UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE

ONLINE MASTER'S IN PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY AND RELIGIONS (PHILTER)

COURSE TOPICS

Religions
In present-day society, a strong interest in religion and its role in shaping our world has returned to the forefront of modern life. According to data from the Pew Research Center, the percentage of non-believers will fall from 16.4 % to 13.2 % by 2025. Furthermore, due to a technologically advanced and globalized citizenry, today's society is increasingly multi-religious and faith curious, thus making the study of religion an even greater priority in higher education.

Philosophy
Philosophy faculties are often designed agnostically despite the growing curiosity about religion amongst students from all backgrounds. Although the academic study of Philosophy of Religion is an exception, this subfield is too often focused exclusively on Christianity, both within theological faculties and philosophy departments. As a result, religion has become ipso facto identified with Christianity, despite the rich theological and philosophical traditions of the other Abrahamic faiths and their global offshoots. This MA program fulfills the need for further study of various religions and traditions within philosophical programs and training.

Interreligious dialogue
The global interest in interreligious dialogue is not only increasingly evident but more urgent than ever. Philosophy can play a valuable role in this discourse. In fact, the notion of a Divine being has been of concern to and debated by philosophers across various traditions for centuries; such debates about God across traditions are characteristically done through reason, without presupposing faith in a particular revelation. As the study of interreligious dialogue further emphasizes, philosophy has always been dialogical by nature. This MA program offers courses to reflect on the dialogue between Judaism, Christianity and Islam and the history of their interrelationship. A special focus lies in the critical study and analysis of interreligious dialogue from a philosophical rather than strictly theological perspective.

Academic formation
The program trains students in various fields crossing traditional disciplinary lines, including history of philosophy, historical theology, philosophy of religion, contemporary analytical philosophy, and non-Western philosophy. This course of study widens the scope of possible subsequent studies at the doctoral level: graduates are in a competitive position to apply not only to programs in philosophy, but also in theology and religious studies. For instance, the Faculty of Theology of Lucerne has recently created a PhD (Dr. Phil. in Theological Studies) for which graduates of this program would be ideally suited.

THE MA PROGRAM

The Online Master's Degree in Philosophy, Theology and Religions is fully online and accommodates both full and part time study, with no difference in the final degree conferred. Recognized worldwide, the MA offers an amount of 120 ECTS obtained over the course of 2 years or 4 semesters. Each semester consists of 4 courses of 15 ECTS each, for a total of 30 ECTS per semester. The final semester is devoted to the Master's Thesis, accounting for 30 ECTS as well.

The MA program is the most recent way in which the Faculty of Theology has kept pace with the present through the study of the past. It offers a highly regarded Swiss degree, without tying students down to a particular location. In today's globalized and interconnected world, the benefits of online study have become clearer than ever before: Students choose when and where to study, with the freedom to learn on their own schedule in a comfortable space. The time saved can be used to combine study with work and family. Moreover, students' familiarization with a range of digital materials, new tools, software and programs as part of their coursework fosters highly sought-after technical skills. Finally, in engaging with the different cultures and diverse experiences of peers from around the world, students broaden their horizons and gain a global perspective.

CURRICULUM

TERM 1 History of Philosophy and Religions: Basic Concepts	TERM 2 History of Medieval/Modern Philosophy and Religions	TERM 3 Contemporary Philosophy and Religions: Topics and Problems	TERM 4 MA THESIS
MODULE 1 (M1) Basic Concepts I	MODULE 3 (M3) God in the History of Philosophy Middle Ages	MODULE 5 (M5) Topics and Problems I	MA THESIS
MODULE 2 (M2) Basic Concepts II	MODULE 4 (M4) God in the History of Philosophy Modernity	MODULE 6 (M6) Topics and Problems II	
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE Philosophical Issues across Religions			

PROFESSORS

Peter Adamson (LMU Munich / King's College London), Jehoschua Ahrens (Lucerne), David Giuseppe Arie Anzalone (Lucerne), Marienza Benedetto (Bari), Paul Richard Blum (Loyola University, Maryland), Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute, London), Emanuele Colombo (Chicago), Richard Cross (Notre Dame, Indiana), Simon Erlanger (Lucerne), Davide Falessi (Lucerne), Tyron Goldschmidt (Rochester, New York), Warren Zev Harvey (Jerusalem), Christoph Helmig (Cologne), Maarten J.F.M. Hoenen (Basel), Gyula Klima (Fordham University, New York), Marco Lamanna (Lucerne), Gary Carl (Muhammad) Legenhausen (Qom), Olga Lizzini (Aix-Marseille), Winfried Löffler (Innsbruck), Maria Evelina Malgieri (Turin), Ryan Mullins (Helsinki), Pasquale Porro (Turin), Santiago Ramos (Rockhurst, Kansas), Ulrich Rudolph (Zurich), Ferenc Ruzsa (Budapest), Ursula Schumacher (Lucerne), Roman Seidel (FU Berlin), Erdal Toprakyaran (Tübingen/Lucerne), Giovanni Ventimiglia (Lucerne)