

# Religious Studies, Philosophy and Peace & Justice Studies

---

Dr. Natalia Imperatori-Lee  
Chair of the Department

Religious Studies  
Philosophy  
Peace and Justice Studies

## Peace and Justice Studies

Peace and Justice Studies is the academic program that embraces Manhattan College's Lasallian commitment to advancing social justice. One of the oldest programs of its kind in the United States, the Peace and Justice Studies program is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on the strength of faculty in areas such as Communications, Economics, English, Environmental Science, History, Management, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Religious Studies. The program's fundamental goal is to understand and evaluate structural injustice, the aspects of human nature that lead to violence and war, and the work of social movements that seek to realize peace, nonviolence, and social justice.

Manhattan College offers Peace and Justice Studies as a major or minor field of study leading to the B.A. degree. It is encouraged that students interested in a major in Peace and Justice Studies pair it with a major in another academic discipline.

Peace and Justice Studies is housed in the School of Arts & Sciences, but is also available as a major or minor for students in the School of Engineering, and is possible as a minor for students in the School of Business.

### ***Goals of the Peace and Justice Studies Major***

*A Major in Peace and Justice Studies will be able to:*

- Identify current issues of conflict and injustice.
  - Fulfilled by *Conflicts and Injustices* and *Internship* course requirement
- Describe normative models about peace, nonviolence, and social justice.
  - Fulfilled by *Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies* course requirement and *Concepts in Peace and Justice Studies* course requirement (2 courses in 2 different departments)
- Explain how both the psychological make-up of humans and social structures promote conflict and injustice and/or promote positive peace and social justice.
  - Fulfilled by *Concepts in Peace and Justice Studies* course requirement (2 courses in 2 different departments)
- Synthesize knowledge across academic disciplines concerning the psychological and structural dimensions that promote conflict and injustice with the goal of creating blueprints to achieve negative and positive peace
  - Fulfilled by *Methods* course requirement and by *Capstone* course requirement

- Apply specific skills that will enable them to understand and critique problems of conflict and injustice, as well as contemplate solutions to these problems. These skills may include a knowledge of quantitative and qualitative data analysis, so that one can both identify and separate accurate evidence from misinformation or poorly gathered data, and also generate accurate evidence, or conflict resolution skills that can be employed in their own lives.
  - Fulfilled by *Methods* course requirement, by *Capstone* course requirement and by *Peacebuilding Skills* requirement

## Plan of Study for the Peace and Justice Studies Major

### First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
RELS 110		3 ENGL 110	3
HIST 150		3 PHIL 150	3
PEAC Concepts Course		3 LLRN 105	3
Modern Foreign Language		3 PEAC Conflicts and Injustices Course	3
First Year Seminar Course		3 Modern Foreign Language 2	3
	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

### Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
PEAC 201 (Or RELS 255 or POSC 207*)		3 ART 150 or MUSC 150	3
PEAC Concepts Course		3 HIST 300 (or POSC 210 or PSYC 314 or SOC 307 - Methods courses)	3
ENGL 150		3 PEAC Elective	3
MATH 151 or 230		3 Science Elective	3
Science Elective		3 Social Science Core 150	3
	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

### Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
RELS 300 level Course***		3 COMM 217 (Or MGMT 201, MGMT 450, PHIL 208, PHIL 308, POSC 318, SOC 310 - Peacebuilding Skills)	3
PEAC Elective		3 Science Elective	3
Social Science Core		3 Social Science Core	3
Science Elective		3 Two Free Electives**	6
Free Elective**		3	
	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

**Fourth Year**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PEAC Internship		3 PEAC Capstone Course	3
Four Electives		12 Four Free Electives	12
		<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

**Total Credits: 120**

- \* This course counts toward the RELS 2XX requirement.
- \*\* Students are encouraged to use free electives to pursue a double major or minor.
- \*\*\* Students are encouraged to take a RELS 3XX that also counts toward PEAC.

**Requirements for the Peace and Justice Studies Major:**

Majors must take 30 credits, including the following:

**Introductory Course**

PEAC 201	Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies	3
RELS 255	Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies	3
POSC 207	Introduction to Peace Studies	3

**One of the following Methods courses**

HIST 300	Historical Methods	3
POSC 210	Research Methods in Political Science	3
PSYC 314	Statistics and Research Methods II	3
SOC 307	Research Methods	3

**One of the following Capstone courses**

HIST 490	Senior Seminar	3
PEAC 401	Senior Seminar in Peace and Justice Studies	3
POSC 405	Special Topics: Senior Seminar: United States Government and Politics	3
POSC 412	Senior Seminar: Women in Politics	3
POSC 420	Senior Seminar: Conflict Resolution	3
POSC 426	Senior Seminar: The Politics of Race, Ethnicity, and Class in the United States	3
POSC 440	Seminar: European Politics	3
POSC 450	Senior Seminar: Politics of International Economics	3
POSC 452	Special Topics Senior Seminar: Comparative Politics	3
POSC 455	Seminar: Diplomacy	3
POSC 473	Senior Seminar: Contemporary Western Political Thought	3
POSC 480	Special Topics Senior Seminar: Political Theory	3
PSYC 414	Senior Capstone: Advanced Research Methods	3
SOC 416	Seminar in Sociology	3

**Another Capstone course approved by the Program Director of Peace and Justice Studies**

**Two of the following Concepts in Peace and Justice Studies courses:**

COMM 371	Intercultural Communication	3
CRES 150	Introduction to Critical Race & Ethnicity Studies	3
ENGL 347	Literature and War	3
ENGL 348	Postcolonial Literature	3
PHIL 230	Philosophy of Law	3
PHIL 238	Philosophies of War and Peace	3
PHIL 275	Political Philosophy	3
PHIL 325	Marx and Marxism	3
PHIL 350	Philosophers on Race, Class, and Gender	3
POSC 324	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	3
POSC 354	Human Rights	3
POSC 351	International Relations	3
POSC 352	International Organizations	3
PSYC 321	Social Psychology	3
PSYC 330	Special Topic: in Psychology	3
PSYC 348	Cultural Psychology	3
RELS 204	Religion and Social Justice	3
RELS 238	Theologies Of Liberation	3
RELS 254	Catholic Social Teaching	3
RELS 381	Religious Dimensions of Peace	3
SOC 302	Race and Resistance	3
SOC 304	Social Inequalities	3
SOC 319	Activism, Advocacy, and Empowerment	3
SOC 327	Power and Conflict	3

**One of the following Conflicts & Injustices courses:**

HIST 231	Introduction to African American History	3
HIST 306	History of the Modern Middle East	3
HIST 307	Genocide and Racism	3
HIST 314	Modern Africa	3
HIST 328	Cold War Diplomacy in Asia	3
HIST 334	Diplomatic History of the Vietnam Wars	3
HIST 357	Nazi Germany and the Holocaust	3
HIST 362	US Foreign Relations, 1900 to the Present	3
HIST 366	US Labor Patterns and Movement	3
HIST 383	Civil War and Reconstruction	3
HIST 390	Terror and Terrorism	3
HIST 391	Decolonization: The End of Empires	3
HIST 392	History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	3
LABR 201	Labor Studies Colloquium	3
POSC 251	Global Issues	3

POSC 331	Government and Politics of Russia and Selected Soviet Successor States	3
POSC 332	Government and Politics of Central and Eastern Europe	3
POSC 340	Government and Politics of Asia	3
POSC 343	Government and Politics of the Middle East	3
POSC 344	Government and Politics of the Caribbean	3
POSC 345	Government and Politics of Latin America	3
POSC 346	Government and Politics of Africa	3
POSC 348	Government and Politics of the European Union	3
POSC 357	United States Foreign Policy	3
RELS 342	Islam and Politics	3
RELS 399	Criminal Justice Ethics	3
SOC 212	Migration, Globalization, and Culture	3
SOC 220	Social Problems	3
SOC 262	Contemporary Latin American Development	3
SOC 273	Mass Incarceration and Collateral Consequences	3
SOC 328	Societies and Cultures of Latin America	3
SOC 332	Labor Studies Colloquium	3
SOC 369	Current Issues in Criminal Justice	3

**One of the following Peacebuilding Skills courses:**

COMM 217	Introduction to Public Relations	3
MGMT 201	Introduction to Management	3
MGMT 450	Negotiation & Conflict Mgmt	3
PHIL 208	Ethics Bowl Debate I	3
PHIL 308	Ethics Bowl Debate II	3
POSC 318	Community Organizing for Social Change	3
SOC 318	Community Organizing for Social Change	3

A Language course in addition to the two language courses required by the Core.

**Another approved course by the Program Director of Peace and Justice Studies**

**One Field Work, internship or community engaged learning course:**

PEAC 451	Peace and Justice Field Project	3
PEAC 453	Community Engaged Learning	3
PEAC 475	Internship	3
RELS 205	Urban America and Catholic Social Teaching	3

**Two Electives from the following list:**

BIOL 223	Ecology	3
COMM 217	Introduction to Public Relations	3
COMM 340	Media Criticism	3
COMM 371	Intercultural Communication	3
CRES 150	Introduction to Critical Race & Ethnicity Studies	3

ECON 334	International Economics	3
ECON 412	Economic Growth and Development	3
ENGL 265	Global Literature in English	3
ENGL 279	Literature and the Environment	3
ENGL 345	Environmental Literature and Ecocriticism	3
ENGL 347	Literature and War	3
ENGL 348	Postcolonial Literature	3
ENGL 380	Growing Up Ethnic: The Ethnic-American Bildungsroman	3
HIST 231	Introduction to African American History	3
HIST 306	History of the Modern Middle East	3
HIST 307	Genocide and Racism	3
HIST 312	Modern China 1839 - Now	3
HIST 313	Vietnam to the Philippines	3
HIST 314	Modern Africa	3
HIST 319	The Crusades	3
HIST 326	Diplomatic History of Europe 1815-1914	3
HIST 328	Cold War Diplomacy in Asia	3
HIST 334	Diplomatic History of the Vietnam Wars	3
HIST 347	The Sixties	3
HIST 351	Age Of The French Revolution	3
HIST 357	Nazi Germany and the Holocaust	3
HIST 358	The Industrial Revolution	3
HIST 362	US Foreign Relations, 1900 to the Present	3
HIST 366	US Labor Patterns and Movement	3
HIST 383	Civil War and Reconstruction	3
HIST 389	Gender and Sexuality in the Modern Middle East	3
HIST 368	Formation of U.S.Public Health	3
HIST 390	Terror and Terrorism	3
HIST 391	Decolonization: The End of Empires	3
HIST 392	History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	3
HIST 393	Global Feminisms	3
MGMT 201	Introduction to Management	3
MGMT 309	Management of International Business	3
MGMT 450	Negotiation & Conflict Mgmt	3
PEAC 302	Special Topic	3
PEAC 421	Independent Study	3
PEAC 451	Peace and Justice Field Project	3
PEAC 452	Peace and Justice Field Project	3
PEAC 453	Community Engaged Learning	3
PEAC 475	Internship	3
PHIL 201	Ethics	3

PHIL 208	Ethics Bowl Debate I	3
PHIL 230	Philosophy of Law	3
PHIL 238	Philosophies of War and Peace	3
PHIL 275	Political Philosophy	3
PHIL 308	Ethics Bowl Debate II	3
PHIL 325	Marx and Marxism	3
PHIL 350	Philosophers on Race, Class, and Gender	3
POSC 209	Comparative Politics	3
POSC 222	Power in the City	3
POSC 223	Environmental Politics	3
POSC 251	Global Issues	3
POSC 254	Global Cities	3
POSC 318	Community Organizing for Social Change	3
POSC 324	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	3
POSC 331	Government and Politics of Russia and Selected Soviet Successor States	3
POSC 332	Government and Politics of Central and Eastern Europe	3
POSC 340	Government and Politics of Asia	3
POSC 343	Government and Politics of the Middle East	3
POSC 344	Government and Politics of the Caribbean	3
POSC 345	Government and Politics of Latin America	3
POSC 346	Government and Politics of Africa	3
POSC 348	Government and Politics of the European Union	3
POSC 351	International Relations	3
POSC 352	International Organizations	3
POSC 354	Human Rights	3
POSC 357	United States Foreign Policy	3
POSC 367	Model United Nations	3
POSC 368	Model United Nations II	3
POSC 491	SUNY Washington Internship Program	15
POSC 493	SUNY Summer Washington Internship Program	6
POSC 494	American University Seminar Program	15
PSYC 321	Social Psychology	3
PSYC 330	Special Topic: in Psychology	3
PSYC 348	Cultural Psychology	3
RELS 204	Religion and Social Justice	3
RELS 205	Urban America and Catholic Social Teaching	3
RELS 238	Theologies Of Liberation	3
RELS 254	Catholic Social Teaching	3
RELS 310	Religion & The Holocaust	3
RELS 320	Race, Religion & Resistance	3

RELS 342	Islam and Politics	3
RELS 362	Religion & Work Ethics	3
RELS 377	Religion and Environmentalism	3
RELS 381	Religious Dimensions of Peace	3
RELS 399	Criminal Justice Ethics	3
SOC 212	Migration, Globalization, and Culture	3
SOC 220	Social Problems	3
SOC 225	Telling Stories with Maps	3
SOC 250	Introduction to GIS	3
SOC 262	Contemporary Latin American Development	3
SOC 273	Mass Incarceration and Collateral Consequences	3
SOC 275	Issues in Contemporary Policing	3
SOC 290	Codes of Gender	3
SOC 295	Capitalism	3
SOC 302	Race and Resistance	3
SOC 304	Social Inequalities	3
SOC 317	Anthropology of Drugs	3
SOC 318	Community Organizing for Social Change	3
SOC 319	Activism, Advocacy, and Empowerment	3
SOC 324	Sociological Theories	3
SOC 327	Power and Conflict	3
SOC 328	Societies and Cultures of Latin America	3
SOC 332	Labor Studies Colloquium	3
SOC 333	US Labor Patterns and Movements	3
SOC 334	Sustainable Development	3
SOC 364	Law and Society	3
SOC 361	Criminal Justice Administration	3

## Requirements for the Peace and Justice Studies Minor

Minors must take 15 credits, including the following:

<b>Introductory Course - choose one of the following:</b>	<b>3</b>
PEAC 201 Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies	
POSC 207 Introduction to Peace Studies	
RELS 255 Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies	

**12 Additional credits chosen from the list of courses above in consultation with the Program Director. No more than 6 of these 12 credits can come from the same department.** **12**

A minimum grade of C is required for credit toward the minor.

---

**Total Credits** **15**

{4 year plan goes here}



\* This course counts toward the RELS 2xx requirement.

\*\*Students are encouraged to use free electives to pursue a double major or minor.

\*\*\*Students are encouraged to take a RELS 3xx that also counts toward PEAC.

## PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy challenges you to ask big, important questions, engage with some of the most significant minds in history, think critically, and write and express yourself clearly. One of the great strengths of a philosophy education is that it develops your ability to explore some of life's most important questions, such as:

- What is the nature of the good life?
- What is justice?
- What can we know with certainty?
- How should we take care of each other?

Our faculty takes a pluralistic approach, that sharpens your ability to understand and analyze concepts, question injustices, and logical errors, and think critically about what matters to you. The philosophy program promotes sustained reflection, clarity in language and argument, and awareness of justice and injustice — critical skills for success in a multicultural world.

## Religious Studies

Religion is everywhere. It is a vital force in human experience and bears critical historical, cultural and political importance. Rooted in Manhattan College's Lasallian identity, the Religious Studies Department prepares students to live in the twenty-first century by providing a person-centered education that examines the dynamic ways that religion and religious traditions shape culture, values, relationships and social structures. As part of this mission, the department embraces the college's New York City location, and offers students the opportunity to take advantage of all that a global city has to offer. The department explores the power and persistence of religion in a global context by providing courses on specific religious traditions as well as on issues that span cultures and contexts; by producing quality scholarship in both religious studies and theology; and by actively engaging in the life of the college, the broader academic community, and the world at large.

## Religious Studies Honors Thesis

Students with a 3.5 or greater cumulative index are eligible to develop a year-long independent research project under the supervision of a major reader and a second reader. In fall semester, the student registers for RELS 481 Religious Studies Honors Thesis. In the spring, the student will present a completed and revised honors thesis RELS 482 Honors Thesis II to the readers. Upon the successful completion of this process, the Religious Studies Department will award the student with honors recognition.

## Courses Meeting the College Religious Studies Requirements

Instruction in the Department of Religious Studies promotes the mission of Manhattan College by providing a contemporary, person-centered educational experience characterized by high academic standards, reflection on faith, values, and ethics, and lifelong career preparation. These goals are accomplished through our nine-credit requirement **for all students** that includes:

1. One course that introduces the study of religion as an academic discipline and global phenomenon: RELS 110.
2. One course that explores the riches of the Catholic intellectual tradition: any course chosen from RELS 200-299 (Elective Group A)
3. One course that raises awareness of global and/or contemporary issues: any course chosen from RELS 300-399 (Elective Group B)

Our goals for students include an ability to critically read and analyze religious texts, a facility with the methods of the academic study of religion, a familiarity with specific religious traditions, and an understanding of the role that religion plays in contemporary life. The introductory course focuses on a particular theme while introducing students to some of the research tools used in the academic study of religion. Students may write a 6-credit honors thesis for departmental honors recognition.

### Freshman Year

RELS 110/RELS 152/RELS 161 The Nature and Experience of Religion

### Elective Group A: Catholic Studies

The remaining two RELS requirements can be met in the sophomore, junior, or senior year. It is possible that other, crosslisted courses may also count toward the Catholic Studies requirement. Students should check with their advisors for a list of additional courses. I

RELS 200	Special Topic: in Religion	3
RELS 202	U.S. Latino/A Catholicism	3
RELS 204	Religion and Social Justice	3
RELS 205	Urban America and Catholic Social Teaching	3
RELS 206	Understanding the Bible	3
RELS 207	Central Themes New Testament	3
RELS 209	Paul	3
RELS 210	Jesus	3
RELS 212	Catholic Traditions of Spain	3
RELS 214	Dante	3
RELS 216	Saints and Catholic Imagination	3
RELS 218	The Bible & Film	3
RELS 219	Self and Other	3

RELS 220	Catholicism & Change	3
RELS 225	Contemporary Catholicism	3
RELS 226	Trends in Catholic Theology	3
RELS 227	The Gospel of John	3
RELS 233	Contemporary Christian Ethics	3
RELS 238	Theologies Of Liberation	3
RELS 244	The Catholic Mystics	3
RELS 245	Medieval Christian Thought	3
RELS 254	Catholic Social Teaching	3

\* Prerequisite for all 400-level courses: Open only to Religious Studies majors and minors or by permission of instructor.

## Elective Group B: Global Studies and Contemporary Issues

RELS 206	Understanding the Bible	3
RELS 218	The Bible & Film	3
RELS 255	Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies	3
RELS 300	Special Topic	3
RELS 302	Religion and Spanish Culture	3
RELS 306	Central Themes in the Hebrew Scriptures	3
RELS 310	Religion & The Holocaust	3
RELS 312	Muslims in America	3
RELS 321	Psychology & Religion	3
RELS 336	Native American Religions	3
RELS 337	The American Religious Experience	3
RELS 341	Judaism	3
RELS 342	Islam and Politics	3
RELS 351	God And Evil	3
RELS 354	Buddhism: Its Development and Interpretation	3
RELS 355	Islam	3
RELS 357	Chinese Religions	3
RELS 358	Religions of India	3
RELS 359	Afro-Caribbean Religions	3
RELS 362	Religion & Work Ethics	3
RELS 366	Religion and Contemporary Art	3
RELS 367	The Bible In American Culture	3
RELS 372	Religion and Science	3
RELS 373	Death as a Fact of Life	3
RELS 374	Women in Western Religion	3
RELS 375	Religion and the Body	3

RELS 376	Religion And Media	3
RELS 377	Religion and Environmentalism	3
RELS 378	Religion in New York	3
RELS 379	Religion and Popular Culture	3
RELS 381	Religious Dimensions of Peace	3
RELS 390	Sexuality and the Sacred	3
RELS 399	Criminal Justice Ethics	3
RELS 470	Religious Studies Seminar	3
RELS 475	Internship	3
RELS 480	Religious Studies Tutorial *	3
RELS 481	Religious Studies Honors Thesis *	3
RELS 482	Honors Thesis II	3