



The study of Christianity—including its development and traditions—is critical to understanding the history and values that have shaped cultures around the world. Christianity continues to impact governments, cultural mores, service, economy, literature, art, and human rights today. At Loyola, you will explore the past, present, and emerging future of Christianity with a particular emphasis on the Catholic tradition in the spirit of Ignatius of Loyola—“Iggy,” as our community lovingly calls him—the founder of the Society of Jesus. If you are seeking to deepen your understanding of spirituality within a global context, the study of Christianity will both challenge and encourage that understanding.

This is the place.

In New Orleans, the influence of Christianity pervades our culture and traditions. Over half of New Orleanians are Christian, and over a third are Roman Catholic. One of our most famous landmarks is St. Louis Cathedral, the oldest continuously active Roman Catholic Cathedral in the U.S. From the celebration of Mardi Gras to the Voodoo Music Experience, you will learn how religious culture makes New Orleans a unique and fascinating place to live and study.

At Loyola, you’ll study religion through immersion and cultural experiences that open you to the many wonders of the world and its people. Spend a semester in Italy or India on one of our faculty-sponsored trips, or take religious studies coursework abroad in China, Ecuador, Ireland, or Korea. Participate in internships that broaden your understanding of human rights. Network with peers in the Theta Alpha Kappa honor society; collaborate with professors on projects; learn from experts, authors, and historians in Loyola’s various lecture series.

Courses

In addition to a core set of courses exploring the Bible as literature and Christian ethics and thought, you’ll select electives to tailor the program to your interests. Here’s a sample of what you can expect to learn and do:

Old Testament as Literature

This course examines the literary, theological, and social-cultural development of the Old Testament and its importance for modern societies. Topics such as religious syncretism, mythological influences, and the conflicts in religious beliefs and ideas are among the concepts investigated in this course.

New Testament as Literature

This course explores the fundamentals of how the Christian Scriptures came to be and discusses the critical issues that challenge modern interpretations of biblical texts. In our study of the New Testament, we gain insights into the social, cultural, literary, and religious contexts in which the early Christian texts arose.

Christianity and the Environment

This course is a study of Christian life and commitment to the stewardship of Earth. It emphasizes the development of scientific perspectives and the exploration of a creation spirituality.

Christian Ethics

This course is an introduction to the broader Christian conversation on ethical issues. Students learn how to become intelligent participants in the process of owning and forming the ethical decisions that impact their lives and the lives of others.