

# BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES MAJOR

The purpose of Biblical and Theological Studies is to familiarize students with the content of the Bible, methodologies for the interpretation and the application of biblical teaching, and the research tools and resources necessary to pursue independent study of biblical texts and topics. It also enables students to evaluate critically their own theology, be aware and respectful of diverse theological positions and traditions, apply a variety of ethical approaches to the question of the church's role in society, and articulate their convictions thoughtfully and charitably.

In both required and elective courses, students develop skills that enable them to take into account the original linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural contexts of the Bible; study major events of Christian history, including the formation of creedal and confessional statements that have shaped church history; reflect on Christian doctrine in light of this tradition in conversation with their reading of Scripture; and consider diverse and global expressions of evangelicalism.

The Biblical and Theological Studies major meets the undergraduate requirements for seminary study suggested by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). Students contemplating graduate studies should consult with the institution in which they are interested to be informed of any particular undergraduate courses needed. Students interested in an accelerated curriculum leading to the bachelor's and master's degrees should consult with their advisors regarding the prerequisites for the Wheaton graduate program.

## Requirements

**Requirements for a major in Biblical and Theological Studies** are 32 hours beyond the general education requirement in Biblical and Theological Studies. The general education requirement (12 hours) includes:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		<b>12</b>
BITH 374	Systematic Theology	
Select one of the following:		
ARCH 211	Old Testament Archaeology	
BITH 211	Old Testament Literature and Interpretation	
BITH 221	Old Testament Literature in Three Traditions	
BITH 312	Old Testament in the Holy Lands	
Select one of the following:		
ARCH 213	New Testament Archaeology	
BITH 213	New Testament Literature and Interpretation	
BITH 317	The New Testament in the Holy Lands	
<b>Major Core</b>		<b>16</b>
BITH 325	Biblical Interpretation and Hermeneutics	
BITH 372	Historical Theology	
BITH 401	Advanced Biblical Interpretation	
BITH 494	Senior Seminar	
<b>Electives</b>		<b>16</b>
<i>Biblical Studies (Minimum 4 credits):</i>		
BITH 301	How We Got the Bible	

BITH 314	Reading the Bible with the Asian and Asian American Church
BITH 323	Literature of the Bible
BITH 326	Biblical Foundations of Worship
BITH 327	Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers
BITH 332	Ruth & Esther
BITH 333	Historical Geography
BITH 335	Old Testament Topics
BITH 338	Genesis 1-11
BITH 341	Exodus
BITH 343	The Old Testament in its Cultural Environment
BITH 344	The Psalms: Songs of Israel and the Church
BITH 345	Life of David
BITH 348	Jewish Biblical Interpretation
BITH 349	Old Testament Topics
BITH 351	Jesus Of Nazareth
BITH 352	Paul Of Tarsus
BITH 353	New Testament Topics
BITH 354	Women in the World of the NT
BITH 356	I Corinthians
BITH 358	Acts of the Apostles
BITH 359	New Testament Topics
BITH 362	James
BITH 364	Peter And Jude
BITH 365	Prison Epistles
BITH 366	New Testament Topics in Historical Perspectives
BITH 368	The Book of Revelation
BITH 417	New Testament and Context in the Holy Lands
BITH 431	Issues in Modern Old Testament Studies
BITH 433	Jeremiah
BITH 434	Minor Prophets
BITH 438	Wisdom Literature
BITH 443	Hebrew Exegesis
BITH 444	Hebrew Exegesis
BITH 448	Old Testament Topics
BITH 449	Old Testament Topics
BITH 451	Greek Exegesis
BITH 452	Issues in Modern New Testament Studies
BITH 454	Mark
BITH 457	John
BITH 458	Acts of the Apostles
BITH 459	Greek Exegesis
BITH 462	Pastoral Epistles
BITH 468	New Testament Topics
BITH 469	New Testament Topics
ARCH 334	Historical Geography
ARCH 365	Statecraft and International Relations in the Ancient Near East
ARCH 367	Jerusalem, the Holy City
ARCH 369	Religions of Israel and the Near East

ARCH 456	Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament
GPS 305	Journeys across Cultures: A Narrative & Cross-Cultural Study of the Journeys of Paul
GPS 306	Physical Settings of the Bible
GPS 307	Archaeology of Jerusalem I
GPS 309	Intertestamental Literature
GPS 311	History of Ancient Israel
GPS 312	Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls
GPS 318	Biblical Archaeology I
GPS 324	Cultural Backgrounds of the Bible
GPS 325	Biblical Archaeology II
GPS 326	History of the Second Temple Period
GPS 327	Hermeneutics of Old Testament Texts in Jewish and Christian Tradition
GPS 328	Parable of Jesus and Rabbinic Meshalim
GPS 329	Archaeology of Jerusalem II
GPS 401	Readings in Biblical Hebrew: Historical and Geographical Texts
GPS 402	Readings in Biblical Hebrew Narrative Texts
<i>Theological Studies (Minimum 4 credits):</i>	
BITH 322	Theology and the Arts
BITH 339	Topics in Perennial Theological Questions
BITH 342	Majority World Theology
BITH 346	Ancient Faith for the Modern World
BITH 355	Theology of the Promised Land
BITH 373	Marriage, Sex and Family in the Christian Tradition
BITH 375	Christian Ethics
BITH 377	Topics in Christian Thought
BITH 382	Church
BITH 383	Gender and Theology
BITH 384	Political Theology
BITH 385	Triune God
BITH 388	Person and Work of Christ
BITH 389	Holy Spirit and Last Things
BITH 392	Scripture
BITH 393	Topics in Christian Thought
BITH 396	Roman Catholic Theology
BITH 398	Eastern Orthodox Theology
BITH 418	Christian Theology in Context in the Holy Lands
BITH 482	Advanced Topics in Christian Thought
BITH 483	Augustine
BITH 484	Thomas Aquinas
BITH 485	Martin Luther
BITH 486	John Calvin
BITH 488	Karl Barth
BITH 489	Advanced Topics in Christian Thought
CORE 328	AIS: Mary, Mother of God <sup>1</sup>
CORE 332	AIS: Women Writing Theology <sup>1</sup>
CORE 357	AIS: Theology and Film <sup>1</sup>
GPS 308	History of the Christian Church in the East

*Religion (Minimum 4 credits):*

RELI 225	Major World Religions
RELI 233	Theological Approaches to Religious Diversity
RELI 356	The Jewish Tradition
RELI 375	The Muslim Tradition
RELI 395	Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh Traditions
RELI 443	Comparative Mysticism: Christianity and Islam
BITH 386	Qur'an and Bible

**Total Credits****44**

Students pursuing a major in Biblical and Theological Studies are encouraged to fulfill the General Education language requirement by taking Greek, Hebrew, or German.

<sup>1</sup> College policy states that students shall not be allowed to take more than one AIS course.