RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies T. Longman III
Professors B. Fisk (chair), W. Nelson, C. Whitmer
Associate Professors C. Farhadian, T. Work
Assistant Professors M. Lee, C. Reeder, H. Rhee
Scholar-In-Residence R. Gundry

Description of the Major. The Religious Studies major at Westmont College offers the coursework and experiences students need to understand the Christian tradition in conversation with other traditions. The foundation of the program is knowledge of the Bible, to which the faculty are committed as inspired and authoritative. RS majors develop biblical and theological literacy, cultivate skills in interpretation, grow in theological judgment, and learn to celebrate the rich heritage of the Church in all its cultural contexts. Electives allow for advanced work in biblical studies, Greek and Hebrew, theology, Christian history, world religions and mission. Opportunities for study abroad in support of the major abound.

Distinctive Features. The major combines a 28-unit core with 20 units of elective credit. Majors may choose to concentrate in biblical interpretation, theological and historical studies, or world religions and Christian mission. The department welcomes RS minors and double majors, and we encourage students to pursue off-campus programs in a range of settings including the Middle East, Asia and San Francisco. Practicum credit is available for local church ministries and internships.

Career Choices. Some majors go on to graduate programs in Religious Studies; some are called into Christian ministry. Westmont RS majors are well prepared for the best seminary programs in the country. Our graduates also pursue careers in fields as diverse as education, publishing, business, linguistics, politics, law and social work. In each case a firm understanding of religious texts, traditions and values allows them to make a unique contribution to their field. Regardless of career path, RS majors are equipped to play strong leadership roles within the Christian community and beyond.

Requirements for a Major: 48 units

Required Core: 28 units
- RS 125 Theology (4)
- RS 142 World Religions (4)
- RS 151 History of World Christianity (4)
- RS 159 Missiology (4)
- RS 180 RS Senior Seminar (4)

Prerequisite: senior standing; GE Integrating the Major

Discipline

Old Testament: one of the following (4)
- RS 101 Pentateuch (4)
- RS 102 Poetic & Wisdom Literature (4)
- RS 108 Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament (4)
- RS 124 Old Testament Theology (4)
- RS 154 History of Israel (4)

Prerequisite: RS 001

New Testament: one of the following (4)
- RS 110 Jesus in the Gospels (4)
- RS 111 Paul and His Legacy (4)
- RS 113 The Church in the New Testament (4)
- RS 116 The Apocalypse (4)

Prerequisite: RS 010

Electives: 20 additional units

Students are encouraged to concentrate elective coursework in one of the following three areas.

A. Biblical Interpretation

Old Testament
- RS 101 Pentateuch (4)
- RS 102 Poetic and Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (4)
- RS 104 Topics in Old Testament Studies (4)
- RS 108 Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament (4)
- RS 124 Old Testament Theology (4)
- RS 154 History of Israel (4)

New Testament
- RS 107 Topics in New Testament Studies (4)
- RS 110 Jesus in the Gospels (4)
- RS 111 Paul and His Legacy (4)
- RS 113 The Church in the New Testament (4)

Prerequisite: RS 001

Prerequisite: RS 010
RS 116 The Apocalypse (4)

Biblical Contexts
RS 106 The Old Testament in Ancient Near Eastern Context (4)
RS 114 The World of the New Testament (4) Prerequisite: RS 010
RS 155 Geography, History and Religions of the Holy Land (Jerusalem University College)
RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4) Pre- or corequisite: RS 010

Biblical Languages
HB 001 Elementary Hebrew I (4)
HB 002 Elementary Hebrew II (4) Prerequisite: HB 001
GRK 001 Elementary Greek I (4)
GRK 002 Elementary Greek II (4) Prerequisite: GRK 001
GRK 101 Intermediate Greek I (4) Prerequisite: GRK 002
GRK 102 Intermediate Greek II (4) Prerequisite: GRK 101
GRK 151 Advanced Greek Reading (4) Prerequisite: GRK 102

RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4)

B. Theology and History
Systematic Theology
RS 100 Foundations of Spiritual Formation (4) GE Integrating the Major Discipline
RS 126 Topical Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020.
RS 127 Catechetical Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020.
RS 129 Interdisciplinary Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020.
RS 131 Theology Seminar (4) Prerequisite: RS 020.

Philosophical Theology
RS 103 Christian Apologetics (4)
RS 130 / PHI 130 Philosophical Theology (4) Prerequisites: PHI 006 and RS 020.

Historical Theology and Christian History
RS 119 Early and Medieval Christianity (4)
RS 120 Reformation Christianity (4)
RS 121 Modern Christianity (4)
RS 122 Contemporary Christianity – 20th Century (4)
RS 123 American Christianity (4)
RS 133 / ART 133 Art, Theology and Worship (4)
RS 150 Theological History Seminar (4)
RS 150SS Wealth and Poverty in Christian History (4)
RS 157 History of Christian Mission (4)
RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4)

RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4)

C. World Religions and Christian Mission
RS 122 Contemporary Christianity – 20th Century (4)
RS 137 Christian Encounters with Asian Religions (4) Prerequisite: RS 142
RS 138 Judaism (4)
RS 139 Islam (4)
RS 157 History of Christian Mission (4)
RS 160 Mission and Globalization (4) Prerequisite: RS 159
RS 163 / PHI 163 Philosophy of Religion (4) Prerequisite: PHI 006 or RS 020
RS 165 Religions in Context (topic varies with location) (4)

RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4)
IS 190 Urban Practicum (4)

Students may petition to have up to 8 units from the following list count as RS electives.
AN 150 Cross-Cultural Communications (4)
BIO 197 Biology and Faith (4) (senior standing)
IS 190 Urban Practicum (additional 4 units; Urban San Francisco)
IS 194 Independent Study or RS 117 The Emergent Church (4; Urban San Francisco)
MU 122 Music in the Worshipping Church (4)
PO 140 Christianity and Politics (4)
PSY 175 Psychology of Religion (4)
SOE 120 Religion and Society (4)
SOE 121 New Religious Movements (4)

Requirements for a Minor: 20 units
RS 151 History of World Christianity (4) GE Thinking Historically and Thinking Globally
Additional Hebrew, Greek or RS upper-division electives except RS 180 and RS 190 (16)

4. Course Descriptions

Lower-Division Course Descriptions

GRK 001, 002 Elementary Greek I, II (4, 4) Basic grammar and beginning reading in the Greek New Testament.

HB 001, 002 Elementary Hebrew I, II (4, 4) Basic grammar and beginning reading in the Hebrew Old Testament. Offered odd years (e.g., 2009-10).


RS 001H Introduction to Old Testament: Honors (4) By invitation only. A survey of the Old Testament with special attention to ancient Near Eastern context, Israelite history, literary forms, and theological contents, with more advanced readings and more discussion, research, and writing than in RS 001.


RS 020 Introduction to Christian Doctrine (4) Thematic examination of biblical doctrines, including God, Christ, Holy Spirit, humanity, redemption, the Church, revelation, last things; consideration of their historical development and contemporary meaning.

Upper-Division Course Descriptions


GRK 151 Advanced Greek Reading (4) selected reading from the New Testament and other literature of the period. Offered by petition.

RS 100 Foundations of Spiritual Formation (4) (GE Integrating the Major Discipline) An exploration of the disciplines of the Christian spiritual life. Readings in classical and contemporary literature on spirituality, especially spiritual autobiographies.


RS 103 Christian Apologetics (4) An exploration into the relation of Christian faith and reason, God’s existence, the problem of evil, the possibility of miracles, the historicity of the Resurrection, and the intelligibility of the Trinity and the Incarnation.

RS 104 Topics in Old Testament Studies (4) Prerequisite: RS 001. Introduces students to advanced issues and research methods in Old Testament studies. The topic will be announced in advance.

RS 106 The Old Testament in Ancient Near Eastern Context (4) Prerequisite: RS 001. A study of the Old Testament in the light of the history and literature of the ancient Near East, with an emphasis on Egyptian, Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Hittite, and Ugaritic myths, epics, legends, historical texts, and wisdom literature in English translation. In addition, an examination of the methodological and theological issues raised by the similarities and dissimilarities between biblical and extra-biblical literature.

RS 108 Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament (4) Prerequisite: RS 001. A study of prophets and prophecy in ancient Israel concentrating on the prophet’s role in society, forms of prophetic speech, historical background, and theological perspectives.

RS 110 Jesus in the Gospels (4) Prerequisite: RS 010. Careful study of Jesus in canonical, historical and cultural contexts with attention to his aims and message.

RS 111 Paul and His Legacy (4) Prerequisite: RS 010. Survey of Paul’s life and letters. Attention to historical context, theological themes, practical questions, and Paul’s continuing impact on early and contemporary Christianity.


RS 116 The Apocalypse (4) Prerequisite: RS 010. A study of the NT book of Revelation in the context of biblical and Second Temple apocalyptic literature with attention to literary conventions, symbolism, theology, historical context and contemporary relevance.

RS 119 Early and Medieval Christianity – 100–1450 (4) The historical and theological development of the church, with particular emphasis given to the doctrines of the Trinity, Christology, and ecclesiology.

RS 120 Reformation Christianity – 1450–1650 (4) Examination of the Protestant Reformers (e.g., Luther, Calvin, Anabaptists) with emphasis on their reaction to scholasticism, Roman Catholicism, and the trends they set for theology.

RS 121 Modern Christianity – 1650–1914 (4) Analysis of problems confronting traditional Christian faith, as formulated in the Enlightenment and by philosophers/theologians including Hume, Kant, Schleiermacher, Hegel, Ritschl, and Harnack, and the rise of evangelicalism (e.g., the Pietist and Methodist Movements).

RS 122 Contemporary Christianity – 20th Century (4) Analysis of prominent theologians including Barth, Brunner, Bultmann, Tillich, and Moltmann, with particular interest given to the questions which their theologies have posed for American evangelicals, and of the growth of Christianity in the Southern Hemisphere.

RS 123 American Christianity (4) The historical and theological development of Christianity in America, with special emphasis given to the roots and development of evangelicalism in America.


RS 125 Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020. A sustained exploration of the global enterprise of Christian theology as rooted in scripture and reflecting on the life of the church, conducted from an evangelical perspective and drawing on major theological methods, concerns, projects, thinkers, and contexts.

RS 126 Topical Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020. Explores a topic or locus of sustained Christian theological reflection, such as the doctrines of revelation, God, creation, humanity, sin, reconciliation, church, and eschatology.

RS 127 Catechetical Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020. Explores the Christian faith as articulated and passed on through one or more major texts of the Christian catechism, such as the Apostles’ Creed and other confessions, the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the practices of the worshipping church.

RS 129 Interdisciplinary Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020. Explores one or more specific movements and issues at the intersection of theology and other disciplines of the humanities and sciences.

RS 130 / PHI 130 Philosophical Theology (4) Prerequisites: PHI 006 and RS 020. Analysis of God’s attributes (omniscience, immutability, eternality); the relation of time to eternity; the Trinity; God’s foreknowledge and human freedom; morality and God’s will; the logic of the Incarnation.

RS 131: Theology Seminar (4) Prerequisite: RS 020. Focused study of an issue, person, or movement not covered by other courses.

RS 133 / ART 133 Art, Theology and Worship (4) A study of the arts in Christian worship with a particular emphasis on the visual arts. Within a broadly historical framework, this course invites students to consider the roles that the arts have played in worship, to
understand the range of theological and doctrinal understandings that have been used to interpret and support their use, and to become sensitive to the social and economic circumstances that are also involved.

RS 137 Christian Encounters with Asian Religions (4) Prerequisite: RS 142. The ways Christians and the Christian message engage Asian religious traditions (e.g., Hinduism, Buddhism), highlighting cultural, social, and theological topics.

RS 138 Judaism (4) This course introduces the history, texts, practices, and legacy of Judaism from the biblical period to the present, with special attention to issues at the intersection of Jewish and Christian faith.

RS 139 Islam (4) Introduces the rise and expansion of Islam from the 7th century to the present, its central beliefs, institutions and practices, and its impact on the religious and cultural history of the world. Throughout the course students will compare important elements of Islam with those of Christianity.

RS 142 World Religions (4) This course surveys a variety of world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Judaism, Islam, and Mormonism. Topics include the history of each religion, its beliefs and practices. Throughout the course students will compare important elements of the world religions with those of Christianity.

RS 150 Theological History Seminar (4) Open only to RS majors and minors. Focus on a particular theologian or specific issues in religious history or theology.

RS 150SS Wealth & Poverty Christian History (4) Historical examination of the ways Christians have interpreted, applied, communicated, and struggled with the Christian mandate regarding wealth and poverty. Attention to Jewish (OT) and Greco-Roman backgrounds, New Testament teachings on wealth and poverty, and subsequent interpretations and applications of those teachings in a broad historical development.

RS 151 / HIS 151 History of World Christianity (4) Surveys the history of Christianity from the New Testament to the present in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, and from the colonial period to the present in North America and Latin America. Particular attention will be paid to intellectual, cultural, political, theological, and institutional developments in Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.

RS 154 History of Israel (4) Prerequisite: RS 001. A survey of Israel’s history in the Old Testament period, utilizing historiography, ancient Near Eastern sources, and archaeology in order to understand biblical events.

RS 155 Geography, History and Religions of the Holy Land (4) (Jerusalem University College) Important sites and events in Israel’s history, including religious traditions of Judaism, Islam, and Eastern Christianity.


RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4) Surveys the rise of Rome as the “world empire” and the rise of Christianity as the “world religion” and the paradoxical and intricate relationship between the two (31BCE–476CE). Examines major socio-cultural, political and religious developments of Roman Empire and its coming to terms with Christianity, and the socio-cultural, institutional and theological developments of Christianity and its struggle with and “triumph” over the Empire from the 2nd through the 5th centuries.

RS 159 Missiology (4) An introduction to contemporary biblical and theological understandings of the Christian mission, and theoretical models for implementation of that mission.

RS 160 Mission and Globalization (4) Examines the currents of modernity, late modernity, and globalization, as forces that are reshaping individual, corporate, and national identities, and explores what these social and structural refigurations mean to Christian mission.

RS 163 / PHI 163 Philosophy of Religion (4) Prerequisite: PHI 006 or RS 020. Significance of religious phenomena and the veracity of religious beliefs.

RS 165 Religions in Context (4) Topic varies with off-campus location (e.g., India, Middle East). Focused study of a major religion, exploring theology, traditions and contextual expression.

RS 180 Senior Seminar (4) (GE Integrating the Major Discipline) Prerequisite: senior standing. (Earlier only by petition.) Review and integration of skills in exegesis, hermeneutics, theology and historical analysis, toward the goal of an enduring faith and a missional Christianity. Themes and format will vary from year to year.
**RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum** (4) Prerequisites: RS 001, 010, 020. Field experience with local church, parachurch, or service organizations. Prior arrangement with field personnel and a member of the religious studies department. On-site supervision. Direction and course evaluation by the religious studies department.

**Suggested Four Year Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year One</strong></td>
<td>One of: RS 1, 10 or 20</td>
<td>One of: RS 1, 10, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year Two</strong></td>
<td>One of: RS 1, 10 or 20</td>
<td><strong>RS Core course</strong> (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core: 8 units</strong></td>
<td><strong>RS Core course</strong> (4)</td>
<td>RS elective or Greek 02/Hebrew 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives: 4-8 units</td>
<td>RS elective or Greek 01/Hebrew 01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year Three</strong></td>
<td><strong>RS Core course</strong> (4)</td>
<td>Possible off-campus semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core: 8 units</strong></td>
<td>RS elective or Greek 01/101</td>
<td><strong>RS Core course</strong> (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives: 4-8 units</td>
<td></td>
<td>RS elective or Greek 02/102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year Four</strong></td>
<td><strong>RS Core courses</strong> (8)</td>
<td><strong>Senior Seminar</strong> (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core: 12 units</strong></td>
<td>RS elective or Greek 101/Hebrew 01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives: 4-8 units</td>
<td></td>
<td>RS elective or Greek 102/Hebrew 02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR CHECKLIST

**Units:** 28 **UPPER-DIVISION CORE** (Not including RS 001, RS 010, RS 020)  
**20 ELECTIVES**  
**48 TOTAL** (At least half must be taken at Westmont.)

### Required Major Core: 28 Units, Upper Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Required Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theology</td>
<td>RS 125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Religions</td>
<td>RS 142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of World Christianity</td>
<td>RS 151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missiology</td>
<td>RS 159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Testament</td>
<td>One of: RS 101, RS 102, RS 108, RS 124, RS 154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>RS 180 (taken in senior year; earlier only by petition)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Electives: 20 Units, Upper Division, not already taken in the core.

- RS 122 Contemporary Christianity – 20th Century (4)  
  Prerequisite: RS 151
- RS 123 American Christianity (4) Prerequisite: RS 151
- RS 150 Theological History Seminar (4) Prerequisites: RS 20, RS 151
- RS 130 / PHI 130 Philosophical Theology (4)  
  Prerequisite: PHI 6 & RS 020.
- RS 133 / ART 133 Art, Theology and Worship (4)
- RS 152SS Wealth and Poverty in Christian History (4)
- RS 157 History of Christian Mission (4)
- RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4) Prereq.: RS 010
- RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4)

### A. Biblical Interpretation

- RS 101 Pentateuch (4) Prerequisite: RS 001
- RS 102 Poetic & Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (4)
- RS 104 Topics in Old Testament Studies (4) Prerequisite: RS 001
- RS 106 Old Testament in Ancient Near Eastern Context (4)  
  Prerequisite: RS 001
- RS 108 Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament (4) Prereq: RS 001
- RS 124 Old Testament Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 001
- RS 154 History of Israel (4) Prerequisite: RS 001
- RS 107 New Testament Seminar (4) Prerequisite: RS 010
- RS 110 Jesus in the Gospels (4) Prerequisite: RS 010
- RS 111 Paul and His Legacy (4) Prerequisite: RS 010
- RS 113 The Church in the New Testament (4) Prereq.: RS 010
- RS 114 The World of the New Testament (4) Prereq.: RS 010
- RS 116 The Apocalypse (4) Prerequisite: RS 010

- RS 155 Geography, History and Religions of the Holy Land  
  (Jerusalem University College)
- RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4) Prereq.: RS 010

- HB 001 Elementary Hebrew I (4)
- HB 002 Elementary Hebrew II (4) Prereq.: HB 001
- GRK 001 Elementary Greek I (4)
- GRK 002 Elementary Greek II (4) Prereq.: GRK 001
- GRK 101 Intermediate Greek I (4) Prereq.: GRK 002
- GRK 102 Intermediate Greek II (4) Prereq.: GRK 101
- GRK 151 Advanced Greek Reading (4) (by petition)

- RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4)

### B. Theology and Christian History

- RS 100 Foundations of Spiritual Formation (4)
- RS 103 Christian Apologetics (4) Prerequisite: RS 020
- RS 126 Topical Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020
- RS 127 Catechetical Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020
- RS 129 Interdisciplinary Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020
- RS 131 Theology Seminar (4) Prerequisite: RS 020

- RS 119 Early and Medieval Christianity (4) Prerequisite: RS 151
- RS 120 Reformation Christianity (4) Prerequisite: RS 151
- RS 121 Modern Christianity (4) Prerequisite: RS 151

### C. World Religions and Christian Mission

- RS 122 Contemporary Christianity – 20th Century (4)
- RS 123 American Christianity (4) Prerequisite: RS 151
- RS 150 Theological History Seminar (4) Prerequisites: RS 20, RS 151

- RS 130 / PHI 130 Philosophical Theology (4)  
  Prerequisite: PHI 6 & RS 020.
- RS 133 / ART 133 Art, Theology and Worship (4)
- RS 152SS Wealth and Poverty in Christian History (4)
- RS 157 History of Christian Mission (4)
- RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4) Prereq.: RS 010
- RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4)

Students may petition to have up to 8 units from the following list count as major electives.

- AN 150 Cross-Cultural Communications (4)
- BIO 197 Biology and Faith (4) (seniors only)
- IS 190 Urban Practicum (additional 4 units; Urban)
- IS 194 Independent Study or RS 117 Emergent Church (4; Urban)
- MU 122 Music in the Worshipping Church (4)
- PO 140 Christianity and Politics (4)
- PSY 175 Psychology of Religion (4)
- SOC 120 Religion and Society (4)
- SOC 121 New Religious Movements (4)