

# DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

*Dr. Schaefer, Chair; Dr. Bibza, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Duguid, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Kemeny, Dr. Moeller, Dr. Stringer. Part-Time: Mr. Beatty, Dr. Thrasher.*

The Department of Religion offers courses to fulfill and to complement the College mission. Department members teach three of the Humanities courses required of all students. The Christian Thought major is offered for students who wish to explore faithfully and carefully the Bible and Christian theology. The Christian Ministries minor is available to all students who wish to pursue practical Christian work.

The Department intends that Christian Thought majors develop information literacy as well as speaking and writing skills in order to be best prepared for graduate school and/or a vocation. To this end, all Christian Thought majors will take Religion 488 *Senior Seminar* during their senior year as a Writing Intensive (WI), Speaking Intensive (SI), and Information Literacy (IL) course. This course is designed to help gain proficiency in research as well as clear and well-supported written and oral communication.

## **Course Requirements for Bachelor of Arts Degree in Christian Thought (36 hours)**

### **Core Requirements (18 hours)**

Religion 211, 212, 213, 214, and 488 (15 hours)

Three hours from: Religion 345, Philosophy 336, or 360\*

(\* The courses not taken as part of these three options may be used to count as options in the Historical, Theological, and Philosophical electives area.)

### **Biblical Studies electives (9 hours)**

Choose three courses from: Religion 221, 232, 237, 351, or 390.

### **Historical, Theological and Philosophical electives (9 hours)**

Choose three courses from: Religion 247, 248, 261, 320, 330, 341, 342, 343, 362, 390, History 349, Philosophy 251, 271, or 361. (At least one course must be a Religion course.)

Students are expected to contact their advisors for a detailed schedule of courses recommended to meet requirements for a major.

## **Course Requirements for a minor in Religion (18 hours)**

A minor in Religion will consist of any eighteen hours of Religion, Greek and Hebrew courses.

## **Course Requirements for a minor in Christian Ministries (24 hours) - To be taken in conjunction with any major:**

The Christian Ministries minor aims to help students prepare for vocational opportunities oriented toward "people-service." The Christian Ministries plan can accompany any college major and requires a specialized group of Christian Ministries courses in addition to those courses required for the major which the student chooses.

**Core Requirements:** Religion 211, 212, 216, and 480.

**Biblical Elective:** One course from Religion: 221, 232, 237, 351, or 390.

**Ministry Electives:** Two courses from: Religion 246, 251, 253, 320, or 330.

**Historical Elective:** One course from: Religion 247, 341, or 342.

**Course Requirements for a minor in Interdisciplinary Classics (21 hours)**

A minor in Interdisciplinary Classics will consist of 21 hours from the following courses: English 302, Greek 101-102, 211-212, History 207, Philosophy 334, Political Science 255, or a maximum of three credits in Philosophy 460 or Political Science 460.

**RELIGION (RELI)**

**211. OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE AND HISTORY.** An introduction to the literature, content, and history of the Old Testament. Special attention is given to the historical background, composition, and theological message of the Old Testament. The course further acquaints students with the basic methods of Old Testament studies and the present state of Old Testament research. This course contains the second component of the general education Information Literacy (IL) requirement for students substituting Religion 211 and 212 for the Humanities 102 requirement. *Semester course, three hours.*

**212. NEW TESTAMENT LITERATURE AND HISTORY.** An introduction to the literature, content, and history of the New Testament. Special attention is given to the historical background, composition, and theological message of the New Testament. The course further acquaints students with the basic methods of New Testament studies and the present state of New Testament research. This course contains the second component of the general education Information Literacy (IL) requirement for students substituting Religion 211 and 212 for the Humanities 102 requirement. *Semester course, three hours.*

**213. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I.** An introduction to the methods of systematic theology in terms of narrative, covenant, and creed. From this, these central doctrines of historic Christianity will be examined: Revelation and Scripture, the Being and Attributes of God, Humanity before God, and the Person and Work of Christ.  
*Offered alternate years, fall semester, three hours.*

**214. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II.** A continuation of an examination of the central doctrines of historic Christianity. These doctrines comprise the focus for Systematic Theology II: the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, the Christian Life, the Church and Sacraments, and the Last Things. Religion 213 is not a prerequisite for Religion 214.  
*Offered alternate years, spring semester, three hours*

**216. INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.** This course exposes students to basic issues, concepts, approaches, and organizations involved in Christian ministry. It covers topics such as leadership, discipleship, evangelism, and pastoral ministry.  
*Semester course, three hours.*

**221. THE LIFE OF CHRIST.** This course aims to give the student a good understanding of the person, work, and teachings of Christ as presented in the Gospels. It also seeks to introduce the student to some of the important literature on the subject.

*Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**232. THE LIFE AND WORK OF PAUL.** A study of the life and work of Paul, an outstanding leader in the first century church of Christ. As the apostle's life is unfolded, attention is given to his many problems. The content as well as the historical setting of his various letters is studied.

*Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**237. BIBLICAL BOOKS.** The form and ideas of one Biblical book will be explored in depth. Different books will be studied in different semesters.

*Semester course, three hours.*

**246. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS.** This course intends to aid persons who plan to lead youth and adults in the Christian education environment. It will include a consideration of objectives; of historical, theological, and psychological background of methods and programming resources; and of techniques for outreach.

*Semester course, three hours.*

**247. CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN RELIGION.** This course seeks to examine and explore the prominent place of religion in this religiously pluralistic nation by describing and analyzing current American religious developments in historical, sociological, and theological perspective. Institutional and non-institutional developments within and outside the Judeo-Christian tradition will also be examined.

*Semester course, three hours.*

**248. WORLD RELIGIONS.** An introduction to the major living religions, to the leading problems of religious thought, and to the alternative approaches of world religions to ultimate questions concerning the meaning of human life.

*Semester course, three hours.*

**251. MANAGING CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES.** This course concentrates on the organization and administration of the programs and activities of the local church and the many "parachurch" organizations. Sound business principles are emphasized in a context of biblical teaching.

*Semester course, three hours.*

**253. PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY.** Scripture, history, culture, and sociology play significant roles in the formulation of a philosophy of ministry. This course seeks to help the student understand how these factors affect the various fields of ministry.

*Semester course, three hours.*

**261. C.S. LEWIS: CHRISTIAN APOLOGIST.** A study of one of contemporary Christianity's greatest apologists. The primary subject of study is Lewis' unique contributions to apologetics including his epistemology, view of myth, and defense of supernaturalism. Various examples of Lewis' writings are examined from selected essays and theological articles and the *Chronicles of Narnia*.

*Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**290. STUDIES IN RELIGION.** The subject matter for this course will vary each semester to allow for the introduction of new courses in the field of religion. The aim of such a course is in-depth study of some specific facet of religion with particular emphasis on the relationship of religion and contemporary life. *Semester course, three hours.*

**320. THEOLOGY OF MISSIONS.** A survey of the greatest evangelistic and mission movements in history, the Biblical-theological basis for missions, and contemporary developments in mission strategy. *Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**330. THEOLOGY OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE.** This course examines writings on spiritual formation from an historical, theological, and Biblical perspective. Key topics include the holiness of God, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, prayer, Bible Study, and the discernment of God's will. *Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**341. CHURCH HISTORY I.** A study of the Christian Church from the post-Apostolic period until the eve of the Reformation. Emphasis will be placed on important persons and ideas, movements of significance, and the relationship of the Christian mission to surrounding culture. *Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**342. CHURCH HISTORY II.** A study of the history of the Christian Church from the time of the Reformation through the post-World War II era. Emphases will include important persons and ideas, movements of significance, the views of major denominations, ecumenical efforts, and the relationship of the Christian mission to surrounding culture. Religion 341 is not a prerequisite for Religion 342. *Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**343. THE SEARCH FOR CHRISTIAN AMERICA.** This course examines efforts by American Christians to shape culture and society in accordance with their understanding of the Gospel as well as ways in which cultural, social political, and economic issues have in turn shaped divergent Christian responses to public issues. Beginning in the British North American colonies in the seventeenth century, the course explores the changing nature and role of religion in American public life to the present. *Semester course, three hours.*

**345. LUTHER AND CALVIN.** This course focuses on the Reformation leaders whose work and ideas shaped Protestantism. Primary sources will be used. *Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**351. HERMENEUTICS.** A study of central issues of Biblical interpretation that bear directly on current concerns of human existence. This course examines the import and implications of the Biblical literature. *Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**362. CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY.** A study of major themes in contemporary theology including such topics as religious language, views of God, meaning of man and

redemption, and the problem of evil. These topics are discussed as they relate to contemporary cultures and worldviews.

*Offered alternate years, semester course, three hours.*

**390. ADVANCED STUDIES IN RELIGION.** The subject matter for this course will vary each semester to allow for the introduction of new courses in the field of religion. The aim of such courses is in-depth study of some specific facet of religion with particular emphasis on the relationship of religion and contemporary life.

*Semester course, three hours.*

**460. INDEPENDENT STUDY.** An opportunity for junior and senior students with previous background in religion to do intensive independent study of specialized topics. Prerequisite: Twelve hours of religion or consent of the department.

*Semester course, one to three hours.*

**480. INTERNSHIP IN RELIGION.** This course offers practical experience appropriate for the Christian Ministries auxiliary field. Prerequisites: Consent of the department chairman.

*Semester course, one to six hours.*

**488. SENIOR SEMINAR.** This course satisfies the Writing Intensive (WI), Speaking Intensive (SI), Information Literacy (IL) requirements for the Christian Thought major, and will be taken in the fall of the senior year. Topics will focus on a major issue in Biblical Studies, Church History, or Systematic Theology.

*Offered yearly beginning in 2008, Fall semester, three hours.*

**499. HONORS COURSE IN RELIGION.** Work in this area is available to the able student on an individual basis and by prearrangement with the department.

*Semester course, one, two or three hours.*

## **GREEK (GREK)**

**101. INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT GREEK I.** A study of the grammar and syntax of New Testament Greek.

*Fall semester only, three hours.*

**102. INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II.** Continuation of Greek 101. Prerequisite: Greek 101 or permission of the instructor.

*Spring semester only, three hours.*

**211. READINGS IN NEW TESTAMENT GREEK I.** Portions of the Gospels will be read. Vocabulary, grammar, and syntax are reviewed. Prerequisite: Greek 101-102 or permission of the instructor.

*Fall semester only, three hours.*

**212. READINGS IN NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II.** Portions of the Pauline Epistles will be read. Vocabulary, grammar, and syntax are reviewed. Prerequisite: Greek 101-102 and 211 or permission of the instructor.

*Spring semester only, three hours.*

**460. INDEPENDENT STUDY.** An opportunity for third and fourth-year students to do independent projects in basic New Testament exegesis, word study, or classical Greek. Prerequisite: Greek 211-212 or consent of instructor.

*Semester course, two or three hours.*

### **HEBREW (HEBR)**

**101. INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I.** A study of the grammar and syntax of the Hebrew Bible.

*Fall semester only, three hours.*

**102. INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW II.** Continuation of Hebrew 101. Prerequisite: Hebrew 101 or permission of the instructor.

*Spring semester only, three hours.*

**211. READINGS IN BIBLICAL HEBREW I.** Portions of Narrative Literature will be read. Vocabulary, grammar, and syntax are reviewed. Prerequisite: Hebrew 101-102 or permission of the instructor.

*Fall semester only, three hours*

**212. READINGS IN BIBLICAL HEBREW II.** Portions of the Prophets will be read. Vocabulary, grammar, and syntax are reviewed. Prerequisite: Hebrew 101-102 and 211 or permission of the instructor

*Spring semester only, three hours.*

**460. INDEPENDENT STUDY.** An opportunity for third and fourth year Hebrew students to do independent projects in basic Old Testament exegesis. Prerequisite: Hebrew 211 and 212 or permission of the instructor.

*Semester course, two or three hours.*