

NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay

www.nipissingu.ca

Religions and Cultures



Program Description

When you see religious conflicts and debates in the media does it leave you with more questions than answers? Do you wonder about wars and violence in the name of gods; the meaning of life, what happens after death, and how to be a good person? You aren't alone. These are the kinds of questions the world's great religions have been pondering for millennia. And they have some fascinating answers.

The Religions and Cultures program explores the religious cultures of our global society and the power of religious ideas in shaping us and our worlds. Religious ideas have brought down governments and contributed to global conflicts; at the same time they've inspired some of the most heroic and unselfish acts of care and concern for others. Through the lens of a variety of disciplines, such as Philosophy, Political Science, History, English, and Gender Equality and Social Justice, we approach the study of religion as an academic discipline, examining some of the major religious traditions of the world, as well as the role of religious ideas and values in, culture, politics, art, and even in TV.

Our Teaching Approach

With its focus on religion and culture the program is unique in emphasizing both the concrete and abstract ways in which religious ideas inform our lives regardless of whether we think of ourselves as religious believers. Religious ideas and values influence everything from the art and laws we make to the ways in which we care for others and in recognition of this reality, the program covers a wide range of approaches and topics. These include moral and political philosophy, women and religion, religious ethics, literature, popular culture and the religious traditions and practices of South Asia. Some examples of our courses help to illustrate this approach: Religion and Politics, Death and Immortality, New Religious Movements, Examining the Paranormal, Animal Rites and Sacred Cinema. All of our courses engage students with thought provoking lectures and ideas for debate. Team-taught discussion courses and our participation in interdisciplinary learning will help you gain a thorough understanding of the complex phenomenon of religion and the role it plays in shaping the worlds we live in.

In addition, class sizes are conducive to engaging in lively discussions and debating course content with your peers and professors who will know you by name, care about your progress, and help you develop to your full potential. Professors are approachable and available, often outside of classroom hours, for additional help should you need it.





Program and Faculty

Bachelor of Arts

- Honours Specialization
- Specialization
- Major
- Minor

In your first year, you will be introduced to the study of religion through the investigation of different religious traditions in conversation with popular and thematic cultural issues. Your study of these issues will deepen in your upper year courses as you explore further the topics that suit your interests: *Is God Dead? Faith in the Modern World, the Roots of Evil, Sacred Cinema: Film and the Search for Meaning, Fanaticism, Philosophy of Sex and Love, and Spiritual Journeys.*

For those interested in pursuing graduate work in Religious Studies, students will take the honours seminar, which is made up of student-led discussions and presentations on topics that change from year to year and are based on the professor's area of specialization.

Some of our courses include a Community Service Learning component that allows students to do a practicum/volunteer placement outside of the classroom as part of the assigned work for the course.

Bachelor of Education: The Schulich School of Education

If you want to earn a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, you can choose from the Concurrent route (available with all honours undergraduate programs except Nursing and Social Work), or the Consecutive Program (once you've completed your undergraduate degree).

The Schulich School of Education is one of the best education programs in Ontario. It will prepare you to teach in both traditional and non-traditional environments, and you will gain communication and collaborative skills that can be used in any career.

Our teacher candidates are immersed in an active professional learning environment with support and resources available through our Professional Learning Centre.

Each term a calendar of opportunities is made available, and you will be invited to participate in a series of real-world professional experiences that help you to hone skills, strategies and activities that integrate digital technology resources, enhance school community involvement, develop a personal résumé, portfolio and interview techniques, and much more.

All professional learning opportunities are designed to support and supplement course content by broadening teaching/learning skills and by building your confidence and readiness for the teaching profession.

Average Class Size

First and Second Year		Third and Fourth Year	
NIPISSING	27.3	Laurentian	18.8
Laurentian	38.4	Queen's	22.5
Lakehead	44.4	NIPISSING	22.8
Ottawa	72.9	Trent	25.0
Trent	74.3	Lakehead	27.4
York	77.2	Western	29.2
Carleton	82.9	Carleton	31.7
Western	83.0	York	31.9

Maclean's 2014 University Rankings (Ontario Universities)



Why Nipissing?

You will feel right at home the minute you step onto campus. Becoming a part of our community is just one of the many perks of attending Nipissing. Nipissing is focused on student success and you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally. In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school. We encourage you to come and see for yourself why you belong at Nipissing.

Where Can I Go From Here?

A degree in Religions and Cultures will give you many valuable and transferable skills including critical thinking, research, effective written and oral communication, and cultural knowledge essential for any work in the social sciences and humanities. These are skills valued by all employers. Whether you plan to pursue graduate studies, attend a professional school, or venture into a career, this program will help to develop your awareness of the diversity of religious ideas and beliefs that pervade our pluralistic culture.

For further information please visit: www.nipissingu.ca/ReligionsandCultures



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

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