

**Course:** REL 102  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Title:** New Testament  
**Department:** Religious Studies

**General Education Area:**  
HUMAN CULTURES - Humanities (*GEC 111*)

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*Information submitted by a department representative on 4/8/2021 3:18:56 PM – Compiled by Darren Wienberg, Academic Advising & Transfer Center*

**Typically Offered During:**

Fall Full Semester:	YES	Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> Block:	NO	Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> Block:	NO
Spring Full Semester:	YES	Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> Block:	NO	Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> Block:	NO
Summer:	NO				

**Typical Instructional Modality:**

Traditional (seated):	YES	Blended:	NO	Internet:	YES
Online Video:	NO	Web Conference:	NO		

**May Also Count Toward Department Offering:**

Major:	YES	Minor:	YES	Certificate:	NO
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*Please see online published semester class schedule and undergraduate catalog for detailed course offering information.*

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***How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (Without using the catalog description)?***

REL 102 teaches about the world of Jesus through the earliest sources, from the gospels and Paul to the Book of Revelation. Learn why the gospel stories are sometimes so alike and so different from one another, as well as many other important issues about this inspiring and influential collection of books. Individuals and groups with remarkably different agendas often appeal to the Bible for support. But how well do these individuals and groups actually know or understand the texts to which they appeal? Studying the New Testament will prepare students to think in an informed and critical way about public religious rhetoric.

***Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?***

In REL 102, students will:

- cultivate intellect by acquiring knowledge of culturally significant primary sources (the New Testament and related documents) and modern methods of interpretation;
- cultivate imagination by exposure to a variety of attitudes toward this literature both in its historical setting and the present, thus promoting sensitivity to multicultural concerns;
- cultivate creativity by being challenged to look for multiple possibilities of interpretation and developing the ability to deal with ambiguity through exposure to a variety of ways ambiguous and conflicting biblical texts and other data are interpreted by historians and other readers.

***Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?***

Nursing, Education, History, English, Communication, Psychology, Pre-Med, Biology Education

***Catalog Description (Fall 2022 Undergraduate Catalog)***

An introduction to early Christian literature and the persons and movements that produced it in their Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts.