

Biblical and Theological Studies Major Course Description Changes for the 2026–27 Academic Year and Onward

BTS Courses

GE Designates a course that fulfills all or part of a Core Curriculum requirement; see the Core Curriculum Program section of the catalog for more information.

BTS 1850 Introduction to the Bible (4 sh) GE

An introductory survey of the history and theology of the biblical narrative as it informs Christian faith today—particular emphasis on the theological unity of the Bible’s message.

BTS 2110 Narratives and Ethics for the Nations: Pentateuch (4 sh) GE

The focus of this course is the story of biblical Israel as depicted in the first five books of the Bible, or the Pentateuch. The course will closely follow the Pentateuch’s concern for faith, particularly in relation to the covenant at Mount Sinai and the revelation of the law. Biblical Emphasis-Old Testament.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2120 Voices of the Disenfranchised Communities: Old Testament Prophets (4 sh) GE

A historical study of the Hebrew prophets within the economic, political, and social conditions of their time. The significance of the prophetic message for the Hebrew and Christian faiths. Biblical Emphasis-Old Testament.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2130 Sages and Human Flourishing: Old Testament Poets (4 sh) GE

A survey of the third major division of the Hebrew canon of the Bible, the Writings or Kethubim. The Writings is a miscellaneous collection of books that are important for understanding the history, faith, and practice of ancient Israel and early Judaism. This, in turn, is important for understanding the New Testament and the early Church. This course examines the different books of the Writings in their final, canonical form, with attention given to the various theological motifs. The different literary genres in the collection are studied. The canonical role of the Writings as a collection is also examined. Biblical Emphasis-Old Testament.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2210 Jesus and the Marginalized: Jesus and the Gospels (4 sh) GE

An investigation of the life, teachings, and passion of Jesus in their Jewish and Roman contexts, with special attention to his moral vision, the politics of the kingdom of God, and his solidarity with the oppressed. The course engages contemporary voices to assess the continuing significance of Jesus for faith and justice today. New Testament Emphasis.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2260 Saint Paul and Christian Interculturalism: Life and Letters of Paul (4 sh) GE

A study of the life and letters of Paul in their Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts, with special attention to his vision of the congregation as a multi-ethnic, intercultural body in Christ. The course examines Paul's theology, mission, and continuing significance for global Christianity today. New Testament Emphasis.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2400: Christian Origins in the City (4 sh) GE

A study tour that will introduce students to the diverse cultural, historical, and geographical settings of earliest Christianity in the Greco-Roman world through a firsthand encounter with the material evidence in the ancient cities of Rome, Pompeii, and Herculaneum in Italy. The on-site exposure will provide the context for investigating the early development of the beliefs and practices that became Christianity in the diverse urban social settings of the Roman Empire. The travel portion of the course is required.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2520 Christian Spirituality (4 sh) GE

An examination of the nature of Christian spirituality with emphasis on spiritual development and maturity. A variety of approaches to spirituality will be introduced and evaluated. Theological Emphasis.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2600 Saints, Radicals, and Heretics: Church History (4 sh) GE

An exploration of one or multiple figures in the history of Christianity, through

engagement with primary and secondary sources, with an emphasis on social movements and change. Theological Emphasis.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2640 – Faith, Politics, and Power Across Christian History: Historical Theology (4 sh) GE

A survey of the great Christian thinkers and doctrinal developments of the West from the beginnings to the 20th century, with an emphasis on the relationship between Christian churches and ruling authorities. Theological Emphasis.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 2700 – World Religions in Christian Perspective (4 sh) GE

An investigation of religion from a Christian perspective by examining major world traditions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Judaism, and Islam—in their historical and cultural contexts. Emphasis is placed on each tradition's view of the human problem and its proposed solution, with some attention to new religious movements and their relation to older traditions. Theological Emphasis.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 3250 The Apocalypse and Empire (4 sh) GE

An exploration of the writings of John, especially the Gospel and Revelation, in their Jewish and Roman contexts. Reading Revelation as a Jewish apocalypse, we explore its vision as a framework for John's witness to Jesus, exhorting Christians to resist imperial power and offering enduring resources for reflection on power, justice, and faith today. New Testament Emphasis.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 3410 Women, The Bible, and The Church (4 sh) GE

A study of the Old and New Testament texts that bear on the roles and status of women. This course examines a wide range of historical and theological perspectives relevant to issues of women, the Bible, and the church. Biblical Emphasis-Old and New Testament.

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 3910 Topics in Biblical and Theological Studies (4 sh)

An intensive examination of a selected topic in fields related to Biblical and Theological Studies in Global Context (e.g., biblical studies, theology, Christian history, etc.).

Prerequisite: BTS 1850

BTS 4930 Directed Research (2 or 4 sh)

Students will work under the direction of a faculty mentor on a novel research project. Permission of the faculty mentor is required before enrollment in this course. This course may be repeated, though the department may limit the number of credit hours it counts toward the major. Please see the departmental degree requirements for details.

BTS 4970 Internship in Biblical and Theological Studies (1-4 sh)

Please refer to the Internship section of the catalog for internship requirements and guidelines.

