

## **Transferring Religion Courses and Meeting the Religion I Core Expectation**

**“Christianity and Religious Diversity”** (Religion 100), Concordia’s Religion I course, is a key component of the Concordia Core Curriculum and preparation to **Becoming Responsibly Engaged in the World**. Few religion courses at other colleges and universities share the distinct design and expectations of Concordia’s Religion I Core Course. Most religion courses taken at another school will transfer to Concordia as religion electives, not as the equivalent of Religion 100. Elective credits can be applied to a Religion minor (20 credits) or major (36 credits).

For a course to receive Religion 100: “Christianity and Religious Diversity” credit it must

- Be taken as classroom course, not on-line
- Carry the same number of credit hours as a full course at Concordia
- Be taken from an accredited institution of higher learning
- Be taken in a department of theology or religion
- Be taught by professors of theology or religion
- Be comparable in content, approach, orientation and amount of written work to that reflected across the Religion 100 sections.

Content: Religion 100 includes study of biblical and other classical sacred texts; it includes attention to historical perspectives and understandings; it deals substantially with Christianity in terms of its history, theology and diversity; it includes consideration of a religion other than Christianity usually in a manner that emphasizes comparison.

Approach: The content of the course is approached through modes of inquiry appropriate to the academic study of religion. These modes of inquiry are interpretive, historical, comparative and constructive. An academic approach emphasizes the scholarly as distinct from the apologetic, devotional or catechetical perspectives.

Written expression: Religion 100 is a writing intensive course. Courses considered for transfer as Religion 100 courses need to require 15 pages of writing that is academic in approach, 7-10 of which should involve scholarly research

Students may request that two or more transferred courses be reviewed together to determine whether collectively they meet the expectations of “Christianity and Religious Diversity” (Religion 100). All courses submitted for review must meet the criteria above and be comparable to Religion 100: Christianity and Religious Diversity as described below.

### **“Christianity and Religious Diversity” Course Description**

This course seeks to meet the needs of all students for a better understanding of religion as a basic feature of human life, through the study of Christianity’s classic and contemporary expressions and the rich diversity of religion. The four modes of religious inquiry (interpretive, historical, comparative and constructive) that are appropriate to the study of religion will be used to examine the complexity of religion in the world. The course offers an important initial opportunity for integrative study characteristic of a liberal arts education. It invites students to engage in thoughtful and informed reflection on religious questions.

### **“Christianity and Religious Diversity” Student Outcomes**

Students will demonstrate

*I. a critical understanding of religion, i.e.,*

- a) religious literacy: knowledge about religion and an awareness of the complex role and significance of religion in human life and the ability to think critically about religious phenomena and questions, with particular reference to Christianity;

- b) awareness of the essential terms and concepts used in the study of religion, along with a basic grasp of the four areas of inquiry;
- c) an ability to recognize the social implications of religious phenomena (e.g., ideas, beliefs, practices, texts, and values)

*II. an informed appreciation for diversity, i.e.,*

- a) an ability to recognize and respect the diversity of religious forms and expressions, both within and among religious traditions;
- b) a critical understanding of social differences (e.g., race, class, gender, ethnicity) as supported/challenged by religious traditions
- c) recognition of the ecological implications of religious phenomena (e.g., ideas, beliefs, practices, texts, and values)

*III. foundational skills, i.e.,*

- a) the capacity for effective reading, writing, and speaking
- b) the capacity for critical thinking and academic research

*IV) self-awareness and sense of responsibility, i.e.*

- a) the capacity for introspection and the ability to identify assumptions
- b) the capacity to reflect on vocation, personal life goals, and social responsibility

## **Process for applying for Religion 100 Transfer Credit**

Assemble a packet with the following materials:

- 1: **A Cover Letter** with:
  - Your Contact Information: including E-mail and CPO
  - Your Advisor's name
  - The Course number and title
  - The name of the college at which the course was taken, the number of credit hours, the semester and year that you took the course
- 2: The Course **Syllabus**: If not included in the syllabus, add the following: course description, course goals and objectives, list of course materials and reading assignments, descriptions of assignments.
- 3: **Papers, tests and any other work** you completed in the course.

Deliver them to the Religion Department Office (Academy 214) for the Transfer Request Committee chair. (The current chair is Dr. Elna K. Solvang, Academy 206; [solvang@cord.edu](mailto:solvang@cord.edu))

## **Timeline for applying for Religion 100 Transfer Credit**

A department committee reviews all applications for religion transfer credit and makes its recommendation to the Registrar's Office.

- If you decide to apply for Religion I credit, do so during the first semester you are on campus.
- Reviews may take up to a week.
- Applications cannot be reviewed during the first two and last two weeks of the semester, the week before and the week of registration, during school breaks and over the summer.