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

SREL 301 Theology and Ethics of the Old Testament  
Knowledge of God, Covenant, Theology of kingship, Messianic expectation, Problem of suffering, The Destiny of Man, Old Testament perspective on death. Basic characteristics of Old Testament Ethics, the concept of truth, possession and use of wealth, real estate. The Decalogue, work and worship, concept of law and administration of justice.

SREL 303 Qur’anic Studies  
Pre-Islamic Arabia, a century before Islam. Life of the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca and Medina. Revelation, preservation and compilation - The Mecca and Madinan Suwar. Exegesis - textual study of selected Suwar of the Qur’an, including Suwar 1 – 5.

SREL 305 African Indigenous Religion  

SREL 307 Introduction to Biblical Exegesis and Hermeneutics  
Definition of terms (exegesis; Hermeneutics); Biblical Hermeneutics and Exegesis in historical perspective. Historical-critical exegesis; Structuralist exegesis; Post-modern exegesis - the philosophical presuppositions and cultural conditions, the methods and the advantages and disadvantages of each of these approaches. An Integrated Hermeneutical Model of Contextual exegesis.

SREL 317 Background to the New Testament  
The political, economic, social and religious situation of Palestine at the time of Christ. The attempts at the hellenization of Palestine under Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Roman involvement in Palestine from 63 B.C. to the Bar Cochba Revolt (A.D. 132-135). Religious groups and institutions in Judaism; feasts and festivals.

SREL 319 New Testament Introduction  

SREL 325 The History of the Early Church  
SREL 327 The Reformation

SREL 335 Christian Ethics

SREL 337 The Life of Muhammad

SREL 341 Islamic Ethics

SREL 347 Religion in Ghana

SREL 353 Gender Issues in Religion and Culture
Definition of religion, gender and culture and how these are related. Theoretical and methodological issues; critique and deconstruction of religious traditions, beliefs and practices with regard to gender; reconstructing images of gender and power relationship. New and renewing models of gender relationship in the work of such groups and bodies as Circle of Concerned African Theologians, Institute of Women in Religion and Culture, FOMWAG, etc. leadership structures in major religions in Ghana. Violence and religion.
SREL 355 African Traditional Ethics

SREL 357 Introduction to the Pentateuch
Historical background of Ancient Israel and the Text of the Old Testament; The formation of the Pentateuch: principal theories and their values; relationship between narrative and legal Texts; the Sinaitic covenant and its importance in the history of Israel; exegetical study of selected texts.

SREL 359 Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels
The issue of the authorship of the Synoptic Gospels, their dating, place of writing, background, addressees and purpose. The Synoptic Problem. The contents, concerns and main theological themes of these gospels.

SREL 361 New Testament Greek I
Introduction to the grammar, syntax and morphology of New Testament Greek.

SREL 365 Religion and the Renaissance

SREL 367 Christianity in the Middle Ages

SREL 371 History of Religions in West Africa
Introduction to the history of the major religious traditions in West Africa, i.e., Traditional Religion, Islam and Christianity. Their modes of growth, and main institutions; their encounter with each other; modern religious trends in the West African region.

SREL 373 Historical Studies of Africa Indigenous Religions
Historical development of African Indigenous Religions (A.I.R.) as an academic subject, definitions and problems. Attitudes and stereotypes that affect the research and study of AIR. Historical encounter between African Indigenous Religions and Islam, Christianity etc. Current developments in the study area.
SREL 375 Arabic II (Pre-req.: SREL 314; Unavailable to students of Arabic)
Lessons in Grammar. Selected long passages from both the Qur’an and the Hadith. Local and foreign drama and novels on religious topics.

SREL 401 The Comparative Study of Religion
Treatment of themes in Religions comparatively in order to uncover universal conceptual patterns of religiosity and how these are expressed contextually in different Faiths. Treatment of such themes as conceptions and categories of Ultimate reality; the concept of Man; Soteriology; Rituals, etc.

SREL 411 Islamic Spirituality

SREL 413 Islamic History and Civilization

SREL 415 Religion and Society

SREL 417 Religion and Human Rights
The cultural and historical connections between religion and human rights – paradigms that enable an appreciation of the differences and agreements between religious traditions and the modern human rights movement. Religious and cultural roots of human rights; human dignity as a religious concept; human rights natural rights and ‘divine’ law; the universality of international human rights; African religious values and human rights; religious pluralism and the right to freedom of religion; religion as an instrument of abuse; religion as a resource for the protection and promotion of human rights.
**SREL 419 Introduction to Old Testament Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature**
General Issues: historical and social contexts of the Prophets; origin and final form of the prophetic books: textual types; texts and prophetic phenomenon in the Ancient Near East. The four great collections (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Twelve Minor Prophets); structure, summary of the content and the redaction history of selected books; reading of some significant passages and theological reflection. Apocalyptic literature; origin and characteristics. The book of Daniel: introduction and reading of important passages.

**SREL 421 Introduction to Johannine Literature**
The Fourth Gospel; introduction: author, date of composition, relationship with the Synoptics; structure and some characteristic themes; exegetical study of selected passages. The Letters: their relation with the fourth Gospel; their literary structures; exegetical study of selected passages from the First Letter. Revelation: historical background; literary genre and structure; exegetical study of selected passages.

**SREL 423 Ecological Ethics**

**SREL 425 African Indigenous Religions and Development**

**SREL 427 Intra and Inter-faith Relations**
The origins of the Ecumenical Movement. International Ecumenical Movements, e.g., World Council of Churches (WCC) and all African Conference of Churches (AACC). The Second Vatican Council. Inter-faith dialogue, Christian –Muslim relations at the international, regional, national and grassroots levels in West Africa, especially Ghana. The Parliament of World Religions, etc.

**SREL 431 Advance Quranic Studies**
General introduction to the Quran as a Revelation, Quranic exegesis, Peculiarities in Interpretation of the Quran, Approaches to the study of the Quran, Early schools of classical and medieval exegesis, Survey of Tafsir literature, Studies on the Translation of the Quran, Modern Quranic Translations and Commentaries, Themes in the Quran.

**SREL 433 Hebrew I**
Elementary knowledge of Hebrew grammar, simple sentence formation, noun sentence, verbal sentence, etc.
SREL 435 The Theology of the Gospels
The historical Jesus; the individual gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John and their presentations of Jesus. E.g., Mark’s presentation of Jesus as a miracle worker; the relationship between the old Israel and the Church in Matthew and Jesus as a teacher of ethics; universalism in Luke; the Logos and Paraclete concepts in John; etc.

SREL 437 The Doctrine of the Early Church (Pre-req.: SREL 325)
Doctrinal beginnings in the Early Church. Trinitarian heresies (e.g., modalism), Christological heresies (e.g., Arianism) and the Church’s response to these heresies. The development of Trinitarian and Christological doctrines. Christ’s saving work. Sin, grace and human freedom. The Christian community. The Doctrine of the sacraments. The Christian hope.

SREL 439 Islam in West Africa

SREL 441 The Old Testament and African Life and Thought
Attitude to the Old Testament in the history of the Church. African Christians and the Old Testament. Comparative study: theology of nature, spirit possession, the individual and the community, the concept of alienation, death and beyond, etc.

SREL 443 Comparative Ethics
A study of the teachings of some ethical systems and moral theologians, e.g., African Traditional, Christian, Muslim, Humanist, ethical systems. Analysis and comparison of basic themes and values such as the summum bonum and the ideals of life; the moral standard: scales of values; guides to action: moral education, enforcement of morals; and moral reformation: moral decision-making process; virtues and vices; cherished values and abhorred vices. Religion and Ethics. Problem of a national ethic. Discussion of attitudes to some contemporary social problems, e.g., human rights, abortion, homosexuality, drug trafficking and addiction, war and violence, work and discipline.

SREL 445 Modern Trends in Islam
Contemporary global trends in Islam. Important themes such as misconceptions about Islam, Islam and human rights, Islam and terrorism, especially after September 11, 2001, Islam and the West, Islam and the mass media, Islam and global peace and development, Islam and Western democracy, etc.