

Department of Christian Studies

College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty

George H. Guthrie (1990). Benjamin W. Perry Associate Professor of Bible, Director of the Center for Biblical Studies and Department Chair. B.A., Union University; Th.M., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; M.Div. and Ph.D., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Todd Brady (1996). Instructor of Christian Studies and Minister to the University. B.S., Union University; M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Randall B. Bush (1991). Professor of Christian Studies and Philosophy and Director of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program. B.A., Howard Payne University; M.Div. and Ph.D., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; D. Phil., University of Oxford.

David S. Dockery (1996). Professor of Christian Studies and President of the University. B.S., University of Alabama at Birmingham; M.Div., Grace Theological Seminary; M.Div., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; M.A., Texas Christian University; Ph.D., University of Texas at Arlington; Additional study, Drew University.

Michael Duduit (1996). Associate Professor of Communication Arts and Christian Studies and Executive Vice President. B.A., Stetson University; M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Florida State University.

Roger Glidewell (1998). Assistant Professor of Youth Ministry. B.A., Southwest Baptist University; M.R.E., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bradley Green (1998). Instructor of Christian Studies. B.A., Northeast Louisiana University; M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Th.M., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Baylor University.

David P. Gushee (1996). Graves Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy. B.A., College of William and Mary; M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; M.Phil. and Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary-New York.

Paul N. Jackson (1993). Associate Professor of Christian Studies. B.A., Hardin-Simmons University; M.Div. and Ph.D., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

R. Kelvin Moore (1991). Associate Professor of Christian Studies. B.A., Samford University; M.Div. and Th.D., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Additional study, Jerusalem University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

James A. Patterson (1999). Professor of Christian Studies. B.A., Rutgers University; M.Div., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary.

Hal L. Poe (1996). Professor of Christian Studies and Vice President of Academic Resources and Information Services. B.A., University of South Carolina; M.Div. and Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Additional study, University of Oxford.

Gregory A. Thornbury (1999). Instructor of Christian Studies and Director of the Center for Christian Leadership. B.A., Messiah College; M.Div. and Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mission Statement

The Department 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 Department

I. Core Requirements for All Majors in the Department—18 hours

- CHR 113—3 hours
- PHL 240—3 hours
- CHR 261—3 hours
- CHR 333—3 hours
- CHR 338—3 hours
- CHR 243 or CHR 244—3 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 and Christian Theology—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—15 hours
 - 1. PHL 346, 347—6 hours
 - 2. Select 9 hours from CHR 243 or 244; PHL 345, 349, 452
- C. CHR 330
- D. CHR 213 and 498—4 hours

IV. Major in Biblical Studies—40 hours

Highly recommended for students pursuing a variety of 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
 - 2. CHR 330
 - 3. Electives in Biblical Studies—12 hours

V. Major in Biblical Studies-Languages—40 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 those 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 teaching the Bible in a church context or who plans a ministry of teaching New or Old Testament on the college level.

- A. Core—18 hours
- B. CHR 231 and 498—4 hours
- C. Biblical Studies—12 hours
 - 1. CHR 213, CHR 330—6 hours
 - 2. Biblical Studies Electives, select 6 hours
- D. Languages—18 hours
 - 1. BA Core requirements, 12 hours
GRK 211, 212, 311, 312
 - 2. Choose one track—6 hours:
 - a. GRK 411 & HBR 211
 - b. HBR 311 & HBR 312

VI. Major in Christian Ministries/Recreation—38 hours

The major is designed for those who want a general introduction to ministry in the church or to recreation ministry.

- A. Core—18 hours
- B. CHR 231—2 hours
- C. Recreation—18 hours
 - 1. CHR 454, 481; PEWS 250, 317
 - 2. Select one: PEWS 251, 222, 231, 331, 415
 - 3. Select one: CHR 369, PSY 318, ART 325, SOC 418, COM 350, CHR 371, CHR 373 or an additional course from C2.

VII. Major in Youth Ministry—38 hours

Crafted for students called to youth ministry, this major blends theological foundation with practical information and mentoring relationships.

- A. Core—18 hours
- B. CHR 231—2 hours
- C. CHR 271, 372, 375, 471, 481
- D. Select 3 upper-level hours from the department.

VIII. Major in Christian Ethics—37 hours

Designed for students who seek a greater understanding of the moral dimension of Christian faith, the major will provide opportunity to experience growth in Christian character as well as deeper knowledge of contemporary moral issues facing the church and the nation. Majors in Christian Ethics will grow in critical thinking and research skills, preparing themselves either for further seminary/graduate study in ethics or simply for a more thoughtful and informed approach to their Christian discipleship, church membership, and citizenship.

- A. Core—18 hours
- B. CHR 231 and 498—4 hours
- C. CHR 243 and 244—select alternate not used in Major Core—3 hours
- D. CHR 344—3 hours
- E. Select 9 hours from: 345, 440, 441, 444

Assessment of Majors

Students with a major in the Department of Christian Studies are required to take CHR 498, Senior Seminar, as part of their graduation requirement. The seminar is offered every semester and must be taken during the student's senior year.

Advanced Standing Programs for Majors

Students who major in the Department of Christian Studies may be eligible for advanced standing in certain seminaries, thus shortening the requirements for masters degrees at those seminaries. Please see the “Affiliations With Other Agencies and Institutions” section of this *Catalogue*.

Minors Offered by the Department

Students who wish to minor in the department are given the following opportunities for satisfying their interests and meeting the specified requirements.

- I. **Minor in Christian Studies—21 hours**
 - A. Required courses: CHR 113, 261, 333, 338, PHL 240.
 - B. Elective, select 3 hours from CHR courses.
 - C. CHR 243 or 244
- II. **Minor in Philosophy—20 hours**
CHR 231; CHR 243 or 244; PHL 345, 346, 347, 349, 452
- III. **Minor in Biblical Languages—26 hours**
CHR 113, 231; GRK 211, 212, 311, 312, 411; HBR 311, 312
- IV. **Minor in Christian Ministries/Recreation—23 hours**
 - A. CHR 231, 261, 481; PHL 240–11 hours
 - B. PEWS 250, 317–6 hours
 - C. Select two from: PEWS 222, 231, 251, 331, 415–6 hours
- V. **Minor in Youth Ministry—21 hours**
 - A. CHR 271, 372, 375, 471, 481–15 hours
 - B. Select two from: CHR 113, 333, 338, 369, 373
- VI. **Minor in Christian Ethics—20 hours**
 - A. Core: CHR 231, 243, 244, 333, 344
 - B. Select two from: CHR 345, 440, 441, 444

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 **American Bible Society 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, and The Perseverance Award

Course Offerings in Christian Studies (CHR)

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

Biblical Studies (CHR)

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

A Survey of the Old Testament with emphasis on historical, theological, and literary development. This course does not count toward any of the Department's majors or minors.

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

Recommended prerequisite: CHR 111. This course does not count toward any of the Department's majors or minors.

A survey of the New Testament with emphasis on historical, theological, and literary development.

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.

This course is designed to be an exegetically-oriented presentation of the theological teachings of the Old and New Testaments. Emphasis will be placed on the student understanding the main teachings of the faith in their original contexts, the historical development of those teachings throughout biblical history, and the implications of biblical theology for modern Christian life and practice.

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

SEE PHL 243 for course description.

244. Contemporary Issues in Christian Ethics (3) S

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. Recommended: CHR 243.

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

An exploration of the heritage of Christian moral reflection, from the early church through the modern era, with attention to a wide range of Christian 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.

400. Ethics in Sport (3)

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, and the effects of personal ethics on organizational responsibility. Reciprocal with PEWS.

440. Thinkers and Movements in Christian Ethics (3) F—Odd Years

Prerequisite: CHR 243.

An intensive examination of a major movement or thinker in either historic or contemporary Christian ethics, taught in seminar style.

441. Christianity and the Holocaust (3) S—Odd Years

An intensive interdisciplinary examination of the Holocaust and its significance for Christianity. Attention is given to the Holocaust itself, its intellectual and ideological origins, the behavior of Christians during the Holocaust, and postwar theological, moral, literary, and artistic responses to the Holocaust.

444. Intensive Issue Seminar (3) S—Even Years

Pre- or corequisites: CHR 243, CHR 244.

An intensive analysis of one major issue or cluster of issues in contemporary Christian ethics, taught in seminar style.

General Studies (CHR)

231. Sophomore Seminar (2) F, S

Prerequisite: CHR 111, 112.

A corequisite of all upper-level courses in the major taken in the sophomore year or at program entry. Introduces the student to basic research methodologies, writing styles, and expectations in ministry.

316. Renaissance and Reformation (3) S—Even Years

See HIS 316 for description.

333. Contemporary Christian Life and Practice (3) F, S

Pre- or corequisite: CHR 231.

Contemporary issues as they relate to practical and ethical issues from a Christian perspective. Topics include vocation, time and resource management, marriage relationships, conflict resolution, evangelism, church involvement, Christian world view, devotional life, and practical ethics.

338. Christian Doctrine (3) F

Pre- or corequisite: CHR 231.

Major theological doctrines of Christianity such as the Trinity, revelation, God, creation, sin, the fall of man, Christology, the Atonement, the Holy Spirit, the church, the Christian life, and eschatology, with special attention being given to biblical, historical, philosophical, and cultural influences upon theological development and methods that are used in doing constructive theology.

***349. World Religions (3) S—Odd Years**

See PHL 349 for course description.

440. Thinkers and Movements in Christian Ethics (3) F—Odd Years

Pre- or corequisites: CHR 243, CHR 344.

Thorough examination of a major movement or thinker in either historic or contemporary Christian ethics, taught in seminar style.

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

See PHL 452 for course description.

454. Southern Baptist Life (3) F

Pre- or corequisite: CHR 231.

A survey of the history, structure, and activities of the Southern Baptist Convention.

*Reciprocal credit in Philosophy.

Christian Ministries (CHR)

261. Introduction to Christian Education (3) S

Pre- or corequisite: CHR 231.

An intensive study of the origin, purposes, officers, and curriculum of the organizations of the local church.

271. Youth Ministry Strategies (3) F—Even Years

A study of youth ministry focusing on the various approaches, methods and strategies with practical applications for programming, goals and desired outcomes.

363. Contemporary Preaching (3) S—Odd Years

A study of the basic techniques of sermon preparation and delivery. Recommended for all ministerial students.

365. Pastoral Ministries (3) S—Even Years

Pre- or corequisite: CHR 231.

A course designed to deal with the practical work of the pastor.

367. Introduction to Christian Evangelism (3) F—Odd Years

Pre- or corequisite: CHR 231.

The Biblical and doctrinal basis for evangelistic preaching, planning, and programming.

369. Church Ministry with Preschool and Children (3) F—Even Years

Prerequisite: CHR 261.

Curriculum for preschoolers and children and focusing on issues relating to children and their parents.

372. Youth Ministry Administration (3) S—Even Years

An examination of the various aspects of administering the work of the youth minister focusing on roles, relationships, resources and responsibilities, and practical application to the local church.

373. Church Ministry with Adults (3) F—Odd Years

Prerequisite: CHR 261.

A course study of Adult Ministry, its curriculum and the church's responsibility to minister with families and marriages.

375. Youth Ministry Issues (3) S—Odd Years

Pre- or corequisite: CHR 231

A study of the issues facing youth as well as the developmental nature of youth and the issues affecting them and their families.

377. Survey of Missions (3) S

Pre- or corequisite: CHR 231.

A survey of missions and missions outreach with a particular focus on Southern Baptist missions.

471. Youth Minister's Personal and Professional Worlds (3) F—Odd Years

An examination of the demands upon the schedule, priorities, family and other aspects of the youth minister's life focusing on personal habits, family involvement, calling, career opportunities and continuing development.

481. Christian Ministries Internship (3) Pass/ Fail—As Needed

Prerequisites: Application to the Department Chair by midterm of the semester before placement, and completion of Major Core and Track Core.

A course of applied church ministry. Students will spend 3 weeks in the classroom and at least 115 hours in a church or Christian related organization.

Biblical Languages (GRK and HBR)

GRK 211. Elementary Greek I (3) F

A study of the basic forms, syntax, vocabulary and pronunciation of the Greek New Testament. Three hours lecture and one hour lab per week.

GRK 212. Elementary Greek II (3) S

Prerequisite: GRK 211.

Continuation of GRK 211.

GRK 311. Intermediate Greek I (3) F

Prerequisite: GRK 212.

A study of the grammar and syntax of the Greek New Testament. Reading in the New Testament.

GRK 312. Intermediate Greek II (3) S

Prerequisite: GRK 311.

Continuation of GRK 311.

GRK 411. Advanced Greek I (3) F

Prerequisite: GRK 312.

An extensive reading course in the Greek New Testament with emphasis upon careful, accurate exegesis.

GRK 412. Advanced Greek II (3) S

Prerequisite: GRK 411 or consent of the instructor.

A continuation of GRK 411.

HBR 311. Elementary Hebrew I. (3) F—Even Years

The course is designed to introduce students to the verb forms, vocabulary, and syntax of biblical Hebrew.

HBR 312. Elementary Hebrew II. (3) S—Odd

Prerequisite: HBR 311.

A continuation of HBR 311 with an emphasis on reading in Genesis.

Philosophy (PHL)**240. Introduction to Philosophy (3) F, S**

An introductory course in philosophy designed to acquaint the student with the major fields of philosophical study.

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

An introduction to Christian ethics, focusing on methodology with a survey and comparison of philosophical, secular, and theistic perspectives on the moral life, then moves on to develop a comprehensive evangelical approach.

345. Critical Thinking (3) S—Odd Years

An examination of methods of critical thinking with special attention being given to the Socratic method, inductive and deductive reasoning, and the identification of logical fallacies.

346. History of Philosophy I (3) F—Odd Years

A survey of the history of philosophy from the time of Thales to the Renaissance and Reformation, examining the philosophical background in which Christianity emerged.

347. History of Philosophy II (3) S—Even Years

A survey from the Reformation to the modern period. Particular attention will be given to the dialogue between philosophy and the Christian faith in Western thought.

****349. World Religions (3) S—Odd Years**

Prerequisite: six hours in Christian Studies.

A survey of the world's major religions.

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

Prerequisite: PHL 240.

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.

**Reciprocal credit in Christian Studies.

Available in each departmental prefix:

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

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

395-6-7. Special Studies (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.

498-9. Seminar (1-3) F, S

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