General Education Submission Form

Electronic submissions are preferred.

A. GE component for which course is being proposed: Integrating the major discipline and Writing intensive for the major

B. Submitted by Caryn Reeder

C. Ideally, submissions should be discussed by the entire department prior to submittal.
   ■ Chair has reviewed and approved the course.

D. Course being proposed (please attach syllabus): RS 107, Biblical Interpretation.
   Note: The syllabus schedule is subject to change, particularly as the course plan takes shape in conjunction with Telford Work’s RS 131 class.

E. This course
   ■ Has not been modified, but is being submitted to check its suitability
   ■ Has had its syllabus rewritten to communicate the course’s contribution to GE
   ■ Has had its contents modified to address the relevant GE issues
   ■ Is a new course designed to fulfill the GE requirement

F. This course is being submitted as
   ■ A Template. Applicable to courses with multiple sections which require only general training in the discipline. The submission should come with the approval of the department chair and should clearly identify what course content and what elements of the syllabus the department has agreed will be common to all sections. Upon approval by the GE Committee, any course whose syllabus is determined by the department to meet the specifications of the template is approved to satisfy this area requirement. A copy of each syllabus should be forwarded to the G.E. committee for record keeping purposes.

   ■ An Individual Course. Applicable to courses requiring specialized training in the discipline or are typically offered by a particular instructor. The course should be resubmitted and reassessed in the event of a change in staffing or syllabus.

G. Brief statement of rationale:
   Writing intensive within the major: The writing assignments for this course require honing writing skills in different areas (personal response essays, summaries of research, and original academic writing). The assignments will receive feedback throughout the semester from the instructor and other students.
   - Personal response essays: Five essays, each 2-3 pages, ask students to reflect on the implications of the readings.
   - Exegetical worksheets: Four sets of exegetical worksheets will ask students to examine particular questions and issues relevant for each text studied (2-3 pages each).
   - Major research project: The major research project proceeds through several stages of research and feedback from the professor, including a
personal introductory essay (2-3 pages), a report of research (2-3 pages) followed by a personal meeting with the instructor, a rough draft reviewed by a peer, a final paper (12-15 pages), and a sermon based on research that expands its implications for the church (3-5 pages).

**Integrating the major:** This class in and of itself requires students to bring together all that they have learned in the course of the major. Biblical interpretation requires knowledge of the contents, literary style, and historical contexts of the Bible. Engaging with biblical interpretation requires knowing the history of the church, its view of scripture, and its use of scripture. In class and in their personal research projects, students will draw on the knowledge and skills of the preceding four years to practice the act of reading the Bible together.

RS 107 will be held in conjunction with Telford Work’s RS 131, Biblical Theological Interpretation. The joint meeting will help students see the connections between the divided fields of biblical and theological study, progress towards a helpful rejoining of the two, and learn and engage in a fuller repertoire of reading skills.

Finally, in this class we will practice reading scripture together as the church, seeking understanding of the biblical text as revelatory communication from God. This reading necessarily involves reflection on the place of the Bible in the life of the church; we will particularly explore our common life as a community of faith at Westmont College and beyond as the proper arena for reading and living scripture.