



BIBLICAL AND CHRISTIAN STUDIES

History: Bible and the Ancient World

This year-long freshman course introduces students to significant events, dates, individuals, developments, and processes that shaped Western civilization from the rise of the first civilizations in the Ancient Near East through the Greeks and the Romans. One third of the course is devoted to reading and interpreting selections from the Old Testament in their historical and theological contexts. A concluding unit introduces students to ancient civilizations outside of the West, with special attention to Han China. Students will be introduced to and engage with the core historical skills of identification, analysis, synthesis, and communication, as well as develop basic research skills. Throughout this course, students will engage in practices of Christian formation such as prayer and the devotional reading of Scripture.

(1 credit: .5 Bible, .5 History)

History: Church and Medieval

This year-long sophomore course introduces students to significant events, dates, individuals, developments, and processes that shaped Western civilization from the height of the Roman Empire through the end of the Reformation. One third of the course is devoted to reading and interpreting selections from the New Testament in their historical and theological contexts, with the rest of the course emphasizing church history as a through-line for organizing our study of Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the early modern period. Students will continue to develop core historical skills, with special emphasis given to achieving synthesis through reasoning about contextualization, causation, comparison, and continuity and change over time. Throughout this course, students will engage in practices of Christian formation such as prayer and the devotional reading of Scripture.

(1 credit: .5 Bible, .5 History)

Prerequisite: History: Bible and Ancient World

Christian Thought

The purpose of this junior-year core Bible class is to train students to read the Bible deeply and accurately according to covenantal structure, genre, literary device, and recurring thematic elements in the biblical canon. As students are growing in their exegetical capability, the class also

discusses the formation of core Christian doctrines as they are derived from the Scripture. The goal of the class is to lead juniors to a deep understanding of Christian thought and doctrine so that truth is understood in the context of who God is (as revealed in Jesus Christ through the biblical record) and not merely as a string of rote belief statements. The main text for the class is the English Standard Version of the Bible, but supplemental readings include *Christian Beliefs* by Wayne Grudem and the writings of C.S. Lewis.

The first quarter of Christian Thought is focused on Whitefield's signature junior-year Vocare program. The College Counseling team partners with the Christian Thought teacher(s) to facilitate Vocare (Latin for "to call"), which supports students in developing a posture of self-reflection as they are equipped with tools and resources to discern God's will for their future vocation. Through personality and aptitude assessments, opportunities for reflection, class discussion, and a biblical framework, the Vocare program engages students in fostering an enhanced understanding of self and others.

(1 Bible credit)

Senior Bible

The purpose of the Senior Bible class is to continue training students to read the Bible deeply and accurately. The class focuses on the six essential worldview questions of origin, identity, sin/evil, redemption, purpose, and destiny. The students will explore how the Bible answers these questions while also exploring how the larger culture answers these questions. By looking at a variety of answers to these questions, students will be able to compare and contrast the answers of the culture around them to the answers of the Bible. The culmination of the class is an in-depth paper in which students discuss their answers to these worldview questions so as to leave for college with a clear understanding of what they believe, why they believe it, and how what they believe affects each aspect of their lives and choices.

(1 Bible credit)