

# Religious Studies

## Certificate in Christian Studies

### ★ Introduction to the Old Testament (XREL 120-3)

The Old Testament / Hebrew Bible consists of numerous types of literature, written by a variety of authors, and spans a large expanse of time and geography. As a detailed exploration of the historical context, literary styles and theological themes of each of the books of the Old Testament, this course serves as an overview of current Old Testament studies and also as a launching pad for further study of both Judaism and Christianity.

In this course, students will:

- ◆ Describe the cultural, political and religious background of each Old Testament book.
- ◆ Identify and assess the various critical approaches to studying the Old Testament.
- ◆ Identify and explain the literary structure and theological themes of each book, as well as the themes running through the Old Testament as a whole.
- ◆ Discuss the influence of the Old Testament in ancient Judaism, and the early and modern Church.

### ● Introduction to the New Testament (XREL 118-3)

The New Testament consists of numerous types of literature, and reflects a variety of viewpoints of Jesus and his followers. As a detailed exploration of the historical context, literary styles and theological themes of each of the books of the New Testament, this course serves as an overview of current New Testament studies and also as a launching pad for further study of both Jesus and the first Christians.

In this course, students will:

- ◆ Describe the cultural, political and religious background of each New Testament book;
- ◆ Describe the historical development and intended purpose of each book;
- ◆ Identify and explain the central themes of each book as well as the themes running through the New Testament as a whole;
- ◆ Discuss the influence of the New Testament in both the early and modern Church.

### ● Christian Spirituality (XREL 114-3)

Spiritual formation is a popular concept that stems from ancient roots. This course will invite students to explore the nature of their own spiritual formation as well as introduce practices of formation from Christian traditions of spirituality. It will invite participants to try a variety of spiritual practices that encourage a Biblical and holistic approach to life.

Upon the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Articulate a Biblical theology of personal spiritual growth and renewal;
- ◆ Describe and evaluate the various principles, methods and models used to help people grow spiritually; and,
- ◆ Explore and practice the Biblical, theological and historical foundations of Christian spirituality.

Did you know that the name Joshua is Hebrew for Jesus?

Did you know that Jericho is the oldest walled city in the world at 9000 years old?



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**P History of the Christian Church: The First 1700 Years (XREL 112-3)**

This course sketches the history of the Christian religion, with particular emphasis on its church institutions, doctrines and organization, and their influence on women and men of faith from the first century to the 17th. The general emphasis throughout the course is on broad exposure to the world of the Christian church, its common people and their relationship to the larger socio-political world.

Upon the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Articulate the broad scope of the history of the Christian church over the course of its first 1700 years, its major turning points, personalities, and teachings;
- ◆ Describe the importance of historical context (especially social, political, and religious thought and actions) on the formation of church teachings and practices, and;
- ◆ Develop an appreciation for people of the church in the history of Christianity.

**P History of the Christian Church - The Last 300 Years (XREL 122-3)**

This course sketches the story of Christianity across the world, from the first global cross-connections to the present, with particular emphasis on transmission of the Christian faith from culture to culture, and the influence of changing institutions, doctrines and organization, the lives of women and men of faith.

Upon the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Articulate the major movements, events and turning points in the last 300 years of the history of the Christian Church;
- ◆ Describe the importance of historical, social, and cultural context on the transmission of church teachings and practice;
- ◆ Develop and appreciation of the diversity of Christian expression around the world.

**C Life and Teachings of Jesus (XREL 116-3)**

Jesus Christ has impacted the world unlike any other person in history. Profound and multifaceted, Jesus' life and teachings are explored through the careful study of the history, culture, miracles and teachings presented in the four ancient Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

In this course, students will:

- ◆ Identify and describe the historical circumstances of the period between the writing of the Old and New Testaments;
- ◆ Analyze the various critical methods that scholars use to study ancient documents;
- ◆ Determine the unique historical, literary and theological characteristics of each of the four Gospels;
- ◆ Determine and synthesize Jesus' primary teachings and activities;
- ◆ Describe and evaluate the major issues surrounding the historicity and theology of Jesus.

**★ Life and Teachings of Moses (XREL 210-3)**

**P**

The Five Books of Moses, also known as the Torah, the Law or the Pentateuch, refers to the first five books of the Bible - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. This course explores their history, development, literary characteristics, and theological themes.

In this course, students will:

- ◆ Identify and discuss the primary critical methods for studying the Five Books of Moses,
- ◆ Describe the historical development, literary characteristics, and theological themes of each of the books,
- ◆ Articulate the relationship between the Five Books of Moses and the rest of the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible, and
- ◆ Describe and critique the five books' influence upon current religious and scientific concerns.

5 courses for the Certificate!



**Any students who complete five of the seven courses listed here will be awarded the Certificate in Christian Studies!**

