



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND THEOLOGY (2021-2022)

### Division of Philosophical, Religious, Theological, Social & Cultural Studies

Christoffer Lammer-Heindel, Ph.D., Chair

The religious studies and theology program emphasizes five areas of study: scripture; doctrine; worship and sacraments; moral theology; and ecumenical and interfaith studies. Students are encouraged to take courses in the 100s and 200s between their first and fifth semesters, and courses in the 300s between their sixth and eighth semesters. 400 level courses are designed for majors only.

Student Learning Outcomes – Religious Studies and Theology	
1.	Students are able to explain and reflect critically on important elements of religious tradition(s) using key facts, definitions, and vocabulary.
2.	Students are able to apply basic methods of research such as the ability to access, gather, and organize information from primary sources.
3.	Students are able to identify different theological approaches to key concepts, themes, and practices of religious life.
4.	Students are able to use theology to interpret religious beliefs and practices within the contemporary world.

### Requirements for the major in Religious Studies (B.A.):

Req	Course	Cr's
1	L.RST-110: Jesus and the Gospels-EI	3
2	L.RST-150: Community of Hope-EI	3
3	L.RST-160: Worship: Foretaste of Heaven-EC	3
4	L.RST-291: Catholic Heritage	3
5	L.RST Elective utilizing Historical Method (marked below with #)	3
6	L.RST Elective from Category 1	3
7	Additional L.RST Elective from Categories 1-5	3
8	Additional L.RST Elective from Categories 1-6	3
9	L.RST-370: Foundations of Ethics (cross-listed as L.PHI-301)	3
10	L.RST-371: Catholic Social Teachings-VX	3
11	L.RST-399: Religious Studies and Theology Process Writing	1
12	L.RST-490: Capstone Research-IN	1
<b>Select one from Req 13 (Capstone)</b>		
13	L.RST-491: Thesis Writing	2
13	L.RST-493: Practicum in Parish Ministry	2
<b>34 total required credits</b>		

### Requirements for the Ministry Concentration:

Majors wishing to graduate with a concentration of coursework in the area of ministry must complete the major including the following two courses:

1. L.RST-256: Foundations for Ministry
2. L.RST-493: Practicum for Parish Ministry

### Requirements for the minor in Religious Studies:

Req	Course	Cr's
<b>Select one from Req 1</b>		
1a	L.RST-110: Jesus and the Gospels-EI	3
1b	L.RST-150: Community of Hope-EI	3
1c	L.RST-160: Worship: Foretaste of Heaven-EC	3
2	L.RST-291: Catholic Heritage	3
<b>Elective Sequence: One elective must utilize Historical Methodology (marked below with #)</b>		
3a	For those taking Req 1a: Additional L.RST Elective from category 3	3
3b	For those taking Req 1b: Additional L.RST Elective from category 2	3
3c	For those taking Req 1c: Additional L.RST Elective from category 2	3
4a	For those taking Req 1a: Additional L.RST Elective from category 4	3
4b	For those taking Req 1b: Additional L.RST Elective from category 4	3
4c	For those taking Req 1c: Additional L.RST Elective from category 3	3
5	Additional L.RST Elective from Category 1 – Religious Studies: Ecumenism and Interfaith	3
6	Additional L.RST Elective	3
7	L.RST-370: Foundations of Ethics (cross-listed as PHI 301)	3
<b>21 total required credits</b>		

Courses listed with notation “#” are taught using historical-theological method.

### CATEGORY 1 – RELIGIOUS STUDIES: ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH

L.RST-201: World Religions  
L.RST-205: Islam in America-EI #  
L.RST-303: Pilgrims in Their Own Land  
L.RST-311: Jewish and Christian Exegesis

### CATEGORY 2 – SCRIPTURE

L.RST-211: Introduction to the Old Testament  
L.RST-215: God’s Literature  
L.RST-310: Bible and Literature  
L.RST-312: Biblical Prophets #  
L.RST-318: Seminar on the Letters of St. Paul

### CATEGORY 3 – DOCTRINE

L.RST-227: Little Less Than a God-AC (cross-listed as L.CTL-262)  
L.RST-228: Martyrs, Mendicants and Masterpieces # (cross-listed as L.CTL-263)  
L.RST-229: The Catholic Church in Latin America  
L.RST-251: Catholicism Encounters Modernity-AC (cross-listed as L.CTL-264)  
L.RST-256: Foundations for Ministry  
L.RST-258: Communication for Communion (cross-listed as L.CTL-260)  
L.RST-285: Science, Faith, and Knowledge (cross-listed as L.PHI-235)

L.RST-291: The Catholic Heritage  
L.RST-321: Councils, Creeds, and Culture #  
L.RST-331: Christ and Culture #

#### **CATEGORY 4 – WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS**

L.RST-262: Eucharist: Banquet of Justice  
L.RST-268: Roman Catholic Sacred Spaces-AA  
L.RST-360: Sacraments: Catholic Identity in Community #  
L.RST-367: Roman Catholic Liturgical Music in Theology and Practice

#### **CATEGORY 5 – MORAL THEOLOGY**

L.RST-171: Introduction to Peace and Justice  
L.RST-273: Issues in Social Ethics Across Cultures  
L.RST-276: Christian Sexual Morality  
L.RST-320: Belief, Unbelief, and the Good Life (cross-listed as L.CTL-277)  
L.RST-370: Foundations of Ethics  
L.RST-371: Catholic Social Teachings-VX  
L.RST-378: Social Justice Practicum

#### **CATEGORY 6 – OUTSIDE COURSES**

L.HIS-182: Islamic Civilizations-EI  
L.HIS-342: The Reformation  
L.HIS-343: Medieval Christianity  
L.MUS-321: History of Sacred Music  
L.PHI-333: Philosophy of God and Religion  
L.PHI-376: Philosophy and the Rise of Christianity-AC (cross-listed as L.CTL-265)  
L.POL-321: War and Pacifism-VX

#### **SPECIAL, ADVANCED AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES**

L.RST-295: Topics  
L.RST-395: Topics  
L.RST-396: Internship  
L.RST-397: Independent Study: Arranged Course  
L.RST-398: Independent Study: Empirical Research  
L.RST-399: Religious Studies and Theology Process Writing  
L.RST-490: Capstone Research  
L.RST-491: Thesis Writing  
L.RST-493: Practicum in Parish Ministry  
L.RST-498: Independent Study: Directed Readings

### **2021-2022 RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND THEOLOGY COURSES:**

#### **L.RST-110: Jesus & the Gospels-EI**

A critical study of the content of the Four Gospels of the New Testament, as well as their literary, historical, social, and theological contexts. We will compare and contrast their portraits of Jesus, their messages for ancient Christians, and their relevance for modern readers. 3 credits.

#### **L.RST-150: Community of Hope: Christianity, Culture, and Salvation-EI**

Students will examine cultural expressions of the human condition with particular attention to individual and social experiences of brokenness, injustice, and enslavement. Students will also examine multiple understandings of the church in light of its mission to respond to these experiences in healing, just, and liberative ways. In so doing, students will be prepared to think theologically about how the church can remain true to its message of salvation while responding meaningfully to the needs of the contemporary world. 3 credits.

**L.RST-160: Worship: Foretaste of Heaven-EC**

How do Christians pray? How does their prayer draw them into an experience of the reign of God? And how are those on earth, unified with those in heaven, transformed in their identity as children of God? In this course students will explore Christian liturgical prayer. They will investigate what Jesus Christ taught about the reign of God. And they will analyze the ways that these fit together to shape the life and faith of the Christian community. 3 credits.

**L.RST-171: Introduction to Peace and Justice**

This course serves as an introduction to peace and justice studies. It is the foundational course for students intending to minor in Peace and Justice. In this course we will examine the critical concepts, methods, and challenges facing individuals who aspire to help bring peace to persons whose lives are marked by injustice. The course will provide a foundational exploration of social justice concepts, issues, and remedies thereby developing the necessary analytical tools and information to assess injustice and inequality and to suggest changes that need to be made to better these situations. 3 credits.

**L.RST-201: World Religions**

An introductory study of major world religions, particularly Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. The class invites students to compare and contrast the search for meaning that defines each tradition. 3 credits.

**L.RST-205: Islam in America-EI**

This is an in-depth study course that examines the history of Islam in the United States, with particular attention given to a period that begins at the end of the nineteenth century and continues into the contemporary period. 3 credits. January term.

**L.RST-211: Introduction to the Old Testament**

This course introduces students to the different kinds of writing in the Old Testament, to the different methods for interpreting that writing, and to the historical sequence of events that lent it meaning. Students will be asked to think reflectively about how the material they read in the Old Testament relates to the world today. 3 credits.

**L.RST-215: God's Literature**

The New Testament is comprised of the foundational documents of Christian faith. This course surveys these writings as literature that is crafted to communicate God's revelation and to shape the faith and action of Christian communities. Exegesis will be employed to interpret the New Testament texts as literature in historical context and to think critically about the texts' meaning for our present context. 3 credits.

**L.RST-227: Little Less Than a God**

This J-Term travel course to Italy focuses on religious conceptions of the human person across time and place. It will offer a comparative analysis of distinct perspectives on the human person as expressed by Christians of different eras, locations, and theological perspectives, as well as the cultures in which Christianity is rooted. By studying the cultural histories, theological perspectives, and works of art and architecture, students will encounter the diverse influences that have given shape to the self-understandings and religious imaginations of Western Christians today. This course is cross-listed as L.CTL-262. The courses are identical, but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.RST or L.CTL) that a student registers for and completes. 3 credits. January term.

**L.RST-228: Martyrs, Mendicants, and Masterpieces**

The course is a January term study abroad opportunity in Italy. The course focuses on the culture of pre-Constantinian Christian Rome, medieval Franciscan Assisi, and Renaissance Florence. We will study the customs and artifacts of each period to determine how they affected the development of Christian thought and practice. We will examine how cultural traditions formed and changed, and how these traditions affected social organization, religion, and everyday life. This course is cross-listed as L.CTL-263. The courses are

identical, but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.RST or L.CTL) that a student registers for and completes. 3 credits. January term.

**L.RST-229: The Catholic Church in Latin America**

This study travel course covers the history of the Catholic Church in Latin America and the current issues it faces. The course will primarily focus on Spanish and Portuguese colonialism, liberation theology, and the contemporary period. For part of the course, students will travel to Peru and experience historical reminders of the Catholic Church's past, but also experience first-hand the issues facing the Church in Latin America today. 3 credits. January term.

**L.RST-251: Catholicism Encounters Modernity**

This course will investigate attributes of the cultural landscape, from the time of the French Revolution until the present, which influenced the Catholic Church's self-understanding and its articulation of its relationship to the wider world. We will explore the customs, rules, and language that shaped the Catholic Church's internal discourse and influenced its exchange with the world outside its boundaries. We will visit sites in Paris, Lyon, and Rome that provide insight into the Church's posture toward modernity throughout the 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries. This course is cross-listed as L.CTL-264. The courses are identical, but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.RST or L.CTL) that a student registers for and completes. January term.

**L.RST-256: Foundations for Ministry**

Frederick Buechner described vocation as the intersection of one's deep joy with the world's deep needs. This course explores theological, contextual, and methodological foundations for ministry and prepares students to consider a vocational response to the needs of the church today. 3 credits.

**L.RST-258: Communication for Communion**

In diverse ways throughout its history the Roman Catholic Church has sought to create a culture of communion. This communion has many aspects including the union of the human and the sacred; the union of church members with each other; and the union of the church with the broader world. In order to critically examine this culture and its changing expressions over time, this course compares the means and content of the church's communication in the Italian Renaissance with that of modern/postmodern periods. This course is cross-listed as L.CTL-260. The courses are identical, but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.RST or L.CTL) that a student registers for and completes. 3 credits. January term.

**L.RST-262: Eucharist: Banquet of Justice**

Roman Catholics consider the Eucharist to be a sacrificial ritual banquet in and through which they are unified to the heavenly and the earthly Body of Christ. Christian liturgy and the Gospel alike teach that people will recognizably experience a foretaste of the reign of God the more that they see how God transforms that which is ordinary into that which is extraordinary. Students in this community-based learning J-Term course will have an opportunity to examine the lived nature of God's reign through prayer, study, and the experience of welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and feeding the hungry – with each other, and with guests at the Dubuque Rescue Mission. In so doing, a more robust experience of the Eucharistic celebration will be offered. \*Students in this class will be required to participate (to the degree that their personal conscience and/or faith tradition allows) in daily mass and in approximately 65 service hours. Approved for Community Based Learning. 3 credits. January term.

**L.RST-268: Roman Catholic Sacred Spaces**

How are individuals formed by the physical spaces that surround them? How do the spaces in which Roman Catholics worship inform their understanding of the Church and God? How can substantially different understandings of the Church and God be reconciled within a single church? And how might these differences not simply be overcome, but embraced? This course involves travel to a variety of Catholic churches and the analysis of the theological function of those spaces that emerges according to their form. 3 credits. January term.

**L.RST-273: Issues in Social Ethics: Kenya**

This interdisciplinary J-Term travel course will explore social issues in Kenya through critical ethical reflection on global social concerns and will provide students with an international experience to strengthen awareness of the global dimensions of social justice. Approved for Community Based Learning. Instructor permission required. 3 credits. January Term.

**L.RST-276: Christian Sexual Morality**

This course will examine the Catholic Church's official teachings on sexual morality, looking both to traditional formulations and to more recent ways of thinking about issues of sexual morality. It will also examine some contrary positions proposed by Catholics and non-Catholics. The course will also consider human sexuality, marriage, and family life as paths for growth in the Christian spiritual life. 3 credits.

**L.RST-285: Science, Faith, and Knowledge**

This course will provide an interdisciplinary theoretical and practical introduction to scientific literacy in the natural, human, and behavioral sciences. It aims to assist students in the construction of intellectual frameworks based in sound reason with which to consider the dynamic relationships among empirical scientific research, philosophical commitments, and theological beliefs. Students will be challenged to engage and assess scientific data as well as critically reflect on its practical, personal, and pastoral applications. This course is cross-listed as L.PHI-235. The courses are identical, but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.RST or L.PHI) that a student registers for and completes. 3 credits.

**L.RST-291: The Catholic Heritage**

An examination of defining characteristics of Catholicism, and their manifestation in theology, spirituality, philosophy, history, economics, politics, literature, film and the arts. An integrative course for the Religious Studies major and minor and the Catholic Studies minor. 3 credits.

**L.RST-303: Pilgrims in Their Own Land**

Theologian James Cone describes the migration of African Americans north between the First and Second World Wars as "a religious people making their journey toward the promised land." The same can be said of Eastern European Jews who arrived in the United States in vast numbers at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. This course examines the ways both of these groups used their religious beliefs and practices to help them understand the purpose of their travels, the need to fashion communities in the face of tremendous adversity, and finally how they would respond as "Americans" to both. 3 credits.

**L.RST-310: Bible & Literature**

No religious tradition survives without the help of writers who celebrate, challenge, and even transform its beliefs and practices. This course reads Biblical writings for their beauty and artistry and then examines how the Bible has inspired others to compose poetry, fiction, and drama. 3 credits.

**L.RST-311: Jewish And Christian Exegesis**

In this course, students will engage extensively in a Christian reading practice known as *lectio divina* and a Jewish reading practice known as *havruta*. Seminarians will compare the history, methods, and presuppositions of each practice with higher critical approaches, in order to develop new exegetical skills and interpretations of the biblical texts, which will in turn broaden and hone their understanding of and engagement with the biblical text and facilitate a deeper understanding of their theology and vocation as future priests. Prerequisites: RST-110, RST-211, or RST-215. Instructor Permission Required. 3 credits.

**L.RST-312: Biblical Prophets**

In this course, we study Biblical prophecy as an ancient cultural tradition, and we examine the ways historical events shaped the words and deeds associated with this tradition. In order to gain a more thorough understanding of how complex Biblical prophecy is, we apply different methods of Biblical interpretation to prophetic books of the Bible, and we relate our findings to the world today. 3 credits.

**L.RST-318: Seminar on the Letters of St. Paul**

Using a seminar format, this course studies the letters of St. Paul in the order in which they were written, to facilitate an understanding of the author's theological development in terms of the changing problems he faced. We pay attention to the literary form of the public letter in Paul's day, his own use of that form, the people and positions he found himself arguing against, and his emerging theological synthesis. 3 credits.

**L.RST-320: Belief, Unbelief & the Good Life**

The course examines arguments for and against the existence of God and studies how these arguments affect a comprehension of the moral life and the value of human behavior. The course will begin with a study of "virtue ethics" and will use this ethical theory as a basis for dialogue with the ethics of the non-Christian belief systems of Feuerbach, Marx, Freud, and Nietzsche. Students will develop the tools to make ethical decisions about critical issues facing the human community. This course is cross-listed as L.CTL-277. The courses are identical, but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.RST or L.CTL) that a student registers for and completes. 3 credits.

**L.RST-321: Councils, Creeds & Culture**

This course will examine three periods in the course of Christian history: (a) the time of the "Christological councils" (325-451), (b) the time of the Council of Trent (1545-1563) and (c) the time of the Second Vatican Council (1962-present), to investigate the formation of Christian doctrine, the interaction between social/cultural manifestations and Christian faith, and the interaction between politics and Christian religion. 3 credits.

**L.RST-331: Christ & Culture**

Jesus of Nazareth has been the most important figure in western culture for twenty centuries. This course examines his legacy by negotiating themes of continuity and change in a wide range of cultural artifacts, from symbols and images to historical accounts and fictional narratives. Prerequisites: L.LIB-100, L.LIB-105, L.LIB-110, and one course from L.LIB-130, L.LIB-135, or L.LIB-220. 3 credits.

**L.RST-360: Sacraments: Catholic Identity in Community**

The Christian theological enterprise involves the study of Scripture, past theological work, contemporary culture, and other disciplines which engage the believer. But above all, theology must engage the life of the community in which an individual's faith is mediated, nurtured, and developed the sacramental life of the Church. How do we understand Christian faith from the past and present celebration of the sacraments? 3 credits.

**L.RST-367: Roman Catholic Liturgical Music in Theology & Practice**

Roman Catholic liturgy is, itself, an art form – one in which God, the artist, artistically forms people. This course explores the artistic nature of Roman Catholic liturgy by focusing on one of its most recognizable artistic elements, liturgical music. Liturgical music impacts the experience of worship, thereby directing the theological vision that is developed by the liturgy itself. Students will explore the ways in which liturgy and liturgical music enrich, shape, and express the Christian spirit. 3 credits.

**L.RST-370: Foundations of Ethics**

This course will examine the basic questions of morality and the answers that have been developed within the Western philosophical and Christian theological traditions. Important historical and contemporary primary source material will be examined. This course is cross-listed as PHI 301. The courses are identical, but transcripts will reflect the course number (L.PHI or L.RST) that a student registers for and completes. Course not available to first year students. 3 credits.

**L.RST-371: Catholic Social Teachings**

This course will examine those official documents of the Catholic Church, spanning from Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* (1891) to the present, that make up Catholic Social Teaching. This course will study CST's guiding principles, how the modern popes and the Second Vatican Council applied them to the social,

political, and economic problems of our time, and what continuing relevance they have for Catholics and all persons of goodwill. 3 credits.

**L.RST-378: Social Justice Practicum**

Students in this course will engage in approved volunteer work and integrate their experiences and research into the study of Catholic social thought and the theology of liberation. 3 credits.

**L.RST-399: Religious Studies and Theology Process Writing**

Students in the class will work individually, collaboratively, and with an advisor, to refine their research methods and formal writing. Throughout the semester they will substantively revise a previously written essay from one of their Religious Studies and Theology classes. This course, offered on a pass/fail basis, will help prepare students to research and write their Senior Capstone. This class is the first in a two-part sequence, concluding with either L.RST-491 or L.RST-493. Junior Religious Studies and Theology majors only. 1 credit.

**L.RST-490: Capstone Research-IN**

Students in the class will work individually, collaboratively, and with an advisor to research and use process writing to prepare their Senior Capstone: Thesis or Practicum. This class is the second in a three-part capstone sequence beginning with RST 399 and concluding with either RST 491 or 493. 1 credit.

**L.RST-491: Thesis Writing**

Review of theological research, the identification, use, and citation of sources, and the composition and writing of the thesis paper. This class is one of two options for completing the two-part sequence for the Religious Studies and Theology Senior Capstone. Pre-requisite: L.RST-399 and L.RST-490. Senior Religious Studies and Theology majors only. 2 credits.

**L.RST-493: Practicum in Parish Ministry**

Background information and provisions for field experience in various practical aspects of parish ministry, especially parish operation and religious education techniques. This class is one of two options for completing the two-part sequence for the Religious Studies and Theology Senior Capstone. Pre-requisite: L.RST-399, and L.RST-490. Senior Religious Studies and Theology majors only. 2 credits.