

**St. Albert Catholic High School**  
**Religious Studies 25 Course Outline (3 Credits)**

***Believing***

"I am the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:6)  
"The unexamined life is not worth living." (Socrates)

**Teachers:**

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**Rationale:**

The underlying premise of the Grade Eleven Religious Studies program is that human beings attempt to make sense out of what they are experiencing. They search for meaning, by trying to discover what is truth. Truth understood as, "an eternal conversation about things that matter, conducted with passion and discipline". What do I believe about myself, others, God? How am I to live my life? The purpose of the Religious Studies program is to guide students on an inner journey toward more truthful ways of seeing and being in the world.

**Course Composition**

The Grade Eleven Religious Studies program is made up of SIX major themes. Each unit of study in this fully semestered three-credit program examines a major topic from the Alberta Catholic High School Religious Studies curriculum, Alberta Youth Search for Meaning. (Approved Program of Studies) Alberta Catholic Schools Revised 2006.

**The Study Of Other Religious Traditions:**

Students will be provided with the opportunity to develop a respect and understanding for other major world faiths. For RS 25, we will limit our study to Buddhism and Hinduism. This theme will make up 20% of the course of studies as required by (Policy 1.2.1 Locally Developed/Acquired and Authorized Junior and Senior High School Complementary Courses and 1.2.2 Locally Developed Religious Studies Courses).

**General Themes**

**Theme A. Believing is Integral to Living.**

**Question:** What does it mean to believe?

**General Objective #1:** To explore how believing is integral to human living.

- What do you believe?
- Why do we express our religious beliefs?
- Where do we go to find meaning?

### **Theme B. The Role of Truth, Goodness, the Spiritual and Religious Community in the Search to Believe**

**Question:** What contributes to our beliefs?

**General Objective #2:** To investigate the role of truth, goodness, the spiritual and religious community in the search to believe.

- What are the major belief statements of diverse religious communities?

### **Theme C. The Great Religions of the East**

**Question:** How can we better understand the Great Religions of the East?

**General Objective #3:** To explore the Great Religions of the East.

- What are the major belief statements of Hinduism?
- What are the major belief statements of Buddhism?

### **Theme D. The Bible is a Primary Source of Christian Belief**

**Question:** What is the relationship between the Bible and Christian beliefs?

**General Objective #4:** To study the Bible as a source of Christian belief.

- How does the Catholic community understand the Bible?
- What is the significance of story?
- How does the culture of Jesus' time influence the gospels?

### **Theme E. Jesus Christ: Jesus is central to Catholic Beliefs**

**Question:** Who is Jesus?

**General Objective #5:** To understand the message of Jesus.

- Why is Jesus so important?
- What did Jesus teach?
- What is the message in Jesus' death?
- How did the early Church develop?
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### **Theme F. The Reign of God in Contemporary Society**

**Question:** What does it mean to be Christian in the world today?

**General Objective #6:** To identify ways in which Christians cooperate in bringing about the Reign of God.

- What does the Catholic Church teach about Social Justice?
- What does the Catholic Church teach about Justice and Peace?
- What does the Catholic Church teach about the dignity of persons?

### **Instructional Strategies and Student Assessment**

Each theme or unit requires students to read assigned print and/or computer material and be prepared to discuss and/or write reflections on the content. Note taking, completion of major and minor assignments, Internet Activities and participation in discussion circles round out classroom activities. Due dates for all assignments will be determined and announced/posted by your classroom teacher. Completion of each theme is followed by an assigned quiz. Unit quizzes are generally a combination of short answer, multiple choice and essay questions.

### **Christian Action Assignment:**

Students are required to participate in a volunteer service project, resulting in an accumulation of 10 hours. Teachers will provide project details in class.

### **Retreat Experience:**

Students are to participate in a retreat this semester. Details will be provided in class.

**What to expect:****As a student taking Religious Studies, you can expect the following things:**

The decision to believe and to practice religion is ultimately up to you. This course aims to give you knowledge to help you in your journey through life. We will not attempt to coerce you. This course is not Sunday School, nor is it Bible Studies. You will not be evaluated on your faith.

Class questions and discussions are a natural outgrowth of the type of material covered in Religious Studies. We value your opinion.

It is natural that the topics covered in this course will generate questions from you. We encourage you to ask questions, which you have which are relevant to the material covered in this course. Be prepared, though, because we may not have all the answers.