Biblical and Theological Studies

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 heart, renews their mind, 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 profession. 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:

**Major and Supporting Course Requirements**

- BIB 371. Ethics .......................................................... 3
- BIB 372. Hermeneutics ............................................... 3
- BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture ‘S’ .......... 3
- BIB 383. History of the Christian Church ..................... 3
- BIB 492. Senior Integration Paper ............................ 3
- Language – GRE 176-176 Elementary Greek I, II or HEB 191-192 Elementary Hebrew I, II ................. 8
- MIS 202. Theology of Missions .................................. 3
- O.T. Upper Division Book Study .................................. 3
- N.T. Upper Division Book Study .................................. 3
- Upper Division Theological Studies Course ................. 3
- Upper Division Theological Studies Course ................. 3
- An Upper Division Dept. Elective ............................... 3
- Major requirements subtotal .................................... 44
- Grand total ............................................................. 126

Pre-seminarians are strongly urged to take the following additional courses:
- ENG 304. Advanced Composition ............................... 2
- A second year of Greek ............................................. 6
- A philosophy course ................................................ 3
- Appropriate courses in psychology and/or sociology .... 6

**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 22, with the following exception:

Instead of the general requirement of 8 hours of language, 8 hours of elementary Greek or Hebrew are required.

Core requirements ................................................. 53
Electives ................................................................. 29

- Youth Ministry
- Associate of Arts (A.A.)
- Biblical and Theological Studies
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 22, with the following exception:

Instead of the general requirement of 8 hours of language, 8 hours of elementary Greek or Hebrew are required. However, these languages may be replaced by another foreign language, with special permission.

Core requirements ...............................................................53
Electives..............................................................................29

Major and Supporting Course Requirements

**BIB 371. Christian Ethics** ......................................................3
**BIB 372. Hermeneutics** ......................................................3
**BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture ‘S’** .................3
**BIB 383. History of the Christian Church or BIB 301. History of Missions** ...........................................................3
**BIB 492. Senior Integration Paper** ........................................3
Language – GRE 176-176 Elementary Greek I, II or HEB 191-192 Elementary Hebrew I, II ...................................8
**MIS 202. Theology of Missions** ...........................................3
**MIS 203. Missionary Methods** ...........................................3
**MIS 380. Evangelism** ..........................................................3
SOC 341. The Family ...........................................................3
Upper Division OT/NT Book Study .........................................3
Upper Division Mission Elective ...........................................3
Upper Division Mission Elective ...........................................3
Major requirements subtotal ........................................... 44
Grand total .................................................................126

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 22, with the following exception:

A course in art, literature or music is required to fulfill the requirement for the humanities.

Core requirements ...............................................................61
Electives..............................................................................27

Major and Supporting Course Requirements

**BIB 302. World Religions** ..................................................3
**BIB 487. Modern Theology** .............................................3
**PHI 101. Introduction to Philosophy** ................................3
**PHI 201. Classical to Renaissance or PHI 202. Modern to 19th Century** .............................................3
**PHI 253. Contemporary Analytic Philosophy or PHI 254. 20th-Century Continental** ..................................3
**PHI 301. Philosophical and Biblical Ethics or BIB 371. Biblical Ethics** ...........................................3
**PHI 304. Philosophy of Religion** ........................................3
**BIB 492. or PHI 492. Senior Integration Paper ‘S’** ...... 3 or 2
Philosophy electives (PHI courses) ........................................6
Religion electives (300 level or higher BIB courses that are not studies of biblical books) ................................6
Philosophy or Religion electives (a PHI, BIB or IDS course above the 300 level) ................................... 3
Total................................................................................ 38

Requirements for Minor in Biblical and Theological Studies

**BIB 371. Christian Ethics or BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture** ...........................................3
**BIB 372. Hermeneutics** ......................................................3
**BIB 301. History of the Christian Church** or **BIB 302. Theology of Missions** ...........................................3
**MIS 202 or 203** ................................................................3
**MIS 302 or 303** ................................................................3
Missions elective .................................................................3
Total................................................................................ 12

Requirements for Minor in Missions

**Upper division department elective** .....................................3
**MIS 201 or 202** ................................................................3
**MIS 302 or 303** ................................................................3
Missions elective .................................................................3
Total................................................................................ 12

Requirements for Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical and Theological Studies

Core Requirements

(For details, see page 26)
**BIB 111 or 129. Old Testament** .........................................3
**BIB 142 or 148. New Testament** .........................................3
COR 100. The Christian Mind .............................................. 2
COR 225-226. Cultural Heritage of the West I, II ................. 6
COR 227. Art and Music in the Cultural Heritage of the West ... 2
ENG 111. English Composition ........................................... 3
HIS 325. Twentieth-Century World History ......................... 3
Laboratory Science .......................................................... 4
Mathematics ..................................................................... 4
PE 151-152. Physical Education ........................................... 3
Social Science Elective ...................................................... 3
  Core requirements subtotal ........................................... 36

Area of Concentration
BIB 277-278. Christian Doctrine I, II .................................. 6
BIB 372. Hermeneutics ....................................................... 3
BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture or
  BIB 380. Evangelism ....................................................... 3
BIB 383. History of the Christian Church or
  MIS 301. History of Missions ........................................... 3
  Department electives (upper division BIB or MIS ) .......... 6
  Missions course ........................................................... 3
  Electives ........................................................................ 3
  Concentration subtotal .................................................. 27
  Grand total ................................................................ 63

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 380. Evangelism, or SOC. 249. Interpersonal Communication, or SOC 347. Relational Counseling .... 3
  Total ........................................................................... 15

Non-Certification Secondary Education Minor in Bible
(Biblical and Theological Studies Major)

This program is designed to prepare teachers of Bible for grades 6-12. This is not a certification program (Georgia does not certify in Bible), but the professional education courses are taken, including the student teaching practicums.

An alternative to this program would be to combine a Bible major with the 15-credit Non-Certification Education Minor described in the Education Department section of the catalog.

Core Requirements

Biblical Basis
BIB 111 or 129. Old Testament ........................................... 3
BIB 142 or 148. New Testament .......................................... 3
BIB 277-278. Christian Doctrine ......................................... 6

Tools for Learning
ENG 111. English Composition ........................................... 3
  Must be completed during first year at Covenant.
  Exemption permitted with credit from AP language/composition.
Elementary Greek .............................................................. 8
Technology course (This requirement met by Professional Education course requirement EDU 215. Technology for Educators listed below.)

Natural Creation
Laboratory Science ............................................................. 4
Mathematics ...................................................................... 4

Cultural Contexts
COR 100. The Christian Mind ............................................. 2
COR 225-226. Cultural Heritage of the West I, II ................. 6
COR 227. Art and Music in the Cultural Heritage of the West ... 2
HIS 325. Twentieth-Century World History ......................... 3
COR 325. Global Trends for the 21st Century ....................... 3
Social Science Elective ....................................................... 3
COR 337. Intercultural Experience ..................................... 1
COR 340. Christ and Culture Seminar ................................ 1

Physical Education
PE 151. Concepts in Physical Education ............................. 2
PE 152. Aerobics .............................................................. 1
  General education core subtotal ................................... 55

Major and Supporting Course Requirements

BIB 371. Christian Ethics .................................................... 3
BIB 372. Hermeneutics ....................................................... 3
BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture ....................... 3
BIB 383. History of the Church ........................................... 3
MIS 202. Theology of Missions .......................................... 3
BIB 492. Senior Integration Paper ...................................... 3
O.T. Upper Division Book Study ....................................... 3
N.T. Upper Division Book Study ....................................... 3
Upper Division Theological Studies Course ...................... 6
An Upper Division Dept. Elective .................................... 6
  Major Requirements Subtotal ..................................... 36

Professional Education
EDU 215. Technology for Educators .................................. 3
EDU 221. Introduction to Teaching ......................................3
EDU 222. Educational Psychology .......................................3
EDU 234. Teaching in a Pluralistic Society..........................3
EDU 322. Nature and Needs of the Early Adolescent Learner ..................................................3
EDU 340. Curriculum and Methods in the Secondary School ..............................................................4
EDU 361. Education of Exceptional Children ......................3
EDU 370. History and Philosophy of American Education ......................................................................3
EDU 411. Educational Assessment……………………………………1
EDU 497-498. Teaching Practicums I & II – Secondary...15
EDU 491. Student Teaching Seminar .................................. 1
Professional education subtotal ...................................... 42
Grand total.........................................................................133

Note: COR 337. Intercultural Experience may be taken for 0-3 credit units. In addition, it is possible to be exempt from taking math and/or English composition courses. Total number of credit units required for graduation is 126.

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 units 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 Web site 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
All upper-division elective book studies courses will satisfy ‘W’ course criteria.

111. Old Testament Literature: Pentateuch and Historical Books
The course will deal with 1) questions of introduction (authorship, canon, inspiration, integrity of the documents, dating, etc); 2) beginning hermeneutics with special reference to the Pentateuch and historical books; and 3) the historical framework of the Old Testament with considerable attention given to Old Testament theology and the nature and history of the Covenant. Three units.

129. Old Testament Literature: The Prophetic Books
A comprehensive study of the Old Testament books of prophecy with special attention given to the nature and task of the prophetic office, the manner of interpreting the prophetic books, and their place in and effect upon the history of the Covenant. Recommended for students who have given evidence of good knowledge of the history of Israel. Three units.

The course will deal with 1) questions of introduction (authorship, canon, inspiration, integrity of the documents, dating, etc); 2) beginning hermeneutics with special reference to the Gospels and Acts; 3) inter-testamental history as a background to the gospels; as well as 4) a study of the four Gospels and the book of Acts with special emphasis on the message and ministry of Christ, the synoptic concept of the Kingdom, and the growth of the early church. Three units.

A study of the background and the theology of the Pauline Epistles. Lectures will examine both the history of the inter-testamental period, devoting special attention to developments of significance to the Pauline era, and the structure of Pauline theology. Reading assignments will cover special introduction to the various Pauline Epistles. Three units.

297. Special Topics
Opportunities for study in various topics of interest within the field of biblical studies. These may be short-term courses offered during the semester or during the summer term. Topics will be decided by the Biblical Studies and Missions faculty as need and interest arise. Credit to be determined. Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and 142 or 148.

311. Pentateuchal and Historical Studies
Same as 111, but designed for upper-division students who wish to take it as an elective. Extra reading assignments will be given. Three units.
322. Deuteronomy
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 twentieth-century situation. The book of Deuteronomy is considered to be the most important for a complete understanding of the rest of the Old Testament. Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and 142 or 148; concurrently with 277 or 278. Three units.

327. Psalms
A study of selected Psalms of the Old Testament scriptures, showing the variety of themes and discussing the moods of the authors as affected by their historical situation. Different forms of poetic expressions in the Psalms will be examined. Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and 142 or 148; concurrently with 277 or 278. Three units.

329. Prophets of Israel
Same as 129, but designed for upper-division students who wish to take it as an elective. Extra reading assignments will be given. Three units.

342. The Gospels and Acts
Same as 142, but designed for upper-division students who wish to take it as an elective. Extra reading assignments will be given. Three units.

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. Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and 142 or 148; concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. Three units.

348. Pauline Epistles
The same course as 148 described previously, but designed for upper-division students who wish to take it as an elective. Extra reading assignments will be given. Three units.

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. Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and 142 or 148; concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. Three units.

355. Colossians and Ephesians
Offered as a correspondence course. Three units.

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 and 278. Three units.

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 a Bible elective. Extra readings and written assignments will be given based on the particular books being translated. Three units each.

430. Isaiah
A study of the prophecy of Isaiah against its historical background with special consideration of the messianic prophecies. Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and 142 or 148; concurrently in 277 or 278. Three units.

433. 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. Prerequisite: BIB 372 and one OT book study or instructor’s permission. Three units.

458. 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. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278. Three units.

492. Senior Integration Paper in Biblical Studies
Three units.

493. Biblical Studies Seminar
A course designed to provide opportunity to apply research methods and to engage in intensive study of biblical subjects under the supervision of one or more professors in the department. The subject matter will vary each year according to the particular interests and emphasis of the professor or professors. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278. Three units.
Theological Studies Courses
All upper-division elective theological studies courses will satisfy ‘W’ course criteria.

*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. Two semesters. Three units each. Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and 142 or 148.

280. Theology and Ministry Conference
This course requires a student to attend an extended conference, approved by faculty, on issues in theology and/or Christian ministry. The student will be required to do guided reading in advance of the conference and to prepare a reflection paper following. The course may be repeated to a maximum of three conferences on theology or ministry. Normally, a Covenant BTS faculty member will also attend the conference. Prerequisite: BIB 277 or 278 completed or in progress. One unit.

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 and 278. Three units.

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 and 278. Three units. ‘S’

*383. History of the Christian Church
A one-semester 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. Co-requisite: BIB 278. Prerequisite: BIB 277. Three units.

*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. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278. Three units.

386. Europe in 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. Prerequisite BIB 277 and 278. Also listed as HIS 339. Three units.

389. Seminar on John Calvin and His Institutes
An examination of the career of John Calvin as the basis for an understanding of the development of the Institutes of the Christian Religion from 1536 to 1559. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278. Three units.

397. Special Topics
The same type of course as BIB 297, but designed for upper-division students both in content and in level of instruction. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278. Credit to be determined.

399. Independent Study
See page 31 for requirements. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278.

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 units.

495. Theological Studies Seminar
A course designed to provide opportunity to practice applying research methods and to engage in intensive study of theological subjects under the supervision of one or more professors in the department. The subject matter will vary
each year according to the particular interests and emphasis
of the professor or professors. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and
278. Three units.

* May also be taken as a correspondence course.

**Missions Courses**

201. Introduction to Missions
Perspectives on the world Christian movement which raise
the main issues, goals and practices of missions today.
Discussions will range from the participation of the local
church in missions to culture shock for first-term
missionaries or international students in the USA.
Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and 142 or 148. Three units.

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. Prerequisite: BIB
111 or 129, and 142 or 148. Three units.

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. Prerequisite: BIB 111 or 129, and
142 or 148. Three units.

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. Three units.

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. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and
278. Three units.

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 Witnesses, Mormons, Christian Science) as well
as more recent ones (e.g. New Age Movement, Apocalyptic
Cults). These cults are evaluated from the Protestant,
evangelical view. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278. Three
units.

380. Evangelism
A study of the message and methods of evangelism, as well
as the requirements for effectiveness. Special emphasis on
field work. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278. Three units.

401. Missions Seminar
A course designed to engage in intensive study of one of the
areas of missiology such as church growth, missionary
anthropology, worldviews, ecumenism, history of missions
or theology of missions. Study papers and discussions will
form the basis for evaluation. Prerequisite: BIB 277, 278 and
MIS 202. Three units.

404 (204). Missions Practicum
Students may receive up to three units 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 units.

**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
observations of local youth ministries help students to
identify levels of relationships, styles and philosophies, and
types of ministry available as they seek to understand their
own call toward youth. Three units.

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 units.

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. Prerequisite:
BIB 211 and 212. Three units.
214. Team Relational Youth Ministry Practicum II
Prerequisite: BIB 211, 212, and 213. Three units.

380. Evangelism
A study of the message and methods of evangelism, as well as the requirements for effectiveness. Special emphasis on field work. Prerequisite: BIB 277 and 278. Three units.