

Biblical and Theological Studies

Department Faculty

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Department Goals

To provide all students with general biblical and theological literacy and specifically with an understanding of the general content of biblical and theological truth in the Reformed tradition; to provide ways to arrive at that truth and its relevance for the Church and society.

To apply to all students, and specifically Biblical and Theological Studies (BTS) majors and minors, biblical and theological truth as the mold which transforms their hearts, renews their minds, and shapes their lives. To fit them with the lenses necessary for a biblical world and life view that paves the way to Kingdom activity in the Church and society, and to equip them with the biblical rationale for all their culture-related activities beginning with their understanding and appreciation of education from the perspective of the Christian faith.

To acquaint biblical studies majors and minors with the problems connected with biblical scholarship and the content of the Gospel over against the belief systems of the modern scene. To empower them with an effective means to communicate the Christian faith in the contemporary scene and to develop a biblically-based apologetic for that faith.

To encourage all students in general, and Biblical Studies majors and minors specifically, to maximize the development of their talents and skills and to seek the advance of the Kingdom of God in the choice and exercise of their professions. Specifically, to urge students with apparent qualifications and gifts for the ministry of the Gospel, whether in the United States or abroad, to consider the possibility of such calling.

In support of these goals, the department offers the following programs:

Majors:

- Biblical and Theological Studies
- Biblical and Theological Studies, Missions Concentration
- Philosophy and Religion (with the Philosophy Department)

Minors:

- Biblical and Theological Studies
- Biblical Languages
- Missions
- Youth Ministry

Teacher Certification

Students who desire teacher certification in Bible should complete a B.A. degree with a major in Bible, then enroll in the one-year Master of Arts in Teaching program at Covenant College. To ensure eligibility for entry to the M.A.T. program, it is recommended that you complete the Education Minor. (See page 78.) Two of the courses in the minor, EDU 222 Educational Psychology and EDU 361 Education of Exceptional Children, are *required* for admission to the program. This program leads to grades 6-12 teacher certification through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) only.

See Dr. Jim Drexler in Brock Hall 303 (jdrexler@covenant.edu) for more information.

Requirements for Major in Biblical and Theological Studies

The core and distribution requirements for a major in Biblical and Theological Studies are those listed for baccalaureate degrees on page 24, with the exception that either Greek (GRE 175-176. Elementary Greek I, II) or Hebrew (HEB 191-192. Elementary Hebrew I, II) are required to fulfill the foreign language requirement.

Core requirements	58
Electives.....	29

Major and Supporting Course Requirements

BIB 201. Current Issues in Biblical Studies 'W'	3
BIB 372. Hermeneutics.....	3
BIB 492. Senior Integration Paper 'S'	3

Church History Course: BIB 302 or 303. History & Expansion of Christianity I or II	3
Ethics Course: BIB 371. Christian Ethics, or BIB 322. Deuteronomy and Old Testament Ethics, or BIB 375. New Testament Ethics.....	3
Missions Course: BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture, or MIS 202. Theology of Missions, or MIS 203. Missionary Methods and Problems	3
New Testament Upper Division Book Study (BIB 346, 348, 349, 355, 358, 365, 377, 378).....	3
Old Testament Upper Division Book Study (BIB 322, 327, 329, 430, 432, 450).....	3
Upper Division BTS Dept. Elective	9
Upper Division Theology Course **	6
Total hours for the major	39
Total degree hours	126

** Theology electives include all the upper division courses listed under Theological Studies (Systematic and Historical) as well as World Religions and Alternative Religious Movements.

Biblical and Theological Studies Major with Concentration in Missions

The core and distribution requirements for a major in Biblical and Theological Studies with a Concentration in Missions are those listed for baccalaureate degrees on page 24, with the exception that the foreign language requirement may be fulfilled with either a biblical *or* modern foreign language.

Core requirements	58
Electives.....	29

Major and Supporting Course Requirements

BIB 201. Current Issues in Biblical Studies 'W'	3
BIB 302or303. History & Expansion of Christianity I or II. 3	3
BIB 372. Hermeneutics.....	3
BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture.....	3
BIB 492. Senior Integration Paper 'S'	3
CDV 210. Theory of Community Development.....	3
CDV 300. Living and Working in Multicultural Context	3
MIS 202. Theology of Missions	3
MIS 203. Missionary Methods and Problems	3
MIS 302 World Religions or MIS 303 Alternative Religious Movements	3
New Testament or Old Testament Upper Division Book Study.....	3

Upper Division Elective from among the following: CDV 310. Community Development Principles & Issues, or IDS 210. Introduction to Islam, or MIS 401. Missions Seminar, or MIS 404. Missions Practicum, or PSY 233. Cross-Cultural Psychology, or SOC 229. Cultural Anthropology, or SOC 341. The Family.....	3
Upper Division Theology Elective	3
Total hours for the major	39
Total degree hours	126

Requirements for Major in Philosophy and Religion

(Offered jointly with the Philosophy Department)

The core and distribution requirements for a major in Philosophy and Religion are those listed for baccalaureate degrees on page 24, with the exception that a course in history or literature is required to fulfill the humanities distribution requirement.

Core requirements	58
Electives.....	29 or 30

Major and Supporting Course Requirements

BIB 487. Modern Theology	3
BIB 492. or PHI 492. Senior Integration Paper 'S'	3 or 2
MIS 302. World Religions	3
PHI 101. Introduction to Philosophy 'W'	3
PHI 201. Classical to Renaissance or PHI 202. Modern to 19 th Century.....	3
PHI 253. Contemporary Analytic Philosophy or PHI 254. 20 th -Century Continental.....	3
PHI 301. Philosophical and Biblical Ethics or BIB 371. Christian Ethics.....	3
PHI 304. Philosophy of Religion.....	3
Philosophy electives: any philosophy courses.....	6
Religion electives: philosophical electives that are BIB courses * (see list below).....	6
Philosophical electives * (see list below).....	3
Total hours for the major	39 or 38
Total degree hours	126

* Philosophical electives:

Any PHI course and
BIB 302, 303, 372, 373, 376, 383, 386, 387, 388, 487;
BIO 315, COS 425, ECO 430, EDU 370, ENG 380, HIS 305, 399; IDS 310, 335; MAT 290, 360, 410, 470; MIS 302, MUS 372, PHY 351, PSY 306, 360; SOC 342, 402

Requirements for Minor in Biblical and Theological Studies

BIB 322. Deuteronomy and Old Testament Ethics, or	
BIB 371. Christian Ethics, or	
BIB 375. New Testament Ethics, or	
BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture	3
BIB 372. Hermeneutics	3
Biblical Studies elective.....	3
Missions or Theological Studies elective.....	<u>3</u>
Total hours for the minor.....	12

Requirements for Minor in Biblical Languages

GRE 175-176. Elementary Greek I, II	8
BIB 377-378. Intermediate Greek I, II.....	6
HEB 191-192. Elementary Hebrew I, II	8
Supervised Reading in Greek or Hebrew text	<u>1-3</u>
Total hours for the minor.....	23

Requirements for Minor in Missions

MIS 202. Theology of Missions, or	
MIS 203. Missionary Methods and Problems	3
MIS 302. World Religions or	
MIS 303. Alternative Religious Movements	3
Missions elective	3
Upper Division department elective	<u>3</u>
Total hours for the minor.....	12

Requirements for Minor in Youth Ministry

BIB 211. Introduction to Relational Youth Ministry	3
BIB 212. Preparing for Relational Youth Ministry Skills....	3
BIB 213. Team Relational Youth Ministry Practicum I.....	3
BIB 214. Team Relational Youth Ministry Practicum II.....	3
BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture, or	
BIB 371. Christian Ethics, or	
BIB 372. Hermeneutics, or	
SOC 249. Interpersonal Communication, or	
SOC 341. The Family, or	
SOC 347. Relational Counseling,	<u>3</u>
Total hours for the minor	15

Seminary Credit Available

Students who complete a Bible major at Covenant College may receive up to 17 semester hours of advanced standing

toward the M. Div. degree at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis. These hours may include:

- * Up to six semester hours each of Greek and/or Hebrew (evaluated by testing).

- * Three hours for ST360 Christian Ethics (for BIB. 372 Christian Ethics).

- * Three hours for CH310 or CH320 (for BIB. 383 History of the Christian Church).

- * Up to three hours of elective credit.

- * Two hours for WM310 God's World Mission (by completing a missions concentration or minor).

- * Students who complete a Bible major at Covenant College may receive up to 30 hours of advanced standing towards the M.A.T.S. degree at Covenant Seminary. (See the Seminary's Catalog or Website for further information.)

- * Students must earn a grade of "B-" or better in each specific Covenant College course listed above, as well as a cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all courses in the Bible major and Missions minor (if applicable).

- * Students seeking advanced standing should contact the Seminary Registrar before enrolling. Students must formally request that the Registrar's Office evaluate their transcripts for advanced standing.

Biblical Studies Courses

111. Old Testament Introduction

This course introduces the basic theological themes, chronological framework, and literary character of the Old Testament with a focus on Genesis – Kings. It aims to provide: 1) the foundations for theological interpretation of the Old Testament, giving special attention to the covenantal framework for redemptive history; and 2) an introduction to critical theories concerning the authorship, canonicity, integrity and dating of the documents. Three hours.

142. New Testament Introduction

The course will deal with 1) questions of introduction (authorship, canon, inspiration, integrity of the documents, dating, etc); 2) beginning hermeneutics; 3) inter-testamental history as a background to the New Testament, as well as 4) a study of the historical framework of the New Testament as a whole and key theological concepts. Three hours.

201. Current Issues in Biblical Studies

An introduction to the current state of scholarship in Old Testament and New Testament studies. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of theories and methods which characterize the discipline of Biblical Studies and learn how to evaluate and apply these methods with the goal of a faithful interpretation of the Scriptures. The course will focus on: 1) the intellectual environment out of which the theories arose, 2) their philosophical and theological presuppositions, 3) the strengths and weaknesses of each approach, 4) the application of the theories to Biblical texts,

and 5) a critique or constructive proposal for continued use. The course is designed as a 'W' course that focuses on writing in the field of biblical studies and the accepted methods of argument, style, and citation. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142. Three hours. 'W'

297. Special Topics

Opportunities for study in various topics of interest within the field of biblical, theological or missiological studies. Topics will be decided by the Biblical & Theological Studies faculty as need and interest arise. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142. Credit to be determined.

322. Deuteronomy and Old Testament Ethics

A thorough study of the book comparing its background and form in the light of ancient international treaties and showing how comprehensively it reveals the sovereign lordship of God over his people in ancient times with application to our own twenty-first century situation. The book of Deuteronomy is considered to be the most important for a complete understanding of the rest of the Old Testament. The course will also include the study of Old Testament ethics within the context of Deuteronomic law. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142; concurrently with 277 or 278. Three hours.

327. Psalms

A study of selected psalms as religious poetry. The course focuses on how to read a biblical psalm in light of its formal structures, conceptual metaphors, social setting, and ancient Near Eastern context, with the goal of applying the Psalms to contemporary spiritual theology. Some attention will also be given to the theology of the Psalter and its history of exegesis, especially the use of the Psalms in the New Testament. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142; concurrently with 277 or 278. Three hours.

329. Prophets of Israel

A comprehensive study of the Old Testament books of prophecy with special attention given to the nature and task of the prophetic role, the manner of interpreting the prophetic books, and their place in and effect upon the history of the Covenant. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142; concurrently with 277 or 278. Three hours.

346. John

Study of the authorship, date, purpose, historical background and application of the message of John to modern life and thought with emphasis on doctrinal and ethical teaching. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142, concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. Three hours.

348. Pauline Epistles

A study of the background and the theology of the Pauline Epistles. Lectures will examine both the individual books in the Pauline corpus, introductory questions about the letters of Paul and the structure of Pauline theology. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142; concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. Three hours.

349. Romans

A study of the doctrinal, spiritual, and ethical values in Romans designed to give the students an understanding of the divine plan of salvation. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142; concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. Three hours.

***355. Colossians and Ephesians**

An independent study of Paul's letters to the Colossians and Ephesians. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142; concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. Offered as a correspondence course. Three hours.

358. General Epistles

An introduction to and examination of Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II and III John and Jude. Each book will be studied to determine its own particular focus and what it adds to New Testament theology. Special consideration will be given to questions of introduction and cultural setting. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

365. Revelation and New Testament Eschatology

A study of the overall eschatological framework of the New Testament with a special emphasis on Pauline eschatology, and an examination of particular eschatological texts in the Gospels, epistles and the whole book of Revelation. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142. Three hours.

372. Hermeneutics

A study of the basic principles used to interpret Scripture. The goals of the course are to develop a comprehensive methodology of interpreting the Bible, to learn to evaluate different interpretive models, to acquire the ability to distinguish different genre in the Bible and the implications that has for interpretation, and to grow in obedience of mind and life, coming more completely under the authority of God's written Word. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

375. New Testament Ethics

An introduction to the field of NT ethics, focusing on the theological frameworks and pastoral concerns out of which the NT authors drew moral norms and the motivational structures that promoted those norms. This is a synthesizing course bringing together aspects of theology, biblical studies, ethics, and hermeneutics, with a special focus on how we read texts ethically. Topics covered in the course include: 1) the 'moral vision' of the NT, 2) character ethics

and character formation, 3) the ethical functions of different literary genres, 4) ethical systems in the Greco-Roman world, and 5) reading scripture as wisdom. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278.

377-378. Book Study in the Greek Text

The same course as GRE 277-278, but designed for upper-division students who wish to take it as either an upper-division New Testament book study or an upper-division departmental elective. Extra readings and written assignments will be given based on the particular books being translated. Prerequisites: GRE175, 176. Three hours each.

430. Isaiah

A study of the prophecy of Isaiah against its historical background with special consideration of the messianic prophecies. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142; concurrently with 277 or 278. Three hours.

432. Old Testament Theology

A synthesizing course which deals with the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament, including issues of methodology in studying OT themes, issues of continuity and discontinuity for the Christian believer, and current trends in the study of the Old Testament. Prerequisites: BIB 372 and one OT book study or instructor's permission. Three hours.

450. The Old Testament World

This course focuses on the cultural context of the world in which the Old Testament was written, with attention to its geographical, historical, sociological, religious, and literary horizons. It is oriented around archaeological artifacts and comparative literature in Biblical Israel and the ancient Near East. The goal is to determine how the iconography and literature of surrounding ancient Near Eastern cultures bears on faithful interpretation of the Old Testament as Scripture and impacts the faith and life of modern Christians. The course is reading-intensive. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

492. Senior Integration Paper in Biblical & Theological Studies

This course guides a student through the researching of a topic from the wide field of studies taught within the department. This paper, which is an important graduation requirement, is intended to exhibit the student's ability to write in an integrative fashion, i.e. bringing Biblical teaching to bear on all the other things we study. An oral presentation of the research undertaken will crown the semester. Three hours. 'S'

Theological Studies Courses

* Indicates may also be taken as a correspondence course.

*277-278. Christian Doctrine I, II

A survey of the major doctrines of the Christian faith. First semester investigates the biblical data on Scripture, God, man and Christ. Second semester investigates the biblical data on the Holy Spirit, salvation, Church and last things. The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms serve as guidelines and resources. Also offered by correspondence. Two semesters. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142. Three hours each.

302. History & Expansion of Christianity I

This course surveys the spread of Christianity from its Middle Eastern origin, its gradual modification from a Semitic to a largely Gentile movement, and its ever-closer identification with central and Western European territories. Special note is taken of the development of Christian doctrine, through the major debates which troubled the Early Church, and of the rise of the Roman papacy. The semester concludes with an examination of a more confident Christian church in medieval times: ready to attempt mission to North Africa, military crusades to the Middle East, and evangelization in the Western Hemisphere. Pre- or co-requisite: BIB 277 or 278. Cross-listed as HIS 312. Three hours. HUM

303. History & Expansion of Christianity II

This course surveys Christian history from the era of the European Renaissance and Reformation of the sixteenth century, the establishing of the Protestant tradition, the eventual Wars of Religion, the transmission of Christianity to the western hemisphere and Asia by trade, colonization, and the rise of the eighteenth century missionary movement. The effects on world Christianity of de-colonization and the major military conflicts of the twentieth century are especially noted. The future of Christianity as an increasingly non-Western and Global South movement will be noted in detail. Pre- or co-requisite: BIB 277 or 278. Cross-listed as HIS 313. Three hours. HUM

371. Christian Ethics

This course will outline a biblical framework for approaching ethical questions. We will examine various ethical methodologies, how the Church has addressed ethical questions at different times in history, and how contemporary Christians can develop a relevant approach to current ethical concerns. This class includes a general overview of how to use the Bible in ethics, including an extended discussion on the Ten Commandments. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

373. Christology

In this course the person and work of Christ are examined in far greater depth than is possible in Doctrine I. We explore the quest for the historical Jesus Christ and the Old Testament, and how Christology should influence all of our thinking. Early church fathers and contemporary biblical and theological scholars who reflect on core Christological questions are read. Additionally, guest speakers address such issues as Jesus in art, music, and film. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture

A study of the biblical foundations of the church's apologetic to the unbelieving world with special attention given to the defense of the faith in evangelistic encounter. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

*383. History of the Christian Church

A historical survey of the life and thought of the Christian church in its political and social environment. Attention will be focused on critical periods of the church's development such as its early formation within the Roman Empire, its role in medieval civilization, the sixteenth-century reform, revival movements, modern Catholicism, and ecumenism. Course work will stress source reading and the composition of a research essay. Also listed as HIS 311. Prerequisite: BIB 277. Co-requisite: BIB 278. Three hours. By correspondence only.

384. History of the Early Church

A study of the historical and theological formation of the early church (C.E. 30-600). Emphasis will be placed on the major theological controversies of the period, and the development of church government. The role of women in the early church will also be discussed. Students will be challenged to understand early Christianity within the context of the social, political, and spiritual climate of the Roman world. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

386. Renaissance and Reformation

The course will examine Europe in the 14th through 16th centuries in which there occurred simultaneously three great movements: the cultural and literary Renaissance emanating from Italy, the European reconnaissance of the world's oceans pioneered by Portugal and Spain, and the Reformation of the Christian religion sparked by the Lutheran movement. Emphasis will be placed on the social setting common to all. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Also listed as HIS 339. Three hours.

387. John Calvin and the Reformed Tradition

An examination of the career of John Calvin (1509-64), the development of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* from 1536 to 1559 and the unfolding of the Reformed tradition to the year 1700. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

388. Awakenings in Christian History

The course aims to investigate the way in which the Christian church has passed through declines and advances. The declines have often ended and advances come through powerful resurgences and awakenings. We will aim to identify these movements, their frequency, their leaders and principles illustrated by their recurrence. We will also attempt to evaluate reports of such awakenings in our time. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278. Three hours.

397. Special Topics

Opportunities for study in various topics of interest within the fields of biblical, theological or missiological studies. Topics will be decided by the Biblical and Theological Studies faculty as need and interest may arise. Prerequisites: BIB 111, 142. Credit to be determined.

399. Independent Study

See page 30 for requirements. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278.

486. Trinitarian Theology

An in-depth biblical, historical, and theological study of the doctrine of the Trinity investigating how Scripture indicates that we worship the Triune God. In order to understand this complex, but vitally important truth, students will do extensive readings in and about the early Fathers (e.g., Augustine, Gregory of Nazianzus), the medieval theologians (e.g., Richard of St. Victor), Reformation and Post-Reformation thought and contemporary theologians (e.g., Rahner, Zizioulas, Moltmann.). We will consider the 20th century renaissance in Trinitarian studies (e.g., Gunton), discussing some key issues that have arisen. Some debates that will be discussed throughout the course will include: inclusive God-language, immanent and economic trinitarian distinctions, Rahner's rule, prayer, *filioque*, etc. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278; and one theology course from BIB 302, 303, 371, 373, 383 or 384. Three hours.

487. Modern Theology

This course is a research seminar which explores post-Kantian theologians and theological movements. Certain theologians such as Barth, Pannenberg, Boff, and Gunton will be studied in some detail. A research paper will be required. Prerequisites: BIB 277 and 278. Three hours.

Missions Courses

202. Theology of Missions

A study of biblical and extra-biblical covenants will be made to see the importance of the covenant concept to the revelation of redemption; the basis of missions as lying in a covenant-centered theology of missions; the doctrines of election, atonement, love of God, common grace, and free offer of the gospel in relation to missions. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142. Three hours.

203. Missionary Methods and Problems

Methods of conducting the missionary effort in foreign countries will be studied in relation to such matters as communications, elenctics, identification, unacceptable accommodation, the support and government of local churches, the problem of church and state, and various types of missionary endeavors. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142. Three hours.

301. History of Missions

The purpose of this course is to interpret missiologically the history of the church worldwide and to apply the insights which emerge to present day strategies of missions. Doctrines, methods, and the dynamics of expansion will be studied as will the means of renewal and the structures of missions. Prerequisites: BIB 277, and with BIB 278 at least concurrently if not completed. Three hours.

302. World Religions

An analytical and critical appraisal of the major non-Christian religious ideologies of animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Islam, and Judaism. Emphasis will be placed on the world and life views with which their followers confront the missionary. Prerequisites: BIB 277 and 278. Three hours.

303. Alternative Religious Movements

Alternative Religious Movements (ARM) is a critical study of modern cults active in America today. Attention is given to their origins and history as well as their distinctive theological positions. The standard cults are discussed (e.g. Jehovah's Witness, Mormon, Christian Science) as well as more recent ones (e.g. New Age Movement, Apocalyptic Cults). These cults are evaluated from the Protestant, evangelical view. Prerequisites: BIB 277 and 278. Three hours.

404. Missions Practicum

Students may receive up to three hours of credit for work done in connection with a variety of summer service programs sponsored by Mission to the World (the foreign missions agency of the Presbyterian Church in America) or other approved agencies. Requirements vary according to the agency and project. One, two, or three hours.

Ministry Courses

211. Introduction to Relational Youth Ministry

Examines the biblical basis for youth ministry and helps students understand the dynamics and philosophies of relational youth ministry. This is a foundational course which focuses on the biblical model and the cultural need for quality Christian relationships. Personal contact and observation of local youth ministries helps students to identify levels of relationships, styles, philosophies, and

types of ministry available as they seek to understand their own call toward youth. Three hours.

212. Preparing for Relational Youth Ministry Skills

A practical course designed to draw each student into a closer look at relationships and characteristics that lead to quality friendships, and to teach practical skills needed by people wishing to take relational ministry to teenagers. Prerequisite: BIB 211. Three hours.

213. Team Relational Youth Ministry Practicum I

This course gets students involved in a youth ministry in the community, the instructor interacting with them as individuals and as a group with regard to training, adjustment, time pressures, and commitment. Prerequisites: BIB 211 and 212. Three hours.

214. Team Relational Youth Ministry Practicum II

Prerequisites: BIB 211, 212, and 213. Three hours.