

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES OF STUDY

RELIGION

RELI 101.SACRED TEXTS AND IDEAS

This course introduces students to the reading of sacred texts and the vital role of religion in human experience. Texts will be examined with a focus upon literary and cultural dimensions that produce patterns of belief, ritual, and human action. *Three credit hours.*

RELI 211.INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

This course is a survey of the literature of the Hebrew Scriptures as they reflect the development of an historical community whose stories and traditions date to the second millennium BCE. The texts reflect the emerging faith and culture of the ancient Hebrew community within the diverse environment of the Ancient Near Eastern world. *Three credit hours.*

RELI 212.INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

The course begins with the Maccabean period BCE and examines the emergence of Christianity. It investigates the theological, historical, and literary developments of the rapid growth of the early Christian church by focusing on Jesus, his apostles, and the person of Paul. Emphasis is placed on the interpretation of texts of the New Testament. *Three credit hours.*

RELI 301.RELIGIOUS CULTURES OF THE WORLD

This course explores religious cultures with a focus on monotheistic and Asian religions. Through exposure to religious cultural products, such as beliefs, comics, music, practices and traditions, and visual media, students will develop a critical understanding of multiple societies, identities, perspectives, ways of life, and beliefs, thereby helping them to develop greater cultural sensitivity, a deeper appreciation of cultural difference, and a sense of place in an interconnected world. Junior/senior status recommended. Prerequisites: ENGL 102. (General Education – World Cultures) *Three credit hours.*

RELI 330.THE PAPACY

The story of the Papacy parallels the story of Western Civilization from the founding of the Christian Church through the end of the second millennium and beyond. The popes have also come to oversee a faith-community of one billion members throughout the world. This course will explore this enduring and influential institution – one that has outlived empires, kingdoms, dynasties, and states in world history – not only through the office itself, but also through the human dimensions of the popes in their roles as administrators, political leaders, and patrons of culture and learning. Prerequisite: ENGL 102. *Three credit hours.*

RELI 441.TOPICS IN RELIGION

This course offers special topics in the study of religion. Prerequisites: ENGL 102 and any three-hour Behavioral and Social Perspectives general education course. *Three credit hours.*