

# **BIBLE/THEOLOGY/RELIGION**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SAMPLES**

The following are just a **small sample** of formal courses for Bible. Christian and faith-based colleges will usually accept a course entitled "Bible" for credit. However, most secular colleges will not recognize "Bible" and when retitled a religion course may fit their expectations for elective credit. Your Course Descriptions must conform to what was taught, and list instructor/ textbook(s) used.

If your student is applying to Christian colleges, it is still recommended labeling Bible 9, Bible 10, etc. (or Religion or Theology 9, 10, 11, etc.). (a-g ones approved.) When completing UC/CSU, list under History/Cultures//Humanities/Social Studies.

**Potential (but not limited to): Comparative Religions, Ancient History, History of the Old Testament, Apologetics, Christian Philosophy, Philosophy, Theory of Knowledge, World Philosophy, Hermeneutics, Theology, Worldview, Religion, Ethics, Logic, New/Old Testament Survey, etc.**

A few samples of Course Descriptions from local secular and private high schools samples below. Feel free to edit these and/or create your own course descriptions. *The course descriptions from BYA's Torrey program are also helpful.*

**Ancient History (10 Credits):** This course will lead students through a detailed study of the development of humanity from the prehistoric age through approximately 1500 C.E. Students will examine geography, religion, economics, politics, social and cultural structures and the role these factors played in the growth of human civilization. This course is designed to give students an insight in the human experience as well as provide students with the essential skills to be successful at the college level. This course will also emphasize basic geography skills, research skills, writing skills, and organizational skills. *Can be available as Humanities course.*

**Comparative Religion (Honors) (10 credits)** This course is a survey of six contemporary philosophical worldviews (Christianity, Islam, Marxism, Humanism, New Age, and Postmodernism) in the following areas: theology, philosophy, ethics, science, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, law, and history. After completing this course, students should be able to: articulate a factual foundation for their chosen worldview, develop basic skills of disciplined worldview inquiry, understand the similarities and differences between the worldviews, and apply an understanding of worldviews in the areas of the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and biblical studies.

*Text: Understanding the Times: The Collision of Today's Competing Worldviews, David A. Noebel and What's the Difference? Fritz Ridenour.*

**Theology (Honors) (10 credits)** Students will thoroughly explore various theological subjects, including the Image of God in humanity, various teachings regarding Free Will, Election, Conversion and a study of the book of Revelation. Specific distinctions will also be analyzed, including the doctrines of Christianity. Students will also have opportunity for in-depth application of Law and Gospel to specific real-life situations. In addition, students will read and discuss *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis.

**Theory of Knowledge (Honors) (10 credits):** The course explores distinct forms of knowledge specific to individual subjects and then critically evaluates, compares and contrasts those forms. Through analyzing of concepts, arguments, and the basis of value judgments, the course encourages students to acquire a critical awareness of what they and others know, including an emphasis on world religious views. Through discussions of questions, students gain greater awareness of their personal and ideological assumptions, as well as developing an appreciation of the diversity and richness of cultural perspectives. Requires both writing and presentation elements.

**Theology 9 - Old Testament (10 credits):** This course is a survey of the Old Testament and the Intertestamental Period, investigating the history and theology of God's people and the people with whom they came into contact. The course begins with a brief background of the Bible, (number of books, different translations, how the canon was established, etc.) and progresses chronologically from Genesis through Malachi and the Intertestamental Period. Throughout the course, students will be shown how the events studied fit into God's plan of salvation and also how God is speaking to us today through these events. **OR** This course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of the central themes of the Old Testament and get a firsthand experience with the truths it contains about the person and work of Christ and obedient Christian living. It will adequately equip students with an understanding of Biblical redemptive history from the beginning of time through the prophets.

**Theology 10 - New Testament (10 credits):** This course is the study of the New Testament and an introduction to the concept of Christian ethics. The course will focus primarily on the life and ministry of Jesus, as well as the church started by the apostles. An overview of the epistles and how their lessons affect Christians and their decision-making process is included. OR This course will adequately equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the New Testament. Students will receive a refresher course through the Old Testament, paying close attention to references (“types”) that are directly connected to the New Testament. We will also cover the 400-year intertestamental period, paying close attention to the historical settings that shaped the New Testament. We will cover a survey of the New Testament as a whole, and then do a book by book study, focusing on the author, recipient, and all relevant historical and cultural backgrounds. Special attention will be given to the reading of all books with its intended interpretation, using several exegetical techniques.

**Theology 11 - Christian Doctrine (10 credits):** Students are introduced to the use of Systematic Theology in setting forth doctrine. Comparative Religions surveys the major world religions, various Christian denominations, cults and belief systems for the purpose of awareness and comparison with orthodox Christianity. Particular emphasis is placed on certain sects that are growing in popularity today including (but not limited to) Islam, Mormonism, Christian Science, Jehovah’s Witness and Eastern religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism and Daoism. *Can also be available as a Humanities course. Can also be named Comparative Religion.*

**Philosophy (Honors) (10 credits)** Students will learn the purpose and methodologies of apologetics, the structure and similarities found within all worldviews, and come to understand the important questions that should test all worldview concepts. Popular philosophical worldviews both past and present will be presented with an emphasis on Christian worldview thinking, outlining the importance of faith and reason in formulating such beliefs. Students will learn the basic doctrines and beliefs held by major world religions in order to intelligently compare and contrast them with the uniqueness of Christianity.

**Religion 12 (10 credits):** Christian life is a step-by-step look at life from conception to eternal life. Each stage of life is discussed pertaining to various topics that are an integral aspect of every stage of life (e.g. important/significant happenings/milestones, child’s responsibility, parent’s responsibility, social interaction, moral/ethical situations/decisions, religion and faith). Christian morals and ethics deal with specific topics part of our contemporary life and confront the youth of today. These topics are discussed from a social as well as from a scriptural basis. Topics are discussed in open forum. Students learn skills for open communication and respect for the opinion of others. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on how to put beliefs into practical use.

**Advanced Topics in Theology (Honors) (10 credits)** Students will thoroughly explore various theological subjects, including (but not limited to) Christology, the Image of God in humanity, various teachings regarding Free Will, Election, Conversion and an in-depth study of the book of Revelation. Specific distinctions will also be analyzed, including the doctrine of Vocation, Two Kingdom theology, the Two Kinds of Righteousness and the Theology of the Cross. Students will also have opportunity for in-depth application of Law and Gospel to specific real-life counseling situations. In addition, students will read and discuss *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis.

**Apologetics (Honors) (10 credits)** Christian Apologetics is an essential interdisciplinary field of study that has as its goal the defense of the great truths of the Christian faith. This course prepares students with the knowledge and skills to defend these great truths. Students will begin by studying basic philosophic principles and integrating those with a common theology. Students will then explore issues in the area of Philosophy of Religion and study the relationship between science and religion. Students will continue to explore general apologetic issues reading works by C.S. Lewis. The course will conclude with an exploration into the nature of discipleship to Christ and a western historical and cultural study of worldview shifts. Throughout the course students will explore the Christian worldview in such fields as theology, philosophy, sociology, biology, ethics, history, art, and music. Preference is given in class for discussion, lecture, and group dialectic. Students will be required to read a number of books in their entirety, write argumentative essays, conduct interviews, give oral presentations, and think deeply about life’s biggest questions.

**NOTE: Consider creating your own that reflect the unique and valuable perspective of your home and church traditions to best serve your student's spiritual and academic needs while gaining elective credit.**

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