

JUNIATA COLLEGE



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Religious Studies



The Juniata Advantage

- **Research:** Juniata provides opportunities for undergraduate research in biblical studies, Eastern religions, and many other topics, to help you **grasp the history and methods of the academic study of religion**. Professor Donald Braxton works with students to conduct research on religion and technology.
- **Discover:** In addition to a basic grounding in faith, history, and cultural values, explore ways to better understand **how religion affects the modern world**. Professor Braxton takes his Bring Out Your Dead class on a field trip to the preparation room of a local funeral home to get a closer look at the processes of death in America. Susan Prill leads **annual trips to Hindu temples and the Sikh Gurdwara near Pittsburgh**.
- **Examine:** Juniata organizes its religion courses to **serve students who are curious about spirituality** yet may or may not subscribe to an organized religion or denomination.

Juniata's Outcomes

Our recent graduates are employed by the Institute of International Education, the French Ministry of Education, the American Council for International Education, and several private and public secondary schools. They **land careers in industry, education, government, and public interest**. Others are **attending graduate school** at places like Georgetown University and Rochester Institute of Technology. Several have been awarded **Fulbright Fellowships** to study or work abroad.

Our Recent Graduates

- Stephanie Finamore '14 is **pursuing a master's** of divinity degree at Louisville Seminary in Louisville, Ky.
- Hannah Shultz '14 is **employed at Brethren Volunteer Core** in Elgin, Ill.
- Becca Strohm '13 is **employed through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps**, where she instructs K-12 students in restoring Portland's watersheds with Green Team, in Portland, Ore.
- Shayna Yeates '15 is **employed as a research analyst** for Dispute Dynamics in Philadelphia, Pa. Shayna researches and consults on legal strategies, jury selection, jury dynamics, and related topics.

"The religious studies program at Juniata doesn't simply focus on studying Christianity, as many people would believe. Instead it is based on gaining an understanding of how the concept of being in a religion affects society."

—Forest Miller '15

PSYCHOLOGY WITH A SECONDARY
EMPHASIS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

A Sampling of Courses

End Times Prophecy
God, Evil, and the Holocaust
The Hebrew Prophets
Jesus Through the Ages
The Lotus and the Cross
Modern Religious Thought
Mystical Experience East and West
New Testament as History & Literature
Old Testament as History & Literature
Origins of Evil
Religion and Film
Sacred Landscapes
Sinners and Saints
What Is Religion?
Women in the Bible

A Religious Studies POE Story

Would you like to study yoga, sacred geography, and ritual practices? At Juniata, you can **study various religions through documentary filmmaking, computer modeling, podcasting, and social mapping**. Or, conduct undergraduate research in historical Bible studies or correlate religion and science.

Begin your religious studies Program of Emphasis (POE) taking three introductory courses and, as you progress through the 45 credit hours or 15 three-credit courses, **individualize your study** with your choices of religious studies courses (you can even include philosophy and history courses). End your study with a four-credit senior thesis under the guidance of a faculty member. Throughout their journey, all religious studies students must complete **one year of college-level foreign language study** in any language.

Along the way, you'll **gain hands-on experience through internships and undergraduate research**. So, if you would like to learn about and analyze not only the major organized religious traditions of the world, but also such philosophical questions as the nature of evil, evolution and God, and religion in film, try Juniata. But don't just take our word for it.

"I love studying religion at Juniata because there is always something to explore," says Feleen Nancarvis '15. "Additionally, the professors in this department are knowledgeable and personable. They are truly a pleasure to work with."



Student Opportunities

Field Trips: From a mortuary to an Indian temple (in Pittsburgh), Juniata students **accompany faculty to a variety of religion-associated sites** and gain understanding along the way.

Add the study of religion to another POE: For a secondary emphasis in religion, take a minimum of six religion courses. At least two of these courses must be at the 300 or 400 level and at least two must be in non-western religious traditions.

Student Organization: Students can also join the **Religious Studies Club**, which hosts movie nights and an annual excursion.

Undergraduate Research: Conduct research in a topic of your choosing with the guidance of a faculty member. Then, present at conferences—like Juniata's Liberal Arts Symposium, the National Conferences for Undergraduates, or seminars/workshops specific to religious studies. **Recent examples:** Adam Caraballo '15, Brittni Devlin '15, Emily Krause '15, Shannon Manley '15, and Forest Miller '15, "Assessment of Violent Religious Videos, Secular Violent Videos, and Secular Non-Violent Videos by Christians and Non-Christians;" Kenyatta Thompson '14, "Death Anxiety in Relation to Religiosity."



Faculty

At Juniata, **93 percent** of faculty hold the highest degree in their field. In the Religious Studies department, 100 percent of faculty have earned Ph.D.s, and they serve, first and foremost, as professors. But, they also have widely varied experience. One speaks and writes Hindi, Punjabi, and Sanskrit. Another is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association. To discover more about Juniata's religious studies faculty and see recent examples of their research, visit: www.juniata.edu/academics/departments/religion/faculty.php

Religious Studies Department Chair:
Donald Braxton, B.A., Wittenberg University, M. Div., Ph.D., University of Chicago.



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