament; Old Testament; Patristic interpretation of the Bible and Orthodox hermeneutics; and Bible in Orthodox theology and liturgy.

Category Two: Christian Theology and Spirituality includes courses related to Christian theology; Patristics; Church history; Contemporary or historical Orthodox spirituality and life; and Orthodox spiritual practices.

Category Three: Philosophy, the Anthropology of Religion, and Service includes courses related to Theories and Methods for the study of religion; Philosophy; Ethics or moral philosophy; Philanthropy; World religions; and Missions and missiology.

Category Four: Liturgical Arts and Culture includes courses related to iconography; sacred architecture; advanced chant; Christian novelists and poets; and film.

Religious Studies Sub-Program Requirements

Orthodox Studies Sub-Program Requirements

Elective Requirements: (21 credits)

- Religious Studies Electives 21 cr.¹

Non-GOA Seminarian Studies Sub-Program Requirements

Required Courses: (24 Credits)

- Byzantine or other chant and Liturgical Skills 6 cr.²
- Religious Studies Electives 18 cr.³

¹ Given the number of their Religious Studies electives, Orthodox Studies students could consider distributing these courses across the four program categories.

² Each jurisdiction will determine which courses their students should take in this area of liturgical chant.

³ Given the number of their Religious Studies electives, Non-GOA Seminarian Studies are encouraged to distribute these courses across the four program categories.

GOA Seminarian Studies Sub-Program Requirements

This sub-program prepares students to continue their education after graduation as seminarians in the M.Div. program of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and to complete that program in an expedited manner. It includes courses in Modern Greek language, New Testament Greek, and Byzantine chant, all of which are required courses for the M.Div. program in the School of Theology.

Required Courses: (33 credits)

- Beginning Modern Greek II 6 cr.
- Intermediate Modern Greek I-II 6 cr.
- Advanced Modern Greek I-II 6 cr.
- Byzantine Music I-IV 6 cr.
- Religious Studies Electives 9 cr.

In order to finish their M.Div. in three years, GOA Seminarians are encouraged to take two graduate school courses during their senior year. These courses would count towards the required Religious Studies electives. To do so, undergraduate students will need to cross-register with the School of Theology:

Recommended Courses: (6 credits)

- Introduction to New Testament 3 cr.
- Exegesis of the New Testament 3 cr.

Modern Greek Language

- All Hellenic College students are required to complete six credits of Modern Greek language as part of the Core curriculum.
- Students in the GOA Seminarian sub-program who complete two summers of Kallinikeion will satisfy 12 of the 24 total required hours of Modern Greek (Required: 6 credits in the Core; 18 additional credits in the GOA Seminarian sub-program). By utilizing at least two summer sessions of Kallinikeion, they also obtain more space for electives during the school year.
- Proficiency exams offered each spring will determine whether students have attained the necessary degree of competence to move to the next level of Modern Greek, or if a remedial course is required.

- Students with prior knowledge of Modern Greek may take a placement exam to determine the level at which their studies will begin. Students whose skills in Modern Greek qualify them to skip course(s) will have those courses waived from their required courses, and may be given a maximum of 6 credit-hours to be applied toward the Hellenic College Core language requirement.
- In the event that more than six credits of Modern Greek language are waived, a GOA Seminarian student would complete whatever remains of the 18 additional credits of Modern Greek as either electives in Greek studies (e.g. culture, language, literature, or history) or electives in Religious Studies.
- GOA Seminarian students who are native Modern Greek speakers will receive 6 credits in the Hellenic College Core language requirements and will take 12 replacement credits in Religious Studies electives.

Religious Studies Minor (15 Credits)

Students in other programs of Hellenic College may choose to minor in Religious Studies. Per the academic policies of Hellenic College, students may not use courses already taken in fulfillment of Hellenic College Core Requirements toward the minor requirement.

Program Learning Outcomes for the Minor in Religious Studies

Students minoring in Religious Studies will:

- Demonstrate a facility in the use of theological vocabulary and communication skills essential to Orthodox Christian studies in each of the following areas: Bible; Christian Theology and Spirituality; and Religion, Philosophy, and Service.
- Incorporate practical competencies, including spiritual practices and theological reflection.
- Articulate the moral and practical implications of the Orthodox Christian tradition which address social issues and contribute to the well-being of others.

Minor Requirements

Great Christian Thinkers	3 cr.
Three Religious Studies Electives	9 cr.
<i>And one of the following:</i>	
OT in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
NT in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies Program Map *Orthodox Studies*

Semester I (Fall)

Freshman Year

Ancient World to the	
Conversion of Constantine	3 cr.
Intro. to Orthodoxy	3 cr.
World of Greek Heroes	3 cr.
Great Concert Halls of Boston	3 cr.
Composition and Style	3 cr.
Research & Executive Management	1.5 cr.
	16.5 cr.

Summer I Total: 16.5 cr.

Kallinikeion Modern Greek	6 cr.
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Semester III (Fall)

Sophomore Year

Intro. to Psychology	3 cr.
Doctrine and Devotion: the Mother of God	3 cr.
From Socrates to Augustine	3 cr.
Literature of Vocation	3 cr.
World Religions in Boston	3 cr.
	15 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Semester V (Fall)

Junior Year

OT in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
Proseminar: Summer internship	0 cr.
	15 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Semester VII (Fall)

Senior Year

New Testament Greek I	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
Religious Studies Capstone Seminar	3 cr.
	15 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Semester II (Spring)

Freshman Year

Byzantium, Holy Russia, and the Medieval World	3 cr.
Discovering Christ in the Scriptures	3 cr.
Mathematics for Acct. & Finance	3 cr.
The Museums of Boston	3 cr.
Analysis of Literature	3 cr.
Spring break: Service trip with Dean	0 cr.
	15 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Semester IV (Spring)

Sophomore Year

The Struggle for Identity in the Modern Age	3 cr.
The Natural World	3 cr.
Literature/Business Elective	3 cr.
Classics Elective	3 cr.
Community Engagement	3 cr.
Service Immersion	1.5 cr.
	16.5 cr.

Total: 16.5 cr.

Semester VI (Spring)

Junior Year

NT in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
Great Christian Thinkers	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
	15 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Semester VIII (Spring)

Senior Year

New Testament Greek II	3 cr.
Theories and Methods of Religion	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
	12 cr.

Total: 12 cr.

Total Credits: 126

*Students are encouraged to distribute their Religious Studies electives across the four program categories.

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies Program Map
Non-GOA Seminarian Studies

Semester I (Fall)

Freshman Year

Ancient World to the	
Conversion of Constantine	3 cr.
Intro. to Orthodoxy	3 cr.
World of Greek Heroes	3 cr.
Great Concert Halls of Boston	3 cr.
Composition and Style	3 cr.
Research & Executive Management	1.5 cr.
Total:	16.5 cr.

Semester II (Spring)

Freshman Year

Byzantium, Holy Russia,	
and the Medieval World	3 cr.
Discovering Christ in the Scriptures	3 cr.
Mathematics for Acct. & Finance	3 cr.
The Museums of Boston	3 cr.
Analysis of Literature	3 cr.
Spring break: Service trip with Dean	0 cr.
Total:	15 cr.

Summer I

Kallinikeion Modern Greek	6 cr.
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Semester III (Fall)

Sophomore Year

Intro. to Psychology	3 cr.
Doctrine and Devotion:	
the Mother of God	3 cr.
From Socrates to Augustine	3 cr.
World Religions in Boston	3 cr.
Literature of Vocation	3 cr.
Total:	15 cr.

Semester IV (Spring)

Sophomore Year

The Struggle for Identity	
in the Modern Age	3 cr.
The Natural World	3 cr.
Literature/Business Elective	3 cr.
Classics Elective	3 cr.
Community Engagement	3 cr.
Service Immersion	1.5 cr.
Total:	16.5 cr.

Semester V (Fall)

Junior Year

OT in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
Byzantine Chant I**	1.5 cr.
Proseminar: Summer internship	0 cr.
Total:	13.5 cr.

Semester VI (Spring)

Junior Year

NT in the Orthodox Church	3 cr.
Great Christian Thinkers	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
Byzantine Chant II**	1.5 cr.
Total:	16.5 cr.

Semester VII (Fall)

Senior Year

New Testament Greek I	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
Religious Studies Capstone Seminar	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
Byzantine Chant III**	1.5 cr.
Total:	13.5 cr.

Semester VIII (Spring)

Senior Year

New Testament Greek II	3 cr.
Theories and Methods of Religion	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective*	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
Byzantine Chant IV**	1.5 cr.
Total:	13.5 cr.

Total Credits: 126

*Students are encouraged to distribute their Religious Studies electives across the four program categories.

** These chant courses can be fulfilled with another liturgical music course or teleturgies appropriate for the student's jurisdiction.

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies Program Map
GOA Seminarian Studies

Semester I (Fall)

Freshman Year

Ancient World to the	
Conversion of Constantine	<i>3 cr.</i>
Intro. to Orthodoxy	<i>3 cr.</i>
World of Greek Heroes	<i>3 cr.</i>
Great Concert Halls of Boston	<i>3 cr.</i>
Composition and Style	<i>3 cr.</i>
Research & Executive Management	<i>1.5 cr.</i>

Total: 16.5 cr.

Semester II (Spring)

Freshman Year

Byzantium, Holy Russia,	
and the Medieval World	<i>3 cr.</i>
Discovering Christ in the Scriptures	<i>3 cr.</i>
Mathematics for Acct. & Finance	<i>3 cr.</i>
The Museums of Boston	<i>3 cr.</i>
Analysis of Literature	<i>3 cr.</i>
<i>Spring break: Service trip with Dean</i>	<i>0 cr.</i>

Total: 15 cr.

Summer I

Kallinikeion Modern Greek	<i>6 cr.</i>
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Semester III (Fall)

Sophomore Year

Intro. to Psychology	<i>3 cr.</i>
Doctrine and Devotion:	
the Mother of God	<i>3 cr.</i>
From Socrates to Augustine	<i>3 cr.</i>
World Religions in Boston	<i>3 cr.</i>
Literature of Vocation	<i>3 cr.</i>

Total: 15 cr.

Semester IV (Spring)

Sophomore Year

The Struggle for Identity	
in the Modern Age	<i>3 cr.</i>
The Natural World	<i>3 cr.</i>
Beginning Greek II	<i>6 cr.</i>
Community Engagement	<i>3 cr.</i>
Service Immersion	<i>1.5 cr.</i>

Total: 16.5 cr.

Summer II

Kallinikeion Modern Greek	<i>6 cr.</i>
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Semester V (Fall)

Junior Year

Advanced Greek I	<i>3 cr.</i>
OT in the Orthodox Church	<i>3 cr.</i>
Literature/Business Elective	<i>3 cr.</i>
General Elective	<i>3 cr.</i>
Byzantine Chant I	<i>1.5 cr.</i>
Proseminar: Summer internship	<i>0 cr.</i>

Total: 13.5 cr.

Semester VI (Spring)

Junior Year

Advanced Greek II	<i>3 cr.</i>
NT in the Orthodox Church	<i>3 cr.</i>
Great Christian Thinkers	<i>3 cr.</i>
Classics Elective	<i>3 cr.</i>
General Elective	<i>3 cr.</i>
Byzantine Chant II	<i>1.5 cr.</i>

Total: 16.5 cr.

Semester VII (Fall)

Senior Year

New Testament Greek I	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective	3 cr.
Religious Studies Capstone Seminar	3 cr.
Byzantine Chant III	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Chant V	1.5 cr.
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Total:	12 cr.

Semester VIII (Spring)

Senior Year

New Testament Greek II	3 cr.
Theories and Methods of Religion	3 cr.
Religious Studies Elective	3 cr.
General Elective	3 cr.
Byzantine Chant IV	1.5 cr.
Byzantine Chant VI	1.5 cr.
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Total:	15 cr.

Total Credits: 132

