



Locally Developed Courses

Religious Studies - Christian Studies

For the 2023-2024 School Year

Introduction to the Religious Studies - Christian Studies Course Sequence

Subject: Social Sciences - Discipline: Religion

Christian Studies 15-25-35 is designed for both Christian and non-Christian students. The premise of Christian Studies 15-25-35 is that personal faith impacts every aspect of life. In this course sequence, students examine key themes and teachings of Christianity and various other world religions, and consider how these impact decision-making for people of those faiths. Christian Studies 15-25-35 offers students opportunities to express differing views and interpretations based on faith, and is intended to foster sensitivity toward and valuing of different faiths. In Christian Studies 15-25-35, students are encouraged to respect and have compassion for all people, which fosters global and cultural understanding and emphasizes the importance of personal spiritual wellness.

According to the Guide to Education, ECS to Grade 12, 2022-2023, locally developed religious studies courses are required to “develop respect for and promote understanding of individual and minority group differences, and develop an understanding and appreciation of the beliefs, customs, practices, literature and traditions of other major world religions” (Alberta Education, 2022). Christian Studies 15-25-35 meets these provincial requirements by including 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major world religions, such as Islam, Judaism or Buddhism.

Student Need

Christian Studies 15-25-35 provides an opportunity for students to explore Christianity in an academic setting. In this course sequence, students explore various aspects of Christianity in a way that encourages them to think critically about religion and the development of their own personal faith. In Christian Studies 15-25-35, students gain an understanding and appreciation for the role of faith in contributing to the development of a worldview. Throughout this course sequence, students consider various viewpoints on social issues and faith-based value systems, and by doing so, develop their own worldview and gain a better understanding of what it means to live in a pluralistic, multi-faith society.

Christian Studies 15-25-35 provides students with an opportunity to develop a variety of competencies. In particular, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, citizenship and personal growth are fostered as students examine social issues and community needs, express their own beliefs and values, and gain an understanding and appreciation of the beliefs and values of others.

Courses in the Religious Studies - Christian Studies Course Sequence

Religious Studies - Christian Studies 15 (LDC1775)

In Christian Studies 15, students explore the significance of the Bible to the Christian faith, as well as the influence that other sacred texts have in major world religions. Students also examine factors that influence the development of a personal worldview and describe how their perspective can impact decision making. In this course, students explore the teachings of Jesus Christ and his example of servant leadership. Students consider how they may undertake servant leadership by identifying a need within their community and strategizing ways to address that need.

Education Act: Notice to Parent

Notification must be provided to parents, as per Section 58.1 (1) of the Education Act which states, “A board shall provide notice to a parent of a student where courses, programs of study or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises, include subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality.”

Sensitive or Controversial Issues

Occasionally, issues of a sensitive or controversial nature may be encountered or explored. Teachers are advised to use their discretion and take the needs of individual students and the local community context into consideration when addressing sensitive or controversial topics or issues.

Prerequisites: None

Versions Available: (Each version must be locally approved by Board Motion prior to offering to students.)

Credit Level	First School Year	Last School Year
3	2023-2024	2026-2027

Religious Studies - Christian Studies 25 (LDC2775)

In Christian Studies 25, students examine major themes of the Bible and explain how these themes provide a framework for Christianity. Through an exploration of the teachings of key biblical leaders and reflection on their personal worldview, students recognize factors that contribute to the development of a meaningful personal faith. Students examine the beliefs and teachings of other major world religions and describe common understandings between these faiths and Christianity. In Christian Studies 25, students are encouraged to model the connection between faith and practice by creating and implementing a plan to meet an identified need within their community.

Education Act: Notice to Parent

Notification must be provided to parents, as per Section 58.1 (1) of the Education Act which states, “A board shall provide notice to a parent of a student where courses, programs of study or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises, include subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality.”

Sensitive or Controversial Issues

Occasionally, issues of a sensitive or controversial nature may be encountered or explored. Teachers are advised to use their discretion and take the needs of individual students and the local community context into consideration when addressing sensitive or controversial topics or issues.

Prerequisites: None

Versions Available: (Each version must be locally approved by Board Motion prior to offering to students.)

Credit Level	First School Year	Last School Year
3	2023-2024	2026-2027

Religious Studies - Christian Studies 35 (LDC3775)

In Christian Studies 35, students examine correlations between the teachings of the Old and New Testaments and the impact of these teachings on modern Christianity. The relevance of Christian values to ethical decision making and contemporary events is analyzed. Values and teachings of other world religions are explored to help broaden understanding of the diversity of worldviews that exist within a multicultural society. Students in Christian Studies 35 demonstrate faith-based servant leadership through the implementation and evaluation of a plan to meet community or global needs.

Education Act: Notice to Parent

Notification must be provided to parents, as per Section 58.1 (1) of the Education Act which states, “A board shall provide notice to a parent of a student where courses, programs of study or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises, include subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality.”

Sensitive or Controversial Issues

Occasionally, issues of a sensitive or controversial nature may be encountered or explored. Teachers are advised to use their discretion and take the needs of individual students and the local community context into consideration when addressing sensitive or controversial topics or issues.

Prerequisites: None

Versions Available: (Each version must be locally approved by Board Motion prior to offering to students.)

Credit Level	First School Year	Last School Year
3	2023-2024	2026-2027

Curriculum Outline

Curriculum Elements		RS Christian Studies 15-3	RS Christian Studies 25-3	RS Christian Studies 35-3
1	Topic Exploring the foundations of Christianity enhances an understanding and appreciation of the importance of personal faith.	✓	✓	✓
1.1	General Outcome How can exploring the origins of the Bible provide an understanding of the advent of Christianity?	✓		
1.1.1	Specific Outcome describe the origins, structure and authors of the Bible and explain its role in Christianity.	✓		
1.1.2	Specific Outcome explore biblical teachings that are foundational to the advent of Christianity.	✓		
1.2	General Outcome How can Christian values help to guide decision-making?	✓		
1.2.1	Specific Outcome explain how the teachings of Jesus Christ can serve as an example for individual decision-making.	✓		
1.3	General Outcome How can examining the central teachings of the Bible lead to a deeper understanding of the development of Christianity?		✓	
1.3.1	Specific Outcome describe major themes in the Bible and explain how they play a role in Christianity.		✓	
1.3.2	Specific Outcome relate the importance of the teachings of key biblical leaders to the development of the early church and the spread of Christianity.		✓	
1.4	General Outcome How can Christian values guide ethical decision-making?		✓	
1.4.1	Specific Outcome explain how Jesus Christ's life illustrates ethical decision-making.		✓	
1.5	General Outcome How can analyzing the central teachings of the Bible provide insight into the Christian faith?			✓
1.5.1	Specific Outcome analyze major themes found in the Bible and make correlations between the Old and New Testaments.			✓

Curriculum Elements		RS Christian Studies 15-3	RS Christian Studies 25-3	RS Christian Studies 35-3
1.5.2	Specific Outcome analyze the importance of the lives and teachings of key biblical leaders as they relate to modern Christianity.			✓
1.6	General Outcome How can Christian values act as a guide when approaching social issues in an ethical manner?			✓
1.6.1	Specific Outcome analyze the relevance of Christian values to ethical decision-making in relation to contemporary issues and events.			✓
2	Topic Examining diverse worldviews and experiences fosters the ability and willingness to live well together.	✓	✓	✓
2.1	General Outcome How can various factors contribute to the development of a worldview?	✓		
2.1.1	Specific Outcome examine multiple factors that contribute to the development of one's own worldview.	✓		
2.2	General Outcome How can exploring beliefs, practices and key figures of major world religions foster an appreciation of common understandings?	✓		
2.2.1	Specific Outcome describe beliefs and practices of various major world religions.	✓		
2.2.2	Specific Outcome describe the significance of various key figures referenced in sacred texts of major world religions.	✓		
2.3	General Outcome In what ways can one's worldview contribute to the development of personal faith?		✓	
2.3.1	Specific Outcome explain ways in which one's own worldview can contribute to the development of a meaningful personal faith.		✓	
2.4	General Outcome How can examining major world religions and their leaders foster an appreciation of common understandings?		✓	
2.4.1	Specific Outcome examine beliefs and practices of various major world religions.		✓	

Curriculum Elements		RS Christian Studies 15-3	RS Christian Studies 25-3	RS Christian Studies 35-3
2.4.2	Specific Outcome examine the teachings of various historical and contemporary leaders of major world religions.		✓	
2.5	General Outcome How do various faiths address the complexity that results from living in diverse, multicultural societies?			✓
2.5.1	Specific Outcome analyze how different faiths address the diversity that comes from living in multicultural societies with a variety of worldviews.			✓
2.6	General Outcome How can analyzing major world religions and their leaders provide an appreciation of their impact on historical and contemporary societies?			✓
2.6.1	Specific Outcome analyze the beliefs and practices of various major world religions.			✓
2.6.2	Specific Outcome analyze the influence of various leaders of major world religions on historical and/or contemporary societies.			✓
3	Topic Exploring faith-based servant leadership fosters an understanding of the integral role of service to others in leading a Christian life.	✓	✓	✓
3.1	General Outcome Why is it important for Christians to undertake servant leadership?	✓		
3.1.1	Specific Outcome identify a community need and strategies to address it through faith-based servant leadership.	✓		
3.1.2	Specific Outcome describe attributes of servant leadership and relate the attributes to examples in the Bible.	✓		
3.2	General Outcome Why is it important for Christians to actively contribute to meeting the needs of the local community through servant leadership?		✓	
3.2.1	Specific Outcome develop and implement a plan that employs faith-based servant leadership to meet community needs.		✓	
3.2.2	Specific Outcome describe connections between faith and practice and relate them to impacts on the local community.		✓	

Curriculum Elements		RS Christian Studies 15-3	RS Christian Studies 25-3	RS Christian Studies 35-3
3.3	General Outcome Why is it important for Christians to actively contribute to meeting the needs of the global community through servant leadership?			✓
3.3.1	Specific Outcome implement and evaluate a plan that employs faith-based servant leadership to meet community needs.			✓
3.3.2	Specific Outcome describe connections between faith and practice and analyze their impacts on the global community.			✓

Statement of Overlap with Existing Programs

Similar / Overlapping Courses	Description of Similarity / Overlap - Rationale
Religious Meanings 20	Religious Meanings 20 and Christian Studies 15-25-35 contain outcomes focused on putting faith into action.
	In Christian Studies 15-25-35, the focus is on faith-based servant leadership, which is not indicated as a specific focus of Religious Meanings 20.
World Religions 30	Both World Religions 30 and Christian Studies 15-25-35 contain outcomes focused on examining other major world religions.
	All LDCs must contain 20 percent course content focused on a comparative study of other world religions.