

Biblical Studies Department

Faculty

Department Chair: Dr. Longstreth

Department Faculty: Mr. L. Chandler; Dr. Dilbeck; Mr. Huntley; Dr. McClister; Mr. Ogden; Dr. Ward

Department Adjunct Faculty: Dr. Hamilton; Dr. Weaver

Aims of Biblical Studies

In keeping with the College's mission, the Biblical Studies department provides academic training through an intensive examination of the biblical text, its original languages, and its historical and social background. In addition, the program offers a study of systems of religious thought and the history of religious movements related to the Bible. The Biblical Studies department offers majors: Biblical Studies (BA), Biblical Studies with a specialization in New Testament (BA), and Biblical Education (BS).

Entrance Requirements

Students may begin working toward any one of the Biblical Studies bachelor's degree programs at any time after being enrolled at Florida College. Students wishing to pursue any of the department's bachelor's degrees are encouraged to speak with the chair of the Biblical Studies Department.

Biblical Studies (BA)

First awarded in 1997

Dr. Longstreth, Program Coordinator

Total Semester Hours

Candidates for a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies must complete at least 120 semester hours of accredited college work, of which 50 hours must be completed at the 3000-4000 level.

General Education Requirements

Each student must complete the 36-hour general education core and two hours of physical education classes. Students pursuing the B.A. degree must take GRE 2140/2141 (Beginning Greek) and are therefore encouraged to take this two-semester course sequence to satisfy the general education foreign language requirement.

Language Requirement

Each student must complete two semesters of Beginning Greek (GRE 2140-2141).

Lower Division Bible Prerequisites (14 hours recommended; minimum 4 hours required)

- LIT 2371 Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom Literature (3 hours)
- REL 1210 History and Geography of the Old Testament (2 hours; required)
- REL 1240 History and Geography of the New Testament (2 hours; required)
- REL 1780 Evidences I: General Apologetics (1 hour)
- REL 1781 Evidences II: The Biblical Text (1 hour)
- REL 2257 NT Epistles: 1 Corinthians (1 hour)
- REL 2261 Survey of the Pauline Epistles (2 hours)
- REL 2262 Survey of the General Epistles (1 hour)
- REL 2272 Survey of Biblical Doctrines (1 hour)

Required Core (7 hours)

- REL 3713 Introduction to Biblical Studies (3 hours)
- One of the following:

- REL 4217 Critical Introduction to the OT (3 hours) **OR**
- REL 4247 Critical Introduction to the NT (3 hours)
- REL 4901 Biblical Studies Portfolio (1 hour)

Upper Division Biblical Literature (minimum 20 hours of the following courses)

- REL 3221 The Law of Moses (3 hours)
- REL 3222 OT Historical Books (3 hours)
- REL 3227 Minor Prophets I (2 hours)
- REL 3231 Job (2 hours)
- REL 3233 Minor Prophets II (2 hours)
- REL 3235 NT Backgrounds (2 hours)
- REL 3253 Gospel and Epistles of John (3 hours)
- REL 3256 NT Epistles: 2 Corinthians, Timothy, Titus (3 hours)
- REL 3258 NT Epistles: James, Peter, Jude (2 hours)
- REL 3265 Gospel of Matthew (3 hours)
- REL 3266 Gospel of Mark (2 hours)
- REL 3268 NT Epistles: Thessalonians and Philippians (2 hours)
- REL 4217 Critical Introduction to the OT (3 hours)
- REL 4225 Ezekiel (3 hours)
- REL 4226 Jeremiah (3 hours)
- REL 4229 Daniel (2 hours)
- REL 4230 Isaiah (3 hours)
- REL 4247 Critical Introduction to the NT (3 hours)
- REL 4254 Romans and Galatians (3 hours)
- REL 4255 Hebrews (2 hours)
- REL 4259 Book of Revelation (3 hours)
- REL 4900 Independent Directed Study in Biblical Literature (1-3 hours)
- REL 4930 Selected Topics (1-3 hours)
- Any upper-level Biblical Language course may be counted toward this requirement unless the Biblical Language course is intended to satisfy another requirement for any baccalaureate degree at the college (these upper-division language courses may also count as a daily Bible).

Church History/Religious Thought Electives (9 hours with at least 3 hours in each area)

AREA ONE: CHURCH HISTORY

- REL 3503 Church History: Ancient and Medieval (3 hours)
- REL 3504 Church History: Reformation and Modern (3 hours)
- REL 3541 History of Christianity in America (3 hours)
- REL 3567 History of the Restoration Movement (3 hours)
- REL 3784 History and Methodology of Apologetics (3 hours)
- REL 4905 Independent Directed Study in Church History (1-3 hours)
- REL 4932 Selected Topics in Church History (1-3 hours)

AREA TWO: RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

- REL 3131 American Sects and Cults (3 hours)
- REL 3308 World Religions (3 hours)
- REL 3412 The Problem of Evil (3 hours)
- REL 3460 Philosophy of Religion (3 hours)
- REL 3719 Studies in Biblical Eschatology (3 hours)
- REL 3783 Historical Apologetics (3 hours)
- REL 3784 History and Methodology of Apologetics (3 hours)
- REL 3797 Studies in Catholic and Protestant Thought (3 hours)
- REL 4907 Independent Directed Study in Religious Thought (1-3 hours)
- REL 4931 Selected Topics in Religious Thought (1-3 hours)

Requirements for the Minor

To allow for greater flexibility in this program, there is no minor required for the B.A. in Biblical Studies.

Sequence of Courses

Students should complete the 4 hours of Bible prerequisites (REL 1210, REL 1240) during their first year. It is recommended that Bible majors complete English Composition I and II during their freshman year of college work before enrolling in upper-level Biblical Studies courses, which have major writing assignments. The Greek requirement (GRE 2140/2141) and REL 3713 should be completed no later than the student's sophomore year, but academically stronger students are encouraged to take these courses in the first year. Graduating students will take the program capstone course REL 4901 in the final semester of their program.

Exclusions

Special one-hour courses offered as daily Bible for non-Bible majors will not satisfy the component requirements for Biblical Literature, Church History, or Religious Thought.

Quality of Work

A minimum grade point average of 2.0 overall and on all upper-level work is required.

Residency

Students must complete a minimum of 32 hours of their upper-level work at Florida College, at least 16 of which must be completed after the semester in which the student has earned a cumulative total of at least 90 semester hours.

Graduation Ceremony

C Candidates must participate in graduation exercises in the year of completing their other requirements. Any exception must be cleared through the Provost.

RECOMMENDED PLAN FOR BA DEGREE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (120 HOURS shown)

| Fall – Year One | Hours | Spring – Year One | Hours |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| ENC 1101 – Freshman Composition I | 3 | ENC 1102 – Freshman Composition II | 3 |
| GRE 2140 – Beginning Greek I | 4 | GRE 2141 – Beginning Greek II | 4 |
| Math | 3 | Math | 3 |
| REL 1210 – Hist. & Geog.: OT | 2 | SPC 1608 – Public Speaking | 3 |
| TR Lower Division Bible | 1 | REL 1240 – Hist. & Geog.: NT | 2 |
| REL 3713 – Intro. Biblical Studies | 3 | TR Lower Division Bible | 1 |
| Total | 16 | Total | 16 |
| Fall – Year Two | Hours | Spring – Year Two | Hours |
| Behavioral Science | 3 | Behavioral or Social Science | 3 |
| PE Course | 1 | LIT 2371 – OT Poetry & Wisdom | 3 |
| Social Science | 3 | PE Course | 1 |
| REL 2261 – Survey - Pauline Epistles | 2 | REL 3308 – World Religions | 3 |
| TR Lower Division Bible | 1 | TR Lower Division Bible | 1 |
| Elective / NT Greek encouraged | 3 | Elective / NT Greek encouraged | 3 |
| TR Upper Division Bible | 2 | TR Upper Division Bible | 2 |
| Total | 15 | Total | 16 |
| Fall – Year Three | Hours | Spring – Year Three | Hours |
| MWF Upper Division Bible | 3 | MWF Upper Division Bible | 3 |
| TR Upper Division Bible | 2 | TR Upper Division Bible | 2 |
| Church History component | 3 | Ch Hist/Rel Thought component | 3 |
| Upper Division Bible | 3 | Upper Division Bible | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Total | 14 | Total | 14 |
| Fall – Year Four | Hours | Spring – Year Four | Hours |
| MWF Upper Division Bible | 3 | MWF Upper Division Bible | 3 |
| TR Upper Division Bible | 2 | TR Upper Division Bible | 2 |
| Religious Thought component | 3 | REL 4901 Biblical Studies Portfolio | 3 |
| Upper Division Bible | 3 | Upper Division Bible | 1 |
| Elective | 3 | Upper Division Bible | 3 |
| | | Elective | 3 |
| Total | 14 | Total | 15 |