



**Ray F. Van Neste** (1997-98, 2001). Instructor of Christian Studies and Director of the R. C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies. B.A., Union University; M.A., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Ph.D., University of Aberdeen.

## **Mission Statement**

The School of Christian Studies exists to advance the Kingdom of God through theological education by integrating rigorous academics, deep devotion to Christ and His Church, skill in teaching, and attention to students as individuals.

## **Majors Offered by the School**

Majors in the Christian Studies School cannot minor in the Christian Studies School except in the selection of Philosophy. Specifically, Philosophy (General Studies) majors may select a minor in the School other than PHL; the student minoring in PHL may select any major other than Philosophy (General or Christian Studies).

### **I. Core Requirements for All Majors in the School—18 hours**

- A. CHR 113, 305, 333, 338—12 hours
- B. CHR 243 or CHR 244—3 hours
- C. PHL 240 (3 hours) or HON 210 and HON 220 (6 hours)

### **II. Major in Christian Studies—40 hours**

Designed for students who want a general introduction to biblical, theological, or ministry studies, the program is recommended for students who have yet to choose a specific direction in ministry and wish to explore various areas in which they might specialize in ministry or graduate school.

- A. Core—18 hours
- B. CHR 231 and 498—4 hours
- C. Biblical Studies Courses—6 hours; 3 hours each Old and New Testament
- D. Electives—12 hours in Christian Studies (CHR)

### **III. Major in Philosophy (Christian Studies)—40 hours**

Designed for students who wish to pursue a greater understanding of the general study of philosophy and Christian theology toward studying these disciplines on the graduate level, the program also serves as an appropriate foundation for those who plan to specialize in biblical and ministry studies in seminary.

- A. Core—18 hours
- B. Philosophy Courses—18 hours
  - 1. PHL 346, 347—6 hours
  - 2. Select 12 hours from PHL 339, 345, 349, 366, 452
- C. CHR 231 and 498—4 hours

### **IV. Major in Biblical Studies—40 hours**

Highly recommended for students pursuing ministry areas, including the pastorate, missionary service. Since biblical knowledge is foundational to any area of ministry, this area is also recommended to those who wish to teach and plan to pursue graduate work in New or Old Testament or any theological discipline.

- A. Core—18 hours
- B. CHR 231 and 498—4 hours
- C. Biblical Studies Courses—18 hours
  - 1. CHR 213 and 330
  - 2. Electives in Biblical Studies—12 hours

### **V. Major in Biblical Studies-Languages—52 hours**

The major is designed for those who wish to pursue biblical knowledge and study skill with a strong foundation in Greek and Hebrew, or who wish to enhance their personal Bible study and be able to move into advanced, language-oriented exegesis courses at seminary. This major is recommended for anyone who will be



- 5. Senior Seminar 498 in either PSC, PHL, or ECF—4 hours
  - B. Elective course pool—select 18 hours with at least one from each group
    - 1. ECF 355, 411, 412, 430
    - 2. PHL 345; HON 210, 220, 320, 340
    - 3. PSC 318, 324, 325, 344, 360, 411
  - C. PPE majors are exempt from the requirement of completing a minor
- XII. Major in Philosophy (General Studies)—30 hours**
- A. PHL 240, 346, 347—9 hours
  - B. Twelve hours from PHL: 243, 339, 345, 349, 366, 452
  - C. CHR 338—3 hours
  - D. PHL Electives—6 hours
  - E. In this major, HON 210 and 220 together may substitute for PHL 240 but may not count toward both the major and an Interdisciplinary Honors Minor or an Interdisciplinary Studies Minor.

**Assessment of Majors**

Students with a major in the School of Christian Studies are required to take CHR

## Student Organizations

A **Ministerial Association** is available for students entering the preaching/pastoral ministry. This association meets monthly for the purpose of strengthening the ties of fellowship among those on campus who are committed to the gospel ministry.

## Student Awards

The **Academic Excellence Medal** is awarded to the graduating senior with the highest average in the major provided the average is not less than 3.5. Before Awards Day, the student must have completed at least 15 credit hours in the major at Union University, exclusive of pass/fail courses. If no major is eligible, the medal will be given to the minor meeting the minimum requirements.

The **Zondervan Greek Award** is presented to the student who shows the greatest achievement in Biblical Studies with a background in Greek.

The Department also presents the following awards:

A. T. Robertson Advanced Greek Award, H. E. Dana Intermediate Greek Award, Curtis Vaughan Elementary Greek Award, Mark Hatfield Ethics Award, R. G. Lee Christian Ministry Award, J. P. Boyce Theology and Philosophy Award, Billy Graham Christian Character Award, George Savage Hebrew and Old Testament Award, the Perseverance Award, and the Broadman and Holman Award.

## Course Offerings in Christian Studies

( ) Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

### Biblical Studies (CHR)

#### 111. Old Testament Survey (3) F, W, S, Su

74 A survey of the Old Testament with emphasis on historical, theological, and literary development. Does not apply to any of the Department's majors/minors.

#### 112. New Testament Survey (3) F, W, S, Su

Recommended prerequisite: CHR 111.

A survey of the New Testament with emphasis on historical, theological, and literary development. Does not apply to any of the Department's majors/minors.

#### 113. Introduction to Bible Study and Interpretation (3) F, S

The study of the process of hermeneutics or interpretation. Special emphasis is given to the methodology of step-by-step Bible study.

#### 213. Biblical Backgrounds (3) S

Prerequisite: CHR 111, CHR 112.

A survey of the history, literature, archaeology, geography, and culture of biblical times.

#### 314. Studies in the Pentateuch (3) S—Even Years

Pre- or Corequisite: CHR 231.

An intensive study in the first five books of the Old Testament.

#### 317. Minor Prophets (3) F—Even Years

Prerequisite or Corequisite: CHR 231.

An exegetical study of selected minor prophets.

#### 321. The Life of Christ (3) S—Even Years

Pre- or Corequisite: CHR 231.

A study of the life of Christ as recorded in the Synoptic Gospels.

**325. Pauline Epistles (3) F—Odd Years**

Pre- or Corequisite: CHR 231.

An exegetical study of selected Pauline epistles.

**327. Hebrews, General Epistles, Revelation (3) F—Even Years**

Pre- or Corequisite: CHR 231.

An exegetical study of Hebrews, Revelation, and selected General Epistles.

**330. Biblical Theology (3) F—Even Years**

Pre- or Corequisite: CHR 231.

See Christian Theology for course description.

**415. Poetry and Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (3) S—Odd Years**

Pre- or Corequisite: CHR 231.

An intensive study of Hebrew poetry and wisdom literature as religious literature and as literary forms. An exegetical study of selected poetry and wisdom literature ( Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes).

**416. Major Prophets (3) F—Odd Years**

Pre- or Corequisite: CHR 231.

A study of the origin and development of Hebrew prophecy; an exegetical study of some of the major prophetic books of the Old Testament.

**423. The Johannine Literature (3) S—Odd Years**

Pre- or Corequisite: CHR 231.

An intensive study of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Epistles.

**Christian Ethics (CHR)****243. Approaches to Moral Decision Making (3) F**

Reciprocal credit: PHL 243.

See PHL 243 for course description.

**244. Contemporary Issues in Christian Ethics (3) S**

Prerequisite: Recommended: CHR 243.

An examination of the most significant contemporary moral issues facing the church and American society, with emphasis on Christian response both in terms of moral conviction and moral engagement.

**344. History of Christian Ethics (3) F—Even Years**

Exploration of the heritage of Christian moral reflection, from early church through the modern era, with attention to a wide range of traditions, thinkers, and movements.

**345. Ministerial Ethics (3) As Needed**

An examination of the moral dimensions of the Christian ministry and the moral issues facing ministers in their day-to-day work. Attention is given to the minister's personal, professional, and collegial relationships and moral responsibilities.

**346. Moral Leaders: Case Studies (3) F—Odd Years**

Prerequisite: CHR 243 or 244.

An exploration of the character and actions of a number of significant moral leaders in recent world history for the purpose of developing and enhancing gifts, commitments and skills in Christian moral leadership.

**400. Ethics in Sport (3) As Needed**

A study of the development of a code of ethics in sport management including the effect of relativism and rationalism on ethical behavior, personal moral development levels,

**481. Christian Ministries Mentorship (3) F, Su**







**366. Developing a Christian Worldview (3) S—Odd Years**

Prerequisite: PHL 240. Reciprocal credit: CHR 366.

See CHR 366 for course description.

**448. Philosophy of Film (3)**

An examination of philosophical themes as developed in film with special attention given to existentialism, nihilism, pragmatism, phenomenism and postmodernism.

**452. Philosophy of Religion (3) F—Even Years**

Prerequisite: PHL 240. Reciprocal credit in CHR 452.

A study of the philosophical attempt to understand the nature of God and the significance of religion in the life of man. An investigation as to the validity of the claim to a type of knowledge called “religious” and the methods whereby such is gained.

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Available in each departmental prefix:

**180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed**

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to travel.

**195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand**

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

**395-6. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand**

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

**397. Special Studies in Church History (1-4) On Demand**

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

**495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) On Demand**

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

**498. Senior Seminar (2) F, S**

Required of Department majors. Must be taken during senior year.

**499. Seminar (1-3) On Demand**

To be used at the discretion of the department for majors only. Senior standing in the department required.

**499. Theology Seminar (3) S**

Prerequisite: CHR 338

The capstone course to the theology major in which the student will explore a contemporary figure(s) or contemporary theological movement(s).