

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies

Overview

While most of modern-day Evangelicalism points to the Bible as the basis of faith, it is surprising how little most people know of what the Bible actually says. And there are even fewer ministers who are able to accurately expound on the Scriptures without distorting the text to make it mean what they already believe.

The MABS degree is designed to give the student a broad background in understanding biblical culture and history, biblical languages and principles of interpretation, and a panoramic understanding of the whole of Scripture. It also provides students with an understanding of biblical transmission and reliability and equips them to defend the accuracy of Scripture in a skeptical world.

Each of the courses offered in the MABS program attempts to immerse the student in the original texts so students have an understanding of how the Old or New Testament Scriptures were understood by their original audience as well as the early church. Students who successfully complete this program will be able to confidently, intelligently and accurately interpret Scripture and show its relevancy to contemporary culture.

Intended audience

The MABS degree is designed for experienced ministers or Bible teachers who wish to increase their understanding of the original text of Scripture so they are equipped to teach it in a way that is harmonious with its original intention. It is also suitable for serious laypeople who desire to deepen their understanding of the truths of Scripture as originally taught.

Core Courses Required (7 courses, 21 credits)

BIB 501	Introduction to Biblical Studies
BIB 502	Introduction to Biblical Languages
BIB 503	From Texts to Translations
BIB 504	Hermeneutics
BIB 505	Advanced Study of the OT
BIB 506	Advanced Study of the NT
THEO 507	Wesleyanism: A Theology of Love

Elective Courses (Select 3 courses, 9 credits)

THEO 500	Introduction to Biblical Theology
BIB 522	Introduction to Biblical Ethics
BIB 523	Introduction to Apologetics
BIB 531	Elementary Greek 1
BIB 532	Elementary Greek 2
BIB 533	Advanced Greek 1
BIB 534	Advanced Greek 2
BIB 541	Elementary Hebrew 1
BIB 542	Elementary Hebrew 2
BIB 543	Advanced Hebrew

Thesis (6 credits):

BIB 591	Research / Directed Readings
BIB 592	Thesis

Master of Arts in OT Studies

Overview

While most of modern-day Evangelicalism points to the Bible as the basis of faith, there is a widespread tendency to treat the Old Testament like an inferior and irrelevant predecessor to the New. Many Christians rarely read it, and few preachers feel the need to preach from it. Yet the Old Testament was the "Bible" of the early church. And in it they found inspiration and a revelation of Jesus Christ and His will for their lives.

The MAOT degree is designed to give the student a broad background in understanding Old Testament biblical culture and history, biblical Hebrew and principles of interpretation, and a panoramic understanding of the whole of the Old Testament. It also provides students with a detailed analysis of contemporary theories of authorship and inspiration and equips them to defend the accuracy, authenticity and relevancy of the Old Testament in a skeptical world.

Each of the courses offered in the MAOT program attempts to immerse the student in the original texts so students have an understanding of how the Old Testament Scriptures were understood by their original audience as well as the early church. Students who successfully complete this program will be able to confidently, intelligently and accurately interpret the Old Testament and show its relevancy to contemporary culture.

Intended audience

The MAOT degree is designed for experienced ministers or Bible teachers who wish to increase their understanding of the original text of the Old Testament Scriptures so they are equipped to teach it in a way that is harmonious with its original intention. It is also suitable for serious laypeople who desire to deepen their understanding of the truths of the Old Testament as originally taught and embraced by the New Testament church.

Core Courses Required (7 courses, 21 credits)

BIB 601	Study of the Pentateuch
BIB 602	Study of Joshua to Ruth
BIB 603	Study of 1 Samuel to 2 Chronicles
BIB 604	Study of Ezra to Esther
BIB 605	Study of the Poetical Books
BIB 606	Study of the Major Prophets
BIB 607	Study of the Minor Prophets

Electives (choose 3 courses, 9 credits)

BIB 505	Advanced Study of the OT
BIB 522	Introduction to Biblical Ethics
BIB 541	Elementary Hebrew 1
BIB 542	Elementary Hebrew 2
BIB 543	Advanced Hebrew
BIB 621	Old Testament Textual Criticism

Thesis (6 credits)

BIB 591	Research / Directed Readings
BIB 592	Thesis

Master of Arts in NT Studies

Overview

While most of modern-day Evangelicalism points to the Bible as the basis of faith, it is surprising how little most people know of what the Bible actually says. And there are even fewer ministers who are able to accurately expound on the Scriptures without distorting the text to make it mean what they already believe.

The MANT degree is designed to give the student a broad background in understanding New Testament biblical culture and history, the Greek language and principles of interpretation. It offers an in-depth analysis of the entire text of the New Testament. It also provides students with an understanding of biblical transmission and reliability and equips them to defend the accuracy of Scripture in a skeptical world.

Each of the courses offered in the MANT program attempts to immerse the student in the original texts so students have an understanding of how the New Testament Scriptures were understood by their original audience as well as the early church. Students who successfully complete this program will be able to confidently, intelligently and accurately interpret the New Testament and show its relevancy to contemporary culture.

Intended audience

The MANT degree is designed for experienced ministers or Bible teachers who wish to increase their understanding of the original text of Scripture so they are equipped to teach it in a way that is harmonious with its original intention. It is also suitable for serious laypeople who desire to deepen their understanding of the truths of Scripture as originally taught.

Core Courses Required (7 courses, 21 credits)

BIB 506	Advanced Study of the NT
BIB 608	Study of the Gospels
BIB 609	Study of Acts
BIB 610	Study of Church Epistles
BIB 611	Study of Pastoral Epistles
BIB 612	Study of General Epistles
BIB 613	Study of Revelation

Electives (Select 3 courses, 9 credits)

BIB 531	Elementary Greek 1
BIB 532	Elementary Greek 2
BIB 533	Advanced Greek 1
BIB 534	Advanced Greek 2
BIB 622	New Testament Textual Criticism
THEO 507	Wesleyanism: A Theology of Love
BIB 522	Introduction to Biblical Ethics

Thesis (6 credits)

BIB 591	Research / Directed Readings
BIB 592	Thesis

Master of Arts in Biblical Languages

Overview

The Bible is the most important book ever given to mankind. And it deserves to be read with the thoughtfulness that can only come from understanding it in its original language. With the variety of study tools available today,

more and more students are opting to forego language study. But that puts them forever at the mercy of the interpreters and robs them of the rich meaning and nuanced understanding that can only be appreciated by a firm grasp of the biblical languages.

The MABL degree is designed to immerse students in biblical Hebrew and Greek so they understand not only the technical grammatical aspects of the languages, but also the richness of the biblical text itself. Students will be challenged to translate large portions of Scripture in order to gain a proficiency in reading and understanding the texts in their original languages.

Intended audience

The MABL degree is designed for experienced ministers or Bible teachers who wish to increase their understanding of the original text of Scripture so they are equipped to teach it in a way that is harmonious with its original intention. It is also suitable for serious laypeople who desire to deepen their understanding of the truths of Scripture as originally taught.

Core Courses Required (10 Courses, 30 Credits)

BIB 502	Introduction to Biblical Languages
BIB 531	Elementary Greek 1
BIB 532	Elementary Greek 2
BIB 533	Advanced Greek 1
BIB 534	Advanced Greek 2
BIB 541	Elementary Hebrew 1
BIB 542	Elementary Hebrew 2
BIB 543	Advanced Hebrew
BIB 621	Old Testament Textual Criticism
BIB 622	New Testament Textual Criticism

Thesis (6 credits):

BIB 591	Research / Directed Readings
BIB 592	Thesis

Course Descriptions

BIB 501 Introduction to Biblical Studies

The purpose of this course is to provide a panoramic overview of the contents of the entire Bible, acquainting students with the historical and cultural context in which the Bible was written and giving them a sound foundation for further biblical study. It also addresses the various issues concerning the inspiration of the Bible and challenges students to critically evaluate their own views of inspiration.

BIB 502 Introduction to Biblical Languages

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the Biblical languages, thereby enriching their understanding of translation and interpretation issues, enabling them to better understand technical commentaries, and, hopefully, whetting their appetite to continue in biblical language study.

BIB 503 From Texts to Translations

The purpose of this course is to give the student a basic understanding of textual transmission and the process of textual criticism. It offers an historical perspective and analysis of the canonization of Scripture as well as the background of our current Greek texts and English translations. Prerequisite: BIB 502 "Introduction to Biblical Languages."

BIB 504 Hermeneutics

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the basic principles of hermeneutics, enabling them to interpret Scripture passages with integrity in light of historical, social and literary context. The course also seeks to broaden students' understanding of the complexity of the interpretive process, hopefully inciting them to study more diligently and with humility to take more seriously the task to which they've been called.

BIB 505 Advanced Study of the OT

This course is designed to acquaint students with an apologetic approach to the study of the Old Testament. Particular emphasis is placed on refuting the widely held Documentary Hypothesis and other theories that place doubt on the historicity and inspiration of particular Old Testament books. Prerequisite: BIB 502 Introduction to Biblical Languages

BIB 506 Advanced Study of the NT

The purpose of this course is to provide a thorough historical, political and cultural background of the New Testament era to aid in the student's understanding and interpretation of the New Testament text. Prerequisite: BIB 501 "Introduction to Biblical Studies."

BIB 522 Introduction to Biblical Ethics

Ours is an age where moral relativism has become the norm, even in many of our churches. The church today has very little impact on cultural social ethics. Its focus on love and grace can lead to antinomianism without a proper understanding of the use of Old Testament Law in the ethics of the New Testament as well as the necessary role of natural law in ethical decisions. This course seeks to give the student a broader understanding of the role of OT Law in the early church and the implications for public ethics. The course will also examine basic moral systems and how they affect the process of making ethical decisions. Students will be challenged to rethink their own views concerning personal and public ethics.

BIB 523 Introduction to Apologetics

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of apologetics so they are comfortable sharing their faith with skeptics. It provides students with a reasonable, logical defense of the Christian faith but also challenges them to grapple with issues such as the limitations of apologetics, tolerance, and contemporary philosophies. Students are challenged to take the material and develop a teaching outline or presentation for use in their own ministry settings.

BIB 531 Elementary Greek 1

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the Koine Greek as an aid to better understanding the Greek New Testament and technical commentaries based on the original language. The course seeks to engage students immediately in the process of translation without memorizing long lists of vocabulary words or grammatical forms. The goal is for students to gain confidence in translation and the basic structure of the Koine Greek. Prerequisite: BIB 502 Introduction to Biblical Languages

BIB 532 Elementary Greek 2

The purpose of this course is to reinforce the basic language skills learned in Elementary Greek 1 and to provide students with a deeper understanding of the Koine Greek. Particular emphasis is placed on grammatical forms and accenting in this classical, methodical study of the language. The goal is

for students to become proficient in the technical aspects of the language to prepare them for more advanced study.

Prerequisite: BIB 531 Elementary Greek 1

BIB 533 Advanced Greek 1

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the nuances of NT Greek grammar. Using a large number of illustrations from the NT text, students will learn to recognize grammatical patterns and their theological implications. Prerequisite: BIB 532 Elementary Greek 2

BIB 534 Advanced Greek 2

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the nuances of NT Greek grammar. Using a large number of illustrations from the NT text, students will learn to recognize grammatical patterns (especially of Greek verbs) and their theological implications. Prerequisite: BIB 533 Advanced Greek 1

BIB 541 Elementary Hebrew 1

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a beginning understanding of the form and function of the Hebrew language. The goal is for students to become proficient in the technical aspects of the language to prepare them for more advanced study so their knowledge of Hebrew can be useful in sermon preparation or biblical study. Prerequisite: BIB 502 Introduction to Biblical Languages

BIB 542 Elementary Hebrew 2

The purpose of this course is to reinforce the basic language skills learned in Elementary Hebrew 1 and to give students a deeper understanding of the biblical Hebrew. This course emphasizes the analysis of biblical texts, giving students an understanding of the process necessary for sound exegesis. Prerequisite: BIB 541 Elementary Hebrew 1

BIB 543 Advanced Hebrew

The purpose of this course is help students move from the technical aspects of the Hebrew language to exposition of biblical passages. While basic Hebrew grammar and syntax are reviewed, the emphasis is on developing a method for sound OT biblical hermeneutics.

BIB 601 Study of the Pentateuch

Through an in-depth study of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 602 Study of Joshua to Ruth

Through an in-depth study of Joshua, Judges and Ruth, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 603 Study 1 Samuel to 2 Chronicles

Through an in-depth study of the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability

to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 604 Study of Ezra to Esther

Through an in-depth study of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 605 Study of the Poetical Books

Through an in-depth study of the poetical books, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 606 Study of the Major Prophets

Through an in-depth study of the Major Prophets, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 607 Study of the Minor Prophets

Through an in-depth study of the Minor Prophets, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 608 Study of the Gospels

Through an in-depth study of the Gospels, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 609 Study of Acts

Through an in-depth study of the book of Acts, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the book as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 610 Study of the Church Epistles

Through an in-depth study of the Church Epistles, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural

knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 611 Study of the Pastoral Epistles

Through an in-depth study of the Pastoral Epistles and Philemon, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 612 Study of the General Epistles

Through an in-depth study of the book of Hebrews and the General Epistles, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the books as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 613 Study of Revelation

Through an in-depth study of the book of Revelation, the student will gain a general understanding of the scope and content of the book as well as a significant understanding of the consensus of conservative scholarship on interpretation. The student will gain a wealth of historical and cultural knowledge and demonstrate the ability to communicate that information in a coherent way through writing Bible commentary.

BIB 621 Old Testament Textual Criticism

This course is designed to give students an overview of the field of Old Testament Textual Criticism while providing an understanding of the principles used and their application to contemporary biblical scholarship.

BIB 622 New Testament Textual Criticism

This course provides an introductory survey of the field of New Testament textual criticism and an analysis of current theory and methods.

THEO 507 Wesleyanism: A Theology of Love

This course will take students on a journey into the heart and mind of John Wesley so they not only understand his theological presuppositions and conclusions, but that they also appreciate his genius and thoroughly biblical interpretations of holiness and sanctification. The course will challenge a Christianity that is in theory only and spur students on to a personal relationship with Christ that transforms experientially.

THEO 500 Introduction to Biblical Theology

This course will help students to understand the importance of developing a biblical theology as differentiated from systematic theology. By examining recent evangelical scholarship along with primary sources from the early church, students will evaluate principles for biblical interpretation that will have profound effects on both their personal formulation of theology and their transmission of theology to others through preaching and teaching.