

First Year Research Award: Religion

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Travis Proctor

Position Title: First Year Research Scholar in Religion, Gender, and/or Environmental Humanities

Criteria: The Wittenberg University Department of Religion will offer a First Year Research Award for the academic year 2025 - 2026 to an incoming student to work with Prof. Travis Proctor. This student will have a demonstrated academic ability and/or research interest in Religion, Gender, Animal Studies, and/or Environmental History.

Expectations: FYRA Scholarship recipients will devote between 6 and 8 hours per week across their first year to FYRA program and their research-related project, according to the FYRA Learning Contract agreed upon by the sponsoring professor and the scholarship recipient. Recipients will also be expected to participate in a regular meeting of FYRA recipients, present their results in an appropriate forum and submit a copy of their presentation to the appropriate university office. FYRA Scholarship recipients will also participate in an assessment of the FYRA program. (The FYRA Scholarship is not part of a student's work study award.)

Research Activity: The First Year Research Award recipient will assist Dr. Travis Proctor, Assistant Professor of Religion, in his research on early Christian depictions of Jesus of Nazareth, as understood through perspectives drawn from religious studies, gender studies, and the environmental humanities. The FYRA Scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to be involved in many aspects of Dr. Proctor's research, which may include: archival and library research, resource searches via electronic data bases, literature reviews, annotated bibliographies, conference preparation, and various stages of the research writing process. The recipient will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Proctor as a research assistant, developing critical research skills in the humanities, as well as the opportunity to work on writing an individual paper for publication in an undergraduate journal. The FYRA Scholarship recipient also will gain mentorship and guidance in several areas, including research presentation skills, writing proposals, archival research, scholarship review and citation, and academic publication. The FYRA Scholarship recipient will be encouraged to use these skills to develop their own project for potential publication or presentation at an undergraduate research conference. Recipients should have good critical thinking, reading, and/or writing skills and an interest in at least one of the following: biblical studies, history of Christianity, religious studies, gender studies, animal studies, or environmental history.