

Religion and Classics

► The Department of Religion and Classics at the University of Rochester offers undergraduate programs of study in the history and philosophy of the world's major religions in Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Arabic languages and literatures; in Asian belief systems; and in ancient Mediterranean civilizations and archaeology. Through the study of important classical, biblical, and religious writings, either in the original language or in translation, students examine the beliefs, ideas, values, rituals, and traditions that have shaped cultures from ancient to contemporary times.

Under the leadership of distinguished faculty scholars, students learn to read carefully, think critically, and write cogently. Many students are double majors, and some pursue internships at various faith-based organizations, social agencies, and schools in the area. Graduates are well prepared for advanced studies or to enter a variety of careers and professional

“Religion is such a pervasive force in the world. To communicate with, relate to, and empathize with people, we must understand what they believe. It expands our world view and informs our ideas and actions.”

—Professor of Religion and of Philosophy and Chair of the Department Edward Wierenga

programs in medicine, law, business, and education.

Study Abroad

Within the department, unique opportunities exist to learn about ancient and modern life while exploring the political, socioeconomic, literary, and religious aspects of places around the world. One of the department's classicists, Nick Gresens, takes advanced Latin students to Rome during spring break to study Latin epigraphy in situ. Another classicist, Elizabeth Colantoni, takes students to San Martino, Italy for field school and archaeological excavation. The John Henry Newman Associate Professor in Roman Catholic Studies Curt

Cadorette has regularly taken students to Peru to study the country's history, politics, economics, and religious beliefs.

The Undergraduate Religion and Classics Council

This student organization is quite active and provides opportunities for lively interaction between students and faculty. Students explore the vital role that cultural diversity plays at the University and in society through films, guest lectures, field trips, conferences, and other activities, all of which encourage interaction beyond the classroom setting and enrich the academic program.



“This department prepares students who seek a career that allows them to better humanity. Being a religion major has taught me how to be a better listener and realize that everyone has a story and a unique perspective.”

Birx Allen '13

religion and biology major, James S. and Priscilla S. Armstrong Scholarship Fund recipient (2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12), Take Five Scholar

The Take Five program provides students with opportunities to explore additional areas of interest in a tuition-free fifth year.

How You Can help

Gifts to the department nurture the curious and creative spirit that is a hallmark of a Rochester education. Consider these giving opportunities:

Students

Supporting students is one of the highest priorities at the University. Providing scholarship support enables them to participate in faculty-led study abroad programs, which can be an essential part of their learning. Studying abroad changes how students think about the world and their place in it. The cost of these trips is often a significant burden to students and a barrier to their participation.

Faculty

The department is home to one of the world's leading authorities on Islamic mystical poetry, Professor Emil Homerin. Establishing an endowed position in Islamic studies ensures that Islam is studied and taught in perpetuity. Another opportunity is to create an endowment to support a full-time lecturer in Arabic. Endowed positions such as these help to attract and retain faculty of exceptional talent and are recognized across the University and by other top educational institutions.

Transformational Gifts

In 1976, the **Philip S. Bernstein Professorship of Judaic Studies** was endowed with generous support from the Rochester Jewish community. Rabbi Abraham Karp, who had been appointed to the University in 1972, was the first holder of the chair. His appointment and the establishment of the position enabled sustained excellence in Judaic studies at the University.

The **John Henry Newman Associate Professorship in Roman Catholic Studies** was funded from 1980 through 1994 by bequests and a significant donation from friends of the University. In 1994, Curt Cadorette was appointed as the first holder of this professorship. This endowment enabled the department to appoint an active theologian and contributed to the deeper study of Roman Catholicism.



Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better
www.rochester.edu/College/REL



For more information on giving opportunities, please contact
Lisa Ann Seischab
Executive Director of Advancement
(585) 276-3352, lisa.seischab@rochester.edu