

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES (REL)

### Degrees offered: B.A. or B. Min.

A Bachelor of Ministry Degree seeking student will complete a major in Religious Studies, a minor in Ministry Skills, and a second minor in a career related discipline. The choice of the second minor is to be made in consultation with the student's faculty advisor.

An emphasis in Missiology is also available for the student interested in pursuing a career as a missionary.

### Requirements for the Religious Studies Major

A Major in Religious Studies consists of the following 30 hours above the freshman level:

A. Required courses are:

REL 210	Introduction to Philosophy	(3 hours)
REL 320	History of Christianity	(3 hours)
REL 330	Christian Theology	(3 hours)
REL 331	Theological Ethics	(3 hours)

B. Any one (1) of the following:

REL 391	The Pentateuch	(3 hours)
REL 392	Old Testament Historical Books	(3 hours)
REL 393	Old Testament Prophets	(3 hours)

C. Any one (1) of the following:

REL 350	The Life and Teachings of Jesus	(3 hours)
REL 355	The Letters of Paul	(3 hours)
REL 394	Hebrews and the General Epistles	(3 hours)
REL 395	Johannine Literature	(3 hours)

D. Twelve (12) hours of approved electives above the freshman level.

### **Requirements for the Missiology Emphasis**

In addition to the courses required of all Religious Studies majors, students who wish to complete an emphasis in Missiology must take, and make a “C” or above, in the following classes:

REL 340	World Religions	(3 hours)
REL 341	Introduction to Missiology	(3 hours)
REL 393	Old Testament Prophets	(3 hours)
REL 471	Internship	(3 hours)
SOC 211	Poverty and Inequality	(3 hours)
SWK 321	Human Behavior in the Social Environ. I	(3 hours)

Religious Studies majors may use their Religious Studies elective hours in order to take the first three (3) courses listed above. Moreover, REL 393 may count both as fulfillment of the upper-level Old Testament requirement and as part of the fulfillment of the Missiology emphasis.

### **Requirements for the Religious Studies Minor**

A Minor in Religious Studies consists of the following 18 hours above the freshman level:

A. Required courses are:

REL 210	Introduction to Philosophy	(3 hours)
REL 320	History of Christianity	(3 hours)
REL 330	Christian Theology	(3 hours)

B. Nine (9) hours of approved Religion electives, three hours of which must be at the 300-400 level.

### **Requirements for the Ministry Skills Minor**

A Minor in Ministry Skills consists of the following seventeen (17) hours:

A. Required courses are:

BUS 301	Management	(3 hours)
CHM 100	Introduction to Church Music	(2 hours)
PSY 302	Educational Psychology	(3 hours)

B. Three (3) hours of Electives will be selected from each of the following areas:

Communication

BUS 306 Business Communication (3 hours)

Music

CHM 201 Music in Worship (3 hours)

Psychology

PSY 204 Human Growth and Development **OR**  
(3 hours)

PSY 305 Counseling Principles and Practice (3 hours)

**Course Descriptions**

**REL 101 INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Three hours  
A survey course examining the historical, theological, and literary nature of the Old Testament.

**REL 102 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT:** Three hours  
A survey course examining the historical, theological, and literary nature of the New Testament.

**REL 103 ELEMENTARY GREEK I:** Three hours  
Introduction to the ancient Greek language, aimed at the ability to read, understand, and interpret ancient Greek, especially koine Greek. The course covers basic vocabulary and grammar of ancient Greek and provides a foundation for the study of all ancient Greek, including the Greek New Testament.  
Prerequisite: REL 101 and 102

**REL 104 ELEMENTARY GREEK II:** Three hours  
Continued study of the ancient Greek language, aimed at the ability to read, understand, and interpret ancient Greek, especially koine Greek. The course focuses on the expansion of vocabulary and a deepening understanding of the grammar and syntax of ancient Greek. Students will demonstrate an ability to translate passages from the Greek New Testament and early Church Fathers.  
Prerequisite: REL 101, 102, and 103

**REL 210 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY:** Three hours  
A survey of ancient to modern critical thought about life and its many dimensions.

**REL 315 RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION:** Three hours  
An advanced survey of European history, 1300-1648, with attention to the powerful religious currents.  
Prerequisite: REL101 OR REL102, HIS 103 and HIS 104 (HIS 201 and 202 recommended)  
(Cross-listed with HIS 315)

**REL 319 THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE:** Three hours  
This course examines the texts of the Bible. Students will apply techniques of literary criticism and scholarship to their exploration of the texts. Students will approach the texts of the Bible through the lenses of poetry, epics, dramas, narratives, parables, the apocalyptic genre, feminist criticism, epistolary forms, etc.  
Prerequisite: HIS 103  
(Cross-listed with ENG 319)

**REL 320 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY:** Three hours  
A survey of the major developments of Christianity from Pentecost to the present era, with attention to the emergence and development of Baptists.  
Prerequisite: REL 101 OR REL102  
(Cross-listed with HIS 320)

**REL 321 MYTHOLOGY:** Three hours  
A study of the myths and legends of ancient and modern peoples as they are present in British and American literature.  
(Cross-listed with ENG 320)

**REL 325 WOMEN IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY:** Three hours  
An exploration of the life, roles, and contributions of women in the history of Christianity, with attention to roots in Judaism.  
Prerequisite: REL 101 or REL 102

**REL 330 CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY:** Three hours  
An examination of the biblical, philosophical, and systematic aspects of Christian theology. Prerequisite: REL 101 or REL 102

**REL 331 THEOLOGICAL ETHICS (CT):** Three hours  
An examination of the role of Scripture, the Christian tradition, and other intellectual resources in the formation of character, as well as the integration of these texts into discussions about contemporary ethical issues.

**REL 335 RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES:** Three hours  
A survey of the origins, development, and life of the varied religions, denominations, and sects throughout the history of the United States.  
Prerequisites: REL 101 OR REL 102; HIS 103 and HIS 104, (HIS 201 and HIS 202 recommended)  
(Cross-listed with HIS 335)

**REL 340 WORLD RELIGIONS:** Three hours  
Exploration of religion itself and the varied ways of devotion in the major living religions of the world.  
Prerequisite: REL 101 and REL 102

**REL 341 INTRODUCTION TO MISSIOLOGY:** Three hours  
This course focuses upon the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of the Christian church's self-understood vocation of embodying the core aspects of the Christian faith for others. Students will discuss at length the challenges of communicating the faith to, and caring for, persons in non-Western contexts, but will also address the benefits and challenges of being on mission in the Western World.  
Prerequisite: REL 101 and REL 102

**REL 350 THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS:** Three hours  
A study of the person and message of Jesus based primarily on the Synoptic Gospels but also drawing on other sources.  
Prerequisites: REL 102

**REL 355 THE LETTERS OF PAUL:** Three hours  
An in-depth study of Paul, his times, apostleship, and message, based primarily on his letters but also drawing on subsequent writings about Paul.  
Prerequisites: REL 102

**REL 391 THE PENTATEUCH:** Three hours

An intensive study of the first five books of the Old Testament. Emphasis will be given to the primary texts, although secondary texts will be incorporated as well.

Prerequisite: REL 101

**REL 392 OLD TESTAMENT HISTORICAL BOOKS:** Three hours An

intensive study of the Old Testament historical books, encompassing Israelite history from the conquest of Canaan to the postexilic period.

Emphasis will be given to the primary texts, although secondary texts will be incorporated as well

Prerequisite: REL101

**REL 393 OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS:** Three hours

An intensive study of the Old Testament prophets and their writings.

Emphasis will be given to the primary texts, although secondary texts will be incorporated as well.

Prerequisite: REL 101

**REL 394 HEBREWS AND THE GENERAL EPISTLES:** Three hours An

intensive study of the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistles of James, Peter, and Jude. Emphasis will be given to the primary texts, although secondary texts will be incorporated as well.

Prerequisite: REL 102

**REL 395 JOHANNINE LITERATURE:** Three hours

An intensive study of the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, and the Revelation of John. Emphasis will be given to the primary texts, although secondary texts will be incorporated as well.

Prerequisite: REL 102

**REL 411 SPECIAL STUDIES:** Three hours

A course for upper-class students. Subjects will be selected by the professor to provide variety to the religious studies program or to assist a student get the courses she needs.

Prerequisite: Approval of the Department Head

**REL 412 SPECIAL STUDIES:** Three hours

A course for upper-class students. Subjects will be selected by the professor to provide variety to the religious studies program or to assist a student get the courses she needs.

Prerequisite: Approval of the Department Head

**REL 413            SPECIAL STUDIES:** Three hours

A course for upper-class students. Subjects will be selected by the professor to provide variety to the religious studies program or to assist a student get the courses she needs.

Prerequisite: Approval of the Department Head

**REL 414            SPECIAL STUDIES:** Three hours

A course for upper-class students. Subjects will be selected by the professor to provide variety to the religious studies program or to assist a student get the courses she needs.

Prerequisite: Approval of the Department Head

**REL 449, 450        INDEPENDENT STUDY:** Three hours per course

Supervised study in an area mutually agreed upon in religious studies and designed to meet the student's need.

Prerequisite: Approval of the Department Head and Academic Dean

**REL 460            CAPSTONE COURSE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES:** Three hours

This is a senior-level capstone course designed to assist as well as measure the student's integration of the various aspects of religious thought and experience. The student is expected to demonstrate high levels of religious knowledge, reasoning capacities, research skills, and writing.

Prerequisites: Senior standing and fifteen (15) hours of Religious Studies

**REL 471, 472        INTERNSHIP:** Three hours each

Supervised field work in a church or church-related agency. This course is designed to challenge the student to learn while involved in the practice of ministry. Ministry placement must have prior approval.

Prerequisite: Approval of the Department Head and Academic Dean