

**Alliance Theological Seminary**  
**Master of Arts Biblical Studies**  
**Integrative Project**

In addition to completing 36-credits of graduate coursework, the student must receive a grade of B (3.0) or higher for the zero-credit integrative project. In fulfillment of this project the student must submit a **7500-7750 word research** paper (roughly 24-26 pages) that (1) articulates a problem in biblical scholarship and summarizes, analyzes, and synthesizes the relevant scholarship in order to resolve the problem under consideration or (2) investigates a biblical or theological issue relevant to the student's ministry.

**Timetable**

The student may register for the integrative project only after (s)he has completed 27 credits of study. Once the student has registered (s)he must select an advisor with the help of the program director. The student will schedule the first of three 20-minute meetings with his/her project advisor. At the first meeting the student and the advisor will develop a provisional thesis, and the advisor will provide the student with a bibliography of five scholarly works (articles and/or book) with which the student should begin his/her research. At this first meeting a second meeting will be scheduled for 2-3 weeks out.

At the second meeting, the student will brief the advisor on his/her progress and present a rough draft of the work. The final meeting should take place at least six weeks before the end of the term, during the course of which the advisor will review for the second and final time a rough draft of the student's work, providing him/her with detailed comments that will help the student to successfully complete the project.

The student is responsible for submitting the project 30 days before the end of the term, and the advisor must notify the student of required revisions 15 days before the end of the term. All corrections must be made within 5 days of the end of the term in order for the student to receive a passing assessment. If this student fails to submit the work on time or receive a grade of 80% or greater, (s)he must retake the course before (s)he can receive his/her diploma and participate in commencement exercises.

## **Standards**

### *Research Skills*

By the time the student registers for this course, (s)he should be able to successfully conduct and produce graduate-level research in the field of biblical studies. The advisor is not responsible for the student's successful completion of this project; the onus is solely on the student. The advisor merely serves to assist the student.

### *Bibliography*

The student must survey the field of critical scholarship on his/her topic. While the length of bibliographies will vary from topic to topic, a bibliography of less than ten scholarly books and/or articles is not acceptable, though many will far exceed this.

### *Academic Style*

The project must be written in proper academic style, and all citations must be correctly formatted according to the SBL Handbook Style, 2d ed.

## **Grading**

Students will be assessed on a four-point scale for each category.

4 = A (Exceptional); 3 = B (Very good); 2 = C (Average); 1 = D (Below average); 0 = F (Unacceptable). The student must pass with an assessment of 3.0 or higher.

The project will be graded for each of the following:

- i. Introduction (5%) - Appropriately introduces the paper; contains a clear, appropriate thesis.
- ii. Summary of research (25%) - Summarizes relevant scholarship.
- iii. Analysis (25%) - Critically analyzes relevant scholarship
- iv. Creativity (20%) - Synthesizes research, producing an informed conclusion.
- v. Prospects (5%) - Questions for further research identified.
- vi. Grammar and style (20%) - Correct spelling and grammar. Footnotes and bibliography formatted according the SBL style.