

Religion

Acting Chair J. Vanden Bosch

Professors C. de Groot, A. Griffioen, R. Plantinga, K. Pomykala, J. Schneider, T. Thompson

Associate Professors D. Crump, B. Cushman, R. Whitekettle

Assistant Professors C. Farhadian, K. Hotz, **W. Lee, D. Harlow, M. Mathews, L. Smit

Adjunct Assistant Professor J. Witvliet

The department offers a general major in religion and a teaching major for students in secondary education. In addition, students are encouraged to design group majors, such as Religion and Philosophy, Religion and History, or Religion and Sociology. Two minor concentrations are offered: A group minor in missions and a general minor. These programs are described below and will be worked out with a departmental advisor who will help design the program according to the student's specific needs and interests.

GENERAL MAJOR

One course in Old Testament (Religion 211-214)

One course in New Testament (Religion 221-224)

One course in Historical Theology (Religion 241-244)

One course in Systematic Theology (Religion 230-237, 251)

One course in Religious Studies (Religion 250, 351, 352)

Religion Seminar (Religion 396)

Four elective courses in Religion (excluding Religion 121 and 131)

The general major in religion is designed for students seeking a strong background in biblical and theological studies as preparation for various professions, for graduate education, or for Christian service generally. It is not limited to students preparing for the ordained ministry. The general major consists of ten courses (30 semester hours), including two 300 level courses (excluding Religion 301 and 396). A departmental interim course may be included as an elective course. As part of the departmental writing program, majors must designate one departmental course (excluding Religion 121, 131, 359, 396) prior to their senior year as writing enriched. This course will include additional writing, a revision component, intensive evaluation, and will prepare the student for Religion 396. Students considering seminary or graduate school should consult their advisor about a recommended language cognate. Admittance to the major program re-

quires completion of a core course with a minimum grade of "C" (2.0).

SECONDARY EDUCATION MAJOR

Biblical Foundations Core

Theological Foundations Core

Religion 250

Religion 351

Interdisciplinary 234

One elective from biblical studies

One elective from theological studies

Two courses from Art 232, 233, Classics 231, History 231-233, Philosophy 204, 205, Psychology 399, Sociology 153, religion courses in biblical studies and theological studies, or an approved interim.

Religion 359

The teaching major is for education students who plan to teach religion in secondary schools and consists of ten courses (30 semester hours), listed above. During student teaching for this program, which is offered in the spring semester, students should enroll in Education 346 and Religion 359. The teaching major in religion fulfills the requirements for the state-certified Academic Study of Religions minor. (It cannot count as a state-certified major in a secondary education program). Graduates of the teaching major in religion will receive a special certificate from Calvin College as a credential of qualification for secondary religion teaching. Teaching majors must fulfill the departmental writing program requirements as stated above under the general major. T. Thompson is the advisor for the teaching major.

INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJORS

Interdisciplinary majors in religion and other fields may be designed according to the guidelines for group majors (see page 35). For example, a student wishing to present an interdisciplinary major in Religion and Philosophy could take 4–6 courses (12–18 semester hours) in religion and 4–6 courses (12–18 semester hours) in philosophy, and 2 courses (6 semester hours) from a third discipline. Interdisciplinary majors must be carefully planned and must be approved by both major department chairs and the registrar.

GENERAL MINOR

One core course in religion
Five other courses from any area of religion

The general minor in religion is for students who seek to develop a biblical and theological perspective for work in other disciplines and for Christian service generally. This minor consists of six courses (18 semester hours), one core course and five others, one of which must be from the 300-level (excluding Religion 301). An appropriate interim course may be included with the approval of the advisor.

GROUP MINOR IN MISSIONS

Religion 251
Religion 252
Sociology 253

Three courses chosen (in consultation with an advisor) from the following: Religion 351, Geography 320, 240, Sociology 153, Economics 337, TWDS 201, area study courses (History 238, 241, 242, 245, 246, 331, 338, 371, 233–236, 355, and Spanish 310), an appropriate interim course, and other courses approved by the advisor as part of an introduction to holistic missions

The group minor in missions is for students interested in missions and other cross-cultural ministries and consists of 6 courses (18 semester hours). W. Lee is the advisor for the group minor in missions.

COURSES

Basic Courses

121 **Biblical Literature and Theology** (3). F and S. This course is a study of the Bible within

its literary, historical, cultural, and canonical context in order to understand its central theological teachings. *Staff.*

131 **Christian Theology** (3). F and S. A study of Christian theology in light of its historical development and ongoing significance, this course surveys the central teachings of the Christian Church as rooted in the Bible, formulated by key theologians, and summarized in the ecumenical creeds and Reformed confessions. *Staff.*

Intermediate Biblical Studies Courses

Prerequisite: Religion 121 or 131 (or old core equivalents) and sophomore or higher status, or permission of the instructor.

211 **Pentateuch** (3). F and S. A study of the first five books of the Bible. This course examines the accounts of creation, the fall, Israel's ancestors, the exodus, and the giving of the Law. Theological issues explored include the nature of God, human beings, and the world, our covenantal relationship with God, and the presence of God in historical events. *W. Lee.*

212 **Old Testament Historical Books** (3). F and S. This course explores the Old Testament books of Joshua through 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah in terms of their literary features, historical settings, and theological themes. Particular attention is devoted to the prophetic character of these works, which provide a theological interpretation of Israel's history. *B. Cushman.*

213 **Psalms and Wisdom Literature** (3). F and S. Students examine the books of Psalms, Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes. The three focuses of the course are how to read poetry, the different categories of the Psalms and their interpretation, and the role of wisdom books in the Bible. *R. Whitekettle.*

214 **Prophets** (3). S. The books of Old Testament prophetic literature are studied, including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and selected minor prophets. Each book is considered in light of its literary characteristics and sociohistorical context with a view to explicating the text's theological message and its contemporary relevance. *R. Whitekettle.*

221 **Synoptic Gospels and Acts** (3). F and S. This is a study of Matthew, Mark, and Luke-Acts. After a summary of introductory issues, this course examines the text and context of each book to discern its major themes. The relationship between the Synoptic Gospels and the historical Jesus is also considered. *D. Crump, D. Harlow.*

222 **Johannine Literature** (3). F and S. This course studies the Fourth Gospel and 1-3 John. Students consider matters of introduction, historical context, interpretation of major themes and distinctive theological contributions. *D. Harlow.*

223 **Paul's Letters** (3). F and S. Paul's letters are studied, focusing on the theological and ethical themes with an emphasis on how these themes are expressed in the diverse contexts of early Christian communities. *K. Pomykala.*

224 **Revelation and General Letters** (3). F. This course studies Revelation and the general letters, including Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, and Jude, in terms of their literary features, historical setting, theological emphasis, and present relevance. *D. Harlow.*

Advanced Biblical Studies Courses

Prerequisite: Religion 121 or an intermediate biblical studies course.

307 **Interpreting the Bible** (3). * F A study of the methods and principles of biblical interpretation. Various exegetical and hermeneutical approaches will be examined and evaluated in terms of their usefulness for understanding the meaning and message of the scriptures. *W. Lee.*

309 **Biblical Theology** (3). * S. A course in constructive biblical theology, focusing on central themes, the problem of the unity and diversity of scripture, the "center" of biblical revelation, and proper methodology. Issues are considered in the context of historic and recent attempts to construct a biblical theology. Not offered 2002-03.

311 **History and Archaeology of Ancient Israel** (3). * F A study of the history of ancient Israel from the patriarchs through Ezra in the context of recent research on this topic. This course will consider the sources for reconstructing the history of Israel, including the

Old Testament, Ancient Near Eastern literary remains, and archaeological evidence, as well as appropriate methods for interpreting these sources. *R. Whitekettle.*

313 **When Women Read the Old Testament** (3). *. This course is the special topic for the Current Issues in Old Testament Studies course. In the last two decades, biblical interpretation by women and about women has blossomed and made significant contributions to the field of biblical studies. This course will study feminist approaches to the Old Testament and examine key passages relating to gender issues. Not offered 2002-03.

321 **Intertestamental Judaism** (3). *. A study of Jewish history, literature, and thought from 400 B.C. to A.D. 100, as a background for understanding the New Testament. Literature studied includes the Apocrypha and Dead Sea Scrolls. Not offered 2002-03.

323 **The Dead Sea Scrolls** (3). S. This is the special topic for the course Current Issues in New Testament Studies. It will provide a survey of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Topics to be covered include the discovery, acquisition, and publication of the Scrolls; the identification of the Jewish group that copied and composed them; the archaeology of the Qumran site; the history, beliefs, and practices of the Qumran community; and the impact of the Scrolls on study of the textual and canonical formation of the Hebrew Bible, of early Judaism and Christianity, and of the New Testament. *D. Harlow.*

Intermediate Theological Studies Courses

Prerequisite: Religion 121 or 131 (or old core equivalents) and sophomore or higher status, or permission of the instructor.

230 **The Doctrine of Revelation** (3). This course is designed to help students explore Reformed concepts of revelation in contemporary cultural context. Traditional models of general and special revelation, and models of biblical inspiration and authority are explored and developed in the context of modern and post-modern concerns in philosophy, science, and non-Christian religions. Not offered 2002-03.

231 The Doctrine of God (3). S. This course is designed to examine Christian concepts of God in considerable depth within the context of historic debates and modern discussions. Issues considered include the possibility and extent of human knowledge of God, evidence for God's existence, the attributes of God, and the nature of the Trinity. *L. Smit.*

232 The Doctrine of Creation (3). F. This course investigates Christian teaching about the creation of the world. Topics considered include the interpretation of Genesis 1 and 2, creation out of nothing, creation and evolution, the goodness of creation and the problem of evil, the image of God, the cultural mandate and the idea of stewardship, and the eclipse of creation in modern thought. *T. Thompson.*

233 The Doctrine of Christ and Reconciliation (3). S. The main goal of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to examine and reflect upon historic and Reformed doctrines of the person and works of Christ in the context of contemporary analytic thought and current biblical theology. Topics include Christ as God and man in current discussion, New Testament Christology and the current debates, and Reformed Christology in the making. *J. Schneider.*

234 The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit and Church (3). F and S. This course is a study of the biblical teachings, confessional formulations, theological reflections, and experiential impact of the universal and local church as the creation and manifestation of the Holy Spirit, as well as the attributes and ministries of the Church universal. *A. Griffioen.*

235 Eschatology (3). F. Christian teachings concerning the end times and last things are studied in this course, including their biblical basis, historical formulations, and contemporary relevance. Topics covered include the return of Christ, the final judgment, the resurrection of the body, and eternal life. Millennialist and dispensationalist issues are also critically analyzed both historically and theologically. *T. Thompson.*

237 Christian Worship (3). F. A study of the history, theology, and practice of Christian worship. This course examines the relationship between theology and worship by considering the biblical basis for worship, the

history of Christian liturgy, and contemporary worship. Examples of sermons, baptismal, and Lord's Supper practices, hymnody, prayers, dance, art, and architecture from both traditional and contemporary worship are studied. *J. Witvliet.*

241 General Church History (3). A survey of the history of the Christian church from its beginning to the present time, noting deviations from apostolic faith and practice, the interplay with the political, the great church councils, the crises that emerge, divisions and reunions, and the confluence of forces that determine the complexion of the Christian church today. Not to be taken if students have taken or plan to take Religion 243 or 244. Not offered 2002-03.

242 American Religious History (3). A consideration of the theology and religious history of America from the immigration period to the present. Attention is paid to the European background, early establishment of Christianity in America, the colonial era, revivalism and confessionalism, emergence of evangelicalism, fundamentalism and liberalism, and various 20th century movements, including current ecumenism. Major social and political developments and their influence upon the American religious scene will be considered throughout. Not offered 2002-03.

243 History of Christian Theology I (3). F and S. This is a historically oriented study of Christian theology in the Patristic and Medieval periods (100-1500). Particular attention is paid to the development of key Christian doctrines such as the Trinity and the Incarnation and to questions such as the relationship between faith and reason. *K. Hotz.*

244 History of Christian Theology II (3). F and S. This is a historically oriented study of Christian theology in the Reformation and Modern periods (1500 to the present). Particular attention is paid to the development of key Christian doctrines such as justification, sanctification, and the church and to questions such as the relationship between faith and reason. *M. Mathews.*

251 Christianity and the World's Religions (3). F. This course examines the relationship of Christianity to the religions of the world. An attempt is made to understand the phe-

nomenon of religion from a theological perspective by investigating how various biblical and Christian writers have viewed Christianity's place in the religious history of the world. Special emphasis is placed on twentieth-century attempts to confront the reality of religious pluralism. *R. Plantinga*.

Advanced Theological Studies

Prerequisite: Religion 131 or an intermediate theological studies course.

301 **Christianity and Culture** (3). S. This course is a critical survey of models by which God's people have defined their relationship to the world, from Biblical times to the present, with a particular emphasis on the Reformed tradition. Special attention is given to the contemporary relevance of this discussion, both in terms of ways in which different models are visible in today's world and in terms of ways that the Reformed model can be applied to present concerns. *L. Smit*.

332 **Theological Ethics** (3). * S. A study of Christian moral theory and its application to selected cases. This course examines how diverse understandings of God's relationship to the creation inform how Christians think about the moral life. Ethical issues such as war, human sexuality and reproduction, death and dying, and the environment are analyzed in light of theological commitments. *K. Hotz*.

333 **Studies in Roman Catholic Theology: Contemporary Catholic Theology** (3). A sympathetic study of Roman Catholic theology, with particular attention to developments since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). Topics include scripture and tradition; grace and justification; church, liturgy, and sacraments; ethics and the church in the modern world; death and the afterlife; Marian devotion; ecumenism; ecclesiastical authority and papal infallibility; and the pontificate of John Paul II. Not offered 2002-03.

341 **Studies in Early and Medieval Theology: Augustine and the Augustinian Tradition** (3). * F. Augustine is one of the greatest figures in the history of Christian theology. This course studies several of his major works and the consensus which developed around his thought throughout the middle ages. The class begins with an in depth look at Augustine, then surveys key Augustinians through-

out the middle ages, culminating with a deeper look at two of the great 13th century theologians, Bonaventure and Aquinas, each of whom appropriates Augustine in a distinctive way. *L. Smit*.

343 **Studies in Reformation Theology** (3). * F. A study of selected doctrinal topics and central figures of the sixteenth century Protestant Reformation. *J. Schneider*.

345 **Studies in Contemporary Theology** (3). * A study of selected figures, movements, and doctrinal topics in twentieth century theology. Not offered 2002-03.

Religious Studies

250 **Introduction to the Study of Religion** (3). F. A thematic introduction to the phenomenon of religion in comparative perspective. Issues examined include the dichotomy between the sacred and the profane, the nature of religious experience and its various expressions in life, the significance of myth and ritual, and differing analyses of human existence. Attention is also given to questions about the origin, nature, and function of religion in human life and society, and to issues pertaining to the study of religion in the humanities and social sciences. *R. Plantinga*.

252 **Introduction to Missions** (3). S. A general introduction to Christian missions in biblical and historical perspective. This course surveys the biblical and theological foundations for missions, and the church's interpretation and implementation of the task of spreading the gospel. The methods, challenges, successes, and failures of Christian missionary activity will be considered. Students will be involved in a local mission organization and use this practical experience as an additional basis for reflection. *C. Farhadian*.

351 **World Religions** (3). * F. A historical investigation of the nature of religion by examining the chief theories and practices of some of the world's major, non-Christian religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Islam. Emphasis is placed on each tradition's analysis of the basic human problem and the solution that it offers to the problem. Some attention is also paid to new, emergent religious movements and their relationship to older established traditions.

Prerequisite: One religion department course. *C. Farhadian.*

352 Judaism (3). * F A study of the major developments in Jewish history, thought, and practice beginning with the second temple era and extending to the contemporary period. Subjects studied will include rabbinic Judaism and its literature — the Mishnah and the Talmuds, medieval Jewish philosophy and mysticism, emancipation, Zionism, the Holocaust, and North American Judaism. The question of Jewish-Christian dialogue will also be considered. Prerequisite: One religion department course. *K. Pomykala.*

Seminars

359 Seminar in Principles of and Practices in Secondary Religion Teaching (3). S. A course in perspectives on and practices in the teaching of religion and theology on the secondary level. This course should be taken concurrently with Education 346. Before taking Religion 359, students must complete Education 301/303 and 307. *T. Thompson.*

379 Research Topics in Christian Worship (3). Participation in collaborative research on the theology, history, and practice of Christian worship. Topics are chosen in conjunction with the scholarly initiatives of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Enrollment open to qualified juniors and seniors. Prerequisites: Biblical and Theological Foundations and permission of the instructor. *J. Witvliet.*

396 Religion Seminar (3). S. An advanced seminar for senior majors in religion and other qualified students. This course considers significant issues in biblical, theological, and religious studies and requires a major research paper. Prerequisites: Three electives in religion and for non-majors, permission of the instructor. *K. Pomykala, R. Plantinga.*

Graduate Courses

510 Theological and Philosophical Hermeneutics (3). This course is an intensive study of the theory and methods of biblical interpretation developed in the context of modern theology and philosophy. Questions about language and events, experience and significance, and authority and community comprise the core of this course. *Staff.*

580 Perspectives, Programs, and Practices in Bible and Religion Curriculum (3). A study of various approaches in the schools to curriculum and teaching in biblical studies, church history, Reformed thought, and world religions. Consideration is given to the way fundamental differences of perspective on biblical Christianity influence the selection and use of curriculum designs, materials, and teaching techniques. Course content is adapted to the various grade levels of particular interest to enrollees. *Staff.*

590 Independent Study. F, I, and S. *Staff.*

Sociology and Social Work

Professors C. Kreykes Brandsen (chair and director of Social Work), P. DeJong, B. Hugen (Social Work Practicum Coordinator), M. Loyd-Paige
Associate Professors F. De Jong, T. VandenBerg, K. Ver Beek
Assistant Professors K. Dougherty, M. Mulder, L. Schwander
Instructor S. Diepstra
Adjunct Instructor M. Baker

The department offers courses in sociology, criminal justice, social work, and anthropology. Sociology is the study of the principles of group relationships, social institutions, and the influence of the group on the individual. Social work is the study of theory and practice principles related to generalist, social work practice. Criminal justice is the study of the nature and treatment of crime in society and the interrelationships among crimi-