



Baylor University

Civic Interfaith Studies Minor

Program Outline

Credit Hours: 18 Total (3 required courses + 3 electives)

Required Courses:

- LDS 3308 – Interfaith Leadership
- REL 3345 – World Religions
 - BIC Students will take BIC 1314 (World Cultures I) or BIC 1324 (World Cultures II) instead of REL 3345
- SWO 2320 – Human Diversity and Leadership

Primary Electives:

- BIC 3358 – Biblical Heritage (section with an interfaith focus)
- BIC 4389 – Yoga and Philosophy
- ENG 4348 – Religious Rhetoric and Spiritual Writing
- REL 4342 – Christianity and the World's Religions: Jesus in the World's Religious Traditions
- SWO 4315 – Foundations for Social Justice
- SWO 4V80 - Spirituality and Social Work Practice

Required Course Offerings

BIC 1314 – World Cultures I: Roots of Culture

Embraces the period from the dawn of civilizations to 500 A.D. The course is arranged chronologically and seeks to widen views of our own culture by studying selected early civilizations and their values. Original sources will be selected from such cultures as the prehistoric, Mesopotamian, Chinese, Hebrew, Greek, early Christian, and Roman. By reading and studying original texts and objects from these cultures, students will be exposed to widely differing views of what it means to be human. They will also have the opportunity to refine critical writing and speaking skills. The course will provide students with the broad cultural and historical context in which they may examine their own identities.

BIC 1324 – World Cultures II: Religion and Culture

A study organized around several major themes including the medieval world and its ideals, both in the West and East, and the new technological, scientific, and social forces that emerged to challenge these ideals. The first theme explores the medieval unity and its expressions in selected works of art, music, and literature. The second relates to the rise of mercantilism and urbanism, and especially to key discoveries in science. World geography will provide a key component of the course. The development or refinement of critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills will be fundamental goals.

LDS 3308 – Interfaith Leadership

This course will explore theoretical and practical issues related to leadership across and inclusive of different faiths. We will discuss various civic and spiritual practices related to leadership and religious identity. Students will consider their own sense of formation and worldview through reading, writing, class discussion, and co-curricular experiences in order to cultivate spiritual growth, civic capacity, and intercultural skills.

REL 3345 – World Religions

Historical, aesthetic, philosophical, anthropological, sociological, and psychological approaches to the major faith traditions of our world.

SWO 2320 – Human Diversity and Leadership

This course creates opportunities to increase understanding of diversity and difference, power and privilege, and oppression—as well as an understanding of one’s self. Students will look at diversities within religion, ability, age, sexual orientation in addition to race/ethnicity, class, gender. This is an essential foundation for culturally competent leadership in any professional or volunteer setting.

Electives

BIC 3358 – Biblical Heritage (special section with an interfaith focus)

In-depth study of selected texts from the Old and New Testaments and examination of the approaches and resources used today and throughout Christian history in such study. Biblical perspectives on such ethical issues as human rights, environmental concerns and resource allocation will be examined to provide a bridge between the literary/cultural settings of the Bible and contemporary human experience and decision making.

BIC 4389 – Yoga and Philosophy (capstone)

Synthesizes learning in two or more disciplines, or in some way connects modes or areas of learning not normally connected. This capstone course represents the culmination both of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core experience and of the undergraduate experience. By integrating learning, and application, this course will bridge the gap between undergraduate life and life after graduation, leading students to form connections between their lives in the university and their lives in the wider community. The course will include significant written and oral projects. Religion majors and minors must repeat course once under a different topic

ENG 4348 – Religious Rhetoric and Spiritual Writing

This writing course provides students with an opportunity to use a range of nonfiction genres to explore spiritual questions, religious issues, and rhetorical concerns. In crafting spiritual autobiographies, epideictic discourses, histories of belief, religious literacy essays, rhetorical analyses of religious texts, and other related genres, students gain extensive experience writing from and critically analyzing faith-based perspectives. To cultivate their work as writers, students also analyze the rhetorical moves, genre conventions, and discursive strategies used in spiritual writing, sacred texts, and critical works that center on religious rhetoric.

REL 4342 – Christianity and the World's Religions: Jesus in the World's Religious Traditions

Studies the exchange and encounter between Christianity and the major world religions with an emphasis on the perspectives of Jesus, employing phenomenological, contemplative, and comparative methodologies in the study of Jesus as presented in the world's religious traditions, particularly Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism.

SWO 4315 – Foundations for Social Justice

Examines theories and practices of social justice as related to oppressed groups in a multicultural society utilizing religious and nonreligious perspectives. Addresses issues of power, inequality, and privilege, and the diverse experiences of oppressed groups in framing strategies to promote social justice.

SWO 4V80 – Spirituality and Social Work Practice

Students will be able to: Distinguish between spirituality and religion within and across cultural boundaries, and across the lifespan. Demonstrate an understanding of the emerging research surrounding the relationship between religion and mental/physical health, including positive and negative religious coping strategies and client preferences. Describe effective and ethically appropriate methods for assessing and integrating clients' religious/spiritual beliefs and practices in social work practice, and challenges related to such integration. Understand the connection between spirituality and professional self-care.

Additional Elective Options

ANT 1360 Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft

Cross-cultural variability in beliefs and practices related to the supernatural, including theories about social, psychological, and ecological functions.

ANT 2305 Cultural Anthropology in the Global Context

An introduction to global cultures with emphasis on socio-economic arrangements, religious beliefs, and responses of indigenous groups to modernization.

ANT 3320 Environment and Human Behavior (Cross-listed as ENV 3320)

Interrelationships between cultural and ecological systems, with focus on food production, economic exchange, and religious beliefs.

ANT 4360 Anthropology of Religion

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing or consent of instructor.

Myth, ritual and religion in social and cultural anthropology. Emphasis on structural and functional analysis, including critiques of pertinent classical and contemporary works.

BIC 4374 World Cultures V: Differing Visions and Realities

Pre-requisite(s): BIC 3358.

Explores differing visions and realities in a selected sample of non-Western cultures. The initial interdisciplinary study will reveal themes that transcend cultural differences.

Students will then investigate the expression of these themes in a culture fundamentally different from their own.

ENG 3317 Rhetoric of Race

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing or consent of instructor.

Exploration of rhetoric, writing, literacy, and culture in relation to race and other related issues, such as class, identity, gender, politics, and culture.

ENG 3326 Studies in Public and Civic Writing

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing or consent of instructor.

Examines the role of writing and rhetoric in shaping, mobilizing, and changing the public's thinking on contemporary controversial issues. Focus on both historical and contemporary debates.

INB 3333 Doing Business Across Cultures

Pre-requisite(s): Junior standing.

A practical survey for all majors of how business practices vary across different cultures. Ways of doing business are compared and contrasted on a regional basis, including cultures in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. Case discussion is emphasized.

JOU 3376 History of American Journalism

Pre-requisite(s): Open to juniors and seniors throughout the university.

Development, impact, and importance of communication groups and of individual journalists and media in the United States.

JOU 3387 International Communication

Pre-requisite(s): Open to juniors and seniors throughout the university.

International communication: its history, the flow of news and information, its role in international relations, a comparison of press systems, the role of new World Information Order, and communication in developed and developing nations.

JOU 4305 Gender, Race & Media

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing or consent of the instructor.

Theory, critical analysis techniques and personal experiences with race, gender and class. Examination of the link between media representations, institutional practices and how closely these images reflect more objective measures of reality.

LDS 3312 Leadership for 21st Century America

Pre-requisite(s): LDS 2301 or CCS 2301.

This course will address the changing demographics of our global community of the 21st century. The future of leadership will be complex in terms of practices that are impacted by a changing diversity of "world citizens" and it will demand an understanding of geographic, economic, cultural, political, religious, and linguistic mediums. This course will address these skills, and areas of knowledge.

PPS 1100 Introduction to Citizenship and Community Service

Volunteerism and community service as related to poverty, literacy, local political participation, mentoring, peer education, community law enforcement, gender, and neighborhood development. In addition to one weekly classroom hour, a minimum of two hours per week of community service is required. May be repeated a maximum of four times with a different topic each time.

PPS 2301 Leadership and Social Change

Theory and practice of leading groups toward positive social change, emphasizing issues such as poverty, public education, and systemic inequality. A minimum of sixty hours of public service outside of class required.

PPS 4310 Philanthropy, Civil Society, & the Public Good

Pre-requisite(s): Upper-level standing.

The role of philanthropy and civil society in public problem solving with an introduction to ethics and importance of financial giving and community investments. Students will spend significant time outside class working with foundations and nonprofits.

PHI 2305 Philosophy and Religion

A critical analysis of the rationality of religious beliefs, principally those in the theistic tradition. Topics may include the existence of God, evil, religious language, religious experience, faith and reason, and individual religious commitments in a pluralistic world.