

2009

Silliman University
Divinity School

[MASTER OF DIVINITY]

Major in Biblical Studies
(Thesis Track)

FIRST YEAR (33 units)

1st Semester	Units	2nd Semester	Units
DBI 441 Greek Reading	3	DBI 442 Hebrew Reading	3
DBI 443 The Gospels	3	DCM 442 Intimate & Domestic Violence as a Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue	3
DCM 443 Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally Diverse Contexts	3	DBI 446 Apocalyptic Literature	3
DBI 445 Wisdom Literature	3	DBI 448 The Pentateuch	3
DS 1 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 1	3	DS 2 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2	3
EL 33 Critical Essay Writing	3		
Total	18	Total	15

SECOND YEAR (15 units)

1st Semester	Units	2nd Semester	Units
DBI 447 The Epistles	3	DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense	3
DBI 449 Cross-cultural reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia	3		
THE 443 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World	3		
DS 3 Thesis Writing	3		
Total	12	Total	3

I. Justification for Offering Master of Divinity major Biblical Studies (thesis track)

In the past years, the Divinity School had been unable to respond to the needs of the church-related schools and theological schools for graduates who are qualified to teach Bible. The Divinity School was only able to send them graduates who were prepared in the general program of Pastoral Ministry.

In light of such need to upgrade the quality of teaching staff of these church-related schools and theological institutions in the Philippines, the SUDS will offer a new Master of Divinity program major in Biblical Studies. This two-year program is specifically designed for those who have finished their Bachelor of Theology degree program (5-year academic program) who seek to continue their studies and concentrate in Biblical Studies.

II. Program Offering and Objectives

This program aims to provide people the necessary preparation in order to qualify to teach Biblical Studies in church-related schools, Bible schools or similar institutions.

The learners, depending on the focus of their thesis, are required to take advance courses in Bible and in biblical Language. Each student will write a thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Divinity major in Biblical Studies.

III. Graduation Requirements:

1. Completion of the curricular requirements of 48 units, the 24 units being in compliance with CHED’s required number of units for the core courses.
2. Cumulative QPA of at least 3.0.
3. Passed the Public Defense of Thesis that will be scheduled between January and February during the Second Year.
4. Endorsed by the Faculty for Graduation

IV. Course Offered

Courses	Units	Total Units
<i>A. Biblical Studies Courses</i>		24
1. DBI 441 Greek Reading	3	
2. DBI 442 Hebrew Reading	3	
3. DBI 443 Gospels	3	
4. DBI 447 The Epistles	3	
5. DBI 445 Wisdom Literature	3	
6. DBI 446 Apocalyptic Literature	3	
7. DBI 449 Cross-cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia	3	
8. DBI 448 Pentateuch	3	
<i>B. Interdisciplinary Courses</i>		9
1. DCM 443 Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally Diverse Contexts	3	

2. DCM 442 Intimate & Domestic Violence as a Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue	3	
3. THE 443- Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities around the World	3	
<i>D. Research Methods</i>	6	6
<i>E. Thesis Writing</i>	6	6
<i>F. English Requirement – EL 33 Critical Essay Writing</i>	3	3
<i>Total</i>		48

V. The Program

FIRST YEAR (33 units)

1st Semester

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Passing Grade</i>	<i>Pre-requisite</i>
DBI 441	Greek Reading	3	3.0	DBI 12
DBI 443	The Gospels	3	3.0	
DCM 443	Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally Diverse Contexts	3	3.0	
DBI 445	Wisdom Literature	3	3.0	DBI 11, 14, 21,22
DS 1	Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 1	3	3.0	
EL 33	Critical Essay Writing	3	3.0	
		18		

2nd Semester

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Passing Grade</i>	<i>Pre-requisite</i>
DBI 442	Hebrew Reading	3	3.0	DBI 11
DCM 442	Intimate & Domestic Violence as a Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue	3	3.0	
DBI 446	Apocalyptic Literature	3	3.0	
DBI 448	The Pentateuch	3	3.0	DBI 11, 14, 21,22
DS 2	Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2	3	3.0	
		15		

SECOND YEAR (15 units)

1st Semester

Code	Description	Units	P Grade	Pre-requisite
DBI 447	The Epistles	3	3.0	
DBI 449	Cross-cultural reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia	3	3.0	
THE 443	Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World	3	3.0	
DS 3	Thesis Writing	3	3.0	DBI 11, 14, 21, 22
		12		

2nd Semester

Description	Units	Passing Grade	
DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense	3	3.0	
	3		

VI. Course Descriptions

First Year

1st Semester

2nd Semester

<p><i>DBI 441 Greek Reading</i> 3 units This advance Greek course is designed for those who have had an introductory Greek course. This course will continue the study of Greek grammar, based on the reading of selected parts of the Greek New Testament.</p>	<p><i>DBI 442 Hebrew Reading</i> 3 units This course is designed for those who have had an introductory Hebrew course. This course will continue the study of Hebrew grammar, based on the reading of selected parts of the Hebrew Scriptures.</p>
<p><i>DBI 443 Gospels</i> 3 units A seminar course on the Gospels. After a brief critical introduction to the Gospels, various texts such as narratives, miracles and parables will be analyzed exegetically (using Greek NT) with an effort to determine their setting in life, content, their historical implications and their theological meaning for life today.</p>	<p><i>DCM 442 Intimate and Domestic Violence as a Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue</i> 3 units This course seeks to investigate the phenomenon of intimate and domestic violence as a theological, ethical, social, and pastoral issue. The class will use interdisciplinary resources. Students will also be challenged to be in touch with their own personal baggage on</p>

	<p>the issue of power and attitude towards violence, as well as their complicity to it.</p>
<p><i>DBI 445 Wisdom Literature</i> 3 units This course is a survey of the five “wisdom” books in the Hebrew Bible and in the apocrypha namely, Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth, Ben Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon. In this course, the students will a) examine the role of the Ancient Near East institutions and their role in the emergence of the wisdom literature, b) identify the different genres in the biblical wisdom literature, c) the significance of the wisdom literature in the concerns for gender justice and peace issues, and d) the significance of wisdom literature in contemporary human being’s search for meaning.</p>	<p><i>DBI 446 Apocalyptic Literature (Jewish Apocalyptic at the Time of Christ)</i> 3 units A study of intertestamental literature, with a focus on the eschatological hopes and the expected end-time figures in the last two centuries BCE and the first century C.E. Special attention will be given to the intertestamental understanding of the Messiah, the “Son of Man” (humanity), Resurrection, the Millennium, the growth of Christian apocalyptic, Christological developments, and other themes.</p>
<p><i>DCM 443 Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally diverse Contexts</i> 3 units This course is designed to help students explore the principles of teaching the Bible and leading Bible studies effectively in multicultural and multiracial contexts. As an advance course, students are also challenged to create a Bible Study series that consider diversity of participants and demonstrate them in actual or simulated class contexts. This will enable the students to gain competence in the use of various ways in organizing and leading Bible study groups in the context not only of the local church, but also of diverse racially and culturally diverse settings.</p>	<p><i>DBI 448 Pentateuch</i> 3 units This course will explore the role of the Torah in shaping the theology of the Hebrew Bible and of the New Testament. The students will examine the old source theory in light of the contemporary literary approaches to the Pentateuch. With the help of the lenses provided by current schools of critical literary theories, including the structuralist, deconstructionists and postcolonial perspective, students will go through the exercises of re-reading and reinterpreting the texts.</p>
<p><i>DS 1 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing</i> 3 units The first week of the first semester will be an orientation to thesis writing. On August 15 of the first semester during the Senior Year, the candidate must submit to the</p>	<p><i>DS 2 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2</i> 3 units This is a course that makes students apply their theories in research methods. An expected output from the student in this class is a thesis proposal that includes an abstract of the</p>

<p>Academic Affairs Committee a thesis on a topic in the area of concentration that is approved by the faculty member who accepts the task as the first reader of the thesis. On September 15 of the same semester, the student must submit to the two readers an outline of the proposed thesis and a preliminary annotated bibliography.</p>	<p>research project, thesis statement, objectives, methodology, and outline of the project and an annotated bibliography or a review of literature. Students will schedule a faculty hearing for one's thesis proposal and must have it approved within the semester.</p>
<p><i>EL 33 Critical Essay Writing</i> 3 units This is an upper level advance writing course. Designed as a reading-writing workshop, it will immerse the student writers through reading in a wide variety of topics and forms of writing, thereby stimulating them to write on various personal essay, commentaries, critics, descriptive narratives, and other writing interest of the student.</p>	

Second Year

1st Semester

<p><i>DBI 447 The Epistles</i> 3 units A seminar course on the Epistles. After a brief critical introduction to the Epistles, special investigation is on the historical setting, content (Christology and <i>Parenesis</i>), and unique contribution of selected passages (using Greek NT). Students will also be expected to relate to contemporary issues with which they are familiar.</p>	
<p><i>DBI 449 Cross-Cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts Asia</i> 3 units As an introductory course, this is designed to help students explore and appreciate the common themes addressed by the Sacred Scriptures of religions in Asia. Selected readings from the Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Bible will be read alongside the Tao Te Ching, Qur'an, Analects, Dhammapada, and the Vedas. A good background in Asian Religions is required.</p>	<p><i>DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense</i> – 3 units This is the second part of the course on thesis writing. Thesis hearings will be scheduled on the last two weeks of January. Two copies of the bound thesis will be submitted to the Office of the Dean on March 1.</p>
<p><i>THE 443 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World</i> 3 units</p>	

<p>This ecumenics course is designed to help students examine the origins, development, content, and critical issues of various forms of ecofeminisms and earth spiritualities around the world. Engagement with significant oral, written, and visual texts is an important aspect of the course. The class will give particular attention to Asian and Filipino indigenous earth spiritualities.</p>	
<p><i>DS 3 Thesis Writing</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is mostly an independent work by the student. A periodic consultation between the advisor and the student may be scheduled. The student is required to have an approved thesis proposal in order to get enrolled in this course.</p>	

OT Elective Courses

DBI 450 – Images of Violence and Peace in the Old Testament

This course examines some biblical concepts and images of peace and violence. Particular Old Testament passages will be studied as students grapple with the issues of peace and violence, and draw out reflections in relation to the contemporary society.

NT: Elective Courses

DBI 451 - Paul’s Macedonian Correspondence

This is an historical, exegetical and theological interpretation of Paul’s letters to the Thessalonians and Philippians. These include earliest and (probably) latest letters, which form an interesting contrast in content, style and theological method, even all these deal with eschatology in different fashion.

DBI 452 - The Liberating Gospel

A sociological analysis of the Gospel of Luke in terms of liberation brought by the order of the kingdom as it relates to oppression, social boundaries, honor, kinship, wealth, purity regulations and illness. Students will also be expected to relate these themes to contemporary issues and liberation movements with which they are familiar.

DBI 453 - Exegesis of Selected Texts in Acts

After a brief introduction to the book of Acts, various texts such as narratives, reports, miracles, and speeches will be analyzed exegetically, with an effort to determine their *Sitz im Leben*, their historical implications, and their theological meaning.

DBI 456 - Romans the Testament of Paul

This is a study of the message of Paul's epistle to the Romans and the principal concepts of Pauline theology. Students are expected to do a thorough exegetical and expository study of particular text from the letter and the message of the text for the modern world.

DBI 457 - Colossians

This course will make students do a postcolonial reading and critical exegetical study of the letter to the Colossians with special attention to its relationship with the letter to the Ephesians. The ethical teaching and message of the text for the modern world will also be examined.

DBI 458 - The Book of Revelation and the Empire

After a critical introduction to the book of Revelation, selected texts will be analyzed exegetically, with an effort to determine their *Sitz im Leben*, their historical implication, their theological meaning and the message of the text vis-à-vis the rise of the Empire in the postmodern world.