

Biblical Studies

Study alongside internationally recognized scholars and mentors in one of the largest and most dynamic Religious Studies departments in North America.

Prepare to be educated, challenged, and transformed by entering the Biblical Studies program at Trinity Western University.

Our students explore Jewish and Christian Scriptures, both historically and theologically, in order to gain an understanding of how these texts have profoundly shaped past and present communities of faith.

Led by our close-knit faculty of committed and active scholars in the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies, our students are encouraged to broaden their understanding of Scripture and to investigate current critical issues within the discipline of Biblical Studies. As our students advance in their studies, they gain a comprehensive understanding of biblical texts.

Our students learn to formulate their own contributions to scholarly conversations, along with the skills to communicate these ideas in a manner that is professional, compelling, and—ultimately—faith affirming.

ID	COURSE	CREDITS
RELS 107	RELS 107 - Doctrine and Disciples 2022-2023 An engagement with the central doctrines and disciplines of Christianity as articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Students will consider an in-depth exposition of the traditional teachings of the Church as handed down in the Nicene Creed, and how these core beliefs shape the central practices of Christian life such as the sacraments, charitable living, and prayer.	3
RELS 111	RELS 111 - Introduction to Old Testament Studies 2022-2023 An introduction to the major divisions of the Old Testament (Pentateuch, Prophets, and Writings), including an orientation to the following areas in the field of Old Testament studies: inspiration, principles of interpretation, canon, text, world of the Old Testament, historical backgrounds, archeology, theology, criticism, literary forms, and apocryphal writings.	3
RELS 112	RELS 112 - Introduction to New Testament Studies 2022-2023 An introduction to the major writings of the New Testament (Synoptic Gospels, Pauline, and Johannine Writings) within their historical, cultural and literary contexts. This is not a survey course, but aims to introduce students to the field of New Testament while also considering its rich theological relevance, paralleling the orientation toward RELS 101.	3

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RELS 160	<p>RELS 160 - Introduction to Theology 2022-2023</p> <p>What do Christians believe about God and what are their grounds for holding these beliefs? Introduction to Christian theology places Christian theology in the broader context of religion and invites students to consider their own beliefs in the context of the broader Christian theological tradition and to explore their relationship to scripture, tradition, experience, and reason. Students are encouraged to consider the importance and relevance of Christian theology in academic and ecclesial contexts with special to spiritual formation.</p>	3
RELS 222	<p>RELS 222 - Israelite Religion 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of the New Testament writings in their historical setting and chronological sequence with the goal of acquiring knowledge of their theological unity and diversity.</p>	3
RELS 224	<p>RELS 224 - New Testament Theology 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of the New Testament writings in their historical setting and chronological sequence with the goal of acquiring knowledge of their theological unity and diversity.</p>	3
RELS 225	<p>RELS 225 - Revelation and Intrepretation 2022-2023</p> <p>An introduction to biblical hermeneutics focusing upon the significance of divine revelation, primarily as represented in the sacred scriptures of the New Covenant. Students will be exposed to general principles of textual interpretation, perspectives from contemporary theological hermeneutics, and several of the historical debates in the reception of biblical texts, particularly surrounding the ecumenical councils of the first eight centuries. Students will also be encouraged to develop a critical awareness of their presuppositions as readers, with an aim of engaging constructively in debates which continue to divide Christians.</p>	3
RELS 235	<p>RELS 235 - Elementary New Testament Greek 2022-2023</p> <p>This course comprises an introduction to Hellenistic (Koiné) Greek that is designed to prepare the student for reading the Greek New Testament with linguistic aptitude, as well as developing a cultural intelligence pertaining to the ancient people and history that gave rise to the biblical text. Students will explore and investigate linguistic theories and ideas related to the script, grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of the Greek New Testament, as well as evaluate and compare differences and similarities that exist between the Ancient Greco-Roman and Jewish cultures and our own contemporary culture.</p>	3
RELS 245	<p>RELS 245 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew 2022-2023</p> <p>An introduction to the grammar and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew, designed to prepare the student for serious study of the Hebrew Bible as an item of both ancient and ongoing cultural, historical, and theological significance.</p>	3
RELS 271	<p>RELS 271 - Western World Religions 2022-2023</p> <p>An analytical and critical study of the phenomena, the conceptual patterns, and the sacred texts of</p>	3

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	<p>some of the major Western religions. Each religion is studied as a total perspective for life, which is embodied in interpersonal and communal life, in cult, and in ideology. This course provides a general introduction to the study of world religions as well as an historical and structural survey of Judaism, Islam, Christianity and new religions in the West. The subject matter is approached from an emic anthropological standpoint—that is, the history, belief and practice of each religious group will be examined in detail, as if the student was living within that religious context.</p>	
RELS 272	<p>RELS 272 - Eastern World Religions 2022-2023</p> <p>An analytical and critical study of the phenomena, the conceptual patterns, and the sacred texts of some of the major Eastern religions. Each religion is studied as a total perspective for life, which is embodied in interpersonal and communal life, in cult, and in ideology.</p>	3
RELS 300	<p>RELS 300 - Princip. of Biblical Interpretation 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of the principles of biblical interpretation used in both the Jewish and Christian traditions, including the application of these methods to the major literary genres of the Bible.</p>	3
RELS 311	<p>RELS 311 - History of Ancient Israel 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of the various eras of the history of the Hebrew people in the Old Testament period, including a survey of attempted historical reconstructions. Attention is given to such features as pre-history, nationalism, government, and social institutions.</p>	3
RELS 320	<p>RELS 320 - Dead Sea Scrolls 2022-2023</p> <p>A survey of the literary, social, cultural, political, and religious contexts of the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) and their role in recovering the historical development of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and early Jewish and Christian identities in antiquity.</p>	3
RELS 329	<p>RELS 329 - Elementary New Testament Greek 2022-2023</p> <p>A continuing study of Koine Greek that is designed to prepare the student for reading the Greek New Testament.</p>	3
RELS 331	<p>RELS 331 - Readings in the Greek New Testament 2022-2023</p> <p>A reading of selected texts from the New Testament, including a study of Greek syntax and an introduction to exegetical methodology.</p>	3
RELS 332	<p>RELS 332 - Readings in the Greek New Testament 2022-2023</p> <p>A reading of selected texts from the New Testament, including a study of Greek syntax and an introduction to exegetical methodology.</p>	3
RELS 336	<p>RELS 336 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew 2022-2023</p> <p>A continuing study of the grammar and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew, designed to prepare the</p>	3

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	student for serious reading and study of the Hebrew Bible.	
RELS 337	RELS 337 - Readings in the Hebrew Bible 2022-2023 A reading of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible, including a study of Hebrew syntax and an introduction to exegetical methodology.	3
RELS 338	RELS 338 - Readings in the Hebrew Bible 2022-2023 A reading of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible, including a study of Hebrew syntax and an introduction to exegetical methodology.	3
RELS 340	RELS 340 - Current Issues in Biblical Theology 2022-2023 An examination of the topics currently being discussed in biblical theology, such as the possibility and methodology of a biblical theology, apocalyptic and eschatology, covenant and election, redemption and freedom, worship, church, the righteousness of God, history, society, law and gospel, faith, canon, life and death, suffering, creation, atonement and reconciliation, sin and guilt, wisdom, and worldview.	3
RELS 341	RELS 341 - The Pentateuch 2022-2023 A study of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible with special reference to introduction, exegesis, and history. Attention is given to their historical and theological significance for both Judaism and Christianity.	3
RELS 342	RELS 342 - Psalms and Wisdom Literature 2022-2023 An introduction to the place, function, and form of the Psalms and wisdom literature within the context of other ancient Near Eastern literature, including an analysis of selected examples such as Job, Ecclesiastes, and Proverbs.	3
RELS 351	RELS 351 - Life and Teaching of Jesus 2022-2023 A study of the life of Jesus through the eyes of the four evangelists, with special reference to Jesus' teaching on God, man, the Kingdom, righteousness, and prayer. An evaluation of the extra-biblical view of the person of Jesus.	3
RELS 352	RELS 352 - Life and Letters of Paul 2022-2023 A study of the world, life, and mission of Paul, including an analysis of the central message of the Pauline epistles in their historical setting and chronological order.	3
RELS 384	RELS 384 - Religion, Contextualization, and Culture Change 2022-2023 A study of the history of contextualization from biblical to modern times, exploring significant models and paradigms of prominent thinkers and evaluating these adaptations and innovations. Also, the social and spiritual dynamics of culture change are examined, with a view to analyzing	3

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	those processes which help to make the Gospel relevant in the constantly changing world in which we live.	
RELS 386	<p>RELS 386 - Global Theologies 2022-2023</p> <p>This course seeks to extend the study of theology to the manner in which non-Western communities of Christians endeavour to shape their world by their faith. Special emphasis is given to examining Christology and Soteriology from a cross-cultural perspective and to the manner by which both Western and non-Western traditions may interact to enrich hermeneutics, missiology, and biblical and systematic theology.</p>	3
RELS 415	<p>RELS 415 - Intertestamental Literature 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of the intertestamental Judaic literature, noting the relationships between this literature and the Old Testament and New Testament and showing how this literature serves as an important background for the study of the New Testament documents.</p>	3
RELS 423	<p>RELS 423 - Apocalyptic Literature 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of the origin, form, and function of apocalyptic literature as well as important motifs and themes.</p>	3
RELS 425	<p>RELS 425 - Pauline Theology 2022-2023</p> <p>A survey of the general contours of Paul's thinking and a closer examination of one particular aspect of his theology, such as the origins of his gospel, the problem of coherence and contingency, his apostleship, his missionary 403 TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY Academic Calendar 2019-20 strategy, his Christology, or the theology of one of his letters.</p>	3
RELS 446	<p>RELS 446 - Hebrew Prophets 2022-2023</p> <p>An introduction to the origin, function, and meaning of the Hebrew prophets through a survey of the prophetic writings of the Hebrew Bible, including a discussion of the relationship to the historical periods in which they were composed and their theological significance within Judaism and Christianity.</p>	3
RELS 448	<p>RELS 448 - Ancient Near East and the Old Testament 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of selected ancient Near Eastern texts and their relevance for the exegesis of the Old Testament.</p>	3
RELS 449	<p>RELS 449 - Old Testament Seminar 2022-2023</p> <p>This course is a study of selected topics that are currently under examination in the field of Old Testament studies.</p>	3
RELS 453	<p>RELS 453 - Synoptic Gospels and Acts 2022-2023</p>	3

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	<p>A study of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, focusing on the gospel form and the message of the individual gospels in their historical context. In addition, the Acts of the Apostles is considered with a view to better understanding the Church's birth and expansion.</p>	
RELS 454	<p>RELS 454 - Writings and Theology of John 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of the historical, literary, and theological aspects of the New Testament documents often categorized in biblical studies as "The Johannine Writings," which comprise the Gospel of John, the Letters of John, and Revelation. Important considerations include their distinctive and collective contributions to the formation of Christian thought and identity in antiquity and today.</p>	3
RELS 456	<p>RELS 456 - New Testament Seminar 2022-2023</p> <p>A study of selected topics that are currently under examination in the field of New Testament studies.</p>	3
RELS 477	<p>RELS 477 - New Testament Canon: Development and Theology 2022-2023</p> <p>Investigates the theological implications of the historical development of the New Testament canon. Stress is laid upon the contextual reading of primary source evidence and its interpretation in important secondary source literature. New Testament canon development is explored as it relates to the Rule of Faith, the early councils, creeds, and the church fathers. These relationships are then investigated with a view toward how they influence our understanding of Scripture in the 21st century.</p>	3