

# COURSE OF STUDY

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## DIVISION I – THE BIBLICAL WITNESS

**Professors:** Jaime Clark-Soles, Roy Heller, Richard Nelson, Susanne Scholz, Abraham Smith, Sze-kar Wan. **Intern Faculty:** Barry Hughes.

The purpose of Division I is to develop the student's biblical knowledge and understanding and to provide sound methods for proper and effective use of Scripture. Biblical history and literature are studied in relation to the social and cultural context of ancient Israel and the early church. The division is concerned, further, with the exposition of Scripture and with the nature and history of great biblical themes, so as to produce effective biblical interpreters, whether their study has been in English alone or in one or more of the biblical languages.

All Hebrew exegesis courses presuppose completion of **HB 7300, 7301** or the equivalent, as well as **OT 6301** or the equivalent. All Greek exegesis courses presuppose completion of **GR 7300, 7301** or the equivalent, as well as **NT 6301** or the equivalent.

### Basic Courses

**OT 6301. Interpretation of the Old Testament I.** Examines texts and issues representative of the Pentateuch and Former Prophets, with attention to historical, literary, cultural and theological matters, and to exegetical method. Acquaints students with the content of these biblical writings and develops their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. Three term hours.

**OT 6302. Interpretation of the Old Testament II.** Examines texts and issues representative of the Latter Prophets and Writings, with attention to historical, literary, cultural and theological matters, and to exegetical method. Acquaints students with the content of these biblical writings and develops their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. Three term hours. *Prerequisite:* OT 6301.

**NT 6301. Interpretation of the New Testament I.** Examines texts and issues representative of the Gospels and Acts, with attention to historical, literary, cultural and theological matters, and to exegetical method. Acquaints students with the content of these biblical writings and develops their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. Three term hours.

**NT 6302. Interpretation of the New Testament II.** Examines texts and issues representative of the Epistles and Revelation, with attention to historical, literary, cultural and theological matters and to exegetical method. Acquaints students with the content of these biblical writings and develops their competence in the critical analysis and interpretation of the texts. Three term hours. *Prerequisite:* NT 6301.

### Electives

#### *Biblical Languages*

**HB 7300. Hebrew I.** An introduction to the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew. Three term hours.

**HB 7301. Hebrew II.** A continuation of the study of Biblical Hebrew, as well as an introduction to the methods and resources of Hebrew exegesis, through study of selected narrative passages. Three term hours.

**GR 7300. Greek I.** An introduction to the fundamentals of the grammar and syntax of Koine Greek. Three term hours.

**GR 7301. Greek II.** A continuation of GR 7300, with extensive reading in a variety of New Testament writings and with special attention to the syntax of Koine Greek, as well as to the tools, methods and skills needed for exegesis. Three term hours.

## ***Exegetical and Topical Studies***

### ***Exegesis Courses***

Usually, 7000-level English exegesis courses are devoted to the study of the theological and literary features of a particular book or pair of books within the related historical context and presuppose the relevant introductory course. For example, OT 7308 *The Book of Jeremiah* presupposes completion of OT 6302, which covers the Latter Prophets. Courses at the 8000 level are advanced seminars, and prerequisites are listed for each course.

**HB 7302. Hebrew Exegesis.** Selected texts from the Hebrew Bible. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* HB 7300, 7301 or equivalent.

**GR 7302. Greek Exegesis.** Translation and exegesis of selected texts from the Greek New Testament. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* GR 7300, 7301 or equivalent.

**OT 7301. The Book of Genesis.** Three term hours.

**OT 7305. The Book of Exodus.** Three term hours.

**OT 7310. The Book of Deuteronomy.** Three term hours.

**OT 7316. The Psalms.** Three term hours.

**OT 7321. The Book of Isaiah.** Three term hours.

**NT 7310. The Gospel of Mark.** Three term hours.

**NT 7311. The Gospel of Matthew.** Three term hours.

**NT 7312. The Gospel of Luke.** Three term hours.

**NT 7313. The Gospel of John.** Three term hours.

**NT 7320. Romans.** Three term hours.

**NT 7329. Exegesis of the Passion Narratives.** Three term hours

### ***Advanced Electives***

**BB 8015 or 8315. Biblical Exegesis From a Hispanic Perspective.** An interpretation of Old and New Testament passages in terms of the cultural and historical situation of Hispanic peoples in the United States. One and one-half term hours or three term hours. *Prerequisites:* six term hours of basic Bible courses.

**BB 8321. The Bible in Global Context.** A study of biblical hermeneutics in a cultural context different from the students' own, typically outside the United States and Europe, with special attention to the role of theological reflection in an environment affected by globalization in all its dimensions. A focused, on-site study in a particular region of the world. May be repeated for additional academic credit when topics vary. Three term hours.

**BB 8325. The Authority of the Bible for Theology.** An examination of theological questions resulting from the claim that the biblical canon has primary authority among the sources of Christian theology. Three term hours (colisted as ST 8325). *Prerequisites:* OT 6301, 6302 and NT 6301, 6302 and ST 6301, 6302.

**BB 8330. African American Perspectives on the Bible.** An exploration of the variety of approaches used by African American biblical scholars to explore Scripture and the reception history of the Bible in African American arts and letters. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* Either OT 6301 or OT 6302 and either NT 6301 or NT 6302.

**BB 8345. Scripture and Christian Ethics.** An examination of the hermeneutical issues that are involved when Scripture is employed as a guide for Christian ethics. After a consideration of some recent, representative proposals and models, explores a few selected topics. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* OT 6301, 6302; NT 6301, 6302; and MT 6303.

**OT 8325. The Message of the Prophets.** A seminar on the message of the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the 12 Prophets. May vary specific texts and topics. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* OT 6301, 6302.

**OT 8345. Ancient Texts and Modern Readers: Contemporary Approaches to the Hebrew Bible.** An exploration of various contemporary reading methods, their political

underpinnings and the biblical interpretations they produce. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* OT 6301, 6302.

**OT 8351. Major Motifs of Biblical Theology.** Thematic study of one or more major aspects of biblical theology. Studies themes in the Old Testament first, but may also examine the relation of the Old Testament witness to that of the New Testament. Varies the selection of topics from time to time. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* OT 6301, 6302.

**OT 8357. The Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books of the Old Testament.** An examination of the setting, origin, purpose and theological outlook of the Books of the Old Testament Apocrypha, with attention given to the background they provide for an understanding of first-century Judaism and the New Testament. Three term hours. *Prerequisite:* OT 6301 or OT 6302.

**OT 8368. Film and the Hebrew Bible.** An examination of the interface between biblical literature and film, especially movies, documentaries, and educational materials. The course explores the development of this relationship since the emergence of film in the 20th century C.E.

**NT 8336. The Book of Revelation Through History and Cultures.** An exploration of the probable meaning and function of the Book of Revelation in its original context and the interpretive strategies that developed in other contexts and cultures for making sense of this text. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* NT 6301, 6302 and HX 6305.

**NT 8343. The Spiritual Vision of Jesus.** An examination of the spiritual vision of Jesus as it can be reconstructed from New Testament texts. Attention to methodological challenges, the shape of second Temple Judaism and other issues of relevance, including the attitude of Jesus toward the Temple Law and prayer. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* NT 6301, 6302.

**NT 8365. Evil, Suffering and Death in the New Testament.** An examination of New Testament perspectives on evil, suffering and afterlife. Explores how these realities were experienced, symbolized and judged by representatives of early Christianity with a view to relating these discoveries to the lived faith of those in contemporary churches. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* NT 6301, 6302.

**NT 8379. Issues in Pauline Theology.** An examination of various issues in Pauline theology, such as the law, faith/fullness, resurrection and Judaism. Traces methodological options and the historical development of Pauline studies, as well as major theological issues in Paul's undisputed letters. Three term hours. *Prerequisites:* NT 6301, 6302 and ST 6300.

## **DIVISION II – THE HERITAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN ITS RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL CONTEXT**

**Professors:** Ted Campbell, Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, Ruben Habito, Valerie Karras, William Lawrence, Bruce Marshall. **Intern Faculty:** William Bryan.

The purpose of the Division II program is to examine the life and thought of the Christian community in its historical expressions and to introduce the student to the interrelations between Christianity and world culture. Studies are offered in the historical development of Christianity, the manifestations of its outreach around the globe and the varieties of religious and cultural contexts with which it has come in contact.

Enrollment in advanced HR courses requires prior completion of **HR 6302** World Religions and Christianity: A Global Perspective. Enrollment in intermediate and advanced HX and WX courses requires prior completion of **HX 6305, 6306** The Christian Heritage. Exceptions to these prerequisites are by permission of the academic dean only.

Beyond the regular elective courses offered each term, reading courses in Division II may be arranged. Information may be obtained from the registrar.