



Cornerstone
UNIVERSITY®
BUILD A LIFE THAT MATTERS

Grand Rapids, Michigan

BIBLE, RELIGION & MINISTRY

DIVISION



Jim Dekker, Ph.D.
Division Chair

Courses in the Bible, Religion & Ministry (BRM) Division prepare students to deal with foundational issues of life, and upon this foundation students will be able to build their future academic and vocational plans.

Teaching from a biblical perspective, our faculty enable students to articulate a Christian worldview, develop skills for ministry, and mature in the spiritual disciplines. Students will emerge from BRM programs with an essential knowledge of Scripture as well as the requisite tools for applying Scripture to new and emerging contexts.

The majors and minors in the BRM Division reflect an educational philosophy that students should design their programs in accordance with their needs and expectations for the future. The Ministry major prepares students to work with various age groups - from children to adults - in a variety of contexts, such as the local church, Christian camps, sports ministries, urban settings and other parachurch organizations. The Biblical Studies major provides preparation for seminary or related postgraduate training. The Intercultural Studies major empowers students to minister across cultural and ethnic boundaries. The Missions Aviation major, in partnership with the School of Missionary Aviation Technology, equips individuals with the biblical knowledge, intercultural awareness and technical skills to serve the greater missions community through the critically useful tool of air transportation.

DEGREES

Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

MAJORS

Biblical Studies (B.S.)

Inter-Cultural Studies (B.S.)

Ministry (B.S.)

Missions Aviation (B.S.)

MINORS

Biblical Studies

Greek

Intercultural Studies

Ministry

FACULTY

Duff, John H., Professor of Theology; B.A., Cedarville College; M.A., Western Kentucky University; M.T.S., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Calvin Theological Seminary

Dekker, Jim, Professor of Ministry (Chair); B.Th., Tyndale College; M.A., Calvin Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Marko, Jonathan, Assistant Professor of Theology, B.S., University of Akron; M.Div., Ashland Theological Seminary, Ph.D., Calvin Theological Seminary

Mohrmann, Douglas C., Assistant Professor of Religion; B.A., Evangel University; M.A., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Durham

Nguyen, Kimberly Lan, Associate Professor of Old Testament; B.S., University of Houston – Central Campus; M.Div., Alliance Theological Seminary; M.A., University of Wisconsin; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

Roberts, Ryan N., Assistant Professor of Old Testament; B.S., Clarks Summit University; M.A., Trinity Western University; M.A., University of California, Los Angeles; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

Smith, Andrew L., Associate Professor of New Testament; B.A., Grand Rapids Baptist College; M.Div., Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; M.A., Western Kentucky University

CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION AS A DIVISION MAJOR

See the Academic Information section under Graduation Requirements.

Degree information for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees along with major and minor listings by division can be found in the catalog section entitled Degree Information.

ADMISSION TO THE BIBLE, RELIGION & MINISTRIES PROGRAMS

Admission to the BRM programs occurs while the student is enrolled in REL-236 New Testament Literature & History. Transfer students should pursue admission to all BRM programs their first semester at Cornerstone.

A student who wishes to be admitted into the BRM division must do the following: 1) achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5; 2) complete an application; 3) obtain references from a professor outside the BRM division and a spiritual mentor; 4) interview with a faculty member of the BRM; and 5) be approved by a vote of the BRM faculty.

Students who maintain the minimum academic standards and show Christian maturity will continue in the program. Assistance in these areas can be obtained from your academic advisor, the BRM faculty, Student Development, the Center for Student Success and the Center for Career and Life Calling.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE MAJORS & MINORS

The aims of the Bible majors are to bring the student to a comprehensive understanding of the Bible as a whole, to achieve reasonable competency in independent Bible study and to develop skills in the communication and ministry of the Word of God.

General Education Core requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree are listed in the Degree Information section (see page 54). Ministry and Intercultural Studies majors must also take a Biblical Studies minor.

BIBLICAL STUDIES MAJOR *(requires a minor)*

Students selecting a Biblical Studies major are required to choose one of the four concentrations listed below as well as complete a minor.

Required Courses	Credit Hours
REL-103	Biblical Hermeneutics 3
REL-130	Old Testament Literature (substitute for core class) 3
REL-212	Religions of the World 3
REL-236	New Testament Literature (substitute for core class) 3
REL-354	Theology I (substitute for core class) 3
REL-356	Theology II 3
REL-380	Internship 3
REL-43X	Bible Analysis Course 3
REL-462	Senior Seminar 3
<i>One of the following:</i> 3	
REL-330	Mosaic Literature
REL-333	Wisdom Literature
REL-334	Prophetic Literature
REL-357	Old Testament History and Theology

One of the following:	3
REL-335 Pauline Literature	
REL-338 Second Temple Literature and the Dead Sea Scrolls	
REL-339 Gospel Literature	
REL-358 New Testament History and Theology	
Subtotal	33

Choose one of the following concentrations for the Bible major:

Biblical Languages Concentration (does not require a minor)	Credit Hours
GRK-101 Greek I	4
GRK-102 Greek II	4
HEB-101 Hebrew I	4
HEB-102 Hebrew II	4
Total	16

Intercultural Studies Concentration (Not an option for Intercultural Studies double majors)	Credit Hours
CMI-223 Cultural Anthropology	3
CMI-311 Evangelism & Discipleship	3
CMI-334 Spiritual Formation	3
CMI-444 Contemporary Global Issues	3
Total	12

Ministry Concentration (Not an option for Ministry double majors)	Credit Hours
CMI-221 Learning, Liturgy & Technology	3
CMI-252 Interpersonal & Intrapersonal Relationships in Ministry	3
CMI-334 Spiritual Formation	3
CMI-481 Counseling Families	3
Total	12

Philosophy Concentration (Not an option for Humanities double majors)	Credit Hours
PHI-213 Plato and Aristotle	3
PHI-215 Augustine and Aquinas	3
PHI-353 Philosophical Ethics	3
REL-411 Philosophy of Religion	3
Total	12

Total for Biblical Studies Major 45-48

BIBLICAL STUDIES MINOR

Required Courses	Credit Hours
REL-103 Hermeneutics	3
REL-33X Biblical Literature Course	3
REL-43X Bible Analysis Course	3
Choose one of the following:	3
REL-104 * Old Testament Literature	
REL-130 * Old Testament Literature for BRM majors	
Choose one of the following:	3
REL-204 * New Testament Literature	
REL-236 * New Testament Literature for BRM majors	
Choose one of the following:	3
REL-352 Christian Beliefs and History	
REL-354 Theology I	
REL-356 Theology II	
Total	18

GREEK MINOR

Required Courses	Credit Hours
GRK-101 Greek I	4
GRK-102 Greek II	4
GRK-201 Semantic Analysis I	4
GRK-202 Semantic Analysis II	3
GRK-336 Septuagint Studies	3
Total	18

* Cornerstone Core Course

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES MAJOR (MISSIONS) *(requires a Biblical Studies Minor)*

This degree is designed to equip students for cross-cultural ministry in a church or parachurch setting. It seeks to train students by providing a curriculum that is biblically rooted, theoretically sound, holistically based and practically relevant. The program empowers students to become innovative cross-cultural leaders who are following the teaching of Christ in making disciples of all ethnic groups.

Required Courses	Credit Hours
CMI-222 Poverty and Justice	3
CMI-223 Cultural Anthropology.....	3
CMI-243 Introduction to Intercultural Studies	3
CMI-252 Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Relationships.....	3
CMI-311 Evangelism and Discipleship	3
CMI-334 Spiritual Formation	3
CMI-444 Contemporary Global Issues	3
REL-212 Religions of the World.....	3
REL-380 Internship	3
REL-462 Senior Seminar	3
<i>One elective (200, 300 or 400 level) from Christian Ministries, Linguistics or Religion [i.e., CMI, LIN or REL].....</i>	<i>3</i>

Required Biblical Studies Minor Courses

REL-103 Biblical Hermeneutics	3
REL-130 Old Testament Literature for BRM majors	3
REL-236 New Testament Literature for BRM majors.....	3
REL-33X Biblical Literature Course	3
REL-354 * Theology I	3
REL-43X Biblical Analysis Course	3
Total.....	51

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES MINOR (MISSIONS)

Required Courses	Credit Hours
CMI-223 Cultural Anthropology	3
CMI-243 Introduction to Intercultural Studies.....	3
CMI-311 Evangelism and Discipleship.....	3
CMI-334 Spiritual Formation	3
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>	<i>6</i>
CMI-222 Poverty and Justice	
CMI-414 Islam	
CMI-434 Leadership in Short-Term Missions	
CMI-444 Contemporary Global Issues	
LIN-225 Introduction to Linguistics	
LIN-371 Second Language Acquisition	
LIN-372 Sociolinguistics	
REL-212 Religions of the World	
SOC-352/COM-311 Intercultural Communication	
Total.....	18

MINISTRY MAJOR *(requires a Biblical Studies Minor)*

This degree is designed to equip students for practical ministry in the church or parachurch setting. It cultivates ones call to ministry through a robust curriculum that is biblically based, theoretical and practical. The ministry degree empowers students to become innovative leaders, to seek emotional and spiritual health for oneself and others; to understand and engage the emerging postmodern culture.

The Ministry major recognizes the need for specialization and allows each student to focus on a particular ministry interest. Therefore, students choose a specific emphasis where all their coursework and projects will be directed. We offer a focus in youth, children, camping, sports, parachurch, emerging adults, and urban ministries.

Required Courses	Credit Hours
CMI-151 Lifespan Development	3
CMI-221 Learning, Liturgy, and Technology.....	3
CMI-222 Poverty and Justice.....	3
CMI-252 Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Relationships	3
CMI-334 Spiritual Formation	3
CMI-381 ** Internship I: Career Development.....	3
CMI-382 Internship II: Teacher and the Teaching Task	3
CMI-418 ** Capstone: Art of Ministry	3
CMI-481 Counseling Families.....	3
<i>Choose one of the following: CMI 2XX, CMI 3XX, CMI 4XX</i>	<i>3</i>
IDS-101 * Creativity, Innovation, and Problem Solving	2

* Cornerstone Core Course

Required Biblical Studies Minor Courses

REL-103	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
REL-130 *	Old Testament Literature for BRM majors	3
REL-236 *	New Testament Literature for BRM majors	3
REL-33X	Biblical Literature Course	3
REL-354 *	Theology I	3
REL-43X	Biblical Analysis Course	3
Total		50

MINISTRY MINOR

Required Courses		Credit Hours
CMI-151	Lifespan Development	3
CMI-221	Learning, Liturgy and Technology	3
CMI-252	Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Relationships in Ministry	3
CMI-481	Counseling Families in Ministry	3
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>		6
CMI-222	Poverty and Justice	
CMI-334	Spiritual Formation	
CMI-336	Integrated Leadership	
CMI-480	Current Issues/Critical Concerns	
Total		18

MISSIONS AVIATION MAJOR *(does not require a minor)*

This degree is the merging of biblical studies, intercultural studies and aviation technology. Students enrolled in this program are prepared to engage with mission organizations that employ missionary aviators. The freshmen, sophomore and senior years are spent at Cornerstone completing core requirements, a biblical studies major and several courses in intercultural studies. The junior year is spent at the School of Missionary Aviation Technology (SMAT). It will be necessary to complete the pre-entrance requirements of SMAT before proceeding with the technical training. Cornerstone will accept the FAA certificate earned by the graduates of SMAT as evidence of prior learning in the amount of 60 credits (for aircraft maintenance certificate) or 45 credits (for flight certificate).

Required Courses		Credit Hours
REL-103	Biblical Hermeneutics	3
REL-130	OT Literature for BRM Majors	3
REL-212	Religions of the World	3
REL-236	NT Literature for BRM Majors	3
REL-354	Theology I	3
REL-356	Theology II	3
REL-43X	Bible Analysis Course	3
REL-462	Senior Seminar	3
<i>Choose six of the following:</i>		18
CMI-222	Poverty and Justice	
CMI-223	Cultural Anthropology	
CMI-243	Intro to Intercultural Studies	
CMI-311	Evangelism & Discipleship	
CMI-334	Spiritual Formation	
CMI-444	Contemporary Global Issues	
COM-311	Intercultural Communication	
PSY-448	Cross-Cultural Psychology	
<i>Choose one of the following:</i>		3
REL-330	Mosaic Literature	
REL-333	Wisdom Literature	
REL-334	Prophetic Literature	
REL-357	Old Testament History & Theology	
<i>Choose one of the following:</i>		3
REL-335	Pauline Literature	
REL-338	Second Temple Literature and the Dead Sea Scrolls	
REL-339	Gospel Literature	
REL-358	New Testament History and Theology	
Total		48

* Cornerstone Core Course

** CMI-381 takes the place of REL-380 and CMI-418 takes the place of REL-462 for students who double major in Ministry and Bible.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

DEPARTMENT AND LEVEL/COURSE NAME

CREDITS/FREQUENCY
(See page 59 for codes)

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

- CMI-151 Lifespan Development and Ministry 3/2**
A survey of physical, cognitive, emotional and moral development and current sociological issues related to adolescents and adults. Students will analyze lifespan development with the intent of developing ministries that meet the specific needs of those they will serve.
- CMI-221 Learning, Liturgy and Technology 3/2**
A study in learning theory, liturgical practices and the use of technology in ministry. Students will design lessons with special consideration for ways to communicate biblical truths through a variety of creative teaching methods. Students will analyze current curriculum, learn basic hermeneutical skills and create curriculum that is experiential, interactive, multi-sensory and communal.
- CMI-222 Poverty and Justice 3/2**
This course will equip students for urban ministry in the cities of North America and around the world. With an emphasis on race and class, students will develop a biblical, historical and sociocultural foundation for understanding poverty and justice while engaging different strategies for effective relationships and Christian community development.
- CMI-223 Cultural Anthropology 3/4**
An introductory course in the tradition of culture designed for students pursuing intercultural vocational work. The course addresses the nature of peoples in their culture, their worldview, cultural change, cultural adaptation, social organization, language, religion and other related topics.
- CMI-243 Introduction to Intercultural Studies 3/1**
An overview of the global inter-cultural mandate as outlined in Scripture and emphasized in the Great Commission noting the biblical, theological, and historical foundation for missions, the framework for the missionary undertaking today, and the task of the missionary in our world with an emphasis on the missionary career track.
- CMI-252 Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Relationships in Ministry 3/2**
A practical study in developing healthy relationships with adolescents, leadership staff, parents and volunteers. Includes conflict management, inner dialog issues, making meaning of everyday experiences, and special attention is given to communication skills within small groups.
- CMI-311 Evangelism and Discipleship 3/2**
Designed to guide the student in the development of a personal commitment to and involvement in evangelism and discipleship ministries. Integrates New Testament principles with varied techniques for a practical orientation.
- CMI-321 Camp Philosophy and Administration 3/4**
Basic administration, philosophy, and methodology of Christian camping with emphasis on principles of decentralization. Attention to objectives, staff personnel, campsite, equipment, facilities, problem-solving, and evaluation. Offered alternate fall semesters.
- CMI-334 Spiritual Formation 3/1**
Provides a biblical foundation for spiritual development. Special consideration is given to the history and practice of spiritual disciplines, scriptural meditation, contemplative prayer and spiritual listening.
- CMI-336 Integrated Leadership 3/2**
An examination of leadership as it relates to the development of individuals and organizations. The emphasis on leadership will include such issues as personal character, styles of leadership, vision, creativity and teamwork. Students will also analyze, interpret and build theories on leadership. The focus on administration will cover issues including finances, correspondence, conducting meetings and planning events.
- CMI-381 Internship I: Career Development 3/1**
Designed to help the student discover their gifts, talents, calling, interest and abilities as they relate to ministry and parachurch settings. A minimum of 140 hours in supervised ministry is required. *Prerequisites: Junior status, Admission into BRM division.*
- CMI-382 Internship II: Teacher and the Teaching Task 3/1**
Designed to help the student develop the skills necessary for teaching. Emphasis on writing objectives, preparing lesson plans, using creative illustrations, storytelling, gestures and delivery. Students will be teaching in the class and in a field setting where they will be video recorded. A minimum of 140 hours in supervised ministry is required. *Prerequisites: Admission into BRM division.*
- CMI-383 Internship III: Specialization 3/1**
Designed to help the students study and experience specialized topics that relate to ministry or parachurch settings. A minimum of 140 hours in supervised ministry is required. *Prerequisites: Junior status, Admission into BRM division.*
- CMI-418 Art of Ministry Capstone 3/2**
An interactive framework that allows students to investigate distinct philosophical and ecclesiological views regarding how ministry relates to the church at large. Each student will design his/her own philosophy of ministry within the context of the local church and parachurch ministries. *Prerequisite: Admission to the BRM division or permission of the instructor or division chair.*

CMI-434	Leadership in Short-Term Missions	3/4
A study of the biblical basis for short-term mission including philosophy, history and strategy. Students will evaluate short-term missions and learn how to implement and lead a short-term missions trip.		
CMI-444	Contemporary Global Issues	3/2
An investigation of current global issues and how they are forming mission strategy in our contemporary and future world. The course analyzes current topics such as the environment, disease, poverty, and globalization, as well as mission issues of leadership, development, partnerships, and spiritual warfare.		
CMI-470	Readings in Christian Ministries	1 - 3/1
Guided readings and reports in the student's area of interest and need.		
CMI-480	Current Issues/Critical Concerns	3/-
Designed to address current issues or critical concerns that relate to ministry. Studies will specialize in various topics not covered in the catalog. May be taken two times with different emphasis.		
CMI-481	Counseling Families in Ministry	3/2
An in-depth look of the issues related to providing counseling to children, adolescents and their parents. Focus will be on addictive behaviors, abnormal development, intervention, spiritual abuse and awareness of when and to whom to refer individuals for professional therapy.		
CMI-490	Independent Study	3 - 6/1
Consult with division chair and instructor in Christian ministries concerning possible studies.		

GREEK

GRK-101	Greek Grammar I	4/2
An introduction to Greek grammar of Koine Greek.		
GRK-102	Greek Grammar II	4/2
A continuation of GRK 101, completing the basic grammar and beginning the reading of simple selections of ancient Greek. <i>Prerequisite: GRK-101.</i>		
GRK-201	Semantic Analysis I	4/2
Review of grammar, reading in selections of Greek, and a study of intermediate Greek grammar. <i>Prerequisite: GRK-102 or equivalent.</i>		
GRK-202	Semantic Analysis II	3/2
A continuation of GRK-201 including a study of the structure of selected Greek texts and exegetical methodology. <i>Prerequisite: GRK-201.</i>		
GRK-336	Septuagint Studies	3/6
A study of select passages in the Septuagint (Greek Old Testament) with a view to advancing the student's facility in reading, translation and semantic analysis. <i>Prerequisite: Admission into BRM division.</i>		
GRK-470	Readings in Greek	1-3/6
Guided readings and reports in the student's area of interest and need. <i>Prerequisite: Admission into BRM division.</i>		
GRK-471	Advanced Greek Reading	1-3/6
<i>Prerequisite: Admission into BRM division.</i>		
GRK-480	Advanced Topics Seminar: Greek	3/6
Formal class dependent upon student demand and interest of the professor. May deal with a particular biblical book or issues of interpretation and methodology. <i>Prerequisite: Admission into BRM division.</i>		
GRK-490	Independent Studies in Greek	1-3/6
Consult with division chair and instructor in Greek concerning possible studies. <i>Prerequisite: Admission into BRM division.</i>		

HEBREW

HEB-101	Hebrew I	4/4
The fundamentals of biblical Hebrew with special attention to orthography, morphology, vocabulary, and the translation of simple texts.		
HEB-102	Hebrew II	4/4
A continuation of Hebrew I with emphasis given to grammar and expansion of vocabulary by means of translation of simple passages from the Old Testament. <i>Prerequisite: HEB-101.</i>		
HEB-470	Readings in Hebrew	1-3/6
Guided readings and reports in the student's area of interest and need.		
HEB-480	Advanced Topics Seminar: Hebrew	3/6
Formal class dependent upon student demand and interest of the professor. May deal with a particular biblical book or issues of interpretation and methodology.		
HEB-490	Independent Studies in Hebrew	1-3/6
Consult with division chair and instructor in Hebrew concerning possible studies.		

RELIGION

- REL-103** **Biblical Hermeneutics** **3/1**
This course examines the basic issues in biblical hermeneutics, including the nature of historical-grammatical interpretation, genre analysis, historical and cultural background, literary analysis, and application. This course examines what it means for humans to have God's word inscripturated into language.
- REL-104** **Old Testament Literature** **3/1**
This course focuses on the content of the Old Testament and introduces methods for studying the Bible. Particular attention is paid to learning the various genres of the Old Testament and to the introduction of critical issues for biblical studies. Alongside the coverage of the biblical narrative, the students will study major historical and cultural developments in the ancient Near East that cast light on the Old Testament.
- REL-130** **Old Testament Literature for BRM Majors & Honors Students** **3/2**
This course focuses on the content of the Old Testament and introduces methods for studying the Bible. Particular attention is paid to learning the various genres of the Old Testament and to the introduction of critical issues for biblical studies. Alongside the coverage of the biblical narrative, the students will study major historical and cultural developments in the ancient Near East that cast light on the Old Testament. Critical thinking and research skills are introduced.
- REL-204** **New Testament Literature** **3/1**
New Testament Literature continues the purposes of Old Testament Literature and Biblical Hermeneutics: to integrate a Christian worldview with Bible study and scripture. In this course, the student will continue to learn how to read the Bible, while studying the inter-testamental period and the New Testament. *Prerequisite: REL-104.*
- REL-212** **World Religions** **3/2**
An introduction to world religions including their historical developments, beliefs, and practices. The course takes an empathetic approach to religion, understanding and appreciating religion as a response to the question of human existence. The religions studied include, but are not limited to, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and East Asian religions. Special attention is given to the similarities and differences among world religions. *Prerequisite: Sophomore status.*
- REL-236** **New Testament Literature for BRM Majors & Honors Students** **3/2**
This course focuses on the content of the New Testament and continues developing methods for studying the Bible. Particular attention is paid to the various genres of the New Testament while introducing critical issues for biblical studies. Major historical and cultural developments in the Mediterranean area of the Hellenistic period are surveyed. Work will continue on critical thinking and research skills. *Pre-requisite: REL-104 or REL-130.*
- REL-313** **Religion in America** **3/4**
An overview of the history of American religion. Concentrates on Roman Catholicism, primary Protestant denominations, and indigenous cults via a social-historical approach that includes the analysis of major theological tenets and distinctives as well as ecclesiological structures.
- REL-330** **Pentateuchal Literature** **3/2**
A study of the history of redemption from Adam to Moses as set forth in the Pentateuch. Special attention is given to God's purposes in the call of Abraham and the establishment of the Mosaic economy.
- REL-333** **Wisdom Literature** **3/4**
An analysis of the form and content of the books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and of a number of Egyptian and Mesopotamian texts. The course explores wisdom's worldview and how wisdom literature deals with the issue of theodicy.
- REL-334** **Prophetic Literature** **3/4**
An analysis of the form and content of the Old Testament prophets. The course contextualizes Old Testament prophecy within its ancient Near Eastern background. Attention is paid to early prophetic traditions, the role of the monarchical prophets in the formation of Israel as a state, the emergence of the prophets in the eighth century BCE, and their continued function into the post-exilic period. Special attention is given to the role of social justice and the prophets.
- REL-335** **Pauline Literature** **3/2**
An analysis of the writings of Paul for the purposes of constructing a Pauline theology on such doctrines as man, redemption, incarnation, the church, and last things.
- REL-336** **General Epistolary Literature** **3/4**
A synthetic study of the General Epistles from Hebrews through Jude. Places particular emphasis on the ethical contributions of James and the basic motifs of the Johannine and Petrine epistles.
- REL-338** **Second Temple Judaism and the Dead Sea Scrolls** **3/4**
An examination of the historical and religious significance of Khirbet Qumran and the literary materials recovered near the Dead Sea, including Qumran, Murabba'at, Nahal Hever, and others. The study will be situated in the religio-historical setting of the Levant from 586 BCE - 70 CE. Attention will be given to a range of issues arising from the materials, such as paleography, textual criticism of Jewish biblical and non-biblical writings, changing political landscapes, and religious developments in Judaism vis-a-vis Hellenism and Zoroastrianism.
- REL-339** **Gospel Literature** **3/2**
A study of the four Gospels, including their backgrounds, themes, outlines and distinguishing features, and distinctive portraits of Christ, as well as a study of the life and ministry of Christ as set forth in the Gospel of Mark.

REL-352	Christian Beliefs and History	3/1
A study of the major doctrines of Christianity. Consideration is given both to the biblical bases and the historical contexts out of which these beliefs were fashioned. The course also traces key developments in the history of Christianity that help explain the diversity of beliefs and practices among various Christian traditions. <i>Prerequisites: REL-104 and REL-204 (or REL-130 and REL-236) and PHI-211, Junior status.</i>		
REL-354	Theology I	3/2
A biblical, historical, and systematic treatment of four theological topics: the doctrine of revelation, theology proper, anthropology and Christology. The relevance of these topics to the student's personal life, the corporate life of the Church, and the cultural milieu is emphasized. <i>Prerequisites: REL-104 and REL-204 (or REL-130 and REL-236) and PHI-211, Junior status.</i>		
REL-356	Theology II	3/2
A biblical, historical, and systematic treatment of the remaining theological topics: pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. Like REL-354, the course emphasizes both orthodoxy and orthopraxy. <i>Prerequisites: REL-104 and REL-204 (or REL-130 and REL-236), PHI-211, Junior status.</i>		
REL-357	Old Testament History and Theology	3/2
A study of the periods of Israel's history from the Patriarchs to the Restoration in relation to the surrounding nations of the Near East and the unfolding theological revelation of these periods centered in the Abrahamic Covenant, the Mosaic institutions, Israel's response of apostasy and formalism, and the prophetic reactions to that defection.		
REL-358	New Testament History and Theology	3/2
The inter-testamental period is considered in its historical development as a bridge to the New Testament era. The New Testament is set in its historical, political, cultural, social, economic and religious environments. Considers the major biblical theological themes that emerge from the New Testament in their historical development and presentation. <i>Prerequisite: REL-236.</i>		
REL-380	Internship	1-6/1
Practical field experience in a ministry context designed to help the student develop ministry skills and to clarify the student's sense of vocation.		
REL-411	Philosophy of Religion	3/4
An analysis of the major philosophical problems of religion in the twenty-first century. Emphasis is placed on the problem of religious knowledge in relation to faith and reason, traditional arguments for the existence of God, and contemporary difficulties of religious language and verification. <i>Prerequisite: PHI 211.</i>		
REL-412	History & Religions of the Ancient Near East	3/4
A study of the history, culture, and religions of the ancient Near East (3500-323 BC). This class examines the main people groups of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Levant (Canaan/Israel) with special attention to shared cultural elements, the development of writing, and distinguishing characteristics and events. The class studies key primary texts (in English translation) of different genres while presenting a synthesis of prevalent ideologies. There will also be an introduction to scholarly methods for studying the textual and material finds that form the basis for historical reconstruction.		
REL-414	Islam	3/4
A précis of the Islamic religion including its history, beliefs and current practices. This course will give a basis for understanding the current unrest in the Middle East. Islam will be contrasted with Christianity and the student will gain an appreciation of the Muslim people, their culture and practices. Strategies for engaging Muslims with the gospel will be included.		
REL-434	Judges	3/4
An examination of Judges in its historical context. Particular attention will be given to Hebrew narrative, the tribal system and societal structure in ancient Israel, Israelite religion, and various interpretative methodologies. The seminar will help students develop competency in research, Hebrew word studies, archaeological interpretation, and historical geography.		
REL-435	Psalms	3/4
This course explores ancient Israel's expression of faith in different seasons and aspects of life. Students will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of psalms by analyzing the form and content of a variety of psalms.		
REL-436	Revelation	3/4
A study of the historical, literary, and theological features of the Book of Revelation and the various schools of its interpretation. The course will examine various examples of apocalyptic literature as they inform our understanding of Revelation.		
REL-438	Romans	3/4
This course on Romans is built upon the hermeneutical and biblical literature courses. The seminar aims to develop the student's ability to grasp the textual content and application of this important book of the Bible. Emphasis is on the analytical and textual work of the student supplemented by the insight of the professor.		
REL-441	Apologetics	3/2
Prepares students to meet a variety of current challenges to the credibility of the Christian faith. The course introduces the major types of apologetic methods, considers several arguments against the truth of Christianity and provides resources to rebut those arguments. It also enables students to give positive reasons for why they believe the Christian story.		
REL-462	Senior Seminar Capstone	3/2
A capstone experience that helps students envision how they might contribute to fulfilling God's purpose in the world. Specific attention will be given to the topics of calling, career, decision making, and personal finance. Students will assemble a portfolio of a variety of materials to assist them in formulating next steps after graduation. <i>Prerequisite: Senior Status.</i>		

REL-470	Readings in Religion or Biblical Studies	1-3/1
<i>Guided readings and reports in the student's areas of interest and need. Prerequisite: Admission to the BRM division or permission of the instructor or division chair.</i>		
REL-480	Advanced Topics Seminar	3/6
<i>Formal class dependent upon student demand and interest of the professor. May deal with particular issues of Christian theology, religious epistemology, modern religious thought, or the writings of a particular theologian or religious thinker. May deal with a particular biblical book or issues of interpretation and methodology. Prerequisite: Admission to the BRM division or permission of the instructor or division chair.</i>		
REL/HIS-481	Ancient Studies Thesis Project I	2/6
<i>Prerequisite: Admission into BRM division.</i>		
REL/HIS-482	Ancient Studies Thesis Project II & Capstone Seminar	2/6
<i>Prerequisite: Admission into BRM division.</i>		
REL-490	Independent Studies	3-6/1
<i>Consult with division chair concerning possible studies. Prerequisite: Admission to the BRM division or permission of the instructor or division chair.</i>		