
RELIGION (REL)

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Recognizing the individual and the particular needs of the individual, the Religion program at Averett University is designed to prepare the student for continuing seminary/graduate study or for an immediate career in Christian ministry.

The Religion program attempts to combine classroom learning with actual field experience so that the graduate is both intellectually equipped and practically trained in his/her profession. The Bachelor of Arts in Religion is the basic degree and is designed primarily for students moving toward the practice of ministry. The student may elect to complete 6 hours of Greek and 6 hours of Hebrew to satisfy the foreign language requirement for any of these majors.

Requirements for a Major in Religion:

In addition to the general education requirements, the following courses are required:

	Semester Hours
REL 101, Introduction to Old Testament Literature	3
REL 102, Introduction to New Testament Literature.....	3
PHL 150, Introduction to Philosophy.....	3
REL 403, History of Christianity	3
REL 465, Senior Research Thesis.....	1
One advanced Old Testament course	3
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One of the following	3
REL 201, Religions of the World	
REL 260, Religion in America	
REL 306, African-American Religions	
One of the following:.....	3
PHL 210, Ethics	
PHL 440, Philosophy of Religion	
Religion or Philosophy electives at 300-400 level.....	<u>9</u>
	Total 34

Exit Requirement

All Religion majors are required to enroll in REL 465, Senior Research Thesis, during their senior year. The student will write a research project which may grow out of a research paper he/she has already prepared. This project will be supervised by the appropriate professor and must receive a passing grade from an outside reader. The length of the thesis will be between 40-50 pages exclusive of bibliography.

Students must attain at least a 2.00 grade point average in the major in order to graduate.

Sample Four-Year Course Sequence: Religion

Freshman Year:

REL 101, Introduction to Old Testament
REL 102, Introduction to New Testament

Sophomore Year:

PHL 150, Introduction to Philosophy
REL 201, or 260, or 306, Religions of the World or
Religion in America or
African-American Religions

Junior Year:

PHL 210 or PHL 440, Ethics or Philosophy of Religion
REL 300-400 level course in New Testament
REL/PHL Elective, 300-400 level

Senior Year:

REL 300-400 level course in Old Testament
REL 403, History of Christianity
REL/PHL Elective, 300-400 level (2)

Minor

Students electing a minor in Religion must complete the following: REL 101, 102, and 12 additional hours selected from Religion or Philosophy (9 of the 12 additional hours must be at the 300-400 level).

Students must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.00 in the minor.

In-Service Guidance

Each student receives professional training under a certified supervisor in an area related to the student's future vocational goals. The objectives of these in-service experiences are:

To prepare the student for leadership roles in local churches, chaplaincies, denominations, and related institutions.

To establish better lines of communication between ministers/churches and the campus so that the student will be able to identify more easily with specific forms of ministry.

To introduce the student to capable leaders within his/her denomination who satisfactorily demonstrate effective professional leadership.

To acquaint students as thoroughly as possible with organizational structures and procedures of local churches, denominational agencies and institutions.

To promote opportunities for students to evaluate their commitments and to develop their innate abilities; to develop desirable interests, attitudes, ideas, and techniques of ministry through self-direction and self-evaluation; to experience ministry and mission principles and methodology on the job under qualified supervision; to evaluate their ministry and mission experience through interaction with professors and career ministers on the campus.

All ministerial students receiving ministerial discounts at Averett University are required to take in-service guidance courses which will add 9 hours to any major offered by the Department of Religion. Those courses include REL 255, Ministry Formations and REL 453 and 454, Internship I, II.

Courses of Instruction

- 101 Introduction to Old Testament Literature (3)
The application of critical methodology to the history, literature, and religion of the ancient Hebrews. Attention is given to the historical context, the development, and the message of the Hebrew faith. This course satisfies 3 hours of the Religion and Philosophy requirement for General Education.
- 102 Introduction to New Testament Literature (3)
The application of critical methodology to the biblical text to discover the basic meaning and message of the New Testament. Attention is given to the secular and religious history of the period as well as to the life and teachings of Jesus, the letters of Paul, and the origins of the Christian Church. This course satisfies 3 hours of the Religion and Philosophy requirement for General Education.
- 201 Religions of the World (3)
An examination of the origin, basic beliefs, historical developments, and sociological manifestations of the world's great religions. This course satisfies 3 hours of the Religion and Philosophy requirement for General Education.
- 207 Spirituality in Business and Commerce (3)
This course will consider the role of spiritual values and ethics in the workplace and how the application of spiritual and ethical values can contribute positively to the bottom line. The student will consider how humanizing the workplace can help restore a higher conscience and consciousness to business, as well as bringing heart into the business and commercial arenas.
- 212 Death and Dying (Same as SOC 212) (3)
The goal of this course is to examine the phenomenon of death and dying within various cultural and religious contexts with the view of understanding how such perspectives inform our understanding of the end of life. This approach will survey the principles and perspectives of science and the humanities as they apply to the experience of death and dying. Numerous studies and instructional methodologies will be examined for the purpose of correcting stereotypes and myths concerning death and the reactions of people to death and dying. The course will pay particular attention to the phenomenon of death and dying through the lenses of social science and religion.
- 260 Religion in America (3)
A study of the history and expression of religion in America through Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism. Attention will also be given to a comparison of mainstream and divergent groups and the religious expressions in America since 1950. Alternate years.
- 304 Studies in the Prophets (3)
The historical background, function, message, contribution, and contemporary significance of the Hebrew prophets. Alternate years. Prerequisite: REL 101.
- 305 Studies in the Poetry and Wisdom Literature (3)
The historical background, function, message, contribution, and contemporary significance of the poetry and wisdom literature of the Old Testament. Alternate years. Prerequisite: REL 101.
- 306 African-American Religions (3)
A reading/lecture/dialogue course designed to survey the development of Afro-American religion from its African roots to the present. The course will focus on the black folk tradition and denominational structures, as well as some of the significant leaders and movements within black religion in America. Special emphasis will be given to the liberation tradition within black Protestantism, Catholicism, and Islam.
- 308 Introduction to Islam (3)
This course will present the history, basic beliefs, sacred writings, and institutional structures of Islam. In addition, this course will investigate both current events between Western and Muslim countries and struggles within Islam itself.

- 311 Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels (3)
A study of the life and teachings of Jesus through a careful examination of the synoptic gospels in the light of available historical, cultural, and literary studies. Alternate years. Prerequisite: REL 102.
- 312 Life and Letters of Paul (3)
An introductory course on the life and thought of Paul. The Pauline letters are studied within the historical context of first century Christianity, and their contemporary importance for the church in today's world is explored. Alternate years. Prerequisite: REL 102.
- 313 Johannine Literature (3)
A study of the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, and the Revelation. The student will master the contents of the books and the major critical issues involved in their interpretation, and will demonstrate competence in using modern research and interpretive methods. Every third year. Prerequisite: REL 102.
- 315 Archaeology and the Bible (3)
A survey of the contributions of Near Eastern archaeology to Biblical studies.
- 351 Developing Spiritual Discipline (3)
This course has a dual purpose of introducing learners to the rich tradition of Christian mysticism as well as to increase the learner's awareness and practice of spiritual formation. Learners will be exposed to a variety of spiritual resources that will enable them to learn and experiment with different traditions and approaches to deepening their spiritual life.
- 380 Church Music (Same as MUS 380) (3)
A study of the relationship of music to worship in the history of the Western Church. By examination of influences that have shaped the musical practices of various denominations, both liturgical and nonliturgical worship are discussed in addition to the multifaceted purposes of music as religious expression in contemporary society. Alternate years.
- 403 History of Christianity (3)
A study of the history of the Christian religion and Church from the first century to the beginning of the modern period. The course highlights the theological and sociological developments in the Early Church, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, and post-Reformation periods.
- 465 Senior Research Thesis (1)
An opportunity for students to demonstrate critical skills in the area of research and writing. The projects/papers will be reviewed by an external evaluator. The course is required of all seniors and must be successfully completed prior to graduation. Prerequisite: Senior status.

In-Service Guidance

- 255 Ministry Formations (3)
A seminar designed to acquaint the student with the ministry as a profession and to help the student define his/her role in relationship to the ministry as a vocation, become acquainted with the basic skills of pastoral care and develop communication skills necessary for the ministry. Required of all students who are receiving ministerial tuition grants.
- 453, 454 Internship I, II (3,3)
A program designed to give senior students in-depth training as they serve as apprentices under highly trained, local supervisor-mentors for two semesters. The student is expected to write weekly experiential reports and to meet with their mentor one hour each week on one-on-one supervision of their work. Discussion about practical application will be held weekly with the supervisor, and weekly seminars will be held at the college to discuss the learning activities. The student is expected to spend 7-8 hours each week in the field, active in the apprenticeship. Required of all fourth year students who are receiving ministerial tuition grants. Prerequisite: 2.0 grade point average.