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 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

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 exception that either GRE 175.-176. Elementary Greek I, II or HEB 191.-192. Elementary Hebrew I, II are required to fulfill the foreign language requirement.

Core requirements .............................................................. 58
Electives ............................................................................. 32

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 383. History of the Christian Church, or MIS 301. History of Missions......................... 3
Ethics Course: BIB 371. Christian Ethics, or
BIB 322. Deuteronomy..................................................... 3
Missions Course: BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture, or MIS 202. Theology of Missions, or
MIS 203. Missionary Methods ........................................ 3
New Testament Upper Division Book Study
(e.g. BIB 346, 349) ............................................................. 3
Old Testament Upper Division Book Study
(e.g. BIB 322, 327) ............................................................. 3
Upper Division BTS Dept. Elective ....................................... 6
Upper Division Theology Course **.................................. 6
Total hours for the major ............................................... 36
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.

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
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 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 372. Hermeneutics .........................................................3
BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture ‘S’ .....................3
BIB 492. Senior Integration Paper ........................................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 301. History of Missions ..............................................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:
Introduction to Islam, or
MIS 401. Missions Seminar, or
MIS 404. Missions Practicum or
SOC 229. Cultural Anthropology, or
SOC 341. The Family ....................................................3
Upper Division Theology Elective ........................................2
Total hours for the major ................................................39
Total degree hours .....................................................126

Requirements for Minor in Biblical and Theological Studies

BIB 371. Biblical Ethics .......................................................3
BIB 372. Hermeneutics .........................................................3
BIB 376. Outreach to Contemporary Culture ......................3
Bible “Book study” course ...................................................3
Elective in Missions ............................................................3
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 ....................1-3
Total hours for the minor ...............................................23
Requirements for Minor in Missions

MIS 202. Theology of Missions, or  
MIS 203. Missionary Methods ........................................3  
MIS 302. World Religions or  
MIS 303. Alternative Religious Movements .....................3  
Missions elective.................................................................. 3  
Upper Division department elective..................................... 3  
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,....................................................................... 3  
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 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 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

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

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 units.

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 units.

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. Three Units. ‘W’

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 & Theological Studies 
faculty as need and interest arise. Credit to be determined. 
Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142.

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. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142 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. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142, concurrently with 277 or 278. Three units.

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 office, the manner of interpreting the prophetic books, and their place in and effect upon the history of the Covenant. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142, concurrently with 277 or 278. 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. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142, concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. Three units.

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 and 142, concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. 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. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142; concurrently with BIB 277 or 278. Three units.

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

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. Prerequisite: Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142; BIB 277 and 278. 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. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142; concurrently with 277 or 278. Three units.

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 units.

492. Senior Integration Paper in Biblical 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 units. ‘S’

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. Prerequisites: 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. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142.

**280. Theology and Ministry Conference**

This course requires the 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.

**373. Christology**

In this course the person and work of Christ are examined in far greater depth than is possible in Doctrine 1. 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 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.

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

**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 and 278. Also listed as HIS 339. Three units.

**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 and 278. Three units.

**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 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. Prerequisites: BIB 277 and 278. Credit to be determined.
399. Independent Study  
See page 32 for requirements. Prerequisites: 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. Prerequisites: BIB 277 and 278. Three units.

**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 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. Prerequisites: BIB 111 and 142. 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. Prerequisites: BIB 277, and with BIB 278 at least concurrently if not completed. 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. Prerequisites: 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 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 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. Prerequisites: BIB 277, 278 and MIS 202. Three units.

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

- May also be taken as a correspondence course.