

Course Descriptions

The Master's Seminary offers more than 200 courses in the following subjects:

Bible Exposition
Old Testament Language and Literature
New Testament Language and Literature
Christian Theology
World Missions and Evangelism
Pastoral Ministries.

OVERVIEW

Course Identification System

The alphabetical components of each course identification indicate the subject area as follows:

BI	Bible Exposition (English texts)
OT	Old Testament Language and Literature
NT	New Testament Language and Literature
TH	Christian Theology
MI	World Missions and Evangelism
PM	Pastoral Ministries
DM	Doctor of Ministry

The first of the three numbers in each course identification indicates the curriculum year in which the course is normally scheduled. This is not necessarily an indication of content level.

4	Prerequisite or non-credit courses
5	First year of seminary (Junior year)
6	Second year (Middler year)
7	Third year (Senior year)
8	Th.M. courses
9	Doctoral courses

The third number indicates the semester in which the course is normally offered:

- Odd numbers = Courses normally offered in the fall
- Even numbers = Courses normally offered in the spring

Class Schedules

A schedule of courses offered for any given semester, including winterims and summers, is made available well in advance of each registration period. The seminary reserves the right, however, to cancel any course for which enrollment is insufficient to justify offering the course. Courses may also be canceled in cases of faculty illness or other unforeseen circumstances. When such cancellations would cause unusual hardship for students, the seminary may arrange or allow for alternative requirements or electives.

BIBLE EXPOSITION COURSES

These courses are primarily designed to equip students for more effective comprehension and communication of the Bible. This includes the goals of developing skill in inductive Bible study and in the application of biblical truth to the issues of contemporary life. Survey studies

in both testaments; intensive studies of specific books; syntheses of biblical teaching relating to important themes, topics, and genres; and background studies relating to such issues as biblical cultures, geography, and chronology are included. These provide background materials which are essential for Old Testament and New Testament courses in exegesis as well as for theological studies.

The meaning of Hebrew and Greek terms and grammatical constructions are discussed when they make special contributions to an understanding of the biblical text, but the courses listed under this heading, and designated by BI in the course identification, do not require prerequisite study or facility in the biblical languages unless otherwise noted.

BI 501, 502 • Old Testament Studies I and II

Includes a survey of the entire Old Testament, with a focus on understanding the major contents of each book. Examines literary structure, historical backgrounds, geographical settings, and parallel passages to enhance comprehension and application to contemporary issues and concerns. The first semester covers Genesis through Esther. The second semester covers Job through Malachi. Prerequisite: 501.

Four hours each.

BI 504 • Biblical Exposition of Prayer

A study of Old and New Testament prayers and of the scriptural teaching regarding prayer. The course is designed to impact the personal prayer life of the students and also to equip them for the responsibility of leading a congregation of believers in its prayer worship and ministry. Issues relating to the tensions with regard to the sovereignty of God, the responsibility of humans to pray and respond, and the role of the Holy Spirit, are evaluated.

Two hours.

BI 505 • Hermeneutics

An introduction to the science and art of hermeneutics. Surveys the major interpretive approaches to the Bible, both historical and contemporary. Attempts to establish both general and special principles of interpretation by examining parables, types, prophecies, poetry, and a great variety of figurative constructs. Elucidates the principles of normal, cultural, and historical interpretation.

Two hours.

BI 506 • The Pastor's Home

A study of biblical teaching regarding marriage and family relationships. Evaluates roles, marital relationships, parenting skills, the relationship between the home and the church, the home as an educational agency, and the special problems faced by pastors and their families.

Two hours.

BI 601 • New Testament Studies

A survey of the entire New Testament, devoting special attention to the major lessons of each book. Also examines the historical, cultural, and geographical setting for the New Testament and for each book. Emphasizes both the understanding of the text and the applications to Christian living, and evaluates the major problems associated with each book.

Four hours.

BI 651 • Old Testament Backgrounds

An orientation to the world of the Old Testament in which the cultural and political history of the ancient Near East is surveyed from the perspective of its contributions to understanding the Old Testament. Includes a survey of important geographical and archaeological considerations.

Two hours.

BI 652, 653 • Historical Geography of Israel

A careful study of the geographical layout of ancient Israel with a view to understanding the changes that occurred throughout Israel's history. The topographical and geological features of Israel will also receive treatment.

Two hours each.

BI 655 • Genesis

An expositional treatment of this foundational book of biblical revelation. The key events that shaped the remainder of history, such as creation, the fall, the flood, and the Abrahamic covenant, are given special attention.

Two hours.

BI 656 • Exodus and Leviticus

An analytical exposition of these two key Old Testament books, with special consideration of historical background, theme, interpretational difficulties, and the redemptive plan of God as evidenced and illustrated in the various aspects of the law, the priesthood, and the tabernacle. The theological dimensions of the books will be evaluated in the light of textual, historical, archaeological, and cultural perspectives.

Two hours.

BI 657 • Numbers and Deuteronomy

An expositional study of the books relating to God's preparation of Israel for entrance into the land of Canaan. Major interpretive issues will be considered, along with personal and homiletical applications.

Two hours.

BI 658 • Ezekiel

A study of the life and times of Ezekiel, together with an exposition of the book. Solutions to key interpretive problems are evaluated, with applications to believers today highlighted.

Two hours.

BI 659 • The Minor Prophets

A study of the role and significance of the prophets in Israel's history, a survey of each book, including its political, social, and religious milieu, and an exposition of the message of each prophet.

Two hours.

BI 662 • Ezra and Nehemiah

An expository study of the post-exilic experience of Israel as described by Ezra and Nehemiah. The major interpretive and applicational issues of these books will receive special attention.

Two hours.

BI 665 • Proverbs

An expository study of the Book of Proverbs, with attention to the nature of Hebrew wisdom literature, the genre of proverbs, and the various hermeneutical approaches to this literature. Also emphasizes personal and homiletical applications to contemporary issues and relationships.

Two hours.

BI 668 • Ecclesiastes

A verse by verse exposition of the book of Ecclesiastes, with a view to understanding its basic meaning and theological significance. The course gives attention to authorship, the nature of wisdom literature, and the different schools of thought regarding its interpretation. Personal and homiletical applications are also emphasized.

Two hours.

BI 672 • New Testament History

A study of the historical backgrounds for understanding the New Testament, including an introduction to the literature, culture, and history of New Testament times. Special attention is given to understanding the political and social milieu of the Hellenistic period. Requires reading in both primary and secondary sources.

Two hours.

BI 675 • Life of Christ

Examines the earthly life of our Lord, using a harmony of the Gospels as a basis for study. Evaluates historical, chronological, political, and geographic factors, but devotes primary attention to the theological issues relating to each event and discourse in the Gospels (see NT 675).

Two hours.

BI 677 • Gospel of Mark

A study of the second Gospel with special emphasis on Mark's portrayal of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God and the Suffering Servant. The concept of discipleship seen in this gospel will also receive detailed consideration.

Two hours.

BI 678 • Gospel of Luke

A study of the third Gospel with special attention devoted to the infancy narratives, the kingdom of God as in the parables, the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem, and the events leading to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

Two hours.

BI 679 • Gospel of John

A study of the fourth Gospel in the light of the author's stated purpose (20:31), with emphasis on the self-revelation of Christ with regard to His own person and His saving and sanctifying ministries.

Two hours.

BI 681 • Parables

Surveys the use of parables in Scripture with primary attention to the parables of Jesus. Examines dispensational and alternative interpretations of the parables and evaluates proposed hermeneutical principles for understanding their meanings and applications.

Two hours.

BI 701 • Ordination Preparation

Beginning with the biblical basis for ordination, the practical process for ordination is outlined. A thorough review is conducted of the student's personal life, ministry qualifications, and Bible knowledge. It is designed to functionally prepare the TMS senior to enter ministry after graduation at the highest level of excellence. This class, without exception, is limited to those who will graduate the following May. Prerequisites: BI 501, 502; 601, (See PM 701).

Two hours.

BI 738 • M.Div. Thesis in Bible Exposition

Students who have completed 60 hours of seminary studies with a grade point average of 3.25 or higher may write a thesis dealing with a propaedeutic issue such as central themes, historical or chronological studies, or geographical, cultural, and archaeological contributions to biblical studies. This may not be a general commentary on a Bible book or passage. All seminary policies and deadlines for the thesis project must be strictly observed.

Four hours.

BI 745 • Biblical Manners and Customs

A close look at manners and customs in the biblical setting and their contribution toward interpreting and understanding specific passages. The focus is directed toward aspects of culture in the habits of the people, not aspects of physical geography such as topography, climate, and rivers.

Two hours.

BI 750 • Epistle of James: Call to Wholistic Worship

Course centers on an in-depth study of the background, text, and implications of this practical NT epistle. Students can expect to advance in their exegetical and expositional skills and be challenged afresh to live the whole Christian life.

Two hours.

BI 751 • Acts

A course designed to acquaint the student with the genesis and progression of early Christianity. Devotes special attention to evangelistic methodologies and to the tensions and confusions with regard to that which is normative or commanded versus that which is transitional or occasional. Also includes a study of the chronology of key events in the life of the Apostle Paul.

Two hours.

BI 754 • 1 Corinthians

An expository examination of this key epistle in the light of the social and moral issues of its time. Special focus is directed on the theological, ethical, and practical issues addressed in the book, such as those which involve the roles of men and women. Application to contemporary ecclesiastical and social issues is also evaluated.

Two hours.

BI 755 • 1 and 2 Thessalonians

An expositional approach to these early epistles with careful attention to their context in culture and history. Special emphases focus on the personal, pastoral, and prophetic elements that combine for a unique study. Appropriate applications for the contemporary church will be drawn.

Two hours.

BI 756 • Selected General Epistles

A study of James, 1 Peter, and Jude, with special attention given to the occasion, purpose, structure, contents, and message of each epistle.

Two hours.

BI 757 • Galatians

An exposition of the book, including the date, historical situation, and purpose. Special emphasis is given to the development of the argument and its relationship to the book of Romans.

Two hours.

BI 758 • Johannine Epistles

An in depth study of these three epistles with special attention to John's "tests of life" for identifying and evaluating true fellowship and false pretense or personal deception. A treatment of the authorship of John's Gospel and his Epistles is included.

Two hours.

BI 762 • Daniel

An expository study, including an examination of the historical background, literary structure, prominent system of interpretation, and thematic development. Emphasis is placed on the prophetic chronology presented, and on the relationship with other prophetic portions of Scripture—in particular with the Olivet Discourse of our Lord.

Two hours.

BI 765 • Biblical Archaeology

An introduction to the history, methodology and apologetic value of biblical archaeology, including a survey of the most significant finds in the last century. Emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of the archaeological data and its proper role in the exegetical process.

Two hours.

BI 766 • Jerusalem Studies Seminar (IBEX)

A seminar covering historical, archaeological, and cultural aspects of the city of Jerusalem, both ancient and modern. Readings and primary sources related to the city sites, visits, classroom lectures and student participation are required.

Two hours.

BI 777 • Pastoral Epistles

An expositional analysis of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, with emphasis on the practical application of the instruction of these epistles for contemporary Christian living and pastoral responsibilities.

Two hours.

BI 778 • James and Jude

A study of these general epistles. Special attention is given to the occasion, purpose, structure, content, and message of the interpretive and theological issues.

Two hours.

BI 779 • History of Israel

An examination of the history of God's chosen nation, Old Testament chronology, international relations, great national leaders, and the place of the prophets, beginning with the call of Abraham and ending with the Persian period (see OT 779).

Two hours.

BI 780 • Biblical Ethics

This course treats both the theory and the practice of ethical and moral decision-making. An examination is also made of the key ethical passages in the Scriptures with special application to the issues raised in modern life.

Two hours.

BI 784 • History of the English Bible

The English Bible, both in scope and volume, has been the most significant translation of the Bible in the history of the Church. With new versions of the Bible in English appearing almost annually, this course is designed to study the history of the Bible in English, examining genuine copies of the eight significant English Bibles. Additionally, the theological and practical issues related to Bible translation, evaluation of Bibles, and the Bible in worship will be engaged.

Two hours.

BI 788 • Analysis of Significant New Testament Churches

Twelve churches receive detailed attention to determine what Christ commends and condemns in first century churches which all started with a right ecclesiology. Areas to avoid and areas to emphasize are incorporated into a twentieth century ecclesiology (see PM 788).

Two hours.

BI 799 • Research in Bible Exposition

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary course work, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office. Prerequisite: two years of seminary study (60 hours) with at least one year at The Master's Seminary (30 hours). Number of hours (not to exceed four) to be determined, prior to registration, by the faculty member involved.

On demand, one to four hours.

BI 821 • Evaluation/Utilization of Research Tools (seminar)

The student is led to assess the usefulness of tools for biblical study by inquiring into the kinds of information they provide, the reliability in the languages, use of interpretive principles, acquaintance with recent studies, and other considerations.

Two hours.

BI 822 • Hermeneutics in Contemporary Issues

Based on BI 505 (Hermeneutics), this course develops and hones the student's skill in using principles of interpretation. Principles are applied to contemporary issues such as the Health and Wealth Gospel, Signs and Wonders, Spiritual Warfare, the New Age Movement, Women's Lib Movement and other relevant issues. Prerequisite: BI 505

Two hours.

BI 834 • The Pastoral Epistles (seminar)

A penetrating investigation of passages in the Pastoral Epistles pertaining to church matters, e.g., eldership, women's role in Christian service, discipline, marriage and divorce among leaders, principles of godliness and leadership, and other crucial areas.

Two hours.

BI 838 • Th.M. Thesis

Four hours.

BI 842 • Resolving Problem Passages

Views and solutions on selected key passages in both testaments in a variety of problems are dealt with. Examples include alleged contradictions, passages that have been interpreted various ways, matters of history, chronology, grammar and science.

Two hours.

BI 847 • Pentateuch

Study of the major biblical and historical development of the first five books of the Old Testament.

Two hours.

BI 849 • Samuel, Kings & Chronicles

An expositional study of the prophetic record and evaluation of the rise and decline of the monarchy of Israel. Particular emphasis will be given to the Davidic Covenant as it is revealed, and lessons to benefit a life of godliness.

Two hours.

BI 851 • Gospel of Matthew

An analysis of the first Gospel with special attention devoted to the kingdom concept, the person of Christ, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables of the kingdom, and the Olivet Discourse.

Two hours.

BI 853 • Hebrews

An analysis and exposition of the text, with attention given to authorship, date, theme, and interpretive difficulties. Special emphasis is also given to Christ's fulfillment of the types and shadows of the Old Testament sacrificial system.

BI 862 • Isaiah

An analytical study of the words of this great prophet. Examines his life and character, as well as the historical background of his message, with special emphasis on messianic predictions.

Two hours.

BI 864 • Romans

An exposition of the book, with careful attention given to background, theme, and doctrinal issues and solutions. Relevant practical applications are also presented.

Two hours.

Two hours.

BI 872 • Old Testament Keys to Godliness

An integration of the vital concepts and an exposition of key passages in the Old Testament which indicate how God desires the believer to live in the various aspects of his relationships with God, himself, other believers, the unsaved, family members, employers, employees, leaders, and others.

Two hours.

BI 873 • New Testament Keys to Godliness

An integration of the vital concepts and an exposition of key passages in the New Testament relating to the spiritual lifestyle, featuring a study of such subjects as sanctification, confession, forgiveness, perfection, Christian liberty, interpersonal relationships, and the relationship between law and grace.

Two hours.

BI 874 • Revelation

An expository study of this book, including an examination of the historical backgrounds, literary structures, prominent systems of interpretation, and thematic development. Emphasis is placed on the prophetic chronology presented by the book, and on the relationships with other prophetic portions of Scripture—in particular with the Olivet Discourse of our Lord.

Two hours.

BI 886 • Concept of the Overcomer

The Johannine passages referring to overcomers and overcoming are studied with a view to comprehending the significance of this important biblical concept and integrating the conclusions with the biblical teaching regarding Christian living, security, duties, and future rewards.

Two hours.

BI 887 • Biblical Exposition of Reward

An exposition of the salient passages in both testaments which deal with the believer's future reward. Includes a comparison with the concepts of reward found in the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Dead Sea Scrolls, and Rabbinic Judaism. The issue of conditionality receives primary consideration.

Two hours.

BI 899 • Research in Bible Exposition

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary coursework, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office.

On demand, one to four hours.

BI 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906 • Th.D. Qualifying Exams I–VI

Following acceptance into the Doctor of Theology degree program, a student must register for this course during any semester he intends to write one or more qualifying exams.

BI 941 • Doctoral Dissertation Prospectus

This course is designed to launch the student's doctoral residency. Under the adviser's supervision, the student is expected to refine the dissertation topic, establish its need, defend its choice, and outline the procedure for its undertaking. Preparation of an extensive bibliography is also one of the course requirements.

Four hours.

BI 942, 943, 944, 945, 946 • Dissertation Research I–V

Once the Dissertation Prospectus Course has been completed, the student is expected to register for this course for each subsequent semester of residency during which the dissertation is being researched and written.

Four hours each.