
Religion-Philosophy

Professors Reed (chair) and Watts; Associate Professor Lang; Lecturer Namminga

Mission Statement

The mission of the Religion-Philosophy Department at Jamestown College is to promote the significance of Christian faith and thought for all areas of life and to provide students with a sound educational foundation in the fields of religion and philosophy.

A grade of C or above must be earned in all courses that are required in a major or a minor.

Requirements for the Religion-Philosophy Major

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Credits
Rel	211	Old Testament	3
Rel	212	New Testament	3
Rel	362	Christian Beliefs	3
Rel	296/396 or 297/397	A study of selected texts of the Bible, approved by the department chair	3
Semester Credits			12
Phil	252	Ethics	3
Select three from:			
Phil	303	Classical Philosophy	3
Phil	305	Medieval Philosophy	3
Phil	306	Modern Philosophy	3
Phil	307	Recent and Contemporary Philosophy	3
Semester Credits			12
Rel/Phil	Elective courses chosen in consultation with the department chair		12
Semester Credits			12
Total Semester Credits			36

Recommended Courses

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Credits
Rel	371	World Religions	3
Flan	At least one year of a foreign language		

Requirements for the Religion Minor

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Credits
Rel	211	Old Testament	3
Rel	212	New Testament	3
Rel	362	Christian Beliefs	3
Rel	Electives		9
Total Semester Credits			18

Requirements for the Christian Ministry Minor

One from the following four courses:

Comm	101	Introductory Communication Course	
Comm	102 or 201	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
Comm	201	Oral Interpretation	
Rel	211	Old Testament	3
Rel	212	New Testament	3

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Rel	315	Christian Traditions	3
Rel	319	Introduction to Christian Ministry	3
Rel	362	Christian Beliefs	3
Rel	415	Field Experience	3
Total Semester Credits			21

Requirements for the Philosophy Minor

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Credits
Phil	252	Ethics	3

Select two from:

Phil	303	Classical Philosophy	3
Phil	305	Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	3
Phil	306	Modern Philosophy	3
Phil	307	Recent and Contemporary Philosophy	3
Semester Credits			6

Phil		Electives	9
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Total Semester Credits **18**

Course Descriptions

RELIGION (REL)

211-3 Old Testament

A study of the origins and transmission of the Old Testament writings in their historical, religious, and cultural contexts. The messages of these books for their original readers will be examined for their continuing significance for today.

212-3 New Testament

A study of the origins and transmission of the New Testament writings in their historical, religious, and cultural contexts. The messages of these books for their original readers will be examined for their continuing significance for today.

220-3 Psalms

A study of the content, themes, genres, and messages of the book of Psalms. Consideration will be given to the historical and cultural backgrounds that are reflected within the texts. Modern methods for the study of the Psalms will be used to determine the messages of these Psalms when first written and to reflect on their continuing significance for today.

222-3 Short Stories of the Old Testament

A study of a selection of short stories found in the Old Testament, such as Samson, the birth of Samuel, and David and Bathsheba, as well as short books of the Old Testament, such as Jonah, Ruth, and Esther. Attention will be given to how the stories are entertaining, realistic reflections of everyday life with moral and religious significance.

224-3 Life and Teachings of Jesus

This course will examine the various ways that the life and teachings of Jesus are depicted in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Students will be introduced to literary and historical methods used by modern scholars to study the literary aspects of the gospels as well as the historical details related to the life of Jesus. Attention will be given to the various ways that Jesus has been understood and interpreted in the Gospels and to how the Gospels continue to provide nourishment and challenge to modern day readers.

226-3 Paul's Letters to Corinth

A study of Paul's letters to the Christian church that he founded at Corinth. Attention will be given to the nature and background of the church at Corinth and to the struggles it was undergoing

as well as to how Paul's letters provided guidance, direction and challenge to the community there. Paul's understanding of the Christian faith has practical implications for life in this early first century church and has some analogous implications for contemporary concerns.

228-3 Parables

A study of the parables of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Attention will be given to the literary characteristics of these texts as well as to the historical and cultural contexts that shaped them. Consideration will be given to how the parables functioned within the ministry of Jesus and the early church as well as to their continued relevance for today.

230-3 The Spiritual Life

This course investigates the practice and significance of Christian spirituality in the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. Students will read and discuss classic spiritual texts in the Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox traditions.

301-3 New Testament Greek I (Beginning)

An introduction to the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of the Koine Greek of the New Testament.

302-3 New Testament Greek II (Beginning)

A continuation of Rel 301.

304-3 Philosophy of Religion

An examination of the classical arguments for the existence of God, the seeking of a definition for religion, and the exploration of the thoughts of several philosophers about religion. Special attention is given to the problem of evil. Same as Phil 304. *Offered every two years*

305-3 Ancient Near East

The history and civilization of the various peoples and cultures of the Ancient Near East from prehistoric to Hellenistic times. This will include groups in Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia. Special attention will be given to how practices, beliefs, and ideas that originated

in the Ancient Near East influenced and shaped Jewish and Christian thought as well as Western civilization. Same as Hist 305. *Offered every other year*

315-3 Christian Traditions

A survey of the differences in theology and polity of the major Christian traditions/denominations (e.g., Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Baptist, etc.), particularly as to how those differences influence the practical and daily ministry of the church. Ministers from various traditions represented in the local community will participate. Each student will have the opportunity to engage in a class project related to his/her particular tradition.

316-3 Religion in American History

An examination of the history of religion in America and the role religion has played in the development of American culture. Emphasis is placed on the development of major American denominations, on non-Christian religions, and on the relationship of religion and politics in America. Same as Hist 316.

319-3 Introduction to Christian Ministry

A survey and discussion of various approaches to different forms of ministry in the Church: adult, youth, children, small group, hospital visitation, etc. Ministers from the local community with experience in various areas of ministry will participate. Each student will have an opportunity to engage in a class project in his or her area of interest.

320-3 Reformation

A survey and analysis of the European Reformation during the 16th century. An examination of the life and teachings of various Protestant reformers such as Luther, Calvin, Cranmer, Muntzer, and Menno Simmons as well as Roman Catholic reformers such as Erasmus, Savonarola, and Ignatius of Loyola. A survey of various Christian groups and movements that arose during this time such as Anabaptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Jesuits will also be given. The influence of the period of time for the contemporary understanding of the Christian faith will be addressed.

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362-3 Christian Beliefs

An examination of the teachings of classical Christianity—the beliefs that have been held in common by most Christians throughout the centuries. *Offered every two years*

371-3 World Religions

An introduction to major world religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and others. Each religion will be studied within its historical context and attention will be given to central concerns of each religion. *Offered every other year*

415-3 Field Education

A course designed to help familiarize the student with the daily practical world of ministry in the local church. Students will work under the supervision of a minister in a local community and a member of the Religion/Philosophy department. Prerequisite: Rel 319 or permission from the department chair. *Note:* This course does not fulfill the general education requirement in religion.

196-2-3

296-2-3

396-2-3 Selected Texts of the Old Testament

An opportunity to examine selected texts and themes of the Old Testament.

197-2-3

297-2-3

397-2-3 Selected Texts of the New Testament

An opportunity to examine selected texts and themes of the New Testament.

290-3

390-3 Issues in Religion

A study of the basic works of a prominent theologian or movement or the study of a specialized theme within the field of religion. Topics will vary from offering to offering and will be announced in the class schedule. *Offered occasionally*

200-2-3

300-2-3

400-2-3 Directed Studies

Prerequisite: At least one year in religion. May not duplicate any regular course in the department without permission from the department chair.

495-2-3 Independent Study

Prerequisite: At least one directed study in religion. May not duplicate any regular course in the department without permission from the department chair.

PHILOSOPHY

(PHIL)

251-3 Introduction to Critical Thinking

An introduction to concepts and methods for understanding and evaluating claims and arguments in everyday life. Attention is given to informal fallacies and to the analysis of deductive and inductive arguments.

252-3 Ethics

A study of the basic problems and chief types of ethical theory and of the rational principles sustaining moral discourse. Sophomore standing required. *Offered every semester*

303-3 Classical Philosophy

An examination of the central themes of western philosophy from their beginnings in the presocratic period through the classical Greek formulations of Plato and Aristotle to the Roman classical period and the writings of the later stoic and neo-platonic philosophers (approx. 800 B.C. to 300 A.D.). *Offered every two years*

304-3 Philosophy of Religion

An examination of the classical arguments for the existence of God, the seeking of a definition for religion, and the exploration of the thoughts of several philosophers about religion. Special attention is given to the problem of evil. Same as Rel 304. *Offered every two years*

305-3 Medieval Philosophy

The examination of medieval philosophical thought from its roots in neoplatonism and the thought of St. Augustine through its scholastic systemization in St. Thomas Aquinas to its beginning transition to modern formulations in the 14th century (approx. 400 A.D. through 1400 A.D.). *Offered every two years*

306-3 Modern Philosophy

The examination of selected philosophical classics from the Renaissance to the early 19th century. *Offered every two years*

307-3 Recent and Contemporary Philosophy

An examination of various philosophical movements of the past century and a half (and today) such as pragmatism, existentialism, and analytic philosophy. *Offered every two years*

351-2-3 Issues in Philosophy

A study of the basic works of a prominent philosopher or movement. The specific topic will change from year to year and will be announced in the class schedule. No prerequisite.

483-3 Philosophy of History

An investigation of the ways in which analytic and speculative thinkers have viewed the nature of history from St. Augustine to contemporary times. Same as Hist 381.

200-2-3

300-2-3

400-2-3 Directed Studies

Prerequisite: At least one year of philosophy. May not duplicate any regular course in the department without permission from the department chair.

495-2-3 Independent Study

Prerequisite: At least one directed study in philosophy. May not duplicate any regular course in the department without permission from the department chair.