

THEOLOGY

The discipline of theology explores the big questions: What does it mean to be human? How shall we live? What does it mean to believe in (or reject) the existence of God? Why are there so many religions? Christian theology tackles these questions by engaging a variety of disciplines, including history, philosophy, and literary studies. It works critically and appreciatively to discover, interpret, and understand the evolving beliefs and practices of Christianity. In light of Fordham's Jesuit heritage and Catholic identity, the department focuses on the rich diversity within the Catholic tradition. Coursework emphasizes the mutual influence of faith and culture historically and in the present. New York City provides a valuable resource, especially for engaging in dialogue with other faith traditions of the world. Located in the poorest U.S. congressional district (Fordham's Bronx campus) and bordering census tracts of both the highest and lowest income levels in Manhattan (at Lincoln Center), our locations in New York City invite faculty and students to repeatedly make the connections between the world's religious and moral teachings and the realities of social injustice.

Majoring in theology provides an excellent liberal arts education. Theology majors learn the crucial skills of thinking critically and analytically, writing persuasively, communicating effectively, and working with others cooperatively. They learn how to interpret classic and contemporary texts, to understand ritual, to analyze and evaluate moral norms, and to explore patterns of authority in the tradition and in the cultures it inhabits. Electives allow students to shape the major in light of their own interests.

The department offers a variety of activities each semester, including guest speakers, a movie series, musical events, study trips, informal gatherings with faculty, retreats, and museum visits. All theology majors and minors are invited to attend regular seminars at which faculty and graduate students present their current work.

The department also has a chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honor society for religious studies and theology.

Accelerated Master's Program

The accelerated M.A. program in theology allows theology majors presently enrolled in Fordham College at Rose Hill and Fordham College at Lincoln Center to attain both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in theology in five years. Graduate courses begin in the student's senior year, providing them with advanced training and enriching the undergraduate experience. An additional year of study permits the student to complete all of the theology department's requirements for the degree of Master of Arts. For further information, contact an associate chair.

Program Activities

The department offers a variety of activities each semester, including guest speakers, a movie series, musical events, study trips, informal gatherings with faculty, retreats, and museum visits. All theology majors and minors are invited to attend the monthly faculty seminar at which faculty present their current work.

For more information

Visit the Theology department web page

Contribution to the Core

The study of theology at Fordham provides an intellectually sophisticated engagement with the Christian tradition. All first years in Fordham College and the Gabelli School of Business take THEO 1000 Faith and Critical Reason, which introduces students to the academic study of religion as well as the intellectual foundations of theological questions past and present. All sophomores and juniors take one core theology course numbered THEO 3000-3799 with the attribute "Sacred Texts and Traditions," which introduces students to the historical-critical study of the scriptures or the classical texts of one or more religious traditions. The theology department offers courses that fulfill American Pluralism, Global Studies, *Eloquentia Perfecta* 3, Interdisciplinary Capstone, and Values Seminar (*Eloquentia Perfecta* 4) requirements.

Programs

- Theology Religious Studies Major
- Theology Religious Studies Second Major
- Theology Religious Studies Minor