FULL-TIME FACULTY

Dr. Doris K. Donnelly
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Director of the Cardinal Suenens Center
Ph.D. Claremont University
Specialty: Systematic theology with specializations in sacramental theology and spirituality

Dr. Edward P. Hahnenberg
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Breen Chair in Catholic systematic theology
Ph.D. University of Notre Dame
Specialty: Systematic Theology

Dr. Joseph F. Kelly
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Ph.D. Fordham University
Specialty: History of Christianity

Dr. Paul J. Lauritzen
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Director of the Program in Applied Ethics
Ph.D. Brown University
Specialty: Bioethics; feminist ethics; human rights

Dr. David R. Mason
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Director of the Walter and Mary Tuohy Chair of Interreligious Studies
Ph.D. University of Chicago
Specialty: Systematic and philosophical theology; process theology

Dr. Sheila E. McGinn
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Ph.D. Northwestern University
Specialty: Biblical studies and early Christianity

Dr. Paul K. Nietupski
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Ph.D. Columbia University
Specialty: East Asian religions; Buddhism; Hinduism

Dr. Joan M. Nuth
Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Director of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute
Ph.D. Boston College
Specialty: Catholic systematic theology; feminist theology

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Dr. Zeki Saritoprak
Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies
Ph.D. The University of Marmara
Specialty: Islamic studies

Rev. Thomas L. Schubeck, S.J.
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Chair of the department
Ph.D. University of Southern California
Specialty: Christian social ethics; Latin American theology

Dr. John R. Spencer
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
Chair of the department
Ph.D. University of Chicago
Specialty: Biblical studies; archaeology; ancient Near East

OTHER FACULTY

Rev. Donald Cozzens
Writer-in-Residence
Ph.D. Kent State University
Specialty: Christian spirituality; psychology of religion; religion and culture

Dr. Valentino Lassiter
Pastor-in-Residence
D.Min. Eden Theological Seminary
Specialty: African-American Christianity

For more information, please contact
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Or visit our web site at www.jcu.edu/religion/
The study of the religious experience of humanity is an academic discipline that John Carroll University considers to be an integral part of a liberal arts education. Engaging in theology and religious studies at John Carroll also provides the opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of their faith and the faiths of others.

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies, with roots in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition, shares the mission of John Carroll University to inspire individuals to excel in learning, leadership, and service in the region and in the world. The department offers courses that span a wide range of theological and religious thought and that provide a context for ecumenical dialogue and study. The University requirement in religious studies is satisfied by RL 101 (Introduction to Theology and Religious Studies) and by a second 3-credit RL course at a higher level.

The introductory course in theology and religious studies (RL 101) includes topics such as the nature of religion; the human search for meaning; symbol, myth, and ritual; faith as it relates to reason, experience, and morality; theological studies; scripture; ethics; and religious traditions. Through this initial course, students come to understand ideas that are central to all the religious experiences of humanity and see that religion is an important element in understanding and engaging our contemporary world.

For the second requirement, students may select from a variety of courses that build upon the learning in RL 101. Options include studies in such areas as Roman Catholic Theology, Scripture, Ethics, the History of Christianity, Psychology and Religion, African-American Religious Thought, Jewish Studies, Islamic Studies, Asian Religions, Science and Religion, Spirituality, and Feminist Theology. It is expected that this second course will deepen students’ understanding of their own religious traditions, as well as foster an appreciation of the traditions of others.

MAJOR AND MINOR

The department offers students the opportunity to pursue, in depth, the discipline of theology and religious studies. Through a major or minor, students will learn about the various aspects of the discipline and gain in their knowledge and understanding of religion in the modern world. The department also offers a five-year BA/MA program.

Careers which follow from this major or minor are virtually unlimited, any area where a knowledge of theology and religious studies would be a positive addition to students’ qualifications. Specifically, our graduates work in such fields as teaching, ministry, law, non-profit, television, gerontology, and editing. Thus, students pursue a major or minor in theology and religious studies in preparation for careers, as a step to graduate or professional studies, or as an area of intellectual interest.