

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.

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 Religious Studies Minor

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

- A. Required courses are:
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|---------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 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, 3 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:
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|---------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 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) |
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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: 3 hours

A survey course examining the historical, theological, and literary nature of the Old Testament.

REL 102 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT: 3 hours

A survey course examining the historical, theological, and literary nature of the New Testament.

REL 203 ELEMENTARY GREEK I: 3 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, REL 102

REL 204 ELEMENTARY GREEK II: 3 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, REL 102, REL 103

REL 210 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY: 3 hours

A survey of ancient to modern critical thought about life and its many dimensions.

REL 315 RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION: 3 hours

An advanced survey of European history, 1300-1648, with attention to the powerful religious currents. *(Cross-listed with HIS 315)*

Prerequisite: REL101 OR REL102, HIS 103, HIS 104 (HIS 201, HIS 202 recommended)

REL 319 THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE: 3 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. *(Cross-listed with ENG 319)*

Prerequisite: HIS 103

REL 320 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: 3 hours

A survey of the major developments of Christianity from Pentecost to the present era, with attention to the emergence and development of Baptists. *(Cross-listed with HIS 320)*

Prerequisite: REL 101 OR REL 102

REL 321 MYTHOLOGY: 3 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: 3 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: 3 hours

An examination of the biblical, philosophical, and systematic aspects of Christian theology.

Prerequisite: REL 101 OR REL 102

REL 331 THEOLOGICAL ETHICS (CT): 3 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: 3 hours

A survey of the origins, development, and life of the varied religions, denominations, and sects throughout the history of the United States. *(Cross-listed with HIS 335)*

Prerequisites: REL 101 OR REL 102, HIS 103, HIS 104, (HIS 201, HIS 202 recommended)

REL 340 WORLD RELIGIONS (CT): 3 hours

This course explores the idea of religion itself and the various expressions of religious devotion within the major living religious systems of the world. This course emphasizes engagement with primary texts for each of the religious traditions under consideration in the course.

Prerequisite: REL 101, REL 102

REL 350 THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS: 3 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: 3 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: 3 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: 3 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: REL 101

REL 393 OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS: 3 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: 3 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: 3 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 396 ARCHAEOLOGY & THE NEW TESTAMENT (CT): 3 hours

A course designed as an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of the New Testament and Archaeology with special attention paid to the application of material culture evidence of the first-century Greco-Roman world to the interpretation of the New Testament texts.

Prerequisite: Approval of the Department Head

REL 411 SPECIAL STUDIES: 3 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: 3 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: 3 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: 3 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: 3 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: 3 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: 3 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