Bethlehem
COLLEGE & SEMINARY

Degree Completion Program (Bachelor of Theology in Theological Studies)

Summary

The Degree Completion Program is designed to enable working adults who desire to major in theology to complete their college education. Classes in this four-semester, year-round program are held one evening a week for four hours for sixteen months.. Students will learn the skills and tools necessary for fruitful study of the Scriptures, including four semesters of New Testament Greek. Students will not only systematically study "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), but will also come to understand the storyline of the Bible, how God progressively establishes his kingdom and subdues his enemies through the messianic mission of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The curriculum is cohort-based, meaning that the students in the program will go through all their classes together as a group. As a result, classes are only open to those accepted into the Degree Completion Program. The program is also mentor-based, and E. Michael Rusten, Ph.D., is the current mentor. Additional teachers lead the Greek classes and are also used as resources in other classes.

Program Objective

Our mission is to equip Christians in a mentored setting to spread a passion for the supremacy of God for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ. To this end the purpose of the program is to equip students with both the core understandings and values necessary for a fruitful lifetime of ministry, whether in one's own neighborhood or on the mission field.

Specific objectives of the program are as follows:

- Students will be able to study the Bible inductively.
- Students will be able to explain the doctrines of the Bible.
- Students will be able to explain the major events of the Old and New Testaments and their significance.
- Students will be prepared for living a life for the glory of God.
- Students will be able to disciple others, explaining the gospel to them, being used by God to draw them to Christ and, in turn, equipping them to be disciplers themselves.
- Students will be able to defend the Christian faith against its opponents.
- Students will be able to explain the significant events of church history.

Program's Courses

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
Elementary Greek 1	2	Elementary Greek 2	2
Bible Study Methods 1	2	Bible Study Methods 2	2
Practical Theology 1	1	Practical Theology 2	1
Research Writing 1	2	Research Writing 2	2
Biblical Theology	3	Systemic Theology 2	3

Systemic Theology 1	3	Systemic Theology 3	3
Biblical Introduction	3	Systemic Theology 4	3
Total Semester Credits	16	Total Semester Credits	16

Third Semester	Credits	Fourth Semester	Credits
Elementary Greek 3	2	Elementary Greek 4	2
Bible Study Methods 3	2	Bible Study Methods 4	2
Practical Theology 3	1	Research Writing 4	2
Research Writing 3	2	Church History	4
The Christian Life/Ethics	3	Cross-Cultural Ministry	3
Systematic Theology 5	3	Practical Theology 4	3
Systematic Theology 6	3		
Total Semester Credits	16	Total Semester Credits	16
Total DCP Credits			64

Admission Requirements

- Applicants must meet the Christian testimony and character standards of Bethlehem College.
- Applicants must have earned a minimum of 40 transferable semester-credits or the equivalent. Students must earn a 'C' average (2.0 on a 4.0 point scale) or above in an undergraduate course for it to be considered transferrable. [Please note: Students must have a total of 120 semester credits (or the equivalent) for graduation. Thus, if a student enters the program with 40 semester credits, he will have to take an additional 16 semester credits outside of the DCP curriculum (and not available through Bethlehem College) before he can complete his BTh. Transfer credits can not overlap with the content of the DCP courses.]
- Applicants must have either have successfully completed a college-level composition course or demonstrate the ability to write effectively through a proficiency exam to be administered by Bethlehem College and Seminary.
- Be willing to abide by the BCS policies as stipulated in the Bethlehem College Student Handbook and the BCS Community Declaration.

Admissions Process:

Admissions decisions for the DCP are made on a rolling cycle by the Bethlehem College Admissions Committee. Qualified applicants are accepted as completed applications are received until the cohort is full. Completed applications (including references, transcripts, etc.) <u>are due no later than six weeks before</u> the program start date (application due date for the 2011-2012 year is December 1, 2010).

Graduation Requirements:

- Students must meet the graduation requirements of the BCS Catalog under which they first enroll.
- Bethlehem College and Seminary reserves the right to change the curriculum as needed.
- A total of 120 semester credits, including the entire 64 credits of the DCP curriculum.

- Students must have an overall BCS Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher
- The Registrar is authorized to make decisions on a student-by-student basis in consultation with appropriate faculty members and administrators.

Academic Calendar

The next cohort will begin classes in January 2011 and graduate in May 2012.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2011-2012 DCP cohort is $150.00/credit.

Course Descriptions

I. Biblical Languages

Beginning Greek 1 (2 credits)
This course will introduce the biblical Greek language and construct a framework for the student to begin learning biblical Greek. The student will focus on learning the Greek alphabet and the first two noun declensions. A significant amount of time will be spent on sentence structure, parts of speech, prepositions, and adjective modifiers. Basic sentence diagramming will be introduced.

Beginning Greek 2 (2 credits)
This course will continue to build on the framework introduced in Greek 1. Students will learn the third noun declension and add more parts of speech (i.e. pronouns) to their understanding. Learning sentence diagramming will continue, adding the understanding of additional grammatical structures. They will also begin to learn the verbal structure of biblical Greek. The study of verbs will focus on understanding roots and stems, as well as developing a solid understanding of the Present stem. Contract verbs will also be covered.

Beginning Greek 3 (2 credits)
This course will finish working through finite verbs and introduce participles. Additional grammatical learning will focus on the use of participles in both the English and Greek languages. Students will learn the remaining verbal stems: future, aorist, and perfect. Participles will be introduced, with specific focus on adverbial participles. Sentence diagramming will be expanded.

Beginning Greek 4 (2 credits)
The final course of Elementary Greek will begin by reviewing adverbial participles and introducing adjectival participles. Further understanding in sentence diagramming will assist the student in

further grasping the differences between adverbial and adjectival participles. The course will end with studies in the remaining moods: subjunctive and imperative. In addition infinitives and -mi verbs will be covered.

II. Bible Study Methods

Bible Study Methods 1 (2 credits)
The purpose of the course is to introduce students to inductive Bible study methods and to enable them to make inductive Bible study a daily habit. Topics covered in these courses will include making detailed textual observations, comparing translations, studying a passage in light of its larger literary and historical context, discerning the usage and meaning of key words, and consulting cross-references.

Bible Study Methods 2 (2 credits)
Students learn how to study a book of the Bible utilizing the methods learned in Bible Study Methods I. Students will study the book of Colossians: its author, his purpose in writing it, and the book's recipients. They will go through the book paragraph by paragraph, applying a variety of methods in order to understand the book's message and its application to their lives.

Bible Study Methods 3 (2 credits)
The course introduces students to phrasing, diagramming, bracketing and arcing as well as identifying chiasms in verses, paragraphs and whole books of the Bible. Students also are given an introduction to the Hebrew alphabet, enabling them to use Hebrew lexicons.

Bible Study Methods 4 (2 credits)
In this course students are taught how to learn from parallel passages, how to use the Septuagint in the study of the New Testament, and how to use lexicons, concordances, and other exegetical tools. By the end of the course students have learned how to prepare and deliver a devotional message or a sermon.

III. Bible

Biblical Introduction (3 credits)
This course will survey the books of the biblical canon in order to better acquaint students with the nature and themes of the inspired text. Topics for study will include authorship, date of writing, historical context, purpose, and governing motifs. Through a greater familiarity with the background of the texts of Scripture, students will be equipped to situate a given passage within its revelatory setting and thus handle the Bible with greater fidelity.

IV Theology

Biblical Theology (3 credits)
In this course students will develop a framework for understanding the unity of the Bible. More precisely, students will be equipped with the tools needed to trace the development of the major themes of the Bible. Attention will be given to understanding God's purposes and how each era of redemptive history relates to the divine goal.

Systematic Theology 1: Bibliology (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the study Systematic Theology, giving them a firm foundation for their dependence upon God's Word. Topics covered include canon and inerrancy, the authority of the Bible, its clarity, its necessity, and its sufficiency.

Systematic Theology 2: Theology Proper (3 credits)
This course continues the study of Systematic Theology by focusing on the doctrine of God. Topics covered include the existence and attributes of God, his knowability, his role in creation and providence, and the doctrine of the Trinity.

Systematic Theology 3: Anthropology and Angelology (3 credits)
This course continues the study of Systematic Theology by focusing on the doctrine of man and the doctrine of angels and demons. Topics covered include the Bible's teaching regarding angels and demons, Satan, the image of God in man, and the role of men and women in God's design.

Systematic Theology 4: Soteriology (3 credits)
This course continues the study of Systematic Theology by focusing on the doctrine of salvation. Topics covered include the election, the atonement, calling, regeneration, conversion, justification, adoption, baptism of the Spirit, sanctification, perseverance, glorification, and union with Christ.

Systematic Theology 5: Ecclesiology (3 credits)
This course continues the study of Systematic Theology by focusing on the doctrine of the church. Topics covered include the Bible's teaching regarding the definition, aspects, marks, ordinances, ministry, government, and officers of the Christian church..

Systematic Theology 6: Eschatology (3 credits)
This course continues the study of Systematic Theology by focusing on the doctrine of the last things. Topics covered include individual eschatology, the intermediate state, final judgment, heaven and hell, as well as the interpretive questions regarding the end times on which the Christians differ.

The Christian Life and Ethics (3 credits)
This course will examine ethics from the vantage point of biblical revelation. Students will be encouraged toward the development and articulation of a God-centered morality. Additionally, students will investigate the Christian's role in each of the institutions God has established.

Practical Theology 1-3 (2 credit each)
These three courses are designed to acquaint the student with the practical application of Christian doctrine to a wide variety of issues. These courses address such issues as fighting personal sin, prayer

and fasting, roles of men and women, suffering, worship, God's sovereignty, inspiration of Scripture, and motivation for life and ministry. The student will be urged not only to consider the biblical underpinnings for these issues, but how to apply them to every-day life. These courses are offered in a seminar format with one or two weekend seminars being offered each semester. The seminars are offered in a four-year cycle so each semester students take the particular seminars offered that semester, in additional they will read and react to an assigned book written by John Piper.

Seminars include:

Desiring God: The Pursuit of Joy in Life and Ministry
This particular seminar is designed to summarize, reinforce, and further explain the life and ministry implications of Christian Hedonism and the underlying vision of God as put forth in Desiring God: The Meditations of a Christian Hedonist.

Gravity and Gladness on Sunday Morning: The Pursuit of God in Corporate Worship
All of life is to be understood as worship (Romans 12:1–2). But there is a special place in Scripture for corporate worship. What can be done so that people who walk into our worship services will "fall on [their faces] and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you" (1 Corinthians 14:25)? To enjoy the tangible presence of God is the longing of every human heart. But it's not a flippant joy. It is a trembling joy, a serious joy, full of gravity and gladness. This seminar is designed to communicate a biblical vision of the supremacy of God in corporate worship, not only for us, but also for our neighbors and for the nations.

Living by Faith in Future Grace: The Pursuit of Holiness in Life and Ministry
This seminar is designed to summarize, reinforce, and further explain the life and ministry implications of Christian Hedonism and the underlying vision of God as put forth in The Purifying Power of Living by Faith in Future Grace.

The Pleasures of God: God's Delight in Being God
Knowing someone well means knowing what makes them happy. Likewise with God. This seminar is designed to unfold a vision of God through the lens of his happiness as put forward in the book The Pleasures of God: Meditations on God's Delight in Being God. What most delights the happiest Being in the universe? God's gladness in being God. If God's excellencies can be admired in his pleasures, and if we tend to become like what we admire and enjoy, then focusing on these pleasures can help us to be gradually conformed to his likeness. In other words, we will be most satisfied in God when we know why God is most satisfied in God.

Prayer, Meditation, and Fasting: The Pursuit of Communion with God
This seminar is designed to teach on the biblical disciplines of prayer, meditation and fasting from the radically God-centered, Christian hedonistic point of view taught in the Scriptures. The life-transforming power unleashed by the faith-motivated, grace-filled pursuit of these disciplines will be celebrated and – God willing – the roots of legalism will be severed.

Sexual Complementarity: The Pursuit of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood
What does God have to do with sexuality? What is His purpose for creating us male and female? This seminar is designed to explore the biblical teachings regarding maleness and femaleness and the implications of sexuality for leadership in the church and home. The complementarian view, which understands there to be distinct but equally valuable roles for men and women in the church and home, will be explained and defended as biblical and therefore good for us. We will endeavor to treat the egalitarian alternative with fairness, and not avoid difficult texts or questions.

Suffering for the Sake of the Body: The Pursuit of People through Pain
What does Paul mean when he says, "I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions?" Is your vision of God and your understanding of the biblical theology of
suffering sufficient to sustain you if (when!) God calls you to suffer for the sake of His Name both here on the home front or perhaps on the mission field? This seminar is designed to prepare you for such suffering and to help you "count it all joy."

T.U.L.I.P.: The Pursuit of God's Glory in Salvation
This seminar is designed to communicate in a sensitive and pastoral way the essence of the Calvinistic view of the doctrine of salvation and to show how the Reformed understanding of this precious doctrine is rooted in the careful study of Scripture and is valuable in the life and ministry of the church. Our interest is not so much in what John Calvin thought about predestination, but first and foremost what Jesus, Paul, Moses, Isaiah, Peter, Luke and the rest of the Biblical writers taught in Scripture.

We will try not to avoid difficult texts. We will aim to represent fairly the Arminian side of the argument which stresses the free will of man.

Why We Believe the Bible: The Pursuit of Truth
Why is the doctrine of the authority and inerrancy of Scripture both biblical and crucial for our understanding of Christian life and mission? How does one argue for the authority of Scripture without falling into the circular argument of merely quoting 2 Timothy 3:16? This seminar is designed to explore the multi-layered evidences for the absolute trustworthiness of the Bible and to secure its appropriate place in the devotional, study, and ministry life of the Christian.

Practical Theology New Seminar 1 (TBD)

Practical Theology New Seminar 2 (TBD)

Practical Theology 4 (3 credits)
This course is designed to acquaint students with the practical application of Christian doctrine to a wide variety of issues. Students will study apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship. The seminars are offered in a four-year cycle so each semester students take the particular seminars offered that semester, in additional they will read and react to an assigned book written by John Piper.

V. Missions

Cross-Cultural Ministry (3 credits)
This course will investigate gospel-centered ministry within a cross-cultural context. Attention will be given to the history of cross-cultural ministry as well as issues related to its contemporary application. Through this study, students will be better equipped to differentiate between the gospel message and its many cultural expressions so as to be able to speak into a given culture with humility, wisdom, and conviction.

VI. Church History

Church History (4 credits)
In this course students will investigate the history of God's dealings with his people from the time of Jesus to the present day. Topics for study will include the early church, the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, significant church councils, monastic Christianity, the Crusades, the Protestant Reformation, and the modern missions movement. Through this course of study, students will develop a fuller understanding of the growth of God's kingdom – and the nature of its opposition – throughout the centuries.

VII. Writing

Research Writing 1 (2 credits)
This course will train students in research methodology. Students will write a research paper on a topic in biblical theology, bibliology, or biblical introduction, honing their ability to communicate their findings in a clear, thorough, and logically consistent way.

Research Writing 2 (2 credits)
This course will continue to train students in research methodology. Students will write a research paper on a theological topic chosen from theology proper, angelology, anthropology or soteriology. By writing several drafts of their paper, students will learn to perfect their skill in stating the results of their research cogently.

Research Writing 3 (2 credits)
This course will continue to train students in research methodology. Students will write a research paper on a topic in Christian ethics, ecclesiology, or eschatology. Students will also learn to conduct peer review of each other's writing, giving helpful feedback on the research paper as it is being written.

Research Writing 4 (2 credits)
This course is the capstone of the four semesters of research writing. Students will write an exegetical paper on an approved passage of Scripture. This paper will demonstrate the student's ability to conduct biblical research and to present conclusions in a well-argued, compelling way.