# Religion (REL) and Philosophy (PHL)

***College of Arts and Humanities***

**www.dwu.edu/religion**

The purpose of the DWU Department of Religion and Philosophy is to enable all our students to understand relevant issues in philosophy and religion so as to enhance a life of sacrificial service to God and others. We offer two majors and two minors: Religious Studies and Christian Leadership.

The Religious Studies program is geared to introduce students to key issues regarding world religions, ethical decision-making, biblical studies and theological perspectives. The program prepares students for missional service in a religiously diverse and morally challenging world.

The purpose of the Christian Leadership program is to train passionate and informed leaders to build communities of faith that inspire discipleship for the transformation of the world. This program requires experiences of spiritual growth along with academic training. It also provides ample opportunity for internships within local churches and in local and regional ministries.

Besides an active Student Ministry Council and a new church on campus, students in this department are urged and enabled to go on mission trips planned by differing DWU organizations. Regular trips to Peru, Mexico, East Africa and Israel benefit from long-term contact with agencies in these countries.

## Majors

### Religious Studies

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Choose one of the following: | | |
| PHL 101 | Philosophy of Life | |
| PHL 212 | Introduction to Critical Thinking | |
| PHL 220 | Introduction to Ethical Issues | 3 |
| REL 210 | Understanding the Old Testament | 3 |
| REL 212 | Christian Faith and Practice | 3 |
| REL 215 | The Life and Teachings of Jesus | 3 |
| REL 216 | The Life and Letters of Paul | 3 |
| Choose one of the following: | | |
| REL 240 | Sexuality, Spirituality and Loving | |
| REL 275 | Field Experience | 3 |
| REL 302 * | Faith and Reason | 3 |
| REL 314 | World Religions | 3 |
| Choose one of the following: | | |
| REL 323 | Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation | |
| REL 370 | Pop Culture and Theology | 3 |
| REL 360 | Death, Dying and Life After Death | 3 |
| REL 385 | Classics of Christian Faith | 3 |
| Choose one of the following: | | |
| REL 415 | Theology of John Wesley | |
| REL 450 | Internship | |
| REL 461 | Travel Seminar | |
| REL 499 | Special Topics in Biblical Studies | 3 |
| | Total | 36 |

*COR 301 Interdisciplinary Investigations I: Faith and Reason can substitute for REL 302.

Students may apply only three hours of field experience or the internship to the major.

The College of Arts and Humanities requires students majoring in this program to also pass two semesters of foreign language.

## Christian Leadership Major

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PHL 220 | Introduction to Ethical Issues | 3 |
| REL 155 | Spiritual Formation I | 1 |
| REL 210 | Understanding the Old Testament | 3 |
| REL 212 | Christian Faith and Practice | 3 |
| REL 215 | The Life and Teachings of Jesus | 3 |
| REL 216 | The Life and Letters of Paul | 3 |
| REL 302* | Faith and Reason | 3 |
| REL 314 | World Religions | 3 |
| REL 355 | Spiritual Formation II | 1 |
| Choose one of the following three: | | |
| REL 240 | Sexuality, Spirituality and Loving | 3 or |
| REL 360 | Death, Dying and the After-life | or |
| REL 370 | Popular Theology and Culture | |
| REL 323 | Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation | 3 |
| REL 385 | Classics of Christian Faith | 3 |
| Choose one of the following two: | | |
| REL 461 | Travel Seminar | 3 or |
| REL 450 | Internship | |
| Choose one of the following two: | | |
| ENT 224 | Entrepreneurial Leadership I | 3 or |
| NPA 210 | Principles of Leadership and Service | |
| Choose one of the following two: | | |
| REL 410 | Church Growth in Contemporary Culture | 3 or |
| REL 499 | Special Topics in Biblical Studies | |
| Total | | 41 |

*This class also fulfills the COR 301 credit.

The College of Arts and Humanities requires students majoring in this program to also pass two semesters of foreign language.

## Minors

## Religious Studies Minor

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Choose one of the following: | | |
| PHL 101 | Philosophy of Life or | |
| PHL 212 | Introduction to Critical Thinking or | |
| PHL 220 | Introduction to Ethical Issues | 3 |
| REL 210 | Understanding the Old Testament | 3 |

Choose one of the following:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| REL 212 | Christian Faith and Practice | |
| REL 215 | The Life and Teachings of Jesus | |
| REL 216 | The Life and Letters of Paul | 3 |
| REL 314 | World Religions | 3 |
| REL | Electives | 6 |
| | Total | 18 |

## Christian Leadership Minor

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PHL 220 | Introduction to Ethical Issues | 3 | |
| REL 210 | Understanding the Old Testament | 3 | |
| REL 215 | The Life and Teachings of Jesus | 3 | |
| REL 216 | The Life and Letters of Paul | 3 | |
| REL 314 | World Religions | 3 | |
| Choose one of the following two: | | | |
| ENT 224 | Entrepreneurial Leadership I | 3 | or |
| NPA 210 | Principles of Leadership and Service | | |
| Plus any one of the following courses: | | | |
| REL 212 | Christian Faith and Practice | | |
| REL 302* | Faith and Reason | | |
| REL 240 | Sexuality, Spirituality and Loving | | |
| REL 360 | Death, Dying and the After-life | | |
| REL 370 | Popular Theology and Culture | | |
| REL 355 | Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation | | |
| REL 385 | Classics of the Christian Faith | | |
| REL 499 | Special Topics in Biblical Studies | | |
| REL 410 | Church Growth in the Contemporary Culture | 3 | |
| Total | | 21 | |

**Other Programs**
**Pre-theology**
The department seeks to meet the pre-professional needs of people preparing for seminary by offering background courses and a flexible combination of courses in the major that students can pattern to individual types of ministry. While a great variety is found in the requirements of various theological schools, the American Association of Theological Schools lists these fields where students should have proficiency before entering seminary study. Below are courses and number of credits recommended for students planning to continue on to seminary.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **English** | | |
| Literature, writing, speech and related studies | 9 | |
| **History** | | |
| Ancient, modern, European and American | 6 | |
| **Philosophy** | | |
| Historical development, content and methods | 6 | |
| **Natural Sciences** | | |
| Physical chemistry or biology | 6 | |
| **Social Sciences** | | |
| Psychology, sociology, economics, political science and education | 18 | |
| **Foreign Language** | | |
| Some seminaries require biblical language; a modern language is also considered desirable | 6 | of each language |
| **Religion** | | |
| Basic knowledge of the Bible with introduction to the major religions of the world | 9 | |

Of the possible fields of study for a college major, most theological schools regard these as useful: English, philosophy, religion, history, political science, psychology and sociology.

For certain nontraditional students with significant experience and ability, an accelerated 3-3 program is available in which the first year of seminary counts as the senior year at DWU. This program links Dakota Wesleyan and Sioux Falls Seminary (SFS) in a cooperative effort to provide an accelerated program of training for certain students pursuing the ministry. It provides nontraditional students of unusual background and ability the opportunity to specialize their focus and shorten the time of their training. It is called the 3-3 program because it involves three years of study at each institution.

**3-3 Program Criteria for Admittance**
The program is intended for students who:
1. are nontraditional, mature students who have been out of higher education at least five years, who have been in the workforce and are perhaps choosing ministry as a second career;
2. have considerable experience from participation in, or working in, various phases of the life of the church;
3. are committed to entering a church-related career; and
4. have a minimum 3.5 GPA in previous educational background.

**3-3 Program Requirements**
In the three years at DWU, students must:
1. be accepted by SFS for pre-enrollment in the 3-3 program;
2. meet DWU competency skill requirements;
3. meet all General Education requirements (42 hours);
4. meet requirements for a minor;
5. establish senior status by earning 93 credit hours; and
6. maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Dakota Wesleyan University will accept the first year of courses at SFS as the senior year of study at DWU and as the completion of a Christian leadership major. At the end of that year the student will graduate from DWU with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

## Course Descriptions
### Religion (REL)

**155 Spiritual Formation** **1 hour** **F**
Students will meet with a spiritual director for the purposes of spiritual study, devotion and growth.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.
Repeatable for two credits.

**210 Understanding the Old Testament** **3 hours** **F16**
Students explore the basic teachings of the Hebrew Scriptures as represented in the teachings, prophets and poetry of the Old Testament. This course gives attention to the Old Testament's meaning in its own historical setting, as well as its connections to the New Testament and Christianity.
General Education: Personal Growth and Maturity

**212 Christian Faith and Practice** **3 hours** **S**
This course will explore the intellectual content of historic Christian faith as it has been expressed in the ecumenical creeds and other features of its intellectual tradition. Students will be immersed in the unique contributions of the three great communions of Christian tradition (Orthodoxy, Catholicism and Protestantism) and in the Wesleyan spiritual tradition that underlies DWU. The class will outline aspects of Christian spirituality such as prayer, meditation with a view toward how these beliefs and practices can be re-energizing for contemporary spirituality.
General Education: Personal Growth and Maturity

**215 The Life and Teachings of Jesus** **3 hours** **S**
This course examines the Gospels in their historical setting and contemporary significance, and is aimed at understanding what we know about Jesus and the lifestyle he lived and taught.
General Education: Personal Growth and Maturity

**216 The Life and Letters of Paul** **3 hours** **F17**
This course examines Paul's life and letters in the context of the growth and problems of the early churches.
General Education: Personal Growth and Maturity

**240 Sexuality, Spirituality and Loving** **3 hours F17, Sum**
A study of the ethics of sexuality and the values associated with our physical existence, this course examines the basic physiology of human reproduction and discusses emotional and ethical issues surrounding sexual relationships. The course also gives attention to diverse beliefs about spirituality and sexuality in Judaism, Christianity and their Scriptures.
General Education: Civic Values and Engagement

**302 Faith and Reason** **3 hours F, S**
This class will explore the tensions between faith and reason, the reasonableness of historic Christian faith and the tensions between religion and science. It will shed light on questions concerning belief in God, the scriptures as divine revelation, views on interpretation of the biblical creation stories, science and design inferences from science.

**314 World Religions** **3 hours F17**
This course is a comparative survey of the major religious systems of the world, both Eastern and Western, with emphasis on those religions currently in practice.
General Education: Cultural and Global Awareness

**315 American Religions** **3 hours TBA**
This course is a study of religious groups in America, both historical and contemporary, including a survey of traditional denominations and their beliefs, as well as newer movements and cults.

**323 Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation** **3 hours F17**
This course will introduce students to best principles and practices for biblical interpretation. The class will explore the history of biblical interpretation, biblical interpretation as it is practiced within the Bible itself and various theories of text interpretation. The class will seek to train students in best practices for teaching and preaching the scriptures in a church context.
Prerequisites: REL 210, REL 215 or REL 216

**330 Hellenistic Greek I** **3 hours TBA**
This course is the first half of a study of the Koine form of the Greek language, which was used in the Hellenistic world and in the New Testament. The two-semester sequence will provide a basic reading knowledge of the New Testament, the Septuagint and other early Greek literature. This course is offered as directed study and does not count toward a Christian leadership major or minor.

**331 Hellenistic Greek II** **3 hours TBA**
This course is the second half of a study of the Koine form of the Greek language. This course is offered as directed study and does not count toward a Christian leadership major or minor.

**332 Biblical Hebrew I** **3 hours TBA**
This course will explore the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew in a two-semester sequence with a view toward competency in reading, understanding and interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures.
Prerequisites: REL 210.

**333 Biblical Hebrew II** **3 hours TBA**
This course is the second half of a study in the exploration of the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew with a view toward competency in reading, understanding and interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures.
Prerequisite: REL 332.

**355 Spiritual Formation II** **1 hour F**
Students will meet with a spiritual director for the purposes of spiritual study, devotion and growth.
Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor.
Repeatable for two credits.

**360 Death, Dying and Life After Death** **3 hours F16**
Students will explore the biological process of dying, the various meanings that cultures attach to death and what different world religions teach about life after death. The course gives attention to near-death experiences, the process of grieving, and the biblical concepts of immortality of the soul, resurrection of the body and eternal life.
General Education: Personal Growth and Maturity

**370 Pop Culture and Theology** **3 hours S16, Su**
This course discusses the understandings of God found in all types of media (advertising, celebrities, music, movies, television, fashion, sports, art and video games). Advocating neither wholehearted acceptance nor rejection of pop

culture, students will analyze critically the media around them. They will become aware of the “silent shaping” of media in their theology and define a theology of God through it.
General Education: Personal Growth and Maturity

**385 Classics of Christian Faith** **3 hours** **F**

This course explores key writers of the Christian tradition who interpreted Christian faith so as to impact not only their own age but following generations of Christians. Particular focus will be paid to Augustine, John Wesley and C.S. Lewis.

**410 Church Growth: Mission and Evangelism** **3 hours** **S17**
Students will learn various theologies of mission and evangelism and the nature and logic of Christian conversion. Students will explore the best practices for churches to seek and effectively draw new persons into Christian discipleship in both foreign and domestic contexts. Class limit: 20.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

**415 Theology of John Wesley** **3 hours** **TBA**
A survey of the history and theology of the United Methodist tradition, this course begins with John Wesley and the rise of early Methodism, and ends with contemporary thinking and issues in the United Methodist Church.

**420 Reading Biblical Greek** **3 hours** **TBA**
This course will primarily involve translating biblical Greek texts, discussing syntax, textual variants, shadings of word meaning and interpretive possibilities. The course will also review intermediate-level Greek grammar and strategies and best practices for Greek text interpretation.
Prerequisites: REL 215, REL 216 and REL 333.

**424 Reading Biblical Hebrew** **3 hours** **TBA**
This course will primarily involve translating biblical Hebrew texts, discussing syntax, textual variants, shadings of word meaning and interpretive possibilities. The course will also review intermediate-level Hebrew grammar and strategies of interpretation in Hebrew.
Prerequisites: REL 215, REL 216 and REL 333

**461 Travel Seminar** **1–3 hours** **TBA**
The seminar provides credit for travel on mission trips or visits to important sacred places. The course includes background reading and evaluative reports.
General Education: Cultural and Global Awareness

**499 Special Topics in Biblical Studies** **3 hours** **S 17**

This course will select a specific aspect of biblical studies for in-depth analysis with a view toward preparing academic research for regional presentation.

## Course Descriptions

**Philosophy (PHL)**

**101 Philosophy of Life** **3 hours** **S**
An introduction to the realms of philosophy and religion, this course consists of an examination of values for living and of the variety of systems of meaning that humans have constructed for themselves in answering life’s important questions.
General Education: Personal Growth and Maturity

**212 Introduction to Critical Thinking** **3 hours** **TBA**
This survey examines the methods of logical thinking and the rules for preciseness and certainty through deductive and inductive reasoning. The course emphasizes practical applications for recognizing common fallacies, propaganda and advertising techniques.

**220 Introduction to Ethical Issues** **3 hours** **F**
This course examines ethical decision making in the context of contemporary issues that are a part of our personal and social life, such as lying, sexual morality, capital punishment, war and euthanasia.
General Education: Civic Values and Engagement

**305 Biomedical Ethics** **3 hours** **TBA**

An examination of the ethical questions that arise in connection with selected biomedical issues, PHL 305 explores issues such as abortion, genetic engineering and euthanasia. This course is particularly useful for healthcare personnel, those interested in ministry or social work, and others with a general interest in these areas.
General Education: Civic Values and Engagement