GRACE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
*Equipping, Supporting, Encouraging*

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**(Revised: 10 November 2026)**

*Unless otherwise stated, all classes listed here are two-credit-hour classes.*

## OLD TESTAMENT

**Hebrew:** *Introduction to the original language of most of the Old Testament which aimed at producing competence in reading and exegesis, proficiency in the use of language aids, and personal benefit to the reader.*

**OT151: Hebrew Language 1.**
A beginner's guide to the study of the fundamentals of the Biblical Hebrew language, aimed at producing competence in reading and exegesis, proficiency in the use of language aids, personal benefit to the reader, and competence in expounding Scripture to others. No prior knowledge needed.

**OT152: Hebrew Language 2**.
Further study in the Hebrew language along with reading some simple portions of Scripture. *(Pre-requisite OT151, or equivalent.)*

**OT155: Hebrew Exegesis.**
An introduction to the discipline of longer exegesis for formal academic study and shorter exegesis for preaching using key Old Testament Hebrew passages in their original. (Pre-requisites: OT151 & OT152, or equivalent.)

## NEW TESTAMENT

**Greek:** *Introduction to the original language of the New Testament aimed at producing competence in reading and exegesis, proficiency in the use of language aids, and personal benefit to the reader.*

**NT251: Greek Language 1.**
A beginner's Introduction to the original language of the New Testament aimed at producing competence in reading and exegesis, proficiency in the use of language aids, personal benefit to the reader, and competence in expounding Scripture to others. No prior knowledge needed.

**NT252: Greek Language 2.**
Further study of the original language of the New Testament aimed at producing competence in reading and exegesis, proficiency in the use of language aids, personal benefit to the reader, and competence in expounding Scripture to others. *(Pre-requisite: NT251, or equivalent)*

**NT255: Greek Exegesis.**
An introduction to the discipline of longer **e**xegesis for formal academic study and shorter exegesis for

preaching using key New Testament passages in their original language. (pre-requisites, NT251 & 252, or equivalent)

## SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

**ST300: Survey of Christian Belief**
This course introduces students to the discipline of systematic theology by surveying the core doctrines of Christian faith. Students will engage with the major doctrines of the Christian faith from a Reformed standpoint. The lectures trace the coherence of doctrine and dogma from God's self-revelation and sovereign providence through creation, sin, covenant, redemption in Christ, the work of the Spirit, the church, and the renewal of all things.

**ST301: Survey of Confessional Belief**
An introduction and survey of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* of 1646. This class introduces the student to the history behind the WCF within its context. We then study the main doctrines presented int the WCF, comparing it with the earlier *Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion* of the Anglican Church, and *Belgic Confession*. Alongside this, the student reads a more modern overview of doctrine using John Frame's *Salvation Belongs to the Lord* (2006).3

**ST302: Theology of Revelation and God.**
A study of what the whole Bible says about knowing God, how God reveals himself to us, and who he is as to his triune nature and attributes. The doctrine of revelation begins with the theory of knowing, then moves to the biblical teaching on general and special revelation. This then leads the class to develop a robust doctrine of Scripture. Then, turning to 'pure theology' or the doctrine of God, this class seeks to understand the biblical teaching about our triune God and his perfections.

**ST303: Theology of Humanity and Christ.**
A study of what the whole Bible says about humankind and the Lord Jesus Christ. We examine what the Bible has to say about the creation of mankind, our essential constitution, and the notion of image-bearing. We see how the fall has impacted human nature and creation. This class then moves to study how God is glorified in the salvation of sinful humanity through his Son. We see that as the second person of the Trinity, God the Son took to himself true human form. Finally, we see how Christ performs the work of Mediator according to the offices of prophet, priest, and king.

**ST304: Theology of Holy Spirit and Salvation.**
A study of what the whole Bible has to say on the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and how he applies the atoning work of Christ. As eternal God, the Spirit has a particular role in applying the atoning work of Jesus Christ. We study the doctrine of salvation and its ordering, paying particular attention to the doctrine of justification by faith.

**ST305: Theology of the Church and Last things.**

A study of what the whole Bible teaches about the church, the intermediate state, and end times. This class provides the student with a clear understanding of the foundation and nature of the church as God's covenantal community of faith. We also look at what Scripture teaches about death, heaven, and hell, in contrast to erroneous doctrines. Finally, we familiarise ourselves with the three main millennial views held by orthodox believers.

**ST331: Biblical Ethics.**
A study of the basis for and the responsibilities of the personal ethical conduct of the Christian. Various approaches to ethics will be considered. Attention will be given to current ethical questions. Introduction to a biblical approach to ethical issues, and consideration of critical issues facing contemporary Christians.

## HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

**HT401: Early and Medieval Church History.**
The beginnings and progress of the church, the Roman Empire, the church in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. We study the personalities and controversies and seek to understand how they impact our lives today.

**HT402: Reformation and Modern Church History.**
Causes and events leading up the Reformation with focus on its leaders and effects. Also covered are the Counter-Reformation, the Evangelical Revival and growth of the Protestant Church up to the present – our day.

**HT451: The History of Christianity in Aotearoa.**
An historical survey of Christianity in NZ, the elements of pre-European Māori spirituality, the evangelical missionary movements active in early NZ, the impact of the land wars and rise of Māori prophetic movements, the growth of the main denominations and the key personalities involved.

## PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

**PT501: Spiritual Development & Discipleship.**
An examination of the Bible's teaching on spiritual maturity, what it looks like and how it is obtained maintained.

**PT511: Apologetics and Evangelism.**
Implications of the Christian way of thinking for the whole of life, and an introduction to biblical principles and issues relating to the evangelistic defence of the faith in the contemporary world.

**PT521: Effective Bible Teaching.**
Skills for studying the Bible to teach it to others in small group and larger settings, with an emphasis on interpretation, application, and group interaction. This class is aimed at equipping lay-leaders in particular.

**PT522: Ministry of the Word 1**
An introduction to redemptive-historical hermeneutics and exegesis for preaching. Students will be assisted to preach two 30-minute sermons.

**PT523: Ministry of Word 2**
Preparing and delivering sermons from the major biblical literary genre. Students will be assisted to preach two 30-minute sermons.

**PT524: Ministry of the Word 3**
Principles and issues relating the personal life of the preacher, his preparation, and delivery of biblical sermons with the heart as the target. Students will be assisted to preach two 30-minute sermons.

**PT531: Pastoral Life and Skills.**
A study of the pastoral function, the pastoral life, and pastoral skills or disciplines designed to equip pastors and elders for their ministries.

**PT541: Polity and Practice.**
A study of principles and practices relating to the government of the Church with special attention given to presbyterian polity, plus the conducting of weddings, funerals, baptisms, the Lord's Supper and church discipline.

**PT551: Reformed Worship.**
The practice of understanding, planning and leading of corporate worship.

**PT591 & PT592: Church Ministry Practicum 1 & 2**
These papers are designed to give students the opportunity to use hands-on ministry involvement as a means of reflective structured learning. The student is required to do 72-hours of engagement with ministry in an approved setting and under the supervision of the person to whom they would ordinarily report.

## COUNSELLING

**BC7101: Counselling for Biblical Change**
This paper will take an in-depth investigation into the Biblical teaching on life change, spiritual growth, and spiritual maturity.

**BC7103: Counselling Skills**
This is a workshop class where students practice their counselling skills on one another and are reviewed and evaluated by the instructor and their fellow students.

**BC7104: Counselling and Life Transitions**
An examination of the counselling implications of the major transition and crises of the individual life cycle, in the context of family, community and culture.
GTC Course Catalogue

**BC7105: Counselling and the Christian Mind**

In this course we will consider the implications of a Christian way of thinking for counselling practice while introducing the principles and issues related to a presuppositional understanding of our counselling theories and therapies.

**BC7201: Counselling for Conciliation**
This course will equip you to intervene in other people's conflicts in order to help them resolve their differences and reconcile their relationships.

**BC7203: Counselling for Sexual Abuse**
In this course we consider the challenges of counselling post-traumatic stress arising from historical or recent sexual abuse.

**BC7204: Cross Cultural Counselling**
A consideration of the challenges in counselling people of a different ethnicity, with special reference to biculturalism in NZ.

**BC7301/2: Counselling Internship - 50hrs**
A requirement for completion of the Advanced Certificate in Biblical Counselling this internship requires 50 hours of supervised face-to-face counselling. It can be completed over two semesters.

**BC7501: Introduction to Biblical Counselling**
Caring for one another is a basic biblical requirement for Christian community. In this paper we will study the principles, approaches and issues required for developing the skill and discernment needed for effective care within the Body of Christ.

**BC7502: Counselling and the Local Church**
Through this course, we consider the ways in which a church-based pastoral counselling ministry can serve the pastoral care needs of a local congregation. We will also look at the relationship of this counselling ministry to the authority structures of the church to ensure safety, accountability, oversight, and community care for both the helper and the seeker.

**BC7603: Marriage and Family Counselling**
Beginning with an overview of the biblical teaching on marriage we will consider the different ways we can intervene in marriage and family relations to heal divisions and unite families around a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

**BC7601: Counselling and Biblical Interpretation**
In this course, we will learn to interpret and use the Scriptures (respecting their literary, redemptive-historical, and cultural contexts) to make confident pastoral counselling applications to life situations.

**BC7607: Counselling Children and Adolescents**

In this course we will look at the special considerations that need to be taken into account when counselling young people.

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

**BT605 Introduction to Biblical Theology**

Introduction to Biblical Theology gives the big picture of how the whole Bible, in all its diverse parts and genres, fits together as a unified whole. We look at how Christ—his life, death, and resurrection— is the centre of God's eternal plan. Understanding the big picture helps us know how to receive God's word in the Old Testament as Christian believers, and it allows us to locate ourselves in the story of what God is doing from beginning to end.

**BT611 The Pentateuch and Genesis**

In Judaism, all theological argument flows from the Pentateuch. In Christianity, these books are no less foundational. The class will show how Genesis, and the remaining four books of Moses, provide an essential theological context for our understanding of the person and work of Christ. This is done with a view to preaching Genesis.

**BT633 The Prophets and Isaiah**

This course introduces the student to the vast body of Old Testament prophet literature. Students will learn about the unique characteristics of OT prophetic writings, and spend considerable time gaining an appreciation for the contribution of Isaiah. They will learn how to preach Isaiah.

**BT644 The Writings and the Psalms**

This paper will introduce a section of the Old Testament that is known for its diverse grouping of books as well as its rich application of biblical theology. Indeed, from before the time of the Babylonian exile, the Writings have helped God's people to worship rightly, live wisely, and hope steadfastly. As such, these books will not only lead us on an exciting exploration of different literary genres but will also offer us a semester-long opportunity to be saturated in worshipful wisdom and Christ-centred theology.

**BT651 The Gospels and Mark**

This course introduces students to the content and theology of the Gospels, with a focus on the Gospel of Mark that they would have a clear understanding of the gospel of Jesus as presented in the Gospels in general, but especially Mark.

**BT659 The Pauline Writings and Ephesians**

This course introduces students to the Pauline corpus of the New Testament with a focus on the theological themes of his letters. Students will spend a good amount of their time familiarising themselves with Ephesians so that they can teach it to others.

**BT660 The Johannine Writings and Revelation**

This course introduces the student to the Johannine corpus of the New Testament. It will focus on the unique contribution of the Johannine books. It will in particular help students to grasp the beauty and importance of the Apocalypse in their preaching ministries.