**F1: Critically examine personal, social, and cultural values**



**Paths to the F-1: An Overview for Advisors**

**What is the F-1?**

The F-1 is a foundation requirement needed for graduation where students critically examine questions of meaning and value. “Courses that fulfill this requirement will engage students in a critical examination of personal, social, and cultural values through the academic study of biblical literature and of traditions that are productively compared with it. This requirement is satisfied by completing a 3- semester sequence: a set of two coordinated courses at the 100-level (e.g., 101, 102) and one course at the 200-level or higher. The first two courses must be completed during the first year and the second course must also fulfill the F2i. The third course at the 200-level or higher must be completed after the first year.” -[The Rhodes College Curriculum Guide](https://sites.rhodes.edu/academic-and-learning-resources/academic-advising-resources-students/new-student-curriculum-guide-2)

**Overview of 1st year coursework in the F1**

**Year 1 Fall Year 1 Spring**

**RELS 101 -or- -------------> RELS 102**

**HUM 101 -or- -------------> HUM 102**

**AMS 110 -or- -------------> AMS 111**

**HIST 101 (F1 sections ONLY) -------------> HIST102**

**(F1 sections ONLY)**

**Option 1: Life: Then and Now**  
***What?*** Life introduces students to the academic study of the Bible and the diverse traditions based on the biblical texts.  
***How?*** RELS 101 (Fall, Y1), RELS 102 (Spring, Y1), and one 200-level RELS class that carries F1(any point in the remaining 3 years)  
***Who?*** Taught by members of the religious studies department

**Option 2: Search**  
***What?*** Search in an interdisciplinary sequence that explores and interrogates specific, seminal texts from the intellectual traditions of cultures in the Near East, Mediterranean, and Europe, which local, regional, and super-regional religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, influenced. Search courses also place diverse contemporary voices and perspectives in conversation with the historically transformative texts.

***How?*** HUM 101 (Fall, Y1), HUM 102 (Spring, Y1), HUM 201 (usually Fall, Y2)  
***Who?*** Taught by faculty members from a number of departments including ancient Mediterranean studies, English, history, modern languages, music, philosophy, and religious studies.

**Note 1: *May a student switch from the Search program to the Life program, and vice-versa?***

A student who begins in Search and has completed Humanities 101-102 may complete the F1 requirement by taking a course that is designated as completing the Life program. By the same token a student who begins in Life and completes Religious Studies 101-102 may fulfill the F1 requirement by taking Humanities 201. Please see the note below on prerequisites for Search, however.

**Note 2: What caveats should a student keep in mind in registering for Search or Life?**

1. Not all courses in the Religious Studies or Philosophy departments are "Life" courses. 300-level courses in Religious Studies, for example, are not Life courses.
2. Humanities 101 is a prerequisite for 102, and 102 a prerequisite for 201, although these prerequisites may be overridden by the permission of the instructor.
3. Either Religious Studies 101-102 or Humanities 101-102 is a prerequisite for a 200-level Life course.

**Option 3: Cultural Knowledge  
*What?*** These courses explore how societies inherit and then redefine their own cultural realities, accumulating selective knowledge that shapes their religious, political, and philosophical identities. Students will study an eclectic range of cultural artifacts including biblical texts, heroic epics, and philosophical treatises, and explore various modes of communication, for example, oral traditions, written manuscripts on clay tablets, stones, papyrus, parchment and paper, printed texts, sign language, and digital media.   
***How?*** AMS 110 (Fall, Y1), AMS 111 (Spring, Y1), AMS 210 (Fall, Y2) or 3rd cultural knowledge course (200-level AMS F1 course or HUM 201, usually Fall, Y2)  
***Who?*** Taught by members of the ancient Mediterranean studies department

**Note 1:** students must complete both semesters in the first year. If, for any reason, a student fails the first semester or does not take the second semester of the sequence, the best advice is for them to switch into Life and fulfill the F1 through their courses that do not require specific sequencing. That way they can still finish the F1 by the end of their second year.

**Note 2:** For the third semester, students currently are allowed to take a) any 200-level AMS F1-designated course, 2) an HUM 201 section, 3) possibly additional isolated 200-level F1-designated courses in other departments that are approved yearly by the department based on their connections with AMS 110/111. NOT allowed to complete the requirement by taking a Life course.

**Option 4: History in Historical Context   
*What?*** History in Historical Context focuses on a theme or topic to investigate how people across time and within a wide range of diverse cultural contexts have engaged with Jewish and Christian sacred texts to make meaning and value in their world.

***How?*** A 2-semester sequence (HIS 101 and HIS 102, F1 sections **only**) with the 3rd course to be satisfied by a 200-level F1 History course (to be offered for the first time in Fall 2023)  
***Who?*** Taught by members of the History department

**Note 1: I**f students wish to take a non-History F1 as their third course, permission of the department is needed.