This course will also consider the portrayal of angels (some fallen) in the history of interpretation in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. An exploration of angelic and demonic figures in the biblical text and in contemporary fiction, television, and film.

Prerequisite: BIB 511 and 512 or equivalent.
BIB 619. Africa and the Bible. (3 h)
This seminar explores the significance of Africa and Africans within biblical literature, with a primary focus on ancient Egyptian history and literature. Topics include Egyptian myth, magic, and poetry; the history and stories of Joseph, Exodus, and the Holy Family in Egypt; and biblical characters such as Hagar, the Queen of Sheba, the Black Pharaohs, and the Ethiopian eunuch. We will also survey the history of Judaism and Orthodox Christianity in Egypt, Meroë, and Ethiopia (including Rastafarianism) before concluding with some contemporary (post-colonial) readings of the Bible in Africa.

BIB 625. The Major Prophets. (3 h)
A close reading (exegesis) of Jeremiah, Isaiah, or Ezekiel with traditional and contemporary methods. Topics will vary between the study of a single book and particular historical contexts (preexilic, exilic, and postexilic). P-BIB 522.

BIB 627. Proclaiming Judges: Tales of Sex and Violence. (3 h)
Many Hebrew Bible texts contain disturbing images and stories related to sex, gender, and violence. Examples include Deborah and Jael, Jephthah’s daughter, the Samson narrative, the rape of the unnamed Levite’s concubine, and Ruth’s apparent seduction of Boaz. This course will examine in detail these stories and others as they appear in the books of Judges and Ruth. As a MIN offering in the Proclamation area, the course will move from exegesis and ancient literature to look at how Christian communities have dealt with, and should continue to deal with, these difficult and impious texts in preaching, liturgy, and religious education. The course will include analysis of how these texts have been presented in modern film, books, and music and in some Christian children’s resources, such as Veggie Tales.

BIB 630. Daniel: Stories and Visions. (3 h)
A close reading (exegesis) of the book of Daniel with traditional and contemporary methods. P-BIB 522.

BIB 631. The Five Festival Scrolls. (3 h)
A literary and theological study of Esther, Ruth, Lamentations, Song of Songs, and Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes) as canonical books and as festival readings in the Jewish liturgical year.

BIB 633. The Book of Psalms: Poetry and Spirituality. (3 h)
An examination of the development, literary characteristics, and theological contents of the works of ancient Israel’s sages and poets.

BIB 642. Women and Slaves in the New Testament. (3 h)
This course explores the role of marginalized persons, particularly women, enslaved people, and impoverished people in the texts and contexts of the New Testament. Students will explore intersectional historical, literary, and theological frameworks for better understanding New Testament interpretation and with contemporary faith communities.

BIB 651. Reading Our Common Scriptures: Jewish-Christian Dialogue. (3 h)

BIB 666. The Book of Revelation. (3 h)
From visions of heavenly worship to visions of renewed creation, from fantastic monsters to epic battles, the book of Revelation remains one of the most enigmatic texts in our scriptural canon. In the first half of this course, students will explore the historical context, including contemporaneous apocalyptic literature, archaeological materials, and early Christian uses of the Revelation of John. The second half of the course will turn to an examination of modern interpretations of Revelation found in popular literature (e.g. Left Behind series), political discourses, and contemporary Christianity. We will focus on how these interpretations manifest theologically and ethically in the life of the church. P-BIB 541.

BIB 701. Readings in Hebrew. (1-3 h)
Directed study for those who have completed the required courses and one intermediate course in Biblical Hebrew. Permission of Instructor.

BIB 711. Advanced Readings in Greek. (1-3 h)
An opportunity to read early Christian texts in Greek at an intermediate level for one to three hours a week. Readings and meeting times are decided by students and the instructor.

BIB 790. Topics in Biblical Studies. (1-3 h)
Courses in biblical studies can be developed and offered on a one-time basis using this designation.

BIB 790A. Topics in Biblical Studies. (1-3 h)
BIB 790B. Topics in Biblical Studies. (1-3 h)
BIB 790C. Topics in Biblical Studies. (1-3 h)