Twin Cities Campus

Biblical Studies B.A.

Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2019
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 35 to 49
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

The biblical studies major is centered on the study of ancient Mediterranean religious thought and practice, extending from the second millennium BCE into Late Antiquity, encompassing the Hebrew Bible and its ancient Near Eastern contexts, Greco-Roman polytheism, and the classical contexts in which rabbinic Judaism and Christianity developed. The major is rooted in ancient texts; it concentrates on the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and related texts by studying them in the ancient languages and by situating them in their broad historical, intellectual, and religious contexts. This interdisciplinary program covers a diverse range of religious traditions, focusing on pivotal cultural encounters and interchanges in the ancient world. Students also have an exceptional opportunity to explore the vital relationships between past and present as they examine the ancient origins of modern religions. Students in this program gain a solid grounding in at least one relevant ancient language (Greek, Hebrew) and also study different methods of textual interpretation, both ancient and modern.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

Required prerequisites

Introductory Course

Students who chose to take CNES/RELS 1201 to fulfill the Introductory Course Requirement will not be able to take the CNES/JWST/RELS 3201 to fulfill another requirement in the major. All five courses are equivalent and credit cannot be granted for more than one version of the course. The 3xxx-level courses may count as an Introductory Course, a CNES Core Course, or as an Elective, but the 1xxx-level courses may only count as an Introductory Course.

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling 3 or more credit(s) from the following:

- CNRC 1082 - Jesus in History, Art & Culture [HIS] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 1082 - Jesus in History, Art & Culture [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 1201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible. [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 1201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 1201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
- Other intro course may be taken with DUS approval.

Preparatory Greek or Hebrew

Take either the Greek or Hebrew 3-course language sequence for 14 credits. In select cases, students with advanced proficiency may be exempt from taking one or more of these courses. Placement is determined by the Hebrew and Greek Language Coordinators.

Take 0 - 3 course(s) totaling 0 - 14 credit(s) from the following:

Classical Greek

- GRK 1001 - Beginning Classical Greek I (5.0 cr)

GRK 1002 - Beginning Classical Greek II (5.0 cr)

GRK 3003 - Intermediate Greek Prose (4.0 cr)

- **Biblical Hebrew**
  - HEBR 1101 - Beginning Biblical Hebrew I (5.0 cr)

HEBR 1102 - Beginning Biblical Hebrew II (5.0 cr)

HEBR 3101 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I (4.0 cr)

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For

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more information about University-wide requirements, see the liberal education requirements.Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language.

CLA BA degrees require 18 upper-division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside the major designator. These credits must be taken in designators different from the major designator and cannot include courses that are cross-listed with the major designator. The major designator for the Biblical Studies BA is CNES.

A given course may only count towards one major requirement.

At least 18 upper-division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus.

Students may earn a BA or minor in biblical studies, but not both.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First-Year Experience course sequence.

Intermediate Language Course

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 4 credit(s) from the following:

- GRK 3004 - Intermediate Greek Poetry (4.0 cr)
  or HEBR 3102 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II (4.0 cr)

CNES Core Courses

Take 3 or more course(s) totaling 9 or more credit(s) from the following:

- CNRC 3081W - Classical Epic in Translation [LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3082W - Greek Tragedy in Translation [LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3103 - Ancient Greece: Alexander and the East [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- CNES 3104 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3105 - Ancient Rome: The Age of Augustus (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3106 - Ancient Rome: The Age of Nero (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3601W - Sexuality and Gender in Ancient Greece and Rome [AH, WI] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3061 - "Bread and Circuses:" Spectacles and Mass Culture in Antiquity [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)
  or HIST 3061 - "Bread and Circuses": Spectacles and Mass Culture in Antiquity [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3071 - Greek and Hellenistic Religions [HIS] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 5071 - Greek and Hellenistic Religions (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3071 - Greek and Hellenistic Religions [HIS] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 5071 - Greek and Hellenistic Religions (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3072 - The Birth of Christianity [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 5072 - The Birth of Christianity [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3072 - The Birth of Christianity [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 5072 - The Birth of Christianity [AH] (3.0 cr)
- CNES 3108 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3541 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
- CNES 3204 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 5204 - The Dead Sea Scrolls (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3204 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3204 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
  or RELS 5204 - The Dead Sea Scrolls (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 5502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or HIST 3502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3535 - Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3535 - Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World [AH] (3.0 cr)

Electives

Take a minimum of 15 credits in at least two of the following three content areas: Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Early Christianity, and Early Judaism. Other courses in history, art history, medieval studies or other related departments may be used with pre-approval from the director of undergraduate studies. Note: GRK 5100 & 5200, and LAT 5100 & 5200 may only count if an appropriate author or text is studied. Pre-approval from the director of undergraduate studies is required.

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Take 15 or more credit(s) including 2 or more sub-requirements(s) from the following:

Hebrew Bible

Take 0 or more credit(s) from the following:

- AKKA 5011 - Elementary Akkadian I (3.0 cr)
- AKKA 5012 - Elementary Akkadian II (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3103 - Ancient Greece: Alexander and the East [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 5713 - Introduction to Ugaritic (3.0 cr)
- GRK 5100 - Advanced Reading (3.0 cr)
- GRK 5200 - Advanced Readings in Greek Prose (3.0 cr)
- HIST 3051 - Ancient Civilization: Near East and Egypt [HIS] (3.0 - 4.0 cr)
- LAT 5100 - Advanced Readings in Latin Poetry (3.0 cr)
- LAT 5200 - Advanced Readings in Latin Prose (3.0 cr)
- RELS 5504 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3202 - Bible: Prophecy in Ancient Israel (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3202 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3202 - Bible: Prophecy in Ancient Israel (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 5502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or HIST 3502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3502W - Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile [WI] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3504 - Apocalypticism, Cosmic Warfare, and the Maccabees: Jewish Strategies of Resistance in Antiquity (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3504 - Apocalypticism, Cosmic Warfare, and the Maccabees: Jewish Strategies of Resistance in Antiquity (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3504 - Apocalypticism, Cosmic Warfare, and the Maccabees: Jewish Strategies of Resistance in Antiquity (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3535 - Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3535 - Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World [AH] (3.0 cr)
- JWST 3013W - Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 5013W - Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3013W - Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 5013W - Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics [WI] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 5115 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
  or CNES 5185 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

- **New Testament and Early Christianity**

Take 0 or more credit(s) from the following:

- CNRC 3106 - Ancient Rome: The Age of Nero (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3601W - Sexuality and Gender in Ancient Greece and Rome [AH, WI] (3.0 cr)
- COPT 5001 - Elementary Coptic (3.0 cr)
- COPT 5002 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- GRK 5100 - Advanced Reading (3.0 cr)
- GRK 5200 - Advanced Readings in Greek Prose (3.0 cr)
- LAT 5100 - Advanced Readings in Latin Poetry (3.0 cr)
- LAT 5200 - Advanced Readings in Latin Prose (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3071 - Greek and Hellenistic Religions [HIS] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 5071 - Greek and Hellenistic Religions (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3071 - Greek and Hellenistic Religions [HIS] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 5071 - Greek and Hellenistic Religions (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3072 - The Birth of Christianity [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 5072 - The Birth of Christianity [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3072 - The Birth of Christianity [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 5072 - The Birth of Christianity [AH] (3.0 cr)
- ARTH 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
  or CNRC 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or JWST 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
- CNRC 3535 - Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World [AH] (3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3535 - Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World [AH] (3.0 cr)
- CNES 3108 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
  or RELS 3541 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

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•ARTH 5115 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or CNES 5185 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

•Early Judaism

Take 0 or more credit(s) from the following:

•CNRC 3106 - Ancient Rome: The Age of Nero (3.0 cr)
•CNRC 3601W - Sexuality and Gender in Ancient Greece and Rome [AH, WI] (3.0 cr)
•GRK 5100 - Advanced Reading (3.0 cr)
•GRK 5200 - Advanced Readings in Greek Prose (3.0 cr)
•HEBR 5300 - Post-Biblical Hebrew: Second Temple Period (3.0 cr)
•LAT 5100 - Advanced Readings in Latin Poetry (3.0 cr)
•LAT 5200 - Advanced Readings in Latin Prose (3.0 cr)
•ARTH 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
or CNRC 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 3182 - Egypt and Western Asia: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt and Western Asia [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
•CNRC 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
or JWST 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 3201 - The Bible: Context and Interpretation, World of the Hebrew Bible [LITR] (3.0 cr)
•CNES 3204 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or CNRC 5204 - The Dead Sea Scrolls (3.0 cr)
or JWST 3204 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or RELS 3204 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or RELS 5204 - The Dead Sea Scrolls (3.0 cr)
•HIST 3534 - Introduction to Jewish History and Cultures [HIS] (3.0 cr)
or JWST 3034 - Introduction to Jewish History and Cultures [HIS] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 3034 - Introduction to Jewish History and Cultures [HIS] (3.0 cr)
•CNRC 3535 - Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World [AH] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 3535 - Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World [AH] (3.0 cr)
•ARTH 5115 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or CNES 5185 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

Capstone

Students conduct independent research under a faculty member and produce a substantial, original research paper. Using documents or primary sources along with secondary sources, students show their mastery of disciplinary methodologies and their knowledge and understanding of ancient sources and modern scholarship related to their chosen topic.

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 4 credit(s) from the following:

Students who double major and choose to complete the capstone requirement in their other major may waive the Biblical Studies BA capstone, but they do need to replace the 4 credits with another upper-division CNES elective.

•CNRC 3951W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:

•CNRC 3081W - Classical Epic in Translation [LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)
•CNRC 3082W - Greek Tragedy in Translation [LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)
•CNRC 3951W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)
•JWST 3013W - Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics [WI] (3.0 cr)
or JWST 5013W - Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics [WI] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 3013W - Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics [WI] (3.0 cr)
or RELS 5013W - Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics [WI] (3.0 cr)

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