

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN ADVANCED BIBLICAL STUDIES

Main Language of InstructionFrench ☒ English ☐ Arabic ☐**Campus Where the Program Is Offered:** CSH**OBJECTIVES**

This program is designed for holders of the Bachelor in Religious Studies or Theology. It deepens biblical knowledge, develops the skills needed to lead Scripture-based discussions, and supports a rigorous, scholarly approach to interpreting Scripture within the Church. It is intended for priests, religious, and lay people entrusted with the ministry of the Word in dioceses and parishes. It prepares them to read Scripture in a way that is both academically sound and pastorally relevant, grounded in its historical, literary, and theological context. It is a standalone qualification and also constitutes the first year of the Master in Religious Studies (concentration: Theologica) program for those wishing to pursue further studies.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- Understanding the Scriptures in their diversity, language, history, and divine inspiration, and receiving the Word of God within the living Tradition of the Church.
- Deepening faith and understanding of the human condition in the light of Scripture, understood as a living source of Revelation, present for Christians of every age.
- Relating Scripture to contemporary life for sound spiritual nourishment and an engaged Christian witness in service of the Church and society.
- Acquiring the knowledge and skills required to lead Bible study groups and coordinate Scripture-based programs.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Application file
- Bachelor in Religious Studies, or Canonical Baccalaureate, or an equivalent qualification, subject to review by the Program Director.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

30 Credits: Required Courses (26 credits), Institution's Elective Courses (4 credits)**Required Courses (26 Cr.)**

Biblical and Theological Hermeneutics (4 Cr.), Biblical Canon and Formation of the Pentateuch (2 Cr.), Ancient Judaism (2 Cr.), Rabbinic Judaism and New Testament (2 Cr.), Faith, Revelation and Tradition (2 Cr.), Textual Criticism (2 Cr.), Bible and Morality (2 Cr.), Exegetical Methods: Historical-Critical, Rhetorical, and Narrative (4 Cr.), Masoretic Text and Septuagint (2 Cr.), Pastoral Biblical Reinterpretations (2 Cr.), Bible and Liturgy (2 Cr.).

Institution's Elective Courses (4 Cr.), to be chosen from the list below:

Bible and Archaeology (2 Cr.), Bible and Homiletics (2 Cr.), Community and Writings of Qumran (2 Cr.).



COURSE DESCRIPTION

018HBTH1	Biblical and Theological Hermeneutics	4 Cr.
This course asks whether an original biblical text exists and explores the basis of Scripture's authority for believers. From the moment ancient traditions were first written down, the Bible has functioned as both the source and the object of ongoing interpretation. This course introduces hermeneutics as a discipline that embraces a plurality of readings while remaining grounded in clear principles and established interpretive frameworks.		
018CBFPI2	Biblical Canon and the Formation of the Pentateuch	2 Cr.
This course examines who the scribes behind the Pentateuch were and how the biblical canon took shape. External evidence remains too limited to confirm or reject the main scholarly hypotheses, and the scribal culture in which the Pentateuch emerged can largely be reconstructed only from the Torah itself. This course traces the history of scholarship on the formation of the Pentateuch's canon and explores its exegetical and theological implications for canonical interpretation.		
018JUAN12	Ancient Judaism	2 Cr.
This course explores how the first Christians interpreted the Scriptures by drawing on a long tradition of Jewish interpretation and thought. It introduces key rereadings of the biblical text and the Jewish world at the threshold of the Christian era.		
018JRAB12	Rabbinic Judaism and the New Testament	2 Cr.
This course introduces students to the rabbinic tradition as a way of deepening their understanding of the Scriptures. Through the study of rabbinic texts, it shows how these interpretive traditions shed light on Scripture and enrich theological reflection for a more comprehensive understanding of the faith.		
018FRET12	Faith, Revelation, and Tradition	2 Cr.
Rooted in <i>Dei Verbum</i>, this course examines the nature of Christian Revelation. It first defines Revelation and distinguishes it from biblical inspiration. It then considers faith as the human response to God's self-disclosure: a free and personal act of obedience, guided by the Holy Spirit and involving the intellect, will, and the whole person. Apostolic Tradition is presented not as the mechanical transmission of a fixed deposit, but as a living process of handing on the faith. The course addresses the tension between fidelity to the apostolic witness and its ongoing actualization in each generation, drawing on the criteria of the Second Vatican Council, including the guidance of the Spirit, the role of the Magisterium, the <i>sensus fidei</i>, and related principles.		
018CRTX12	Textual Criticism	2 Cr.
This course recognizes that the reconstruction of a single original biblical text is no longer a goal of contemporary scholarship. It instead engages the manuscript tradition to establish the earliest attested forms of the text. This course equips students to: 1. Identify the principal witnesses to the biblical text 2. Navigate the diversity of textual variants 3. Formulate and defend reasoned judgments on specific cases		
018BIMO12	Bible and Morality	2 Cr.
This course, drawing on the document of the Pontifical Biblical Commission (2008), <i>Bible and Morality: Biblical Roots of Christian Conduct</i>, this course examines the biblical foundations of Christian morality at the intersection of exegesis, hermeneutics, and fundamental moral theology. Its central organizing concept is "revealed morality", understood as Christian moral conduct not primarily as a system of rules, but as the free and responsible response of the human person to God's gracious initiative in creation, covenant, and Incarnation. The course moves from the anthropological and theological foundations of biblical morality toward the formulation of concrete hermeneutical criteria for contemporary ethical discernment.		

018DMEXI2	Exegetical Methods: Historical-Critical, Rhetorical, and Narrative	4 Cr.
This course explores current advanced methodologies for the interpretation of biblical texts, approached from both diachronic and synchronic perspectives. Particular attention is given to the historical-critical method, including source criticism, form criticism, and redaction criticism, alongside rhetorical and narrative analysis. Through practical exercises and foundational analytical frameworks, students will develop the exegetical competencies needed for rigorous engagement with the biblical text.		
018TMSPI3	The Masoretic Text and the Septuagint	2 Cr.
This course, cited as Scripture in the New Testament, examines the Septuagint and its profound influence on the formation and development of the Christian Bible. Rather than treating it as a secondary translation of the Hebrew text, it approaches the Septuagint as a work in its own right. This course studies it alongside the Masoretic Text, highlighting the textual, literary, and cultural richness of both traditions, as well as their significant divergences. Through a comparative approach, students will explore the challenges of biblical textual transmission, the choices involved in translation, and the historical contexts that shaped these two major traditions.		
018RBIPI3	Pastoral Biblical Reinterpretations	2 Cr.
This course traces the movement from exegetical reading to spiritual appropriation, understood as a process guided by the Holy Spirit. It offers concrete practices for both personal and communal engagement with the Word, showing how such rereading can nourish spiritual life, sharpen discernment, and sustain pastoral commitment. Throughout, the course emphasizes the deep unity between Scripture, prayer, liturgy, and daily life, and draws its theological grounding from <i>Dei Verbum</i> as a charter for the renewal of Christian life through the Word of God.		
018BIBLI3	Bible and Liturgy	2 Cr.
This course examines the human being, from the opening pages of Scripture, as a <i>leitourgos</i> , a creature made for relationship with God and called to praise, celebrate, and worship Him. It explores the intrinsic bond between the Bible and Christian liturgy. This course presents liturgy, understood as the “work or service of the people,” first and foremost as the work of Christ, the Word made flesh and the center of every liturgical celebration. It shows how reading liturgy in the light of Scripture recovers its original meaning and reveals the ultimate purpose of human life: that the Word may take flesh anew in those who celebrate it today. This course brings exegesis and biblical theology into dialogue, forming students capable of interpreting and renewing liturgical practice from its scriptural foundations.		
018BIBAI3	Bible and Archaeology	2 Cr.
This course examines the ancient Near East, the historical and cultural setting in which the biblical text took shape, as a dynamic world of peoples and constantly evolving contexts. This course addresses key questions on the use of archaeology in biblical studies: its reliability as a historical source, its relationship to biblical exegesis, and the interpretive tensions between archaeological data and the theological intent of the biblical text. This course evaluates these issues at the intersection of history, sources, theology, and biblical narrative.		
018BIHOI3	Bible and Homiletics	2 Cr.
This course explores Jewish homiletical tradition, with its emphasis on preaching, interpretation of sacred texts, and their application to the life of the believer. This course also examines how the Fathers of the Church drew on the rhetorical and allegorical traditions of their cultural context to develop homiletics as a tool for Christological proclamation, moral teaching, and the refutation of heresy. Students will study the biblical and patristic foundations of the homily with a view to renewing its practice for those engaged in pastoral ministry today.		
018CEDQI3	Community and Writings of Qumran	2 Cr.
This course examines the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls from 1947 onward, which fundamentally transformed the study of ancient Judaism and early Christianity and led to a major reassessment of key scholarly questions. This course presents a brief history of the discovery and the development of scholarship on these manuscripts, then explores through selected examples their impact on the textual history of the Hebrew Bible and on our understanding of ancient Judaism and early Christianity.		