University of Ghana
Department for the study of Religions
Sample Spring Courses

SREL 302 The Theology and Ethics of the New Testament
Major New Testament theological and ethical issues as presented by Paul, the Synoptics and the Johannine literature. Paul’s understanding of Sin and its remedy, the Holy Spirit and his gifts, the church, and the resurrection of the dead. The work of Jesus and how he carried it out (e.g., by way of parables and miracles) and some of the major concepts in the writings of John. Some ethical matters based on the New Testament such as property and wealth, marriage and divorce, politics and revolution.

SREL 304 The Faith and Practice of Islam
Introduction to the main belief systems, creeds, doctrines and dogmas of Islam. An assessment of their influence on the daily life of the Muslim, e.g., the Ghanaian Muslim. The main Islamic Rituals and Modes of worship. The five pillars of Islam; the doctrinal teachings behind them and their relevance to the conduct of the Muslim.

SREL 308 Old Testament Texts in Hebrew
The reading and translation of selected Old Testament books or selected texts in Hebrew. Theological and exegetical study of the selected books or texts.

SREL 314 Arabic I (Unavailable to students of Arabic)
Elementary Grammar. Selected short passages from both the Qur’an and the Hadith.

SREL 316 Testament Texts in Greek (Pre-req.: SREL 322)
The reading and translation of selected New Testament books, or texts, with emphasis on exegesis and the analysis and parsing of words and phrases.

SREL 318 New Testament Interpretation (Pre-req.: SREL 307)
A study of the historical background, the context and purpose of selected New Testament books. An exegetical study of the selected book that makes use of modern hermeneutical methods, including linguistic analysis, textual criticism and other historical-critical methods.

SREL 322 New Testament Greek II (Pre-requisite: SREL 361)
Lessons in the grammar, syntax and morphology of New Testament Greek. A study of selected texts.

SREL 328 Pentecostalism in Ghana
SREL 334 Psychology of Religion

SREL 336 Arabic Texts (Pre-req.: SREL 360)
Translation of selected texts from Qur’an and Hadith. Theological and exegetical study of selected texts.

SREL 338 The Orthodox Caliphate (Pre-req.: SREL 337)

SREL 344 Hadith Studies

SREL 346 Islam in Ghana
The origins and development of Islam in Ghana. The origins, nature and characteristics of Islam in the Volta Basin. Islam in the North, Asante and on the coast of Ghana. Islam and national politics; Islamic literacy tradition; Islamic organizations; Islamic leadership; inter-religious relations; Zongo and national development; etc.

SREL 348 African Myths and Symbols
Theories of Myths; the universality of mythical motifs and symbols, and the functional value of myths and symbols. Detailed study of selected myths from various religious traditions especially African/ Ghanaian ones. Cross-cultural comparison of Myths and Symbols.

SREL 352 Religion and Leadership
Examination of various forms of traditional leadership forms (e.g., Chieftaincy, Priesthood, Asafo Leadership, Female chiefs and leaders, New forms of traditional Leadership such as the “chiefs of Development”, etc). The impact of social change and modernity on these forms of leadership. The impact of Islam and Christianity on traditional forms of leadership. The impact of the religious aspects of traditional leadership on modern types of leadership in Ghana. The responses of traditional leadership forms to the challenges of modernity and non-indigenous religions like Islam and Christianity; adaptations and the future of traditional leadership.
SREL 356 Contemporary Ethical and Moral Issues
The theological, ethical and moral dimensions of some contemporary social issues and problems. Issues will be taken from the fields of medicine, politics, family life, culture, business, etc.

SREL 364 Introduction to Pauline Literature
The issue of Pauline authorship of the writings attributed to St. Paul, their dating, place of writing, background, addressees, purpose and how these writings fit into the life of Paul. The contents, concerns and main theological themes of these writings.

SREL 366 The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in Christian History

SREL 368 Magic and Witchcraft

SREL 372 Methodological Issues in African Indigenous Religions
Issues of research methodology in African Indigenous Religions. Critical examination of some theoretical and methodological approaches e.g. phenomenological, comparative, sociological, anthropological, linguistic, meta-narrative etc. Engagement with current issues: Insider/Outsider debate, self-reflexivity, research sensitivity etc.

SREL 378 Oriental Religions
The fundamental teachings of some of the major religious traditions of the East/Orient such as Hindism, Buddhism, Shintoism. Sikhism and Confucianism. Aspects of their modern manifestations especially in Ghana.

SREL 398 New Religious Movements
SREL 402 West African Church History

SREL 404 Shariah

SREL 408 Christianity and African Culture
The historical encounter between Christianity and African Traditional Religions. Problems of the encounter, e.g., Chieftancy, Libation, Polygamy, Healing, Ancestral beliefs, Rites of Passage, Taboos, etc. The counter influences of the two faiths on each other especially in the lives of adherents; intellectual and practical attempts at the indigenisation of Christianity.

SREL 412 Islamic Theology

SREL 414 Islam and African Culture

SREL 422 Old Testament Interpretation (Pre-req.: SREL 307)
Theological and exegetical study of selected Old Testament books or sections of them.

SREL 432 Advance Hadith Studies

SREL 434 Hebrew II (Pre-requisite: SREL 433)
Introduction to difficult parts of Hebrew grammar. Syntax. Simple translations.
**SREL 436 Women in African Indigenous Religions**

**SREL 438 Missions**
Meaning, Biblical and Theological foundations of Mission. The Early Period – from Pentecost to the Middle Ages. The Medieval Period to the 19th Century. The Modern Period (20th Century):
(a) Missionary activities in West Africa, e.g., Policies, Methods, Principles and Strategies of the historic Missionary Societies in evangelizing West Africa.
(b) New trends in mission, ministry and evangelization.
(c) Current problems, e.g., mission and the cultural revolution in Ghana.

**SREL 442 Philosophy Set Texts**
Historical and critical study of selected texts from major philosophers and theologians – pre-Christian, non-religious, anti-religious, Christian and Islamic; and from the classical, medieval, modern and contemporary periods. Philosophers to be studied will include Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Hume, Kant, Kierkegaard, Wittgenstein, John Hick; Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Ibn-Sina (Avicenna), Ibn Rushd, Al-Ghazzali, the Mu’tazilah. Topics will include: the nature of God, Analogy, Religious Language, Religious Experience, Reason and Faith, Knowledge, Revelation, Evil, Miracles, The Soul, Meaning of Life and Death, Immortality, Science and Religion.

**SREL 444 Professional Ethics (Pre-requisite: any course in Ethics)**

**SREL 452 Religion in the African Diaspora**

**SREL 454 Introduction Wisdom Literature**
The world of wisdom; wisdom tradition; theology and ethics of wisdom books in the Old Testament (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes).
SREL 456 The Theology of St. Paul
Paul’s background (Pharisaic, Qumranic, Rabbinic background, Hellenism, the revelation to Paul, Paul’s apostolic experience). Pauline soteriology (Christ’s role in salvation history, reconciliation, expiation, justification). The person of Christ; Holy Spirit; Sacraments. Pauline anthropology (the human being before Christ, human being in Christ); Pauline ecclesiology and ethics (the Church, the demands of Christian living); Pauline eschatology (the resurrection of the body).