Thank you for your inquiry regarding the doctoral program in Theology at Boston College. Boston College offers unusual resources for a Catholic and ecumenical study of all the areas of theology. Not only is the Theology Department in itself one of the foremost such departments in the country, but the city of Boston is one of the richest environments in the world for the study of theology.

The Boston Theological Institute (BTI), a consortium of theology faculties primarily in the Boston-Newton-Cambridge area, has as its constituent members the following institutions: Andover Newton Theological School, the Boston College Department of Theology, the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Boston University School of Theology, Episcopal Divinity School, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, and St. John’s Seminary. This consortium offers complete cross-registration in several hundred courses, the use of library facilities in the nine schools, joint seminars and programs, and faculty exchange programs.

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to call the Theology Graduate Programs Assistant, at (617) 552-4602. You are most welcome to visit the Boston College campus and learn more about our programs. Please call in advance for an appointment and speak with the Graduate Assistant, 617-552-3551 to set up an appointment.

Sincerely,
Richard Gaillardetz,
Graduate Program Director

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Application Information

All application materials must be submitted by, January 2, 2014. Downloadable forms, application details, and instructions for applying online may be found at the GSAS website: www.bc.edu/gsas. For technical assistance with the application process, please contact the Graduate School at gsasinfo@bc.edu or call (617) 552-3265.

Application requirements include:

- GSAS Application Form.
- Abstract of Courses.
- Transcripts—an original, sealed transcript must be sent to the graduate school.
- Letters of Recommendation (3)—recommendations must be sent to the graduate school in sealed envelopes.
- Statement of Purpose—please discuss your interest in the program and your academic goals (approximately three pages).
- Writing Sample—a course paper or equivalent, not to exceed 25 pages.
- Curriculum Vitae (Resume)—list of academic and work experience.
- GRE general scores (domestic and international applicants).
- TOEFL scores (international students only).

In order for your GRE scores to reach us by the application deadline, you will need to take the examination by the end of November.

Please contact the Educational Testing Service for information about the computer-based GRE, which offers frequent test-taking opportunities and fast score reporting. Be sure to indicate Boston College as a score recipient, and ETS will send your GRE scores directly to the Graduate School.
The doctoral program in Theology has as its goal the formation of theologians who intellectually excel in the church, the academy, and society. It is confessional in nature, and envisions theology as "faith seeking understanding." Accordingly, the program aims at nourishing a community of faith, scholarly conversation, and research and teaching centered in the study of Christian life and thought, past and present, in ways that contribute to this goal. It recognizes that creative theological discussion and specialized research today require serious and in-depth appropriation of the great philosophical and theological traditions of the past, as well as ecumenical, interdisciplinary, inter-religious, and cross-cultural cooperation.

The program is rigorous in its expectation that students attain a wise appropriation of Catholic and/or Protestant theological and doctrinal traditions, as well as critical and constructive dialogue with other major religions, with other Christian theological positions, and with contemporary cultures. Students are expected to master the tools and techniques of research and to organize and integrate their knowledge so as to make an original contribution to theological discussion.

The doctoral program is designed and taught by the faculty of the Theology Department in Boston College’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. While students may avail themselves of the rich course offerings across the BTI consortium of schools, they especially profit from the presence of the faculty of Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry (STM), located on the nearby Brighton Campus. Students may ask members of the STM to serve on their comprehensive exam and dissertation committees, while each student’s advisor, nonetheless, must be a member of the Theology Department.

Because the program includes faculty members who are expert in the Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and Jewish traditions, it also offers a context in which the issues raised by religious pluralism can be explored, responsibly and in detail, and in which a Christian comparative theology can be pursued seriously.

Students admitted to the Ph.D. Program should have completed the M.Div. or equivalent degree; a master’s degree in religion, theology, or philosophy; or a bachelor’s program with an exceptionally strong background in religion, theology, and/or philosophy.

Areas of Specialization

Students in the doctoral program focus their studies in one of five major areas—History of Christian Life and Thought, Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, Theological Ethics, or Comparative Theology. The faculty in each major area determine requirements regarding course distribution, language requirements (see below), comprehensive examinations, and minors. A minimum of two years of full-time course work is normally required of all. Upon completion of course work, doctoral students typically serve as teaching assistants for two years and as teaching fellows for one year.

**THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN LIFE AND THOUGHT**

examines how different forms of Christian faith, theology and doctrine, behavior, ritual, and institutional setting came to manifest themselves over the course of Christian history. Students focus on how these various forms of Christian life and thought developed over time by looking not only to their direct social and religious contexts and their underlying philosophical and spiritual presuppositions, but also to the implications of such developments for the life of the Church, both immediate and long-term.

While students in this area can study such diverse fields as history of exegesis, history of education, and institutional church history, as well as focus on individual authors, the current faculty in this area have a strong common interest in spirituality and in the history of theological developments. Their emphasis is on the study of the past in its "pastness," although secondarily the contemporary relevance of historical developments may be brought out as well. The faculty is interested in imparting to students a keen awareness of historical method by keeping them abreast of the contemporary historiographical debate.

This area is for scholars whose teaching interests fall into a broad range of courses in the history of Christianity, and whose research interests lie within at least one subfield of historical Christianity—such as the early Church, the medieval Church, the Reformation, counter-reformation, the Enlightenment, modernity, American Christianity, or Jewish history. Students majoring in history of Christian life and thought are required to minor in one of the other four areas of the doctoral program.
**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY** is the contemporary intellectual reflection on the Christian Mysteries as an interrelated whole. The Systematics faculty seeks to develop the student’s ability to treat theological material systematically and constructively; that is, according to a method which attends to the coherence and interconnectedness of the elements of the Christian.

Our primary concern is the systematic and constructive elucidation of the Christian faith in a contemporary context, and we emphasize the relationships among theological themes and topics, including their growth and development in historical and systematic contexts. Essential to the practice of systematic theology is a methodical appreciation of the concerns which form the context for the great inquiries and debates of the tradition and modern times. Students majoring in systematic theology are required to minor in one of the other four areas of the doctoral program.

**BIBLICAL STUDIES** focuses on the canonical books of the Bible both within their historical and cultural worlds and in relation to their reception within the Christian and Jewish traditions. All students will acquire a thorough competency in both the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, including competency in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. They may learn other ancient languages and literatures as their research requires and must acquire a reading knowledge of German and either French or Spanish. The comprehensive exams will cover the whole Bible, with emphasis on either the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible or the New Testament, and will include a specialized exam in an area of study pertinent to the student’s dissertation.

**THEOLOGICAL ETHICS** prepares its graduates for teaching and research positions that call for specialization in this area. It includes the ecumenical study of major Roman Catholic and Protestant thinkers, and it attends to the Biblical foundations and theological contexts of ethics.

In line with the conviction that faith and reason are complementary, the program explores the contributions of philosophical thought, both past and present. It includes a strong social ethics component, as well as offerings in other areas of applied ethics. The exploration of contemporary ethics is set in a critical, historical perspective and encourages attention to the global and multicultural character of the Christian community.

**COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY**, like all other areas of Theology, has as its ultimate horizon the knowledge of God, the transcendent, or the nature of ultimate reality; it aims to be constructive theology. The practitioner, while rooted in one tradition (in this program, normally Christianity), becomes deeply affected by systematic, consistent attention to the details of one or more other religious and theological traditions, thereby informing continuing theological reflection upon his or her own tradition. It is this focused attention to the distinctive details of different traditions that distinguishes Comparative.

Applicants for admission to the Comparative Theology Major should already have master’s-level background in Christian theology and have studied in an academic context the second religious tradition that they intend to compare with Christianity. This non-Christian tradition must be one directly supported by our doctoral faculty. At the moment, the possibilities include Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. So too, before matriculating, students must have completed at least one year of language study relevant to the non-Christian tradition they will be studying.

Applicants are encouraged to include in their personal statements discussions of their potential comparative projects, as well as of their previous comparative study or study of a non-Christian religion. Ideally (but not necessarily), the writing sample will also reflect study either of this non-Christian tradition, or of it in comparison with another religion, or of the aspect of Christian theology to which they hope to apply their comparative work. Applicants should also identify the professor(s) with whom they would like to study and explain why. Applicants are encouraged to arrange visits and/or telephone conversations with these faculty before applying.

For detailed information about Comparative Theology at Boston College, please see: www.bc.edu/comparativetheology.
Language Proficiency
Each doctoral student must pass examinations in at least two languages. These test the student’s proficiency in reading languages important for his or her research, and must be passed before admission to the comprehensive examinations. Students may take either the departmental translation examinations (offered three times a year), or pass (with a grade of B or better) a 12-week summer intensive language course, offered by Boston College. The student may also show proficiency by past graduate level course work but that course work must be approved by the convener of their area of study.

Some areas may require more than a minimum of two languages.

Knowledge of various ancient languages may also be required, depending on the student’s dissertation topic. Thus, Greek, Latin, and Hebrew may well be required for students working in the early Christian and/or medieval period. Students in Biblical Studies are expected to demonstrate proficiency in appropriate ancient and modern languages. Students in Comparative Theology are expected to acquire at least an intermediate level of proficiency in a language related to the non-Christian religious tradition they are studying.

Application deadline: January 2, 2014

Graduate Program Director: Richard Gaillardetz
Department of Theology
Boston College
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Please note: Additional information about the doctoral program, including preparation for application and expectations and requirements for each area of study may be found on the Theology Department’s homepage: www.bc.edu/theology.

RELATED ACADEMIC RESOURCES

The Lonergan Center
The Lonergan Center at Boston College fosters studies related to the work of the Jesuit theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan (1904-1984). Inaugurated in 1986, the center houses a growing collection of Lonergan’s published and unpublished writings, as well as secondary materials and reference works; it also serves as a seminar and meeting room. The center is located in Bapst Library. Boston College sponsors an annual Lonergan Workshop, which provides resources, lectures and workshops. For more information, call (617) 552-8095 or visit their website www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/lonergan.

The Institute of Medieval Philosophy and Theology
Boston College’s Institute of Medieval Philosophy and Theology unites the teaching and research efforts of faculty members in the Theology and Philosophy departments who specialize in medieval philosophy and theology. Doctoral degrees are awarded in the Theology (or Philosophy) Department, and students study within one of these departments.

The focus of the Institute is on the relationship between medieval philosophy and theology and modern continental philosophy and theology. The concentration of the Philosophy and Theology departments at Boston College lies in modern continental thought, so the context for carrying on a dialogue between medieval and modern philosophy and theology is well established. To foster this dialogue and encourage the scholarly retrieval of the great medieval intellectual tradition
The Institute offers fellowships and assistantships, sponsors speakers programs and a faculty-student seminar to investigate new areas of medieval philosophical and theological research, and runs a research center to assist in the publication of monographs and articles in the diverse areas of medieval philosophy and theology. The research center also encourages the translation of medieval sources and the editing of philosophical and theological texts. For more information, call (617) 552-0436.

The Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry (STM) offers its students opportunities for comprehensive graduate theological education and spiritual formation for ministry. Boston College’s Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry (IREPM) and the Westin Ecclesiastical Faculty form the key units of this Boston College professional school, offering an array of academic, theological, spiritual, and pastoral courses for ministry, academic specialization, and continuing education in faith. School of Theology and Ministry degree programs function within that school itself. For more information, visit the STM Web site www.bc.edu/schools/stm or call (617)-552-6501.
FACULTY OF THE THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

STEPHEN F. BROWN
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., Université de Louvain

RECENT PUBLICATIONS: Philosophical Debates at Paris in the Early Fourteenth Century (Brill, 2009); Historical Dictionary of Medieval Philosophy and Theology (Scarecrow Press, 2005)

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: edition of Latin text of Richard Fisacre’s Commentarium in primo librum Sententiarum (Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2010)

LISA SOWLE CAHILL
J. DONALD MONAN PROFESSOR
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., University of Chicago


CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: Book on fundamental theological ethics

JEFFREY L. COOLEY
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion


BOYD TAYLOR COOLMAN
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame


M. SHAWN COPELAND
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., Boston College


CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: Book-length manuscript on the cross of Jesus of Nazareth, and a theological commentary on the Book of Jeremiah.

CATHERINE CORNILLE
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., Catholic University of Leuven


CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: methods in Comparative Theology

JOHN A. DARR
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., Vanderbilt University


DOUG FINN
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: Augustine’s Trinitarian theology and ecclesiology; scriptural exegesis in John Chrysostom

RICHARD R. GAILLARDETZ
THE JOSEPH PROFESSOR OF CATHOLIC SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., Notre Dame


CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: ecumenical perspectives of doctrinal teaching authority and a theology of ordered ministry.
YONDER GILLIHAN  
Theology Department, Boston College  
Ph.D., University of Chicago  
Current research project: The community of the Dead Sea Scrolls

ROBERTO S. GOIZUETA  
Margaret O’Brien Flatley Professor  
Theology Department, Boston College  
Ph.D., Marquette University  
Current research project: Christology, theological aesthetics, U.S. Latino/a theology

MICHAEL HIMES  
Theology Department, Boston College  
Ph.D., University of Chicago  
Current research project: The Cross in public policy

KENNETH R. HIMES, O.F.M.  
Theology Department, Boston College  
Ph.D., Duke University  
Current research project: Introductory text on Christianity and Politics

MARY ANN HINSDALE, I.H.M.  
Theology Department, Boston College  
Ph.D., University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto  
Current research project: Mary Magdalen and women’s leadership in the church

DAVID HOLLENBACH, S.J  
University Chair in Human Rights and International Justice  
Theology Department, Boston College  
Director, Center for Human Rights and International Justice  
Ph.D., Yale University  
Current research project: Ethical and human rights issues raised by humanitarian crises and the displacement of refugees, especially in Africa
JAMES F. KEENAN, S.J.  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
Ph.D., Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome  

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT:** History of Theological Ethics

RUTH LANGER  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
Ph.D., Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS:** Curving the Christians?: A History of the Birkat HaMinim (Oxford, 2011); Liturgy in the Life of the Synagogue (Eisenbrauns, 2005); To Worship God Properly: Tensions between Liturgical Custom and Halakhah in Judaism (Hebrew Union College Press, 1998).  
**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT:** the functioning of memory in Jewish liturgy.

FRED LAWRENCE  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
Ph.D., University of Basel  


JOHN J. MAKRANSKY  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison  

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT:** Practices and doctrines of Buddhism in Indo-Tibetan literature, drawing from ancient Buddhist contemplative practices to inform contemporary social issues and inter-religious learning

H. JOHN MCDARGH  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
Ph.D., Harvard University  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS:** Journey and Not A Destination: Psychological and Theological Perspectives on Faith Across the Life Cycle - a public lecture sponsored by the Church in the 21st Century Program Boston College October 8, 2009 (http://stream.bc.edu/ramgen/MTS/C21_10.08.09_McDargh_2456K.rm); “Imaging the Real: The Art of Poetry and the Art of Pastoral Attending”, Pastoral Psychology vol 60 No. 3, June 2011.

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT:** The role of shame in the dynamic of religious violence and abuse; contributions of contemporary psychoanalytically informed research

JAMES W. MORRIS  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
Ph.D., Harvard University  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS:** The Reflective Heart: Discovering Spiritual Intelligence in Ibn Arabi’s ‘Meccan Illuminations’ (Fons Vitae, 2005); Ostad Elahi: Knowing the Spirit (SUNY Press, 2007).

PHHEME PERKINS  
**PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY (NEW TESTAMENT)**  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
A.B., St. John’s College (Annapolis), M.A., Ph.D. Harvard University  

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Gnosticism: Nag Hammadi texts within the context of 2nd and 3rd century Christianity; Gospel traditions: apocryphal gospels; Gospel of Thomas; Gospel of John; Topics in New Testament theology; NY ethics; Christology; Resurrection and early Christian eschatology; Hermeneutics.

STEPHEN J. POPE  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
Ph.D., University of Chicago  

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS:** Human Evolution and Christian Ethics (Cambridge, 2007), Hope and Solidarity, Ed. (Orbis, 2008).  
**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT:** Peace, justice and reconciliation; science and ethics; natural law and the virtue of charity

ANDREW PREVOT  
**Theology Department, Boston College**  
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame  

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT:** Thinking Prayer: Doxology, Spirituality, and the Crises of Modernity
BRIAN D. ROBINETTE
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame


CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: A book-length project on the theology of creation

MARGARET A. SCHATKIN
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., Fordham University;
Th.D., Princeton Theological Seminary


JAMES M. WEISS
Theology Department, Boston College
Director and Founder, Boston College Capstone Vocational Discernment Seminar Program
Consultant on Religion, Plimoth Plantation
Ph.D., The University of Chicago

RECENT PUBLICATIONS: Humanist Biography in Renaissance Italy and Reformation Germany: Friendship and Rhetoric (Ashgate, 2010)
CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: Spirituality of contemporary work, career, and calling History of the College of Cardinals

DAVID VANDERHOOF
Theology Department, Boston College
Ph.D., Harvard University

