General Education Submission Form

Electronic submissions are preferred.

A. GE component for which course is being proposed: Integrating the Major Discipline

B. Submitted by Telford Work

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

D. Course being proposed (please attach syllabus): Theological Interpretation
   Syllabus is on-line at: http://www.westmont.edu/~work/classes/rs131/spr2009/

E. This course
   [ ] Has not been modified, but is being submitted to check its suitability
   [x] Has had its syllabus rewritten to communicate the course’s contribution to GE
   [x] 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
   [x] 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 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:

The course topic is the theological interpretation of the Bible, with specific attention to selected biblical texts. By its very nature, this topic draws on biblical studies (in the textual and contextual study of Old and New Testaments), theological history (in the history of exegesis, which both reflects and drives historical theology and church history), systematic theology (in the theological warrants for and practical and theoretical fruit of treating biblical texts as Holy Scripture, with all that implies about God, revelation, Israel, Jesus, the Church, and the like), and hermeneutics (the study or science of interpretation). Ancillary disciplines that are still important are mission (for cross-cultural translation is an immensely valuable resource in practical hermeneutics and
theological interpretation) and comparative religions (for scriptures play distinct roles in rival traditions, whose differences are not often well appreciated).

In department discussions about the RS major, including program review and assessment discussions, we have regarded the Bible as the common ground and the coherence of the diverse sub-fields that comprise our department and our major, and we are strongly considering a course like this as a capstone that would help our senior majors integrate their major disciplines. The course thus seems like a natural fit for meeting this GE requirement.

The course as structured already meets GE major writing requirements; this would not change.