

# Theology and Religious Studies (TRS)

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John Carroll University considers the study of theology and religion an integral part of a liberal education. As a Jesuit and Catholic university, John Carroll provides the opportunity for students to choose courses designed to give them an understanding of their faith commensurate with their other learning. The University Core requirement in theology and religious studies is satisfied by TRS 101 and a second appropriately designated 3-credit TRS course at the 200 or 300 level.

TRS 101 is designed to introduce students to the academic study of theology and religion and to address several issues and topics fundamental to the field. The options for the second course allow students to continue and deepen their study of one or more of the issues and topics introduced in the first course. TRS 101 is a prerequisite to all other courses offered in the department.

Courses at the 200 and 300 levels are open to all students except where prerequisites are specifically stated. Course numbers indicate subject areas, not the level of difficulty of a course. The lower-division courses (200-level) involve broad surveys of a topic while upper-division courses (300-level) have more specific and limited foci. Enrollment in 400-level courses typically is restricted to TRS majors and minors; other students require the permission of the department chair.

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies offers a major and minor. The major in theology and religious studies may serve as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the certification of elementary and high school teachers of religion in the Diocese of Cleveland.

The department is privileged to offer courses with the support of several endowments: the Walter and Mary Tuohy Chair of Interreligious Studies, the Bediüzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies, the F. J. O'Neill Charitable Corporation Fund, and the Jack and Mary Jane Breen Chair in Catholic Systematic Theology. For details on these programs, see pages 426-432.

## **Five-Year Integrated B.A./M.A. Program**

The five-year integrated B.A./M.A. program in Theology and Religious Studies is designed for undergraduate theology and religious studies majors who wish to earn the master's degree with an additional year of study beyond the baccalaureate degree. Undergraduate students majoring in theology and religious studies may apply for admission to the M.A. program in their junior year. Once accepted, they may begin taking graduate courses in order to complete the M.A. in their fifth year. The master's degree is a 30-credit-hour program. Normally

students will complete 6 graduate credits between the fall and spring of senior year, 6 credits in the summer between their fourth and fifth years, and 18 credits between the fall and spring of the fifth year. More information about this program is available on the department website: <http://go.jcu.edu/trs>.

Program requirements and course descriptions for the Master of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies are published in the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* and are available on the Theology and Religious Studies website.

## **Program Learning Goals in Theology and Religious Studies**

Students will:

1. Understand the religious dimensions of human experience, history, and cultures.
2. Critically analyze religious expressions in sacred texts, art, ritual practices, and ethical commitments.
3. Recognize cultural and religious diversity globally, with particular awareness of Catholic approaches to interreligious dialogue.
4. Appreciate the relationship between religious commitment and efforts to address injustice and live ethically.

### **Major and Minor Requirements**

**Major in Theology and Religious Studies:** 36 credit hours.

One introductory course (TRS 101).

Two courses in Scripture, one lower-division (TRS 200–209), and one upper-division (TRS 300–309, 400–409).

One course in the history of Christianity (TRS 220–229, 320–329).

Two courses in systematic theology, one lower-division (TRS 230–239), and one upper-division (TRS 330–339, 430–439).

Two courses in world religions selected from the following:

- Judaism (TRS 210–219, 310–319)
- Islam (TRS 240–249, 340–349)
- Asian Religions (TRS 250–259, 350–359)

Two courses in religious ethics, one lower-division (TRS 260–269), and one upper-division (TRS 360–369, 460–469).

One upper-division elective (3 cr.).

Senior Seminar (TRS 493).

At least two courses must be on the 400 level; one of these is TRS 493.

A comprehensive examination is required.

Courses in the Integrative Core Curriculum may be used to meet 200- and 300-level course requirements for the TRS major.

Although not required, majors are strongly encouraged to study abroad.

**Minor in Theology and Religious Studies:** 18 credit hours.

One introductory course (TRS 101).

Three courses (9 credits), one each from *three* of the following areas:

- Scripture (TRS 200–209, 300–309)
- History of Christianity (TRS 220–229, 320–329)
- Systematic Theology (TRS 230–239, 330–339)
- World Religions:
  - Judaism (TRS 210–219, 310–319)
  - Islam (TRS 240–249, 340–349)
  - Asian Religions (TRS 250–259, 350–359)
  - Religious Ethics (TRS 260–269, 360–369)

One 300- or 400-level elective (3 credits).

Senior Seminar (TRS 493).

Courses in the Integrative Core Curriculum may be used to meet the 200- and 300-level course requirements for the TRS minor.

**101. INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES 3 cr.**

Introduction to the academic study of theology and religion. Topics include the nature of religion; the human search for meaning; revelation; symbol, myth, and ritual; and faith as it relates to reason, experience, and morality. Introduction to the areas of scripture, theology, ethics, and non-Christian religious traditions. TRS 101 is designed to prepare students for courses at the 200 and 300 levels.

**200. OLD TESTAMENT/TANAKH 3 cr.** Historical and cultural environment of Jewish Bible (“Old Testament”), its nature and composition, and its religious and theological developments.

**205. NEW TESTAMENT 3 cr.** Development and composition of the New Testament; the historical, cultural, and religious environments out of which it arose; and the various theological perspectives found within it.

**210. INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM 3 cr.** Historical overview of the development of Judaism from its biblical beginnings through the modern period, including a discussion of the major religious ideas of classical Judaism.

**220. HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I 3 cr.** Christianity from its origins to 1300: earliest communities, encounter with the Roman world, establishment of Christian intellectual and artistic life, monasticism, barbarian conversions, rise of the papacy, and Gothic cathedrals.

**222. AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY 3 cr.** Development of Christianity in the U.S. from the colonial times to today. Emphasis on interaction between Christianity and American culture and on the development of Roman Catholicism in the U.S. Topics include the Puritans, religious liberty, abolition, revivalism, immigration, nativism, Industrial Revolution, Catholic education, prohibition, fundamentalism, rise of the laity, and modern secularism.

**223. AFRICAN-AMERICAN RELIGION 3 cr.** The African-American religious experience, including historical roots of African religion essential to slave Christianity, development of the institutional church, and spiritual expressions influencing African-American worship styles. Important political and social foundations of the church from which political and social organizations were created, as well as African-American theology.

**224. MINORITY RELIGIONS 3 cr.** Examines the histories, traditions, and lived religious practices of select minority religious groups by exploring nodes of interaction and exchange with wider American culture (e.g., through architecture, commerce, food, law, and media). Case studies consider such questions as the shifting contextual meaning of the labels minority/majority and marginal/central; their purposes, utility, and inadequacy; distinct ways American religious groups affect one another; and how religious groups maintain their distinct identities and reinforce their boundaries.

**225. RELIGION IN POPULAR CULTURE 3 cr.** Examines the dynamic relationship between religion and popular culture by investigating the role of religion in such “secular” phenomena as mainstream U.S. literature, music, and film. Emphasis on the particular influence that Catholic authors, actors, and musicians have had in shaping contemporary U.S. popular culture.

**226. RELIGIONS OF OHIO AND THE WESTERN RESERVE 3 cr.** Investigates the rich religious history of Ohio and the Western Reserve, which has served as an incubator for several well-known religious groups and significant religious modes, from the ancient mound-builders to the present day. Case studies are used to consider broader theoretical concerns about the role of place in the religious lives of individuals and communities.

**230. CONTEMPORARY CATHOLIC THEOLOGY 3 cr.** Overview of Roman Catholic theological themes and issues since the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) with attention to selected areas: scripture, grace, sin, redemption, the role of Jesus, the Church, ethical norms and morality, and sacraments.

**231. CONTEMPORARY CATHOLIC THEOLOGY: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES 3 cr.** Surveys and studies the significant contribution of the contemporary Roman Catholic tradition and, in particular, contemporary Catholic theologians, to globalization issues of economics, demography, ecology, consumerism, immigration, human trafficking, and interreligious conflict.

**232. JESUS: HISTORY AND THEOLOGY 3 cr.** The ways Christians have understood the person and work of Jesus. Use of scripture and tradition to illumine how those who confess him as Savior have defined him and to provide means for traditional and creative thinking about the central figure of Christian faith.

**233. SAINTS AND SOCIETY 3 cr.** The theological significance of saints in the Roman Catholic tradition. Topics include the origins of the cult of the saints, changing models of sanctity, ritual and devotional practices, the process and politics of canonization, and the implications of the veneration of saints for a theological treatment of God, the church, and the human person.

**234. THEOLOGY BEHIND BARS 3 cr.** Focus on theological writings produced while their authors were imprisoned. These primary-source accounts reflect intense mental, spiritual, and physical anguish, at the same time expressing hope, despair, contrition, courage, solidarity, conviction, faith, purpose, and often wisdom. Many testify to the pervasive inequity of the criminal-justice system with regard to the poor.

**235. CATHOLICISM IN A DIGITAL AGE 3 cr.** The theological significance of the digital revolution for the Catholic experience of faith, with particular emphasis on communication technologies and their implications for the Roman Catholic Church as a global religious institution. Surveys the historical impact of technological innovation on the church and explores in depth several theological topics currently being rethought in light of technological change.

**236. CHURCH AND MINISTRY 3 cr.** Survey of the theology of church and ministry taking into account the biblical background and historical developments, and focusing on issues and ideas surrounding ministry today. Locates ministry and church mission within a broadly Christian ecumenical perspective, with an emphasis on the Roman Catholic experience.

**240. INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM 3 cr.** Surveys the history of Islam, impact of Islamic belief and culture on global social and political development, and fundamental tenets and practices of Islam. Includes a modern interpretation of the Islamic tradition.

**252. RELIGIONS OF INDIA 3 cr.** Study of interpretation of India's religions and cultures, including the discussion of methods and cultural biases in the study of foreign religions and cultures. Focus on Hinduism and Buddhism in the Indian subcontinent and how these were transmitted to other Asian countries.

**253. CHINESE RELIGIONS 3 cr.** Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Ancient Chinese beliefs and practices, and the introduction and adaptations of Buddhism. Philosophical and cultural manifestations and the gradual development of the major Chinese religious movements up to the modern period.

**254. JAPANESE RELIGIONS 3 cr.** Ancient Shinto beliefs; importation and modification of Korean and Chinese cultures and religions up to the modern era. Emergence of the Japanese empire in the seventh century CE, and the developments of Tendai, Kegon, Zen, and Shingon beliefs and practices.

**260. MORAL DECISION MAKING 3 cr.** Examination of contemporary moral issues with a focus on methods for analyzing and evaluating moral problems; sources from the Christian tradition that form moral identity and ethical decisions.

**261. AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ETHICS 3 cr.** Nature, origins, and functions of African-American ethical response as related to social, political, and religious belief systems. Emphasis on historical and social translation of values dictated by African-American religion and theology. Topics include African-American social Christianity, ethical/political issues of religion, womanist ethics, and current ethical dialogues.

**268. CATHOLIC MORAL THEOLOGY 3 cr.** Methods for making informed and prudential moral decisions grounded in experience, Scripture, church teaching, and rational discourse. Addresses contemporary interpersonal and social problems in light of moral theory within the Catholic tradition.

**270. FIGUREHEADS, FOUNDERS, VISIONARIES 1-3 cr.** Focus on one or more key individuals who have influenced the historical development of one or more religions and spiritual pathways. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered.

**271. CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY 3 cr.** The interior life studied from the perspective of spiritual freedom and transformation grounded in the life and teaching of Jesus. Probes the deepest longings of the heart and their relationship to human and spiritual fulfillment.

**272. SOUL FOOD AND FOOD FOR THE SOUL 3 cr.** African-American spirituality, religion, and identity formation through religious and food experiences within the family and the greater African-American cultural group. History of food availability and preparation. Film portrayals of African-American family unity maintained through cultural traditions related to food. *This course is linked with IC 208 in the Engaging Human Experience sector of the Integrative Core Curriculum.*

**299. SPECIAL TOPICS 1-3 cr.** Selected topics in one of the areas of theology and religious studies. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**300. HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (HS 300) 3 cr.** History, culture, and religions of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Syro-Palestine.

**301. ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE 3 cr.** Principles and methodologies of archaeology; examination of how archaeology broadens and informs our understanding of the world and events of the Bible.

**302. THE BIBLE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE HUNGRY 3 cr.** The Bible presents the poor as objects of God's special protection, and views their treatment by members of the wider society as the litmus test of whether a society is righteous or wicked. Focus on the Bible's critique of the dynamics of food scarcity, displacement, exile, drought, despair, and other basic hungers of the human race.

**306. JESUS IN FILM AND HISTORY 3 cr.** Introduction to the words and deeds of the historical Jesus of Nazareth, as understood by his contemporaries. Comparisons to how Jesus was later understood and portrayed by his followers (e.g., in the New Testament) and in popular media (art, literature, and film).

**308. HEALING IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY & THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD 3 cr.** Exploration of the understanding of health and healing in the gospels and other early Christian traditions, and of Jesus' role as healer, in comparison to other contemporaneous Greco-Roman religious traditions (e.g., Galen, the author of the most influential medical textbook in the Western world, and the Asclepius cult, the world's first system of holistic medicine).

**309. SPECIAL TOPICS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES 1-3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the Bible and biblical archaeology. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**315. THE HOLOCAUST AND ITS MEANING 3 cr.** Reaction of Jewish and Christian intellectuals to the Nazi attempt to destroy the Jewish people; analysis of accounts of Holocaust survivors; the singular witness of Elie Wiesel; significance of the Holocaust for Jewish-Christian dialogue.

**319. SPECIAL TOPICS IN JEWISH STUDIES 1-3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the history, culture, faith, and practice of the Jewish people. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**321. HISTORY OF THE PAPACY 3 cr.** Origins of the papacy in the Roman world; growth of papal influence in the Early Middle Ages; decline of the papacy and rise of Protestantism; Counter Reformation; the popes and the absolute monarchs; the Enlightenment attacks; responses to European revolutions; the papacy and European totalitarianism; the papacy and the Third World; the popes and modern democratic trends.

**322. WOMEN IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION 3 cr.** Lives and writings of prominent women within the Christian tradition from the viewpoint of contemporary feminist theology. Emphasis on women's contribution to theology in light of their historical contexts.

**323. LIFE, TIMES, AND THEOLOGY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 3 cr.** Life, career, and teaching of the civil-rights leader and Christian theologian; sources of his unique theology; analysis of speeches and writings; King's relationship to thinkers such as Tillich and Gandhi; milestones of justice and peace.

**324. HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS 3 cr.** Origins of the feast; gospel infancy narratives; apocryphal traditions; Christology; Christmas in Medieval art and drama; cult of Saint Nicholas; origins and growth of Christmas music; Puritan attack on the feast; decline of the feast in 18<sup>th</sup> century; impact of the Industrial Revolution; Washington Irving, Charles Dickens, and establishment of modern Christmas; modern commercialization; contemporary developments.

**326. HISTORY OF THE IDEA OF EVIL 3 cr.** Problem of evil from its biblical origins to the modern period with emphasis on the interaction between religious beliefs and cultural forces. Topics include the Book of Job, the rise of Satan, Augustine and original sin, Satan in medieval art, Dante, Milton, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, Mary Shelley, the demonic and Gothic, and modern theological and scientific approaches.

**328. THE FRANCISCAN MOVEMENT 3 cr.** Franciscan movement from its origins with Francis of Assisi to its contemporary manifestations. Historical and spiritual aspects of the Franciscan phenomenon and its import for the Church today. Offered at the Center for Pastoral Leadership.

**329. SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY 1-3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the history of the Christian community in its various manifestations. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**330. MODELS OF GOD 3 cr.** Comparison of several models for understanding God and God's relations to the world. Personal models (parent, friend); the soul-body model; traditional models (monarch, being Itself); process models (cosmic lover, creator-redeemer-liberator); and the God-as-mystery model.

**331. SIN, GRACE, AND WHOLENESS 3 cr.** Introduction to theological anthropology, the study of the human being in relation to God and in conflict with evil, in order to secure a doctrinal foundation for the understanding of Christian spirituality. Readings include selections from the Bible and later theologians/movements such as Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, the Council of Trent, Karl Rahner, and feminist and liberation theology.

**332. CHRISTOLOGY 3 cr.** Study of the principal developments in theological reflection on the meaning and significance of Jesus Christ in the New Testament and in later church tradition; consideration of how contemporary Christology is both affected by and responds to crucial concerns of today's culture.

**333. UNDERSTANDING CHURCH 3 cr.** Origin, nature, and mission of the Church in light of its evolution from the preaching and mission of Jesus and his disciples, through its developing history, to its current self-understanding since Vatican II.

**334. SACRAMENTS 3 cr.** Introduction to the concept and nature of "sacrament" and to the historical, liturgical, and theological development of the seven sacraments, which are studied in general as well as individually. Emphasis on sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation/chrismation, eucharist) with consideration of sacraments of healing (penance, healing of the sick) and of Church service/government (matrimony, holy orders). Also examines the "sacramental imagination" as a way to understand theological assumptions that play a large part in Catholic spiritual tradition.

**335. WHAT HAPPENED AT VATICAN II 3 cr.** The Second Vatican Council as a historical, sociological, and theological event. Explores what happened at Vatican II, in particular its causes and effects in the life of the Roman Catholic Church.

**336. AFRICAN-AMERICAN THEOLOGY 3 cr.** Survey of the theological foundations and systems which dominate African-American religious thought; contemporary theological issues relating to biblical ideals, liberation and justice, black feminist theology, and concepts from the African-American religious experience.

**339. SPECIAL TOPICS IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 1-3 cr.** Selected problems or authors in systematic theology. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**341. ISLAM IN AMERICA 3 cr.** Introduction to the history of Islam and its arrival in the New World. Focus on the experience of American Muslims, including African-American Muslims, immigrant Muslims, and new American converts. Considers all levels of the Muslim public sphere in the U.S. and current U.S. relations with Muslim countries.

**342. ISLAM AND THE ENVIRONMENT 3 cr.** Overview of environmental issues and Islamic approaches to these challenges based on the major sources of Islam: the Qur'an and the Hadith. Islamic principles regarding the natural world and humanity's place within it, and Islamic legal strictures to protect the environment. Special emphasis on contemporary Islamic activism to protect the natural world.

**349. SPECIAL TOPICS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES 1-3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the Qur'an and/or the history, faith, and practice of the Muslim community. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**350. TUOHY CHAIR 1-3 cr.** Special seminar offered by a visiting Tuohy scholar. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. See the Tuohy website (<http://go.jcu.edu/tuohy>) for further information. May be repeated with a different topic.

**351. SILK ROAD RELIGIONS 3 cr.** Focuses on religion, art, and politics on the international trade routes of East, Central, and South Asia, from the second through the twentieth centuries. Representative examples are presented chronologically and carefully situated within their political and religious contexts. Interdisciplinary methodology includes consideration of histories, religions, arts, and politics of the times.

**359. SPECIAL TOPICS IN ASIAN RELIGIONS 1-3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the religions of Asia and/or manifestations of western religions in an Asian context. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**361. LIBERATION ETHICS 3 cr.** Focuses on the ethics that arose out of the moral indignation of Latin Americans, Africans, and Asians in response to injustices. This ethics begins with the concrete reality of the poor and oppressed and moves toward the transformation of persons and structures as its goal. Includes reflection on a people's experience in light of social-scientific analysis and scripture.

**362. RELIGION, ETHICS, AND PUBLIC POLICY 3 cr.** Focuses on debates about the role religion should play in the formulation of public policy in the United States. Considers works of Rawls, Hauerwas, Stout, and others.

**363. JUSTICE AND THE ECONOMY 3 cr.** Seminar focusing on the relationship between economic and ethical choices and their implications, using basic economic and theological-ethical frameworks for decision making; case studies.

**364. CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY 3 cr.** Study of human sexuality, its meaning and mystery, and ethical issues related to sexual behavior and attitudes, all from a Christian perspective. Christian wisdom and wisdom of the ages in light of human experience and contemporary theories of the meaning and significance of sexuality. Special attention to the inherent relationship between spirituality and sexuality.

**368. CHRISTIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE 3 cr.** Examination of Catholic and Protestant social teachings that contribute to a social ethics. Special focus on political, economic, and cultural problems, including war and peace, poverty, and prejudice.

**369. SPECIAL TOPICS IN RELIGIOUS ETHICS 1-3 cr.** Selected issues or authors in religious ethics. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**371. IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT 3 cr.** Study of the life and writings of Ignatius Loyola and the spirituality that emerged from his religious experience, the dissemination of Ignatian spirituality across the globe through the creation of the Jesuit order, the mission and ministry of the first Jesuits, the development of Ignatian spirituality through the centuries, and its contemporary relevance.

**372. THEOLOGY OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SACRED MUSIC 3 cr.** Survey of theological issues and constructs in African-American sacred music. Musical theology of Negro spirituals as starting point in discovering expressions of biblical and societal musings. Gospel music and anthematic presentations as expressions of a basic understanding of life and being in the African-American experience.

**373. DOROTHY DAY AND THOMAS MERTON 3 cr.** Study of two of the most significant American Catholic writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, whose work has been acknowledged and praised for both its spiritual depth and prophetic witness. Focus on Day and Merton as guides for the spiritual seekers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**379. SPECIAL TOPICS IN SPIRITUALITY 1-3 cr.** Selected topics relating to the work of great spiritual leaders and/or to spiritual practices such as prayer, worship, and meditation. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**389. SPECIAL TOPICS IN PASTORAL/PRACTICAL THEOLOGY 1-3 cr.** Selected topics in the area of pastoral theology and ministry. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**399. SPECIAL TOPICS 1-3 cr.** Selected topics in one of the areas of theology and religious studies. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

**Note:** Registration in all 400-level courses requires prior permission from the instructor and the department chair, except for TRS majors/minors and graduate students.

**400. ENGAGING SCRIPTURES: INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION 3 cr.** Problems of and approaches to understanding the Jewish and Christian scriptures. Special focus on the methods essential to exegesis, biblical interpretation, and contemporary uses of the scriptures.

**405. “REJECTED BOOKS” OF THE BIBLE 3 cr.** Introduction to the non-canonical writings of formative Judaism and early Christianity. Intensive study of selections from the intertestamental, apocryphal, and pseudepigraphical literature of the Old and New Testaments; the Mishnaic and later Talmudic literature; and the writings of early Christian authors.

**406. NEW TESTAMENT ETHICS FOR CONTEMPORARY CULTURE 3 cr.** Ethical perspectives and prescriptions conveyed by the New Testament. The teaching and praxis of Jesus, including his concern for the poor and solidarity with the marginalized, provide the center of gravity for analysis of a cross-section of the paraenetic teaching and ethical traditions in the New Testament. Students develop sophisticated tools for understanding the New Testament’s contribution to contemporary ethical debates.

**408. PAUL OF TARSUS: RABBI OR REVOLUTIONARY? 3 cr.** Introduction to the cultural and historical background of the life and career of the Apostle Paul, examination of his major writings, writings in the Pauline traditions, their impact in their original historical-cultural settings, and uses of these texts in other settings today.

**420. THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY 3 cr.** Emergence of Christianity into the Greco-Roman world during the first six centuries. Key topics include: establishment of Trinitarian theology and Christology; relations of Church and State; roles of women; origins of monasticism; interaction with pagan culture; establishment of ecclesiastical structures; early Christian art; major figures (Constantine, Athanasius, Augustine); and the Church’s growing self-understanding.

**421. CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY: EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN SYRIA & ASIA MINOR 3 cr.** The rise of Christianity in Roman Syria and Asia Minor (modern Turkey) through study of literature and sites significant to this development. Traces Christian development from northern Palestine through Syria, Cappadocia, and Anatolia, to Ephesus, the “metropolis of Asia.” Often done “on location” during a study tour of Syria, Turkey, and/or Greece.

**422. AUGUSTINE: LIFE, THEOLOGY, INFLUENCE 3 cr.** Introduction to Augustine of Hippo (CE 354–431), a magisterial figure in the history of Christian thought who remains significant for contemporary Christianity. Topics include Augustine’s views of early church and state, marriage and sexuality, original sin, and freedom of the will.

**430. INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 3 cr.** Consideration of key concepts necessary for understanding how theology works: faith, revelation, scripture, symbol, tradition, community, and method. Exploration of how these concepts work in the writings of a few significant theologians. Placement of these thinkers within their historical and cultural worlds, in order to help students reflect on what it means to do theology out of their own unique commitments, contexts, and life experiences.

**431. READINGS IN FEMINIST THEOLOGY 3 cr.** Exploration of the way in which the feminist movement has affected the articulation of Christian doctrine through a reading and analysis of the works of contemporary feminist theologians. Includes a survey of feminist theory from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

**450. FAITHS OF ABRAHAM: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM 3 cr.** Cross-cultural approach to the study of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, all of which claim Abraham, the Biblical patriarch, as their “father in faith.” Uses American and selected international religious communities as case studies.

**451. PILGRIMAGE 3 cr.** Examination of the phenomenon of pilgrimage as a unifying theme in the study of world religions and as a key component of religious life. Isolates the theme of pilgrimage and considers it as a perspective on the unity of spirit, mind, and body as an expression of the inseparability of individuals and larger religious communities. Uses pilgrimage as a point of departure for investigations of symbols, rituals, myths, laws, doctrines, faiths, and visions manifested in world religions.

**491. INTERNSHIP 1-4 cr.** Prerequisites: permission of department chair and instructor. An internship/practicum experience in the field(s) of ministry, religious studies, and/or theology. Involves supervised work at a religiously-affiliated institution or agency engaged in direct service to and/or advocacy in the local community. Each student is placed in a local institutional context best suited to individual skills and interests, receives on-the-job mentoring, and engages in guided theological and spiritual reflection through a written journal and weekly seminar discussions. May be repeated with a different topic or placement.

**492. INDEPENDENT STUDY 1-3 cr.** Prerequisites: permission of department chair and instructor. In-depth study on a tutorial basis of a particular problem, approved by the chair and directed by a member of the department. A research paper is required.

**493. SENIOR SEMINAR 3 cr.** Prerequisite: permission of department chair. Capstone seminar for TRS majors and minors. Normally taught in fall semester.

**494. THE CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE 3 cr.** Prerequisite: permission of department chair. Capstone seminar for students in the Catholic Studies program. Normally taught in spring semester.

**499. SPECIAL TOPICS 1-3 cr.** Selected topics in one of the areas of theology and religious studies. Specific content and number of credits to be announced when offered. May be repeated with a different topic.

