

Major Seminars (30 credits)

Old Testament Theology – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar focuses on the broad field of Old Testament Theology. Attention will be given to the historical and methodological advances in the field. Additionally, students will explore the various theologies found in the Hebrew Old Testament.

Readings in the Pentateuch – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar is a Hebrew exegesis of selected texts from the Pentateuch emphasizing matters such as textual criticism, lexical semantics, syntax, and structural analysis. The original language exegesis considers matters such as the background of selected texts with an aim toward the teaching and theology of the text(s). As appropriate, students will examine and apply critical methodologies normally associated with this genre(s) of literature.

Readings in Hebrew Poetry – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar is a Hebrew exegesis of selected Hebrew poetry texts with consideration given to matters such as textual criticism, lexical semantics, syntax, and structural analysis. The original language exegesis considers matters such as the background of selected texts with an aim toward the teaching and theology of the text(s). As appropriate, students will examine and apply critical methodologies normally associated with this genre(s) of literature.

Readings in the Prophets – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar is a Hebrew exegesis of selected texts of the Prophets with consideration given to matters such as textual criticism, lexical semantics, syntax, and structural analysis. The original language exegesis considers matters such as the background of selected texts with an aim toward the teaching and theology of the text(s). As appropriate, students will examine and apply critical methodologies normally associated with this genre(s) of literature.

New Testament Theology – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar examines the nature, history, methods, and issues of the field of New Testament theology. Major theological concepts in the Greek New Testament will be treated and examined.

Readings in the Gospels and Acts – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar is a Greek exegesis of selected texts of the canonical Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles with consideration given to matters such as textual criticism, lexical semantics, syntax, and structural analysis. The original language exegesis considers matters such as the background of selected texts with an aim toward the teaching and theology of the text(s). As appropriate, students will examine and apply the critical methodologies normally associated with this genre(s) of literature.

Readings in the Pauline Epistles – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar Greek exegesis of selected Pauline texts with consideration given to matters such as textual criticism, lexical semantics, syntax, and structural analysis. The original language exegesis considers matters such as the background of selected texts with an aim toward the teaching and theology of the text(s). As appropriate, students will examine and apply the critical methodologies normally associated with this genre(s) of literature.

Readings in the General Epistles – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar Greek exegesis of selected General Epistle texts with consideration given to matters such as textual criticism, lexical semantics, syntax, and structural analysis. The original language exegesis considers matters such as the background of selected texts with an aim toward the teaching and theology of the text(s). As appropriate, students will examine and apply the critical methodologies normally associated with this genre(s) of literature.

Advanced Biblical Interpretation – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar consists of an advanced study of the history, methodologies, philosophies, linguistics, and major figures related to the field of biblical interpretation. Students will critique theoretical works, interpretative methodologies, and philosophical approaches to language.

Methods in Biblical Theology – 3 Credits

Course Description

This seminar analyzes recent methods and definitions of biblical theology. The students will evaluate significant literature and proponents of various methods with an aim in determining the best possible approach to biblical theology, one in which best explains Scripture's internal contours and shape. In doing so, the student will take into account the literary, historical, and theological dimensions of the various corpora in the Christian Scripture.

Reading Colloquia (15 Credits)

Old Testament Backgrounds – 3 Credits

Course Description

In this guided reading colloquium, students will read, examine, and review selected primary sources and seminal studies on the social, political, religious, and literary backgrounds related to the ancient Near East and Old Testament studies. Engagement with these materials is foundational to the area of study as a whole and supplements the student's overall research abilities.

Old Testament Studies – 3 Credits

Course Description

In this guided reading colloquium, students will read, examine, and review selected seminal works and current literature related to Old Testament studies. Engagement with these materials is foundational to the area of study as a whole and supplements the student's overall research abilities.

New Testament Backgrounds – 3 Credits

Course Description

In this guided reading colloquium, students will read, examine, and review selected primary sources and seminal studies on the social, political, religious, and literary backgrounds related to New Testament studies. Engagement with these materials is foundational to the area of study as a whole and supplements the student's overall research abilities.

New Testament Studies – 3 Credits

Course Description

In this guided reading colloquium, students will read, examine, and review selected seminal works and current literature related to New Testament studies. Engagement with these materials is foundational to the area of study as a whole and supplements the student's overall research abilities.

Biblical Interpretation Studies– 3 Credits

Course Description

In this guided reading colloquium, students will read, examine, and review selected seminal works and current literature related to biblical interpretation studies. Engagement with these materials is foundational to the area of study as a whole and supplements the student's overall research abilities.

Other Courses and Exams (8 credits)

Academic Research and Writing – 2 Credits

Course Description

In this course the student will develop research skills necessary for academic research and writing. The student will be guided in proper use of and expectations related to Turabian and the Society of Biblical Literature Style guide. The student will also be guided in the best practices of academic research and writing, along with practice in academic writing.

Teaching in Higher Education – 3 Credits

Course Description

In this seminar, students will be introduced to critical educational topics and research on learning. Upon completion of this course, students will provide analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of a range of teaching styles and learning strategies appropriate for higher education. Particular emphasis will be given to curriculum development, improvement models, and assessment skills that promote learning across various modalities.

Competency Exams – 2 Credits

Course Description

Upon completion of the ten core seminars and five reading colloquia, the student will take six hours of written competency exams. The exam will be administered two hours a day over a three-day period. The first day exam will include questions regarding the Old Testament and Hebrew. The second exam day will include questions regarding the New Testament and Greek. The final exam day will include questions regarding biblical interpretation and biblical theology. Students must pass this element to move to dissertation phase.

Oral Defense of Competency Exams – 1 Credit

Course Description

The student will appear before the professors in the PhD in Christian Scripture and defend material covered in the competency exams. Students must pass this element to move to dissertation phase.

Dissertation Courses (5 credits)

Dissertation Prospectus Development – 1 Credit

Course Description

Working with their Dissertation Chair, students will develop and complete a dissertation prospectus. The PhD committee will evaluate the prospectus and student may be asked to defend the prospectus. Students must pass this element to move to dissertation research and writing.

Dissertation Research and Writing – 3 Credits

Course Description

PhD Candidates will initiate, conduct, and complete their research. They will begin to submit chapters to their Dissertation Chair. Students will enroll in this class each semester until a completed dissertation is ready for submission and defense. Subsequent enrollments will be charged 3 credit hours per semester.

Dissertation Oral Defense – 1 Credit

Course Description

Students will successfully defend their dissertation. Pending a successful defense and changes required by the student's committee the dissertation will be made available for public access.