

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the **master of Arts in Religions and Philosophy** is to lay a vigorous academic groundwork for the candidate in the field of religious philosophy. It is to galvanize the candidate to engross in an overall in-depth study of research and practice in the domain of philosophical religion. It is also aimed at stimulating the candidate to be more effective and efficient in Ministry endeavors and leadership. The candidate will demonstrate in writing a comprehensive dissertation of the results of the research that has been learned during the candidate's program. The average dissertation is between 80 and 200 pages. A bibliography should be a minimum of 30 books that the candidate has referred to in the preparation for writing the dissertation. For a comprehensive guideline, see **Kate LTurabian, 2009 edition.**

### **Degree Requirements:**

The candidate must have a bachelor's degree approved by **Winning Life Prayer Ministry Academic Team** before the admission into the program. The candidate must prove that he or she has a prior academic foundation capable of pursuing the **master's program**. After consultation and review, **the Academic Team** will determine if the applicant is qualified to be admitted into the program. All coursework may be emailed to [winninglifetheory@gmail.com](mailto:winninglifetheory@gmail.com).

### **DEGREE DISTINCTIVENESS**

1. Ability to apply theological studies to any field of endeavor to enhance Biblical, Academic and business programs.
2. Apply Biblical and Theological Research tools to any field of specialization.
3. Incorporate Biblical and theological knowledge with research, and preaching skills to communicate Biblical doctrines, exegetical methods, Evangelism, and scriptures with accuracy and relevance to the teeming flock.
4. Grow professionally, academically, scripturally, pastorally, and develop leadership skills as you do term papers, and undertake committed academic work.
5. Develop skills that lead to Church growth, and planting of Churches in America and in the world.
6. Articulate Evangelical, Charismatic, Pentecostal Reformed doctrinal beliefs with coherence, accuracy, relevance, and with clarity.
7. Articulate analytically in business and Church teaching.

**RPHIL 200:** Closely examine classic and contemporary western philosophy in the area of nature of reality, truth, morality, goodness, and justice; emphasize the possibility of knowledge; faith, reason, and the existence of God; and the issue of freedom and determinism.

**RPHIL 201:** Critically examine basic principles of formal deductive logic, both Aristotelian (syllogistics) and modern (propositional and predicate calculus), with some attention to Christianity.

**RPHIL 202** Produce a research paper on major classic and contemporary texts in Eastern philosophy on being, world, society, and ethics, and examine Eastern philosophers' views on the nature of self, personhood, politics, family, and gender; logics, religion, and cosmology.

**RPHIL 203:** Using Christian Philosophical theories, investigate the question of what it means to live a moral life. and Examine major works in Western philosophy; discuss moral goodness and evil, the nature of justice and rights, the relationship between morality and self-interest, the justification of moral judgments, relativism versus objective truth, the role of pleasure in the good life, and the meaning of character and virtue.

**RPHIL 204:** Examine major philosophers from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries such as Immanuel Kant, Dietrick Bonhoeffer, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche, and enumerate their contribution to Christian Thinking.

**RPHIL 205:** Closely examine the contribution of religion to Western civilization, lay emphasis on The eastern Mediterranean roots of Western religions, the emergence of Christianity in the Greco-Roman world, and the rise of Islam.

**RPHIL 206:** Critically Examine Religion and thought in the area of the human situation, the quest for salvation, wholeness, and transcendence, and the problem of speaking about the divine within the terms of modern culture.

**RPHIL 207:** Discuss approaches to the study of religion that are grounded in the disciplines of anthropology, psychology, sociology, history, and literary criticism.

**RPHIL 208:** Examine basic features of the major religions of Asia, including Hinduism, Taoism, and Confucianism, and explain how these traditions shape Asian cultures and societies.

**RPHIL 209:** Discuss theories and philosophies associated with **Christ and Culture** and place emphasis on ***Christ against culture, Tertullian views on Christian culture, medieval monasticism and mysticism, Anabaptist movements, and the role of Leo Tolstoy in Christian thinking and civilization.***

**RPHIL 210:** Carefully examine the notion that **Christ is of culture** and place emphasis on the views of **Peter Abelard, cultural Protestantism (classical liberalism), and contemporary expressions.**

**RPHIL 211:** critically examine the notion that **CHRIST IS ABOVE CULTURE**, discuss the views of Clement of Alexandria, Thomas Aquinas, and enumerate the philosophies that helped shape Catholic and Christian doctrines.

**RPHIL 212:** Is Christ the Transformer of culture? Discuss the philosophical and Theological position of **John Calvin** on Christ and his ability to transform cultures in ecclesiastical ghettos.

**RPHIL 213:** Philosophically and theologically define **love and Justice**, and place emphasis on **Freedom and Justice, Meritorious Justice, Social Justice, and Egalitarian Justice** using **Christian thinkers and their contributions to the subject treated.**

**RPHIL 214:** Discuss **pluralism and Christian Ethics** and place emphasis on *the truth dilemma, the social dilemma, and the theocratic or constantinian approach to pluralism.*

**RPHIL 215:** Examine Christian heresies and delve into **Arianism, and montanism.**

**RPHIL 216:** Discuss **postmodernity and the moral life** in the light of **deconstruction and the assault on metanarratives, fragmentation of life, tolerance and virtue.**

**RPHIL 217:** Discuss virtue ethics (character virtues) and place emphasis on the views of **Aristotle, Carol Gilligan, Alasdair Macintyre, and Stanley Hauerwas** philosophical ideals on **character virtues.**

**RPHIL 218:** Discuss **deliberative** motif in making ethical decisions in the light of Thomas Aquinas and the Roman Catholic Tradition, modern Roman Catholic Thought, and protestant views on **deliberative motif.**

**RPHIL 2019:** Examine philosophical theories related to **prescriptive motif in ethical decisions** and highlight the views of **John Calvin, Carl F.H. Henry, Richard Mauw, and John Howard Yoder's work on the politics of Jesus.**

**RPHIL 2020:** Describe the enlightened one in Buddhism and enumerate the teachings of Buddha, and place premium on **two versions of truth, vajrayama Buddhism, Zan Buddhism, and post-modern Buddhism.**

**RPHIL 2021:** Examine the values of Judaism and discuss the **Mishnah, the people, the law, the land, synagogue, the New Year, atonement, tabernacles, festivals of lights, the Torah, the Passover, Pentecost and the covenants.**

**RPHIL 2022:** Discuss the philosophy and Theology of St. Augustine of Hippo and place emphasis on the influence of his writings on Western Christianity and Philosophy.

**RPHIL 2023:** Discuss the philosophy and Theology of John Calvin; and critically examine the influence of his writings on Western Theology and Philosophy.

**RPHIL 300:** Discuss Hellenism and relate Hellenistic philosophical ideals to Pauline theology in the light of Merkabah Mysticism, Paul the Mystic, Death and Resurrection, Paul the Charismatic, Paul the miracle worker, and Paul the shaman.

**RPHIL 301:** Carefully examine different types of **fallacies** and relate them to Hermeneutics in the domain of **lexical fallacy, the root fallacy, misuse of Etymology, ambiguity, Grammar and the verb system in Biblical Interpretation. Students may refer to THE HERMENEUTICAL SPIRAL, A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION BY GRAND R. OSBORNE, (2006).**

**RPHIL 302:** Describe the characteristics of the two types of apologetics; **evidentialism and presuppositionalism** and outline their scientific proof to the Christian Faith. Emphasize the strength of both views.

**RPHIL 303:** Explain how truth is tested in the following domains: **instinct, custom, conscious gentium, feeling, sense perception, pragmatism, consistency, and coherence.**

**RPHIL 304:** philosophically and biblically, Examine Absolute Denial of the existence of God and place emphasis on the philosophies and theories associated with **practical atheism, theoretical atheism, pantheism, theism, and humanism.**

**RPHIL 305:** Discuss **predestination** in Augustinian and Calvinist theology and enumerate ecclesiastical sacraments with an emphasis on the last supper. Explain cross substantiation.

**RPHIL 306:** Examine the contribution of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary Tudor, and Elizabeth I to the success of English **Reformation, the growth and expansion of the Church of England.**

**RPHIL 307:** Trace the origin of Puritanism in Europe and discuss the pillars of the movement; highlight puritan theology in the light of Oliver Cromwell, John Owen, Richard Baxter, and **the Westminster Assembly (1643-1648).**

**RPHIL 308:** Present philosophical and Scriptural Proof for the Existence of God, knowability of God, the spirituality of God, the perspicuity of God, and the veracity of God. Do philosophers believe in the existence of God?

**RPHIL 308:** Exegetically discuss the institution of baptism. Do Hellenistic and other philosophers believe in baptism?

**RPHIL 309:** Discuss the origin of Zoroastrianism and explain the teachings, and spread of Zoroastrianism, and highlight **the good choice, good and evil, and natural powers.**

**BOOKS TO HELP IN YOUR RESEARCH AND COURSEWORK\***

1. **Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World**, by Dennis P. Hollinger, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2002.
2. **Moral Dilemmas** by J. Kerby Anderson (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, 1998).
3. *A Lion Hand Book: The World's Religions* by Pat Alexander, [Sutherland, Australia: Lion Publishing, 1982 and Reprinted in 1994.
4. Dietrick Bonhoeffer, *Meditation and Prayer*, 1987.
5. Grand. R. Osborne, *the Hermeneutical Spiral: A comprehensive introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, (Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2006)
6. *An introduction to Apologetics*, by Edward John Carnel, (1990).
7. Luis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology, Second Volume* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans, 1996), 30.