Overview. “Majors Colloquium” is designed to initiate the student into the full range of professional activities in the study of religion. Students will learn to deliver both written and oral reviews of published works, hone research skills and field methods, explore practical issues of preparing a paper for publication as an article, and extend the skills of the formal study of religion to various forms of cultural production, such as film, visual art, music, and web-based activities. The content of this course will vary from term to term.

Fall 2015 edition. The instructor will set the content of the first several meetings of the term, after which the students will, together with the instructor, generate the remaining topics and events. These can include inviting departmental faculty to discuss their current research (unpublished) and talk about the research process, look at controversial public issues, review films, and so forth.

Initial Topics to be extended by students for the remainder of the term.

- How everyday speech shapes our thoughts (limits and constrains; creates and innovates), beginning with a critical reading of George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Metaphors We Live By* (Chicago, 1980).
- “Why you can’t think that thought.” A look at the Whorfian Hypothesis (Benjamin Lee Whorf and his student Edward Sapir). How we can be blinded by the very categories of thought we deploy, or, “What do we mean by agnotology?” (Proctor and Schiebenger).
- The vagaries of interpretation through translation. The act of translation and hermeneutics (Gadamer) and some current theories of translation: refraction theory (LeFevre), dynamic translation (Eugene Nida), and polysystem theory (Even Zohar).
- How do we publish articles and books: the writing process, copyediting, production, including practical exercises from *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Students opting for Honors in Religious Studies will be required to present the results of their research in their final term prior to submitting the thesis, the Majors Colloquium being co-requisite for RLST 4999 [RLST 299b]. This course will be offered each term.

†The course is scheduled for Wednesday 3:10–4:00 p.m., but if there are no scheduling conflicts, the optimum timing will be from 3:10–5:00 p.m., meeting only for the first eight weeks of the semester. The course is open to Majors and Minors in Religious Studies and Minors in Islamic Studies.