

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Courses

### REL 103. Introduction to Religious and Theological Studies. 3 Hours

This course introduces students to two academic disciplines: the study of religions as historical and embodied realities, and theology as faith seeking understanding. By learning about these two disciplines, students will gain a critical self-awareness of the ways in which the modern context shapes their engagement with religion. The course emphasizes learning how to read Scripture and other primary religious sources, and to learning how the Catholic intellectual tradition addresses the question of God, the meaning of human life, and the significance of human diversity.

### REL 207. Faith Traditions: Judaism. 3 Hours

Introduction to Judaism: religious thought, practice, mysticism, and history, from Biblical times to the present day. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent; CMM 100.

### REL 208. Faith Traditions: Islamic Religious Traditions. 3 Hours

Historical and topical survey of the origins and development of Islam. Prerequisite(s): ASI 110 or REL 103 or equivalent.

### REL 213. The New Testament and Related Ancient Literature. 3 Hours

Introduction to historical and literary study of the New Testament with emphasis on the Gospels, the Pauline letters, and the Book of Revelation with attention given also when pertinent to early Christian Apocrypha and Jewish intertestamental literature. An analysis of early Christian faith commitments in their diversity from each other and in their diversity from those of major Christian churches today. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

### REL 214. Magic, Medicine, or Miracles: Disability in the Ancient World, the Bible, and Today. 3 Hours

Exploration of ancient attitudes towards sickness and healing including the practices observed in Greek and Roman medical authors, ancient inscriptions, the Bible, and other ancient Jewish and Early Christian texts. Study of these ancient perspectives in relation to contemporary attitudes toward disability. Prerequisite(s): (ASI 110 or ASI 120 or equivalent) or (REL 103 or REL 198).

### REL 227. Faith Traditions: Beliefs in Dialogue. 3 Hours

Exploration of selected beliefs of diverse religious systems and the ways such beliefs impact social justice. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent; CMM 100.

### REL 228. Faith Traditions: Historical Encounters. 3 Hours

Comparative historical exploration of changes and continuities in distinct faith traditions including the impact on social justice. Prerequisite(s): (REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent); CMM 100.

### REL 244. Faith Traditions: Celebrating and Living the Eucharist. 3 Hours

Exploration of the history, theology, ritual, and spirituality of the Eucharist (the Mass), in dialogue with other Christian traditions, and with attention to its impact on daily Christian living. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent; CMM 100.

### REL 250. Faith Traditions: Topics in Religious Studies. 3 Hours

A variable topic course that builds on themes from REL 103, Introduction to Theology and Religious Studies. Students explore major aspects of at least one faith tradition, engage in dialogue about critical issues in theology and religious studies, and develop a more advanced knowledge of the Catholic intellectual tradition. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 120, and sophomore standing.

### REL 256. Faith Traditions: Prayer. 3 Hours

Exploration of the rationale for and practice of prayer in diverse faith traditions, with an emphasis on the connection between prayer and social justice. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

### REL 261. Faith Traditions: Human Rights. 3 Hours

Exploration of diverse faith traditions in dialogue on theory of and activism for human rights. Compares and contrasts elements of the international human rights movement with major sources from other philosophical and religious traditions, with attention to historical development and to spiritual practices for enduring, challenging, and rebuilding after suffering and injustice. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent; CMM 100.

### REL 266. Faith Traditions: Moral Reasoning. 3 Hours

Exploration of diverse moral perspectives regarding social justice within religious traditions, emphasizing the cultivation of skills for dialogue about those differences. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent; CMM 100.

### REL 267. Holocaust. 3 Hours

Study of the holocaust and its effects upon contemporary religion, art, theology, and philosophy. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

### REL 270. Popular Culture, American Religions. 3 Hours

Exploration of major themes, issues and practices of modern American popular culture as historical context for religious peoples, communities and expressions in America. Examines the role of popular culture in the production, circulation and reception of religious identities in American cultural history. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

### REL 277. Faith Traditions: Women and Gender. 3 Hours

Examination of gender and women in at least two major faith traditions. Survey of both traditional and contemporary thought, practice, and attitudes toward women and gender. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent; CMM 100.

### REL 281. Forum for Catechetical Leaders I. 1 Hour

Study of key themes of The National Directory for Catechesis regarding 'The Tasks of Catechesis and Faith Formation'. Themes include (a) Introduction to the Catechetical Ministry of the Church, (b) The Vocation of the Catechist, (c) Faith Formation, and (d) Fundamentals for Designing Catechetical Plans. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

### REL 282. Forum for Catechetical Leaders II. 1 Hour

Study of key themes of The National Directory for Catechesis regarding 'The Art of Communicating Faith: Scripture and Tradition'. Themes include (a) Effective Catechesis, (b) Four Pillars of Our Catholic Faith, (c) Integrating Scripture in Catechetical Ministry, and (d) Integrating Liturgy and Liturgical Experiences in Catechetical Ministry. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

### REL 283. Forum for Catechetical Leaders III. 1 Hour

Study of key themes of The National Directory for Catechesis regarding: 'Liturgy, Popular Devotions, Literature and the Religious Imagination. Themes include (a) Storytelling, (b) Popular Devotions and Faith Experiences, (c) Role of Mary in Catechesis, and (d) Diverse Religious Traditions and the Quest for God. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 284. Forum for Catechetical Leaders IV. 1 Hour**

Study of key themes of The National Directory for Catechesis regarding: 'Discipleship (Catholic Moral Life), Catholic Social Teachings and Catechetical Planning'. Themes include (a) Developing a Pastoral Catechetical Plan, (b) Call and Challenge of Discipleship, (c) Catholic Social Teachings, and (d) Communications Technology and Catechesis. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 304. Hinduism. 3 Hours**

Study of the world's oldest living religion. Examines the historical development of major Hindu teachings, texts, practices and paths from ancient times to present, including forms of Hinduism taking root in the West today. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 305. Eastern Orthodoxy. 3 Hours**

Exploration of the history and theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church, from the Apostles to Byzantium to Russia and the United States. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 306. Buddhism. 3 Hours**

Exploration of the 2,500-year-old Buddhist tradition - the life of its founder, development of its teachings, rituals, and meditation techniques. Survey of the spread of Buddhism to the West in the twentieth century. Parallels and contrasts with the Christian tradition. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 307. Judaism. 3 Hours**

Basic introduction to Judaism: its history, its faith, its worship. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 308. Islam. 3 Hours**

Exploration of the Islamic religious traditions: the life of Islam's founder, the development of its teaching and ritual, its spread from North Africa into Europe, Asia, Oceania, its influence on culture and its contemporary resurgence. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 309. Afro-Latin Religions. 3 Hours**

The study of Voudou, Santeria and other religions which arose when the religious traditions of West Africa were transplanted to the Americas and the Caribbean where practitioners encountered Christianity. These religions' historical and contemporary forms as well as issues of syncretism and church-state relations are considered. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 310. The Pentateuch. 3 Hours**

Examination of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, focusing on the historical and literary traditions that relate primeval beginnings, ancestral history, the exodus, wilderness wanderings, and the legal codes. A reconstruction of the history of the text. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent and any Crossing Boundaries-Faith Traditions course.

**REL 311. The Prophets. 3 Hours**

Study of the prophetic texts of the Old Testament as reformulations of ancient religious traditions to meet new historical situations and study of the relevance of the prophets to contemporary life. Requires REL 103 and any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course as prerequisites. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 312. The Psalms & the Wisdom Literature. 3 Hours**

Critical examination of the biblical books of Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and Ben Sira and of related literature within the historical context in which they arose. The contemporary relevance of this literature. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 315. The Gospels. 3 Hours**

Introduction to the cultural heritage of the early Christian movement and its place in both the Jewish and Greco-Roman world. Traditional historical-critical study of the texts of gospels in the Christian tradition that will serve as a background for contemporary narrative and scholarly approaches. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 316. New Testament Theologies. 3 Hours**

Survey of New Testament writings with a focus on the religious ideas specific to each; special attention to authors' christology, eschatology, and soteriology; exploration of relevance of the New Testament message to Christian faith today. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 318. Studies in Paul. 3 Hours**

Detailed examination of the letters of Paul, stressing the historical circumstances affecting their composition as well as the main religious ideas of Paul that govern their content. Requires REL103 and any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course as prerequisites. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 319. The Book of Revelation. 3 Hours**

Detailed critical analysis of various biblical apocalyptic texts as found in Judaism and early Christianity. Focus on the Book of Revelation against the background of other biblical and intertestamental apocalyptic texts. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 322. Latino/Latina Religious Experiences. 3 Hours**

Exploration of the diversity of Latino/Latina religious experiences and communities in North America, with an emphasis on Roman Catholic experiences. Prerequisites: ASI 110 or REL 103.

**REL 323. History of Early Christianity. 3 Hours**

Study of the historical variables involved in Christianity's rise from an obscure first century religious movement to a respected world religion. Examination of different movements within the History of Christianity from the first century C.E. to the fourth century C.E., comparing the continuities and discontinuities between the people who have called themselves Christian in different times and places. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent, and any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course.

**REL 324. History of Christianity II. 3 Hours**

Study of important events, movements, ideas, and people in the development of Christianity from 1100 to the present, including the separation of the Churches of the East and West, rise of the mendicant orders, Scholasticism, key themes and figures of the Reformation, Vatican I, Modernist crisis, ecumenism, and Vatican II. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 326. Protestant Christianity. 3 Hours**

Survey of the development of Protestant thought from the Reformation. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 327. United States Religious Experience. 3 Hours**

Study of a variety of religious traditions in their engagement with and influence within the U.S. social and cultural context including the effects of pluralism, religious liberty, secularization, and consumer capitalism. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 328. United States Catholic Experience. 3 Hours**

Survey of the growth and development of Catholic Christianity in the U.S.; its interaction with America, its culture, and its people. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 329. African-American Religion. 3 Hours**

Study of the role religious beliefs, institutions, leaders and commitments have played in the lives of people of African descent in the United States of America from the 16th century to the present. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 330. Faith of Immigrants. 3 Hours**

This course will examine the faith traditions of all those people who came to the United States, either voluntarily or involuntarily, and the changes that they made upon those who were there before them, the changes in their own faith, and the effect upon other faith traditions. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 343. Theology of Humanity, Sexuality, and Marriage. 3 Hours**

Study of theological anthropology (what it means to be human in relation to God) with historical and gender studies questions about gender, sexuality, and marriage. Topics include: scriptural and historical examinations of gender; what it means to be made in the image of God; sexuality, including LGBT+ and celibacy; states of singleness and vowed religious life; and historical/theological accounts of Christian marriage. Prerequisites: REL 103, ASI 110, or equivalent.

**REL 344. Christian Marriage. 3 Hours**

Analysis of the sanctifying dignity of Christian marriage as a sacrament and commitment to share in the divine creative plan. Prerequisite(s): (ASI 110, 120 or equivalent) or (REL 103 or REL 198).

**REL 352. Understanding Sacred Music in Worship in the Local Church. 3 Hours**

Study of the important relationship between music and worship in the life of the individual and in the life of the corporate Christian church with an emphasis on developments in recent decades. Studies the distinction and interconnectedness of the local church (congregation) and the Institutional Church. An historical overview of music and worship with Biblical foundations is provided. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 357. Peacebuilding. 3 Hours**

Exploration of theories and practice of peacebuilding, including cultivation of skills in addressing violence on multiple levels. Pre-requisite: any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 358. Liberation Theologies. 3 Hours**

Study of the theology of liberation and its specific expression among theologians of the Third World, particularly Latin America. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110.

**REL 359. The Road to Hell: The Apocalypse in Classical and Contemporary Forms. 3 Hours**

Study of depictions of the apocalypse in classical and contemporary literature, film, and speech with special attention to the rhetorical dimensions of those messages. Prerequisites: CMM 100; ASI 110 or REL 103.

**REL 360. Christian Ethics. 3 Hours**

Introduction to the reflection upon Christian morality; discussion of various approaches in Christian ethics, the elements of ethical judgments, and some specific ethical issues. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 363. Faith & Justice. 3 Hours**

Exploration of the theory and practices of Catholic social tradition in the contemporary context, with particular attention to questions of economic justice. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 364. Current Moral Issues. 3 Hours**

An examination of one or more issues (individual and/or social) in contemporary reflection on Christian moral life. May be repeated when topic changes. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 365. Christian Theology and Environmental Ethics. 3 Hours**

A survey of Christian theological traditions, ethical reasoning, and spiritual practices supporting a constructive response to anthropogenic ecological degradation. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 366. The Holocaust: Theological & Religious Responses. 3 Hours**

Examination of the religious and theological literature of the Holocaust, focusing especially on Jewish and Christian responses. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 367. Christian Ethics & Health Care Issues. 3 Hours**

Study in virtue ethics related to contemporary practices of health care. Community engaged learning is a required component of the course. Prerequisite(s): ASI 110 or REL 103 or equivalent; Junior standing or higher; Any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course.

**REL 368. Christian Ethics & the Business World. 3 Hours**

Study in Christian ethics related to contemporary practices of business. Course prerequisites: (ASI 110 or REL 103 or equivalent); any Crossing Boundaries; Faith Traditions Course. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 369. Christian Ethics and Engineering. 3 Hours**

Study in theological virtue ethics using engineering design as the paradigm for practical reasoning in both technology and everyday life. Intended for junior- or senior-level standing engineering students. Is in keeping with ABET standards which require ethics instruction for students enrolled in accredited engineering programs. Practice in formulating proper ethical arguments using standard notions of (claim, reasons, warrants and backing) culminating in the construction of proper ethical argument over some contemporary engineering artifact, process or issue. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent; junior standing.

**REL 371. C.S. Lewis: Life and Christian Writings. 3 Hours**

Study of the life of C.S. Lewis and a selection of his Christian writings in different genres, exploring their relevance for today. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent, and a Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course.

**REL 372. Religion & Film. 3 Hours**

Study of the meaning-making process of film production, with a focus on religious, spiritual and ethical values woven into the story line. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent; any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course.

**REL 373. Religion & Literature. 3 Hours**

Joint study of literature and religion, seeking the sacred in the secular, discussing the doctrines of humans and of God in major modern writings, especially those of current collegiate interest. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 374. Visual and Material Cultures of Religion. 3 Hours**

Study of the multiple intersections between religions and visual and material cultures including art, architecture, material expressions and visual practices. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 375. Religion & Science. 3 Hours**

Survey of the ways science has affected religion on specific doctrines, methods of knowing what is true, and general world views; study of religious response to these. Pre-requisite: any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 376. Theology & the Social Sciences. 3 Hours**

Exploration of developments in Christian theology that have paralleled or responded to the rise of the human sciences, including history, anthropology, sociology, and psychology, concerning such topics as the origin and nature of religion, belief in God, religious community, and modern secularity. Pre-requisite: any Crossing Boundaries Faith Traditions course. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 378. Religion, Society and Global Cinema. 3 Hours**

Interdisciplinary survey of the post-World War II film movement of Italian neorealism and its influence in global cinema. Major films, directors and critical debates involving neorealism will be examined. Topics include cinema and society, religion and movies, and culture and Catholicism. (REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent) and any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110.

**REL 379. Sustaining Art and Faith. 3 Hours**

Exploration of the interrelated nature of faith traditions and the art connected to those traditions in terms of how they inform and sustain each other. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110.

**REL 380. The Masters of Suspicion: Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud on Religion. 3 Hours**

Analysis of Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud's critical systems, and study of the religious, theological, and philosophical responses to them. Special focus will be paid to the effect these systems continue to have on public discourse. Prerequisites: REL 103 and PHL 103; or ASI 110 and ASI 120; or equivalent; Any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course.

**REL 399. Readings in Religious Studies. 1-3 Hours**

Directed readings in a specific area of interest under the supervision of a staff member. May be taken more than once. By permission only. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 405. Ecclesiastical Latin. 3 Hours**

Development of a basic reading knowledge of Latin as manifested in the documents of western Christianity (ca. 300 through the present). Students will learn fundamentals of Latin grammar and core vocabulary, and will read selected texts from the Vulgate and Church documents.

**REL 408. Islam in the Modern World. 3 Hours**

Historical and topical survey of the development of Islamic thought in the last two centuries. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 425. Augustine. 3 Hours**

Examination of the life and work of Augustine of Hippo (354-430), a major theologian of Western Christianity, including Augustine's major works. The course also considers his influences on Protestant and Catholic traditions in several areas, including sexual ethics, church-state relations, and Trinitarian and sacramental theology. Pre-requisite: any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course, in addition to pre-requisites listed by course number. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 and HST 103 and PHL 103, or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 429. Modern Catholicism. 3 Hours**

An examination of Modern Catholicism based on a close study of the context, process, decisions, implementation, and challenges of Vatican II in the Roman Catholic Church. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 437. Significance of Jesus. 3 Hours**

Emphasis on the identity of Jesus and on the significance that his ministry, death, and resurrection have for the salvation of humankind. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 440. The Church. 3 Hours**

A Catholic and ecumenical study of the meaning of the Church which explores key documents of the Second Vatican Council, the meaning of vocation, and the mission of the Church in the world of today. Prerequisite(s): (REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent) and any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course.

**REL 441. Theology of Mary. 3 Hours**

Using the sources of Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and with particular reference to the documents of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), this course is dedicated to theological reflection on the person of Mary, the Mother of God, in the context of the other central truths of the Catholic faith. The course requires two prerequisites: Either (ASI 110, 120 or equivalent) or (REL 103 or REL 198), and any Crossing Boundaries: Faith Traditions course. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 442. God & Atheism. 3 Hours**

Study of some recent contributions made by theology, philosophy, psychology, and the humanities to the current discussion of God's existence, nature, and relationship to humanity. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 443. The Sacraments. 3 Hours**

Study of the meaning of sacramentality. The sacraments in the context of Christ as the sacrament of the human encounter with God and in the context of the Church as the sacrament of Christ. Personal, ecclesial, and ethical dimensions of sacraments. Theological and Ritual Studies methodologies. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 444. God in Christian Tradition. 3 Hours**

Review of theologies of God in Christian tradition, from biblical through contemporary sources, especially as these theologies have affected overall Catholic thought and spirituality. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 446. Christian Liturgy. 3 Hours**

Study of the basic principles of liturgy, the development of some of the basic forms of liturgy, and applications of the principles within current rites. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 447. Selected Catholic Doctrines. 3-4 Hours**

Detailed study of several important current theological questions primarily from a Catholic systematic and historical perspective. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 449. Aquinas. 3 Hours**

Theology of Aquinas including: Trinity, human nature, providence, grace, virtue, Christ, and sacraments. Some attention given to historical context and contemporary interpretation, but the main focus will be reading and understanding the Summa. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 457. Living as Marianist Student Communities. 3 Hours**

Study of Marianist founders and charism through the disciplines of history and theology as well as interdisciplinary fields such as Marianist studies, peace and justice studies, and human rights studies; only for those living in a Marianist Student Community. Students attend the course all year (meeting once per week for an hour) but officially register for the course in either fall or spring to best suit their scheduling needs. Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent and Permission of instructor required.



**REL 471. Women & Religion. 3 Hours**

Examination of the impact of the women's movement on Judaism, Christianity, and other major world religions. Survey of traditional religious attitudes toward women. Relevance of feminist approaches to scripture, ethics, spirituality, and ministry in understanding contemporary global issues. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 472. Ecology & Religion. 3 Hours**

Examination of the relationship between religion and ecology; bridges the contributions of traditional theological inquiry and modern scientific insights and offers an enlarged vision of ecological concerns. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 474. Women & the Global Church. 3 Hours**

An exploration of the intersection between faith communities, traditional and non-traditional, and particular cultures in the lives of contemporary women. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 475. Theology of Inculturation. 3 Hours**

Interdisciplinary examination of the Christian understanding of the relationship between the local and universal Church, with an emphasis on the incarnation of Christian faith in local cultures; examination of inculturation in the context of the shift of worldwide Christianity to the Global South (Latin America, Africa, Asia). Prerequisites: REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 477. Honors Thesis Project. 3 Hours**

First of two courses leading to the selection, design, investigation, and completion of an independent, original Honors Thesis project under the guidance of a faculty research advisor. Restricted to students in the University Honors Program with permission of the program director and department chairperson. Students pursuing an interdisciplinary thesis topic may register for three semester hours each in two separate disciplines in consultation with the department chairpersons. Prerequisite(s): Approval of University Honors Program.

**REL 478. Honors Thesis Project. 3 Hours**

Second of two courses leading to the selection, design, investigation, and completion of an independent, original Honors Thesis project under the guidance of a faculty research advisor. Restricted to students in the University Honors Program with permission of the program director and department chairperson. Students pursuing an interdisciplinary thesis topic may register for three semester hours each in two separate disciplines in consultation with the department chairpersons. Prerequisite(s): Approved 477; approval of University Honors Program.

**REL 485. Lay Ministry. 3 Hours**

Critical examination of lay ministry and its theological basis, in light of Vatican II and recent trends in the world and Church. Special topics: family ministry, ministry in the marketplace, leadership, evangelization, catechesis, women, social justice. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 488. Spirituality & Religious Education. 3 Hours**

Exploration of impact of liturgy and spirituality on contemporary models of religious education; study of interrelationship between faith experience and religious content; basic principles for developing practical programs. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 490. Capstone Seminar. 3 Hours**

Integrative academic experience focused on student-produced research and scholarship in various fields of religious/theological studies. Required of all REL majors, open to REL minors. Must have 24 credits including one 400 level REL course.

**REL 492. Special Topics. 1-3 Hours**

Concentrated study of issues and subjects pertinent to religion. May be repeated when topic changes. Prerequisite(s): REL 103 or ASI 110 or equivalent.

**REL 500B. Foundations of Biblical Studies. 2 Hours**

This required course focuses on critical reading and discussion of representative texts from the field of biblical studies to introduce content and methods at a master's level. Passing a final examination completes the requirement.

**REL 500C. Foundations of Church History & Historical Theology. 2 Hours**

This required course focuses on critical reading and discussion of representative texts from the related fields of church history and historical theology to introduce content and methods at a master's level. Passing a final examination completes the requirement.

**REL 500D. Foundations of Systematic & Moral Theology. 2 Hours**

This required course focuses on critical reading and discussion of representative texts from the related fields of systematic and moral theology to introduce content and methods at a master's level. Passing a final examination completes the requirement.

**REL 501. Biblical Hebrew I. 3 Hours**

Introduction to the morphology and syntax of biblical Hebrew to facilitate the handling of basic tools and the reading of simple prose texts.

**REL 502. Biblical Greek I. 3 Hours**

Introduction to Hellenistic Greek. Vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. Selective readings of New Testament texts.

**REL 503. Biblical Hebrew II. 3 Hours**

Introduction to the morphology and syntax of biblical Hebrew to facilitate the handling of basic tools and the reading of simple prose texts.

**REL 504. Biblical Greek II. 3 Hours**

Introduction to Hellenistic Greek. Vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. Selective readings of New Testament texts.

**REL 505. Ecclesiastical Latin. 3 Hours**

Provides a basic reading knowledge of Latin as manifested in the documents of western Christianity (ca. 300 through the present). Students learn fundamentals of Latin grammar and core vocabulary, and read selected texts from the Vulgate and Church documents.

**REL 511. Contemporary Biblical Criticism. 2-3 Hours**

Introduction to the principal methodological approaches to the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, with an emphasis on introductory matters, content, and cultural heritage. Will include a survey of the major results of contemporary biblical scholarship. Prerequisite(s): REL 500B.

**REL 512. Ancient Scriptural Hermeneutics. 3 Hours**

This course provides a general introduction to ancient methods, Christian and Jewish, of reading the Bible and its adjacent literature. Prerequisite(s): REL 500B.

**REL 513. Old Testament Exegesis. 2-3 Hours**

Critical study of selected writings of the Old Testament. (1) Pentateuch, (2) Historical Books, (3) Prophets, (4) Psalms, (5). Wisdom Literature, (6) Apocalyptic Literature. Prerequisite(s): REL 500B.

**REL 518. New Testament Exegesis. 2-3 Hours**

Critical exegetical study of selected writings of the New Testament. (1) Synoptics: Matthew and Mark, (2) Luke/Acts, (3) John, (4) Pauline Corpus, (5) Pastoral Epistles, (6) Book of Revelation. Prerequisite(s): REL 500B.

**REL 519. New Testament Theology. 2-3 Hours**

A thorough study of one theme in the theology of the New Testament. May be taken more than once. Prerequisite(s): REL 500B.

**REL 520. History & Theology of the Early and Medieval Church. 2-3 Hours**  
Early Medieval foundations, the Carolingian Renaissance, the preparation of the 11th and 12th centuries, as well as the post-13th century movement toward nominalism, to give perspective to the High Scholasticism of the 13th century. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 523. Trent to Vatican II. 2-3 Hours**  
Historical account of Christianity's theological response to the major reformers and of further theological developments of Christianity in the context of philosophy, science, and political revolutions up to Vatican II. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 523A. History of Christianity: Reformation to Enlightenment, 1450-1789. 3 Hours**  
An examination of the religious and theological movements in western Christianity from the Reformation through the Enlightenment (1450-1789) in their social, cultural, political and intellectual contexts with attention to transformations in Christian communal practices and Christian self-understanding. Prerequisites: REL 500C.

**REL 523B. Revolutions, 1789 to the Present. 3 Hours**  
A consideration of European and Latin American revolutions (1789-1848), the emergence of church and state as separate, the impact of their separation on Christianity as church and people, and the emergence of new forms of theology in Europe and the New World. Prerequisites: REL 500C.

**REL 524. Protestant Christianity. 2-3 Hours**  
Survey of the development of Protestant thought from the Reformation to the present. Analysis, in their own writings and historical context, of selected Protestant theologians, such as Luther, Calvin, Knox, Cranmer, Schleiermacher, Ritschl, Harnack, and Barth. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 524A. Protestant Christianity. 2-3 Hours**  
Survey of the development of Protestant thought from the Reformation to the present. Analysis, in their own writings and historical context, of selected Protestant theologians, such as Luther, Calvin, Knox, Cranmer, Schleiermacher, Ritschl, Harnack and Barth. Prerequisites: REL 500C.

**REL 524B. History of American Evangelicalism, 1730-present. 2-3 Hours**  
This course provides an introduction to the history, theology, and practices of Protestant Evangelicalism in the United States from the first Great Awakening to the present. Prerequisites: REL 500C.

**REL 525. Augustine. 2-3 Hours**  
The life and work of Augustine of Hippo (354-430), a major theologian of Western Christianity, whose influence in both Protestant and Catholic traditions includes sexual ethics, church-state relations, Trinitarian and sacramental theology. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 528. US Catholicism. 2-3 Hours**  
Examination of the experiences and contributions of the people who formed the Catholic Church in the United States. A focus on the influence of Catholicism on American culture, politics, intellectual life, education, and religion and an investigation of how Catholic faith has informed the attitudes and actions of U.S. Catholics regarding culture, politics and social justice. Topics include religious liberty, lay movements in the U.S., anti-Catholicism, contributions of U.S. Catholic women, African American Catholics, and Hispanic/Latino[a] Catholics. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 529. African-American Religions. 2-3 Hours**  
Investigation of how religion has shaped African American identity, culture and community. Addresses the religious experience of African Americans through their theology, literature, music, history, and creative arts in the forms of the slave narratives, the spirituals and Gospel music, black homiletics, and other writings. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 531. Theology of Disability. 3 Hours**  
A survey of contemporary theologies of disability, including the idea of a disabled God, embodied limits, disability and bioethics, and theology of friendship. Prerequisites: REL 500D or permission of instructor.

**REL 535. The Mystery of God. 2-3 Hours**  
A survey of contemporary Christian theological approaches to the mystery of God. Topics explored may include the relationship between faith and reason; natural and revealed theology; contemplative practice and theological epistemology; Christian responses to atheism; the presence and absence of God in creation, history and human experience; idolatry; the use of gendered language and symbols in reference to God; the role of the arts in theological expression and interreligious dialogue. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 537. Christology. 2-3 Hours**  
Christology is the branch of Christian theology that studies Jesus. It begins with the New Testament proclamation about him and with "classical Christology," the interpretation of the New Testament witness to Jesus by the first seven ecumenical councils of the first millennium. Since at least the 1600s in the west, classical Christology has responded to challenges posed by historical-critical approaches to the Bible, evolutionary science, developments in philosophy, and experiences of post-colonial Christians throughout the world. This course deals with classical and contemporary developments in Christology. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 540. Ecclesiology. 2-3 Hours**  
Study of the nature and mission of the church, with an emphasis on Catholic perspectives. Topics explored may include the church as mystery, ecumenism, authority, laity, communion of saints and the church-world relationship. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 543. Sacramental Theology. 2-3 Hours**  
Detailed study of the principle of sacramentality and of the individual sacraments, stressing the historical development of each and its contemporary renewal. Prerequisite(s): REL 500D.

**REL 544. Selected Catholic Doctrines. 2-3 Hours**  
An in-depth examination of one or more doctrinal issues from multiple perspectives (biblical, historical and systematic), such as: salvation; grace, sin and nature; faith and reason; Marian dogmas; the development of doctrine. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 545. Theologians, Methods, Movements. 2-3 Hours**  
An in-depth examination of the work of one or more theologians, methods or movements that contextualizes the work within its tradition, history and culture. This course can examine the work of a theologian (e.g., de Lubac, Rahner, Lonergan, Gutiérrez, Johnson), a method or movement (e.g., Nouvelle Théologie, liberation theologies, feminist theologies), or Latin American, Asian, African or other theologies. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 546. Liturgy & Sacraments. 2-3 Hours**  
Study of theological, ritual and pastoral dimensions of constitutive features of Christian liturgy, and of the concept of sacramentality, with focus on the Eucharist and selected other sacraments. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 548. Theology of Prayer. 2-3 Hours**  
Study of the theological basis for Christian practices of personal and communal prayer, especially in relation to Scripture, as well as consideration of selected mystical writers, from ancient to contemporary, who give expression to these practices. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 549. Aquinas. 2-3 Hours**

Theology of Thomas Aquinas focusing on the Summa Theologiae. Topics may include Trinity, human nature, providence, grace, virtue, Christ and sacraments with attention to historical context and contemporary interpretation. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 550. Feminist Theology. 2-3 Hours**

An examination of the emergence and development of feminist theology (a form of liberation theology), the nature of its discourse and methodology, and the ways in which feminist insights are transforming the study of scriptures, systematic theology, spirituality, and church history. The interfaith character of religious feminism will also be studied. Prerequisite(s): REL 500D.

**REL 551. Theology & World Religions. 2-3 Hours**

An examination of the reality, challenges, and opportunities confronting faith communities in our multicultural and religiously pluralistic societies. Students explore the spiritual resources of several of the world's religions, the ways in which these religions view one another, and the impact of interreligious dialogue and collaboration on the development of Christian theology today. Prerequisite(s): REL 500D.

**REL 561. Catholic Moral Theology. 2-3 Hours**

This course introduces students broadly to Catholic moral theology, by discussing the changing contexts of Catholic moral theology from the manualist tradition to the present, and by engaging some of the contemporary debates present in both magisterial and theological works. Prerequisite(s): REL 500D.

**REL 562. Spirituality and Ethics. 2-3 Hours**

"Ethics" as an academic discipline is recent. "Spirituality" as a set of disciplines is ancient. Contemporary ethics teaches one how to make compelling arguments by means of precise technical concepts (such as claim, grounds, reasons, backing, rebuttal and qualification). Ancient Christian spirituality teaches us how to live well. Christian theology treats these two practices as complementary. Early church fathers taught that the quality of one's moral knowledge was a function of one's (spiritual) character. This course investigates how ancient spiritual practices such as prayer, meditation, worship, conversation, revelation, fasting, scripture and singing are crucial for bringing the moral world into clearer focus. Prerequisites: REL 500D.

**REL 563. Theology of Christian Discipleship. 2-3 Hours**

Study of Christian ethics through the lens of discipleship, drawing particularly on theological reflection on scripture within Church traditions. Topics may include citizenship, evangelization, martyrdom, warfare, marriage, prayer, and economic practice. Prerequisite(s): REL 500D.

**REL 571. Mary & New Testament. 2,3 Hours**

Study of the principal New Testament texts with reference to Mary as Mother of the Redeemer, as figure of the Church, and with reference to her role in the history of salvation. Prerequisite(s): REL 500B.

**REL 572. Mary: Patristic Period. 2,3 Hours**

Initial development of Marian doctrine and devotion in Greek, Latin, and Oriental patristics (first six centuries). Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 573. Mary: Medieval Period. 2 Hours**

Study of the development of Mariology from the 7th century to the Renaissance: Marian doctrines, Marian devotions, Mary in art and liturgy, Marian feasts, and principal Marian works. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 574. Mary: Modern Period. 2,3 Hours**

Study of the development of Mariology from the Renaissance to the 20th century: principal Marian questions/controversies, Marian devotions, Marian shrines, Mary in art and liturgy, Marian feasts, and principal Marian works. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 575. Mary: Contemporary Period. 2,3 Hours**

Study of the teaching of Vatican II about the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially in chapter VIII of LUMEN GENTIUM and its implications and developments in contemporary Marian doctrine and devotion. Recent encyclicals on Mary. Prerequisite(s): REL 500C.

**REL 577. Spirituality of Mary. 2-3 Hours**

Study of the spirituality of Mary: e.g., Mary and the Holy Spirit; Mary's virtues; Mary as first disciple of the Lord, as Servant of the Lord, and as model of the Church. Prerequisite(s): REL 500D.

**REL 578. Special Marian Topics. 2,3 Hours**

Study of issues and subjects pertinent to Mariology. Prerequisite(s): REL 500D.

**REL 579. IMRI Directed Study. 1-3 Hours**

Courses studying, analyzing, or investigating a specific area of Mariology.

**REL 580. Theology of Ministry. 2-3 Hours**

Study of ministry exploring Scripture, tradition, Vatican II, 'Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord' (US Catholic Bishops, 2005), theological scholarship, and participants' own ministerial experiences as theological sources. Selected themes include the nature of vocation, the centrality of baptism, the relation of order and charism, communion and mission in synergy, and "diversity of ministry but unity of mission" (Vatican II).

**REL 581. Pastoral Ministry Seminar. 0-3 Hours**

Study of the practices critical for ongoing development as a minister with a focus on engaging in theoretical reflections. Those seeking the pastoral ministry degree are required to enroll at least four times during their course of studies.

**REL 582. Introduction to Spiritual Direction & Pastoral Care. 2-3 Hours**

Introduction to the basic principles and practices of spiritual direction and pastoral care for those working in various pastoral settings, including parishes and health care facilities.

**REL 583. Spiritual Formation. 0 Hours**

Study of the practices critical for ongoing development as a minister with a focus on engaging theoretical reflections. Those seeking the pastoral ministry degree are required to enroll at least four times during the course of their studies.

**REL 584. Canon Law. 2-3 Hours**

Study of those sections of canon law especially relevant to the lay ecclesial minister serving in a Roman Catholic context. Required of those seeking the pastoral ministry degree.

**REL 585. Pastoral Counseling. 2-3 Hours**

Brief study of the methods of counseling with emphasis on those modes most in practice today. Concentration on the major problems faced by counselors in the pastoral area.

**REL 586. Leadership in Parish Ministry. 2-3 Hours**

Study of the traditional parish structure as seen against the background of biblical and historical perspectives on the local church. An examination of the forces for change in the contemporary parish with an effort, out of the theoretical framework of leadership and administration, to assist the student in developing a philosophy and strategy of leadership.

**REL 589. Practicum. 3-6 Hours**

Approved supervised pastoral involvement coupled with theological reflections.

**REL 590. Selected Questions. 1-3 Hours**

Study of specific questions and developments in biblical, historical, systematic, or catechetical theology.

**REL 591. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours**

Graduate workshop and/or seminar investigating and analyzing a specific area of theology, pastoral ministry, or interdisciplinary scholarship concerning contemporary issues.

**REL 592. Contemporary Issues. 1-6 Hours**

Study of issues and subjects pertinent to theological studies and pastoral ministry.

**REL 593. Directed Study. 1-3 Hours**

Directed study of a particular theologian, problem, or historical period.

**REL 594. Foundations of Leadership For Comprehensive Youth Ministry. 3 Hours**

Broad exploration of the competencies necessary for youth ministry leaders serving as coordinators or directors of youth ministry in parishes and/or other Catholic institutions.

**REL 595. Leadership Skills for Comprehensive Youth Ministry. 3 Hours**

Broad exploration of vital leadership capabilities for effective and fruitful pastoral ministry with adolescents.

**REL 598. Comprehensive Project. 3 Hours**

No description available.

**REL 599. Thesis. 3,6 Hours**

This course is available for students in the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree program. Students may register for REL 599 only after their Thesis Proposal has been approved by the MA Committee of the Department of Religious Studies. Students may register for REL 599 once (as a one semester, six semester hour course) or twice (in two consecutive semesters, three semester hours each).

**REL 601. Seminar in Theological Research Methods: The Tradition. 3 Hours**

Examination of the methods and practices that comprise the most influential traditions of Christian theology. Students will gain a basic understanding of the theological approaches, methods, and practices as they have developed over time. Required of all entering doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 602. Seminar in Theological Research Methods: Contemporary. 3 Hours**

Examination of methods and practices that exemplify the most influential contemporary theological work in the Christian tradition. Students will gain a basic understanding of theological approaches, methods, and practices currently shaping the theological disciplines with a focus on theology as the center of a network of disciplines. Required of all entering doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 603. Seminar in Theological Research Methods: Historiography. 3 Hours**

Examination of various historical accounts of U.S. Catholicism to gain familiarity with key events, persons, and movements in U.S. Catholicism and the historiography of the subject. Students will gain an understanding of the theological dimensions of U.S. Catholic history and historiography. Required of all entering doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 604. Seminar in Theological Research Methods: American Catholic Studies. 3 Hours**

Examination of the most influential contemporary work in American Catholic Studies to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the theology doctoral program. Students will gain a basic understanding of methods and practices currently shaping American Catholic Studies and its impact upon theological work. Required of all entering doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 610. General Examination of Biblical Studies. 0 Hours**

Examination in Biblical Studies for Ph.D. students in Theology.

**REL 611. General Examination of Historical Theology. 0 Hours**

Examination in Historical Theology for Ph.D. students in Theology.

**REL 612. General Examination of Systematic Theology and Ethics. 0 Hours**

Examination in Systematic Theology and Ethics for Ph.D. students.

**REL 615. Candidacy Exam. 0 Hours**

Candidacy examination for Ph.D. students in Theology. D. program. Thirty semester hours may be from a MA in Theology or equivalent degree. Thirty semester hours of doctoral-level course work and language and additional research requirements. Prerequisite(s): 60 semester hours in the Ph.

**REL 616. Translation of Modern Language - Theological. 0 Hours**

Study of modern languages (French, German, Italian or Spanish) with focus on translation of theological works. Completion of course fulfills program requirement for Ph.D in Theology.

**REL 623. Seminar: United States Catholic Experience in Theological Perspective. 3 Hours**

Examinations of the complex interaction between U.S. Catholic experience and theologies. Foci may include specific people, movements (e.g., ecumenism, ethnicity, feminism, pluralism, restorationism, etc.), issues, theologies, practices, or institutions. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 633. Seminar: United States Catholic Experience in Historical Perspective. 3 Hours**

Examinations of specific people, movements, thought, practices, and institutions in US Catholic history. Seminars consider social, cultural, economic, political as well as religious and theological influences that comprise the multiplicity of the U.S. Catholic experience. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 643. Seminar: United States Catholic Experience in Cultural Perspective. 3 Hours**

Focused examination of interdisciplinary scholarship on Catholicism, with an emphasis on the theological engagement with cultural methods of study. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 653. Seminar: United States Catholic Experience in Ethics, Practice & Contemporary Society. 3 Hours**

Examination of the complex interaction between US Catholic experience and theological-ethical/moral thought broadly understood. Possible foci include philosophical and theological moral frameworks and their changes over time; people and movements; communal practices such as evangelization, catechesis, and liturgy; and contemporary social questions. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 671. Special Topics: History. 3 Hours**

Specialized examination of topics in history, including those outside US Catholic contexts and time periods. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to master's students.

**REL 672. Special Topics: Theology. 3 Hours**

Specialized examination of theologies, including those outside US Catholic context. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.



**REL 673. Special Topics: American History. 3 Hours**

Examination of theology in relation to US history, with particular attention to non-Catholic voices, movements, events, periods, and concerns.

Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 674. Special Topics: Cultural Perspectives. 3 Hours**

Specialized examination of specific questions related to cultural studies and other interdisciplinary methods. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 675. Special Topics: Ethics and Moral Theology. 3 Hours**

Examination of specific foundational or applied questions in contemporary Christian ethics. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 676. Special Topics: Scripture. 3 Hours**

Specialized examination of specific questions in scriptures and related texts. Elective for doctoral students; open with permission to advanced master's students.

**REL 697. Directed Readings. 1-3 Hours**

Designed for individual, student-faculty study in a specialized area of interest. Topic and criteria for evaluation to be specified prior to registration. Students may take no more than two directed readings per term.

**REL 699. Dissertation. 3-12 Hours**

Research for an original research project for the doctoral degree, incorporating an appropriate review of theory and literature and demonstrating competence in the application of research methodology.