

Proposed Changes to the Religious Studies Curriculum

Submitted to the Faculty Senate by the Department of Religious Studies

March 11, 2009

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1. Rationale

The Religious Studies department is excited to propose substantial revisions to our major, minor and course offerings. (No changes are proposed for our GE Common Contexts courses.) Since some of these changes may require Senate and/or Faculty approval, we offer the following points as rationale.

1. The current RS curriculum pre-dates almost all of us in the department. We believe **it is time** to rethink, re-imagine and reinvigorate the major. Not surprisingly, our curricular and disciplinary strengths as well as our vision for RS education overlap with, but are not identical to, the strengths and vision of the esteemed colleagues who gave shape to the current offerings. Similarly, today's students have different needs. Our majors are marked by a broad range of interests and passions including zeal for intentional community, a yearning for liturgy and catachesis, a high regard for praxis and experiential education, deep convictions about global poverty, development and earth care, and strong interest in world religions and intercultural relations, especially in Asia. We believe a number of our proposed changes reflect more closely the strengths of today's faculty and the needs of today's students.
2. Last year the department developed a **mission statement** and set of **program goals** (see #6 below). Our proposed changes reflect that year-long conversation and grow out of our mission and goals.
3. **Student feedback**, including spring, 2008 focus groups, encouraged us to incorporate an integrative **capstone course**, to create greater **coherence** within the major and address perceived **dichotomies** (e.g., between theology and Biblical studies), and to encourage **mission** and **practica**. Many of our proposed changes respond to these concerns. (See also #5 below.)
4. We think a capstone course required of all seniors would also be one of the best ways to **embed ongoing assessment**.
5. We want to be more attractive and accessible to students considering a **double major**. The reduction to 48 units may help toward this end.
6. We want to be more attractive and helpful to students contemplating an **RS minor**. The greater flexibility in our proposal will offer greater freedom but will also require students to take *History of World Christianity*, to round out their study in our OT, NT and Theology Common Contexts courses.
7. We want all our majors to be able to study **off-campus** during Mayterm or the regular semester. Running parallel with these revisions are efforts to develop an **off-campus semester program** in the Middle East.
8. We want to offer students **more freedom** to pursue sub-disciplines and specific courses of interest. For example, we want students free to study both Hebrew and Theology.
9. The **number** of RS majors has trended slightly downward in recent years. Preliminary conversations with current students about our proposed direction have met with unqualified enthusiasm.
10. The current core includes 12 (out of 32) units of **unrestricted electives**. We think free electives belong outside the core.
11. The need for RS GE sections can make it difficult to support student needs in the current "track" model. The greater flexibility of "concentrations" will **reduce the need for student petitions** for course substitutions.
12. It is not clear that some of the courses currently required for our **Christian Mission/Urban Track** support our goals for an RS major. The proposed move from tracks to concentrations will help to insure that all approved electives directly support the goals of the major.

2. Summary of Proposed Changes

This proposed Religious Studies curriculum reflects a number of substantial changes from the current RS program. The following summary highlights most of them.

1. reduction from 52 to 48 hours (excluding lower-division Common Contexts courses: RS1, RS10 and RS20)
2. reduced flexibility in the 28-unit core (5 required courses plus 2 limited OT and NT electives)
3. elimination of five *required* "tracks" outside the core
4. creation of three *suggested* "concentrations" outside the core allowing greater freedom
5. greater emphasis upon mission, internship and practicum

6. new senior capstone course required of all majors in senior year (to satisfy *Comp & Comp Action C.: Integrating the Major Discipline*)
7. more flexibility in 20-unit minor; now only one required course
8. relocated / renamed course in Old Testament
 - RS 104 changed from *Topics in Biblical Studies* to *Topics in Old Testament Studies*
9. reconfigured course offerings in New Testament:
 - RS 110 *The Life and Teachings of Jesus* to *Jesus in the Gospels* (now includes John's Gospel)
 - RS 111 *Pauline Literature* renamed *Paul and His Legacy* (no change in content)
 - RS 112 *General Epistles* eliminated (some content treated in RS 113)
 - RS 113 from *NT Theology and Ethics* to *The Church in the New Testament* (retains some ethical/theological themes of original course but now organized around NT ecclesiology)
 - RS 114 from *New Testament World* to *The World of the New Testament* (no change in content)
 - RS 116 from *Johannine Literature* to *The Apocalypse* (focuses on Revelation in biblical/cultural context)
 - RS 107 changed from *Biblical Interpretation* to *New Testament Seminar* (will cover both on-campus topics courses and off-campus electives)
10. reconfigured course offerings in Theology
 - new course: RS 125 *Theology* (required introduction to the discipline of theology for majors)
 - topical Systematic Theology courses RS 126, 127, 128, 129 eliminated, replaced by RS 1XX *Topical Theology*
 - new courses: RS 1XX *Interdisciplinary Theology* and RS 1XX *Catechetical Theology*
11. reconfigured course offerings in Mission and Religions
 - RS 136 and RS 137 combined to create RS1XX *Christian Encounters with Asian Religions*
 - RS 144 *Theory and Nature of Religion* eliminated
 - RS 165 *Christianity and Existentialism* eliminated
 - RS 159 *Theological Foundation of Mission* renamed *Missiology*
 - new course: RS 1XX *Mission and Globalization*

3. Proposed Program and Course Requirements

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Professors B. Fisk (chair), W. Nelson, C. Whiteman
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 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 San Francisco, the Middle East and Asia. 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 very well prepared for the best seminary programs in the country. 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) Prerequisite: RS 020.
- RS 142 World Religions (4) (GE *Thinking Globally*)
- RS 151 History of World Christianity (4) (GE *Thinking Historically* and *Thinking Globally*)
- RS 159 Missiology (4)
- RS 1XX RS Senior Seminar (4) (to be taken in senior year; earlier only by petition)

Old Testament: *one of the following* (4) Prerequisite: RS 001.

RS 101 Pentateuch (4)

RS 102 Poetic & Wisdom Lit (4)

RS 108 Prophetic Lit (4)

RS 124 Old Testament Theology (4)

RS 154 History of Israel (4)

New Testament: *one of the following* (4) Prerequisite: RS 010.

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)

Electives: 20 additional units

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

A. Biblical Interpretation (any five courses from the following list)

Old Testament

RS 101 Pentateuch (4)

RS 102 Poetic & 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 New Testament Seminar (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)

Biblical Contexts

RS 106 The Old Testament in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context (4)

RS 114 The World of the New Testament (4)

RS 155 Geography, History and Religions of the Holy Land (off-campus: JUC)

RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4)

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 (any five courses from the following list)

Systematic Theology

RS 1XX Topical Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020.

RS 1XX Interdisciplinary Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020.

RS 1XX Catechetical Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020.

RS 100 Foundations of Spiritual Formation (4)

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 125 Contemporary World Theologies (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 (any five courses from the following list)

RS 137 Christian Encounters with Asian Religions (4) Prerequisite: RS 142
RS 138 Judaism (4)
RS 139 Islam (4)
RS 163/PHI 163 Philosophy of Religion (4) Prerequisite: PHI 006 or RS 020.
RS 1XX Religions in Context (topics vary with location; India, Turkey, Middle East) (4)
RS 157 History of Christian Mission (4)
RS 1XX Mission and Globalization (4)

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

Subject to department chair approval, one of the following courses may count as an RS elective.

AN 001 Introduction to Anthropology (4)
AN 150 Cross-Cultural Communications (4)
ART 133 Art, Theology and Worship (4)
BIO 197 Biology and Faith (4) (seniors only)
IS 190 Urban Practicum (additional 4 units by petition)
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)

Requirements for a Minor: 20 units

RS 151 History of World Christianity (4) (satisfies *Thinking Historically* and *Thinking Globally* GE requirement)
Additional Hebrew, Greek or RS electives (16)

4. Course Descriptions

Greek

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

GRK 101, 102 Intermediate Greek I, II (4, 4) Prerequisite: GRK 002. Extensive reading in Greek New Testament, vocabulary building, textual criticism, exegetical method.

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

Hebrew

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).

Old Testament

RS 001 Life and Literature of the Old Testament (4) A survey of the Old Testament with special attention to ancient Near Eastern context, Israelite history, literary forms, and theological contents.

RS 001H Life and Literature of the 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 101 Pentateuch (4) Prerequisite: RS 001. A study of the formation of Israel as a people under God's initiative: prehistory, patriarchs, exodus, wilderness, and Sinai. Emphasis on history, literature, and theology.

RS 102 The Poetic and Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (4) Prerequisite: RS 001. A study of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs focusing on comparative literature, literary forms, settings in Israelite society, and theological themes.

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 Its 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 extrabiblical 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 124 Old Testament Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 001. Ancient Israel's faith: historical context and relevance for the church. Consideration of methodology, names and nature of God, covenants, and relation between the Testaments.

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.

New Testament

RS 010 Life and Literature of the New Testament (4) Survey of the New Testament in the historical and cultural context of the Graeco-Roman world. Special attention to literary forms and theological contents.

RS 107 New Testament Seminar (4) Prerequisite: RS 010. Detailed exploration of critical issues and questions in New Testament studies. Topics announced in advance.

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 113 The Church in the New Testament (4) Prerequisite: RS 010. Study of the developing theology and praxis of the early church as seen in the New Testament.

RS 114 The World of the New Testament (4) Prerequisites: RS 001 and RS 010. A study of the historical context of the New Testament with reference to the texts, cultures, and religions of the Mediterranean world.

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

Systematic Theology

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.

RS1xx 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.

RS1xx 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.

RS1xx 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 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.

RS131: Seminar in Theology (4) Prerequisite: RS 020. Focuses on an issue, person, or movement not covered by other courses.

Historical Theology and Christian History

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 philosopher/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 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, as selected by the professor.

RS 150SS Wealth & Poverty Christian History (4) This course examines through history the ways in which Christians interpreted, applied, communicated, and struggled with what they thought they understood as the Christian principle and mandate regarding wealth and poverty. The issues involving wealth and poverty have presented Christians both a challenge and an opportunity of “being in the world but not of the world.” The course will first proceed with Jewish (OT) and Greco-Roman backgrounds of early Christian teachings on wealth and poverty and focus on the New Testament teachings; it will then treat the subsequent interpretations and applications of those teachings in a broad historical development.

RS/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 152 The History of Christian Worship (2) A study of the historical development of Christian worship practices. Building upon an understanding of the biblical foundations and theology of worship, a variety of worship practices will be observed in their European contexts, focusing upon liturgical formats, and observance of the sacraments, worship environments, and the employment of music, art, and architecture.

RS 157 History of Christian Mission (4) See below under **Religion and Mission**.

RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4) This course 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). The course examines the major socio-cultural, political and religious developments of Roman Empire and its interaction and “coming to terms” with Christianity on the one hand, and the socio-cultural, institutional and theological developments of Christianity and its struggle with and “triumph” over the Empire on the other. While giving a proper attention to the rise of the Augustan Empire in the first century as an introduction, the course will focus on the period from the second through the fifth centuries.

Religion and Mission

RS 100 Foundations of Spiritual Formation (4) 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 130/PHI 130 Philosophical Theology (4) Prerequisites: PHI 006 and RS 020. Analysis of God's attributes (omniscience, immutability, eternity); 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 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) This course will introduce the rise and expansion of Islam from the seventh 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 155 Geography, History and Religions of the Holy Land (4) (Europe Semester) Important sites and events in Israel's history, including religious traditions of Judaism, Islam, and Eastern Christianity.

RS 157 History of Christian Mission (4) See below under Religion and Mission. The past history and present conditions in Christian mission.

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

RS 1XX Religions in Context (4) Topics vary with off-campus location (e.g., India, Turkey, Middle East). COURSE DESCRIPTION NEEDED.

RS 1XX 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 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4) 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.

5. Four Year Plan

Religious Studies Major Four-Year Plan		
Year One	One of: RS 1, 10 or 20	One of: RS 1, 10, 20
Year Two Core: 8 units Electives: 4-8 units	One of: RS 1, 10 or 20 History of World Christianity RS elective or Greek 01/Hebrew 01	RS 125 Theology RS elective or Greek 02/Hebrew 02
Year Three Core: 8 units Electives: 4-8 units	Core OT/NT elective RS elective or Greek 01/101	Possible off-campus semester Core OT/NT elective RS elective or Greek 02/102
Year Four Core: 12 units Electives: 4-8 units	World Religions RS elective or Greek 101/Hebrew 01	Senior Seminar Missiology RS elective or Greek 102/Hebrew 02

6. Religious Studies Mission Statement and Program Goals (adopted by department: spring, 2008)

Mission Statement

The Religious Studies major at Westmont College offers the coursework, conversations, and experiences students need to gain competence in the study, understanding, and articulation of the Christian tradition in lively conversation with other traditions.

To that end, the Religious Studies major guides students:

- toward biblical literacy and growing skill in biblical interpretation enriched by interdisciplinary approaches and appropriately critical engagement with the history of interpretation;
- toward theological literacy and sound theological judgment marked by the ability to articulate clear and relevant theological convictions;
- toward familiarity with forms of Christianity worldwide with attention to historical and local identities of the Church in their social and cultural contexts; and
- toward strong faith in Jesus Christ and orthodox theology marked by a thoughtful and sustained commitment to the life of the Christian community and the disciplines and virtues that life requires.

Program Goals

Hermeneutical competence: Our graduates will be able to apply a range of skills in the interpretation of biblical and other religious literature.

- They will employ close reading skills with regard to primary sources: observation; inquiry; attention to genre, context, intertextuality, and literary influence; awareness of their own assumptions and cultural biases; awareness of audience(s) and effect on readers.
- They will display judicious use of scholarly resources (e.g., language tools, commentaries, monographs, journals, dictionaries, encyclopedias, electronic databases, library holdings, inter-library loan, web-based tools). They will acknowledge dependence and influence through appropriate notes and bibliography.
- They will appropriate a range of critical methodologies (e.g., historical, literary, textual, rhetorical, socio-cultural), draw on insights across the range of relevant disciplines (e.g., linguistics; anthropology; sociology; philosophy; archaeology), and recognize the insights and pitfalls of various ideological approaches (e.g., post-colonial, feminist, Marxist).

Theological judgment: Our graduates will understand the fundamental claims and logic of the Christian faith, appreciate the development of Christian theological traditions over time, and be able to think theologically.

- They will faithfully interpret texts including the Bible and other primary sources in the worldwide Christian tradition.
- They will fairly evaluate the theological claims of secondary sources and current voices within and outside the Christian tradition.
- They will thoughtfully address intellectual and practical issues involving both narrowly theological matters and concerns in other disciplines.
- They will be acquainted with, and increasingly formed in, the practices that Christian theology serves including worship, fellowship, mission, study (especially of the Bible), and ethical conduct.

Ecclesial engagement: Our graduates will be marked by a passionate commitment to the Christian church and its mission.

- They will increasingly recognize connections between personal faith, scholarly inquiry, and the shared life of God's people in the world past and present.
- They will sense no conflict between rigorous intellectual inquiry, faithful service, and passionate worship.
- They will establish lifelong disciplines marked by theological reflection, Christ-like compassion, and robust engagement in the public square.

7. RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR CHECKLIST

Student's Name _____ ID Number _____

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

Required Major Core: 28 Units, Upper Division

Theology	_____	RS-125
World Religions	_____	RS-142
History of World Christianity	_____	RS-151
Missiology	_____	RS-159
Old Testament	_____	(one of: RS-101,-102,-108,-124,-154)
New Testament	_____	(one of: RS-110,-111,-113,-116)
Senior Seminar	_____	RS-1XX (to be taken in senior year; earlier only by petition)

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

Students are encouraged, not required, to choose electives from one of the following three concentrations.

A. Biblical Interpretation Prerequisites: RS 001, 010

RS 101 Pentateuch (4)
RS 102 Poetic & Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (4)
RS 106 Old Testament in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context (4)
RS 108 Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament (4)
RS 124 Old Testament Theology (4)
RS 154 History of Israel (4)
RS 107 New Testament Seminar (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 114 The World of the New Testament (4)
RS 116 The Apocalypse (4)
RS 155 Geography, History and Religions of the Holy Land (off-campus)
RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4)

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 History Prerequisites: RS 020, RS 151

RS 100 Foundations of Spiritual Formation (4)
RS 1XX Topical Theology (4)
RS 1XX Interdisciplinary Theology (4)
RS 1XX Catechetical Theology (4)
RS 125 Theology (4)
RS 131 Theology Seminar (4)
RS 103 Christian Apologetics (4)
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 130/PHI 130 Philosophical Theol (4) Prereq: PHI 6 & RS 020.

RS 150 Theological History Seminar (4)
RS 152SS Wealth and Poverty in Christian History (4)
RS 158 Christianity and the Roman Empire (4)
ART 133 Art, Theology and Worship (4)

RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4)

C. World Religions and Christian Mission

RS 137 Christian Encounters with Asian Religions (4)
Prerequisite: RS 142
RS 138 Judaism (4)
RS 139 Islam (4)
RS 163/PHI 163 Philosophy of Religion (4) Prerequisite: PHI 6 or RS 20
RS 1XX Religions in Context (topics vary with location; India, Turkey, Middle East) (4)
RS 157 History of Christian Mission (4)
RS 1XX Mission and Globalization (4)
RS 190 Religious Studies Practicum (4)

Subject to department chair approval, students may count one of the following courses from outside the major.

AN 001 Introduction to Anthropology (4)
AN 150 Cross-Cultural Communications (4)
BIO 197 Biology and Faith (4) (seniors only)
IS 190 Urban Practicum (4; 8 units by petition)
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)