

Motion to add a minor in Early Christian Studies.

*Resolved*, that the faculty recommend to the Board of Regents creation of a new minor in Early Christian Studies, as presented in Attachment E.

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## RATIONALE

1. The minor in Early Christian Studies combines courses in Classics, Classical History, and Religion through which students will learn about the language, culture, history, and beliefs of the earliest Christians.
2. **The minor clarifies and recognizes an existing, coherent course of study that some students already pursue.**
3. **The minor requires no new courses. It relies solely on “bread-and-butter” courses in both departments, i.e., courses that are guaranteed to be taught.**
4. The minor encourages students to build coherence into their course choices and to consider avenues they might not otherwise have realized existed.
5. Interdisciplinary programs make efficient use of existing resources, contribute to the robustness of already small programs in a time of contraction, and at least potentially better serve the existing and projected interests of the student body.
6. The Classics program already sends targeted mailings to over 100 high schools on the West Coast that offer Latin. Thirty-six of these have Christian affiliations. Being able to show that our program offers concentrations in areas that are likely to be of interest to students with this background ought to encourage matriculation at PLU.
7. The minor signals more clearly to graduate programs one of the particular specialties that PLU students can achieve. **This gives a competitive edge to PLU students continuing on to graduate school.** Graduate programs most likely to take note are in Classics (especially those focusing on Late Antiquity), Religion, Theology, and Seminaries.

What the minor is NOT:

The minor in Early Christian Studies is not a generic minor in Ancient Studies. Its focus is both the content and context of Christianity as it emerged in the Roman Empire and also the methodology of studying Religion, especially as applied to Christianity of this period. The courses accepted for the minor have been restricted to highlight this specific focus and coherence.

## REQUIREMENTS

### MINOR IN EARLY CHRISTIAN STUDIES

The minor in Early Christian Studies combines courses in Classics, Classical History, and Religion through which students will learn about the language, culture, history, and beliefs of the earliest Christians. The program is designed to be interdisciplinary and flexible. In consultation with the program director of Classics and the chair of Religion, a student may elect a course or courses not on the following curriculum. At least two courses (8 semester hours) must be from upper division courses (300 level or above). The minor requires the completion of Greek or Latin 111-112 or its equivalent. Students who are considering entering a seminary are strongly encouraged to take Greek.

In addition, students may not apply more than two courses (8 semester hours) from all other major or minors.

16-24 Credits

CLAS/HIST 322 Roman Civilization (4 credits)

3 courses (12 credits) from the following list. Students are recommended to choose courses in consultation with the chair of Religion to create a course of study that best fits their goals.

- a. RELI 212 Religion and Literature in the New Testament
- b. RELI 213 Topics in Biblical Studies (when approved by chair of Religion)
- c. RELI 214 Topics in Biblical Studies (when approved by chair of Religion)
- d. RELI 220 Early Christianity
- e. RELI 222 Medieval Christianity
- f. RELI 331 New Testament Studies
- g. RELI 332: Jesus and his Early Interpreters
- h. RELI 361 Church and History Studies, when taught on a topic pertaining to the ancient world (as RELI 341 for (C) credit; as RELI 351 for (A) credit)
- i. RELI 390: Topics in Comparative Religion, when taught on a topic pertaining to the ancient world
- j. Another course approved by the chair of Religion

Proficiency in Greek or Latin through the elementary level, or the equivalent (may be met by examination or by earning a “P” or better in GREK 111-112 or LATN 111-112, or the equivalent in transfer credit)