The Bible, Religion, and Theology department inspires and accompanies students in embodying God’s call to follow the way of Jesus, empowering them to discern and participate in the Spirit’s activity in the church and the world. To that end, students in the Bible and religion department are formed in:

- Interpretation of scripture: to introduce all EMU students to the biblical narrative, inviting them to consider an Anabaptist-Mennonite reading, and to show how it informs and animates their lives and the life of the church.

- Service to the church: to deepen the spiritual formation of Christian leaders and scholars equipped to imagine innovative models of community, ministry and mission inspired by scripture, the sixteenth century Anabaptists and the study of the church’s global past and present.

- Theological and philosophical reflection: to draw on the convictions about God and creation that have animated the Christian tradition in order to engage economic, inter-religious, cultural, philosophical, and social perspectives so as to better practice gospel imperatives such as healing, confronting the powers of evil, and loving enemies.

**Major in Bible, Religion, and Theology**

The major consists of 36 SH of Bible, Religion, and Theology courses including the core classes listed below, a recommended concentration, and additional courses from the department to reach the minimum of 36 SH.

---

**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.
The additional classes may be chosen to reinforce the concentration or to introduce the student to areas outside their concentration. Courses that carry the ABP course heading may not apply toward the 36 SH.

**Core classes (14 SH)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>SH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUM 200</td>
<td>Foundations of Humanities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM 490</td>
<td>Seminar in Humanities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIST 212</td>
<td>The Word Became Book: History of the Bible</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 201</td>
<td>Introduction to Theology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHST 223</td>
<td>Spiritual Formation, Sacred Pauses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 323</td>
<td>Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concentrations (9-15 SH)**

Students are strongly encouraged to work closely with their advisor to design a concentration in an area of their choosing.

**Sample concentrations:**

**Biblical Studies**

* BIST 223 Four Portraits of Jesus: Reading the Gospels .............. 3
* BIST 323 Life and Letters of the Apostle Paul ....................... 3
* BIST 341 Old Testament Studies .................................. 3
* REL 423 Comparative Monotheisms .................................. 3

**Church History**

* CHST 365 Mennonite History and Thought ............................ 3
* CHST 435 Martyrs, Merchants, Mendicants: 1500 Years of the Christian Movement ............ 3
* HIST 231 Medieval Europe ........................................ 3
* HIST 362 Renaissance and Reformation Europe ...................... 3

**Congregational and Youth Ministry**

* CHST 212 Introduction to Youth Ministry .......................... 3
* CHST 260 Teaching, Ministry, Healthy Sexuality .................... 3

**Missiology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>SH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHST 312</td>
<td>Missiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* CHST 234 Mission in a Changing World .............................. 3
| CHST 462    | Mission Practicum                                | 3  |
| REL 223     | World Religions                                  | 3  |
* REL 423 Comparative Monotheisms .................................. 3

**Peace Studies**

* THEO 412 Liberation Theologies .................................... 3
* ENGL 344 Ways of War and Peace .................................... 3
* PXD 335 Understanding Violent Conflict .......................... 3

**Philosophy**

* PHIL 201 Introduction to Philosophy .............................. 3
* PHIL 212 Ways of Knowing ........................................... 3
* PHIL 334 Ethics: Conceptions of Personal Good .................... 3
* PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion .................................... 3

**Religious Studies**

* REL 201 Introduction to Religious Studies ......................... 3
| REL 223     | World Religions                                  | 3  |
* REL 423 Comparative Monotheisms .................................. 3

**Theology**

* THEO 312 Topics in Theology ........................................ 3
* THEO 412 Liberation Theologies .................................... 3
* PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion .................................... 3

**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 must be 300- or 400-level courses.

**Minor in Interfaith Studies**

The minor in interfaith studies will provide students an opportunity to not only understand major faith traditions but wrestle with questions of how to relate across faith differences. Both the current political and social landscape as well as EMU’s position on that landscape creates a new relevance for an interfaith studies minor.

**Core (9 SH)**

*Choose three of the following courses:*

REL 223 World Religions ........ 3  
*REL 423 Comparative Monotheisms .3  
*PXD 335 Understanding Violent Conflict ...................... 3  
*PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion ... 3

**Electives (9 SH)**

The core course not taken above . . . . 3  
PXD 431 PXD Practicum ........ 1-3  
PXD 375 Globalization and Justice ... 3  
SOC 210 Social Stratification ........ 3  
SOWK 360 Race and Gender .......... 3  
PXD 341 Mediation and Facilitation .3  
HIST 432 History of the Middle East  
OR other approved history/politics area studies course ................. 3

**Minor in Philosophy and Theology**

The philosophy and theology 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 graduate degree.

**Required Courses (12 SH)**

PHIL 201 Introduction to Philosophy .... 3  
THEO 201 Introduction to Theology .. 3  
THEO 323 Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice ......................... 3  
*THEO 412 Liberation Theologies ... 3

*Choose two of the following:*

*PHIL 212 Ways of Knowing .......... 3  
*PHIL 334 Ethics: Conceptions of Personal Good ......................... 3  
*PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion .. 3

**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 and serve students interested in intercultural ministry in fields such as business, education, nursing, peacebuilding and development, and 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 Missiology .................. 3  
REL 223 World Religions .................. 3

*Choose two of the following courses:*

CHST 462 Mission Practicum ........ 3  
PXD 341 Mediation and Facilitation .. 3  
*REL 201 Introduction to Religious Studies ......................... 3

*Choose two of the following courses:*

PSYC 221 Social Psychology ........ 3  
PXD 375 Globalization and Justice .. 3  
*REL 312 Topics in Religion ........ 3  
*REL 423 Comparative Monotheisms 3  
THEO 323 Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice ......................... 3
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
THEO 201 Introduction to Theology .3

Choose two of the following courses:
*BIST 223 Four Portraits of Jesus: Reading the Gospels OR
*BIST 323 Life and Letters of the Apostle Paul .................... 3
*BIST 341 Old Testament Studies ... 3
*PHIL 412 Philosophy of Religion ... 3
PXD 485 Global Development .......... 3
REL 223 World Religions ............ 3
*REL 423 Comparative Monotheisms .3
*THEO 312 Topics in Theology ....... 3
*THEO 412 Liberation Theologies ... 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 Formation, Sacred Pauses ......................... 3
*CHST 334 Almost Christian: Youth Ministry in the Congregation .... 3
*CHST 372 Church Leadership for Transformation ...................... 3
CHST 473 Youth Ministry Practicum ..3
PSYC 391 Introduction to Counseling OR
PXD 341 Mediation 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 60 SH required for the AA degree.

In addition to the EMU Core requirements (see EMU Core section), the following courses are required:

*BIST 212 And the Word Became Book: History of the Bible .......... 3
*BIST 223 Four Portraits of Jesus: Reading the Gospels or .......... 3
*BIST 323 Life and Letters of the Apostle Paul OR
*BIST 341 Old Testament Studies ... 3
CHST 435 Martyrs, Merchants, and Mendicants: 1500 Years of the Christian Movement ..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 firsthand. 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 Special Programs section for additional information.
Anabaptist Biblical Perspectives (ABP)

101 Covenant and Community: An Introduction to the Bible

This course surveys the content and the backgrounds of the Old and New Testaments (the Jewish Bible and the Christian Bible). It explores the themes that are developed through this library of writings, and how they come together to tell a broad story of God’s work in the world. It invites students to consider the meaning of the Bible’s story for our world.

201 Ethics in the Way of Jesus

This course 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 212; *BIST 223; *BIST 323; *BIST 341; THEO 323.

Biblical Studies (BIST)

*212 And the Word Became Book: History of the Bible

Beginning with ways God’s revelation is explained, this class follows the story of the Bible from oral tradition to written and copies texts, to collection and canonization, translation, dissemination through mission, and textual study, to modern versions of the Bible. Students also survey approaches to biblical interpretation and reflect on their own stories with the Bible in light of what they have learned about its own story. (Spring 2020)

*223 Four Portraits of Jesus: Reading the Gospels

Students explore the texts of the four canonical gospels, using narrative, inductive, and comparative approaches to deepen their knowledge of and insight about four ways that early believers told the stories of the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Through participation in contemporary community settings, students will reflect on ways that the gospel/good news can be visible in our own contexts. (Fall 2019)

*323 Life and Letters of the Apostle Paul

This course surveys Paul’s writings, the deuero-Pauline writings, and the account of Paul’s life in Acts. It consider central themes in Paul’s missiological and theological efforts, and introduces students to methods of biblical exegesis, including learning by peer reviews of each other’s interpretational work. Students reflect on Paul’s proclamation of the faithfulness of God in Jesus Christ and the faith response of humans to God’s work. (Fall 2020)

*341 Old Testament Studies

This course invites students to explore a portion of the Hebrew Bible (e.g., Genesis-Exodus, Jeremiah, Job, Psalms) and provides an introduction to biblical interpretation and exegesis. Drawing on historical study, literary analysis, and dialogue with Jewish and other perspectives, students will develop their understanding of how these Old Testament texts continue to shape Christian faith and practice. (Fall 2019)
412 Elementary Hebrew
This course introduces biblical Hebrew grammar and vocabulary. Students will memorize
the most frequently occurring vocabulary and grammatical forms for ease of reading biblical
texts, and will read basic narrative prose passages from the Hebrew Bible. Lecture videos
based on a textbook are provided online; class time focuses on reading and practice exercises
using a workbook and other resources. (BVOT 532) (Does not satisfy EMU Core Foreign
Language Requirement.) Prerequisite: senior status or permission of instructor.

423 Elementary Greek
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)

101 Small Group Ministry Practicum I
This practicum experience provides 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.

212 Introduction to Youth Ministry
Do you believe that the average North American youth has experienced hurt and a sense
of abandonment by the adult culture? Drawing from Chap Clark's text, Hurt 2.0, we will
explore this theory as we become familiar with current issues in North American youth
culture. The basics of ministry for working with youth, prevention of sexual abuse, theories
of adolescent faith development and self-care for youth workers are also taught. If you have
an interest in working with young people in your profession this course is for you. Learning
from guest speakers and observation of local youth work will also be a part of this course.

223 Spiritual Formation, Sacred Pauses
In the midst of a crazy paced world would you like to find some peace? Join us on a journey
of Christian spiritual formation where we search for daily spaces that April Yamasaki calls
“Sacred Pauses.” Using texts by Yamasaki and Foster we will learn to practice twelve spiritual
disciplines, such as prayer, simplicity and meditation and we will discern their impact on our
inward and outward journeys of faith. A weekly small group experience, a day-long silent
retreat, and periodic meetings with a spiritual director are also part of this course.

*234 Mission in a Changing World
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. (Fall 2020)
260 Teaching, Ministry, and Healthy Sexuality  
This course explores the meaning and purpose of human sexuality from a theological perspective. It is designed to meet curriculum requirements for Physical Education, Education, Bible and Religion majors, and to serve other students whose career interests include working with youth. It will prepare students to teach/lead/minister with youth and young adults on sexuality-related questions, including learning how to avoid and prevent sexual harassment and abuse. Sophomore standing required for enrollment. (HE 260)

312 Missiology  
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.

*334 Almost Christian: Youth Ministry and Congregations  
What does the faith of North American teens tell the North American church? Kenda Creasy Dean's textbook, Almost Christian, shows that the faith of the average American teen is not theologically sound, but is “Almost Christian.” How does youth ministry address this challenge? This course will focus on congregationally based youth ministry that moves beyond an emphasis on programming, to ministry that is relational, innovative and community and congregationally based. Learning to involve the entire congregation in youth ministry and mentoring programs, as well as becoming familiar with baptismal and church membership materials for youth will also be a part of this course. (Fall 2019)

*365 Mennonite History and Thought  
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 365) (Spring 2021)

*372 Church Leadership for Transformation  
What is the role of a faithful church and its leaders in today's conflicted world? Learn how God is using prophetic voices to provide congregational leadership in these days of church decline. Practice practical skills as you design a worship service, preach a sermon, learn about rituals of congregational life, interact with local church leaders and visit area churches. (Fall 2020)

435 Martyrs, Merchants, and Mendicants: 1500 Years of the Christian Movement  
This course surveys stories of Christianity, from the first century of the Common Era up to the dawn of the Protestant Reformation. It describes successes and failures, traditions and innovations, as Christians spread west into Europe, east toward China, and south into Africa. Students will consider questions Christians have struggled with and evaluate choices Christians have made. Thinking about poverty and wealth, enculturation in mission, peace and war, church and state, women and men throughout these stories will allow intersections with 21st-century Christian realities. (HIST 435)

451 Church Work Practicum  
Would you like to experience the inner workings of a congregation, and test your gifts for ministry? A program of study and supervised field experience in a congregation, church agency or related ministry. Special emphasis is placed on personal development for ministry, developing leadership skills and experiencing the many facets of ministry in the congregation.
462 Mission Practicum

The purpose of the practicum is first-hand involvement in Christian ministry and witness in an intercultural setting. 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

Would you like to experience the challenge of hands-on ministry with youth? Participate in a supervised field experience in a congregation, camp or related ministry. The focus of the practicum is to gain first-hand experience working with youth, and to learn leadership skills and to grow in personal development.

499 Independent Study

Philosophy (PHIL)

201 Introduction to Philosophy

This course introduces students to key figures in the Western philosophical tradition and to the major questions with which those figures wrestled. Students read a variety of classic philosophical texts paying particular attention to problems of knowledge and skepticism, mind and world, ethics and politics.

*212 Ways of Knowing

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. (Spring 2020)

*334 Ethics: Conceptions of Personal Good

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. (Spring 2021)

*412 Philosophy of Religion

This course examines issues that arise from a tradition of philosophical reflection on the language and truth claims of religion. Specific readings vary from year to year but will most often include theological and postcolonial responses to the phenomenon of the secular. (Spring 2021)

Religion (REL)

*201 Introduction to Religious Studies

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.
223 World Religions
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.

*310-315 Topics in Religion
This course is designed to focus on issues that arise in the discipline of religious studies or at the intersection of Christian theology and other disciplines. Topics may include inter-religious dialogue, race and gender, 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. (Fall 2021)

*423 Judaism, Christianity, Islam: Comparative Monotheisms
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. (Spring 2020)

499 Independent Study
1-3

Theology (THEO)

201 Introduction to Theology
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.

*312 Topics in Theology
An advanced 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 and inter-disciplinary conversation with theology.

323 Biblical Theology of Peace and Justice
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.

*412 Liberation Theologies
Liberation theology names the effort to understand and interpret the gospel through conscious and reflective deliberation within experiences of injustice, inequality, violence, and oppression. This course will explore some of the various expressions that have arisen under the banner of liberation, such as Black theology, feminist theology, queer theology, and theology in the face of empire. (Fall 2019)

499 Independent Study
1-3

*Indicates courses offered in alternate years.