

# Department of Religion and Philosophy Discipline-Specific Guidelines

Revised Fall 2020

# Nature of the Discipline(s) in the Department of Religion and Philosophy in the Realm of Teaching

Discipline specific notes, additions, or deletions accompanying the Faculty Guide "Basic Expectations of Teaching"

Other than following basic, departmental guidelines, no discipline specific notations.

Discipline specific notes, additions, or deletions accompanying the Faculty Guide "Teaching Effectiveness"

Student grades should never be based on a theological or political viewpoint.

# Nature of the Discipline(s) in the Department of Religion and Philosophy in the Realm of Research and Scholarship

# Elements critical to scholarship which may be unfamiliar to faculty in other disciplines

The creation of pedagogical work or religious curriculum is one example of unique scholarship forms in religion and philosophy. Such work may or may not be peer reviewed, but it is an example of a much-needed connection between academic and religious communities.

The requirement to be an active member in at least two scholarly organizations can be cost-prohibitive.

# Meaning of Peer Review and circumstances where peer review is not necessary for the work product to be considered for scholarship.

Peer review in REL/PHIL means that an essay has been submitted and will be read by two anonymous peer reviewers who must accept it before publication. Typically, essays in collected volumes are not anonymously peer-reviewed.

While most monographs are peer-reviewed, not all are. In REL/PHIL the publication of monographs is valued.

### What does and does not qualify as meaningful creative work

Church presentations, such as invited lectures, teaching special classes, panel discussions, or leading workshops at churches is meaningful scholarship or creative work in our discipline. Smaller stakes engagements, teaching a Sunday School class for example, would not qualify.

If connected to research, some types of service-learning or community engagement scholarship would be designated as counts as well in the disciplines of religion and philosophy.

## Can "Paid" work be considered scholarship

Yes. When scholars receive a grant or fellowship to produce research material, it is considered scholarship. Scholars are occasionally paid for a short piece of public scholarship such as a paid presentation, class, sermon, or workshop.

# How 21st century forms of disseminating work product into the intellectual marketplace figure into accepted norms of scholarship

Academic blogs, which can be peer-reviewed, are popular and accepted ways of disseminating scholarship in REL/PHI, as are podcasts. Published work in newspapers and magazines is also accepted as scholarship.

In some cases, social media outlets such as Twitter can also foster academic knowledge in the public sphere.

#### Departmental assessment of scholarship quality

Quality of scholarship can be determined through the peer-review process, the level or reputation of the academic



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journal, or renown of the conference where a presentation is given.

# Departmental assessment of scholarship quantity

The Religion and Philosophy Department expects department members to be active scholars every year. This scholarship could take any of the following forms: presentation at a conference; peer-reviewed journal article; published essay (not peer-reviewed); book review (not peer-reviewed); book proposal written and submitted; invited lectures, presentations, or /workshops at churches, universities, or other such events.

# Nature of the Discipline(s) in the Department of Religion and Philosophy in the Realm of Service

# Need, value, and expectation of departmental service

Key expectations include departmental meeting attendance, student advising and supports, recruiting majors and minors, and observing the work of colleagues when asked.

# Need, value, and expectation of university service

Department members are asked to serve on university committees, attend assembly meetings, and offer Lyceums.

# Importance of service to the profession

Service to the profession is noteworthy in pursuit of security and promotion.

# Importance of service to the community

Service to the community is noteworthy in pursuit of security and promotion.

## Departmental assessment of service quality

The Department of Religion and Philosophy values the successful completion of departmental service tasks and meaningful or impactful work in the university, professional, and community spheres.

#### Departmental assessment of service quantity

The department does not follow a specific formula, but notes numbers of committees and special committees served on, numbers of advisees and unofficial advisees, other events coordinated for the university that support and elevate the REL/PHIL department, as well as types and range of service to profession and community.