

## 2004 Annual Academic Assessment for Religion

### 1. State the educational purpose of the assessment program:

The study of religion at Schreiner University seeks to move beyond the mere description of religion's cultural significance by exploring the way the Christian faith narrates the meaning and purpose of human life in God's redemptive activity in Jesus Christ. Informed by the Reformed tradition's conviction that faith is inseparable from life, the study of religion at Schreiner University will endeavor to challenge students to integrate what is learned academically with what is lived out in faith. At Schreiner University, the study of religion is a "humanity" and, therefore, understands itself to be open to and the beneficiary of other realms of knowledge described in the curriculum.

### 2. Educational goals, assessment for each goal, performance standards, and findings:

**Upon graduating with a major in Religion a student will be able to:**

**Goal 1:** Demonstrate familiarity with content and historical development of the Holy Scriptures of Judaism and Christianity and be able to apply the tools of critical Scholarship, etc. in interpreting these Scriptures.

Satisfactory performance (C or better) in RELI 1303 & RELI 1304.

2003-2004 RELI 1303 - 92.6%; RELI 1304 – 88.9%  
2004-2005 Collecting data.

**Curriculum:** The curriculum is implemented through:

- Class Participation
- Written quizzes and exams
- Two Discussion Papers

**Faculty Development:** Faculty is involved in developing lectures and pedagogical approaches in accordance with student needs.

**Out-of-class Experience:** Inevitably, students with some faith background through involvement in church or synagogue will be challenged to reflect on their belief systems and presuppositions through academic study.

**Goal 2:** Critically discern the complexity of the historical, moral and intellectual issues that shape contemporary society and apply the theological insights of the Christian faith in addressing those issues.

Satisfactory performance (C or better) in RELI 3340 & RELI 3321.

2003-2004 RELI 3340 – 100%; RELI 3321 – 100%  
2004-2005 Collecting data.

**Curriculum:** The curriculum is implemented through:

- Class Participation
- Written quizzes and exams
- Two Discussion Papers

**Faculty Development:** Faculty is involved in developing lectures and pedagogical approaches in accordance with student needs.

**Out-of-class Experience:** Philosophy of Religion is bound to force critical reflection on one's personal beliefs as well as challenge students to find their way in a wider world of philosophical thought far beyond the classroom walls. A study of the Reformation era, moreover, evokes consideration of one's own historical situation and appreciation for how our society came into being in its present form.

**Goal 3:** Students will accomplish 'capstone' goals for experience and expertise in the field of religion by participating in ministerial activity or completing a senior project or research resulting in the writing of a senior thesis.

Satisfactory performance (C or better) in RELI 4398 &/or RELI 4399

2003-2004 RELI 4398 – 100%; RELI 4399 – 100%

2004-2005 Collecting Data

**Curriculum:** The curriculum is implemented through either active and productive exposure to ministerial activity with the accomplishment of pre-determined project goals or, in the case of a senior thesis, completion of a thirty page research paper on a pre-approved topic.

**Faculty Development:** Faculty are encouraged to keep up with current literature and developments in the field.

**Out-of-class Experience:** Where practicable, students are exposed to religious theorists, theologians, ministers, spiritual leaders, and counselors for observation and engagement.