

RELIGION (REL)

REL-102 CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW (3 Credits)

A study of the biblical story of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation, and how this authoritatively informs our understanding of God, others, and ourselves, specifically in regard to bearing God's image, sex and marriage, and pursuing God's call upon our lives as citizens of his kingdom.

Prerequisite: None

REL-103 BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS (3 Credits)

This course examines the basic issues in biblical hermeneutics, including the nature of historical-grammatical interpretation, genre analysis, historical and cultural background, literary analysis, and application. This course examines what it means for humans to have God's word inscripturated into language.

Prerequisite: None

REL-104 OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE (3 Credits)

This course focuses on the content of the Old Testament and introduces methods for studying the Bible. Particular attention is paid to learning the various genres of the Old Testament and to the introduction of critical issues for biblical studies. Alongside the coverage of the biblical narrative, the students will study major historical and cultural developments in the ancient near east that cast light on the Old Testament.

Prerequisite: None

REL-130 OT LITERATURE - BRM MAJORS (3 Credits)

This course focuses on the content of the Old Testament and introduces methods for studying the Bible. Particular attention is paid to learning the various genres of the Old Testament and to the introduction of critical issues for biblical studies. Alongside the coverage of the biblical narrative, the students will study major historical and cultural developments in the ancient near east that cast light on the Old Testament. Critical thinking and research skills are introduced.

Prerequisite: None

REL-204 NEW TESTAMENT LITERATURE (3 Credits)

New Testament Literature continues the purposes of Old Testament Literature and Biblical Hermeneutics: to integrate a Christian worldview with Bible study and scripture. In this course, the student will continue to learn how to read the Bible, while studying the inter-testamental period and the New Testament.

Prerequisite: Old Testament Literature

REL-212 WORLD RELIGIONS (3 Credits)

An introduction to world religions including their historical developments, beliefs, and practices. The course takes an empathetic approach to religion, understanding and appreciating religion as a response to the question of human existence. The religions studied include, but are not limited to, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and East Asian religions. Special attention is given to the similarities and differences among world religions.

Prerequisite: Sophomore status required

REL-218 INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE (3 Credits)

A general introduction to the Bible and the principles of biblical interpretation.

Prerequisite: None

REL-226 INDUCTIVE STUDY OF EPHESIANS (3 Credits)

An analysis of the epistle to the Ephesians designed to put into practice the inductive study skills learned in REL-228. The course reviews background, theme and analytical study of the epistle to understand and apply principles that are relevant in ministry leadership.

Prerequisite: TAKE REL-228

REL-228 PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL STUDIES (3 Credits)

An introduction to various methods of Bible study. Emphasis is placed upon inductive study with the intent to provide a method by which ministry leaders become independent students of Scripture. The inductive method is applied to various literary genres of both the Old and New Testaments.

Prerequisite: None

REL-231 MOSAIC LITERATURE (3 Credits)

A study of the history of redemption from Adam to Moses as set forth in the Pentateuch. Special attention is given to God's purposes in the call of Abraham and the establishment of the Mosaic economy.

Prerequisite: None

REL-232 GOSPEL LITERATURE (3 Credits)

A study of the four Gospels including their backgrounds, themes, outlines and distinguishing features, distinctive portrayals of Christ and His life and ministry as set forth in the Gospel of Mark.

Prerequisite: None

REL-233 INTERP ANALYSIS OF OT LIT (3 Credits)

A study of the basic principles of biblical interpretation. Emphasis is placed upon the cultural, historical, grammatical and theological method of interpretation. The application of these principles is drawn specifically from the Old Testament scriptures. The course is designed to provide ministry leaders with a method to properly interpret the Bible.

Prerequisite: None

REL-234 WRITINGS OF PAUL (3 Credits)

A survey of the writings of Paul including backgrounds, themes, outlines and distinguishing features with special attention given to the book of Romans.

Prerequisite: None

REL-235 INTRO/OT WISDOM LIT (3 Credits)

An introductory survey of the Old Testament books of wisdom including a study of major themes, characteristics of Hebrew poetry and principles that can be applied to Christian living.

Prerequisite: None

REL-236 NT LITERATURE- BRM MAJOR (3 Credits)

This course focuses on the content of the New Testament and continues developing methods for studying the Bible. Particular attention is paid to the various genres of the New Testament while introducing critical issues for biblical studies. Major historical and cultural developments in the Mediterranean area of the Hellenistic period are surveyed. Work will continue on critical thinking and research skills.

Prerequisite: Old Testament Literature

REL-237 INTER ANALYSIS OF NT LITERATURE (3 Credits)

A study of the basic principles of biblical interpretation. Special emphasis is given to the method of reading Scripture through a range of New Testament texts. Aspects of this method include attention to cultural, historical, grammatical and theological interpretation.

Prerequisite: None

REL-238 CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE I (3 Credits)

A systematic study of the basic biblical doctrines of Christianity including revelation, God, humanity, Christ and sin. The course reviews relevant Bible passages and emphasizes the practical application of biblical teachings in Christian living.

Prerequisite: None

REL-242 OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY 1 (3 Credits)

An overview of the Old Testament from Genesis to Job, noting its historical perspective and spiritual application.

Prerequisite: None

REL-244 OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY 2 (3 Credits)

An overview of the Old Testament from Proverbs to Malachi, noting its historical perspective and spiritual application.

Prerequisite: None

REL-246 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY 1 (3 Credits)

An overview of the New Testament Scriptures, Matthew-Acts, guiding one to understand the historical and biblical context of the New Testament.

Prerequisite: None

REL-247 THE BIBLE & CONTEMPORARY CULTURE (3 Credits)

A study of contemporary issues from a biblical perspective. Particular emphasis is given to the way in which systemic study of the Bible can provide a basis for addressing issues as part of a Christian worldview.

Prerequisite: None

REL-248 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY 2 (3 Credits)

An overview of the Pauline Letters, General Epistles, and Revelation, guiding one to understand the historical and biblical context of the New Testament.

Prerequisite: None

REL-280 TOPICS IN RELIGION (1-3 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

REL-313 RELIGION IN AMERICA (3 Credits)

An overview of the history of American religion. Concentrates on Roman Catholicism, primary Protestant denominations, and indigenous cults via a social-historical approach that includes the analysis of major theological tenets and distinctives as well as ecclesiological structures.

Prerequisite: None

REL-330 PENTATEUCHAL LITERATURE (3 Credits)

A study of the history of redemption from Adam to Moses as set forth in the Pentateuch. Special attention is given to God's purposes in the call of Abraham and the establishment of the Mosaic economy.

Prerequisite: New Testament Lit

REL-333 WISDOM LITERATURE (3 Credits)

An analysis of the form and content of the books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and of a number of Egyptian and Mesopotamian texts. The course explores wisdom's worldview and how wisdom literature deals with the issue of theodicy.

Prerequisite: New Testament Lit

REL-334 PROPHETIC LITERATURE (3 Credits)

An analysis of the form and content of the Old Testament prophets. The course contextualizes Old Testament prophecy within its Ancient Near Eastern background. Attention is paid to early prophetic traditions, the role of the monarchical prophets in the formation of Israel as a state, the emergence of the prophets in the eighth century BCE, and their continued function into the post-exilic period. Special attention is given to the role of social justice and the prophets.

Prerequisite: New Testament Lit

REL-335 PAULINE LITERATURE (3 Credits)

An analysis of the writings of Paul for the purposes of constructing a Pauline theology on such doctrines as man, redemption, incarnation, the church, and last things.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament Lit

REL-336 GENERAL EPISTOLARY LITERATURE (3 Credits)

A synthetic study of the General Epistles from Hebrews through Jude.

Places particular emphasis on the ethical contributions of James and the basic motifs of the Johannine and Petrine epistles.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament Lit

REL-338 2ND TEMPLE JUDAISM/DEAD SEA (3 Credits)

An examination of the historical and religious significance of Khirbet Qumran and the literary materials recovered near the Dead Sea, including Qumran, Murabba'at, Nahal Hever, and others. The study will be situated in the religio-historical setting of the Levant from 586 BCE - 70 CE.

Attention will be given to a range of issues arising from the materials, such as paleography, textual criticism of Jewish biblical and non-biblical writings, changing political landscapes, and religious developments in Judaism vis-a-vis Hellenism and Zoroastrianism.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament Lit

REL-339 GOSPEL LITERATURE (3 Credits)

A study of the four Gospels, including their backgrounds, themes, outlines and distinguishing features, and distinctive portraits of Christ, as well as a study of the life and ministry of Christ as set forth in the Gospel of Mark.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament Lit

REL-344 HIST/GEOGRAPHIC SETTING OF BIBLE (3 Credits)

A study tour in Israel that combines travel with lectures and relevant readings. Site visits throughout the country will focus on historical geography, archaeology, and the relationship between the land and the biblical stories attested in the Old and New Testaments. The trip also will provide context to understand the modern Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Prerequisite: None

REL-345 CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE II (3 Credits)

A systematic study of the basic biblical doctrines of Christianity including the Holy Spirit, the Church, salvation and end times. The course reviews relevant Bible passages and emphasizes the practical application of biblical teachings in Christian living.

Prerequisite: None

REL-352 CHRISTIAN BELIEFS & HISTORY (3 Credits)

A study of the major doctrines of Christianity. Consideration is given both to the biblical bases and the historical contexts out of which these beliefs were fashioned. The course also traces key developments in the history of Christianity that help explain the diversity of beliefs and practices among various Christian traditions.

Prerequisite: PHI-211 & Old and New Testament, Junior or Senior status required

REL-354 THEOLOGY I (3 Credits)

A biblical, historical, and systematic treatment of four theological topics: the doctrine of revelation, theology proper, anthropology and Christology. The relevance of these topics to the student's personal life, the corporate life of the Church, and the cultural milieu is emphasized.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament, PHI-211, Junior or Senior status required

REL-356 THEOLOGY II (3 Credits)

A biblical, historical, and systematic treatment of the remaining theological topics: pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. Like REL-354, the course emphasizes both orthodoxy and orthopraxy.

Prerequisite: Old & New Testament, PHI-211, Junior or Senior status required

REL-357 O T HISTORY & THEOLOGY (3 Credits)

A study of the periods of Israel's history from the Patriarchs to the Restoration in relation to the surrounding nations of the Near East and the unfolding theological revelation of these periods centered in the Abrahamic Covenant, the Mosaic institutions, Israel's response of apostasy and formalism, and the prophetic reactions to that defection.

Prerequisite: Old Testament Lit

REL-358 N T HISTORY & THEOLOGY (3 Credits)

The inter-testamental period is considered in its historical development as a bridge to the New Testament era. The New Testament is set in its historical, political, cultural, social, economic and religious environments. Considers the major biblical theological themes that emerge from the New Testament in their historical development and presentation.

Prerequisite: New Testament Lit

REL-380 INTERNSHIP (1-6 Credits)

Practical field experience in a ministry context designed to help the student develop ministry skills and to clarify the student's sense of vocation.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior status required

REL-411 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (3 Credits)

An analysis of the major philosophical problems of religion in the twenty-first century. Emphasis is placed on the problem of religious knowledge in relation to faith and reason, traditional arguments for the existence of God, and contemporary difficulties of religious language and verification.

Prerequisite: PHI-211

REL-412 HIST/REL ANCIENT NEAR EAST (3 Credits)

A study of the history, culture, and religions of the Ancient Near East (3500-323 BC). This class examines the main people groups of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Levant (Canaan/Israel) with special attention to shared cultural elements, the development of writing, and distinguishing characteristics and events. The class studies key primary texts (in English translation) of different genres while presenting a synthesis of prevalent ideologies. There will also be an introduction to scholarly methods for studying the textual and material finds that form the basis for historical reconstruction.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior status required

REL-434 JUDGES (3 Credits)

An examination of Judges in its historical context. Particular attention will be given to Hebrew narrative, the tribal system and societal structure in ancient Israel, Israelite religion, and various interpretative methodologies. The seminar will help students develop competency in research, Hebrew word studies, archaeological interpretation, and historical geography.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament Lit

REL-435 PSALMS (3 Credits)

This course explores ancient Israel's expression of faith in different seasons and aspects of life. Students will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of psalms by analyzing the form and content of a variety of psalms.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament Lit

REL-436 REVELATION (3 Credits)

A study of the historical, literary, and theological features of the Book of Revelation and the various schools of its interpretation. The course will examine various examples of apocalyptic literature as they inform our understanding of Revelation.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament Lit

REL-438 ROMANS (3 Credits)

This course on Romans is built upon the hermeneutical and biblical literature courses. The seminar aims to develop the student's ability to grasp the textual content and application of this important book of the Bible. Emphasis is on the analytical and textual work of the student supplemented by the insight of the professor.

Prerequisite: Old and New Testament Lit

REL-441 APOLOGETICS (3 Credits)

Prepares students to meet a variety of current challenges to the credibility of the Christian faith. The course introduces the major types of apologetic methods, considers several arguments against the truth of Christianity and provides resources to rebut those arguments. It also enables students to give positive reasons for why they believe the Christian story.

Prerequisite: None

REL-462 SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE: BRM (3 Credits)

A capstone experience that helps students envision how they might contribute to fulfilling God's purpose in the world. Specific attention will be given to the topics of calling, career, decision making, and personal finance. Students will assemble a portfolio of a variety of materials to assist them in formulating next steps after graduation.

Prerequisite: Senior status required

REL-470 READINGS IN RELIGION/BIB STUDIES (1-3 Credits)

Guided readings and reports in the student's areas of interest and need.

Prerequisite: None

REL-480 ADVANCED TOPICS SEMINAR (3 Credits)

Formal class dependent upon student demand and interest of the professor. May deal with particular issues of Christian theology, religious epistemology, modern religious thought, or the writings of a particular theologian or religious thinker. May deal with a particular biblical book or issues of interpretation and methodology.

Prerequisite: None

REL-481 ANCIENT STUDIES THESIS PROJECT I (2 Credits)

Prerequisite: Senior status required

REL-482 ANCEINT STUDIES THESIS PROJ II & CAPSTO (2 Credits)

Prerequisite: HIS-481 or REL-481, Senior status required

REL-490 INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-3 Credits)

Consult with division chair concerning possible studies.

Prerequisite: None