

# BIBLE/THEOLOGY (BITH)

## **BITH 211. Old Testament Literature and Interpretation. (4 Credits)**

Equips students to understand the Old Testament as literature in its ancient historical context and to relate the message of the Old Testament to the contemporary world. Courses in this area will introduce students to the historical and geographical setting, cultural context, and transmission of the Old Testament. Courses will also facilitate direct engagement with the OT book-by-book, with special emphasis given to questions of genre, literary structure, and theology. This course will enable students to describe and evaluate approaches to biblical interpretation, and will encourage students to embrace the teaching of the OT as part of the Christian Bible.

**General Education:** SHAR

## **BITH 213. New Testament Literature and Interpretation. (4 Credits)**

An overview of the New Testament, tracing its teaching with respect to historical background, literary character, and theological influence.

**General Education:** SHAR

## **BITH 215. Bible and Theology: Word Written and Word Incarnate. (2 Credits)**

This course enables students to think more deeply about God, the Bible, and their life of discipleship to Jesus Christ. Students will learn how to read and teach the Bible with clarity and insight, and they will reflect on important Christian doctrines with the aim growing in love for God and their neighbors. (Open to Wheaton College Summer Institute students only)

## **BITH 221. Old Testament Literature in Three Traditions. (4 Credits)**

An overview of the redemptive narrative of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament emphasizing its message and themes with respect to historical background and literary character, and exploring its place in the three monotheistic religions tracing their origins to Abraham—Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Meets General Education requirement in Old Testament.

**General Education:** SHAR

## **BITH 261. Holy Lands: Ancient and Modern. (2 Credits)**

This course is required for all participants in the Summer, Wheaton in the Holy Lands program. The course engages both the ancient and modern milieu of Israel/Palestine, beginning with the period of the Second Temple. The course will also introduce key developments in Christian Theology, in particular the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of Christology in their historical, ecclesial, and practical transformations from the early Christian context in Greco-Roman eastern Mediterranean to the formulations of the creedal definitions that frame historic Christianity. Pre or Corequisite: Commitment to the summer WiHL program.

## **BITH 301. How We Got the Bible. (4 Credits)**

This course investigates the historical process by which the Christian Bible reached its final (canonical) form. Attention is paid to questions of composition, textual transmission, and canonization. The course focuses on the Old Testament and the New Testament, and it also addresses Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical literature and related sources as they pertain to the biblical canon. Emphasis is placed on manuscript evidence for the text of the Bible and primary sources that testify to the process of canon formation. The course also involves theological reflection on the biblical canon. Prerequisite: BITH 211, BITH 213, BITH 221, BITH 312 or ARCH 211 or ARCH 213.

**Tags:** HP

## **BITH 311. Archaeology of Biblical Lands. (4 Credits)**

A survey of archaeological and historical materials of Biblical Lands from prehistoric times through the Iron Age. Special attention is given to understanding the material culture of each period and the interface of biblical sources with these periods where appropriate. Four hours lecture, two hours laboratory. Prerequisite: ARCH 211.

**Tags:** HP, SI

## **BITH 312. Old Testament in the Holy Lands. (4 Credits)**

A study of the Old Testament integrated with field studies designed to introduce the student to the historical, geographical, and cultural settings of the Old Testament in locations where the events recorded occurred.

**General Education:** SHAR

## **BITH 314. Reading the Bible with the Asian and Asian American Church. (4 Credits)**

A survey and discussion of the biblical interpretation, hermeneutics, and biblical theology stemming from the church in Asia and from the Asian American diaspora. Particular attention will be paid to issues surrounding poverty, justice, colonization, race, and ethics in biblical interpretation done from and for Asian and Asian American contexts.

**Tags:** DUS, GP

## **BITH 315. Christian Thought. (4 Credits)**

An investigation into the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or 221 or ARCH 211; or BITH 213 or ARCH 213 or BITH 317. Philosophy majors are encouraged to take BITH 374 instead of this course.

**General Education:** SHAR

## **BITH 317. The New Testament in the Holy Lands. (4 Credits)**

A study of the New Testament integrated with field studies designed to introduce the student to the historical, geographical, cultural, and religious settings of the New Testament in locations where the events recorded occurred and were composed. This is a Wheaton in the Holy Lands/Shared Core course.

**General Education:** SHAR

## **BITH 318. Christian Theology in the Holy Lands. (4 Credits)**

An exploration of the core beliefs of the Christian faith with special emphasis on the role of the ancient church in its historical contexts in the development of Christian thought and practice. This is a Wheaton in the Holy Lands/Shared Core Course. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or ARCH 211 or BITH 221; and BITH 213 or ARCH 213. Corequisite: BITH 317.

**General Education:** SHAR

## **BITH 319. Colonialism and Redemption: Native American Culture and Theology from 1492 to Wounded Knee. (2 Credits)**

An interdisciplinary course designed to explore the Native American experience through the lens of historical anthropology and theology. The course explores the experience and perspectives of the Native inhabitants of "Turtle Island" from the beginning of the colonial era up to the present day. The course also examines the role of Scripture, theology, and the Church during the time of European expansion across North America and the current relationship between First Nations peoples and Christianity, including developments in Native Christian theology. Meetings with Native Americans are part of the course. The themes of "colonialism" and "redemption" will bind together this theological, anthropological, and personal exploration. Course is offered occasionally.

## **BITH 321. Methods in Comparative Religious Studies. (2 Credits)**

This course surveys current methodologies in comparative religious studies such as the theology of religions, comparative theology, and missiology. This course is a Core Requirement for the Religions of the World Certificate.

**BITH 322. Theology and the Arts. (4 Credits)**

This course explores the relationship between Christian theology and the arts in order to cultivate a theological vision for the arts that considers both how the particular claims of the Christian faith inform our understanding of the arts and how the arts contribute to the shaping of our faith. Topics will include the arts in Scripture, church history, and theological reflection. Questions to be considered include the relationship between divine creation and human creativity, how the incarnation of Christ transforms our understanding of artistic activity, and how humanity may be inspired to glorify God through the arts. Depending upon the particular version of the course, examples of the arts to be assessed include visual art, music, theater, film, dance, sculpture, and architecture.

**BITH 323. Literature of the Bible. (4 Credits)**

An understanding of the Bible is not only essential for the Christian life, but an interdisciplinary knowledge of the Bible is indispensable for understanding world institutions, art, and literature. A sweeping panorama that covers the whole canvas of the ancient world, the Bible takes in vast tracts of geography, history, and culture. Its scope looks back to a pre-recorded past at time's beginning and looks forward to history's end. Across its pages, a record of divine and human interaction unfolds in narratives, moral instruction, prophecy, praise, history, wisdom literature, love poetry, and apocalypse. Its genres proliferate across a progressive revelation as the heart of God expresses itself in all major literary forms we still have today. Understanding that literary language and those literary forms is a key to understanding the Bible's message. This course covers the Bible not only within its historical and cultural context, but especially in its unique literary character. Students explore the import that meaning holds for an understanding of God and his acts in this world and trace the Bible's lasting influence on subsequent art and literature.

**Tags:** LE

**BITH 325. Biblical Interpretation and Hermeneutics. (4 Credits)**

A survey of hermeneutical theory discussing past and current views of how author, text, reader, and context contribute to the communication of textual meaning. These insights will be applied to the Bible, giving the student an interpretive strategy for exegeting the biblical text and appropriating it for the contemporary church, as well as an approach to synthesizing one's interpretive work in formulating biblical-theological themes. Basic approaches for doing biblical theology and theological interpretation will be summarized and illustrated. The course is open to non-majors and is a prerequisite for all 400 level Biblical Studies courses. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; or BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**BITH 326. Biblical Foundations of Worship. (4 Credits)**

An examination of worship in the Bible, both Old and New Testament, with a view to developing a theology of worship that is consistent with the teachings of Scripture. Special attention will be given to the role of sign and symbol and the place of visual arts in Christian worship. The course will also explore the interface between the discipline of Positive Psychology and Christian religious belief and practice, especially as it relates to worship and spiritual formation. Undergraduate students, Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; or BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**Tags:** SI, VPAV

**BITH 327. Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers. (2 Credits)**

A study of the reception, transmission, and interpretation of Scripture within the early church (2nd to 6th centuries). Emphasis will be placed on the historical context of patristic exegesis, the relationship between scripture and tradition, and questions of hermeneutics. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; or BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**BITH 329. Christian Thought in Korea. (4 Credits)**

An investigation into the basic beliefs of the Christian faith, with special attention to their implications in Korea. Fulfills the Christian Theology general education requirement. Only offered as part of Wheaton in Korea. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or ARCH 211; OR BITH 213 or ARCH 213 or BITH 317.

**General Education:** SHAR

**BITH 332. Ruth & Esther. (4 Credits)**

A detailed study of the books of Ruth and Esther, giving special attention to historical background, literary analysis, theological emphases, ancient and traditional Jewish and Christian interpretations, recent ideological interpretations, and contemporary application. This course counts towards the Gender Studies Certificate Program. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or BITH 221 or BITH 312 or ARCH 211.

**Tags:** LE

**BITH 333. Historical Geography. (2 Credits)**

Surveys the geographical, historical, religious and archaeological material of biblical Israel and Second Temple Judaism as well as the earliest Christian communities in the Greco-Roman world. Classroom lectures are supplemented by regional studies with overnight field studies, on-site lectures and relevant preparation (map work, biblical readings, etc.). Attention is given to (1) key OT and NT historical events and their geographical location, especially in Jerusalem, Galilee, the Shephelah, Jordan Valley, Negev, and the Dead Sea region, and (2) key NT historical events and their geographical location, especially in Italy (Rome), Greece (e.g., Philippi, Delphi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Athens), and modern Turkey (e.g., Ephesus, Istanbul, Pergamum, Smyrna, Laodicea). Su only.

**BITH 334. Historical Geography. (2 Credits)**

A study of selected biblical episodes which are enriched when understood in the context of Near Eastern history and Palestinian geography. Prerequisite: BITH 211, 221 or 312, or ARCH 211.

**BITH 335. Old Testament Topics. (4 Credits)**

Study of an Old Testament portion or theme. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or BITH 221 or BITH 312 or ARCH 211.

**BITH 338. Genesis 1-11. (2 Credits)**

A study of the foundational chapters for the Old and New Testaments. The central themes of creation, God, humanity, the fall, redemption, judgment, and covenant will be investigated in detail. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or BITH 221 or BITH 312, or ARCH 211.

**BITH 339. Topics in Perennial Theological Questions. (4 Credits)**

This course is an in-depth philosophical study of a particular doctrine, figure, or topic. This course may be repeated for different topics. Course is offered occasionally.

**Tags:** PI

**BITH 341. Exodus. (2 Credits)**

The exodus event is as central to OT theology as the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to NT theology. The historical and theological implications of this book will be examined, with special emphasis given to the covenant between God and Israel. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211.

**BITH 342. Majority World Theology. (4 Credits)**

Readings and discussions on the task of biblical interpretation and theological reflection in the context of World Christianity. The course will focus on emerging theological trends in one region, such as Latin America, but will also survey contemporary developments in other regions: Africa, Asia and Latin America. The topics covered will include Majority World hermeneutics, comparative analysis with Western biblical and theological traditions, and an introduction to parallel trends in North America like Latino/a, African American, Asian American, or Native American Christian theologies. Prerequisites: BITH 211 and 213 or BITH 315 or 318 or 374. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 343. The Old Testament in its Cultural Environment. (2 Credits)**

An introduction to background and comparative studies in order to understand the impact that the literature and thinking of the ancient world had on the Israelites and on biblical literature. The course will focus on methodology and will consider both similarities and differences that emerge as the cultures and literatures are compared. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211.

**BITH 344. The Psalms: Songs of Israel and the Church. (2 Credits)**

A study of the book of Psalms in light of both the type and content of individual psalms and the organization of the Psalter as a book in the social and cultural life of Israel. Attention will be given to how the book of Psalms guides individuals and communities in their worship of God, while also imparting its own theological methods for God's people. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 345. Life of David. (2 Credits)**

A study of the life and thought of David as found in the Books of Samuel and Psalms with an emphasis on "spiritual theology." Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 346. Ancient Faith for the Modern World. (4 Credits)**

A study of early Christianity as it relates to contemporary issues. This course is required for the Certificate in Early Christian Studies. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**Tags:** HP

**BITH 349. Old Testament Topics. (2 Credits)**

Study of an Old Testament portion or theme. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211.

**BITH 351. Jesus Of Nazareth. (4 Credits)**

A thorough study of Jesus' life and teaching. Primary attention will be given to reconstructing the first-century historical and cultural setting of Judaism that shaped Jesus' message. Additional emphasis on developments within current "Jesus research" and assessment of the results of critical scholarship. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**Tags:** HP

**BITH 352. Paul Of Tarsus. (2 or 4 Credits)**

A study of the life and thought of Paul as found in the book of Acts and in Paul's New Testament letters. The course will synthesize the major categories of Pauline thought and emphasize their value for faith today. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 353. New Testament Topics. (4 Credits)**

Study of a New Testament portion or theme. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**BITH 354. Women in the World of the NT. (2 Credits)**

This course will examine women's lives and the concept of female in the New Testament and the wider Greco-Roman world, including Second Temple Judaism, by studying the biblical text, literary sources and archaeological evidence. This course will explore New Testament women's participation in and contributions to the Christian story in the first century, and discuss women's participation in leadership in the church today. General pictures of women's lives in Judaism and the Greco-Roman world will supplement the portrait of early Christian women. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 355. Theology of the Promised Land. (2 Credits)**

An integrative course studying the theological motif of the Promised Land in the Bible. This course will explore the theology of the Land as interpreted within Judaism and Christianity over the last two millennia. Prerequisites: An integrative course studying the theological motif of the Promised Land in the Bible. This course will explore the theology of the Land as interpreted within Judaism and Christianity over the last two millennia. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; and BITH 213 or 317, or ART 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 356. I Corinthians. (2 or 4 Credits)**

A section-by-section survey of 1 Corinthians dealing with the issues of the nature of the Church, Christian behavior and social responsibility, sexuality, marriage and divorce, Christian worship, the spiritual gifts, and the resurrection. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 358. Acts of the Apostles. (2 or 4 Credits)**

A study of the Book of Acts focused on the geographic and ethnic spread of the gospel, the birth and development of the apostolic church, the gospel's relationship to the Jewish and wider Greco-Roman social worlds, and the theology of Acts. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317 or ARCH 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 359. New Testament Topics. (2 Credits)**

Study of a New Testament portion or theme. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**BITH 361. Advanced Koine Reading. (2 or 4 Credits)**

New Testament book studies in Greek or selections from the Septuagint or the early church fathers to illustrate the development of thought within Christianity. Course is offered occasionally. Prerequisite: GREK 201, qualifying placement score, or competency.

**BITH 362. James. (2 Credits)**

An exposition of the text of the Epistle of James, focusing on the church situations that prompted the teaching of the various themes it contains, and their correlation to corresponding New Testament motifs. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**BITH 363. The Letter to the Romans. (4 Credits)**

A close analysis of Paul's theological argument in the book of Romans with special attention to themes that integrate broadly with the humanities. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 364. Peter And Jude. (2 Credits)**

Exercise in the interpretation of letter genre, by application to portions of 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude. Students use a prescribed method and scholarly resources for productive class discussions. Attention is given to sociological exegesis. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 365. Prison Epistles. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Analysis of Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon, all written while the author was in chains. Attention will focus on the light these letters throw on Paul's life and thought, as well as on the abiding challenge of their message. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 366. New Testament Topics in Historical Perspectives. (4 Credits)**

The writings of the New Testaments are principle sources for understanding the early history of Christianity. Their authors interacted with the historical and cultural developments within first century Roman societies and the first readers interpreted these writings within the same historical matrix. This course will examine select New Testament writings within first century Mediterranean history and explore their place within wider cultural discussions on historiography during the period. Reading from Greek and Latin literature will be included. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 367. Jerusalem, the Holy City. (4 Credits)**

Jerusalem's special place in the biblical tradition is considered through the disciplines of archaeology and history. Special attention is given to the city's theological significance, as well as its place in the religious traditions and history of the Middle East. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211.

**BITH 368. The Book of Revelation. (2 Credits)**

A chapter-by-chapter analysis of the Book of Revelation with consideration of the major themes, apocalyptic symbolism, theology, prophetic character of the book, and relevance to Christian faith and discipleship. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**BITH 369. Religions of Israel and the Near East. (4 Credits)**

This course introduces key theoretical approaches to the study of religion, explores significant literary sources and engages important syntheses of the religious traditions from ancient Mesopotamia, Israel, and Canaan. In particular, it focuses on how these traditions contribute to long-standing issues in philosophy of religion, such as "What is the nature of divinity?," "What does it mean for humans to be religious?," "How is evil and suffering explained?," and "What are the philosophical origins and implications of monotheism?" Prerequisite: BITH 211, 221, or 312, or ARCH 211.

**Tags:** LE, PI

**BITH 371. Early Christianity: From Rome to Byzantium. (4 Credits)**

A history of Christianity from the first century to the eleventh century. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; or BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**BITH 372. Historical Theology. (4 Credits)**

Historical survey of people and movements which have shaped the faith of the Christian church from post-biblical times to the present. The course is open to non-majors but is not a substitute for BITH 315.

**BITH 373. Marriage, Sex and Family in the Christian Tradition. (4 Credits)**

An examination of marriage, sexuality, and the family in the Christian tradition in light of scripture, doctrine, and church history. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 374. Systematic Theology. (4 Credits)**

A critical investigation of Christian doctrine. The course is open only to Biblical and Theological Studies and Philosophy majors. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or 221 or ARCH 211; or BITH 213 or ARCH 213 or BITH 317.

**General Education:** SHAR

**BITH 375. Christian Ethics. (4 Credits)**

An investigation into Christian ethical traditions, its biblical and theological dimensions, the development of Christian character, and the task of bringing Christian convictions to bear on ethical issues. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 376. Theologies of Transformation. (4 Credits)**

An investigation into the basic beliefs of the Christian faith, with special attention to their implications in the urban context, and the relationship between church and world. Fulfills the Christian Theology general education requirement. Only offered as part of Wheaton in Chicago. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or 221 or ARCH 211; or BITH 213 or ARCH 213 or BITH 317.

**General Education:** SHAR

**BITH 377. Topics in Christian Thought. (2 Credits)**

This course is an in-depth treatment of some theological category (doctrine, figure or topic) or the application of Christian thought to contemporary issues. This course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 378. Race, Class, and Justice. (4 Credits)**

See URBN 371.

**BITH 381. Topics in Spiritual Classics. (2 Credits)**

This course is an in-depth study of one or more spiritual classics from the Christian tradition. The text(s) will vary according to instructor's choice. May be repeated for different topics. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 382. Church. (2 Credits)**

A study of the doctrine of the church, attending to traditional and contemporary debates and formulations. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376.

**BITH 383. Gender and Theology. (2 Credits)**

A theological examination of the representation of women and gender in Christianity. Attention is given to the historical and cultural contexts of the first century and contemporary period. Theological, historical, literary, exegetical, and feminist methods are variously employed. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 384. Political Theology. (4 Credits)**

A study of the theological basis for Christian public engagement, attending to the role of the state, responses to sociopolitical oppression, and the political dimensions of salvation. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 385. Triune God. (4 Credits)**

An overview of the doctrine of God, with particular attention to the doctrine of the Trinity. Both traditional formulations and contemporary contributions will be discussed. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 388. Person and Work of Christ. (4 Credits)**

A study of the doctrines of Christ and salvation, with attention to connections between the two. Topics include classic debates and formulations in church history and systematic theology. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 389. Holy Spirit and Last Things. (4 Credits)**

A study of pneumatology and eschatology, including biblical, historical, doctrinal, and hermeneutical approaches to the doctrines. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 392. Scripture. (2 Credits)**

A study of the doctrine of Scripture, with attention to evangelical perspectives on the doctrine. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 393. Topics in Christian Thought. (4 Credits)**

This course is an in-depth treatment of some theological category (doctrine, figure, or topic) or the application of Christian thought to contemporary issues. This course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 394. Topics in Christian History. (4 Credits)**

This course is an in-depth study of some phenomenon (figure, event, or time period) from the Christian past. This course may be repeated for different topics. Course is offered occasionally.

**Tags:** HP

**BITH 396. Roman Catholic Theology. (4 Credits)**

An introduction to Roman Catholic theology and practice. The course will also attend to points of similarity and difference between Roman Catholic and Protestant theology. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 398. Eastern Orthodox Theology. (4 Credits)**

An introduction to Eastern Orthodox theology and practice. The course will also attend to points of similarity and difference between Eastern Orthodox and Protestant theology. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 401. Advanced Biblical Interpretation. (4 Credits)**

Advanced study of the literary content, exegetical issues, scholarly conversations, theological message, and contemporary relevance of a biblical book against the background of the book's historical setting and the Christian canon. This course builds on the theory and skills developed in Biblical Interpretation and Hermeneutics (BITH 325) and equips students to develop these skills via application to a specific book of the Bible. Prerequisite: BITH 211, BITH 221 or BITH 312, or ARCH 211; and BITH 213, BITH 317, or ARCH 213; and BITH 325.

**BITH 417. New Testament and Context in the Holy Lands. (4 Credits)**

The study of the New Testament in the geographical, historical, religious, and archaeological context of Israel at the time of Christ and the Greco-Roman world of Paul and the early church. Classroom lectures are supplemented by relevant preparation work (mapping, biblical and supplemental readings, etc.) and by regional on-site lectures in Israel (e.g. Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Samaria, Galilee), Greece (e.g., Philippi, Delphi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Athens, Patmos), modern Turkey (e.g. Ephesus, Istanbul, Pergamum, Smyrna, Laodicea), and Rome. \*When travel to any site is not an option due to security issues, we will adjust our schedules accordingly. Prerequisites: BITH 211, 213.

**BITH 418. Christian Theology in Context in the Holy Lands. (4 Credits)**

The study of the Christian theology in the geographical, historical, religious, and archaeological context of Israel at the time of Christ and the Greco-Roman world of Paul and the early church. Classroom lectures are supplemented by relevant preparation work (mapping, biblical and supplemental readings, etc.) and by regional on-site lectures, circumstances permitting, in Israel (e.g. Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Samaria, Galilee), Greece (e.g., Philippi, Delphi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Athens, Patmos), modern Turkey (e.g. Ephesus, Istanbul, Pergamum, Smyrna, Laodicea), and Rome. \*When travel to any site is not an option due to security issues, we will adjust our schedules accordingly. Prerequisite BITH 315

**BITH 431. Issues in Modern Old Testament Studies. (2 Credits)**

An introduction to the history and contemporary practice of modern Old Testament studies. Methods will be assessed in terms of their plausibility, theological implications, and contributions to understanding the Old Testament. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or BITH 221 or BITH 312 or ARCH 211.

**BITH 433. Jeremiah. (2 or 4 Credits)**

A study of the literary content, theological message and contemporary relevance of the Book of Jeremiah against the background of Jeremiah's historical setting. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; and BITH 325.

**BITH 434. Minor Prophets. (2 Credits)**

A literary, historical and theological analysis of the Minor Prophets with special attention to contemporary application and connections with the liberal arts. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; and BITH 325.

**BITH 438. Wisdom Literature. (2 Credits)**

A selection from the Old Testament wisdom books, Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. The apocryphal books of Jesus ben Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon may also be read and studied in relation to canonical wisdom. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; and BITH 325.

**BITH 443. Hebrew Exegesis. (2 Credits)**

Exegesis of books or selected portions of larger books of the Hebrew Old Testament. The focus of the course is to interpret the Hebrew text. The ability to translate the Hebrew text and analyze its syntactical structures is assumed because of the prerequisite. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or BITH 221 or BITH 312, or ARCH 211, and HEBR 401.

**BITH 444. Hebrew Exegesis. (4 Credits)**

Exegesis of books or selected portions of larger books of the Hebrew Old Testament. The focus of the course is to interpret the Hebrew text. The ability to translate the Hebrew text and analyze its syntactical structures is assumed because of the prerequisites. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 211, 221 or 312, or ARCH 211, and HEBR 401.

**BITH 448. Old Testament Topics. (4 Credits)**

Study of an Old Testament portion or theme. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisites: BITH 211, 221, or 312, or ARCH 211, and BITH 325.

**BITH 449. Old Testament Topics. (2 Credits)**

Study of an Old Testament portion or theme. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisites: BITH 211 or BITH 221 or ARCH 211 or BITH 312, and BITH 325.

**BITH 451. Greek Exegesis. (2 Credits)**

Exegesis of books or selected portions of larger books of the Greek New Testament. Capability of translation is assumed because of the prerequisite. The purpose of the course is not to teach Greek grammar but to interpret the New Testament from the Greek text. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisites: BITH 213 or BITH 317 or ARCH 213, and completion of GREK 201 or Greek competency.

**BITH 452. Issues in Modern New Testament Studies. (2 Credits)**

An introduction to the history and contemporary practice of modern New Testament studies. Methods will be assessed in terms of their plausibility, theological implications, and contribution to understanding the New Testament. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or BITH 317 or ARCH 213.

**BITH 454. Mark. (2 Credits)**

A study of the second gospel focusing on Mark's portrait of Jesus as the catalyst of the Kingdom and as suffering servant. Attention will be given to the relationship between literary forms and religious function in the writing of the gospel. Prerequisites: BITH 213 or ARCH 213, and BITH 325. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 456. Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament. (2 Credits)**

A study of the history, literature, archaeology and thought within Judaism in the Hellenistic and early Roman periods through surveying Jewish texts and archaeological sites. In providing an important backdrop to the understanding and interpretation of the New Testament, emphasis will fall on the political and economic forces at work in Palestine, the religious ideas and practices of the time, and their connections to the New Testament. Pre or Corequisite: BITH 213.

**BITH 457. John. (4 Credits)**

A comprehensive study of John's gospel. Its insights into personal spirituality, both in the first century and today, will be emphasized in the context of current critical Johannine scholarship. Prerequisites: BITH 213 or 317 or ARCH 213 and BITH 325.

**BITH 458. Acts of the Apostles. (4 Credits)**

A study of the Book of Acts focused on the geographic and ethnic spread of the gospel, the birth and development of the apostolic church, the gospel's relationship to the Jewish and wider Greco-Roman social worlds, and the theology of Acts. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or 317 or ARCH 213, and BITH 325. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 459. Greek Exegesis. (4 Credits)**

Exegesis of books or selected portions of larger books of the Greek New Testament. Capability of translation is assumed because of the prerequisite. The purpose of the course is not to teach Greek grammar but to interpret the New Testament from the Greek text. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 213 or BITH 317 or ARCH 213, and completion of GREK 201 or Greek competency.

**BITH 462. Pastoral Epistles. (2 Credits)**

Careful investigation of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. Detailed textual analysis will lead to better understanding of the joys and struggles of Christian leadership under Paul's direction. Social roles and cultural issues affecting the Church will receive special attention. Prerequisites: BITH 213 or 317 or ARCH 213, and BITH 325. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 468. New Testament Topics. (2 Credits)**

Study of a New Testament portion or theme. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisites: BITH 213 or BITH 317 or ARCH 213, and BITH 325.

**BITH 469. New Testament Topics. (4 Credits)**

Study of a New Testament portion or theme. Course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisites: BITH 213 or BITH 317 or ARCH 213, and BITH 325.

**BITH 478. Marginal Voices in Old Testament Studies. (4 Credits)**

This course is an introduction to important contributions to Old Testament studies from women scholars and from Latin American and Hispanic (Latino/a), African and African-American, and Asian and Asian-American perspectives. Completion of BITH 211, 221 or ARCH 211 is recommended before taking this course.

**Tags:** GP

**BITH 482. Advanced Topics in Christian Thought. (4 Credits)**

This course is an in-depth treatment of some theological category (doctrine, figure, or topic) or the application of Christian thought to contemporary issues. This course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376.

**BITH 483. Augustine. (4 Credits)**

A critical analysis of Augustine's theology in historical context. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376.

**BITH 484. Thomas Aquinas. (4 Credits)**

A critical analysis of Thomas Aquinas' theology in historical context. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376.

**BITH 485. Martin Luther. (4 Credits)**

A critical analysis of Martin Luther's theology in historical context. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 486. John Calvin. (4 Credits)**

A critical analysis of John Calvin's theology in historical context. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376.

**BITH 488. Karl Barth. (4 Credits)**

A critical analysis of Karl Barth's theology in historical context. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376.

**BITH 489. Advanced Topics in Christian Thought. (2 Credits)**

This course is an in-depth treatment of some theological category (doctrine, figure, or topic) or the application of Christian thought to contemporary issues. This course may be repeated for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376.

**BITH 491. Early Christianity Senior Seminar. (2 Credits)**

An advanced seminar for students in the Certificate for Early Christian Studies to be taken during their senior year. This course is required for the Certificate in Early Christian Studies. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374, or 376.

**BITH 494. Senior Seminar. (4 Credits)**

An integrative capstone seminar for Biblical and Theological Studies majors to be taken during their senior year. Prerequisites: BITH 325 and BITH 374.

**General Education:** SHAR

**BITH 495. Independent Study. (1 to 4 Credits)**

Independent study by qualified students in a special category or topic not offered in a regular course.

**BITH 496. Internship. (1 to 4 Credits)**

Graded pass/fail. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing with BITH major.

**BITH 499. Honors Thesis. (2 or 4 Credits)**

By application only.

**BITH 502. Hebrew. (4 Credits)**

Basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary with readings from the Old Testament and modern Hebrew authors. Prerequisite: HEBR 101

**BITH 503. Language Study I. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Graduate-level study of an ancient or modern language in conjunction with a one semester or advanced language course taught at Wheaton College. Requires advisor's approval and permission of instructor.

**BITH 504. Language Study II. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Graduate-level study of an ancient or modern language in conjunction with a second semester language course taught at Wheaton College. Requires advisor's approval and permission of instructor.

**BITH 505. Language Study III. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Graduate-level study of an ancient or modern language in conjunction with a one semester or advanced language course taught at Wheaton College. Requires advisor's approval and permission of instructor.

**BITH 506. Language Study. (0 Credits)**

Graduate-level study of an ancient or modern language in conjunction with a one semester or advanced language course taught at Wheaton College. Requires advisor's approval and permission of instructor.

**BITH 507. Hermeneutics for Biblical Exegesis. (4 Credits)**

A survey of hermeneutics that probes the theoretical underpinnings of grammatical-historical interpretation, the hermeneutics of the apostles, and the contributions of marginalized voices. These insights will then be applied to reading texts from each testament in light of genre conventions, ancient cultural contexts, the canonical nature of Scripture, and contemporary contexts. The course provides the theoretical and practical foundations necessary for more advanced courses in Biblical Exegesis.

**BITH 508. Intro to Hebrew Exegesis. (4 Credits)**

Hebrew language course designed for MA Biblical Exegesis students. Course will continue to develop student language acquisition through review of grammar and syntax, and through intensive reading of selected biblical texts. Introduction will be given to textual criticism, lexical semantics, and the Masoretic text. Prerequisite: HEBR 101 and HEBR 102.

**BITH 509. Introduction to Greek Exegesis. (4 Credits)**

Greek language course designed for MA Biblical Exegesis students. Course will continue to develop student language acquisition through review of grammar and syntax, and through intensive reading of selected biblical texts. Introduction will be given to textual criticism, lexical semantics, and modern editions of the Greek NT. Prerequisites: GREK 101 and GREK 102; or the equivalent.

**BITH 517. Studies in Biblical Lands. (4 Credits)**

A study of cultural, historical, geographical, and theological dimensions of the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Church through classroom lecture and travel to Israel, Greece, Turkey, and Rome. In addition, through contact with leaders and communities of non-western churches, Wheaton in the Holy Lands engages students with issues of the theological development of the Church down through the centuries. Summer only.

**BITH 518. Studies in Biblical Lands. (4 Credits)**

A study of cultural, historical, geographical, and theological dimensions of the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Church through classroom lecture and travel to Israel, Greece, Turkey, and Rome. In addition, through contact with leaders and communities of non-western churches, Wheaton in the Holy Lands engages students with issues of the theological development of the Church down through the centuries. Summer only.

**BITH 521. Theology Of Education. (2 Credits)**

An examination of fundamental theological issues underlying education, including the relationship of revelation to other disciplines, the Christian conception of persons and knowing, and the relationship of the Church to culture. Required for the Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

**BITH 524. Intro to Hermeneutics. (2 Credits)**

A theoretical complement to the methodology courses of BITH 542 and BITH 531. This course situates grammatical-historical biblical exegesis in a Christian hermeneutic, with a view to understanding the supporting rationale, life habits, and the aims of our exegetical practices within our life as God's people. Topics include: the history of hermeneutics; historical and theological approaches to interpretation; World Christian Perspectives; the importance and relations of authors, texts, readers, and divine agency; translation in word and life. This course is a prerequisite for BITH 532, BITH 635, and BITH 646 and a co-requisite for BITH 542 (Old Testament Hermeneutics) and BITH 531 (New Testament Hermeneutics).

**BITH 525. Biblical Theology. (4 Credits)**

A study of the major theological themes within the Old and New Testaments, based upon the biblical text and the writings of major biblical theologians. The course will also consider the historical development and interrelationship of these themes throughout the successive periods of biblical history.

**BITH 526. Biblical Foundations of Worship. (4 Credits)**

An examination of worship in the Bible, both Old and New Testament, with a view to developing a theology of worship that is consistent with the teachings of Scripture. Special attention will be given to the role of sign and symbol and the place of visual arts in Christian worship. The course will also explore the interface between the discipline of Positive Psychology and Christian religious belief and practice, especially as it relates to worship and spiritual formation. Undergraduate students, Prerequisite: BITH 211 or 221 or 312, or ARCH 211; or BITH 213 or 317, or ARCH 213.

**Tags:** SI, VPAV

**BITH 528. Introduction to New Testament Exegesis. (2 Credits)**

A practical hermeneutics course, orienting students to the principles and praxis of New Testament grammatical-historical exegesis. Focusing on selected Greek texts chosen from various genres, attention will be given to the literary and rhetorical strategies employed by biblical authors to achieve their intended goals. Particular issues to be addressed include textual criticism, lexical and grammatical analysis, compositional style and genre and the broader canonical and historical contexts. This course is a prerequisite for BITH 646 and BITH 532. Prerequisite: Greek language competency.

**BITH 531. New Testament Hermeneutics. (2 Credits)**

This course will introduce those specific principles, resources, and skills that are necessary for interpreting New Testament texts that are not dependent on a mastery of the biblical languages. Primary attention will be given to genre analysis, socio-cultural worldview, biblical criticism (including issues of authorship and date of composition for individual books), the significance of the history of interpretation and the role of theology in informing interpretation. The focus throughout will be on building methods useful for exegeting the text. Prerequisite: BITH 524 Introduction to Hermeneutics.

**BITH 532. Greek Exegesis in the Septuagint. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Introduces the Greek Old Testament and modern Septuagintal studies. Exegesis of selected passages of the Greek Old Testament with special reference to the corresponding passage in the Hebrew text and, when relevant, its use in the New Testament. Prerequisite: BITH 524 and BITH 528, completion of Greek competency and one year of Hebrew or instructor's approval. Counts toward Greek exegesis requirement in Biblical Exegesis program.

**BITH 533. Exploring the Old Testament. (4 Credits)**

This course explores the Old Testament, with special attention given to the storyline, historical contexts, and genres across all sections of the Old Testament canon with the of mobilizing students to interpret Scripture.

**BITH 534. Pentateuch. (4 Credits)**

Primeval and patriarchal history. God's sovereign rule as Creator and the choice and development of Israel as his special people. A study of the relationship between law and covenant and of Israel as a worshipping community.

**BITH 535. Prophets & Prophecy. (2 Credits)**

A study of the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel, in its theological and cultural settings. In addition to the critical issues, the major prophets will be examined and their message and theology studied as part of the mainstream of the prophetic movement.

**BITH 536. Old Testament Book Studies from the English Text. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Studies of the content, message, and contemporary relevance of selected portions of the Old Testament against the background and the setting of the original writer and recipients.

**BITH 537. Old Testament I: Pentateuch & Historical Books. (4 Credits)**

A comprehensive study of the first half of the Old Testament, from Genesis through Esther, with special attention given to the place of biblical criticism, cultural backgrounds and biblical theology in scriptural interpretation. This course is only open to students in the MA Biblical Studies program.

**BITH 538. Old Testament II: Prophets & Wisdom Books. (4 Credits)**

A comprehensive study of the second half of the Old Testament, from Psalms through Malachi, with special attention given to the place of biblical criticism, cultural backgrounds and biblical theology in scriptural interpretation. This course is only open to students in the MA Biblical Studies program.

**BITH 539. Ancient Near East Backgrounds of the Old Testament. (2 Credits)**

An introduction to background and comparative studies that will focus on methodology and the conceptual world of the ancient Near East. As the cultures and literatures are compared both similarities and differences will emerge and be evaluated for their impact and role in the exegesis of the biblical text.

**BITH 541. Issues in Modern Old Testament Studies. (2 Credits)**

An introduction to the history and contemporary practice of modern Old Testament studies. Methods will be assessed in terms of their plausibility, theological implications, and contribution to understanding the Old Testament.

**BITH 542. Old Testament Hermeneutics. (2 Credits)**

This course will introduce and utilize specific principles, resources, and skills that are necessary for interpreting Old Testament texts but not dependent on a mastery of the biblical languages. Primary attention will be given to genre analysis, socio-cultural worldview, biblical criticism (including issues of authorship and date of composition for individual books), and the theological shape of the Hebrew canon, as well as the potential contribution of these subdisciplines to the exegetical task. Prerequisite: BITH 524 Introduction to Hermeneutics.

**BITH 543. Issues in Modern New Testament Studies. (2 Credits)**

An introduction to the history and contemporary practice of modern New Testament studies. Methods will be assessed in terms of their plausibility, theological implications, and contribution to understanding the new Testament.

**BITH 544. New Testament I: Jesus & the Gospels. (4 Credits)**

The course introduces the student to the life and teachings of Jesus and to the development of the early church, focusing on the four gospels with special attention given to the place of biblical criticism, cultural backgrounds and biblical theology in scriptural interpretation. This course is only open to students in the MA Biblical Studies program.

**BITH 545. New Testament II: Acts to Revelation. (4 Credits)**

The course examines the book of Acts, Pauline letters, Catholic epistles and book of Revelation, with special attention given to the place of biblical criticism, cultural backgrounds and biblical theology in scriptural interpretation. This course is only open to students in the MA Biblical Studies program.

**BITH 546. New Testament Book Studies from the English Text. (2 or 4 Credits)**

The content, message, and contemporary relevance of selected portions of the New Testament against the background of the setting of the original writer and recipients. Logical units of the NT literature.

**BITH 547. Life and Teachings of Jesus. (4 Credits)**

The events and teachings of Jesus in their contemporary context together with an analysis of current relevant research.

**BITH 548. Life and Teachings Of Paul. (4 Credits)**

The major aspects of the teachings of Paul in the context of his life and times as reflected in selected parts of his letters and Acts.

**BITH 551. Greco-Roman Backgrounds of NT. (2 Credits)**

An introductory study of the Greco-Roman world, including its history, society, culture, religion, and literature, in relation to the expansion of early Christianity and the New Testament documents.

**BITH 553. New Testament and Early Christian History. (4 Credits)**

An investigation of the history, literature, and theology of the New Testament and Christianity prior to A.D. 325.

**BITH 554. Topics In Archaeology. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Separate courses devoted to specialized topics in archaeology.

**BITH 555. Exploring the New Testament. (4 Credits)**

The course introduces the student to the life and teachings of Jesus, the development of the early church, Pauline and general letters, and the book of Revelation. The focus is on biblical story and theology, and historical and cultural backgrounds in scriptural interpretation.

**BITH 556. Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament. (2 Credits)**

A study of the history, literature, archaeology and thought within Judaism in the Hellenistic and early Roman periods through surveying Jewish texts and archaeological sites. In providing an important backdrop to the understanding and interpretation of the New Testament, emphasis will fall on the political and economic forces at work in Palestine, the religious ideas and practices of the time, and their connections to the New Testament.

**BITH 557. Marginalized Voices in Old Testament Studies. (4 Credits)**

This course is an introduction to important contributions to Old Testament studies from women scholars and from Latin American and Hispanic (Latino/a), African and African-American, and Asian and Asian-American perspectives.

**BITH 558. Topics in Advanced Biblical and Theological Studies. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Separate courses devoted to the study of topics of general interest.

**BITH 561. Theological Anthropology. (2 Credits)**

A theological examination of the nature of persons with special reference to issues raised by modern philosophy and psychology.

**BITH 562. Introduction to Old Testament Exegesis. (2 Credits)**

A practical hermeneutics course, orienting students to the principles and praxis of Old Testament exegesis. Focusing on selected Hebrew texts, chosen from various genres, attention will be given to the literary and rhetorical strategies employed by biblical authors to achieve their intended goals. Particular issues to be addressed include textual criticism, lexical and grammatical analysis, compositional style and genre and the broader canonical and historical contexts. Prerequisites: HEBR 301, 302, 401.

**BITH 563. Apologetics. (2 Credits)**

Survey of the theological resources for meeting contemporary challenges to Christianity, including the problems of secularism, pluralism, evil, and the historicity of Jesus.

**BITH 565. Christian Theology. (4 Credits)**

An introduction to the methods of systematic theology and the major topics within the biblical revelation. Special attention is given to the rationale for these Christian doctrines, their systematic interconnections as well as their development within the history of Christian thought, and their contemporary challenges.



**BITH 566. Foundations for Biblical Interpretation. (4 Credits)**

A survey of the principles, methods, and issues of biblical and theological interpretation in the past and present. Intended for students in non-theological disciplines, as well as for those in Biblical and Theological studies who have limited theological preparation.

**BITH 567. Church. (2 Credits)**

A study of the doctrine of the church, attending to traditional and contemporary debates and formulations. Prerequisite: BITH 315, 318, 372, 374 or 376.

**BITH 568. Foundations for Biblical Interpretation. (2 Credits)**

A survey of the principles, methods, and issues of biblical and theological interpretation in the past and present. Intended for students in non-theological disciplines, as well as for those in Biblical and Theological studies who have limited theological preparation.

**BITH 569. Christian Traditions. (4 Credits)**

A survey of the major Christian traditions with an emphasis on their theological presuppositions and systematic thought, including the common tradition of the early church, as well as the Orthodox, Catholic, Reformed, and modern Protestant traditions.

**BITH 571. Introduction to the History of Christianity. (2 Credits)**

A summary introduction to the history of Christianity designed to provide a rapid but comprehensive overview to assist students who seek basic understanding of the history of Christianity as a background for other fields of study. The emphasis is upon succinct summary, and the course will focus on key turning points in Church history from the early church to the twentieth century. Graduate students will attend the same lectures as undergraduates in HIST 305 but receive different syllabi with different levels of required work.

**BITH 572. Doctrine of Scripture. (2 or 4 Credits)**

See BITH 392.

**BITH 573. Scripture and Theology. (4 Credits)**

An in-depth examination of the ways in which theologians use Scripture in formulating theological proposals, both with regard to Christian doctrine (theology) and Christian practice (ethics). The course explores the nature of Scripture, the authority of Scripture, and ways in which the work of theology moves "beyond" Scripture in order to respond to the contemporary situation of the church.

**BITH 576. History of Christianity to 1900. (4 Credits)**

An introduction to the history of Christianity from the age of the apostles through the nineteenth century. The course treats the development of institutions, doctrines, and interactions with culture. It is divided into approximately equal sections on the early church, the church in the middle ages, the era of the reformation, and the period 1600-1900. The course is meant to be a complement of BITH 577, which focuses on the worldwide expansion of Christianity in the last two centuries.

**BITH 577. World Christianity. (4 Credits)**

A survey of the history of world Christianity since the middle of the nineteenth century. This course includes some background on the earlier missionary expansion of the Church, but its emphasis is on the transition of Christianity from a western to a world religion in the last two centuries.

**BITH 578. Global Church History. (4 Credits)**

A survey of the history of world Christianity from the apostolic era to the modern period, with particular emphasis on seminal events, figures, and theological developments. Attention is given to the history of the church in the majority world, global Bibles, and to the contributions of women.

**BITH 581. The Reformation. (4 Credits)**

The doctrines and practices of the Reformers (1450-1650) in their political, social, economic, and intellectual contexts. Special attention to Luther, the Reformed (Zwingli and Calvin), Anabaptists, the English Reformation, and the Catholic Reformation.

**BITH 585. History of Christianity in North America. (4 Credits)**

See HIST 483.

**BITH 623. The History of Pastoral Care. (2 Credits)**

A survey of the principles and techniques of Christian nurture (the care of souls) from the time of Gregory the Great to the modern church in America. Both primary and secondary sources are read in an effort to understand how the church has ministered to persons with various needs and in varied circumstances. (For Psy.D. students or with permission of instructor and department chair.)

**BITH 624. Theological Ethics for Counseling. (2 Credits)**

A course designed to explore the biblical and theological foundations for a Christian ethic together with a consideration of the main Christian traditions in ethics. Case study applications will be made to issues in counseling. (For Psy.D. students or with permission of instructor and department chair.)

**BITH 626. Majority World Theologies. (4 Credits)**

Readings and discussions on the task of Biblical interpretation and theological reflection in the contexts of world Christianity. Prerequisites: BITH 533 and BITH 555.

**BITH 627. World Religions. (4 Credits)**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to major religions of the world focusing on their origin and development, beliefs and practices, and worldviews and institutions. The course will also survey major Christian responses to other religions. After successfully completing this class, students will be able to engage people of other faiths respectfully and better equipped to participate in God's mission in a religiously and culturally pluralistic society.

**BITH 631. Intermediate Hebrew. (4 Credits)**

A comprehensive study of the basic principles and methods of interpreting the Hebrew Old Testament. Emphasis on reading as a tool to build vocabulary and understanding of Hebrew grammar and syntax. Prerequisite: working knowledge of Hebrew.

**BITH 634. Poetic Books. (2 or 4 Credits)**

The form and content of Hebrew poetry with its background in ancient Near Eastern literature. An examination of key passages in books such as Psalms, Proverbs, and Job.

**BITH 635. Hebrew Exegesis. (4 Credits)**

Exegesis of books or selected portions of larger books of the Hebrew Old Testament. Capability of translation is assumed because of the prerequisite. The purpose of the course is not to teach Hebrew grammar, but to interpret the Old Testament from the Hebrew text. Repeatable for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 524 and BITH 508, or BITH 507 and BITH 508.

**BITH 636. Hebrew Exegesis. (2 Credits)**

Exegesis of books or selected portions of larger books of the Hebrew Old Testament. Capability of translation is assumed because of the prerequisite. The purpose of the course is not to teach Hebrew grammar, but to interpret the Old Testament from the Hebrew text. Repeatable for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 524 and BITH 508, or BITH 507 and BITH 508.

**BITH 638. Old Testament Theology. (4 Credits)**

The major teachings of the various parts and the whole of the Old Testament with concentration upon some of the most important themes in an attempt to discover the intention of the biblical writers.

**BITH 639. Advanced Old Testament Topics. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Separate courses devoted to the study of specialized topics, issues, or areas within the Old Testament field.

**BITH 641. Current Issues in Old Testament Studies. (2 Credits)**

An examination of recent trends in Old Testament scholarship with special attention paid to significant problem areas. Prerequisite: BITH 541.

**BITH 645. Canonical Biblical Interpretation. (4 Credits)**

An integrative course that is the capstone of the M.A. in Biblical Exegesis program. The course enables students to solidify their ability to exegete scripture with canonical sensitivity. It also guides the student in integrating a canonical perspective into the exegetical and hermeneutical enterprise, including relating parts of the testaments to one another and to their particular relevant historical backgrounds within a biblical-theological framework. Various texts and themes throughout the OT and NT will form the basis for the semester's work. Four hours to be taken in the student's last spring semester of the program.

**BITH 646. Greek Exegesis. (4 Credits)**

Exegesis of books or selected portions of larger books of the Greek New Testament. Capability of translation is assumed because of the prerequisite. The purpose of the course is not to teach Greek grammar but to interpret the New Testament from the Greek text. Repeatable for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 525 and BITH 509, or BITH 507 and BITH 509.

**BITH 647. Greek Exegesis. (2 Credits)**

Exegesis of books or selected portions of larger books of the Greek New Testament. Capability of translation is assumed because of the prerequisite. The purpose of the course is not to teach Greek grammar but to interpret the New Testament from the Greek text. Repeatable for different topics. Prerequisite: BITH 525 and BITH 509, or BITH 507 and BITH 509.

**BITH 648. New Testament Theology. (4 Credits)**

An investigation of the dominant themes in the New Testament in the light of the cultures in which they were produced and the methods of representative contemporary New Testament theologians.

**BITH 649. Advanced New Testament Topics. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Separate courses devoted to the study of specialized topics, issues, or areas within the New Testament field.

**BITH 651. Current Issues in New Testament Studies. (2 Credits)**

An examination of recent trends in New Testament scholarship with special attention given to significant problem areas. Prerequisite: BITH 543.

**BITH 653. Historical Theology: Patristic. (2 Credits)**

An examination of the theological developments from the second through the fifth centuries. Special attention is given to the formation of the ecumenical creeds, developments in the doctrines of the canon, God, Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and the sacraments, as well as the nuances differentiating the Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions.

**BITH 654. Historical Theology: Medieval Christianity. (2 Credits)**

An examination of the theological developments from the fifth through the fourteenth centuries. Special attention is given to the relationship between reason and revelation, soteriology, ecclesiology, the sacraments, and popular piety.

**BITH 655. Historical Theology: Reformation. (2 Credits)**

An examination of the key theological writings during the Reformation period, including selections by Lutheran, Calvinist, Anabaptist, and Catholic figures.

**BITH 656. Historical Theology: Modern. (2 Credits)**

An examination of the theological developments from the Enlightenment to the present, focusing on key figures representing nineteenth-century German liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, post-Vatican II Catholicism, liberation, and postmodern theology.

**BITH 657. Historical Theology: Patristic and Medieval. (4 Credits)**

An examination of the theological developments from the patristic and medieval periods. Special attention is given to the formation of the ecumenical creeds, developments in the doctrines of the canon, God, Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and the sacraments, as well as the nuances differentiating the Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions.

**BITH 658. Historical Theology: Reformation and Modern. (4 Credits)**

An examination of the theological developments from the Reformation through the modern period. Special attention is given to the nuances differentiating the Protestant and Catholic traditions, the contributions of key Protestant theologians, the impact of the Enlightenment, and key figures representing nineteenth-century German liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, post-Vatican II Catholicism, liberation, and postmodern theology.

**BITH 669. Topics In Theology. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Selected topics in theology to provide for in-depth study of a selected topic of current interest.

**BITH 673. Christian Ethics. (4 Credits)**

An investigation of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian ethics, with attention to a range of contemporary moral issues.

**BITH 674. Theology and the Liberal Arts. (4 Credits)**

An in-depth examination of the interactions that have taken and are taking place between theology and the arts, as well as the natural and human sciences. Students will explore the ways that theology can assist the disciplines to be "for Christ and his kingdom" (and how the disciplines might return the favor to theology).

**BITH 675. Advanced Systematic Theology. (4 Credits)**

An in-depth examination of theological method and the major theological topics within the traditional loci, employing classical and contemporary theological texts.

**BITH 676. Seminar Systematic Theology. (2 or 4 Credits)**

676-1 (Section 1) Focused seminars providing for in-depth research of particular persons, movements, events, eras, topics, and themes in Systematic Theology. (2 or 4 credits); 676-2 (Section 2) Focused seminars providing for in-depth research of particular persons, movements, events, eras, topics, and themes in Systematic Theology (assumes an ancient language or modern language research component in primary and/or secondary resource materials). (4 credits)

**BITH 677. Topics in the History of Christianity. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Separate courses devoted to the study of the Christian church in specific eras or countries, or specific themes in church history.

**BITH 679. Seminar in Historical Theology. (2 or 4 Credits)**

679-1 (Section 1) Focused seminars providing for in-depth research of particular persons, movements, events, eras, topics, and themes in Historical Theology. (2 or 4 credits); 679-2 (Section 2) Focused seminars providing for in-depth research of particular persons, movements, events, eras, topics, and themes in Historical Theology (assumes an ancient language or modern language research component in primary and/or secondary resource materials). (4 credits)

**BITH 682. Colloquium in the History of American Christianity. (2 or 4 Credits)**

Special courses in specific aspects or themes of the history of the church in North America. Taught in conjunction with visiting scholars sponsored by the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals. Course is offered occasionally.

**BITH 683. Historiography of the History of Christianity. (2 Credits)**

Christianity and history, with emphasis on the history of Church History, the implications for the meaning and practice of history, and the relationship of philosophies of history to the Christian faith.

**BITH 684. Vocation Formation in Biblical and Theological Studies. (0 Credits)**

This course is encouraged for students considering doctoral work, publishing, teaching, or ministry in the fields of History of Christianity, Theology, or Biblical Studies. This course explores Christian vocation formation in scholarship, professional, and ministry contexts. Readings in Christian vocation formation are assigned and discussed. Class sessions dedicate time to equipping students with practical skills such as in academic writing, research, conference participation, and applying to Ph.D. programs. Publishing as a profession as well as teaching and church/para-church ministry are explored in terms of Christian vocation and skills.

**BITH 685. Seminar in Ecclesial Theology. (4 Credits)**

An introductory course that explores the ways in which the ecclesia—the history and traditions and the life and ministry of the church—shapes how one reads the Bible and thinks theologically.

**BITH 686. Historiography. (4 Credits)**

Christianity and history, with emphasis on the history of Church History, the implications for the meaning and practice of history, and the relationship of philosophies of history to the Christian faith.

**BITH 687. Seminar in American Christianity and Historical Theology. (2 or 4 Credits)**

687-1 (Section 1) Focused seminars providing for in-depth research of particular persons, movements, events, eras, topics, and themes in Church History. (2 or 4 credits); 687-2 (Section 2) Focused seminars providing for in-depth research of particular persons, movements, events, eras, topics, and themes in Church History (assumes an ancient language or modern language research component in primary and/or secondary resource materials). (4 credits)

**BITH 689. Biblical and Theological Studies Capstone Seminar. (4 Credits)**

An integrative exploration of how biblical and theological themes relate to and inform the student's understanding of their vocational goals, research interests, and personal formation, as well as how this coursework contributes to the life and ministry of the church both locally and globally. This is an integrated capstone course and should be completed in the final semester of the student's program.

**BITH 692. Graduate Comprehensive Exam. (0 Credits)**

Prerequisites: The student should be in the final semester of coursework, have completed all core courses, or have completed all coursework. May be repeated once. Fee \$25. Graded pass/fail.

**BITH 693. Dossier for Biblical Exegesis. (0 Credits)**

A culminating portfolio from coursework within the M.A. in Biblical Exegesis that demonstrates a student's attainment of the program learning outcomes. The dossier will consist of a hermeneutics paper, an exegesis paper, a biblical theology paper, and a theology paper, all of which demonstrate an understanding and engagement with diverse ethnic, gender, and majority world perspectives. This course can only be taken during the final semester of a student's degree and is a requirement for the M.A. in Biblical Exegesis program. Graded pass/fail. Prerequisite: Final semester of M.A. in Biblical Exegesis.

**BITH 694. Theology Capstone Seminar. (4 Credits)**

An integrative exploration of how major themes from the MA Theology degree plan relate to and inform the student's understanding of the scope of theological studies. Students will consider major areas of theological studies, including systematic, historical, biblical, and interdisciplinary connections. This is an integrated capstone course and should be completed in the final semester of the student's program whenever possible.

**BITH 695. Independent Study. (1 to 4 Credits)**

Intensive research on a precisely defined topic related to some phase of Biblical and Theological Studies. Initiative for selecting the topic and proposing the methodology rests with the student. A faculty member must approve, recommend amendments (if necessary), supervise, and evaluate the project. Limit four hours in any one degree program except by special permission.

**BITH 696. Internship. (2 or 4 Credits)****BITH 698. Thesis. (4 Credits)****BITH 699. Thesis Continuation. (0 Credits)**

See M.A. Thesis/Applied Thesis/Action Research.

**BITH 711. Seminar in Ecclesial Theology. (4 Credits)**

An introductory course that explores the ways in which the ecclesia—the history and traditions and the life and ministry of the church—shapes how one reads the Bible and thinks theologically. (Course effective Spring 2022)

**BITH 712. Global Church History. (4 Credits)**

A survey of the history of world Christianity from the apostolic era to the modern period, with particular emphasis on seminal events, figures, and theological developments. Attention is given to the history of the church in the majority world, global Bibles, and to the contributions of women. (Course effective Spring 2022)

**BITH 713. Old Testament Book Study. (4 Credits)**

Describe in broad outline the historical and geographical context in which the book was written and significance of this context for interpreting the OT. Recount the basic content, major theological themes and grand narrative of the book, identifying key people, places, events and dates. Interpret the text as ancient literature with reference to genre and compositional features. Apply basic principles of hermeneutics to interpretation and application of the book. Relate OT teaching to reflection in other courses and disciplines. (Course effective Spring 2022)

**BITH 714. New Testament Book Study. (4 Credits)**

A study of the background, content, and theology of a New Testament book with emphasis placed on the application of its message to Christian communities in today's world.

**BITH 751. Introduction to Doctoral Research. (0 Credits)**

Orientation to doctoral research in theology and to Wheaton's Ph.D. program in Biblical and Theological Studies.

**BITH 793. Directed Study. (2 to 4 Credits)**

Supervised independent study in conjunction with the auditing of a regular BTS course.

**BITH 794. Directed Study in the Liberal Arts. (2 to 4 Credits)**

Supervised independent study in conjunction with a regular undergraduate course in the liberal arts.

**BITH 795. Guided Research. (1 to 4 Credits)**

Supervised independent study.

**BITH 798. Supervised Pedagogical Experience. (2 Credits)**

Students participate with a faculty member in teaching a course, complete required readings about pedagogy, and experience additional mentoring as teachers.

**BITH 811. Theological Hermeneutics in Ministry. (4 Credits)**

An opportunity for DMin students to engage with contemporary developments in biblical theology, theological interpretation of Scripture, and the application of hermeneutical theory to ministry praxis, with a focus on evangelical contexts.

**BITH 881. Biblical Interpretation & Theology. (4 Credits)**

First year PhD students' orientation to theological interpretation and contemporary practice in biblical theology, with special attention to hermeneutical issues.

**BITH 882. Seminar: Topics in Biblical Theology. (4 Credits)**

Intense study of a particular topic in biblical theology, normally including work in both Old and New Testaments.

**BITH 883. Seminar: Topics in Systematic or Historical Theology. (4 Credits)**

Intense study of a particular topic in systematic or historical theology.

**BITH 884. Biblical/Theological Integration. (2 Credits)**

Second year PhD students' capstone regarding theological interpretation of Scripture and contemporary practice in biblical theology, with special attention to developing integrative student case study papers in relation to their dissertation subjects.

**BITH 898. Dissertation. (0 Credits)**

**BITH 899. Dissertation Continuation (Full-time). (0 Credits)**

**BITH 999. Dissertation Continuation (Part-time). (0 Credits)**