



Bible and Religion

Faculty:

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Majors:

- Biblical Studies
- Congregational and Youth Ministries
- Religious and Intercultural Studies
- Philosophy and Theology

Minors:

- Bible and Religion
- Religious and Intercultural Studies
- Philosophy
- Youth Ministry

Other programs:

- Ministry Inquiry
- Associate in Arts degree in Bible

The Bible and religion department cultivates continued growth in faith among our students and provides theological resources for the wider EMU community. Specifically, the department seeks to:

- model and encourage personal trusting in and following Jesus Christ in everyday life and in transformative work in the broader world
- grow in understanding of and commitment to the churches' tasks as God's community for the world
- study, teach, and apply the message of the Bible as it reveals God's healing intentions for all of life
- investigate the history of the church and to appreciate how it informs our present-day faith, including an appreciation of EMU's Anabaptist-Mennonite heritage
- become aware of critical philosophical-theological issues in the Western tradition and their relevance to contemporary Christian faithfulness
- explore how our Christian faith might relate with other religions and ideologies and how we might engage in the mission of witnessing to Jesus' message
- foster increased awareness of the widespread injustices in our world and to heighten a commitment to constructive peacemaking as we prepare students for ministry in the church and broader society.

We offer four majors that consist of a selection of core, required, and elective courses in order to provide for the interests of students in vocational ministries, in pre-graduate school training, and in general theological growth.

Careers in Bible and Religion include work in a variety of business settings in which innovation, global awareness and ethical commitments are valued; work in Christian camps, mission and service agencies; work as a high school Bible teacher, youth minister and pastoral team member.

Core courses (27 SH)

The core courses listed below are required for the following majors: religious and intercultural studies; biblical studies, congregational and youth ministries. These courses provide a basic biblical, historical, theological and philosophical foundation for the required and elective courses in a particular major.

- BIRE 444 Bible and Religion Senior Capstone3
*BIST 223 New Testament Studies: Gospels **OR**
*BIST 323 New Testament Studies: Paul **OR**
*BIST 341 Old Testament Studies3
(Bible and religion department majors take either ABP 112 or ABP 123 to meet their EMU Core Anabaptist Biblical Perspectives requirement. They then take the upper level biblical course from the testament not studied in the EMU Core as their Bible and Religion core course.)
CHST 312 Missiology3
CHST 341 Church History3
*CHST 422 Mennonite History and Thought3
PHIL 201 Introduction to Philosophy. . . .3
REL 223 World Religions3
THEO 201 Introduction to Theology .3
THEO 323 Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice3

Bible and Religion core courses will satisfy the Christian Identity and Witness requirement of the EMU Core for Bible and religion department majors.

Major in Biblical Studies

This curriculum provides a foundation in biblical studies with a focus on methods of Bible study for the student anticipating secondary Bible teaching or graduate-level seminary study. Students receive extensive exposure to theological topics and to contemporary issues of biblical interpretation and the meaning of Christian discipleship.

This major requires the 27 hours of core courses plus the following 18 hours for a total of 45 hours:

Required courses (12 SH):

- *BIST 212 History of the Bible3
*BIST 223 New Testament Studies: Gospels3
*BIST 323 New Testament Studies: Paul3
*BIST 341 Old Testament Studies3
(BIST 223, BIST 323, OR BIST 341 may meet the biblical studies Bible and Religion core requirement.)
*THEO 312 Topics in Christian Theology **OR**
*THEO 412 Contemporary Theology3

Elective courses (6 SH):

- CHST, PHIL, PXD, REL, THEO electives6
*(*CHST 223 Spiritual Formation is strongly recommended.)*

Major in Congregational and Youth Ministries

This major prepares students to answer Christ's call to ministry within congregations in the context of rapidly changing, pluralistic and diverse Western culture. The major prepares students for service in fields such as youth ministries, urban missions, and congregational leadership, and is also a foundation for graduate-level seminary studies in church and ministry leadership.

This major requires the 27 hours of core courses plus the following 21 hours for a total of 48 SH:

Required courses (15 SH):

- CHST 212 Introduction to Youth Ministry3
*CHST 223 Spiritual Formation3
*CHST 412 Church Leadership3

CHST 451 Church Work Practicum **OR**
 CHST 473 Youth Ministry
 Practicum.3
 PSYC 391 Introduction to
 Counseling **OR**
 PXD 311 Mediation and Conflict
 Transformation **OR**
 *PXD 321 Group Dynamics and
 Facilitation.3

Elective courses (choose 6 SH):

*CHST 234 Mission in a Changing
 World3
 *CHST 323 The Congregation and
 Its Ministries3
 *CHST 334 Youth Ministry in the
 Congregation.3
 (recommended for those focusing on
 youth ministry)
 PSYC 202 Developmental
 Psychology.3
 *REL 323 Contemporary Culture . . . 3

Major in Religious and Intercultural Studies

This major is designed to prepare students for intercultural careers, including mission and service assignments in contemporary Northern settings or in the global South. It may also serve as the foundation for graduate studies in fields such as anthropology, religious studies or missiology. The program includes the study of cultures, the meaning and value of religion within them, and the implications cultures and religions have for varied forms of Christian witness.

Students in the RIS major are strongly encouraged to attend the Urbana Missions Conference (held every three years, including 2012) one time during their study program. Those who do so may earn one semester hour of independent study credit as an additional elective, working with their faculty advisor (CHST 499—1 SH).

This major requires 27 hours of core courses plus the following 21 hours for a total of 48 SH:

Required courses (15 SH):

*CHST 234 Mission in a Changing
 World3
 CHST 462 Mission Practicum.3
 PXD 375 Globalization and Justice . . 3
 *REL 201 Introduction to Religious
 Studies.3
 REL 334 Cultural Anthropology:
 Christianity and Social Change . . . 3

Electives (Choose any two: 6 SH)

*CHST 223 Spiritual Formation 3
 *PHIL 341 Politics: Conceptions of
 Common Good.3
 *PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion . . 3
 PXD 385 History and Philosophy of
 Nonviolence.3
 PXD 485 Theories of International
 Development.3
 *REL 312 Topics in Religion3
 *REL 323 Contemporary Culture . . . 3
 *REL 412 Sociology of Religion . . . 3
 *REL 423 Judaism, Christianity, Islam:
 Comparative Monotheisms3
 *THEO 412 Contemporary Theology.3

Major in Philosophy and Theology

The philosophy and theology major is for students with special interests in these fields. It is designed to be foundational for further study in graduate school or as a complement to other academic disciplines.

This major requires 27 semester hours of theology, biblical studies, and religion courses, and 21 hours of philosophy courses, for a total of 48 semester hours.

Theology, biblical studies and religion required courses (24 SH):

BIRE 444 Bible and Religion Senior
 Capstone3
 *CHST 422 Mennonite History and
 Thought3
 REL 223 World Religions3
 THEO 201 Introduction to
 Theology3

- THEO 323 Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice3
- *THEO 412 Contemporary Theology . .3

Choose one of the following courses:

- *REL 201 Introduction to Religious Studies3
- *REL 412 Sociology of Religion3

Choose one of the following courses:

- CHST 341 Church History3
 - *REL 423 Judaism, Christianity, Islam: Comparative Monotheisms3
 - *THEO 312 Topics in Christian Theology3
- (For Philosophy and Theology majors, CHST 341 or CHST 422 will satisfy the EMU Core Christian Identity and Witness requirement.)*

Elective course (3 SH):

Choose an additional course from those listed above, or an upper-level Bible and Religion course, or other course as approved by the advisor. (*CHST 223 Spiritual Formation recommended.)

Philosophy required courses (21 SH):

- PHIL 201 Introduction to Philosophy. . . .3

Choose two of the following courses:

- *PHIL 212 Ways of Knowing3
- *PHIL 223 Logic and Critical Thinking3
- *PHIL 323 Philosophy of Science3
- *PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion . . .3

Choose two of the following courses:

- *PHIL 334 Ethics: Conceptions of Personal Good3
- *PHIL 341 Politics: Conceptions of Common Good3
- *PHIL 434 Topics in Contemporary Philosophy3
- *THEO 423 Philosophical Theology . .3

Choose two of the following courses:

- *LIT 240 Introduction to Literary Theory3

- *PHIL 312 Ancient Philosophy3
- *PHIL 352 Modern Philosophy3
- *PHIL 363 Contemporary Philosophy3

(Note: Philosophy courses will normally be scheduled every other year. Courses offered for the 2011-2012 academic year are PHIL 212, PHIL 312, PHIL 341.)

Minor in Bible and Religion

The minor in Bible and Religion is designed for persons of any major who seek the enrichment of biblical, theological, religious, and philosophical studies in the integration of their profession with faith. Students will take 18 SH from courses listed under the Bible and religion department (not to include Anabaptist Biblical Perspectives (ABP) courses). At least 12 semester hours of the courses for this minor must be 300- or 400-level courses.

Minor in Religious and Intercultural Studies

The minor in religious and intercultural studies consists of 18 SH which will complement other Bible and religion majors or students interested in intercultural ministry in fields such as business, education, nursing, peacebuilding and development, or social work. It offers two tracks: Religion, which focuses on deepening understanding of religion and how Christian witness is carried out in a variety of religious settings, and Theology, which strengthens understanding of the biblical and theological foundations for Christian witness. Both tracks emphasize Anabaptist understandings of peace as central to intercultural ministry.

Religion Track (18 SH)

- CHST 312 Missiology3
- REL 223 World Religions3
- REL 334 Cultural Anthropology: Christianity and Social Change3

Choose one of the following courses:

- CHST 462 Mission Practicum.3
- PXD 311 Mediation and Conflict Transformation3
- *REL 201 Introduction to Religious Studies.3

Choose two of the following courses:

- PSYC 221 Social Psychology3
- PXD 375 Globalization and Justice . . .3
- PXD 385 History and Philosophy of Nonviolence.3
- *REL 312 Topics in Religion3
- *REL 323 Contemporary Culture3
- *REL 412 Sociology of Religion3
- *REL 423 Judaism, Christianity, Islam: Comparative Monotheisms3
- THEO 323 Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice3

Theology Track (18 SH)

- CHST 312 Missiology.3
- PXD 375 Globalization and Justice. . . .3
- THEO 323 Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice.3

Choose one of the following courses:

- CHST 462 Mission Practicum.3
- PXD 385 History and Philosophy of Nonviolence3
- THEO 201 Introduction to Theology.3

Choose two of the following courses:

- *BIST 223 or 323 New Testament Studies.3
- *BIST 341 Old Testament Studies . . .3
- *PHIL 341 Politics: Conceptions of Common Good.3
- *PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion . . .3
- PXD 485 Theories of International Development.3
- REL 223 World Religions3
- *REL 423 Judaism, Christianity, Islam: Comparative Monotheisms3
- *THEO 312 Topics in Theology3
- *THEO 412 Contemporary Theology.3

Minor in Philosophy

The philosophy minor is of interest to students who wish to pursue disciplined reflection about any subject area or career interest. It provides opportunities for critical thinking and building a solid intellectual foundation for faith and life. This minor offers a valuable credential for students interested in pursuing law or any other post-graduate degree.

Required courses (18 SH):

- PHIL 201 Introduction to Philosophy. . . .3

Choose two of the following courses:

- *PHIL 312 Ancient Philosophy3
- *PHIL 352 Modern Philosophy.3
- *PHIL 363 Contemporary Philosophy.3

Choose three of the following courses:

- *PHIL 212 Ways of Knowing3
- *PHIL 223 Logic and Critical Thinking3
- *PHIL 323 Philosophy of Science3
- *PHIL 334 Ethics: Conceptions of Personal Good3
- *PHIL 341 Politics: Conceptions of Common Good3
- *PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion . . .3
- *PHIL 434 Topics in Contemporary Philosophy.3
- *THEO 423 Philosophical Theology .3

Minor in Youth Ministry

The minor in youth ministry is designed for persons who choose a major outside the Bible and religion department but who anticipate working with youth-related ministries in congregations or church agencies.

Required courses (18 SH):

- CHST 212 Introduction to Youth Ministry.3
- *CHST 223 Spiritual Formation3
- *CHST 334 Youth Ministry in the Congregation.3
- *CHST 412 Church Leadership3

CHST 473 Youth Ministry Practicum.	3
PSYC 391 Introduction to Counseling OR *PXD 321 Group Dynamics and Facilitation.	3

Associate in Arts Degree in Bible

This program allows the student to combine requirements from the EMU Core with a 30 SH concentration in biblical and church studies. Students complete elective credits as needed to reach the total of 64 SH required for the A.A. degree.

In addition to the EMU Core requirements on page 14, the following courses are required:

*BIST 212 History of the Bible	3
*BIST 223 New Testament Studies: Gospels OR *BIST 323 New Testament Studies: Paul OR *BIST 341 Old Testament Studies . . .	3

CHST 341 Church History.	3
PHIL 201 Introduction to Philosophy OR *PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion.	3
REL 223 World Religions	3
*THEO 312 Topics in Christian Theology	3
BIST, CHST, PHIL, PXD, REL, THEO electives.	12

Ministry Inquiry Program

The Ministry Inquiry Program is an opportunity for students who have completed two or three years of studies, and who are considering pastoral ministry, to experience ministry first-hand. This 11-week summer program allows students to serve as a full-time intern within a congregation. Three semester hours of practicum credit may be earned. Registration and payment at the summer school tuition rate are required for earning practicum credit. See page 193 for additional information.

Anabaptist Biblical Perspectives (ABP)

101 Introduction to the Bible 3

This course is designed for first-year students with limited biblical knowledge. Its purpose is to nurture an appreciation for the rich resources of the scriptures for creative personal faith and human life in the contemporary world. The student will gain a knowledge and understanding of the literature and history of the Bible and be encouraged to integrate faith, learning, and living. (May not be taken after another ABP course.)

112 Becoming God's People: Old Testament Themes 3

This course surveys the content and backgrounds of the Christian Old Testament (Jewish Tanak) giving particular attention 1) to God's efforts to form an obedient and worshipping people, and 2) to the major covenants between God and God's special community.

123 Following Jesus Christ: New Testament Themes 3

This course takes a look at the many different writings that make up the New Testament, at the same time emphasizing the common message of and about Jesus Christ that they contain, and related themes that tie them together. It encourages the development of an understanding of the settings in which the New Testament's gospels, letters, and sermons were written, and begins the process of connecting the faith of New Testament Jesus believers with the call to 21st-century Christians to follow Christ in our world.

201 Ethics in the Way of Jesus

3

This is a course that seeks to discern how following Jesus' way of peace with justice in the world is essential for interpreting the Bible on contemporary moral questions, in all aspects of life. The class will emphasize what it means to think ethically in a variety of areas, within the context of the Anabaptist tradition.

*Note: The following courses may also meet the EMU Core ABP requirement: *BIST 223; *BIST 323; *BIST 341; THEO 323.*

Bible and Religion (BIRE)

444 Bible and Religion Senior Capstone

3

This course brings senior Bible and religion department and Peacebuilding and Development majors together to reflect on their college experience and the understandings they have developed in their respective majors. Students prepare a major paper or project that brings that learning into conversation with their developing sense of vocation. (PXD 490)

Biblical Studies (BIST)

ABP - Satisfies EMU Core Anabaptist Biblical Perspectives requirement.

CIW - Satisfies EMU Core Christian Identity and Witness requirement.

***212 History of the Bible**

3

This course examines first the process of biblical revelation in an event-record-copy sequence for both testaments; second, the development of the canon of Old and New Testaments within the faith community; third, the task of translation and its importance for the mission of the church, and finally, principles of interpretation which inform the use of the Bible in a life of faith and service. (CIW) (Spring 2013)

***223 New Testament Studies: Gospels**

3

This course invites students to explore the texts of the four canonical gospels, using narrative and inductive approaches to understand the four portraits of Jesus presented there. This study will help students to reflect on the good news as expressed in Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection, and to practice that good news in a community setting. (ABP) (Spring 2012)

***323 New Testament Studies: Paul**

3

This course presents an overview of the Pauline and deuter-Pauline writings, and provides an introduction to methods of biblical interpretation and exegesis. This process will help students to gain a deeper understanding of Paul's proclamation of faith in and the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, as foundational for communities of Christian believers. (ABP) (Fall 2012)

***341 Old Testament Studies**

3

This course invites students into one of the following parts of the biblical text: Pentateuch/Torah, Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom, or Historical books. This exposure to the world of the Hebrew Scriptures deepens understanding of the world into which Jesus was born, and the understandings of God's justice and mercy to the people of Israel that shaped his ministry. An in-depth project relating the text to worship or study is required. (ABP) (Fall 2011)

412 Elementary Hebrew **3**

This course is an introduction to biblical Hebrew. Hebrew vocabulary, grammar and syntax are introduced inductively in actual prose passages being read from the Hebrew Bible. The goal is to read and translate simple narrative biblical Hebrew. Classroom instruction and student recitation reinforce material also presented in the workbook/textbook which is used alongside a Hebrew Bible. (BVOT 532) (Does not satisfy EMU Core Foreign Language Requirement.) Prerequisite: senior status or permission of instructor.

423 Elementary Greek **3**

This course is a basic introduction to the language of the Greek New Testament. The course focuses on the basic grammar necessary for reading/translating the Greek New Testament as well as for doing more advanced Greek studies. Through classroom study, written exercises, quizzes and readings in the Gospel of John, students develop ability in discovering the form and function of words/phrases, build a basic vocabulary and discover the value of language study for biblical interpretation. (BVNT 531) (Does not satisfy EMU Core Foreign Language Requirement.) Prerequisite: senior status or permission of instructor.

499 Independent Study **1-3**

Church Studies (CHST)

CIW - Satisfies EMU Core Christian Identity and Witness requirement.

101 Small Group Ministry Practicum **1**

This practicum is an opportunity for students to explore and develop interests in church leadership and ministry. Enrollment is limited to Ministry Assistants (MAs), who are required to lead weekly small groups in residence halls or off-campus.

121 Small Group Ministry Practicum II **1**

212 Introduction to Youth Ministry **3**

Theories of adolescent faith development, youth culture, adolescent experience and a believer's church theology of children and youth are studied as a basis for ministry to youth.

***223 Spiritual Formation** **3**

An introduction to Christian spiritual formation, its roots in history and its present-day implications on both personal and communal levels. Looking and listening for God's movement enables us to comprehend in a deeper way what it means to be peacemakers in the midst of a broken world. Lectures, readings, discussion, papers, experience of group and one-on-one soul care are the basis for openness to the redemptive work of God through the Spirit of Christ. (CIW) (Fall 2011)

***234 Mission in a Changing World** **3**

In a promising and perilous world that is constantly being reshaped by global economic realities, environmental degradation, endless conflicts, instant communication, and mass migration, the faithful church seeks to witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God. This course examines features of the high-risk, exploratory, and experimental nature of effective mission movements that have engaged the world in similar times of challenge and opportunity. Using insights from innovations demonstrated by Jesus, Paul, and many others through history including the early Anabaptists, students will examine, critique, design, and advocate appropriate approaches to mission in our present and future world. (CIW) (Fall 2012)

312 Missiology**3**

This course is designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of missiology by examining Christian mission, as well as the issues raised by its critics, from various perspectives. These perspectives include biblical foundations of mission, a historical overview of missions, critical reflections on empire and globalization, current issues in mission, practical applications, and personal considerations for intercultural missionaries. (CIW)

323 The Congregation and Its Ministries*3**

This course develops a creative biblical and theological perspective for the role and significance of the local assembly of believers in God's redemptive plan. The goal is to develop a model where the social form of the congregation is subordinated to its biblically-mandated and Spirit-enabled ministry tasks. (Spring 2012)

334 Youth Ministry in the Congregation*3**

A focus on an integrated approach to youth ministry with particular emphasis on life planning, peer ministry, discipleship training and preparation for baptism, and church membership. (Spring 2012)

341 Church History**3**

This course provides an overview of the stories of Christianity, beginning with the New Testament period up to the sixteenth century of the Common Era. It describes the varied successes and failures in the witness of Christians as they spread west into Europe, east toward China, and south into Africa. While this story may seem far removed from the church experiences of many class members, the course will help them connect to and learn from the questions Christians have always struggled with. (HIST 382) (CIW)

412 Church Leadership*3**

A practical course focusing on the development of basic public leadership skills for the life of the congregation. Students prepare several kinds of sermons and plan worship services for various occasions. Skills are developed through class presentations with peer and instructor feedback. Attention is also given to the development of personal disciplines of worship and devotional life. (Spring 2013)

422 Mennonite History and Thought*3**

A survey of the Anabaptist movement and Mennonites throughout the world from the sixteenth to twenty-first centuries. Issues include pacifism, wealth, political participation, community and tensions between faith and the dominant culture. Particular attention is given to the Anabaptist vision and its relevance for 21st century American life. (HIST 422) (Spring 2013)

451 Church Work Practicum**3**

A program of study and supervised field experience in a congregation or church agency. Special emphasis is placed on personal development for ministry and experiencing ministry in the congregation.

462 Mission Practicum**3**

The purpose of the practicum is first-hand involvement in Christian ministry and witness, in an intercultural setting. Religious and intercultural studies majors may satisfy the practicum in a variety of ways. Radical Journey, SALT, and YES and other similar short-term programs may meet this requirement if arrangements are made with an adviser before beginning the placement. Summer placements in global South settings, or participation in a Washington Community Scholars Center internship or other urban context are encouraged. RIS minors may integrate their practicum with a required practicum in their major, or within a semester-long cross-cultural, if arrangements are made beforehand with an adviser.

473 Youth Ministry Practicum**3**

A supervised field experience in a congregation or church agency. The focus of the practicum is to experience relationships, program and leadership in a youth ministry setting.

499 Independent Study**1-3**

Peacebuilding and Development (PXD)

375 Globalization and Justice**3**

This course explores the shifting and intensifying forms of human interconnectedness called globalization by introducing students to the range of vigorous debates about it. Students learn a variety of arguments about questions such as: Is it a homogenizing or fragmenting force? What, or who, drives it? Is it increasing or decreasing poverty and inequality? How is it shifting the loci of power around the world? Is 'globalization' just another word for 'Westernization'? How is it being, or should it be, resisted? What does it mean to think in terms of a church whose center of gravity is no longer Europe and North America (if it ever was)? Finally, what does it mean to think theologically about capitalism, the great engine of globalization?

385 History and Philosophy of Nonviolence**3**

Nonviolence has a long, rich history. This course begins with the early Christian application of Jesus' peaceable way to the issue of involvement in warfare, and traces the philosophy and practice of nonviolence in the centuries since. We also look at the origins and development of the just war and justifiable revolution traditions. We pay special attention to the application of the philosophy of nonviolence to social change efforts, including the work and thought of Mahatma Gandhi, the North American civil rights movement, and opposition to militarism.

Philosophy (PHIL)

CIW - Satisfies EMU Core Christian Identity and Witness requirement.

201 Introduction to Philosophy**3**

An introduction to major philosophical systems and selected transitional thinkers who have helped to shape the Western intellectual heritage. The focus is on metaphysics (the nature of reality at its most fundamental level) and epistemology (how and what we can know). The course also addresses how the great transitions in thought have influenced our view of God, moral values, truth and the meaning of existence. (CIW)

212 Ways of Knowing*3**

Students engage watershed questions of human knowing such as: how do we know? When can we know that someone is wrong regarding their knowledge claims? What is truth? Just how important is truth? Issues of perspective, context, social construction of knowledge and gender and cultural difference will be explored. (CIW)

223 Logic and Critical Thinking*3**

Introduction to deductive and inductive rules of reasoning with attention to both formal and informal fallacies. Emphasis on practical applications of critical thinking to everyday problems. (Spring 2013)

- *312 Ancient Philosophy** **3**
 Students read, interpret and understand original philosophical texts from Plato, Aristotle, and Augustine in order to understand the classical Western conceptions of reality, knowledge and humanity. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor. (Fall 2011)
- *323 Philosophy of Science** **3**
 Students engage epistemological questions emerging from the practices and claims of scientific inquiry including scientific explanation, theory formation, and hypothesis confirmation. Issues discussed include scientific claims of truth, theory construction, scientific and other paradigms, and the implications of scientific theories and claims for understanding reality. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor. (CIW) (Spring 2013)
- *334 Ethics: Conceptions of Personal Good** **3**
 Students encounter classical conceptions of ethics and morality articulated by Aristotle, Kant, Mill and the traditions of ethical virtue. The course will explore the relative importance of reason, character and good consequences in determining the right and the good. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor. (CIW) (Fall 2012)
- *341 Politics: Conceptions of Common Good** **3**
 The course examines competing theories and conceptualizations of justice in human arrangements. Theories articulated by Plato, Hobbes, and contemporary libertarian, communitarian, utilitarian and fairness based thinkers are explored. Limited applications of the theories to questions of distributive justice are presented. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor. (CIW) (Spring 2012)
- *352 Modern Philosophy** **3**
 Students read, interpret and understand original texts from Descartes, Hobbes, Hume, Locke, Berkeley, Leibniz, Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Mill in order to understand the modern Western conceptions of reality, knowledge and humanity. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor.
- *363 Contemporary Philosophy** **3**
 An introduction to the contemporary postmodern situation. The writings of Hegel, Marx, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, as well as other influential thinkers, will be studied. Attention will also be given to marginalized viewpoints. Since philosophical concerns always arise in specific historical and social contexts, special attention will be given to the interrelationship between styles of thinking and ways of life. Prerequisite: PHIL 201 or permission of the instructor.
- *412 Philosophy of Religion** **3**
 This course examines issues that arise from a tradition of philosophical reflection upon the language and truth claims of religion. Issues receiving careful attention are the classic proofs of God's existence, the problem of evil, the religious truth claims, and the question of miracles and human destiny. Both religious and non-religious attempts to "make sense" of religious language are investigated. (CIW) (Fall 2012)
- *434 Topics in Contemporary Philosophy** **3**
 This class changes content as new issues in contemporary philosophy arise and old issues are revisited with new insight. The success of neuroscience is raising philosophical questions concerning the nature of the human being and the possibility of reducing mental events to brain events. The awareness of pluralism, particularly religious pluralism, raises philosophical questions concerning the nature of truth and the adequacy of human language and conceptual schemes in our attempts to make sense of the world and God. (CIW)

Religion (REL)

CIW - Satisfies EMU Core Christian Identity and Witness requirement.

*201 Introduction to Religious Studies

3

This course introduces a range of historical and contemporary approaches to the study of religion. Various theories and methodologies will be examined with special attention given to the functions of religion within culture and the insights this provides for Christians. (CIW) (Fall 2011)

223 World Religions

3

A historical and comparative study of the great religions of the world in order to understand values and meaning in specific cultural settings. The religions are evaluated at the level of their own claims and in light of biblical revelation. Special attention is given to a theology of religions, to emerging models of Christian witness to other religions, and to Christian theological development in the context of non-Christian religions.

*312 Topics in Religion

3

This course is designed to focus on issues that arise from time to time in the discipline of religious studies or at the intersection of Christian theology and other disciplines. Topics may include inter-religious dialogue, comparative religion, political theory, economics, peacebuilding, and trauma theory. Consideration will be given to how theology may best enter into mutually enriching conversation with other religions and other academic disciplines. (CIW) (Fall 2011)

*323 Contemporary Culture

3

Introduces and applies anthropological methods to a variety of popular cultural expressions for the purpose of understanding the themes and meanings of the post-modern culture. A wide variety of contemporary cultural phenomena, from rock music videos to shopping malls, will be observed and critiqued. (CIW)

334 Cultural Anthropology: Christianity and Social Change

3

This course uses Christianity to reflect on culture and social change. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts and theories of anthropology, be exposed to case studies of Christian groups as a context for applying these theories and concepts, and do an applied ethnography project relating to religion, faith, and cross-cultural sensitivity. (CIW)

*412 Sociology of Religion

3

Designed to develop an understanding of the sociological dimension of religious belief and behavior; the interrelationships of religion as a social institution with other societal institutions, formal and informal organizations growing from and propagating religious activity, the interaction between transcendent and cultural components of religion, and the functions of religion in American society.

*423 Judaism, Christianity, Islam: Comparative Monotheisms

3

This course will focus on the three monotheistic religions. The literature, beliefs and practices of each religion will be examined and similarities and contrasts noted. Specific religious themes will be compared in the context of the Christian interface with Judaism and Islam. (CIW) (Spring 2012)

499 Independent Study

1-3

Theology (THEO)

ABP - Satisfies EMU Core Anabaptist Biblical Perspectives requirement.

CIW - Satisfies EMU Core Christian Identity and Witness requirement.

201 Introduction to Theology

3

An overview of the role that theological reflection plays in the life of the believer and the church. Students will be exposed to different methods and understandings of theology, major issues in the history of theology, and key contemporary theological issues and debates. (CIW)

***312 Topics in Christian Theology**

3

A study of key thinkers and topics in theology in order to more fully develop skills of theological analysis, discussion and presentation. Students gain an appreciation of the role of theology within the life of the church to become better prepared for a role in the church's theological task. Provides an intensive setting for reflection on theological understandings. (CIW) (Spring 2013)

323 Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice

3

In this course, students study biblical materials relating to peace and justice. Aspects of the study are: the Old Testament's vision of creation, fall, deliverance, covenant, law, and prophetic critique; the New Testament's portrayal of Jesus, the One who fulfills the Old Testament prophetic vision—bringing salvation and establishing a community of justice and peace; the early church's interpretation of Jesus; and consideration of how the biblical vision of peace and justice applies to our modern world. (ABP)

***412 Contemporary Theology**

3

This course introduces students to the theological environment of the 21st century. Key theological thinkers, enduring problems and issues of this period are surveyed in order to develop an understanding of the distinctive theological challenges facing the church in the post-modern world. The course aims to develop a deeper understanding of the complex interaction between culture and theology and to help students appreciate and knowingly criticize various recent theological developments. (CIW) (Fall 2011)

***423 Philosophical Theology**

3

Students investigate important philosophical texts and their impact on significant theological writings. Representative philosophers and theologians from each era (medieval, modern and contemporary) are read and explored. The use of philosophical method in theology and the relationship between philosophy and theology are discussed.

499 Independent Study

1-3

**Indicates courses offered in alternate years.*