

# Religious Studies

Study the Christian faith in its historical, theological, and cultural dimensions; and explore its capacity to help profoundly impact and shape not only individual lives, but our global community as well.

The Religious Studies program within the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies at Trinity Western University provides students with a comprehensive and transformative education that combines significant components within the related disciplines of Biblical Studies, Christianity and Culture, and Inter-Cultural Studies. Deepen your understanding of how religious faith intersects with virtually every facet of our busy, multi-cultural world.

Discover deep connections between the biblical text and the communities of faith that produced it, the historical development of theology, and the humanizing and liberating influence the Christian faith has world-wide.

This robust program will engage students in the careful and penetrating study of the Christian Scriptures, understanding the theological developments that these ancient texts and their historic interpreters produced, and the global religious dialogue that Christianity contributes to. With a deep commitment to the intellectual and spiritual flourishing of students, internationally respected scholars intentionally foster a challenging and supportive environment that allows for the exploration of the Christian tradition and how it shapes one's worldview. This world-class education also presents students with opportunities for experiential learning in the context of travel studies abroad, mission trips, and student ministries.

ID	COURSE	CREDITS
RELS 107	<b>RELS 107 - Doctrine and Disciples   2022-2023</b>  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	<b>RELS 111 - Introduction to Old Testament Studies   2022-2023</b>  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	<b>RELS 112 - Introduction to New Testament Studies   2022-2023</b>  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	3

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	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.	
RELS 160	<p><b>RELS 160 - Introduction to Theology   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 222 - Israelite Religion   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 224 - New Testament Theology   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 225 - Revelation and Intpretation   2022-2023</b></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 226	<p><b>RELS 226 - Gender and the Bible—Text, Tradition, and Interpretation   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Focuses on issues related to gender (including such topics as the roles and relationships of female and male characters in the Bible) within the contexts of the ancient Near East, Second Temple Judaism, the Greco-Roman world, the Jesus movement and the early Church. Also provides opportunity for the study and critique of the transmission and interpretation of these traditions within the early, medieval, Reformation, and contemporary eras.</p>	3
RELS 235	<p><b>RELS 235 - Elementary New Testament Greek   2022-2023</b></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</p>	3

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	differences and similarities that exist between the Ancient Greco-Roman and Jewish cultures and our own contemporary culture.	
RELS 245	<p><b>RELS 245 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew   2022-2023</b></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 250	<p><b>RELS 250 - New Testament Book Study   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An exegetical study of a selected Old Testament or New Testament book. A New Testament book study is offered every fall (RELS 250) and an Old Testament book study every spring (RELS 240).</p>	3
RELS 261	<p><b>RELS 261 - Holy Spirit, Church, and Last Things   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Every area of human life requires a solid theological foundation, consisting of both an informed understanding of Christian doctrine and the ability to view life through the lens of Christian commitment. By exploring three major foci of systematic theology—the doctrines of the Holy Spirit (pneumatology), the church (ecclesiology), and last things (eschatology)—in the light of Scripture, the theological heritage of the Church, and the contemporary context, this course seeks to develop the student's expertise as a theologically informed Christian for the sake of their life and service to God.</p>	3
RELS 271	<p><b>RELS 271 - Western World Religions   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An analytical and critical study of the phenomena, the conceptual patterns, and the sacred texts of 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>	3
RELS 272	<p><b>RELS 272 - Eastern World Religions   2022-2023</b></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 275	<p><b>RELS 275 - Vatican I to Today   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A critical survey of the teachings of Vatican I, Catholic social thought, Vatican II, Humanae Vitae, and recent papal encyclicals. This course evaluates the Catholic Church's engagement with late modern global society and considers the challenges posed to the Church's ongoing relevance in diverse social contexts.</p>	3

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RELS 285	<p><b>RELS 285 - Introduction to Missions   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course introduces basic concepts in missiology. Foundational notions from Old Testament and New Testament theology of missions are explored. As well, this course considers the rise and development of the missionary movement from apostolic times to the present. Issues arising from applied anthropology as it relates to cross-cultural communication are also developed. Special emphasis is given to discussion of important trends and select strategies in contemporary world mission.</p>	3
RELS 296	<p><b>RELS 296 - Interacting with Western Worldviews   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An evaluation of Christianity's dependence on modernity, the contributions of worldviews that shape our world, contributions of the Enlightenment period, responses of religious pluralism and postmodernism in the quest for a new cosmology as well as Gnosticism in the history of Christian thought, and particularly in the New Age movement and in creation spirituality.</p>	3
RELS 300	<p><b>RELS 300 - Princip. of Biblical Interpretation   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 311 - History of Ancient Israel   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 320 - Dead Sea Scrolls   2022-2023</b></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 322	<p><b>RELS 322 - Tracing the World views in the Biblical Story: A Reformational Perspective   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course explores the beliefs and concepts that shaped the thoughts and actions of biblical authors, how people have viewed their relationship to God and the world during the course of the history of redemption, and world views in the biblical text, as well as the biblical story of redemption and its implications for today.</p>	3
RELS 329	<p><b>RELS 329 - Elementary New Testament Greek   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 331 - Readings in the Greek New Testament   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A reading of selected texts from the New Testament, including a study of Greek syntax and an</p>	3

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	introduction to exegetical methodology.	
RELS 332	<b>RELS 332 - Readings in the Greek New Testament   2022-2023</b> A reading of selected texts from the New Testament, including a study of Greek syntax and an introduction to exegetical methodology.	3
RELS 336	<b>RELS 336 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew   2022-2023</b> A continuing study of the grammar and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew, designed to prepare the student for serious reading and study of the Hebrew Bible.	3
RELS 337	<b>RELS 337 - Readings in the Hebrew Bible   2022-2023</b> A reading of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible, including a study of Hebrew syntax and an introduction to exegetical methodology.	3
RELS 338	<b>RELS 338 - Readings in the Hebrew Bible   2022-2023</b> A reading of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible, including a study of Hebrew syntax and an introduction to exegetical methodology.	3
RELS 340	<b>RELS 340 - Current Issues in Biblical Theology   2022-2023</b> 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	<b>RELS 341 - The Pentateuch   2022-2023</b> 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	<b>RELS 342 - Psalms and Wisdom Literature   2022-2023</b> 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 343	<b>RELS 343 - Issues in Contemporary Culture   2022-2023</b> This course examines a number of significant issues currently under discussion by both academics and thinking people in western culture in the light of key biblical texts relating to them. Issues will include: postmodernism, relativism, pluralism, and cultural diversity, tolerance, truth, euthanasia, stem cell research and the perceived connection between violence and religion.	3

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RELS 350	<p><b>RELS 350 - Biblical Archaeology   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A three-week tour of Israel and/or Greece, for the purpose of studying ancient sites and current excavations relating to biblical studies.</p>	3
RELS 351	<p><b>RELS 351 - Life and Teaching of Jesus   2022-2023</b></p> <p>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.</p>	3
RELS 352	<p><b>RELS 352 - Life and Letters of Paul   2022-2023</b></p> <p>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.</p>	3
RELS 355	<p><b>RELS 355 - Aramaic   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Basic grammar. An introduction to Aramaic literature by reading passages of the Aramaic sections of Daniel and Ezra and selections from post-biblical Aramaic.</p>	3
RELS 360	<p><b>RELS 360 - Christian Apologetics   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A study of the nature and methods of defending the Christian faith including an examination of the evidence for and the arguments against a Christian worldview.</p>	3
RELS 361	<p><b>RELS 361 - History of Christianity I   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A study of the history of the Christian Church from the turn of the first century to the eve of the 16th century Reformation with attention to the persons, events, and issues involved in the major developments of Christianity.</p>	3
RELS 362	<p><b>RELS 362 - History of Christianity II   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An examination of the development of the Christian Church from the late medieval period through to the early 21st century. Key topics include: the Protestant and Catholic Reformations; the Great Awakenings and the rise of modern Evangelicalism, Fundamentalism, and the growth of modern missionary movements, along with a consideration of significant individuals, changes in theology, institutions, devotional practices, gender roles, and attempts to engage and shape culture.</p>	3
RELS 364	<p><b>RELS 364 - The Expansion of Christianity in the Two-thirds World   2022-2023</b></p> <p>The expansion of Christianity in the non-Western world from the first century to the present. Attention is given to critiquing those factors that hindered or enhanced the expansion of Christianity during specific eras.</p>	3
RELS 365	<p><b>RELS 365 - Christian Moral Theology   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Moral theology reflects upon the goodness and evil of human acts, and of the person who</p>	3

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	<p>performs them, in the light of Divine Revelation and human reason. This course offers an introduction both to mainstream Catholic and evangelical moral theology and contemporary moral issues, emphasizing their common ground and supplementary insights as well as explaining their continuing points of divergence. The course is taught by a Catholic professor, utilizing both Catholic and protestant texts. Specific moral issues to be discussed include abortion, homosexuality, just war, contraception, divorce, euthanasia, poverty and hunger, and the nature and role of the family.</p>	
RELS 366	<p><b>RELS 366 - Theology of the Body   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course reviews the roots and evolution of the modern secular approaches to anthropology and human sexuality and contrast them with those of Christ. This course examines recent developments in theological reflection on the body (John Paul II's theology of the body) and provides a general introduction to Christian anthropology, with particular attention to themes such as creation in the imago Dei, fall and redemption, nature and grace, freedom and rationality, gender and vocation. Due note of convergent and divergent doctrinal positions held by various Christian traditions of the themes are reviewed.</p>	3
RELS 367	<p><b>RELS 367 - The Catholic Church Past and Present   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Examines key events in the history of the Catholic Church to posit how Catholic theology might shape one's view of history, to consider how an understanding of history might be relevant to faith, and to investigate how the Catholic Church has developed and adapted as a protagonist in history. Topics. include the ecumenical councils, monasticism, Holy Roman empire, Crusades, East-West schism, inquisition, Reformation, Council of Trent, the effects of the French Revolution, rise of nationalism, Vatican II, and globalism.</p>	3
RELS 368	<p><b>RELS 368 - The Reformation   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An examination of European life during the 16th century reformations. This course includes discussions of sin and wholeness, of religion and secular power, of toleration and social order, and of efforts to reform the church and society, and an examination of the place of ritual in social life, life in the family, and attitudes to gender.</p>	3
RELS 371	<p><b>RELS 371 - Sociology of Religion   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An introduction to the theories and concepts utilized by sociologists to interpret religious behaviour and the organization of religion.</p>	3
RELS 372	<p><b>RELS 372 - Contemporary Catholic Theology of the Love of God CP   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course traces the theme of the merciful love of God in Scripture and Catholic Tradition, especially in the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Faustina Kowalska, and Pope John Paul II, as well as in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Mercy of God is presented as a central vantage point from which to view more clearly many important elements of Catholic doctrine and spirituality, ethics, and a common springboard for Catholic-Evangelical ecumenism—in other words, the contemporary Catholic world view. (This is</p>	3

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	not a course in Catholic apologetics or polemics.)	
RELS 375	<p><b>RELS 375 - Christian Apologetics of CS Lewis   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course provides a detailed study of the theological and apologetic writings of C.S.Lewis. The instructor presents the Christian worldview of Lewis, as well as limitations and problems that may be inherent in his theological vision. The relevance of Lewis' writings to the task of ecumenical theological dialogue is a recurrent theme.</p>	3
RELS 377	<p><b>RELS 377 - Religion in the USA   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Religious developments in the USA from the beginning of European settlement to today. The course examines the relationship between such developments and the political, economic, and social life of the country, as well as the Great Awakenings and the Modernist/Fundamentalist controversy.</p>	3
RELS 378	<p><b>RELS 378 - Religion in Canada   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Religious developments in Canada from the beginning of European settlement to today. The course examines the relationship between such developments and the political, economic, and social life of the country.</p>	3
RELS 380	<p><b>RELS 380 - Cross-Cultural/Missions Practicum   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A supervised short-term missions/cross-cultural internship/practicum.</p>	3
RELS 381	<p><b>RELS 381 - Contemporary Christianity   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Students are invited to investigate some of the most significant theologians and theologies of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries with a view toward how they influence Christianity today. The approach is both inter-confessional and international in scope and seeks to allow students to grapple with important theological issues in local, national, and global contexts.</p>	3
RELS 382	<p><b>RELS 382 - Catholic Church: Theology &amp; Practice   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course focuses on the theological, liturgical, and spiritual traditions that undergird the Catholic Church and which continue to form her self-understanding. Historically, this course explains and evaluates the development of the Catholic doctrine of the Church in terms of its roots in Scripture and Tradition, and with a particular emphasis on the Pauline understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ, and selected readings from the Church Fathers, as well as developments in Catholic understanding of the Church in different historical periods and social contexts. It also examines the Church in terms of her ongoing mission to the contemporary world implied by Catholic doctrine. Spiritually, this course exams the distinctive teaching of the Second Vatican Council's 'universal call to holiness' which ultimately serves to integrate doctrine and life in each member of the Church. Analysis of these themes are undertaken in dialogue with the perspectives of other Christian traditions, and in the light of the constructive critique they can offer.</p>	3

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RELS 383	<p><b>RELS 383 - Reason and Belief in God   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A survey of central issues arising from the question, "Is belief in God rational?" Topics include arguments concerning the existence of God, religious pluralism, natural science and religious belief, religious language, and critiques of natural theology from Kierkegaard and Reformed Epistemology.</p>	3
RELS 384	<p><b>RELS 384 - Religion, Contextualization, and Culture Change   2022-2023</b></p> <p>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 those processes which help to make the Gospel relevant in the constantly changing world in which we live.</p>	3
RELS 385	<p><b>RELS 385 - Suffering and Belief in God   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An examination of key issues pertaining to suffering and belief in God. Topics include the problem of evil, arguments from suffering, original sin, everlasting suffering, and providence.</p>	3
RELS 386	<p><b>RELS 386 - Global Theologies   2022-2023</b></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 387	<p><b>RELS 387 - Christian Theology in Ecumenical Dialogue CP   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A survey and analysis of the main achievements of the ecumenical theological dialogue process among the Christian churches, and the significant challenges still facing that dialogue today. This course utilizes texts from Catholic, Protestant Evangelical, Eastern Orthodox, and Anglican sources, and guest lecturers from Catholic, Evangelical, and Orthodox traditions.</p>	3
RELS 388	<p><b>RELS 388 - Liturgy and Sacraments CP   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course provides an introduction to the Christian understanding of the doctrine of the Church and the Sacraments. This course provides an in-depth look at the origins, development, and theological significance of the doctrine of the Church and studies the classical Christian understanding of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist (Lord's Supper), Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. Given that the Catholic and Protestant traditions understand the fundamental theological sources differently, the course emphasizes their common commitment to Sacred Scripture, while explaining their divergent perspectives with regard to the role of tradition. The course outlines the central importance of the doctrine of the Church to the Christian life, and presents both Catholic and Evangelical perspectives on these issues.</p>	3

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RELS 395	<p><b>RELS 395 - Being in Christ: Christian Spiritual Traditions   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An experience of Christian spiritual traditions through two primary ways of knowing: historical and archival as well as experiential and embodied. Students will investigate the history of Christian spiritual traditions in order to develop a foundational understanding of spirituality as practiced throughout Christian history, and will also learn to creatively apply their knowledge of spiritual practice to a life of "skillful Christian living."</p>	3
RELS 398	<p><b>RELS 398 - Radical Religion in the 16th to 18th Centuries   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course examines radical Christian movements from the Reformation period to the early Enlightenment, including: 16th century Anabaptism, German Spiritualism, radical German Pietism and American Pietism, early English Separatism, radical Puritanism, the Levellers, early Baptists, the Philadelphian movement, and the Methodist movement. Class time is divided between lectures and seminar discussion of primary source readings.</p>	3
RELS 399	<p><b>RELS 399 - Catholic Spirituality   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An analysis of the teachings on prayer and the devout life of Catholic spiritual writers whose teachings still enrich the life of the Church today: especially St. Theresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Bonaventure, St. Francis De Sales, St. Therese of Lisieux, and the Venerable John Henry Newman. This course includes an overview of controversial topics such as the rise of Centering Prayer, the New Age movement, and an analysis of the teachings of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and reflections on the Catholic Tradition of Spirituality from non-Catholic perspectives.</p>	3
RELS 400	<p><b>RELS 400 - Directed Study   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Independent but guided research in a specialized area of interest to student. RELS 400 designates biblical content courses.</p>	3
RELS 415	<p><b>RELS 415 - Intertestamental Literature   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 423 - Apocalyptic Literature   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 425 - Pauline Theology   2022-2023</b></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

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RELS 430	<p><b>RELS 430 - The New Testament and the Greco- Roman World   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An investigation of the interface between the New Testament and the Greco-Roman world, with an emphasis on the literary, documentary, and archeological sources for such an investigation. Readings in extra-biblical Greek sources are a regular feature of the course.</p>	3
RELS 446	<p><b>RELS 446 - Hebrew Prophets   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 448 - Ancient Near East and the Old Testament   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 449 - Old Testament Seminar   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 453 - Synoptic Gospels and Acts   2022-2023</b></p> <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>	3
RELS 454	<p><b>RELS 454 - Writings and Theology of John   2022-2023</b></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><b>RELS 456 - New Testament Seminar   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A study of selected topics that are currently under examination in the field of New Testament studies.</p>	3
RELS 460	<p><b>RELS 460 - Current Issues &amp; Trends in Missions   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Current missiological themes are studied such as: Missio Dei, Salvation Today, social justice and mission, meaning of evangelism and evangelization, contextualization, liberation themes, missions as inculturation, missions as an ecumenical expression, mobilizing the laity for missions, missions as a theology, and missions as an eschatological hope. The course also examines shifting missiological paradigms within the Conciliar Movement and Evangelical responses.</p>	3

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RELS 465	<p><b>RELS 465 - Influential Thinkers in the Christian Tradition   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An introduction to some seminal figures in the Western Christian tradition. The course investigates their thought and intellectual contributions within their socio-political context and experience.</p>	3
RELS 466	<p><b>RELS 466 - The Church Fathers   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An introduction to the Fathers of the early Church. The course covers the Fathers from the latter half of the first century CE to the Orthodox writings of St. John of Damascene (ca. 750). Attention is paid to the historical and intellectual contexts within which the Fathers lived and taught, and special attention is given to each one's unique theological contribution to the development of Christian Orthodoxy—both East and West.</p>	3
RELS 467	<p><b>RELS 467 - The Theology of Karl Barth   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course is an examination and deeper understanding of Karl Barth's theology. Primary attention is given to the character, development, and significance of Barth's theology. The student also reads Karl Barth in the context of Christian thought.</p>	3
RELS 470	<p><b>RELS 470 - Psychology of Religion   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An application of the tools of empirical psychology to the study of the development and function of religious experience. An analysis of the role of religious experience in the human personality. Specific religious experiences (e.g. conversion, prayer, glossolalia, miracles) are examined with a view to understanding their function in the normal individual.</p>	3
RELS 473	<p><b>RELS 473 - Theological Vision of John Paul II   2022-2023</b></p> <p>This course takes an in-depth look at the theological vision of the two most influential Catholic theologians of the second Christian millennium: St. Thomas Aquinas and Pope John Paul II. The main features of St. Thomas's synthesis of Christian thought, especially as found in his great <i>Summa Theologiae</i>, is explored. This is followed by an examination of the personalist Thomism of Pope John Paul II, and his program for the renewal of the Catholic Faith, especially as found in selected encyclicals and apostolic letters. The vision and worldview of St. Thomas Aquinas and John Paul II are presented as significant and enduring achievements of Christian thought.</p>	3
RELS 475	<p><b>RELS 475 - Christianity and Culture   2022-2023</b></p> <p>How do Christians past and present relate to culture? Students are invited to examine some important aspects of Christianity's involvement in Western culture. Alternative models and historical examples of this involvement are considered as well as some specific current issues related to Christian cultural activity.</p>	3
RELS 476	<p><b>RELS 476 - Theology and Worldview   2022-2023</b></p> <p>What is Worldview in relation to Theology? How does it influence us and others? Students are invited to investigate some of the salient moments in the history of Christian worldview thinking</p>	3

ID	COURSE	CREDITS
	<p>and its contemporary expressions as they relate to the discipline of theology. We will inquire into implications of this relationship in various spheres of life, including politics, art, science and the environment. Students will consider responses to the various expressions of Christian theology in contemporary pluralist society with a view understanding how it affects relationships in society and the world.</p>	
RELS 477	<p><b>RELS 477 - New Testament Canon: Development and Theology   2022-2023</b></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
RELS 478	<p><b>RELS 478 - Atonement Theology in Contemporary Context   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An exploration into the doctrine of the atonement, both in its historical and contemporary settings. This course explores how the cross is God's answer to human sin and oppression and also discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the traditional atonement models and the implications of atonement theology for the Church and contemporary society.</p>	3
RELS 480	<p><b>RELS 480 - Directed Study   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Independent but guided research in a specialized area of interest to student. RELS 480, theological/cultural emphases.</p>	3
RELS 482	<p><b>RELS 482 - Historical Perspectives on Reformation and Post-Reformation Thought   2022-2023</b></p> <p>A re-evaluation of the issues involved in the origin of the 16th century Protestant Reformation and the subsequent development of Calvinist thought: justification by faith, covenant theology, and election. An analysis of why Calvinists and Arminians were unable to overcome their differences, and how Reformed scholasticism went beyond John Calvin's insights.</p>	3
RELS 483	<p><b>RELS 483 - The Evidential Force of Religious Experience   2022-2023</b></p> <p>Examines the place of evidence in religion and assesses the evidential force of religious experience. Such experiences as near-death, visions, conversions, mystical states of consciousness, and other topics that have been the focus of ongoing public attention are discussed.</p>	3
RELS 488	<p><b>RELS 488 - Special Topics in Missiology   2022-2023</b></p> <p>An examination of special topics or issues in Missiology that are not considered in depth in other courses.</p>	3

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RELS 489	<b>RELS 489 - Special Topics in Religious Studies   2022-2023</b> An examination of special topics or issues in Religious Studies that are not considered in depth in other courses.	3
RELS 490	<b>RELS 490 - Christianity and Natural Sciences   2022-2023</b> Presentation and discussion of special topics concerned with the relationship between science and the Christian faith.	1