

## 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:

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:

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)
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#### Psychology

PSY 204	Human Growth and Development	<b><u>OR</u></b> (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, 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, 102, 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: REL 101 OR REL 102 AND HIS 101, 102 (HIS 201, 202 recommended)*

**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 AND HIS 101, 102 (HIS 201, 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, 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*