



2017-2018

GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

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Introduction

Welcome to the graduate program in the Department of Religion. Princeton's program has much to offer, both within the department and beyond, including in other University departments and interdisciplinary programs and at the neighboring Princeton Theological Seminary. The small size of the program fosters a spirit of collegiality within and across subfields, allows for a close working relationship with faculty and student colleagues, all with the support of dedicated administrative staff.

We value the working community of the Department of Religion and aim to make each student's experience in the graduate program fulfilling and productive. The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), the Department Chair, Graduate Program Administrator, and Graduate Student Committee are all available to help you address questions or concerns that may arise during your course of study and to provide avenues for your suggestions. This handbook serves as an introductory guide, but is not comprehensive. Please consult the department website, as well as make use of faculty, staff, and administrators as resources for information on topics not found here.

Graduate School Policies and Procedures

Many academic policies and procedures are common to all students in all departments at the University, and you should familiarize yourself with these in addition to policies that are specific to the Religion department. You will find these on the Graduate School's website (<http://gradschool.princeton.edu/policies>).

All members of the University community commit to adhere to the codes of conduct and regulations outlined in *Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities* (<http://www.princeton.edu/pub/rrr/index.xml>). In addition to the DGS, Department Chair, and the Graduate School Deans as resources for assistance in resolving conflicts, the Ombuds Office provides the opportunity for members of the campus community to discuss issues in a neutral and confidential venue ().

Degree Requirements

Overview

Graduate students in the department are expected to work full time toward their degrees, normally in residence, and to complete the program within five years. All students work toward the Ph.D.; there is no separate master's program. An M.A. degree is awarded after students pass the General Examinations, normally completed by the middle of the third year of graduate work.

Students who have not completed the dissertation by the end of the fifth year are eligible to be enrolled for an additional two years under Dissertation Completion Enrollment (DCE) status. “To qualify for DCE status, students must have made substantial progress on the dissertation and must at the time of reenrollment move directly into DCE status when their period of regular enrollment ends. Eligible students apply for this status during the annual [reenrollment](#) process in the last year of their program of study, and must be approved for DCE status by their department and the Graduate School based on criteria for satisfactory academic progress. . . . Students in DCE status are fully and formally enrolled graduate students, working full time to complete degree requirements. DCE students may be enrolled as regular (in residence) or *in absentia* students (pursuing their work away from Princeton). In both cases, a marginal-cost tuition that includes the mandatory Student Health Plan fee will be charged.” Consult the Graduate School’s DCE Handbook for additional information (https://gradschool.princeton.edu/sites/gradschool/files/DCE_Handbook.pdf).

Subfield Concentration

While the department encourages its graduate students to work out innovative programs of study and to make use of the full range of available resources, it also requires each student to demonstrate mastery of one of the fields of concentration:

- Asian Religions (faculty: Jonathan Gold, Jacqueline Stone, Stephen Teiser)
- Islam (faculty: Shaun Marmon, Muhammad Q. Zaman)
- Religion in the Americas (faculty: Wallace Best, Jessica Delgado, Eddie Glaude, Seth Perry, Judith Weisenfeld)
- Religions of Mediterranean Antiquity (faculty: Martha Himmelfarb, AnneMarie Luijendijk, Elaine Pagels, Moulie Vidas, Laura Quick)
- Religion and Philosophy (faculty: Leora Batnitzky, Eddie Glaude, Eric Gregory, Jeffrey Stout)
- Religion, Ethics, and Politics (faculty: Leora Batnitzky, Eddie Glaude, Eric Gregory, Jeffrey Stout)

Coursework

All graduate students enroll in one of the two required departmental courses in the fall of the first and second year:

REL 501: Religion and the Tradition of Social Theory

A critical introduction to developments in social theory that have influenced the academic study of religion, including the classic contributions of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber as well as more recent debates in anthropology and cultural theory.

REL 502: Philosophy and the Study of Religion

The impact of twentieth-century philosophical ideas on the academic study of religion:

naturalism, phenomenology, hermeneutics, structuralism, Nietzschean genealogy, and American pragmatism, among other philosophical movements.

Selection of other courses should be done in consultation with advisors within the student's subfield. Subfield course requirements, if any, can be found on the Religion Department's website (<http://religion.princeton.edu/main/graduate/graduate-program/academic-fields/>).

Student-Initiated Reading Courses

In addition to enrolling in regularly-scheduled courses, an individual or group of graduate students may create a Reading Course on a topic not available in the course offerings or building on an undergraduate course offering, provided a faculty member is willing to oversee the course. Visiting faculty may not lead a graduate reading course.

A reading course must have a complete syllabus and weekly schedule of readings and meetings as well as established written requirements. If a graduate reading course is built on an existing undergraduate course, substantial material must be added to bring it up to the graduate level. Students must complete a Reading Course Contract, outlining requirements and expectations and signed by both the student and instructor (<http://religion.princeton.edu/forms/graduate-forms/reading-course-contract/>)

For complete guidelines and the Reading Course Contract, see the "Forms and Guidelines" section of the Religion Department's website (<http://religion.princeton.edu/main/graduate/graduate-program/graduate-forms-and-guidelines/>).

Incompletes

The Graduate School policy states: "Students should complete the work of graduate courses, both 500- and 700-level, and any other courses during the regular academic term in which they are taken. Failure to do so may result in deferred reenrollment, which in turn has an impact on the student's financial support and registration and course enrollment for the next academic year." The department affirms this policy and grants Incompletes only under extraordinary circumstances.

Language Requirement

All degree candidates are expected to have a reading knowledge of the two modern foreign languages most appropriate to their fields of concentration. For most students, this means French and German, occasionally substituting Spanish. For students in Asian Religions, Chinese, Japanese, Sanskrit or Tibetan normally takes the place of either French or German. For students in Religion in the Americas, the choice of languages should be made in consultation with advisers and the rest of the subfield faculty.

The language requirement may be fulfilled by successfully completing summer language courses offered by the University, or by passing tests given by the language departments, or by

some other means approved by the Department. All entering students are strongly urged to achieve competence in at least one of the required languages before matriculation.

Beyond the basic requirements, students are expected to demonstrate competence in whatever additional languages they need to pursue advanced work in their own areas of specialization. For example, students who concentrate on Islam must have a reading knowledge of Arabic along with one modern European language, while students in Religions of Mediterranean Antiquity must demonstrate knowledge of two ancient languages in addition to the two modern languages.

Reenrollment

The Graduate School has established “reenrollment [as] the annual process whereby departments and programs and the Graduate School evaluate the academic progress of candidates for advanced degrees. The reenrollment process, which is conducted during the latter half of the spring term, is often supplemented by other departmentally specific evaluations conducted at different times during the academic year (for example, doctoral students’ thesis committee meetings, which may occur once or at several times during an academic year). Students participate actively in the annual reenrollment process by preparing their own written statement of academic progress during the current year, and goals and objectives for the coming year.

All students eligible for reenrollment, including those writing dissertations, must make formal application each year through their individual department. Students who have satisfied all academic requirements within their department or program and demonstrated their readiness for continuing graduate work are offered reenrollment no later than June; others are notified about reenrollment when a basis for judgment is available.”

General Examinations

Each student’s knowledge and competence in the special field is tested in the General Examination, normally completed by the middle of the third year of graduate work. On occasion, some part or parts of the General Examination may be taken earlier. The nature of the General Examination varies from field to field and, within fields, from student to student. The Examination typically consists of four parts and may entail preparing scholarly essays (as if for publication) as well as sitting for traditional written examinations. Successful completion of the General Examination entitles a student to the M.A. degree. If the faculty recommends that a student not attempt to submit a dissertation, the M.A. becomes a terminal degree, though in most cases students are permitted to move directly to the Dissertation.

Requirements and guidelines for the General Examinations in each subfield can be found on the Religion Department’s website (<http://religion.princeton.edu/main/graduate/graduate-program/academic-fields/>).

Dissertation

Candidates who are permitted to proceed beyond the M.A. submit a formal dissertation proposal to the faculty in their subfield and the Director of Graduate Studies as soon as possible upon completion of the General Examination. The candidate discusses the proposal in an open meeting attended by the subfield faculty and members of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department. Upon conclusion of that meeting, all faculty in attendance confer and decide whether to accept the proposal. If the proposal is accepted, the candidate is permitted to execute the project in consultation with appropriate faculty advisers.

When all Ph.D. requirements listed under the Graduate School () and Religion Department (<https://gradschool.princeton.edu/academics/fields-study/religion>) are met, the Final Public Oral Examination can be scheduled. The Director of Graduate Studies designates at least three principal examiners, normally members of the Princeton faculty at the rank of assistant professor or higher, at least two of whom have not served as principal readers of the Dissertation. The examination not only involves a defense of the Dissertation but also covers the student's special field. The Department determines whether the candidate has passed the examination. Those who do pass receive the Ph.D. degree; those who do not are offered one more opportunity to be examined at least one year after the unsuccessful attempt.

Please consult the department's checklist for preparing to defend your dissertation (<http://religion.princeton.edu/forms/graduate-forms/ph-d-checklist-procedures-for-submission-of-dissertation/>) as well as the Mudd Library's guidelines for submitting a dissertation (<http://rbsc.princeton.edu/policies/masters-theses-phd-dissertations-submission-guidelines>).

Professional Development

Students have access to a range of professional development resources within the Religion Department, the Graduate School, in the broader University, and beyond. Taken together, these provide support for pedagogical training, scholarly development, preparation for the job market, and resources for considering careers beyond the academy.

Academic Job Market

The department hosts a session each fall during which the DGS offers an overview of the process of applying for academic positions and the specific elements of the dossier. Other faculty and advanced graduate students also participate to offer advice.

The Department provides a dossier service for graduate students in the program that provides a central location for application materials and recommendations. The Graduate Program Administrator compiles these into a dossier that the department maintains and forwards to prospective employers until students secure a tenure-track job, if that is their ultimate professional goal.

Students considering going on the market should begin preparing the following dossier materials during the summer before.

- curriculum vitae
- cover letter
- writing sample
- statement of teaching philosophy
- teaching portfolio

Students applying for jobs should provide a CV to the Graduate Program Administrator to be included in the listing of job candidates on the department's website (<http://religion.princeton.edu/main/people/all-people/job-market-candidates/>).

Each Princeton graduate student is eligible to create a website, hosted at Open Scholar, that they may use to promote their candidacy and supplement materials included in the job application dossier (<https://scholar.princeton.edu/>).

Job listings can be found in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (<http://www.chronicle.com>), to which Princeton has an institutional membership (you must log in from campus or a VPN), and on the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature's Employment Information Services site (<https://www.aarsbl.org/>). You must be a member of one of the societies to gain access. Other sites for academic job listings include Higher Ed Jobs (<https://www.higheredjobs.com/>) and *Inside Higher Ed* (<https://www.insidehighered.com/>).

Students who receive invitations for interviews at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature may request a mock conference interview session with a group of department faculty. Contact the Graduate Program Administrator to make arrangements.

Students who receive invitations for campus interviews may request a mock job talk and/or teaching demonstration session to receive feedback from faculty and graduate students. Procedures for scheduling a session are available on the Religion Department website (<http://religion.princeton.edu/forms/graduate-forms/job-talk-procedures/>).

Teaching

Normally, all graduate students serve at some point in their careers as Assistants in Instruction, known more commonly at Princeton as Preceptors. An Assistant leads preceptorials in undergraduate courses and is responsible for grading students as well. This opportunity depends, at any given time, upon undergraduate instructional needs, but the Department views such experience as integral to the professional education it offers. It also encourages graduate students to give lectures in appropriate undergraduate courses taught by members of the faculty. Contact the Department Manager regarding preceptor opportunities and assignments

in the Religion Department. In addition, opportunities may be available in other departments and programs, and students should contact the relevant Department managers or refer to the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School AI postings.

(<https://gsapps.princeton.edu/AIJobPosting/>)

McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the services offered at the McGraw Center (<http://www.princeton.edu/mcgraw/gs/>), in addition to the required orientation for preceptors, particularly in preparation for applying for jobs that include a teaching component. The Center offers pedagogical and professional development workshops as well as a Teaching Transcript Program that includes support for writing the Statement of Teaching Philosophy often required as part of the dossier.

National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

Princeton is an institutional member of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (<https://gradschool.princeton.edu/professional-development/national-center-faculty-development-and-diversity>). “The independent center provides professional development, training, and mentorship opportunities to more than 83,000 members representing colleges and universities in the United States.” Graduate students “can enroll in a free sub-account membership to get access to the center’s online resources which include workshops, webinars, and seminars on topics related to faculty life, such as increasing writing productivity, prioritizing and managing time, cultivating mentors, securing external funding, and maintaining work-life balance.”

Office of Career Services

Students are encouraged to consult with staff in Career Services (<http://careerservices.princeton.edu/graduate-students>) to prepare for the job market. The office provides career counseling sessions, workshops about and assistance with application materials, and resources for identifying and applying for academic jobs, non-teaching positions in the academy, and positions beyond the academy.

University Administrative Fellows

The Graduate School has instituted the University Administrative Fellows program to help students explore a variety of career options within the academy. “The . . . program provides post-generals enrolled graduate students (including DCE students) an opportunity to work in an administrative capacity for approximately six hours per week during an academic semester. The fellowship consists of working on a project or series of projects under the direction of the host department, attending meetings when appropriate, and discussing with the host the various aspects of the host’s position, including specific responsibilities, organizational dynamics, external networks, etc. Fellows receive a \$1,000 stipend in addition to their normal support. Before accepting the fellowship, selected students must receive permission from their dissertation adviser(s) and must be in good academic standing. The application process occurs

during the spring and summer. Fellowships are for the fall semester.” Applications and additional information are available on the Graduate School’s website.

Funding

Stipends and Payment

In addition to a grant covering tuition and fees, the Graduate School typically provides a 12-month stipend for entering graduate students in the humanities. “In subsequent years, returning Ph.D. students in the Humanities and Social Sciences departments typically continue to receive a University Fellowship as their base financial support, unless they have alternate sources of funding.”

Stipend checks are available the last business day of each month; the only exception is December 21, 2017. Contact the Religion department’s Graduate Program Administrator for problems with Gross Pay. Contact Payroll at 258-3416 for problems with Net Pay.

Direct deposit sign up is available online via Self Service on TigerHub (<https://registrar.princeton.edu/tigerhub/>).

Summer Language and Research Funding

Students who require supplemental funds for language study, fieldwork, or archival research, for example, may apply to a variety of interdisciplinary programs for support. A list of programs and application information are available on the Graduate School’s website (<https://gradschool.princeton.edu/costs-funding/sources-funding/fellowships/program/summer-funding>)

The Center for the Study of Religion (<http://csr.princeton.edu/>) and the University Center for Human Values (<http://uchv.princeton.edu/>) also offer research fellowship combined with weekly research workshops.

Support for Scholarly Travel

The Graduate School provides support up to \$600 for students in years three through DCE1 to present research at scholarly conferences. Applications are made through the Student Activities Funding Engine (SAFE). Some support may be available from the Religion Department for first and second- year students who have been invited to present research. Interested students should consult the Graduate Program Administrator.

Fellowships

The Graduate School offers a variety of competitive fellowships (<https://gradschool.princeton.edu/costs-funding/sources-funding/fellowships/competitive>) for students in the later years of graduate study.

Library

Librarians

Firestone Library

Wayne Bivens-Tatum
Philosophy and Religion Librarian
258-6367
rbivens@princeton.edu

East Asian Library and The Gest Collection Frist Campus Center

Dr. Martin Heijdra
Acting Chinese & Western Bibliographer
258-5336
mheijdra@princeton.edu

Ms. Setsuko Noguchi
Japanese Studies Librarian
258-6159
snoguchi@princeton.edu

Hyoungbae Lee
Korean Studies Librarian
258-0417
hyoungl@princeton.edu

Near Eastern Studies Collection Firestone Library

Kimberly Leaman
258-5307
[kleaman@princeton.edu](mailto:kleman@princeton.edu)

James Weinberger, Curator
258-3279
jwwein@princeton.edu

Princeton Theological Seminary (PU ID required) 25 Library Place 497-7940 <https://library.ptsem.edu/>

Kate Skrebutenas
Reference Librarian
497-7933
kate.skrebutenas@ptsem.edu

Kenneth Henke
Curator of Special Collections
497-7953
kenneth.henke@ptsem.edu

Study Space and Lockers

SREL, in Firestone Library 2-12-C, is study space for all Religion graduate students. Your PUID Card will allow access to SREL.

Graduate students are eligible for lockers in Firestone Library. Information and the application can be found at the following link:

<http://libweb10.princeton.edu/AssignedSpaceApplication/>

Please email the Graduate Program Administrator for information about study space in the basement of 1879 Hall.

1879 Hall Resources, Policies and Procedures

Bulletin Boards

- various university announcements and advertisements are located on the bulletin boards in the first-floor hallway of 1879 Hall
- the official “department” bulletin for departmental information only is located in the mail room just above the copying machine.

Coffee and Tea / Department Lounge

Graduate students are welcomed to help themselves to coffee or tea. We ask that you:

- wash your own cup and keep the lounge clean
- return any trays, dishes, utensils that are from the Frist Student Center
- keep microwave and refrigerator clean

Copy Machine

The department’s copy machine in Room 141 is for administrative use only. Copy machines located in all of the university Libraries and in the Frist Campus Center are for student use. Students normally use PAW points as a method to pay for copies. Access the following link for more information on PAW points: <http://www.princeton.edu/tigercard/ppwhat.html>

Email

Students are expected to check their email regularly; the department will communicate most information by email.

Emergency Procedures / Public Safety 911 (Campus Phone)

609-258-3333 (from a cell phone)

If you notice anything unusual happening in the department (e.g., strange visitors, emergency medical situations, building maintenance needs, etc.), please inform a department staff member as soon as possible.

Fire Safety Plan

If you discover a fire, activate the nearest fire alarm pull station and call Public Safety and 911. If the fire alarm does not work, call 911 and notify occupants verbally of the emergency and the need to evacuate.

You may attempt to put out the fire if you have been trained in and are comfortable with using a fire extinguisher. **Otherwise, evacuate immediately.**

Evacuation Procedures

The Princeton Telephone & Email Notification System (PTENS) is an emergency notification system that allows authorized Princeton officials to send news and instructions simultaneously to individuals through landline phones, cellular phones, text messaging and e-mail. The benefits of the PTENS system are its immediacy and direct access to individual campus members through multiple points of contact. In the event of an actual emergency, the University will relay critical information using the most appropriate options from a full range of notification resources: PTENS, Web announcements, e-mail, an automated message line, the Tiger TV emergency alert system, local radio stations, door-to-door notifications and posters. For further information access: <https://emergency.princeton.edu>

Evacuate via the nearest stairwell to the outside assembly point located in the courtyard in front of the Music/Architecture Buildings. Remain at the assembly point so that Lorraine Fuhrmann can account for personnel and report any that are unaccounted for to Public Safety.

Instructors/Preceptors are responsible for their assigned precept students by reporting to the predesignated meeting place and conducting a head count. Each student must be accounted for by name, and the instructor/preceptor must report information to Lorraine Fuhrmann.

Fax Machine

For administrative use only. In cases of emergencies, please see department staff. (There will be a charge of 50 cents for domestic and 1 dollar for international for each page faxed.) You may receive faxes of a reasonable length; however, we are not responsible for delivering those faxes.

Keys

Graduate Students have access to keys for the following department rooms:

- Outside Entrance (Key #11-N-1)
- Common Rooms (classrooms, department lounge, and graduate study space in 1879 Hall). (Key #11-M-33)

Keys can be obtained from the Graduate Program Administrator. There is a \$10 fee for each lost key.

Mail

Student mailboxes are located in Room 141. The mailroom is open during regular university hours, Monday - Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Students do not get keys to access this room.)

Please remove packages immediately, since the mailroom is small and tends to clutter quickly. Packages have been known to disappear.

If you plan to be away for an extended period, please arrange for a friend to collect and forward your mail.

Important Dates for the 2017-2018 Academic Year

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 12:00-3:00 p.m. Graduate Student Meeting & Graduate Students Only Meeting, Lounge, 1879 Hall.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Welcome Reception and Announcement of the Religion Department Teaching Awards for 2016-17, Lounge, 1879 Hall.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 9:00 a.m. - 11:50 p.m., 1879 Hall, Rm. 137
Religion 501: Religion and the Tradition of Social Theory, Buzzy Teiser

GRADUATE PLACEMENT AND JOB APPLICATION MEETING. Monday, September 25, 2017,
4:30-5:30 p.m., Lounge, 1879 Hall

FALL GRADUATE STUDENT PARTY. To be determined.

DEPARTMENT PICNIC. Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 12:00-2:00 p.m. outside 1879 Hall

Department Directory

Department Faculty Administrators

Department Chair

Leora Batnitzky
Room 237, 1879 Hall
258-4487
batnitzk@princeton.edu

Director of Graduate Studies

Jonathan Gold
Room 242, 1879 Hall
jcgold@princeton.edu

Departmental Representative (for undergraduate majors)

Seth Perry
Room 245, 1879 Hall
258-6008
sethp@princeton.edu

Department Administrative Services

Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Department Manager

Lorraine Fuhrmann
Room 146, 1879 Hall
258-5172; 258-4481
fuhrmann@princeton.edu

Graduate Program Administrator

Pat Bogdziewicz
Room 149, 1879 Hall
258-4481
pattyb@princeton.edu
(hours: 9:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. / alternate: 9:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Office of Information Technology

OIT Help Desk

609-258-4357 (8-HELP)

helpdesk@princeton.edu

Open 24 hours 7 days a week

OIT Solutions Center

www.princeton.edu/solutionscenter

Frist Campus Center (100-level)

Monday to Friday, 9 am – 5 pm