

## **BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES MAJOR - B.A.**

*Primary Faculty, Rockland:* Dr. Stephen Bennett, Dr. Frank Chan, Dr. Elio Cuccaro, Amy Davis  
*Primary Faculty, NYC:* Dr. Thomas Donworth, Dr. Dongsu Kim, Dr. R. Steven Notley,

### **Department Mission Statement**

The Nyack College Biblical and Theological Studies Dept seeks to assist Nyack students in their intellectual and spiritual formation by moving them toward competency in reading, interpreting and applying the Bible and in integrating its teaching into their worldview and personal lives.

Inasmuch as it is called upon to help prepare all Nyack undergraduates for professions of service, the Department seeks to impart a familiarity with the biblical world and with biblical thought, enabling students to connect the concerns of the ancient text with the concerns of the contemporary world. It also seeks to impart the conviction that the Bible's central message, the gospel of Jesus Christ, offers hope for positive change for the entire global community.

Inasmuch as it is called upon to train Bible and Theology majors, the Department seeks to impart skills of ministerial and scholarly expertise, equipping majors with methods of study that will sharpen their understanding of the Bible and enable them to communicate its teaching with confidence and authority. It also seeks to impart familiarity with and respect for the Christian heritage, reminding majors of the larger community of Bible interpreters to which they belong and inspiring them to honor and build upon the work of others.

### **Program Goals:**

The Biblical and Theological Studies program seeks to impart to its majors:

- 1) **Knowledge of the Bible and the Christian heritage.** This will be accomplished through Bible and Theology survey courses and out-of-classroom learning venues sponsored or supported by the Biblical and Theological Studies Department.
- 2) **Skill in researching, interpreting, applying and communicating the teachings of the Bible.** This will be accomplished directly through a Hermeneutics course and a senior seminar course and indirectly through Bible and Theology elective courses.
- 3) **Conviction about the Bible role in personal spiritual formation, the church as the student's primary interpretive community and the**

**gospel as a message of hope for positive change in the global community.** This will be accomplished directly through a Personal Spiritual Formation course, a Global Engagement course and indirectly through Bible and Theology elective courses and through interaction and advisement from the Bible and Theology faculty.

### **Student Learning Goals:**

By graduation, the Biblical and Theological Studies major's knowledge, skills and convictions will reflect Nyack's core values in the following way:

Academically Excellent: Students will know introductory, background and thematic information about the sixty-six books of the Bible and the scholarly research methods through which this knowledge is generated. They will also know the Christian church's historic doctrines, great thinkers and contemporary expressions, with which the students must interact. *This knowledge will be assessed through various written exams and Bible interpretation papers assigned throughout the program and through a standardized exam in the senior year.*

Globally Engaged and Intentionally Diverse. Students will know the richness of the Christian heritage in all its global diversity. Students will also know how the Christian worldview compares and contrasts with competing worldviews in the global marketplace of ideas. *This knowledge will be assessed through various written exams throughout the program and through a standardized exam during the senior year.*

Socially Relevant: Students will be able to connect properly the concerns of the ancient text to the concerns of the modern world, to think biblically in addressing contemporary problems, and to communicate how the gospel of Jesus Christ offers hope for positive change in the global community. These skills will prepare the students for ministerial, educational and other service professions. *This ability will be assessed through various Bible interpretation papers assigned throughout the program.*

Personally Transforming. Students will be able to communicate, whether in oral or written form, the ways in which they integrate the Bible's teaching into their Christian worldview and into their personal daily living. *This ability will be assessed through various Bible interpretation assignments, both oral and written, throughout the program that require this integration and through a professional interview in the senior year.*

### **Program Assessment Plan:**

1. Beginning in Fall 2009, a standardized Bible and Theology content test, covering the content of BIB 102, BIB 201, BIB 301, BIB 302 and THE 320, will be administered to all senior Bible majors enrolling in Theology Seminar, THE 470. *This assessment will measure program goal (1), knowledge of the Bible and the Christian heritage.*

2. Beginning in Fall 2009, Bible research / interpretation papers written by seniors in Theology Seminar, THE 470, will be graded according to the following rubric:

	Below expecta- tion	Meets Expecta- tion	Exceeds Expecta- tion
<b>research question or thesis statement framed well:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• central problem clearly defined</li> <li>• significance of the problem well explained</li> </ul>			
<b>reflects careful data collection:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all information pertinent to the research question presented and discussed</li> </ul>			
<b>aware of scholarship bearing on the research question:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• secondary sources suitable</li> <li>• secondary sources analyzed correctly and cited properly</li> </ul>			
<b>written well:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• logically structured</li> <li>• easy to follow,</li> <li>• enjoyable to read,</li> <li>• exemplifying quality prose</li> </ul>			
<b>persuasive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sound arguments offered</li> <li>• weak arguments avoided</li> <li>• conclusions convincing</li> </ul>			
<b>important to the church:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aware of Christian devotional and/or missional interests</li> </ul>			

*This assessment will measure program goal (2), skill in researching, interpreting, applying and communicating the teachings of the Bible.*

3. Beginning in Fall 2009, senior Bible majors enrolling in Theology Seminar, THE 470 will write a theological biography and undergo a follow-up professional interview, to be graded according to the following rubric:

	Below Expecta tion	Meets Expecta tion	Exceeds Expecta tion

<b>can speak maturely about the Bible and its application</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• devotional meaning</li> <li>• significance for the mission of the church</li> </ul>			
<b>aware of his or her intellectual / theological identity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can describe current personal convictions</li> <li>• can recount and appreciate key influences</li> </ul>			
<b>shows some sense of God’s vocational calling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aware of how Bible and Theology skills play a role in that calling</li> <li>• has a well thought out life plan after graduation</li> </ul>			

*This assessment will measure program goal (3), conviction about the Bible’s role in personal spiritual formation, the church as the student’s primary interpretive community and the gospel as a message of hope for positive change in the global community.*

Program: 126 credit hours, distributed as follows, are required for the Bachelor of Arts degree:

**Liberal Arts and Science Core Component** ..... 49\*

\*Foreign Language Component (12 credits)

GRK 101-102 or HEB 101-102 - Elementary Greek or Hebrew (6 credits)

GRK 231/312 or HEB 221/222 - Rdgs Greek/Exegesis or Hebrew Rdgs I/II (6 cr)

OR

English Bible

2 years or intermediate level (12 credits) of the same language

**Bible and Ministry Core Curriculum** ..... 12

[Bible Majors are exempt from BIB 303—Christian Thought]

**Major Field Component (39 credits)**

**Major Core courses (24 credits)**

BIB 331—Hermeneutics ..... 3

BIB 301-302—Systematic Theology I and II ..... 6

THE 320—Introduction to Historical Theology ..... 3

THE 470 - Seminar ..... 3

Worldview elective ..... 3

PMN 346—Personal Spiritual Formation ..... 3

ICS 224—Intro to Global Engagement or Bible Lands Trip (BIB 384-BIB 387) ..... 3

**Major Elective courses (15 credits)**

For students choosing the “Bible” Concentration

OT electives .....	6
NT electives .....	6
Either BIB or THE elective .....	3

For students choosing the “Theology” Concentration

Historical Theology electives (any course from THE 321-328, or THE 428 .....	6
Systematic Theology electives (any course from THE 342-350 or the 446, 450) .	6
BIB elective.....	3

**Miscellaneous Elective Component (26 credits)**

Miscellaneous electives .....	26
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Recommended courses:

- PMN 340 - Alliance Doctrine and Polity (for those intending Alliance ministry)
- PMN 311-312 - Homiletics (for those intending Alliance ministry)

**Total credits required .....** 126

***Biblical and Theological Studies Major  
Suggested Program Plan: Bible Concentration***

**FIRST YEAR: Fall**

PMN 101-Intro to Spiritual Form. .	2
INT 112-Found. for Excellence .....	2
ENG 101-College Writing I.....	3
HIS 113-Hist. of World Civ. I.....	3
Language Requirement.....	3
MAT-elective.....	3

**FIRST YEAR: Spring**

BIB 102-Old Testament Lit. ....	3
ENG 102-College Writing II.....	3
HIS 114-Hist. of World Civ. II .....	3
Language Requirement .....	3
Social Science elective .....	3
INT 101-Info Literacy .....	1

**SECOND YEAR: Fall**

BIB 201-New Testament Lit. ....	3
ENG 201 or 202-Global Lit. I or II	3
Language Requirement.....	3
PMN 201-Nyack Heritage.....	1
BIB-Elective (OT).....	3
Electives.....	3

**SECOND YEAR: Spring**

Language Requirement .....	3
PHI 101-Intro. to Philosophy .....	3
Laboratory Science.....	4
ICS 224—Global Engagement.....	3
Electives.....	3

**THIRD YEAR: Fall**

BIB 301--Systematic Theology I ...	3
BIB 331-Hermeneutics.....	3
THE 320 Intro to Historical Theol...3	3
SOC 347-Multicultural America....	3
Elective .....	3

**THIRD YEAR: Spring**

BIB 302—Systematic Theology II..3	3
BIB-Elective (for Core).....	3
BIB/THE-Elective .....	3
PMN 346 Pers Spir Formation.....	3
Fine Arts requirement.....	3
Electives.....	2

**FOURTH YEAR: Fall**

BIB elective (NT) .....	3
Worldview elective.....	3
BIB-elective (NT) .....	3
Electives.....	6

**FOURTH YEAR: Spring**

BIB-Elective (O.T.).....	3
THE 470-Theology Seminar .....	3
Electives.....	9

**Biblical and Theological Studies Major**  
**Suggested Program Plan: Theology Concentration**

**FIRST YEAR: Fall**

PMN 101-Intro to Spiritual Form. . .	2
INT 112-Found. for Excellence .....	2
ENG 101-College Writing I.....	3
HIS 113-Hist. of World Civ. I.....	3
Language Requirement.....	3
MAT-elective.....	3

**SECOND YEAR: Fall**

BIB 201-New Testament Lit.....	3
ENG 201 or 202-Global Lit. I or II	3
Language Requirement.....	3
PMN 201-Nyack Heritage.....	1
Electives.....	6

**THIRD YEAR: Fall**

BIB 301--SystematicTheology I ...	3
BIB 331-Hermeneutics.....	3
THE 320 Intro to Historical Theol...	3
SOC 347-Multicultural America....	3
Elective .....	3

**FOURTH YEAR: Fall**

THE elective (Systematic).....	3
Worldview elective.....	3
THE-elective (Historical) .....	3
Electives.....	6

**FIRST YEAR: Spring**

BIB 102-Old Testament Lit. ....	3
ENG 102-College Writing II.....	3
HIS 114-Hist. of World Civ. II .....	3
Language Requirement .....	3
Social Science elective .....	3
INT 101-Info Literacy .....	1

**SECOND YEAR: Spring**

Language Requirement .....	3
PHI 101-Intro. to Philosophy .....	3
Laboratory Science.....	4
ICS 224—Global Engagement.....	3
Electives.....	3

**THIRD YEAR: Spring**

BIB 302—Systematic Theology II...3	
BIB-Elective (for Core).....	3
BIB-Elective .....	3
PMN 346 Pers Spir Formation.....	3
Fine Arts requirement.....	3
Electives.....	2

**FOURTH YEAR: Spring**

THE elective (Historical).....	3
THE 470-Theology Seminar.....	3
THE elective (Systematic) .....	3
Electives.....	6