



**Department of Religious Studies  
Indiana University  
Sycamore Hall 230  
1033 East Third Street  
Bloomington, IN 47405  
(812) 855-3531 (phone)  
(812) 855-4687 (FAX)**

Fall 2011

The University Graduate School is strongly encouraging all applicants to use their online application.

**The online application can be found at <http://www.gradapp.indiana.edu>**

If it is not feasible for you to apply online, you may request a Graduate School Application forms booklet by calling the Religious Studies Department at 812-855-3531 or you may send an email to [deptsec@indiana.edu](mailto:deptsec@indiana.edu).

Thank you.

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Religious Studies**  
(812) 855-3531  
<http://www.indiana.edu/~relstud/>

**Application for M.A. or Ph.D. Program**

Application packet includes:

1. M.A. or Ph.D. Program *Application Information Sheet*
2. Department of Religious Studies *Graduate Student Guide*
3. *Study of Religion* Information Sheet
4. Faculty List
5. *Apply Online* Information Sheet

**INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS**

**DUE DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**DOMESTIC APPLICATIONS**

**DUE DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

1. All applicants for admission to graduate study in Religious Studies are required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. GRE scores should be sent to us from ETS. Be sure to take the exam early enough so that we have your scores by our deadline. The scores should be sent specifying the Indiana University School Code **1324** and the Religious Studies Department Code **2904**. Please note that the Religious Studies code **MUST** be included.
2. Referees should be persons familiar with your academic abilities and potential. They may submit their recommendation online via I.U.'s Apply Yourself website. You may also give reference forms to the referees and request them to write a supporting statement on the form; in this case, be sure to provide each of your references with a stamped envelope addressed to:

Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Religious Studies  
Sycamore Hall Room 230  
1033 East Third Street  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405

Fall 2011

3. Submit two complete official transcripts of all your previous college and/or university work to the Department of Religious Studies. Make sure the sender of your transcript sends it to the *Department*, and that it includes the record for the latest fall semester (if you are applying for the following fall).
4. Take special care with the “Statement of Purpose” on the application form: we are especially interested in why you have chosen to apply to the Indiana University Department of Religious Studies. Applicants to the doctoral program should
  - clearly explain their intellectual interests,
  - specify which faculty they hope to work with,
  - and indicate which field of study they hope to pursue. The doctoral program is composed of the following fields of study: 1) Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Religions; 2) Ethics, Philosophy, and Politics in the Study of Religion; 3) History of Christianity; 4) Jewish Thought and Culture; 5) Religion in the Americas; 6) Comparative and Transnational Studies of the Muslim Tradition; and 7) Religions of South Asia.

**IMPORTANT:** Your application will not be processed until ALL forms, statements, documents and the Bursar’s receipt of fee payment have been received by the department. Except under exceptional circumstances, incomplete files will not be processed until the next year’s admission round.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

1. You may apply for Departmental fellowships and assistantships simply by checking the appropriate box on the application. We do not require a separate application within the department.
2. All applicants must also file a Free Application for Student Federal Aid (FAFSA). To get this form from Indiana University, please write or call:

Office of Student and Financial Aid  
Student Services Room 208  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405  
(812) 855-0321

They will send forms for you to complete and return to a national financial aid office. Forms can also be filled out on the web at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> or by following the link from the Graduate School web page: <http://www.indiana.edu/~rugs/forms/index.html>.

**NOTE:** COMPLETED FORMS ARE DUE ON MARCH 1.

## Ph.D. APPLICANTS

In addition to the formal application procedures outlined above, all applicants for the doctoral program must submit a WRITING SAMPLE. This writing sample need not be long (avoid exceeding about 25 pages), but should be chosen for its ability to show you at your scholarly best. Since our doctoral degree requires considerable research and writing, we want to see a sample of your research ability and writing skills.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

Questions about graduate work at IU in general should be addressed to the University Graduate School at Indiana University. Please do not confuse this address with that of the department. **ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING.**

If you wish to be admitted as a visiting scholar or continuing non-degree student on the Bloomington campus, write to the graduate school for specific forms and instructions.

Graduate School contact information:      University Graduate School  
Kirkwood Hall Room 111  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405  
(812) 855-9343  
[grdschl@indiana.edu](mailto:grdschl@indiana.edu)  
<http://www.indiana.edu/~grdschl/>



## **STUDY OF RELIGION**

Two graduate programs in the study of religion are offered at Indiana University, Bloomington: the Master of Arts (MA) and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The master's program was begun in 1968, the doctoral in 1987. Both programs engage the study of religion employing comparative, interdisciplinary methods within the context of the humanities and human sciences and aim to take full advantage of the rich research and learning resources of a major university.

The master's program mainly prepares candidates for further graduate work, although graduates have found their way into a variety of careers, such as social work or teaching in private high schools. The doctoral program aims to prepare candidates for research and teaching in college and university settings, where the study of religion has established itself as an indispensable component for the study of cultures.

Graduate training in the study of religion has been in a state of flux and creative confusion since the 1960s when a Supreme Court decision allowed such study to be part of a secular program of education. That ruling (*Abington v. Schempp* 1963) registered an overdue recognition that the study of cultures is both distorted and incomplete without historical and critical understanding of their religious dimensions. The court's decision generated a wave of new programs and a whole new student constituency for teaching about religion.

The decision also generated a debate that continues until now about how teachers and researchers should be trained for this new academic environment. Dissatisfaction with traditional programs originally designed to serve the needs of religious institutions was part of the motivation for launching the doctoral program at Indiana University. As a state university, IU has the freedom to offer both undergraduate and graduate programs tailored to the academic study of religion. Situated in a department with a strong undergraduate teaching mission, our graduate program involves constant contact with the undergraduate population for doctoral students, all of whom do some undergraduate teaching as part of their training.

Encouraged to pursue interdisciplinary studies, our students can draw freely on the expertise of scholars whose theoretical approaches, teaching, and research are relevant to the study of religion. The Religious Studies Department maintains strong intellectual ties with scholars in anthropology, folklore, sociology, psychology, comparative literature, history, fine arts, philosophy, history and philosophy of science; in East Asian, Inner Asian, and Near Eastern languages and cultures; and in special areas such as African, African American and African Diaspora, American, Jewish, Latin America, Medieval and Women's Studies.

## **AREAS OF STUDY**

Students can focus their graduate work in several possible ways. The M.A. program requires students to study religion broadly through distribution requirements, but students can concentrate on the area or themes that interest them. The descriptions of our faculty's interests should help you see what areas and themes are possible. Ph.D. students must pursue their work in one of the doctoral fields of study. These fields of study reflect the changing composition of the faculty and its strengths, and so you should consult the department's web site for an up-to-date listing of the fields and their requirements. The doctoral program comprises the following fields of study: 1) Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Religions; 2) Ethics, Philosophy, and Politics in the Study of Religion; 3) History of Christianity; 4) Jewish Thought and Culture; 5) Religion in the Americas; 6) Comparative and Transnational Studies of the Muslim Tradition; and 7) Religions of South Asia. MA students are not limited to these fields in their own work.

Whether you are applying to the M.A. or to the Ph.D., you should use your statement of purpose to describe your intellectual interests and how you believe you can pursue those interests in our department.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The admissions committee convenes once a year, following the application deadline of December 15 for fall admissions (December 1 for international applicants). Due to the large number of applicants, the stated deadline must be met for an applicant to be considered.

Students applying for the master's program who do not have an undergraduate background in religious studies must have solid preparation in the humanities or social sciences.

To enter the doctoral program, students must have earned a master's degree in religious studies equivalent to the one offered by Indiana University, including proficiency in at least one language of scholarship other than English. Those without such qualifications who wish to embark on PhD work may apply for the MA program to work on prerequisites.

Note: while MA degrees in fields such as history or anthropology do not satisfy the requirement of "equivalency," work done for such degrees will be evaluated and given credit where relevant to study of religion. Master of Divinity degrees from denominational seminaries also do not satisfy the equivalency requirement, but specific course credits may transfer.

All applicants must demonstrate evidence of scholarly potential by a superior undergraduate and/or graduate record, by strong Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores and academic recommendations, and by a statement of purpose specifying how our program matches their academic and professional goals. In addition, applicants to the doctoral program must submit a writing sample as evidence of their scholarly skills and potential as contributors to the field.

All PhD students are required to show proficiency in two languages of scholarship, one of which is French or German. Beyond that, language preparation depends on the course of study pursued. Competence in languages may be certified by passing the standard Graduate School Foreign Language Exams (GSFLE), by passing language-course sequences offered by specific language departments within the university with a B or better, or by scoring 550 or better on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) exam.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

University requirements and regulations for graduate work are described in the Graduate School Bulletin. The Graduate School requires 30 credit hours for the MA and 60 additional credit hours for the PhD. The doctoral dissertation may carry up to 30 hours of credit.

Please consult the current Graduate Student Guide for further details about requirements.

### **Please address inquiries and requests for application materials to:**

Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Religious Studies  
Sycamore Hall 230  
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Indiana University  
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(812) 855-3531

Or submit a request through our website:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~relstud/grad/admissions.shtml>

Indiana University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES FACULTY

**James Ackerman**, Th.D., Harvard University (1966).

Religion and literature of Israel and the ancient Near East, Bible as literature. [[Emeritus](#)]

**Asma Afsaruddin**, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University (1993).

Near Eastern Studies, Pre-modern and modern Islamic religious and political thought; Qur'anic hermeneutics; Hadith criticism; Exegetical, legal, and ethical perspectives on jihad and martyrdom; Gender roles [[Adjunct/Near Eastern Languages and Cultures](#)]

**Heather Blair**, Ph.D., Harvard University (2008).

Japanese religions.

**David Brakke**, Ph.D., Yale University (1992).

New Testament and Christian origins, ancient church history, Coptic and Syriac studies.

**Candy Gunther Brown**, Ph.D., Harvard University (2000).

American religious history, spiritual healing practices, Evangelicalism and Pentecostalism.

**Jamsheed Choksy**, Ph.D., Harvard University (1991).

Ancient and modern Zoroastrianism, Islamic studies, history of religions. [[Adjunct/Central Eurasian Studies](#)]

**Daniel O. Conkle**, J.D., Ohio State University (1979).

Religious liberty, religion and law, and the role of religion in American politics and public life. [[Adjunct/Law](#)]

**Devin DeWeese**, Ph.D., Indiana University (1985).

Islamic Central Asia, Soviet Central Asia, Sufism, Islamization, religions and Inner Asia, and Islamic hagiography [[Adjunct, Central Eurasian Studies](#)]

**Constance Furey**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (2000).

Catholic and Protestant Reformations, Christianity and the Renaissance, religious thought in early modern Europe.

**Paul Gutjahr**, Ph.D., University of Iowa (1996).

American religious and intellectual thought, religious publishing. [[Adjunct/English](#)]

**David L. Haberman**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (1984).

History of South Asian religions, Indian arts and aesthetics, ritual studies.

**J. Albert Harrill**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (1993).

New Testament, early Christian literature, history of religions (Greco-Roman era), Roman social history.

**James G. Hart**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (1972).

Philosophy of religion, philosophical theology, peace and conflict studies. [[Emeritus](#)]

**Sarah Imhoff**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (2010).

Gender and American Jewish history, race and Jewishness, Rabbinic literature, American Religious history.

**R. Kevin Jaques**, Ph.D., Emory University (2001).

Islamic legal history, Islam in Southeast Asia and Indian Ocean communities, Islam in the United States, ethnography.

**Sylvester Johnson**, Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary (2002).

African American & Black Atlantic religions; American empire, race, and sexuality; religion and cultural theory, missionary religion.

**Gerald J. Larson**, Ph.D., Columbia University (1966).

India studies, philosophy and history of religions in India, Sanskrit. [[Emeritus](#)]

**Nancy Levene**, Ph.D., Harvard University (2000).

Philosophy of religion, cultures of the European modern west.

**Edward Linenthal**, Ph.D., University of California at Santa Barbara (1979).

Public history, studies in American memory, contemporary American religion, religion, war, and genocide. [[Adjunct/History](#)]

**Shaul Magid**, Ph.D., Brandeis University (1994).

Kabbala, medieval and modern Jewish philosophy, Hasidism, gender and religion, Jewish ethics and contemporary Jewish religiosity, renewal, and fundamentalism.

**Rebecca Manring**, Ph.D., University of Washington (1995).

Sanskrit, South Asian religions, Hindi.

**Richard B. Miller**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (1985).

Ethical theory, history of Christian ethics, social and political thought.

**Richard Nance**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (2004).

Indian and Tibetan Buddhist history, philosophy, rhetoric, and ritual

**Stephen Selka**, Ph.D., University of Albany, Suny (2003).

Religion, identity, and politics; identity and social movements; Brazil and the U.S.; diaspora studies; transnational tourism; urban anthropology. [[Adjunct/African American and African Diaspora Studies; American Studies](#)]

**Lisa Sideris**, Ph.D., Indiana University (2000).

Religion and environmental ethics and religion and science.

**David H. Smith**, Ph.D., Princeton University (1967).

Professional ethics, ethics and governance, theological ethics, teaching ethics. [[Emeritus](#)]

**Aaron Stalnaker**, Ph.D., Brown University (2001).

Comparative religious ethics, Chinese thought, theories of religion.

**Brian Steensland**, Ph.D., Princeton University (2002).

Politics, religion, Culture, inequality. [[Adjunct/Sociology](#)]

**Stephen J. Stein**, Ph.D., Yale University (1970).

History of religion in America, American studies, eighteenth century studies, sectarian studies. [[Emeritus](#)]

**Stephen Vinson**, Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University (1995).

Ancient Egyptian language and literature; History of Graeco-Roman Egypt Ancient Egyptian transportation and trade, especially boats and ships

**Edward Watts**, Ph.D., Yale University (2002).

Ancient intellectual and religious history, late antiquity and early Byzantium. [[Adjunct/History](#)]

**Mary Jo Weaver**, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame (1973).

Contemporary Christian religious thought, Roman Catholicism, feminist studies. [[Emerita](#)]

# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### **Guide for Graduate Students in the Department of Religious Studies**

The information in this Guide is meant to help graduate students (and the faculty who advise them) in navigating the requirements for the MA in the Department of Religious Studies. It exists in printed form as the Graduate Student Guide, which contains information on the PhD program as well. The information supplements and does not replace the Graduate School Bulletin ([www.indiana.edu/~grdschl/grdbl/btcont.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~grdschl/grdbl/btcont.html)), which is the ultimate authority in all requirements and regulations. In addition to the section of the Bulletin on the Department, be sure to consult the sections on “Academic Regulations” and “General Requirements for Advanced Degrees” which contain rules that govern all degree programs. If anything in this Guide seems to contradict the Bulletin, you should follow the Bulletin.

- I. General Advice for All Students
- II. Getting the MA
  - A. The Basic Requirements
  - B. Meeting Course and Language Requirements
  - C. Advice and Counsel
- III. Moving from the MA to the PhD
- IV. Getting the PhD
  - A. Time Limits, Expectations, and Advising
  - B. Credit Hours and Course Requirements
  - C. Language Requirements
  - D. Research Papers Requirement
  - E. The Qualifying Examination
  - F. The Dissertation
- V. The Doctoral Program Fields of Study

### **I. General Advice for All Students**

The faculty of the Department is strongly committed to the training and mentoring of graduate students, who embody the future of the academic study of religion. Every faculty member is available to offer you advice and to talk with you about your interests and concerns, but the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) should be your first stop for information about requirements, financial aid, and the like. The DGS is assisted by the Department’s Graduate Secretary, a staff member who handles much of the essential paperwork and other practical matters. The DGS chairs the Graduate Studies Committee, which decides on graduate admissions, discusses policy issues,

and makes final determinations on exceptions to requirements, prize competitions, and the like.

The person primarily responsible for getting you through your graduate program in an efficient and profitable manner, however, is yourself. Because the faculty member who is the DGS changes regularly and other faculty go on leaves, you are the element of continuity during your time at IU. It behooves you to familiarize yourself with the requirements of your degree program and to take the initiative in formulating a plan to meet those requirements. The information in this Guide is designed to help you to do that.

## **II. Getting the MA**

The MA degree is designed to be both broad, exposing you to the wider study of religion and to more than one religious tradition, and deep, enabling you to focus on an issue or tradition of interest to you. MA students have diverse goals: some hope to enter a doctoral program in religious studies, while others plan to teach at the secondary level or to bring perspectives on religion to their work in other fields (e.g., medicine, law, journalism). Some may simply be pursuing their intellectual interests beyond the BA. Your own goals should determine how you meet the MA requirements.

### **A. The Basic Requirements**

To earn the MA degree you must do the following **within five consecutive years**:

- (1) Complete a total of 30 credit hours, including R655 and at least two other 600- or 700-level seminars in the Department of Religious Studies. No credit hours older than five years can count.
- (2) Maintain a 3.0 GPA with a grade of B or better in every course you offer for the degree.
- (3) Demonstrate reading proficiency in one of the two modern languages of scholarship required for the Ph.D. (French or German). Another modern language may be substituted with the approval of the director of graduate studies and the student's advisors. Proficiency may be demonstrated by any of the three methods normally sanctioned by the University Graduate School.
- (5) Complete an approved revision of a research paper, between 20-30 pages in length (not counting endnotes). The paper will normally develop out of one of your 600-level (or 700-level) seminars but may grow out of another research project. The revised paper is to be of professional quality, modeled on a submission to a refereed journal in your area of interest, it and should follow that journal's requirements for length and documentation (e.g., Turabian, MLA, SBL Handbook of Style, Chicago Manual of Style). This revised research paper must be approved for your file by a member of the faculty. There is a form for this purpose in the office. The approved research paper may **not** be a language translation, a bibliographic essay, a text edition, or a set of field notes. Annotated translations may be accepted with the approval of the Graduate Studies Committee. For details, consult the DGS.

## **B. Meeting Course and Language Requirements**

### 1. Credit Hours

You must earn 30 hours of graduate credit. Up to 8 hours can be transferred from another institution upon the recommendation of the DGS to the Graduate School. Transfer credits must have grades of B or better and must have been earned at accredited institutions. The five-year rule applies to these credits.

Note that the courses for graduate students in Reading French, German, or Spanish do **not** accumulate hours toward the degree. You have to pay for these hours, but they do not count.

You must finish your degree **within five years** of starting course work. That is, after five years, a course “expires” and can no longer apply to your degree. In that case, you must take new courses to make up the expired hours or go through a process to “revalidate” the expired courses. Avoid this by finishing in a timely manner.

### 2. 600/700-Level Seminars

Take R665 in your first semester and take two 600-level (or 700-level) seminars as soon as possible. The other two 600/700-level seminars must be in the Department of Religious Studies.

### 3. Language Work

If you wish to use a language other than French or German, you must secure the approval of the DGS before taking courses or otherwise preparing to certify in it.

If you choose French, German, or Spanish, you may fulfill the requirement by passing the certifying test that is offered at the beginning of the academic year or by passing the second semester of the two-semester sequence in the reading knowledge of these languages offered to graduate students (e.g., F491-F492). Note that these courses do not contribute credit hours to the degree.

If you choose another language, you can certify in one of two ways. You can pass courses in the language through the intermediate level (normally the fourth semester): in most cases, such courses do carry graduate credit (although sometimes fewer numbers of hours than for undergraduates). Or if you have already studied the language, you can pass an examination administered by a faculty member in the Department. Consult with the DGS and a faculty member in your area of interest about the best plan for you.

### 3. Graduating

To receive your MA degree, you must apply for the degree at the Graduate School office. The Graduate School then sends a form to the Department, which must verify that you have completed all the requirements, including the revision of a research paper. If you will complete the degree during the summer and want to participate in Commencement in the preceding May, you should apply for your degree in the spring (although you won't really get it until later). Information about Commencement, including rental of gowns and the like, is always posted on the IUB web site early in the spring semester.

## **C. Advice and Counsel**

### 1. Advising

When you are an MA student, your official advisor is the DGS. You should consult with the DGS every semester before registering for classes and at other times as needed. You will also want to seek advice from faculty members in your area of interest.

### 2. Strategy

If you are to complete your MA efficiently, you need to set about fulfilling the requirements immediately. In your first meeting with the DGS, before your first semester, you should plan how you will fulfill the language requirement. In your first semester, take R665, and make sure that your other courses fulfill other requirements (600/700-level seminar).

Students are encouraged to select a research paper by the end of the second semester of coursework to revise and have approved for partial fulfillment of degree requirements. This allows ample time (e.g., during the first summer) to revise the paper and to submit it to a faculty member for approval, well ahead of graduation.

Students who decide to fulfill the language proficiency requirement through coursework typically do so during the summer; this allows them to focus intensively on language acquisition.

If you are not planning to pursue a PhD, then you may not want to fulfill the language requirement by learning to read French or German; instead, you may benefit more from gaining some acquaintance with the language of the religion that most interests you (e.g., Arabic in the case of Islam).

If you plan to pursue doctoral study, you should consider gaining reading knowledge of French or German if you have not done so already. If you are interested in a field that requires the knowledge of source languages, you should begin or continue study of those languages. If you think you might want to enter the PhD program in this Department, then you may want to look toward fulfilling the requirements for that degree by, for example, taking thematic/methodological/cross-cultural seminars when ones of interest are offered, taking a seminar at the 700-level, or taking a course in a department that might serve as a minor. In any case, you will want to establish a strong record of study with at least one faculty member (e.g., by taking more than one course from him or her) so that you might ask the professor to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf when you apply to doctoral programs (usually in your third semester).

### **III. Moving from the MA to the PhD**

Admission to our PhD program from our MA program is not automatic. Even if you were originally admitted to both the MA and PhD and/or received a multi-year financial aid package that extends beyond the MA, your continuation in the program and renewal of your financial aid depends on your making satisfactory academic progress, and the transition to the PhD provides a particularly important opportunity for the assessment of that progress.

If you are a current MA student who wishes to enter the doctoral program, you apply to do so with a streamlined application, but on the same schedule as outside applicants. You need to submit your application by **December 15** and you will hear from the Graduate Committee by early March.

You must submit to the DGS the following materials, which will be added to your file from when you were admitted to the MA:

- (1) an updated statement of purpose, plotting your doctoral program within the framework of the fields of study and identifying primary faculty mentors
- (2) a letter of recommendation from at least one faculty member in the Department
- (3) a copy of your approved revision of a research essay
- (4) a writing sample (the revised essay might serve as this)
- (5) a statement of your situation regarding the modern language requirement (e.g., French and German)

## **IV. Getting the PhD**

The Ph.D. program is designed to prepare students to teach in colleges, universities, or seminaries and to carry out research in the field. Your goal is to become a professional in the field of religious studies, and you should seek to acquire the skills that you will need to become a successful and productive teacher and scholar in your area of interest.

### **A. Time Limits, Expectations, and Advising**

#### **1. Time Limits and Expectations**

Until you complete all requirements but the dissertation (including the Qualifying Examination), you are known as a “doctoral student.” After you have passed your Qualifying Examination and completed all requirements except the dissertation, you become a “doctoral candidate.” Each of these two phases comes with a limit of seven years.

As a doctoral student, you must complete all the coursework that you offer for the degree within seven years before passing your Qualifying Examination. This includes courses that you use from your MA program and that you transfer from another institution. This rule, then, can cause complications for students who have taken time off between a masters program and entering the PhD program if they wish to use credits from their masters program for their PhD. Any course older than seven years has “expired,” and you must either take new courses to replace the expired hours or “revalidate” the expired course(s) in a procedure that is described in the Bulletin. Avoid this complication by taking your Qualifying Examination in a timely manner.

Likewise, once you become a doctoral candidate, you have seven years to submit and defend a dissertation. The seven years are counted from the date of your Qualifying Examination (the oral exam). At the end of the seven years, your candidacy expires and you may no longer submit a dissertation. In this case you may renew your candidacy for another three years by fulfilling any requirements for the PhD that were added since you entered candidacy and by taking a new Qualifying Examination. Avoid this fate by completing your dissertation in a timely manner.

The expectation of the Graduate School and the Department is that you will become a candidate by completing coursework and language requirements and passing the Qualifying Examination by the end of the third post-masters year. Numerous policies, including those governing financial aid, are based on this expectation. For example, some financial aid packages to entering doctoral students offer three years of support past the masters: it is expected that by the end of the third year you will have accumulated the required 90 credit hours and taken your Qualifying Examination so that you can register for the inexpensive G901. Therefore, your goal should be to complete required courses in your first two years and to use the third year to finish language requirements and to prepare for and take the Qualifying Examination.

#### **2. Advising**

The Graduate School’s policy is that doctoral students are advised by an Advisory Committee, which is to be appointed by the end of the first year and which supervises the Qualifying Examination. This appointment is an online process

initiated by the student. The form may be found on the website of the College of Arts and Sciences under Current Graduate Students and then Record Changes.

In the meantime, the Department advises doctoral students through faculty advising groups, which are organized by fields of study. These groups currently consist of Ethics, Philosophy, and Politics, Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Religions, Religions of South Asia, Jewish Thought and Culture, Religion in the Americas, History of Christianity, and Comparative and Transnational Studies of the Muslim Tradition. Before you register for classes in your first semester, you will meet with the DGS, who will advise you on your fall schedule and assign you to an advising group. In most cases, the choice will be obvious.

You should meet with your advising group right away, in September of your first semester, to discuss such matters as your language requirements, your minor department, etc. The Department provides a yellow Advising Form to record the results of this conversation. You should then meet with your advising group every April until you take the Qualifying Examination, to chart your progress and to make plans for the following year. Once again the yellow form should be used to record decisions and evaluations. At the meeting in April of your second year, you should schedule your Qualifying Examination and organize your Advisory Committee, which will not be identical with the advising group. See below for more information on this process.

Once you have passed your Qualifying Examination and have become a doctoral candidate, your advisor becomes the faculty member who will direct your dissertation. Together with that faculty member you will organize your Research Committee for your dissertation, which need not be identical with your Advisory Committee for the Qualifying Examination. See below for more information on this process.

Throughout your entire career the DGS is available to you for consultation on any facet of your program. The DGS will also monitor your progress and intervene if things are not moving in a timely manner.

## **B. Credit Hours and Course Requirements**

### 1. Credit Hours

You must earn 90 hours of graduate credit. These can include the hours that you earned while an MA student at IU if you were one: thus, you must earn 60 hours beyond the 30 required for that degree. You may transfer up to 30 hours from another institution (e.g., if you earned your masters elsewhere) upon the recommendation of the DGS to the Graduate School. Transfer credits must have grades of B or better and must have been earned at accredited institutions. All of these credit hours are subject to the seven-year rule (see above regarding time limits).

You may earn up to 30 credit hours for writing your dissertation. Dissertation credits are earned under R799. Most students do not earn dissertation credits while they are actually writing the dissertation: instead, they accumulate them while doing course work. For example, if you are an Associate Instructor and receiving a tuition credit for 12 credit hours in a semester, you should register for the courses that you wish to take, and if the total of their credit hours is less than 12 you should register for the remaining credit hours that are paid for as R799.

Note that the courses for graduate students in Reading French, German, or Spanish (e.g., F491) do not accumulate hours toward the degree. You have to pay for these hours, but they do not count.

## 2. Required Course Work

You must take the following courses:

- (1) R665 (4 hours)
- (2) A second thematic, methodological, or cross-cultural seminar (identified as such by the DGS) (4 hours)
- (3) 12 hours at the 700-level
- (4) Teaching Practicum (R790) (1 hour)

If you took R665 as an MA student at IU, you do not need to take it again.

Thematic, methodological, or cross-cultural seminars are designed to introduce students to the history of and current research in a specific methodological orientation or thematic focus within Religious Studies. Some students may find it useful to take more than two (including R665) such seminars. You may, however, apply only one such seminar at the 700-level (4 hours) to the fulfillment of the 700-level requirement.

700-level courses are usually (but not always) linked to a 600-level seminar and are designed to prepare students for professional research and writing in the field. They presume the ability to use the appropriate languages of scholarship and to work in the original source languages. You may apply an independent research course (R791, R792, R793, R794) to the 700-level requirement, but no more than 4 hours of such.

The Teaching Practicum (R790) requires you to prepare the syllabus, bibliography, assignments, and exams for a course in your field under the supervision of a faculty member. Many students take this course in connection with one of their assignments as an Associate Instructor. Because it is only 1 credit hour, students sometimes put this requirement off, figuring that it is easy to do “later,” and then find that their failure to have done it becomes a snag when they are ready to apply for candidacy. Do not put this off.

## 3. Outside Minor

All doctoral students at IU must complete a minor outside their home department. While most doctoral minors are department-based (e.g. History, East Asian Languages and Cultures), others are inter-departmental programs or supervised by committees (e.g., Ancient Studies, Jewish Studies, Medieval Studies). The requirements for a doctoral minor vary and are controlled by the relevant department, program, or committee. Most require 12 credit hours.

You have a wide range of possibilities in choosing your outside minor. The outside minor intends to enhance the value of the degree and your scholarly skills by incorporating the methods and issues of a related discipline. You should discuss your outside minor with the DGS and your advising group and begin working toward it as soon as possible. With rare exceptions, a faculty member from the outside minor must be a member of the student’s Advisory Committee, that is, the committee that administers the Qualifying Examination. Thus, you should get acquainted with faculty in your outside minor as soon as possible.

When you have completed the requirements for your minor, you should ask the DGS or Graduate Secretary of the minor department to send a letter to that effect to the Department’s DGS for your file.

## **C. Language Requirements**

### 1. Languages of Scholarship

Doctoral students must demonstrate reading proficiency in at least two modern languages of scholarship: French and German. You may substitute another modern language for one of these with the approval of the DGS and your advising group. To make a substitution, you need to make a written request/justification to the DGS with the support of your advising group.

### 2. Primary Source Languages

Many students must show proficiency in one or more primary source languages. See the descriptions of the fields of study below. Some advising groups (e.g., Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity) have precisely formulated requirements. You will determine with your advising group which languages you need to learn and how you will demonstrate proficiency in them; these decisions should be recorded on the yellow advising form. Sometimes proficiency is demonstrated through an examination administered by faculty in the Department and/or with the cooperation of another department as appropriate, and sometimes through course work in the language.

## **D. Research Papers Requirements**

You must produce two revised research papers of between 20-30 pages (not counting endnotes) prior to taking your Qualifying Examination. If you completed your MA at Indiana University, then it is expected one of these paper requirements will be fulfilled by the revised essay that is stipulated in the MA requirements (effective fall 2011). These papers will normally develop out of your 700-level seminars, but they may grow out of other research projects. These papers are to be at a professional level of quality, modeled on a submission to a refereed journal in your area of interest, and should follow that journal's requirements for length and documentation (e.g., Turabian, MLA, SBL Handbook of Style, Chicago Manual of Style). These research papers must be approved for your file by a member of the faculty; the same professor cannot approve both papers. There is a form for this purpose in the office. An approved research paper may not be a language translation, a bibliographic essay, a text edition, or a set of field notes. Annotated translations may be accepted with the approval of the Graduate Studies Committee. For details, consult the DGS.

## **E. The Qualifying Examination**

As you finish your course work, you are reviewed for permission to take the Qualifying Examination. Permission to take the Qualifying Examination presupposes that in the semester you take the exam (or earlier) you will have completed all other requirements (including languages), you have no outstanding incompletes, and you are not on academic probation. In rare cases, the DGS may allow you to take your Qualifying Examination and to complete a requirement (e.g., a remaining language) shortly thereafter. You cannot, however, be nominated to candidacy and thus be allowed to register for G901 and to submit a dissertation proposal until you have completed all requirements and passed the Qualifying Examination. It is expected that you will take your Qualifying Examination no later than your sixth semester after the master's degree.

The Qualifying Examination is supervised by a committee of faculty members, officially known as your Advisory Committee. The Graduate School requires that the Advisory Committee have at least three members: two must come from the Department (adjuncts qualify) and one must represent your outside minor. Note that some members of the Department can also represent an outside minor to which they belong (e.g., Jewish Studies), but then you have to have two more people from the Department.

You should organize your Advisory Committee in your fourth semester at the latest. These people will plan with you what each part of the Qualifying Examination will cover and help you to develop bibliographies. They compose the questions and evaluate your performance. Not all members of your Advisory Committee need be experts in your area of study: often a member of the committee represents a methodological or thematic angle and works with you on an exam because he or she taught a theoretical/methodological/thematic seminar when you took it.

The Qualifying Examination consists of written exams totaling 12 hours, divided into at least three parts, and an oral exam, all of which are to be completed within a three-week period. Each field of study has its own specifications as to the number and topics of exams. See the descriptions of the fields below.

Although minor variations on the Department's basic structure are permitted (e.g., taking a break between the first and second two hours of a single 4-hour exam), any significant variation on the basic exam structure (e.g., substitution of a major paper for an exam) requires your consent and the approval of the DGS. These days most students write their exams on a computer provided by the Department (often in a vacant faculty office).

At the conclusion of the oral part of the exam, the Advisory Committee determines the grade. The possibilities are the following:

Honors: exceptional performance

Pass: adequate to very good performance

Fail: one or more exams is/are inadequate and must be re-written

Each faculty member records an individual vote. The chair of the committee then tallies the votes and informs the student of the committee's decision as the concluding rite of the Qualifying Examination. For the student to receive Honors, the vote must be unanimous. The Qualifying Examination may be retaken once, either whole or in part, and this will be determined by the committee before its verdict is announced.

If you pass the Qualifying Examination and you have completed all other requirements, the members of the Advisory Committee should sign your Nomination to Candidacy form and pass it on to the DGS. You and/or the DGS should prepare this form and have it ready for possible signing at the oral examination.

## **F. The Dissertation**

Once you have passed the Qualifying Examination and your candidacy has been accepted by the Graduate School, you are eligible to submit a proposal for the dissertation. *You are expected to successfully defend the dissertation proposal within six months of having completed qualifying exams.* You now must organize yet another committee: the Research Committee. Once again there are membership requirements. The chair of the Research Committee is the director of your dissertation. (If this faculty member is not yet tenured, you should check with the DGS to ensure that he or she is authorized to serve as director.) Two more members must come from the

Department, and one member represents the minor area. In this case, however, if the dissertation research will not touch closely on the area of the minor, the DGS can ask the minor department to waive this requirement.

Your Research Committee meets formally twice: to approve your proposal and to examine you at the defense. The dissertation proposal is a document of approximately 10-15 pages, annotated and followed by a bibliography. The Department has a handout on preparing the proposal. You formulate the proposal with your director and circulate it to the other committee members for their comments and suggestions. The meeting to approve the proposal should not be a time of suspense over whether the proposal will be approved, but an opportunity for you and the committee to reflect thoughtfully on how you should go about your project. Please note that the form to bring to the proposal approval meeting, the "Nomination of Research Committee for the PhD," requires you to append a "one-two page summary of the proposed research." This is not to be confused with the proposal itself. This form (with appended summary) is signed by the members of the RC, submitted to the Chair for signature, and then forwarded to the Graduate School.

You write the dissertation under the guidance of your director. The extent of involvement of committee members in the process of writing varies considerably, but usually a committee member may read in early drafts only one or two chapters having to do with his or her area of expertise (if any at all), but will read the entire dissertation when it is ready to be defended.

While you write the dissertation, you must be continuously enrolled at IU, at least part-time. As a doctoral candidate you may register for G901, which charges a nominal flat fee and carries six "dummy" credit hours that certify you as a full-time student (for financial aid, health insurance, and other purposes) but do not accumulate to any degree. You may register for G901 for a maximum of six semesters. If you are still not finished after that, you must register each fall and spring for at least one hour of R799 until you finish. If you defend your dissertation in a summer semester, you must register for one hour of R799 in that semester as well. Until your candidacy expires, you are considered a full-time student even when you register for only one hour of R799.

The defense of a dissertation is a public event. You must give formal notice of the date, time, and place of your defense to the Graduate School thirty days prior to the defense; this formal notice is posted on the web. Other faculty and graduate students may attend the defense. Once the dissertation is approved, you must prepare the manuscript according to strict guidelines determined by the Graduate School. Check with the Graduate School about all facets of the defense and submission process.

If you want to participate in Commencement, you must submit an application for an advanced degree at the Graduate School office. Otherwise, the various sets of documentation surrounding the approval of the dissertation suffice for receiving your degree. Information about Commencement is always posted on the IUB web site early in the spring semester.

## **V. The Doctoral Program Fields of Study**

The doctoral program is composed of the following fields of study:

1) Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Religions; 2) Ethics, Philosophy, and Politics in the Study of Religion; 3) History of Christianity; 4) Jewish Thought and Culture; 5) Religion in the Americas; 6) Comparative and Transnational Studies of the Muslim Tradition; and 7) Religions of South Asia. *In their statement of purpose, applicants to the doctoral program should simply explain their intellectual interests, indicate which field of study they hope to pursue, and specify which faculty they hope to work with.*

REVISED Wednesday, June 22, 2011