

Christian Studies Modules for 2017/18

Christianity 101

This course is designed for students who are new to the study of the Bible. Together, we will learn about the structure of the Bible, beginning with the basics of understanding books, chapters and verses, and progressing to an understanding of themes that run throughout the Biblical narrative. This module is designed to encourage a healthy relationship with the Bible for new learners. With modern study applications and great supportive resources, students should feel more comfortable with the text and also feel that they can approach the Bible on their own for continued study as they grow in their understanding of Christian faith. This course is an important stepping stone for many of the other Christian Studies modules which depend on a good foundation of Biblical knowledge.

Christianity 101 – Peer Teaching Partnerships

Christianity 101 serves as an overview of the Bible (see description above). Our goal is to facilitate a closer relationship with God as we teach new learners to navigate His word and to see God's unfolding plan of redemption. Student tutors with a good foundation of Biblical knowledge are invited to join this module as supportive partners for those just starting to learn about the Bible. A helping hand goes a long way – and teaching someone else leads to a deeper understanding for both teacher and student.

Caring for Creation

Do you love nature? Do you mind getting a little muddy? The goal of this module is to provide you with opportunities to enjoy God's creation and to care for it. We will explore a Christian perspective on creation care and practice caring for creation through a variety of hands-on activities. Topics include: worship within the community of creation, biblical stewardship, habitat restoration, resource conservation, and sustainable food production. Be prepared to encounter the Creator as we explore the beautiful world He has made. Expect to get wet and dirty as we do our earth-keeping... gardening removing blackberries and ivy, picking up litter, and planting trees.

Christianity and 20th C culture – Grasping for the Wind

Have you ever wondered, "Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" If so, you are not alone. Many artists have asked precisely these questions. In this module, we will be delving into the artistic highlights of 20th century Western civilization, expressed in many mediums: creative writing, painting, sculpture, music, film, photography, pop art album covers etc. From Charlie Chaplin to The Matrix, from Nietzsche to terrorism, this course covers it! Jazz, the Beat Poets, Bob Dylan, the Beatles...youth culture...the impact of technology...This course is for anyone interested in popular culture, its development, and its relationship with Christianity.

Hunger Hurts: taking a closer look at global hunger and poverty

If you had to sum up a major theme in the Bible, it would be the care of the oppressed, marginalized and poor. There are over 2000 verses in the Bible that address this topic. The poor and oppressed are dear to the heart of God. In this course, we will look at some of these verses and explore areas of the world hardest hit by oppression, poverty and hunger, as well as discuss causes of world hunger and some possible responses to hunger in our city, country and world. This discussion-based course is a great introduction to world hunger and poverty especially if you are considering a career in international relations, missions, a humanitarian aid organization or if you just want to make a difference.

Family Life

This module has been created as a means to help young people grow in their understanding of who they are within the context of their current families and friendships, and also as image-bearers of the triune God. Students will be encouraged to work on their communication skills, teamwork, leadership abilities, and understanding of boundaries in order to be better equipped to flourish in relationships in their current and future families and in other community contexts.

World Religions

Religion is a worldwide phenomenon that seeks to answer the question of how we can know God and find meaning and purpose for our lives. This course is for students who are interested in meeting people from different faiths and learning about their beliefs and traditions. As students learn about different faiths, they are able to articulate points of similarity with the Christian faith, as well as to appreciate what makes Christianity unique. We will also look at ways in which Christians can build bridges of friendship and understanding with people in these faith traditions. This course will use video, discussion, guest speakers and field trips to examine the beliefs of six major world religions: Animistic religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, and Judaism.

Exploring the Gospels: The world according to Jesus

Using the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we'll spend a term exploring who Jesus is, who we are and what that has to do with life. Much of the course will be centered on reading the gospels and responding through discussion and written response. Come prepared to read and discuss, to study and learn, to be challenged, and to be surprised.

The Foundational Stories of Genesis

The stories and genealogies in early Genesis are both wonderful and perplexing. This course will take a look at what they are designed to teach us by first looking at what they were designed to teach the ancient Israelites, who lived in the context of the ancient Near Eastern world. While we will look (briefly) at the structure of the entire book of Genesis, we will spend most of our time on the stories and genealogies of Genesis 1 - 11, looking at them in light of the other ancient Near Eastern stories and genealogies of that time period.

The Question of God

Does God exist? This seems like a strange question for a Christian school but if this question interests you, read on. While it's not exactly the average party conversation, this is a question that shapes our lives both in our biggest decisions and in the minute details of our daily lives. For some of us the answer remains the same throughout our lives; for others, it evolves

Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis. Scientific skepticism and religious belief — the two worldviews these men represent — form the basis of *The Question of God* video series. In this series, through dramatic storytelling and compelling visual re-creations, as well as interviews with biographers and historians, and lively discussion, Freud and Lewis are brought together in a great debate. Join the Question of God module ready to view a thought-provoking DVD series, and prepared to participate in lively discussion. If you have questions, are confused, searching for answers, or want to share your ideas while exploring the ideas of others, this course is for you! Daily devotional readings will be taken from one of the four Gospels.

Visual Arts: Responding Creatively to the Biblical Story

If you're a little artsy, keep reading. In this module, you will explore passages from the Bible and recreate them into works of art. If you enjoy drawing, painting and working with clay, this module is for you.

The Revelation of John: A Book Study

So, what IS revealed in the Revelation of John? What do we do with writing that is beset with beasts and shaken with earthquakes? The intent of this course is to approach the Revelation of John through sound exegetical principles; that means grappling with the Revelation as apocalyptic literature, as prophecy and as epistle and seeking to understand it in the historical setting of the early church.

The Letter to the Galatians

Exegesis is a term used to describe a method of biblical study that involves asking questions of the text to draw answers out – and that's what exegesis literally means: to lead out. Its primary goal is to get to *the original intent and what the readers or hearers would have understood*. This course has three goals: (1) Introduce the steps of exegetical study. (2) Learn about some of the study tools available, and begin to learn a little about New Testament Greek. (3) Use these new skills to take a close look at the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Reading the Bible for All Its Worth

The Bible is not a book. Instead, it's a library with many different books in it. We certainly want to read the Bible well, so we need to be aware that not every book in the Bible is the same type. We need to learn how to read each type of biblical book with respectful care and attention.

The purpose of this course is to (1) educate students about the major types of books in our biblical library, and then (2) equip them to read those books well. For each type, there will be a general introduction followed by a specific case study from the Bible.

The principles laid out in this course are inspired by the book, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, written by highly respected evangelical scholars Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart.

Mr. Teel, the teacher of this course, says, "My passion is for students to see that they could spend the rest of their lives studying the Bible, and it would never get boring! There is always more to discover, always more to learn. My best days are those when a Bible passage comes alive for students in a powerful way, when they realize that the Bible is far richer than they had previously thought."

While the overview of biblical book types takes the majority of the year, there is always time left to consider the ways in which people (past and present) have sought to bring Biblical wisdom to bear on ideas relevant to their cultures. Examples could include ancient Greek philosophy and the early Church's response to it, modern science and Christian theology, or whatever else the students wish to explore!