



POSSIBLE COURSES OFFERED - UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL – MAJORS AND MINORS

301 Prophetic Literature - Prerequisite: 231

This course examines the nature of prophecy in Judaism with special attention given to the historical background of the prophets, the literary aspects of their writings, and the theological dimensions of the prophetic message. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of central texts, beliefs, ethical understanding, and practices of Judaism and Christianity.

302 Wisdom Literature and the Psalms - Prerequisite: 231

A study of the wisdom literature of the Hebrew Bible, with special attention to the nature of the wisdom tradition in Israel and the examination of specific wisdom texts, such as Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth, Wisdom of Solomon, and the Wisdom of Ben Sirach. This course will also analyze the Psalms as the prayer of Israel and look at themes, literary structure, and theology of selected Psalms. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of central texts, beliefs, ethical understanding, and practices of Judaism and Christianity.

303 The Pentateuch - Prerequisite: 231

This course examines the literary structure of the first five books of the Bible; major themes and stories such as creation, flood, the patriarchs, the story of Joseph, Exodus, covenant, law; and the use of historical critical and literary critical methods in drawing out the theologies represented in the Pentateuch. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of central texts, beliefs, ethical understanding, and practices of Judaism and Christianity.

304 Israel from Conquest to Exile - Prerequisite: 231

A study of the so-called historical books of the Bible (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings); attention given to documentary and archaeological sources for the history of Israel from conquest to exile; use of historical critical and literary critical methods in delineating the theology of history found within the Deuteronomistic history. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of central texts, beliefs, ethical understanding, and practices of Judaism and Christianity.

305 The Gospel and Letters of John - Prerequisite: 232

An in-depth study of the Gospel and the Letters of John: their authorship; the relation of the Gospel of John to the synoptic Gospels; the literary and cultural background of the Johannine literature; miracles and signs; key concepts; the main theology of John; and some special problems in the Johannine literature. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the various literary elements found in this particular gospel and explain why the recognition of genre is essential to the interpretation of this gospel in relation to the New Testament, as well as the importance of how this New Testament document has reached its present form.

306 The Epistles of Paul - Prerequisite: 232

In-depth study of the person, times and key concepts of St. Paul. Letters studied in chronological order; special attention given to the ways in which Paul develops and articulates his positions and the relationship of those positions to the history of early Christianity. *Outcome:* Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the various literary elements found in this particular epistle and explain why the recognition of genre is essential to the interpretation of this epistle in relation to the New Testament, as well as the importance of how this New Testament document has reached its present form.

307 New Testament Greek (GREEK 267) - Prerequisite: GREEK 132

Selections from the Evangelists and/or other writers of the early Church.

308 Biblical Hebrew I (CLST 101)

The sound, forms and grammar of biblical language. Selected readings from the Old Testament.

Outcome: Students will demonstrate an understanding of Biblical Hebrew

309 Biblical Hebrew II (CLST 102) - Prerequisite: 308

Further study of biblical language. Selected readings from the Old Testament. **Outcome:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of Biblical Hebrew

310 The Parables of Jesus - Prerequisite: 232

Study of parables as a literary genre, as an example of the figurative use of language in theology. Old Testament and rabbinic parables are studied as a comparative base for interpreting Jesus' parables. Attention will be focused on the manner in which the parables embody the Kingdom of God. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the various literary elements found in the parables and explain why the recognition of genre is essential to the interpretation of these parables in relation to the New Testament, as well as the importance of how parables have reached their present form.

311 The Meaning of Jesus Christ

An examination of the variety of interpretations of the person and work of Jesus. This study will examine the role of culture and the historical situation of the church in shaping the variety of portraits of Jesus, the dogmas of his constitution, and the doctrines of his salvation. Biblical, patristic, and contemporary materials are included in this study. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the orthodox understanding of the nature of Jesus Christ as both human and divine, what this might mean and how this formulation was derived, as well as understand the various interpretations of Christ within the Scriptures, the church, and modern scholarship.

313 The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke - Prerequisite: 232

An in-depth analysis of the development of the synoptic tradition (the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke). The literary relationship of the three gospels to one another. Attention will also be given to the theologies of the three gospels and, in particular, to how their understandings of Jesus are to be compared and contrasted. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the various literary elements found in these particular gospels and explain why the recognition of genre is essential to the interpretation of these gospels in relation to the New Testament, as well as the importance of how these New Testament documents have reached their present form.

315 Mary and the Church

The biblical teaching on Mary; the role of Mary, the new Eve, as developed in patristic literature and tradition; Mary and the Church in contemporary theology, and how Mary is understood outside of the Catholic traditions. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the various literary elements regarding Mary and explain why the recognition of Marian scholarship is essential to the interpretation of the Church in relation to the New Testament, as well as the importance of how Marian theology has reached its present form.

317 Christian Thought: Ancient and Medieval

The development of various Christian doctrines in light of their historical milieu during the first fourteen centuries of Christian thought. The doctrines examined may include: God, Christ, grace, anthropology, ecclesiology, soteriology, scriptural exegesis, Mariology, eschatology, and sacraments. The major ecumenical councils of the early Christian centuries (e.g., Nicea, Constantinople, Ephesus, Chalcedon, and Lateran) and their teachings on theological issues will be considered. **Outcome:** Students will be able to assess how various configurations of theological perspectives can both expand and foreshorten the way human thinking has gone on.

318 Christian Thought: Reformation and Modern

The development of various Christian doctrines in light of their historical milieu during the last six centuries of Christian thought. The doctrines examined may include: God, Christ, grace, anthropology, ecclesiology and sacraments. The major ecumenical councils of the later Christian centuries (e.g., Constance, Florence, Lateran V, Trent, Vatican I and Vatican II) and their teachings on theological issues will be considered. **Outcome:** Students will be able to assess how various configurations of theological perspectives can both expand and foreshorten the way human thinking has gone on.

319 Reformation Theology

A study of Christendom and its faith and life during the late medieval and early modern period. **Outcome:** Students will acquire the theological and historical knowledge relevant to the Reformation era. They will also learn appropriate critical skills for dealing with the political, social, and religious crises of these times.

330 Liberation Theology

An introduction to the contemporary theologies of liberation emerging in Latin American, African, and Asian Christian reflection on social injustice and the need for the Church to stand in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed. The scriptural and Marxist influences on liberation theology will be examined and its general impact will be explored. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of ethical comprehension, analysis, and decision-making within the context of select theological and religious traditions.

331 Theology of Secularization

An exploration of the history of secularization and the context it establishes for American Christianity. Focus on practical issues of Christian living. **Outcome:** Students will be able to analyze and interpret various ways in which religious traditions intersect with contemporary issues, such as plural and conflicting ethical behaviors, the creation of social roles and organizations, the impact of religious perspectives on the political and economic order, and the mutual influence of religion, culture and language.

332 God in the Modern World

Study of modern scientific, intellectual and practical atheism as reflected in particular authors, e.g., Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Comte, Marx, and Dostoyevsky, evaluating their influence on today's world. **Outcome:** Students will be able to assess how various configurations of a religious worldview can both expand and foreshorten the way human thinking has gone on.

340 Foundations of Christian Morality

A survey of theological and philosophical issues that shape the articulation of specific moral principles. Among the topics to be discussed: the nature of the moral agent, the implications of the scriptures and systematic theology for the moral life, the teaching function of the Church, the relationship of Christian ethics to philosophical ethics. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of ethical comprehension, analysis, and decision-making within the context of select theological and religious traditions.

342 Perspectives on Life and Death

This course covers such ethical issues as genetic experimentation, human transplants, abortion, new medicinal processes, new situations in living and dying. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of ethical comprehension, analysis, and decision-making within the context of select theological and religious traditions.

343 Contemporary Christian Sexuality

Though some inter-religious perspectives on sexuality are reviewed, this course focuses primarily on the contribution that Christianity (especially but not exclusively as expressed within Roman Catholicism) can make to the ethical evaluation of several issues in contemporary sexual ethics. Both the personal and public policy dimensions of subjects like sexual pleasure, contraception, pornography, and sexual orientation will be examined. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of ethical comprehension, analysis, and decision-making within the context of select theological and religious traditions.

344 Theology and Ecology

An exploration of ecological, ethical and theological analyses of humanity's relationship to the natural world by examining issues of air and water pollution, endangered species, nuclear warfare, and the moral claims animals and future human generations have upon us. Ancient Greek, Jewish, Christian, Enlightenment, Marxist, and feminist views on our "domination" of nature will be consulted. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of ethical comprehension, analysis, and decision-making within the context of select theological and religious traditions.

345 Roman Catholic Social Thought

This course presents the tradition of Roman Catholic social thought as articulated in the wide array of papal and episcopal documents. The philosophical and theological principles of this thought are outlined and related to various social and institutional contexts. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of ethical comprehension, analysis, and decision-making within the context of select theological and religious traditions.

347 Creative Ministry (Pastoral Leadership Minor requirement)

This course is intended to meet the needs of those who seek to move beyond ordinary ministry into the area of professional and pastoral work. It will examine the philosophy and theology of this field and a variety of forms that can be expected to grow from the future lifestyle of the Church. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate how a sacramental system of aesthetics is often embedded in cultural artifacts such as poetry, music, painting, literature, and film, and recognize and interpret the impact of history and cultures on the development of Christian doctrine and practices.

348 Supervised Ministry (Pastoral Leadership Minor requirement)

This course provides a focused experience for students interested in the integration of theological understanding and practical experience in ministry. The course will involve a preparatory session, placement in a ministerial position, on-site supervision, and biweekly individual or group meetings with the course director. A comprehensive paper or case study will demonstrate the student's ability to articulate and integrate theory with actual ministerial practice. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate how a sacramental system of aesthetics is often embedded in cultural artifacts such as poetry, music, painting, literature, and film, and recognize and interpret the impact of history and cultures on the development of Christian doctrine and practices.

350 Topics in Islam (variable topics)

A deeper and more focused study of significant aspects of the religion of Islam. Varying content, with topics such as: Islamic mysticism, the South Asian Muslim experience, women and gender in Islam, the Qur'an, and Islamic ethics. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the most important Muslim scriptures, the general outline of the historical evolution of Islam, the key Islamic concepts, terms, values, and religious practices, and the diversity within Islam in terms of sectarian, regional, and historical developments.

351 Topics in Hinduism (variable topics)

A deeper and more focused study of significant aspects of Hinduism. Varying content, with topics such as: Hindu devotional traditions, ethnographies of Hindu experience, world renunciation in Hinduism, women in the Hindu tradition, and Hindu ethics. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the most important Hindu scriptures, the general outline of the historical evolution of Hinduism, the key Hindu concepts, terms, values, and religious practices, and the basic narratives and imagery associated with some of the most important Hindu deities.

352 Topics in Buddhism (variable topics)

A deeper and more focused study of significant aspects of Buddhism. Varying content, with topics such as: Zen Buddhism, Buddhism in Southeast Asia, Buddhist biographies, women in the Buddhist tradition, and Buddhist ethics. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the most important Buddhist scriptures, the general outline of the historical evolution of Buddhism, including its different major branches, and the key Buddhist concepts, terms, values, and religious practices.

353 Methods in Religious Studies (Religious Studies Capstone requirement)

This course investigates the historical, social, ritual and reflective positions of one or more religious traditions. It likewise develops the students' abilities to use contemporary methods of historical, theological and social scientific analysis of religious traditions. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the methods applied to the study of Religion.

356 Topics in Judaism (variable topics)

An interdisciplinary seminar course that explores various themes and issues in the history of Judaism, alternating between rabbinic, medieval, and modern periods. Topics may include rabbinic interpretations of Scripture, Medieval Jewish Literature, Jewish philosophy, and modern Jewish thought. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of ethical comprehension, analysis, and decision-making within the context of select theological and religious traditions.

357 Islamic Philosophy

Covers the development of classical Islamic philosophy from 500 to 1200, attention will be given to the central topics (God, the cosmos, knowledge, the human good) with which Muslim philosophers were concerned and to major figures such as Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina (Avicenna), Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd (Averroes) **Outcome:** Students will be able to articulate and discuss major philosophical problems of concern to Islamic philosophers of the classical period.

360 Confucianism to Christianity (Beijing Campus only)

The enculturation of Christianity in various contexts is displayed through an exploration of how distinctively Chinese elements – like the teachings and philosophy of Confucius – are intermingled in the history of the Chinese experience of Christianity. **Outcome:** A deep level of understanding of critical thinking in respect to the subject matter of the course.

363 The Muslim Experience

This course will consider the experience of Muslim populations in specific regional and cultural contexts from the disciplines of religious and cultural studies. In addition to providing a historical survey of these populations, their experience through literature, film and social science data will be presented and analyzed. The focus area will vary. **Outcome:** A deep level of understanding of critical thinking in respect to the subject matter of the course.

364 Islamic Mysticism

This course will explore various dimensions of Islamic mysticism (Sufism) in both traditional and contemporary manifestations. After a brief introduction to the study of mysticism and the basics of the Islamic religion, students will consider topics including mystical understandings of the Islamic scripture (Qur'an) and the figure of the Prophet Muhammad as well as the ""inner dimensions"" of Islamic ritual practices. In addition, the course will survey the entire tradition of Islamic mysticism (tasawuff) historically, anthropologically, and through study of the writings (in translation) of prominent Muslim mystics such as al-Ghazzali, Ibn Arabi, and Rumi. **Outcome:** A deep level of understanding of critical thinking in respect to the subject matter of the course.

365 Women, Gender and Embodiment in Islam

This course will consider gender both as articulated in the normative Islamic religious and legal systems as embodied during various historical periods in a range of Muslim societies. Students will read a number of the most important academic studies in this field and consider anthropological and cultural materials including films and short stories that disclose Muslim practices and concepts of maleness, femaleness, and gender relations. **Outcome:** A deep level of understanding of critical thinking in respect to the subject matter of the course.

366 Contemporary Islamic Thought and Movements

This course will consider contemporary Islamic thought and movements world-wide. After a brief introduction to Islam and the historical development of the tradition up to the present, students will learn about a range of contemporary Muslim intellectual and activist movements and thinkers through the study of original writings and secondary analysis. Some major figures to be considered include: Syed Maududi, Sayyid Qutb, Fazlur Rahman, and other Muslim intellectuals representing movements such as Jama'at-i Islami, the Muslim Brotherhood, and Islamic liberalism. We will focus on the 20th century up to the most current trends, Some of the theological and social issues that will be discussed are gender, the ideal political order, Islamic law and its role in society, and pluralism. **Outcome:** A deep level of understanding of critical thinking in respect to the subject matter of the course.

373 Theology Capstone (Theology Majors Capstone requirement)

Students enrolling in this course must have junior status and be Theology majors. This three hour capstone course gives students an opportunity to integrate various aspects of their theological education drawing upon the major sources of Christian and Catholic tradition including Scripture, History, Systematic Theology and Ethics. **Outcome:** Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of various sources within Christian theological traditions and how to make reasoned theological arguments.

378 Theology and Culture

The course will be divided into three parts: (1) an exploration of the interaction between theological reflection & culture; (2) a look at some theological texts that compare Christian and non-Christian practices and practices in the U.S. where different cultural understandings interact; (3) a study of postmodernism. **Outcome:** A deep level of understanding and of critical thinking with respect to the subject matter of the course.

379 Ecumenism in the Twentieth Century

Investigation of the principles of ecumenism as formulated in Vatican II. Study of the agreed statements of bilateral discussions between Christian communities. **Outcome:** Students will be able to assess how various configurations of a religious worldview can both expand and foreshorten the way human thinking has gone on.

383 Theology, Arts and Literature (combined with English)

Study of theological and religious symbols and themes in modern literature and/or in the arts. This course will focus on one or more artistic media - poetry, novels, painting, and music - to examine how the selected writers or artists view the human condition, sin, and possibilities for redemption. **Outcome:** The student who successfully completes this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge about religion and its intersections with selected contemporary ethical, social, political, economic, or cultural issues.

384 Protestant Theologians

Various Protestant theologians, e.g., Tillich in his mediation of faith and culture, Barth and his biblical confrontation with the world, and Bonhoeffer and his concept of the church in the world. **Outcome:** Students will be able to articulate the general outline of the historical evolution of the Protestant tradition, including key individuals, transitions, and points of controversy, and define and discuss key Protestant concepts, ideals, and values, as well as Protestant debates about these.

385 Readings: Theology and Philosophy (variable topics)

Influence of major philosophical systems, both ancient and modern, on theology.

Outcome: Students will be able to analyze and interpret various ways in which religious traditions intersect with contemporary issues, such as: plural and conflicting ethical behaviors, the creation of social roles and organizations, the impact of religious perspectives on the political and economic order, and the mutual influence of religion, culture and language.

386 Readings: Theology and Psychology (variable topics)

Study of general scientific methods of psychology and their relationship to Christian anthropology. **Outcome:** The student who successfully completes this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge about religion and its intersections with selected contemporary ethical, social, political, economic, or cultural issues.

393 Seminar (variable topics)

An undergraduate seminar course for majors and minors in the Theology department; variable content, addressing topical issues that are not covered by the regular offerings at the 300 level.

Outcome: The student who successfully completes this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge about religion and its intersections with selected contemporary ethical, social, political, economic, or cultural issues.