

ART AND RELIGION

INTRODUCTION

Degree offered

Ph.D.

Building on the pioneering legacy of the Graduate Theological Union's interdisciplinary study of faith traditions and the arts, the program is devoted to this study in its many aspects, including the historical, the theological, and the spiritual. Students pursue this study through an emphasis on the history of the arts (includes, but not limited to, literary, visual, and performing arts) or through philosophical and theological aesthetics.

Objectives

The program in Art and Religion engages doctoral students in a dynamic scholarly learning community, focusing on critical reflection in the arts as a locus of religious meaning. Our graduates work in the areas of art and faith traditions, in academic, religious, and arts institutions.

Admission Requirements

Persons applying for the program are expected to have an MA, or the academic equivalent, in art history, or aesthetics, or theology.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Students must have proficiency in two languages for scholarly research other than English. Ordinarily one of these must be a modern language such as German, Spanish, French, or Italian.

COURSEWORK

In consultation with the academic advisor students pursue pre-dissertation coursework, research, and writing of papers with GTU and UC Berkeley faculty. Students should define and gain expertise in a field of specialization as a preliminary step toward the dissertation. One upper division (4000-6000 level) in history of the arts course and one upper division aesthetics course are required.

Supporting courses in religion and the arts are also available through the Center for Arts, Religion and Education (CARE) careartsandreligion.org and at UCB.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

1. The student will write a research paper of 30 to 40 pages on a subject dealing with the major focus of his or her discipline, either a) the history of the arts; or b) aesthetics.
2. The student will take a closed book examination of three (3) hours on questions given by the committee that deal with the student's major focus.
3. The student will write another research paper of 30 to 40 pages dealing with the minor focus of his or her discipline, either a) the history of the arts; or b) aesthetics or an allied field approved by the Area.
4. The student will do a critical paper on a specific art form or do a creative project designed to display the knowledge of an art form within the context of theology/faith traditions.

The oral examination will follow the written exams and involve the following: a) Questions and Analysis on the part of the student's Committee regarding what was stated in all of the written exams. b) Any new questions the Committee might want to pose to the student in order to determine his or her comprehensive grasp of the discipline. c) A review of a critical paper on a specific art form or of a creative project designed to display the student's knowledge of an art form within the context of theology.

DISSERTATION

The program's course of study, research, writing, and examinations culminates in a dissertation focusing on one of two possible areas: 1) a specific aspect of the history of the arts and/or religion; or, 2) the philosophical or theological aesthetics of an art form. Dissertation proposals conform to the general rubrics of the GTU doctoral program.

Allied Field Requirements

Successfully complete two doctoral level courses (4000-6000) in the area. The designated area advisor will review and assess the papers submitted for these courses to ensure they meet the standards of the area.

Pass a comprehensive examination supervised by a Core Doctoral Faculty member from the Art and Religion area.