

**Common Course  
A&S Core Curriculum**

I. Course Title: The Christian Scriptures

II. Credit Hours: 3

III. Course Level: 1000

IV. Department or Departments responsible for teaching course: Religion

V. Proposed Description:

An introduction to the Old and New Testaments (their contents, historical backgrounds, and major themes) and to appropriate strategies for interpretation of the Bible.

VI. Core Curriculum Objectives:

1. As a common course providing all A&S students a shared foundation of knowledge through the study of the Christian Scriptures, this course will introduce students to the basic building blocks of the historic, living Christian faith.
2. Students will acquire a greater and deeper understanding of the history, religion, ethics, literature, and text of the Christian Bible, the basic authority for Christian faith and practice.
3. Students will learn to appropriate critically informed strategies for the interpretation of the Bible—learning various critical perspectives needed to evaluate contemporary interpretations of the Bible. With this broader, more in-depth understanding of the Christian Scriptures, students will be better enabled and better equipped to have informed engagement with others from a Christian perspective—a critical dimension of a transformational Christian education.
4. The course, then, contributes to a transformational general education curriculum that facilitates the process of students becoming informed and productive citizens of a democracy and servant leaders of faith communities, which highlights the cultivation of normative Christian virtues.

VII. Justification:

1. Baylor Catalog, Curriculum Organization, General Education Outcomes: (p. 30): “Baylor graduates should be able to: communicate... think critically...*demonstrate knowledge of the Christian scriptures and heritage that enables engagement with others from a Christian perspective... commitment to social and civic responsibility.*” (italics added)

2. A&S Core Curriculum Vision Preamble: “The College of Arts & Sciences core curriculum is the foundation for a degree from Baylor University; it serves to educate men and women to *become informed and productive* citizens of a democracy and *servant leaders of faith communities.*” (italics added)
  
3. A&S Core Curriculum Vision, Section E: “As spiritual beings, students are created with the ability and freedom to know God. *God’s nature is made known through both revealed and discovered truth.* Within a community of Christian scholars, *students will learn the Scriptures, history, and central beliefs and practices of the living Christian tradition. The core curriculum will illuminate how Christianity is an intellectually informed faith. Through this theologically informed education,* students will be enabled to pursue and cultivate faith, hope, and love.” (italics added)