

RELIGION & BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

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Academic Programs	Credits
BA: Theology	
Emphasis Areas	
Pastoral Ministry	51
Youth Ministry	51
BA: Religion	32
Emphasis Area	
Religion for Secondary Education	33–35
BA: Religion (Distance Degree)	36
AA: Personal Ministries (Distance Degree)	33
Minor in Religion	20
Minor in Biblical Languages	22
Minor in Missions	20

Mission

The Department of Religion & Biblical Languages seeks to engage majors and general education students through a biblically grounded, theologically astute and relevant process of spiritual formation; equipping and inspiring them to passionately serve the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the wider world beyond as dedicated laypersons and committed denominational employees in the expectation of the soon coming of Jesus Christ.

Students who are religion and theology majors must maintain a minimum overall 2.25 GPA (2.5 for BA: Religion for Secondary Education). They must be in good and regular standing in terms of student life citizenship. As future ministers of the church, they are expected to live in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and practices. Failure in any of these areas may lead to a student being placed on probation or being dismissed from the program. Academic requirements and other program standards are stated in detail in the departmental handbook.

Programs

A minimum grade of "C-" must be earned for all major classes and cognates.

BA: Theology

Theology majors may, within their first semester on campus, challenge RELT100 by a test administered by the department. Choose from one of the following emphases:

Pastoral Ministry Emphasis—51

RELB111, 112, 115, 210, 214, 335, 406, 476; RELP200 (each semester registered), 330; two courses from RELP336 or 337 or 338; 441, 482; one course from 240 or 325 or 335; RELT100, 250, 308, 325, 326, 340

Required Cognates (25): BIBL211, 212, 311, 312, 321, 322, 427; HIST404; RELH316, 317

Required General Education courses: PHIL224, FMST115

Graduation Requirement: (a) ministerial candidacy; (b) major GPA of 2.50.

Youth Ministry Emphasis—59–60

RELB111, 112, 115, 210, 214, 335, 406, 476; RELP200 (each semester registered), 330; two courses from 336 or 337 or 338; 335, 441, 482; RELT100, 250, 308, 325, 326, 340. Choose three from ANTH200, BHSC220, FMST454, PSYC204, 301, 319, 454, SOCI345, 415, 430, 440

Required Cognates (20): BIBL211, 212, 311, 312, 321, 322; HIST404; RELH317

Required General Education courses: PHIL224, FMST115

Graduation Requirement: (a) ministerial candidacy; (b) major GPA of 2.50.

BA: Religion (32)

RELB111, 112, 115, 406; two courses from 214 or 335 or 476; RELT308, 325, 326; RELP200 (each semester registered), 6 credits from RELP240 or 330 or 325 or 335 or 441. The following four general education courses are also required: RELB210; RELT100, 250, 340.

The General Education foreign language requirement for the BA: Religion is to be fulfilled by either Greek or Hebrew or any modern language at the intermediate level.

Graduation Requirement: (a) vocational ministry portfolio with a career and lay ministry plan, (b) major GPA of 2.50.

Those electing Greek to meet the foreign language requirement must take Greek through the intermediate level.

Note: Students planning to enter the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary should select a major in theology. A religion major may be selected but must be supplemented with Seminary prerequisite courses. For entrance requirements, see the Theological Seminary section of this bulletin.

Religion for Secondary Education Emphasis—33–35

RELB111, 112, 115, 210, 406; one course from RELB214 or 335 or 476; RELT100, 326; two courses from RELT250 or 340 or RELP335; RELH400 (may substitute RELT308 and HIST404)

Denominational certification requirements: Religion for Secondary Education includes all requirements in Religion for SDA church certification and designated for those seeking to teach religion on the secondary level. In order to meet Michigan State Teacher Certification requirements an additional major and minor must be earned. Students must obtain a second advisor in the School of Education and consult regularly with that advisor as well as their Religion advisor.

Graduation Requirement: (a) attendance to the Departmental assembly according to the Departmental Handbook; (b) major GPA of 2.50.

Christian-Muslim Studies Emphasis

(Offered at the Newbold College affiliated campus only. Details of program available from the Office of Off-Campus Programs.)

BA: Religion (36)
(Distance Education)

The distance education degree requires a minimum of 124 semester credits including all general education, major, and graduation requirements. The required courses are RELB210, 304, 305, 335; 374 or 375; RELT225, 235, 308; RELP290, 441; HIST404.

Those electing Greek to meet the foreign language requirement must take Greek through the intermediate level.

Note: Students planning to enter the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary should select a major in theology. A religion major may be selected but must be supplemented with Seminary prerequisite courses. For entrance requirements, see the Theological Seminary section of this bulletin.

AA: Personal Ministries (33)
(Distance Education)

This degree prepares students for personal outreach ministries, including Bible instruction, offers an opportunity to study a broad spectrum of courses covering both Old and New Testament. The courses listed below are required for distance education students only.

Requirements: RELB210, 304, 305, 335; RELP290; RELT225, 308, 320, 340; HIST404, choose one of the following: RELB374 or 375.

Minor in Religion (20)

6 upper-division credits, 15 credits from RELB, RELT and RELG. The remaining 5 credits may be taken from any Department of Religion & Biblical Languages offerings subject to consultation with the department.

Minor in Biblical Languages (20)

BIBL211, 212, 311, 312, 321, 322, 427, and 4 credits in BIBL495

Minor in Missions (20)

ANTH200; RELG360; RELP240, 235, 325, 340, one or two courses from FDNT469, HLED420; one or two courses from EDTE165, BSAD365, 450; ENGL465; one course from GEOG260, COMM436, FMST350.

Courses (Credits)

See inside front cover for symbol code.

Biblical Languages**BIBL204V (C 4)**
Elementary Greek I

Paper correspondence course. See content of BIBL211. BIBL204H and 205H must be taken successively.

BIBL205V (C 4)*Elementary Greek II*

Paper correspondence course. A continuing study of the elements of the language of the New Testament in the context of a good working vocabulary and carefully selected readings. Prerequisite: BIBL204V or equivalent.

BIBL211 (3)*Elementary Greek I*

Elements of grammar of the *koine* Greek of the New Testament, including vocabulary, translation, and reading. Weekly lab required. *Fall*

BIBL212 (3)*Elementary Greek II*

Instruction in intermediate grammar and reading of selected portions of the New Testament. Weekly lab required. Prerequisite: BIBL211. *Spring*

BIBL221 (2)*Elementary Latin*

Introduction to Latin grammar and syntax. Emphasis on biblical and ecclesiastical vocabulary and reading and translation of simple texts from Vulgate and church history. *Fall*

BIBL222 (2)*Intermediate Latin*

Instruction in intermediate Latin grammar and syntax and reading and translation of selected texts from Vulgate and church history. Prerequisite: BIBL221. *Spring*

BIBL304V (C 3)*Intermediate Greek I*

Paper correspondence course. Intermediate course in Greek to provide a fair working knowledge of the New Testament in the original language. Prerequisite: BIBL205H or equivalent.

BIBL305V (C 3)*Intermediate Greek II*

Paper correspondence course. Continues to refine the student's working knowledge of the New Testament in the original language. Prerequisite: BIBL304V or equivalent.

BIBL311 (2)*Intermediate Greek I*

Syntax of the *koine* Greek New Testament including practical application. Weekly lab required. Prerequisite BIBL212. *Fall*

BIBL312 (2)*Intermediate Greek II*

Application of the principles of the *koine* Greek grammar and syntax to the exegesis of selected passages from the Greek New Testament. Emphasis placed upon practical and scholarly application of the text. Prerequisites: BIBL311 and RELB115. *Spring*

BIBL321 (2)*Elementary Hebrew*

Fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew including a practical vocabulary, an understanding of the grammatical structure of the language, and practice in translation. Provides ministers with a practical study tool. Weekly lab required. *Fall*

- BIBL322** (2)
Intermediate Hebrew
Development of reading ability in narrative portions of the Hebrew Bible. Weekly lab required. Prerequisite: BIBL321. *Spring*
- BIBL427** (2)
Hebrew Exegesis
Application of the principles of Hebrew lexicography, grammar, syntax and style to the exegesis of selected passages of the Hebrew Old Testament. Emphasis placed upon practical and scholarly application of the text. Prerequisites: BIBL322, RELB115. *Fall*
- BIBL495** (1–3)
Independent Study
Provides opportunity for further and independent investigation of the history, development, and exegesis of the biblical text. *Fall, Spring, Summer*
- Biblical Studies**
- RELB111** (3)
Introduction to the Old Testament
An introduction to the writings and theology of the Old Testament within their near eastern cultural, geographical, and historical backgrounds. *Fall*
- RELB112** (3)
Introduction to the New Testament
An introduction to the writings and theology of the New Testament within their Jewish and Greco-Roman cultural, geographical, and historical backgrounds. *Spring*
- RELB115** (3)
Hermeneutics
An introduction to the presuppositions beneath various interpretive approaches to the biblical text and application of the principles of interpretation to texts representing the various genres of the Old and New Testaments. *Fall*
- RELB210** (3)
Jesus in His Time and Ours
Details the mission, the message and the meaning of Jesus Christ for His day and for ours. What is it about the Christian story that captured the attention of so much of world history? Also examines the connection between Christ's first Advent and His second. *Fall, Spring, Summer*
- RELB210V** C (3)
Jesus in His Time and Ours
Online correspondence course—see content above.
- RELB214** (3)
Law and Writings of the Old Testament
An introduction to The Pentateuch and the “Writings” (historical books, Psalms, and Wisdom literature). *Fall*
- RELB230** (3)
Biblical Prayers
Readings of biblical prayers as part of divine-human dialogue, assessing their significance for theology as well as for personal spiritual life. A study of the way prayers help to characterize both God and human beings in various types of biblical literature, and reflections of the role of prayer in the life of believers today.
- RELB235** (3)
Apocalyptic and Biblical Prophecy
A study of the meaning for the 21st century of biblical apocalyptic prophecy, describing the principles of reading and applying biblical prophecy in a modern world, comparing it with other modes of prophecy and prediction in the present culture, and assessing its relevance in view of modern global challenges. Does not count toward a Religion and Theology major.
- RELB304V** C (3)
Studies in Daniel
Online correspondence course—see RELB406.
- RELB305V** C (3)
Studies in Revelation
Online correspondence course—see RELB406.
- RELB335** (3)
Acts and Epistles
Brief introduction to principles of New Testament interpretation; a study of Acts, the Pauline Epistles, Hebrews, and the General Epistles. Research paper may be required. *Spring*
- RELB335V** C (3)
Acts and Epistles I
Online correspondence course—see content above.
- RELB374V** C (3)
Old Testament Prophets, Early
Online correspondence course. Includes the history of prophecy, the pre-writing prophetic figures, and the books of the writing prophets of the 8th and early 7th century B.C. Research paper may be required.
- RELB375V** C (3)
Old Testament Prophets, Later
Online correspondence course. Includes the books of the writing prophets of the 7th century B.C. to the end of the prophetic canon. Research paper may be required.
- RELB406** (3)
Studies in Daniel and Revelation
Study of the background, content, and construction of these biblical books with emphasis upon the interpretation of prophecy, apocalyptic imagery and symbols. *Fall*
- RELB476** (3)
Prophets of Israel
Includes the history of prophecy, the pre-writing prophetic figures, and the books of the writing prophets. Research paper may be required. *Spring*
- General Religion**
- RELG160** (1–3)
Topics in Religion
Designed to add flexibility to the department offerings and to meet diverse student needs. Repeatable as topics vary. Consult the class schedule for the current topic. *Fall, Spring, Summer*
- RELG225** (3)
Introduction to Missions
An undergraduate religion course which explores the theology and practice of missions. The objective of the course is to under-

stand God's mission in our world and to experience personal involvement in that mission. A long-term goal of the course is to create an experience through which God can inspire students to a lifetime of service and missions. The class experience includes intensive short-term missions exposure by means of a class tour. *Note: Student missionaries are required to take a different missions course: RELP325 Preparation for Mission Service.*

RELG248 (1-3)
Workshop

Provides flexibility for the occasional workshop where it is appropriate to offer religion credit. Workshop requirements must be approved by the department. *Fall, Spring*

RELG360 S (1-3)
Topics in Religion

Designed to add flexibility to the department offerings and to meet diverse student needs. Repeatable as topics vary. Consult the class schedule for the current topic. This course qualifies for a deferred grade when it requires research. *Fall, Spring, Summer*

RELG360V C (3)
Topics in Religion: World Religions

Online correspondence course. Surveys the major religious traditions of the world. Study includes an overview of origins, major philosophical and theological underpinnings, typical aspects of worship and ethics, and major social, cultural and political influences. Study is done from a consciously Christian framework.

RELG378 \$ (0)
Study Tour:

Travel to destinations relevant to individual programs of study. Classes will be selected from department(s) offerings. Fee may be required. *Religion and theology majors may apply up to 6 elective study tour credits toward their major if preapproved by department.*

RELG380-50 (1-3)
Honors in Religion (topic specified)

Readings and seminar observations on various topics. Area of study announced in advance. Repeatable as topics vary. *Fall, Spring*

RELG496 (1-3)
Special Projects in Religion

By special permission of the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages. *Fall, Spring, Summer*

Church History

RELH316 (3)
History of the Christian Church I

Surveys the internal and external developments and conflicts which Christianity has experienced in time and space from the time of Christ up to the Reformation. Special attention given to those developments that relate to Seventh-day Adventist theological heritage. Aims to enable the student to develop a broader historical perspective through which to see the outworking of the great controversy through the centuries, especially as it relates to issues the church faces today. Prerequisite: HIST117 or permission of instructor. Not applicable to the General Education requirements in religion nor a major or minor in religion. *Fall*

RELH316V C (3)
History of the Christian Church I

Online correspondence course—see content above.

RELH317 (3)
History of the Christian Church II

Surveys the history of the church from the Protestant Reformation to current time. Special attention is given to the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic counter-reformation, Puritanism, Rationalism, Evangelicalism, the rise of modern denominations, the world-wide mission expansion, and ecumenism. Prerequisite: HIST118 or permission of instructor. Not applicable to the GE requirements in religion. *Spring*

RELH317V C (3)
History of the Christian Church II

Online correspondence course—see content above.

RELH400 (3)
SDA History and Prophetic Heritage

An investigation of the background, rise, and development of the Seventh-day Adventist church in America and the world from its beginning until the present with special attention given to the historical role, ministry and writings of Ellen White. *Summer*

Professional Training

RELP200 (0)
Pastoral Practicum

A weekly seminar giving instruction in the many aspects of ministering in churches. Includes assignment to one of the area churches. Required of all theology/religion majors. Students must register for this class each semester in residence. *Fall, Spring*

RELP235 (2)
Christianity in a World Context

An introduction to the status and role of Christianity and mission worldwide. Includes a brief history of Christian mission, current facts about mission needs, Christian and mission relationships to world religions, political ideologies, national development, and non-Western cultures. *Fall*

RELP240 (0-3)
Christian Witnessing/Public Evangelism Seminar

Acquaintance with the dynamics of Christian witnessing in the neighborhood, at work, and in the friend-to-friend approach of personal Bible study. Christ's example of witnessing is highlighted. Includes participation in the departmental summer field school. *Spring, Summer*

RELP290V C (3)
Introduction to Pastoral Counseling

Paper correspondence course. Understanding that pastoring includes counseling, this course introduces both the actual skill of counseling and the acquisition of knowledge and insights based on reading and experience.

RELP325 (2)
Preparation for Mission Service

An orientation to the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for successful mission service. This class is the required preparation for student missionaries and fulfills 2 credits of the General Education religion requirement. *Fall, Spring*

RELP330 (2)
Homiletics—Introduction to Preaching

Lays the foundation for biblical sermon construction and delivery. This class is the prerequisite for all other homiletics courses and

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is a requirement for all religion/theology majors. Weekly lab required. *Fall*

REL336 (1) **Homiletics—Expository Preaching**

Addresses the crucial nature of expository preaching, stressing proper principles of interpreting and applying the text to practical life. Weekly lab required. Prerequisite: RELP330. *Spring*

REL337 (1) **Homiletics—Contextualized Preaching**

Explores the dynamics of effective preaching to a particular cultural group with an emphasis on the distinctive homiletical, rhetorical and cultural qualities required for the effective proclamation of the Gospel to each group. Weekly lab required. Prerequisite: RELP330. *Fall*

REL338 (1) **Homiletics—Evangelistic and Special Events Preaching**

Addresses the needs of special preaching events such as evangelistic crusades, weddings, funerals, and dedications. Weekly lab required. Prerequisite: RELP330. *Spring*

REL335 (3) **Foundations of Youth Ministry**

Designed for the youth specialist who wishes to work as a youth pastor, youth director, academy Bible teacher, or in any other youth-training capacity. *Fall*

REL340 (2) **Strategies for Service**

Creates the vision that all Christians can serve in mission. Shows how to witness in cross-cultural situations and introduces students to ways they can do mission in any occupation. Alternate forms of mission like tent-maker ministries, non-resident missionaries, urban ministry, and work with refugees and foreign students are addressed. *Spring*

REL400 S (3) **Senior Seminar: Health Professions**

A capstone seminar for health profession majors which addresses theoretical and practical spiritual issues pertaining to those working in the health professions. *Fall*

REL441 (2–3) **Introduction to Pastoral Ministry**

A study of the principles of leadership as applied to pastoral ministry, in particular with regard to the minister as leader of worship, as nurturing pastor, as administrator of the church and as evangelist. Theology majors enroll for 3 credits and Religion majors for 2 credits. *Fall*

REL441V C (3) **Introduction to Pastoral Ministry**

Paper correspondence course. A study of good church administration, combining pastoral leadership with church management. Addresses the four-dimensional role of the pastor—person, administrator, church leader and priest.

REL482 (1) **Ministerial Candidacy Seminar**

Intended to help ministerial students explore practical issues in connection with their call to pastoral ministry. It also aids in the preparation of the ministerial candidacy portfolio required of the students taking this class. Open only to Theology majors during their senior year. *Fall*

Theology

REL100 (3) **God and Human Life**

How God confronts human beings—includes the process of revelation, principles of interpreting Scripture and similarly inspired material, the nature of God and His expectations for humans, and the evaluation of these concepts as presented in Scripture and the classic literature of various religions. *Fall, Spring, Summer*

REL100V C (3) **God and Human Life**

Online correspondence course—see content above.

REL207 (3) **Issues in the Great Controversy**

Study of the controversy between Christ and Satan with particular emphasis on their characters and kingdoms, the attack against law, the implications of the sacrifice of Christ, the relationship of these issues to human lives today, and the completion of God's mission for sinners. Credit not applicable toward the theology concentration.

REL216 (2) **Workshop in Prayer**

Study of faith, private prayer, family worship, conducting prayer groups, public prayer, and prayer as a ministry. Not applicable toward the theology concentration or major in religion. *Fall, Spring*

REL225 (3) **Doctrines of the Adventist Faith**

Defines and clarifies the Biblical doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist faith, distinguishing them within the background of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Student can earn general education credit in either REL225 or 226, but not in both. *Fall, Spring, Summer*

REL225V C (3) **Doctrines of the Adventist Faith**

Online correspondence course—see content above.

REL235V C (3) **Principles of Bible Instruction**

Paper correspondence course. Helps students develop necessary skills and expertise vital for success in Bible instruction.

REL250 (3) **Personal Spirituality and Faith**

A study of the Biblical perspective on the act of faith and the life of faith. How does a person begin and nurture one's own personal spiritual and devotional life? Also studies the meaning of spiritual nurture in various lifestyle and work settings. Personal spiritual growth is fostered through involvement in organized church activities and/or witnessing outreach. *Fall, Spring*

REL308 (2–3) **Gift of Prophecy**

Study of the prophetic manifestation in Bible and church to include the ministry and writings of Ellen G. White. Research paper may be required. Theology and Religion majors enroll for 2 credits. *Fall*

- RELT308V** C (2) **RELT415** (3)
Gift of Prophecy
 Online correspondence course—see content above.
- RELT320V** C (3) **RELT420** (3)
Personal Evangelism
 Paper correspondence course. The dynamics of personal evangelism with primary emphasis on instruction rather than exhortation. A clear biblical perspective on the priesthood of all believers; practical counseling for leading someone to Christ; a strategy for visitation; a Bible study methodology; and techniques in getting decisions.
- RELT325** (3) **RELT445** (3)
Theology I
 A continuation of RELT100. Study of nature, sources, and methods of theology; the doctrines of God and his works (the Trinity, creation, providence, law, and Sabbath), Christ, the Holy Spirit, and human beings. Research paper may be required. Student can earn general education credit in either RELT225 or 325, but not in both. Prerequisite: RELT100. *Fall*
- RELT326** (3) **RELT445** (3)
Theology II
 Study of the doctrines of Christ and salvation (nature and works of atonement), the church (characteristics, ministry, and mission), sanctuary and Christ's heavenly ministry, and eschatology from a distinct Seventh-day Adventist perspective. Research paper may be required. Prerequisite: RELT325. *Spring*
- RELT340** (3)
Religion and Ethics in Modern Society
 Considers how the Judeo-Christian tradition confronts the moral complexities of a highly technical society. Are there universal absolutes that cross all cultural boundaries, or are all values relative? Designed to help students articulate what molded their value system and what should help to shape it. Students are expected to participate in some organized church/civic/social service activities. Student can earn general education credit in either RELT340 or 390, but not in both. *Fall, Spring*
- RELT340V** C (3)
Religion and Ethics in Modern Society
 Online correspondence course—see content above.
- RELT348** S (3)
Christians and the Environment
 A religious, philosophical, and activist approach to environmental issues, analyzing ideological causes of environmental degradation, and offering philosophical and theological perspectives which inform and sensitize the student to the Christian's environmental responsibility. Qualifies as an "S" course for General Education Service Learning. Contains a service component. *Spring*
- RELT390** (3)
Christian Business Ethics
 Designed for the student to examine differing ethical models and to develop a personal model that will serve as the basis on which a Seventh-day Adventist Christian will make personal value decisions. The developed model is used in examining actual ethical issues which confront people in daily affairs of business life. Student can earn general education credit in either RELT340 or 390, but not in both. (Open only to upper division BBA students). *Spring*
- RELT415** (3)
Topics in Theology
 Focused attention on select theological issues and their relationship to Christian practice. The selection of topics varies with any given course offering and might include some of the following: Trinity, theodicy, sanctuary, apocalypticism, justification by faith, revelation and inspiration, and doctrine of creation. Research paper required. Prerequisite: RELT325, 326. Repeatable with different emphasis.
- RELT420** (3)
Formative Christian Thinkers
 An in-depth, seminar-style exploration of selected Christian thinkers who have significantly impacted both Christian thought and the culture at large. Through a sustained attention of mostly primary texts, student explore the rich intersection of theology, philosophy, spirituality and ethics with the aim of probing the richness and complexity of human existence in relationship to God.
- RELT445** (3)
Modern Trends in Religion & Society
 Examines a wide range of issues arising from the postmodern cultural context and their impact on Christian self-understanding, missions, and ministry in general. Special attention given to the rise of secularism, pluralism and "new atheism" and the challenges such trends present for Christian apologetics.