

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The mission of the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies is to cultivate Christians who are biblically rooted and theologically formed.

Our programs are designed to foster Christian thinking nurtured by biblical and theological study in the context of a Christian liberal arts education. We help students think *biblically* as they learn the content of Old and New Testaments and interpret the Scriptures in light of the culture, history, and geography of the ancient world. We help students think *theologically* as they learn classical Christian doctrine, paying special attention to both its historical development and evangelical expressions, and understand how this learning enables obedient witness to Christ in our global context.

Our study of Scripture and theology equips students to interpret the Bible with a capacity for sound theological judgment, and our students manifest their learning by participating faithfully in the church as it bears witness to Jesus Christ around the world. In light of this mission, we aim to foster student formation in three interrelated areas:

- biblical and theological knowledge;
- academic skills and critical reflection; and
- Christian discipleship and service.

We offer courses that foster biblical and theological knowledge informed by rigorous, critical, and Christian engagement with classic and contemporary scholarship. We promote the development of academic skills necessary for advanced academic study and service in the church and society worldwide. We are committed to stimulating learning that bears fruit in lives of faithful discipleship that witness for Christ and his kingdom.

The Bible and the Liberal Arts

Courses in Biblical and Theological Studies at Wheaton College are offered in the context of a liberal arts education. This context means that our biblical and theological study occurs in conversation with the entire spectrum of human knowledge, culture, and experience, and it also affirms the value of every discipline that contributes to that end. "Christian" liberal arts is distinguished by the recognition it gives to the lordship of Jesus Christ and to the Bible in its depiction of the world and the human condition, and also by its commitment to glorify God and accomplish his purpose in the world. Wheaton College affirms that Scripture carries divine authority. Furthermore, the College understands its mission as being "For Christ and His Kingdom." These commitments form its major distinctives as a Christian liberal arts college. In light of our commitment to the Bible's authority, we seek to help students evaluate the presuppositions, theories, goals, and methods of each discipline, and indeed all of life's activities, by the criterion of God's revelation in Scripture.

Academic majors are available in Biblical Archaeology and Biblical and Theological Studies. All Wheaton College undergraduates are required to take courses in Biblical and Theological Studies.

A departmental honors program for majors requires four hours of honors course work within the 32-hour major, plus an additional four hours of honors thesis.

Faculty

Chair, Keith L. Johnson

Blanchard Professor of Archeology, Daniel Master

Carl Armerding and Hudson T. Armerding Professor of Biblical Studies, Michael Graves

Professors, Vincent Bacote, Jeffrey Barbeau, Keith Johnson, George Kalantzis, David Lauber, Adam Miglio, Philip Ryken, Carlos Sosa Siliezar

Associate Professors, Aubrey Buster, Gregory Lee, Emily McGowin, Jordan Ryan

Assistant Professors, Alexander Massad

Visiting Assistant Professors, Bradley Cameron, Stephen Wunrow

Emeritus Professors, Daniel Block, C. Hassell Bullock, Gary Burge, Walter Elwell, Gene Green, Andrew Hill, Karen Jobes, Douglas Moo, Mark Noll, John Walton

Programs

- Biblical and Theological Studies Major (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biblical-theological-studies/biblical-theological-studies-major/>)
- Biblical and Theological Studies Minor (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biblical-theological-studies/biblical-theological-studies-minor/>)
- Biblical Archaeology Major (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biblical-theological-studies/biblical-archaeology-major/>)
- Biblical Archaeology Minor (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biblical-theological-studies/biblical-archaeology-minor/>)
- Early Christian Studies Certificate (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biblical-theological-studies/early-christian-studies-certificate/>)
- Religions of the World Certificate (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biblical-theological-studies/religions-of-the-world-certificate/>)
- Departmental Honors Endorsement: Biblical and Theological Studies (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biblical-theological-studies/departmental-honors-endorsement-biblical-and-theological-studies/>)
- General Studies Endorsement for Fourth-Year Majors in Biblical and Theological Studies (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/biblical-theological-studies/general-studies-endorsement-for-fourth-year-majors-in-biblical-and-theological-studies/>)

Courses

Archaeology Courses

ARCH 211. Old Testament Archaeology. (4 Credits)

A survey of the Old Testament with an emphasis on archaeological research as it relates to the understanding and interpretation of the text. This course fulfills the Old Testament general education requirement.

General Education: SHAR

ARCH 213. New Testament Archaeology. (4 Credits)

A survey of the New Testament with an emphasis on archaeological research as it relates to the understanding and interpretation of the text. This course fulfills the New Testament general education requirement.

General Education: SHAR

ARCH 317. 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 through the centuries. This program can be taken as a partial alternative to the general education requirements in Biblical and Theological studies, or it can fill selected requirements in the Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, or Archaeology major. Su only.

ARCH 325. Archaeological Field Work. (4 Credits)

Field experience involving excavation, interpretation, and studies in related regional archaeology.

Tags: SI

ARCH 326. Archaeological Field Work: Tel Shimron, Israel. (4 Credits)

Field experience involving excavation, interpretation, and studies in related regional archaeology.

Tags: GP, HP

ARCH 327. Archaeological Science. (4 Credits)

Overview and practice of methods of archaeological science applied from geosciences, chemistry and biology (zoology and botany) in an active excavation. Understanding the historical influence of physical and environmental setting on the archaeological site in its regional context. Four hours lecture, 3 hours laboratory.

Tags: SP

ARCH 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.

ARCH 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.

ARCH 345. Archaeology of the Classical World. (2 Credits)

Excavations, monuments, epigraphic materials, and papyri from the Minoan, Mycenaean, Aegean, and Greco-Roman times. Prerequisite: ARCH 211 or 213.

ARCH 365. Statecraft and International Relations in the Ancient Near East. (4 Credits)

This course investigates the ways that statecraft and international politics were conducted in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. It addresses methods and theories for studying statecraft and international politics as well as considers how these were embedded within and shaped by the societies, cultures, and economies of Mesopotamia and Egypt. Prerequisite: ARCH 211 or BITH 211.

Tags: HP, SI

ARCH 366. 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

ARCH 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.

ARCH 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

ARCH 411. Advanced Archaeological Study. (4 Credits)

A concentrated analysis of one particular aspect of biblical archaeology or ancient Near Eastern studies.

ARCH 412. Advanced Archaeological Study. (2 Credits)

A concentrated analysis of one particular aspect of biblical archaeology or ancient Near Eastern studies.

ARCH 415. Ugaritic Language and Literature. (4 Credits)

See ARCH 515.

ARCH 416. Classical Hebrew Inscriptions. (4 Credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to Classical Hebrew and Canaanite sources (inscriptions) for the history of the land of Canaan during the Old Testament period. In addition to mastering the grammar of the primary sources, students will be exposed to questions about the mechanics of writing, will explore the ancient social and cultural contexts of Canaan, and will specifically engage in discussions about the origins, nature, extent and purposes of literacy during this period. Prerequisite: HEBR 301. Cross-listed with ARCH 516.

Tags: HP, SI

ARCH 417. Egyptian Hieroglyphics. (4 Credits)

An introduction to Middle Egyptian which involves learning how to read and translate texts.

ARCH 418. Akkadian Cuneiform. (2 or 4 Credits)

An introduction to cuneiform which leads students through the techniques for transcription, transliteration, and translation of Assyrian or Babylonian literature.

ARCH 453. Advanced Archaeology and the Old Testament. (4 Credits)
See ARCH 521.

ARCH 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. Cross-listed with BITH 456, BITH 556, and ARCH 556.

ARCH 494. Senior Seminar. (2 Credits)
A capstone seminar devoted to exploring the current issues in Near Eastern archaeology that relate to biblical studies, especially those touching on historiography, historicity, social and cultural backgrounds, methodology, and faith. Prerequisite: ARCH 412.
General Education: SHAR

ARCH 495. Independent Study. (1 to 4 Credits)
Independent study of selected problems for the advanced student.

Biblical and Theological Studies Courses

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 216. The Person of Christ: Christology & Trinity in the Early Church. (2 Credits)
This course explores the development of early Christian understandings of the Person of Christ and their soteriological implications, beginning with the New Testament to the end of the fifth century and the formation of the Creeds. (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.

Tags: VPA

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.

Tags: HP

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.

Tags: GP

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 348. Jewish Biblical Interpretation. (2 Credits)

This course offers a general introduction to Jewish biblical interpretation, with special emphases on ideological commitments, communal functions, and interpretive methods. Similarities and differences with modes of Christian exegesis will be considered. Possible contemporary applications will be explored. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or BITH 221 or BITH 312 or ARCH 211 and BITH 213 or ARCH 213.

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.

Tags: HP

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 386. Qur'an and Bible. (2 Credits)

This course offers a general introduction to the Qur'an, with special emphasis on facets of understanding the Qur'an that place it into conversation with the Christian Bible. These facets include: the historical origins of the Qur'an in the context of Jewish and Christian biblical traditions of late antiquity; principles of interpretation that have been applied to the Qur'an within Islam, with attention to parallel hermeneutical issues in biblical interpretation within the Church; the roles of the Qur'an and the Bible in the history of Christian-Muslim relations; and comparative analysis of the Christian doctrine of Scripture and Islamic theology on the Qur'an. Prerequisite: BITH 211 or BITH 221 or BITH 312 or ARCH 211 and BITH 213 or ARCH 213.

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. Cross-listed with BITH 556, ARCH 456, and ARCH 556. 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 Latin American and Hispanic (Latino/a), African and African-American, and Asian and Asian-American perspectives and from women scholars. Completion of BITH 211, 221 or ARCH 211 is recommended (not required) 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.

Religion Courses

RELI 225. Major World Religions. (4 Credits)

A survey of the world's major religions. Students will acquire understanding of the complex category of "religion," become familiar with the basic methodological approaches employed in religious studies, and gain an overview of knowledge of the histories, beliefs, and practices of the major religions discussed. Students not only gain a working knowledge of various religious beliefs and practices, but they will develop a Christian theological perspective that accounts for the existence and growth of non-Christian religious traditions.

Tags: GP

RELI 233. Theological Approaches to Religious Diversity. (4 Credits)

This course surveys current methodologies in comparative religious studies such as the theology of religions, comparative theology, and missiology.

Tags: PI

RELI 356. The Jewish Tradition. (4 Credits)

An introduction to the history, beliefs and practices of Judaism, with special attention given to contemporary Jewish life and identity. A visit to a synagogue service is an integral part of the course.

Tags: GP, HP

RELI 375. The Muslim Tradition. (4 Credits)

A survey of the Islam as a discursive Muslim religious tradition that engages with primary and secondary source material from multiple contexts.

Tags: GP, HP

RELI 395. Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh Traditions. (4 Credits)

This course is a survey of the Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh religious traditions in the context of South Asia and in the globalized diaspora of each religious tradition. This course carries GP and HP tags and counts for BITH major/minor and the Religions of the World Certificate.

Tags: GP, HP

RELI 443. Comparative Mysticism: Christianity and Islam. (4 Credits)

This course explores questions related to the understanding of God through the literature of Christian mysticism and Muslim Sufism. This course counts toward required BITH majors/minors, the Religions of the World Certificate, and the Early Christian Studies Certificate. Prerequisite: BITH 211 and BITH 213.

Tags: GP, LE

RELI 492. Topical Studies. (2 or 4 Credits)

A phenomenological investigation across several religious traditions. Topics such as fundamentalism, cosmology, sacred writings, or mysticism will be covered.

RELI 495. Directed Study. (1 to 4 Credits)