

**Department of Religion**  
**MA Graduate Student**  
**Handbook**

2021-2022

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## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Religion welcomes its graduate students into the society of academic inquiry. Students are expected to act as citizens of this society. In keeping with this notion, the Department of Religion strongly encourages and expects its students to attend all departmental colloquia and sponsored programs. This expectation rises to the level of a requirement for any student receiving a departmental assistantship.

Contact Information for the Department:

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Room 3E Peabody Hall, 706-542-3716  
[cgantt@uga.edu](mailto:cgantt@uga.edu)

Ms. Gantt handles budget matters, payroll, assists the Department Head and the Graduate Coordinator.

Ms. Kim Scott, Administrative Assistant II  
Room 3A Peabody Hall, 706-542-5356  
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Ms. Scott clears students to register in Banner, schedules classes and classrooms, orders textbooks for the classes, and performs any other task associated with Instruction.

VACANT, Clerk I (Part-Time)  
Room 3, Peabody Hall, 542-3978

### OFFICES, MAILBOXES, SUPPLIES

You will be given keys to a grad student office if you are on assistantship only. If you are given keys to an office, KEEP THE ROOM LOCKED at ALL TIMES when you are not in the room (even just to go around the corner to the restroom).

Every graduate student will have a mailbox in room 3 where you will be notified of Departmental business and some communication from your major professor. Peabody Hall is open during the regular hours when UGA is open for business (8:00am-5:00pm). The building will be unlocked Monday through Friday from 7:30AM - 9:00PM. The schedule can be extended any days we have classes, lectures, or student organization meetings outside of that schedule. Also note that the building is locked on holidays when UGA is closed. Building access after regular business hours will be by your UGA ID card. Access to the Departmental Office from 5:30 pm – 7:30 am will require a key and your UGA ID card.

Supplies in the Supply Closet (Room 3B) are for Teaching Assistant use in the classroom. DO NOT supply your students in the classroom with paper, pens, etc. They should bring their own and the department is not responsible for supplying them.

### COMPUTERS

The computers in the main office (room 3) are not available for student use. If you are on assistantship you will have access to computers in the Graduate Student Office. The computers are a privilege (not a right). Each person using the machine is responsible for proper use of the machine. No downloads to the hard drives are allowed! You may download to a USB drive if you wish. There are a number of people using these machines. The office staff does not have time to personally instruct you on the computer use. You will need to be basically self-sufficient or get help from other graduate students. Please remember to SHUT DOWN the computers when not in use. Do not just LOGOFF or leave the computer running. The Religion Dept. staff do not supply computer support. Requests for Computer Support should be submitted to the Franklin College IT Department:

### COPYING, PRINTING, AND SCANNING

The office policy states that only professors, office staff, and Religion graduate students are allowed to use the copy machine or any other equipment in the office. Copy codes for the copy machine will be assigned by the Business Manager. Keep copying to a limit! The Business Manager will monitor copying and if you are making excessive copies your privileges will be revoked.

If you have a computer document you need to print you can do so with the Departmental copy machine. The document must be a PDF or JPG document that you can save on a USB Drive. Please see the Office Staff for instructions.

To Scan a document you can do so using the departmental copy machine. Please see the Office Staff for instructions on how to do this. You can only Scan documents as PDF or JPG documents and you can save them to a USB Drive.

### GRADUATE STUDENT LISTSERV

The Department of Religion maintains a Graduate Student Listserv (RELIGIONGRAD-L) which you will be enrolled to. The Department Head, Graduate Coordinator and Office Staff will communicate to you through this Listserv which will go to your UGA mail account.

## COLLOQUIA AND SPECIAL SPEAKERS

The Religion Department will have Departmental Colloquia and Guest Speakers sponsored by our department as well as Speakers that will be co-sponsored by the Department throughout the academic year. As a Religion Graduate student you are strongly encouraged to attend these events as part of your educational experience. If you are on Assistantship you are REQUIRED to attend the events as part of your assistantship award agreement.

## ASSISTANTSHIPS

Each year the faculty will meet in the spring and discuss Graduate Student Assistantships for the following year. Assistantships are awarded only to students actively pursuing a graduate degree in Religion and are normally awarded for a full academic year. All full-time graduate students are reviewed for Assistantship awards, but our funds are limited. Terms of an assistantship will be outlined in an Award Letter. Students are expected to show reasonable progress toward degree requirements, to satisfy University and Departmental requirements concerning selection of a major professor, approval of program of study, etc. and perform their assigned assistantship duties as outlined by the Department. Failure to abide by the terms of the assistantship could cause loss of part or all of the assistantship. It is the general policy of the department not to extend financial assistance to Masters level graduate students beyond two years.

## REGISTRATION AND ADVISEMENT

Pre-registration for the following semester begins approximately three months after the beginning of the current semester. Graduate students are allowed to register the first day of pre-registration and are STRONGLY encouraged to do so by the department. Religion courses numbered 4000/6000 are joint enrollments with undergraduate and graduate students. As Graduate Student YOU MUST register for the 6000-level in order to receive graduate credit. In order to insure a seat in the 6000 level, graduate students need to register early before the course closes out with undergraduates. Students who took any UGA course at the 4000-level as an undergraduate may not take the 6000-level of that same course as a graduate.

Copies of the Schedule of Classes for each semester are online at <http://www.reg.uga.edu/schedule-of-classes> All the deadline dates for the semester along with BANNER instructions and the classes being offered for that semester are available there.

Prior to registration you should contact your major professor to work out a plan of coursework for the coming semester. You should fill out the *Graduate Student Advising* form and have your major professor sign it. You should then bring the signed form to the departmental office and give to the Administrative Assistant II in order to be cleared on BANNER for registration. Registration forms can be obtained in the Religion Dept. office at the front desk.

After advisement, on or after the first day of registration you can go to ATHENA and register. Remember that the Religion classes fill up quickly, therefore if you need to register for a 6000 level course you need to do so as soon as possible. You can always finalize the rest of your schedule later.

Graduate students on an assistantship that awards a tuition break MUST REGISTER for at least 12 graduate semester hours Fall and Spring semester and, if applicable, at least 9 hours Summer semester (they can also have their fees automatically deducted from their paycheck). All other graduate students can register for 3-18 hours without getting overload permission. RELI 7005 is a 3 hour course that can fill hours for graduate students that need hours to meet their requirements. RELI 7000, 7005 and 7300 are thesis writing and research classes and are usually taken during your second year. Students should register for these classes under their major professor. All new MA graduate students should register for RELI 8770 (or RELI 7770) their first semester.

MA Students on any assistantship MUST BE REGISTERED by the day of Late Registration of each semester. Only classes numbered 6000 or above will count toward your program of study (with the exception of the final course of your language requirement).

ALL graduate assistants are REQUIRED to have health insurance. See the website at <https://hr.uga.edu/students/student-health-insurance/> for more information.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR MA IN RELIGION

1. 30 semester hours to be distributed in the following fashion: 24 hours of course work (18 in a major area, 6 in a minor) and 6 hours of thesis and related research (total of 30 semester hours). At least twelve hours (excluding 7000 -- Master's Research) must be taken in courses not admitting undergraduates. No more than 6 hours of 7000 may be included on the program of study.

a. A major (18 hours) to be selected from one of the following areas of concentration:

American Studies (American Religion, African American Religion, Native American Religion, Southern Religion)

Asian Studies (Literature, History, Thought in Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Jainism, Sikhism, and/or Shinto)

African and African Diaspora Studies

Biblical Studies (Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Biblical World)

Christian Studies (Bible & Christian Literature, History, Thought)

Islamic Studies (Quran & Islamic Literature, History, Thought and Sufism)

Jewish Studies (Hebrew Bible & Jewish Literature, History, Thought)

b. A minor (6 hours) in an area outside the major field, selected in consultation with the major professor from the areas of concentration listed above or from other pertinent areas such as:

Anthropology

Classics

Greco-Roman History

Philosophy

Political Science

Sociology

Psychology

Linguistics

Ancient Near Eastern History

(This list is a suggestion, other minors are available with the approval of your major professor)

2. A reading knowledge of Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Pali, Sanskrit, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, or other pertinent language (to be decided upon by the student in consultation with the major professor). This requirement may be satisfied by departmental examination or successful completion at the University of Georgia of the third course in the chosen language with a grade of B or above. This is a Departmental requirement and does not count in your 30 hours above.

3. All Graduate students are required to take RELI 8770, "Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion" (or RELI 7770). This is a Departmental requirement and does not count in your 30 hours above.

Each Candidate for a Graduate Degree in the Department of Religion must meet all requirements for the degree and comply with all policies set out in the Graduate School Bulletin <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/graduate-bulletin/graduate-bulletin-a-c/>). It is your responsibility to be familiar with these requirements and policies. This Handbook does not replace the Graduate School Bulletin. If there is any discrepancy between Department policies and Graduate policies, then Graduate School policies shall prevail.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE\*

Before the end of the first year of residence a faculty advisory committee must be selected and the proper Advisory Committee form filed with the Graduate School. The Advisory Committee consists of the major professor and two additional members. Under normal circumstances these additional members are drawn from the Department of Religion. In some cases, a member may be drawn from outside the department. The major professor will be a member of the Department of Religion in all cases. (Changes may be made in the Advisory Committee during a student's residence.) Forms can be obtained at <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>. All information on the form must be typed including names of committee members in the appropriate boxes.

The Advisory Committee, in consultation with the student, is charged with planning the student's program of study. It is also charged with approving the program of study, reading and approving the thesis, and administering the written exam and oral defense. The Major Professor has the primary responsibility for guiding your research, but you should consult all members of the Advisory committee to draw upon their expertise in relevant areas.

Since the Advisory Committee must be chosen by the end of the first year of residence, this means that a major area of concentration must also be selected, since the major professor will represent that major area. (Sheets listing current faculty members with their areas of interest and the major and minor areas of concentration are available in the departmental office.) In addition, it is recommended that a thesis topic or field should be selected by the end of the first year of study. [See <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/> ].

#### PROGRAM OF STUDY\*

A Student must complete a program of study which constitutes a logical whole. The recommended program of study is laid out on a Program of Study form which must be submitted to the Graduate School before the end of the second semester of residence and must be done before a student is admitted to candidacy for a degree. Please read the "Requirements for Graduation" and see the sample "Program of Study" form in the Appendices for instructions on how to will out this form properly.

The courses listed in this program must carry a minimum of 30 semester hours consisting of at least 24 hours of course work, at least one-half of this credit (12 hours) must be in UGA courses only open to graduate students (8000-level courses). A maximum of three semester hours of RELI 7000 (Master's Research) and three semester hours of RELI 7300 (Master's Thesis) must be included on the student's program of study. [See <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/> ]

In addition to the above requirements all Religion MA students are required to take RELI 8770 (or RELI 7770) their first semester here. All students on assistantship are required to take RELI 7771 while on assistantship, unless exempted by the graduate coordinator. These courses are included in the Departmental Requirements section of the Program of Study Form and do not count toward the 30 required hours for the MA.



Forms can be obtained at <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>. All information on the form must be typed including names of committee members in the appropriate boxes.

\*NOTE: The three names on the Advisory Committee form and the three names on the Program of Study form should be the same people. If you make a change in your committee you will have to fill out a new revised form to reflect the change. These are the three people who will be on your thesis committee and sign your Thesis Defense form when you complete your oral defense.

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

To complete the MA in Religion you will be required to satisfy the Reading Knowledge of a Foreign Language. This is part of your Departmental Requirements on your Program of Study form. You can satisfy this requirement in a number of ways: (1) complete the third semester of a language with a grade of B or better; (2) complete a reading knowledge course with a grade of B or better; (3) test out of the reading knowledge course (see your major professor); (4) or complete a specialized course that covers the reading knowledge of a language with a grade of B or better. The language you will be required to take will depend on your MA course focus and your Major Professor.

#### GRADUATE ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Effective Fall 06 for new admits/readmits: Students must register for two out of three terms (Fall, Spring, and Summer). After the last day of each semester, any degree-seeking graduate student who has not maintained continuous enrollment by registering for the required credits or obtaining an approved leave of absence will lose their status as an enrolled graduate student. Students who wish to resume graduate study must: (a) re-apply to the Graduate School for admission and pay required application fees, (b) pay a reinstatement fee equivalent to registering for 3 graduate credits at the current in-state tuition rate for each semester since her/his last semester of enrollment, including summer. If a student needs to be absent from the program before completion, they must apply for a Leave of Absence. A Leave of Absence requires approval of the Religion Dept. Graduate Coordinator and the Dean of the Graduate School. An approved Leave of Absence stands in lieu of registering for the minimum of 3 credits for each semester for which the Leave of Absence is granted.

<https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/enrollment-policy/>

#### APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

The application for graduation must be filed with the Graduate School no later than Friday of the first full week of classes two semesters prior to the anticipated graduation date. Application forms must be submitted from the Graduate School website at <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/> [See <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/> ]

Fee for late submission of forms to the Graduate School is \$50. This applies to the Application for Graduation and submission of the Advisory Committee and Program of Study forms before graduation.

## QUALIFYING COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The examination will vary depending on the area of concentration selected. Content of the exam will take into account the student's course work, research and special competencies. This major exam will have to be completed before you can defend your thesis. Qualifying examinations will be given three times during the academic year – October and January. Your qualifying exam should be taken as soon as you and your major professor feel is appropriate. In any case, your exam should be completed before your thesis research and writing begins. [NOTE: The following differs in some respects from the exact procedure outlined in the Graduate Bulletin] A written exam covering the major area of concentration must be taken and passed to qualify for submitting a thesis. This exam will last no more than six total hours. The timing of the exam and the distribution of its hours are at the discretion of the major professor, in consultation with the student. The department recommends, however, that the exam be taken during the semester in which the courses on the program of study are completed or as soon as feasible thereafter. The exam is graded by the major professor and one other faculty member. The “Department of Religion Qualifying Examinations Cover Sheet” should be attached to the front of the exam when turning it in to your major professor (see appendix for copy of form). Under normal circumstances, the grading of this exam will be completed within two weeks after it has been taken. The student will then be notified of the outcome by the major professor. When all steps are accomplished the exam is placed by the graduate coordinator in the student’s file.

## THESIS PROSPECTUS

Before beginning thesis research the student must present to the major professor an acceptable, written thesis prospectus. The prospectus should be submitted to your major professor by the beginning of your second year. [NOTE: The following differs in some respects from the exact procedure outlined in the Graduate Bulletin] A student must submit a thesis which shows independent judgment in developing a problem from primary sources. The student shall write a complete, detailed proposal of the thesis which clearly outlines the thesis topic, the methodology to be employed, and the significance of the research. The proposal should include a bibliography. This proposal will be read by the advisory committee, and, when approved, it is signed by the members of the committee. A copy of the proposal is then given to the graduate coordinator to place in the student’s file. The proposal should be submitted no later than the end of the third semester of residence.

For a sample Thesis Prospectus see the Sample Forms in the Appendices.

## THESIS RESEARCH AND WRITING

The thesis is developed under the direction of the major professor. When a draft suitable for oral defense has been completed, it is given to the major professor who then gives it to the other members of the reading committee. In some cases, individual chapters will be given to the readers as the thesis is in development. In any case, the draft for defense must be given to the entire reading committee at least one month prior to the oral defense. [NOTE: If the thesis in development has been given to the readers on a chapter by chapter basis, an entire, complete copy of the draft for defense must still be presented to the readers.]

The Graduate School requires that your thesis follow a certain format. Copies of the Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines can be obtained at the Graduate School website (See: <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/theses-dissertations-guidelines/theses-and-dissertations-overview/>). The thesis, and the “Thesis Defense and Final Examination Approval” form (after the

oral defense), must be submitted to the Graduate School no later than the final day of classes for Fall and Spring Semester (for Summer deadlines check with the Graduate School (<https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/important-dates-deadlines/>)).

The last semester of enrollment is not the time to begin researching and writing your thesis! You should be *finalizing* your thesis your last semester. Your advisory committee will need time to read the thesis and offer suggestions. You will need time to incorporate suggestions and resubmit a copy to the committee for any other changes. By the time you have your defense your thesis should be in the FINAL stage. There are certain guidelines that the Graduate School requires concerning the format of your thesis. When you begin typing the thesis you will need to consult the Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines: <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/theses-dissertations-guidelines/theses-and-dissertations-overview/>. These guidelines are strictly enforced.

Deadlines for turning in the thesis will have to be followed or you will not be able to graduate on time. You are REQUIRED to have a copy of your thesis checked for formatting errors by the Graduate School prior to turning in the thesis (this should be done as soon as you have a more-or-less completed copy of the thesis). Check for the deadline for this FORMAT CHECK. They will alert you of any errors in meeting the guidelines that you will need to fix prior to turning in the final copy. See: <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/theses-dissertations-guidelines/theses-and-dissertations-overview/>

The thesis, and the “Thesis Defense and Final Examination Approval” form (after the oral defense), must be submitted to the Graduate School no later than the final day of classes for Fall and Spring Semester (for Summer deadlines check with the Graduate School (<https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/important-dates-deadlines/>)).

## THESIS DEFENSE AND FINAL EXAMINATION

[NOTE: The following differs in some respects from the exact procedure outlined in the Graduate Bulletin] An oral defense of the thesis before the Advisory/Reading Committee must be scheduled at least two weeks prior to the date of final clearance by the Graduate School.

When you have completed the thesis, the reading committee has read the thesis and your major professor has indicated that you are ready for your final defense, your major professor, together with you, should schedule your oral defense. You should have finished your comprehensive exam by this time. After passing your oral defense you can have your major professor sign your approval page of the thesis and take your thesis along with the *Final Defense Approval Form for your Master’s Thesis* and *Electronic Thesis Submission* form to the Graduate School (Forms can be obtained at <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/> . All information on the form must be typed including names of committee members in the appropriate boxes). THESIS DEFENSES WILL BE HELD NO LATER THAN 2 weeks before the last day of classes the semester you graduate. Remember to have one copy of your thesis bound for the Department of Religion office. <https://tate.uga.edu/print-and-copy/>

The thesis, and the “Thesis Defense and Final Examination Approval” form (after the oral defense), must be submitted to the Graduate School no later than the final day of classes for Fall and Spring Semester (for Summer deadlines check with the Graduate School (<https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/important-dates-deadlines/>)).

THESE DEADLINES ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET. You need to be working closely with your major professor and the graduate coordinator to be sure you do not miss these deadlines. Deadline dates are also posted on the bulletin board in room 210. You will also need to note that you must be enrolled for a minimum of 3 hours the semester in which you plan to graduate. This is usually the REL 7300 class, but if you have already registered for this class at an earlier date and have postponed your graduation you can register for something else your final semester if you wish.

A COPY OF ALL FORMS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE MUST BE LEFT IN THE RELIGION DEPARTMENT OFFICE.

GRADUATION CHECK LIST FOR CANDIDATES OF THE  
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN RELIGION

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Contact the Graduate Coordinator and choose major professor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Choose an Advisory Committee (consult your major professor). Fill out the form and submit to the Graduate School. (This is usually done by the end of your first semester in residence.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Program of Study. The Program of Study must be prepared by the student and the major professor and sent to the Graduate School after being approved by the departmental graduate coordinator. This step is usually completed by the end of the student's second semester. The Program of Study must include:  
  
30 semester hours of course work (not counting courses toward the foreign language requirement). At least 12 hours of the student's program must be in 8000 level courses where no undergraduates are present. The other 18 hours may be taken in courses numbered 6000 or above (with no more than six hours of credit coming from thesis research, 7000) and 3 hours in RELI 7300, Master's Thesis (usually taken your last semester). The 30 hours of course work are to be distributed in the following fashion:
  1. Major -- 18 hours
  2. Minor -- 6 hours (selected in consultation with the major professor)
  3. RELI 7000 – 3 hours
  4. RELI 7300 – 3 hours  
The foreign language, RELI 8770 (or RELI 7770) and RELI 7771 (for GTAs) are listed as Departmental Requirements.  
  
NOTE: An overall grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained on all courses in the Program of Study. No grade below a "C" may be included in a Program of Study. (A "C-" will not count)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Change in the Program of Study. Any changes to the program of study must be approved by the major professor, the departmental graduate coordinator, and the Dean of the Graduate School. The Recommended Change in Program of Study form should be submitted as soon as the student and major professor see the need for it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Transfer of Credit. Transfer of graduate credit earned at an accredited institution may be allowed (up to 6 semester hours) if approved by the major professor, the departmental graduate coordinator, and the Dean of the Graduate School. The Request for Transfer of Credit and an official transcript must be submitted at least thirty days prior to the date the student plans to graduate. (The language requirement cannot be transferred from another institution.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Language Requirement. The Department of Religion requires M.A. students to have reading knowledge of a foreign language. This should be completed as soon as possible. The requirement may be satisfied by departmental examination or successful completion of a third semester course (or the equivalent) with a grade of B or higher.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A qualifying examination in your major area, to be worked out with major professor. Exams will ordinarily be read by at least two professors. Taken BEFORE your thesis defense.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Submit Thesis Prospectus with the help of the major professor to your Advisory Committee before you begin writing the thesis.

- \_\_\_\_\_9. Application for Graduation. The application must be filed with the Graduate Office before the end of the first full week of classes the semester the student plans to graduate.
- \_\_\_\_\_10. Submit thesis to advisory committee. The student guide for preparing and processing the thesis may be obtained in the Graduate School website.
- \_\_\_\_\_11. Submit Thesis copy to Graduate school for Format Check. Check Deadlines for submission date.
- \_\_\_\_\_12. After thesis is in final form your major professor should set up your thesis defense and final examination with the advisory committee. To be held no later than 2 weeks before the last day of classes.
- \_\_\_\_\_13. After the thesis defense and final examination is administered, the Approval Form for Master's (MA) Thesis Defense and Final Oral Examination and an electronic submission of the corrected thesis no later than the final day of instruction for the semester you graduate (check dates for summer graduation). This official copy of the thesis will be electronically submitted by the Graduate School to the main library for archiving. Remember to have one copy of your thesis bound for the Department of Religion office.
- \_\_\_\_\_14. Incompletes must be removed at least one week prior to graduation.
- \_\_\_\_\_15. Change of Address. A student must notify the Registrar's Office and the Graduate School of any address change by writing or filing a Change of Address form.
- \_\_\_\_\_16. Students unable to complete degree requirements by the date indicated on the application for graduation must notify the Graduate School at once to indicate the new date. Otherwise, the file will be placed on inactive status until a re-application for graduation is submitted.
- \_\_\_\_\_17. A student must be registered for a minimum of 3 hours (normally 7300) the semester in which the student graduates.

Diplomas are mailed approximately ten to twelve weeks after graduation.

THE FORMS LISTED ABOVE ARE LOCATED ON THE UGA GRADUATE SCHOOL WEBSITE

<https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>.

AND SHOULD BE FILLED OUT BY THE STUDENT AND SUBMITTED TO THEIR MAJOR PROFESSOR FOR PROCESSING.

## RESOURCES

THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA) is the primary political and social body for graduate students. The Graduate Student Council is a multi-purpose organization focused on advocating, connecting, and empowering graduate students. For more information, see <https://gsa.uga.org>.

MENTORING GRADUATE STUDENTS: Mentoring for graduate students and getting the most from your major professor and your program please see: <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/downloads/publications/mentoring.pdf>

THETA ALPHA KAPPA: THE NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND THEOLOGY.  
See <http://religion.uga.edu/theta-alpha-kappa>. For more information, contact Dr. Jodie Lyon at [lyon@uga.edu](mailto:lyon@uga.edu).

## APPENDIX A

### ACADEMIC HONESTY AT UGA

<https://honesty.uga.edu/Resources/For-Students/>

Every student must agree to abide by UGA's academic honesty policy and procedures known as [A Culture of Honesty](#), when applying for admission to the University of Georgia. [A Culture of Honesty](#) and the University of Georgia Student Honor Code work together to define a climate of academic honesty and integrity at the university.

All members of the university community have a responsibility to uphold and maintain an honest academic environment and to report when dishonesty occurs. The Office of the Vice President for Instruction is responsible for the university's academic honesty policy and procedures and supporting the University of Georgia [Student Academic Honesty Council](#) to ensure that information related to the academic honesty policy is available to all members of the university community. <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>

## APPENDIX B

### NON-DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The University of Georgia (the "University") is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work, and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, University System of Georgia ("USG") policy, and University policy, the University prohibits harassment of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status by any member of the University Community (as defined below) on campus, in connection with a University program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for any member of the University Community. Incidents of harassment and discrimination will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal or expulsion from the University.

Please read and be familiar with this policy, which can be found on the Equal Opportunity Website (<https://eoo.uga.edu/policies-resources/ndah-policy/>).

## APPENDIX C

### CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and University policy provide important safeguards for maintaining the confidentiality of student records. For the complete text of these policies, see Appendix II of this publication.

In general there are two basic rules to remember: 1) each student has the right to inspect, review, and challenge the content of his/her University records, and 2) no personally identifiable information may be disclosed to unauthorized individuals or organizations without the student's prior written consent (unless otherwise provided for under FERPA).

As a TA, you are responsible for protecting the confidentiality of students' work. Examinations and papers may not be left in open, unattended areas for students to pick up, nor may students' scores be posted in public places unless names are coded so that individual students cannot be identified by others. TAs are also expected to avoid discussions regarding an individual student's academic work with persons other than the faculty member and other TAs teaching the course.

For More information: <https://reg.uga.edu/general-information/ferpa/>

## APPENDIX D

### DEADLINES

For all important deadlines for the graduate school, see the Graduate School Website:

<https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/important-dates-deadlines/>

## APPENDIX E

### FORMS

For up-to-date forms, see the Graduate School Website: <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>

You and your major professor are jointly responsible for seeing that this paperwork is done and the deadlines are met properly. Do not rely on anyone to remind you. You must take on the responsibility to see that the forms are done at the proper times. You should pay attention to the deadline dates that are posted on the Graduate School webpage. The forms are available online at the Graduate School webpage <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>.

These are PDF forms and you can type in the information on the computer (they MUST be typed). Please type the names of the professors into the appropriate boxes, the graduate coordinator's name, and then print out a copy to be signed. **A COPY OF ALL YOUR SIGNED PAPERWORK MUST BE LEFT IN THE DEPARTMENTAL OFFICE BEFORE SENDING IT OVER TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL.**

In addition to the graduate school forms, see below for the Departmental of Religion Qualifying Examinations Cover Sheet and a Sample Thesis Prospectus.



## Department of Religion Qualifying Examinations Cover Sheet

Please attach this cover sheet to one copy of the examination. Each reader should comment on the exams and may make summary comments on this sheet.

When the exams have been read by two people, please return the copy of the exam with comments to the Business Manager in the Religion Department Main Office to file.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

First reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate evaluation: Pass or Fail

Comments:

Second reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate evaluation: Pass or Fail

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Major Professor

Semester Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAMPLE Thesis Prospectus

NAME

Department of Religion

Major Professor: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

### **Title:**

Exorcism and Possession in the Modern Christian Church: Foundations, Practices, and Controversies.

### **Abstract:**

*Exorcism and Possession in the Modern Christian Church: Foundations, Practices, and Controversies* will discuss the status of the belief in demonic possession and the practice of exorcism in the twenty-first century as well as its history. The thesis will argue that not only are these practices alive and well within Christianity, but that they are also becoming more popular, and even commonplace within some communities.

### **Chapter Outline:**

Chapter one is entitled *The Penetrating Darkness: Demonic Possession and Exorcism in the Christian Tradition*, and discusses the foundational theology and historical practices relating to demonic possession and exorcism, with particular focus on the early Christian and later Catholic traditions. An overview of the modern rite of exorcism is included, as well as a discussion of the problem of evil and the theological significance of adversarial personalities within Christianity.

Chapter two, tentatively titled *The Manifest Darkness*, will discuss the historical and modern practice of exorcism within the Protestant church, and how those practices differ from the Catholic. An introduction to controversies associated with exorcism will be included.

Chapter three will conclude the thesis, and is tentatively titled *The Swelling Darkness*. I will discuss the modern arguments for and against the practice of exorcism, and argue that far from retreating, these practices are undergoing a resurgence amongst the faithful.

### **Methodology:**

Research utilizing both primary and secondary sources is the main methodology. For early Christian and medieval material, I am relying on secondary sources; mainly primary source translations, peer-reviewed articles, and books specific to the subjects of exorcism, possession, or adversarial personalities. For post-medieval material I utilize primary sources when possible. Locating primary modern sources on the subject is thankfully not difficult, given the boom in internet and print publishing in recent years. In addition, I also utilize artistic sources (such as Bosch, Dante, and Blake, for example, or modern films) wherever possible, in order to illustrate the significance of these beliefs outside of religious circles.

### **Significance of Research:**

This thesis is significant because it outlines a current and growing trend within the broader Christian religious community. It is a common assumption that belief in demonic possession is merely a relic of a superstitious past; however, this is not the case. The belief is widespread, and with it comes its counterpart: the practice of exorcism. Exorcism is a powerful issue; it is controversial because it has the potential to injure or kill, but it can also heal. Understanding the

subtle theological nuances of the problem of evil, and how they lead to belief in possession, and how that belief in turn leads to a practical exorcism, is critical for understanding how this belief is spreading, as well as the ramifications of that spread.

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Committee Approval:

Major Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Member: \_\_\_\_\_