

BIBLICAL STUDIES 11-12 B

Christianity & World Religions

In light of the Gospel, how do Christians engage with people of religious communities and faith?

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Understanding religious practices and perspectives across time and place helps us to understand and appreciate our own Christian faith.

Religion binds peoples into distinct communities and shapes their actions, values and beliefs.

Comparing and dialoguing about religion helps us understand the complexity and diversity of our globalized world.

The process of searching for existential purpose and transcendence involves consideration of different traditions and their impact on an individual's personal formation.

LEARNER ATTRIBUTE GOALS



- Use inquiry processes, scripture, and reasoning skills to ask questions related to major issues about faith, reality, truth, and identity; gather, interpret, analyze, and communicate findings and decisions. (Purposefully Disciplined)
- Interpret the significance of religious texts, philosophies of life, key events in the historical development of a religion within various belief systems. (Purposefully Disciplined)
- Evaluate religious artifacts as evidence of the cultural influence of religion and the implications for faith-based structures in communities (Purposefully Disciplined)
- Compare the growth and decline of religions over time, and determine the extent of continuity and changes in core beliefs and practices (Purposefully Disciplined)
- Assess the accuracy of representations of religion in media and popular culture; engage in dialogue and points of conversation on topics that pertain to people from religious communities. (Grace-Filled Integrity)
- Assess origins and influences of religious movements, groups, and modern day geographic and contextual consequences (Engaged & Faithful)
- Explain different religious perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, or events on the development of the arts and creative expression (Hopeful & Thriving)
- Construct interviews and share findings that explore diverse theological perspectives and traditions. (Engaged & Faithful)
- Reflect on how diversity is part of God's design for the world and explore narratives from real people that promote an understanding of and empathy for others. (Engaged & Faithful)
- Reflect on personal belief in God and in the presence of God in all things. (Hopeful & Thriving)

CONTENT LEARNING GOALS

- **Genesis 12-25; Book of Acts; Gospel of Mark**
- **Characteristics of religion, mythology, and spirituality**
Sample topics: What is religion? Understanding religion as a system of actions and interactions based on shared beliefs about the sacred or supernatural; Core beliefs, emic/etic perspectives; systematic study of religion; historical development of religions; Myth, history, and narrative
Sample inquiry questions: What is the relationship between spirituality and worldviews for First Peoples in Canada? Do all religions take us to the same end?
- **Core beliefs, practices, and ethics of world religions, including spirituality in First Peoples cultures**
Sample topics: Teachings of a religion; worship and prayer; observances and holidays; ethical framework
Sample inquiry questions: How do religious doctrines emerge as authoritative in the life of a religious community? What sort of diversity of religious belief is permitted? How are ethical beliefs formed out of religious beliefs? How do people of religious communities think about operationalizing their beliefs in ethical issues?
- **Approaches to doctrines or belief systems**
Sample topics: Theological diversity; conversion; evangelism; non-belief

Sample inquiry questions: Has science made God obsolete? Are there good reasons to believe in the Christian God? Did Jesus really rise from the dead? How does culture impact the way we operationalize our religious beliefs? How is religion expressed differently in cultural spaces?

- **Institutional and social structures**

Sample topics: Power and leadership; monastic communities; theocracy; caliphates; authority, councils, and assemblies; sacred spaces: churches, mosques, and temples

Sample inquiry questions: Can you be good without God? Is there a moral law written into human existence? Why does the universe appear so finely tuned?

- **Sacred texts, traditions, and narratives**

Sample topics: Biblical Texts, Qur'an; Sharia; Ancient narrative; Indigenous oral storytelling traditions;

Sample inquiry questions: Is the Bible just a collection of myths? How should we think about the formation of the Biblical canon alongside holy writings and scriptures from other religions?

- **Art, architecture, narratives, and other forms of expression**

Sample topics: What art can tell us about the development of expression; movements throughout history (ancient, medieval, renaissance, enlightenment)

Sample inquiry questions: Is it possible to see God in beauty, creation, suffering, and others? How does art help us to reflect on transcendence? What can we learn from the experiences and narratives of adherents of religious communities?

- **Relationship between religion and government, between different religious communities, and between people of religious and non-religious beliefs at different times and places**

Sample topics: Individualism and collectivism; interpretation; application of religious beliefs; points of dialogue between knowledge or faith-communities

Sample inquiry questions: How do people of religious faith navigate ambiguity? What should be the relationship between key disciplinary areas? (science and religious communities; technology and religious communities; politics and religion)

BIBLICAL STUDIES 11-12 (A) RATIONALE

In the senior Biblical Studies 11/12 World Religions course stream, we will seek to develop a framework to investigate the systems of action and interactions of people in religious communities as well as the experiences of individuals and their engagement with religious beliefs and practices. Religion is a fundamental expression of the human experience that tells us much about what we believe the world is like. As a Christian learning community committed to understanding how the Bible informs our perspectives, we will develop the tools to explore the beliefs of others and develop our ability to justify our perspectives. We will be exploring the characteristics of religion, core beliefs, ethics, approaches to belief systems, institutional and social structures, sacred texts, the role of art and expression, and the relationship between religious communities and other authoritative groups and non-religious philosophies of life. The process is designed to cultivate appreciation for diverse opinions as well as build confidence in one's own opinions. Students will develop an understanding of the learner profile attributes to apply scripture and assess issues that pertain to theological diversity, interreligious dialogue, the presence of faith and spirituality in public discourse, and policies that impact people and religious communities. They will examine current research on the impact of religion on society and explore questions that pertain to the Bible's theological claims about the nature of the church and concepts such as evangelism, denominationalism, beauty, transcendence, sacred and supernatural. This course seeks to build a community of learners as we search the timeless truths of God's Word and construct an understanding of how Christians engage with people of religious communities and faith.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

To be developed.

