

Graduate School of Biblical Theology

at John Paul the Great Catholic University

Master of Arts in Biblical Theology

§1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Bible as the Soul of Theology. The Second Vatican Council explained that “the study of the sacred page is . . . the soul of theology” (*Dei Verbum* 24). The M.A. in Biblical Theology Program seeks to implement what the Council called for, namely, a biblical approach to theology. In fact, the basic rationale for our program aligns well with the Church’s most recent magisterial statement on Scripture, *Verbum Domini*, in which Benedict XVI explains: “where exegesis is not theology, Scripture cannot be the soul of theology, and conversely, where theology is not essentially the interpretation of the Church’s Scripture, such a theology no longer has a foundation” (*Verbum Domini*, no. 35).

By focusing their study on God’s Fatherly plan (the ‘divine economy’), the unity of the Old and New Testament (‘typology’) and the relationship of salvation history to the Church’s celebration of the Liturgy (‘mystagogy’) students will learn a biblically based approach to Dogmatic, Moral and Liturgical Theology.

Fidelity to Catholic Tradition. Students in our program will learn how to approach Biblical Theology in a way that is faithful to the Catholic Church’s living tradition. Their program of study will ensure that their understanding of Scripture and its role in Theology is well-formed by the magisterial documents of the Church. In addition, students will study the writings of the fathers and doctors of the Church. In particular, our program stresses the need for a thorough training in the philosophy and theology of St. Thomas Aquinas, the saint whom the Church calls its ‘Common Doctor’.

Teaching and scholarship. Finally, students will be trained to effectively communicate what they have learned to others, focusing not only on academic research but also on ways to apply what they have learned to living the Christian life. At the end of their course of study students will be well formed for the task of evangelization, as Catechists and teachers. In addition, students will be well-prepared to pursue further work in biblical and theological scholarship.

M.A. BIBLICAL THEOLOGY PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

1. Analyze and interpret the literary, historical and theological dimensions of the books of the Old Testament, critiquing contemporary scholarship.
2. Analyze and interpret the literary, historical and theological dimensions of the books of the New Testament, critiquing contemporary scholarship.

3. Analyze and compare the various branches of Catholic theology, synthesizing their relationship to one another with particular attention to how the “study of the sacred page” informs each field.
4. Use at least two ancient languages to interpret and clarify exegetical issues in Scripture and other critical theological sources.
5. Develop ways to effectively evaluate their ability to communicate and / or teach their understanding of Scripture and Theology to others and to find ways to improve it.

§1.1. UNIQUE CURRICULUM

Our program offers a unique integration of the various branches of theology with a heavy concentration in the study of Sacred Scripture. In this, our curriculum is unique. Whereas most theology programs offer little more than basic introductory classes in the Old and New Testaments, our program involves courses in all of the major categories of biblical literature. Likewise, whereas as most graduate biblical studies programs offer their students little in terms of theological formation, students in the M.A. in Biblical Theology program at JP Catholic receive a thorough introduction into the major branches of Catholic theology. Furthermore, since one of the goals of this degree is not only personal formation but also evangelization, students will be trained to learn how to communicate to others what they have learned. Above all, students will learn how to incorporate their study into their own prayer life, thus turning their work into an expression of their personal commitment to Christ.

§1.2. PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

This program has two primary practical aims: to train students for the work of evangelization and to prepare students to engage in scholarship. The degree is ideal for those interested in working in pastoral ministry, religious education as well as those who simply want to have a better understanding of their faith. Likewise, the M.A. in Biblical Theology program will help to form those interested in pursuing a future career as a Catholic academic. In sum, students will learn how to both interact with contemporary scholarship as well as how to effectively communicate what they have learned at the parish level.

§1.3. RELATIONSHIP WITH JP CATHOLIC UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL

At the undergraduate level, John Paul the Great Catholic University focuses on impacting culture through the fields of business and media. The close proximity to the tools of evangelization will offer unique opportunities for the practical application of this degree.

§2. STRUCTURE OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

§2.1. COURSES IN THE M.A. PROGRAM IN BIBLICAL THEOLOGY¹

NOTE: Students should check the catalogue for enrollment requirements. Those without an undergraduate degree in theology or those who have not previously taken philosophy courses must fulfill certain requirements by taking a number of undergraduate classes in the JP Catholic course catalogue. Students who believe they already have achieved competence in particular areas of study may apply to test out of particular courses or they may receive special permission to enroll in graduate courses because of extenuating circumstances.

BIB501	Biblical Hermeneutics
BIB511	Pentateuch
BIB512	Historical Books of the Old Testament
BIB513	Prophets
BIB514	Psalms and Wisdom Literature
BIB521	Synoptic Gospels
BIB522	Johannine Literature
BIB523	Pauline Epistles
BIB524	Catholic Epistles and Hebrews
BIB525	Apocalyptic Literature
BIB531	New Testament Greek I
BIB532	New Testament Greek II
BIB541	Biblical Hebrew I ²
BIB542	Biblical Hebrew II
THEO501	Fundamental Theology
THEO503	Trinity and the Divine Economy
THEO504	Christology and Soteriology
THEO505	Ecclesiology and Eschatology
THEO511	Liturgical Theology
THEO521	Moral Theology and Ethics
THEO531	Contemporary Theological Debates
THEO551	Practicum I
THEO552	Practicum II

§2.2. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS OR M.A. THESIS

Students will complete their course of study by demonstrating that they have mastered the material covered in their various classes. In addition, students must be able to demonstrate the ability to *integrate* the elements of the various courses into a coherent theological synthesis. This can be done in one of two ways.

¹ As of March 2011.

² Pending approval of the Chair of the Department, some students may substitute Latin for Biblical Hebrew.

Comprehensive exams. Some students may choose to take a series of comprehensive exams, which will encompass each of the courses taken and focus the student's attention on bringing together all that the student has learned in the program.

M.A. Thesis. Students may choose to write a M.A. Thesis. Those expecting to go on to pursue further academic work are highly encouraged to consider this option. Once the student has taken about 60% of his course work, s/he will be assigned a thesis director. The director and the student should remain in frequent contact regarding the chosen topic from that time forward. A proposal will then be submitted which is to be approved by the director. The thesis itself is to be about 65–70 pages in length, and demonstrate the student's ability to identify and investigate a question relating to the field of Biblical theology, to carry out research appropriate to the topic and to organize and present his or her work in a critical and coherent manner. A final draft of the thesis is to be submitted to the director no more than two quarters after completion of the last course in the curriculum. The director will either pass the thesis on to the Chair of the department or make further suggestions. The student has three months to make whatever changes need to be made. A committee of at least two faculty members will read the final submitted form of the thesis. Together they will decide to either pass or fail the thesis. A public defense may be scheduled if the director and student agree that such is desirable.

§2.2. TRANSFERRING IN COURSES ALREADY TAKEN

Students may be able to transfer units taken at another university or classes. Undergraduate level courses however cannot be substituted for graduate level courses. The Chair of the Biblical Theology program must approve requests for the transfer of credits.

§2.3. FULFILLING GRADUATE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A. in Biblical Theology is a graduate level degree. Graduate level courses require some previous background in theological and philosophical study. Background classes necessary for the graduate level courses are offered at JP Catholic. Students may also be permitted to test out of certain course requirements or they may receive special permission to enroll in particular classes. Every situation is unique and each request will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

§2.4. POLICY REGARDING TRANSFERRING UNITS

Transfer credits may not exceed 50% of the school's curriculum. In addition, unless formal written approval is granted, the following courses may not be transferred in from another institution.

BIB501	Biblical Hermeneutics
BIB511	Pentateuch
BIB521	Synoptic Gospels
BIB523	Pauline Epistles
THEO501	Fundamental Theology
THEO503	Trinity and the Divine Economy
THEO504	Christology and Soteriology
THEO521	Moral Theology and Ethics
THEO531	Contemporary Theological Debates

§3. TIMETABLES FOR COURSE OF STUDY

§3.1. BASIC OUTLINE

The graduate program in Biblical Theology consists of 21 courses not counting two teaching practicum experiences. It is expected that a full-time student would be able to complete the degree in about two years, even if he did not have any background in theology and philosophy. Of course, as mentioned above (cf. §2.3), students without a background in Philosophy and/or Theology may need to fulfill certain pre-requisites in order to enroll in certain classes (see the catalogue for further information). Because of this the specific course of study will vary from student to student depending upon the courses needed. There is no time-limit set for completing the program.

NOTE: Below are some suggested programs of study. Course schedules will likely differ from student to student due to their previous academic work and other factors.

§3.2. SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR A STUDENT NEEDING NO BACKGROUND COURSES³

Year	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
1	1. Biblical Hermeneutics 2. Fundamental Theology 3. Biblical Hebrew I	1. Pentateuch 2. Historical Books 3. Prophets 4. Biblical Hebrew II	1. Trinity & the Divine Economy 2. Synoptic Gospels 3. Johannine Lit 4. NT Greek I	1. Psalms & Wisdom Literature 2. Catholic Epistles & Hebrews 3. Pauline Epistles 4. NT Greek II
2	1. Christology and Soteriology 2. Moral Theology and Ethics 3. Apocalyptic Literature 4. Practicum I	1. Ecclesiology and Eschatology 2. Liturgical Theology 3. Contemporary Theological Debates 4. Practicum II		

³ The following course of study assumes that a student has absolutely no transferrable units upon entering the program. Course schedules may differ from student to student due to their previous academic work.

§3.3. SUGGESTED PROGRAM OUTLINE FOR STUDENTS WITH NO BACKGROUND IN UNDERGRADUATE THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY (TWO YEAR TRACK)⁴

Year	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
1	1. Logic 2. Philosophy of Nature [or Classical Philosophy] 3. Introduction to Scripture I 4. Introduction to Scripture II	1. Philosophy of Man 2. Epistemology [or Modern Philosophy] 3. Fundamentals of Catholicism 4. Moral Theology & Ethics 5. Sacraments, Liturgy, & Prayer	1. Metaphysics 2. Biblical Hermeneutics 3. Early Church Fathers 4. Fundamental Theology 5. Biblical Hebrew I	1. Pentateuch 2. Historical Books 3. Prophets 4. Biblical Hebrew II
2	1. Trinity & the Divine Economy 2. Synoptic Gospels 3. Johannine Lit 4. NT Greek I	1. Christology & Soteriology 2. Pauline Epistles 3. Apocalyptic Literature 4. NT Greek II	1. Ecclesiology and Eschatology 2. Catholic Epistles & Hebrews 3. Psalms & Wisdom Lit 4. Practicum I	1. Liturgical Theology 2. Contemporary Theological Debates 3. Moral Theology and Ethics 4. Practicum II

§3.4. SUGGESTED PROGRAM OUTLINE FOR STUDENTS WITH NO BACKGROUND IN UNDERGRADUATE THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY (THREE YEAR TRACK)⁵

Year	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
1	1. Logic 2. Introduction to Scripture I 3. Philosophy of Nature [or Classical Philosophy]	1. Introduction to Scripture II 2. Philosophy of Man 3. Epistemology [or Modern Philosophy]	1. Metaphysics 2. Early Church Fathers 3. Greek I	1. Fundamentals of Catholicism 2. Sacraments, Liturgy, & Prayer 3. Greek II
2	1. Biblical Hermeneutics 2. Pentateuch 3. Latin I	1. Prophets 2. Historical Books 3. Latin II	1. Fundamental Theology 2. Synoptic Gospels	1. Johannine Lit 2. Moral Theology and Ethics
3	1. Trinity & the Divine Economy 2. Pauline Epistles 3. Practicum I	1. Christology & Soteriology 2. Apocalyptic Literature 3. Practicum II	1. Ecclesiology and Eschatology 2. Catholic Epistles & Hebrews 3. Psalms & Wisdom Lit	1. Liturgical Theology 2. Contemporary Theology Debates

⁴ The following course of study assumes that a student has absolutely no transferrable units upon entering the program. Course schedules may differ from student to student due to their previous academic work.

⁵ See note above.

§4. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NOTE: For background course descriptions see §4.2. It is possible however for students to fulfill such requirements by either transferring a similar course taken at another institution, by testing out of the class or by receiving special permission. See §2.3 above.

§4.1. COURSES IN THE M.A. BIBLICAL THEOLOGY PROGRAM

BIB501 BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS

In order to study Scripture properly one must address the question of methodology: what interpretive principles and methods ought to be employed when reading Scripture? This course examines some of the crucial questions involved with understanding the biblical text. How does one deal with linguistic, historical and theological difficulties in Scripture? What is the relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament? How do philosophical presuppositions influence the way we read the text? What criteria help define an authentically Catholic approach to Scripture study? In this course students will learn about some of the key issues involved in reading and understanding Scripture by studying Catholic magisterial documents and documents from the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Special attention will also be paid both to the history of interpretation, the post-modern challenge and the use of various synchronic and diachronic methods. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201.

BIB508 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK I

In this course students will gain an understanding of the basic vocabulary and grammar of the language in which the New Testament was originally written. This class helps students begin to read the New Testament books the way they were originally written. *Necessary background courses:* THEO 100.

BIB509 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II

This class builds on what was learned in New Testament Greek I (BIB509). *Necessary background courses:* THEO 100, BIB 508.

BIB511 PENTATEUCH

The first five books of the Old Testament, known in Judaism as the *Torah*, provide the principle backdrop for the rest of salvation history. The books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy cover, among other things, creation, the fall, God's covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Israel's Passover and redemption from slavery in Egypt, the giving of the Law at Sinai, the institution of the Levitical cult, Israel's wilderness wanderings and Moses' final words to Israel on the plains of Moab. Students will gain an in-depth of knowledge of these books and the critical literary, historical and theological issues involved with studying them. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, BIB 501, THEO 501.

BIB512 HISTORICAL BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

In this course students will be exposed to those books of the Old Testament typically identified as “the Historical Books”. These books tell the story of Israel after the time of Moses. Students will examine what has been come to be called the Deuteronomic History as it is laid out in Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, and 1 & 2 Kings. Students will also study other works such as 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah, which recount the history of the people of Israel. The literary, historical and theological significance of these books will be explored in detail. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, BIB 501, THEO 501.

BIB513 PROPHETS

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “Through the prophets, God forms his people in the hope of salvation, in the expectation of a new and everlasting Covenant intended for all, to be written on their hearts” (CCC 64). In this class, students will be exposed to the key literary and historical issues involved in the study of the prophetic corpus. In addition, this course will explore the key tenants of Old Testament eschatological hopes, addressing also the implications of a canonical reading of these books. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, BIB 501, THEO 501.

BIB514 PSALMS AND THE WISDOM LITERATURE

St. Thomas Aquinas once wrote that the book of Psalms represents “the entire Scripture abbreviated.” Indeed, the authors of the New Testament allude to the Psalms more than any other Old Testament book. This course will provide students with the critical tools needed for an in-depth analysis of both the individual psalms and the overall canonical shape of the Psalter, as well as its significance within the larger canon of Scripture. In this class students will also study the literary, historical and theological issues involved with the understanding the Wisdom Literature. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, BIB 501, THEO 501.

BIB521 SYNOPTIC GOSPELS AND ACTS

Because they are our principle source for the life and teaching of Jesus, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes the Gospels as the “heart of all the Scriptures” (CCC 125). In this course students will gain an understanding of the relationship of the Synoptic Gospels (=Matthew, Mark and Luke) to the historical Jesus and to one another. Students will also examine the book of Acts, the sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Particular attention will be paid to the way the these books make use of the Old Testament. Students will gain a working knowledge of the distinct focuses and emphases of each of the individual evangelists. In addition to being exposed to the historical and literary issues involved in their study, students will also examine patristic interpretation of the Gospels. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100 or PHIL 105, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, BIB 501, THEO 501. *It is preferable to enroll in this course only after completing* BIB 508, BIB 509.

BIB522 JOHANNINE LITERATURE

From the earliest times, Christians have noted that the Fourth Gospel is markedly different from Matthew, Mark and Luke. In this class students will study the important literary, historical and theological issues relating to the study of the Gospel of John. In addition to learning about contemporary work on the book, students will also be exposed to patristic readings of this important Gospel. In particular, the liturgical and sacramental theology implicit in the book will be examined. Moreover, students will also study other books in the New Testament typically identified as “Johannine Literature.” *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, BIB 501, THEO 501. *It is preferable to enroll in this course only after completing* BIB 508 and BIB 509.

BIB523 PAULINE EPISTLES

Thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament are attributed to St. Paul. That so many of the books of the New Testament are tied to his name indicates the enormous influence he has had on the Christian theology. Virtually every branch of Christian theology—Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, etc.—derives much of its fundamental language from his work. In this course students will look at the literary, historical and theological issues relating to the Pauline epistles. Special emphasis will also be placed on the *status quaestionis* of Pauline research today, though not to the exclusion of an exploration of patristic and medieval interpretation. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, THEO 301, BIB 501, THEO 501. *It is preferable to enroll in this course only after completing* BIB 508 and BIB 509.

BIB524 CATHOLIC EPISTLES AND HEBREWS

Rounding out the study of the New Testament, this course will focus on James, 1–2 Peter, 1–3 John and Jude as well as the book of Hebrews. Students will look at the literary, historical and theological issues involved with these epistles, with an introduction to both the history of interpretation, contemporary critical issues and their relevance today. Special attention will be paid to the theological significance of the covenant in the Epistle to the Hebrews. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, BIB 501, THEO 501. *It is preferable to enroll in this course only after completing* BIB 508 and BIB 509.

BIB525 APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

Among all of the biblical books none are more challenging to interpret than those classified as “apocalyptic literature”. In this course students will examine such literature through focusing on examples from both the Old Testament (Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah) and the New Testament (Revelation). Students will look at the literary, historical and theological issues relating to the study of these books. In addition, students will be exposed to non-biblical apocalyptic texts, such as *1 Enoch*. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, THEO 300, BIB 501, THEO 501,

BIB 513, BIB 521. *It is preferable to enroll in this course only after completing BIB 508 and BIB 509.*

THEO501 FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY

This course will examine the relationship between faith and reason, the role of natural theology, divine revelation, the sources of divine revelation (Scripture and Tradition), as well as the role of the Magisterium. In particular, students will carefully read the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*), promulgated by Vatican II. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 101 or PHIL 105, PHIL 102, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, PHIL 104, THEO 100 or THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202.

THEO503 TRINITY AND THE DIVINE ECONOMY

The highest of all the mysteries of faith is that of the Trinity. While the other mysteries describe what God has done for us, the doctrine of the Trinity focuses our attention on who God is in Himself. Among other things, this course will discuss the unity and simplicity of God, the distinct relations and personal properties of the three divine persons, and the relationship of the divine persons and the processions of the Trinity to the economy of salvation. In addition, students will explore the concept of the divine economy in the fathers. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 101 or PHIL 105, PHIL 102, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, PHIL 104, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, THEO 300, BIB 501, and THEO 501.

THEO504 CHRISTOLOGY AND SOTERIOLOGY

After an analysis of some of the key issues arising from the specific biblical texts, students will work through the Christological debates of the early Church. Drawing on the early fathers (e.g., Athanasius, Anselm) and councils (e.g., Nicea, Chalcedon, Ephesus) as well as latter sources (the writings of Aquinas, the Council of Trent, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*), students will examine key theological issues, such as the relationship of Christ's divine and human natures. In addition, students will seek a deeper understanding of the meaning and application of Christ's salvific work. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 101 or PHIL 105, PHIL 102, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, PHIL 104, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, THEO 300, THEO 301, BIB 501, and THEO 501.

THEO505 ECCLESIOLOGY AND ESCHATOLOGY

Having undertaken the study of Christology, students move on to examine the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. Students will learn how the union of the divine and human natures in Christ provide a template for ecclesiology. In addition, this course will cover the four marks of the Church, the Petrine ministry, the Church's hierarchical structure, the various roles of the religious and the laity, and the communion of saints. In particular, special attention will be paid to fundamental biblical issues relating to ecclesiology, in particular the relationship of the Church and the Kingdom. Finally, this course will examine Catholic teaching regarding eschatology, with special focus on a biblical approach as well as the eschatological nature of the Church. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 101 or PHIL 105, PHIL 102, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, PHIL 104, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, THEO 300,

THEO 501. *It is preferable for students to take this course after completing* THEO 503, THEO 504, BIB 521, BIB 522, BIB 525, THEO 541 and THEO 542.

THEO511 LITURGICAL THEOLOGY

According to the Second Vatican Council, the Eucharistic celebration marks the “source and summit” of the Christian life. In this course students will explore the significance of “liturgical” and “sacramental” theology. In particular, students will explore the implications of the axiom that the *lex orandi* (law of prayer) establishes the *lex credendi* (law of belief). In addition, students will discover how the divine economy relates to the sacramental life of the Church (mystagogy). Moreover, students will examine the liturgy as the *locus* for the Church’s Sacred Tradition. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100, PHIL 101 or PHIL 105, PHIL 102, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, PHIL 104, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, BIB 501, THEO 501. *It is preferable to enroll in this course after completing* THEO 503, THEO 504, BIB 521, BIB 522, BIB 524, BIB 525, THEO 541 and THEO 542.

THEO521 CATHOLIC MORAL PRINCIPLES

This course examines the philosophical, biblical and theological principles of moral theology. Throughout this course students study the section on the moral life in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In addition, students pay special attention to the way particular aspects of Catholic moral teaching relate to contemporary issues, particularly those relating to bioethics. *Necessary background courses:* THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201. *It is preferable to take this course after completing* THEO 501.

THEO531 CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGICAL DEBATES

This course assumes the knowledge gained from all the other classes offered in the Graduate Theology program. Students will examine in particular issues surrounding the *nouvelle theologie*, particularly debates concerning the relationship of nature and grace. In addition, students will learn how the “new theology movement” of the twentieth century affected trajectories in dogmatic, biblical, moral and liturgical theology as well. *Necessary background courses:* *Students should enroll in this course only after all of the other courses aside from Practicum I and II have been taken.*

THEO541 LATIN I

This course equips students with the basic grammar and vocabulary of ecclesiastical Latin.

THEO542 LATIN II

This course builds on the knowledge gained in Latin I and aims at helping students read official magisterial Catholic documents in their original language. *Necessary background courses:* THEO 541.

THEO551 PRACTICUM I

In addition to their in-class work, two *practica* (THEO551, THEO 552) are also required in which students will learn how to communicate what they have learned effectively to others at the parish level. The *practica* involves teaching a course on Catholicism at the parish level

which integrates Scripture as well as constructive discussion and criticism with faculty and fellow students. Students are encouraged to consider using the ready-made Parish Bible Study Programs offered by St. Paul Center of Biblical Theology (*Genesis to Jesus, The Bible and the Mass, The Bible and Mary, The Bible and the Church*). *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 101 or PHIL 105, PHIL 102, PHIL 103 or PHIL 106, PHIL 104, THEO 100, THEO 200, THEO 201, THEO 202, THEO 300, THEO 301, THEO 501, THEO 503, THEO 541, THEO 542, BIB 501, BIB 508, BIB 509, BIB 511, BIB 512, BIB 521, BIB 522, BIB 523

THEO552 PRACTICUM II

(See the description of THEO551.) *To enroll in this class students must have taken Practicum I.*

§4.2. BACKGROUND THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY COURSES OFFERED AT JP CATHOLIC

THEO100 INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE I:

In this course the student explores the Scriptures, particularly the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) to discover and get to know Jesus. The Scripture course serves as the foundation of the religion curriculum because it explores God's completed plan of salvation for mankind in Jesus. Students, through a study of the Gospels, review the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and learn to apply these principles to their lives. The course also explores ways the study of Scripture enhances the life of prayer, paying particular attention to the way the study of God's word helps one better meditate upon the mysteries of the rosary.

THEO200 INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE II:

This course is a continuation of THEO 101. Whereas THEO 101 focuses largely on the Gospels, this course takes a closer look at the major figures and events of the Old Testament. In particular, students learn how God set in motion the plan that he would ultimately fulfill in Christ Jesus in the New Testament. Throughout the course students learn how the Old Testament books relate to those in the New Testament, learning to employ the criteria laid out in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for proper interpretation of Scripture. As in THEO 100 students also focus on how Scripture study relates to the life of prayer. Specifically, this course introduces students to the traditional form of prayerful Scripture reading known as *lectio divina*.

THEO 201 FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM:

This course introduces the student to the teaching of the Catholic Church as it is rooted in Sacred Scripture, in Tradition and in the Magisterial teaching of the Church. The course begins a series of classes that takes students through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This class covers the section on the Creed in the *Catechism*, focusing on the Catholic understanding of revelation, faith, and introducing particular elements of dogmatic theology (e.g., Trinitarian theology, the meaning of the divine economy, Christology, Christian anthropology, angelology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, etc.).

THEO202 EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

This course examines some of the key figures and councils of the early Church. In particular, students learn about the Church's response to important heresies and key Trinitarian and Christological controversies of the first-half of Christian history. Among the important writers studied here are Clement, Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Origen, Irenaeus, Augustine, Jerome, Athanasius, the Cappadocian fathers, and John Damascene. The course also looks at the significance of the seven ecumenical councils.

THEO300 THE SACRAMENTS, LITURGY AND PRAYER:

This course builds on THEO 201 and offers students an in-depth examination of the second and fourth pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, i.e., the sections dealing with the sacraments, liturgy and prayer.

PHIL100 LOGIC

In this course students learn about the basic structures of sound reasoning, focusing largely on classic Aristotelian logic. The course serves to help students think and argue with clarity as well as to effectively analyze arguments of others. The course includes a careful analysis of the operations of the intellect, i.e., understanding, judgment, and reasoning, focusing on their products, i.e., term, proposition, and syllogism.

PHIL101 PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE

In his great encyclical *Fides et Ratio*, John Paul II affirmed that “the Church considers philosophy an indispensable help for a deeper understanding of faith and for communicating the truth of the Gospel to those who do not yet know it” (5). In this, John Paul II was simply reiterating what Church's ecumenical councils, doctors and saints have taught for centuries: good theology flows from good philosophy. In this class students begin their philosophical formation by looking at changeable being and the material world. Specifically, this course introduces crucially important philosophical ideas such as form, matter, substance, accidents, and causality. Of course, these concepts are not only critical for understanding philosophy but are also vital to the study of Catholic dogmatic theology (e.g., the Catholic teaching regarding the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist involves the dogma of Transubstantiation—language which is not fully comprehensible without a proper knowledge of the Aristotelian distinction between “substance” and “accidents”).

PHIL102 PHILOSOPHY OF MAN

Building upon what students have learned in PHIL 101, this course offers an overview of the philosophy of the nature of the human being. In this course students are introduced to key concepts relating to Christian anthropology such as the relationship between the body and the soul. In addition, students examine the faculties of the soul, specifically, the intellect and will. As with PHIL 101 this course explores ideas vital to theological investigation (e.g., Christology involves, among other things, understanding the relationship between Christ's humanity and divinity, his human will and his divine will). *Necessary background courses: PHIL 101 or PHIL 105.*

PHIL103 EPISTEMOLOGY

This course builds upon the material covered in PHIL 101 and PHIL 102. In particular this class examines the causes of human knowledge. Specifically, students will be introduced the nature of knowledge, the object of knowledge, the role of the internal and external senses, and the concepts of truth and certainty. Not only does this course offer a careful investigation of the key concepts relating to this branch of philosophy, this course compares the Aristotelian-Thomistic model to that offered by other philosophical systems. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 100.

PHIL104 METAPHYSICS

As traditionally understood, Metaphysics studies the nature of being, establishing the meaning of being and its characteristics. In this course then students will examine key concepts relating to the study Metaphysics including the analogy of being, essence and existence, contingent and necessary being, and the significance of the transcendental notions of unity, truth, goodness and beauty. The course also provides a basic introduction to natural theology, that is, what can be known about God through reason apart from divine revelation. *Necessary background courses:* PHIL 101 *or* PHIL 105, PHIL 102.

PHIL105 CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHY

A survey course covering the history of the major thinkers and currents of thought in the philosophical tradition from the ancient world through the middle ages. Students will especially focus on the works of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Thomas Aquinas.

PHIL106 MODERN PHILOSOPHY

A survey course covering the major thinkers and currents of thought in the philosophical tradition typically described today as “modernism”. Students will study the influential ideas of thinkers such as Descartes, Kant and Nietzsche.