The Bible area seeks to understand and interpret the Jewish and Christian scriptures and related texts in their historical and cultural settings as well as in their subsequent roles as canonical texts for Judaism and Christianity. Contributing to these goals are four distinct areas of research: the historical contexts of these scriptures from ancient Israel to the Roman empire, the history and transmission of biblical and post-biblical literature, the history and methods of exegesis, and biblical and post-biblical theology.

Students in the doctoral program in the Bible area elect one of four possible concentrations for structuring their program and focusing their research agenda: Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East; Hebrew Bible and Early Jewish Literature; Biblical Studies: Jewish and Christian Bible; or New Testament and Early Christian Literature.

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Recent Graduates
Matthijs den Dulk, PhD 2015
“Defining Difference: Justin Martyr and the Invention of Heresy among Jews and Christians”
Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies and Early Christian Literature, Radboud University Nijmegen
Patricia Duncan, PhD 2014
“Novel Hermeneutics: Gospel Exegesis in the Pseudo-Clementine Homilies”
Assistant Professor of Religion, Texas Christian University
Anne Knafi, PhD 2011
“Forms of God, Forming God: A Typology of Divine Anthropomorphism in the Pentateuch”
Bibliographer for Religion, and Philosophy & Jewish Studies, University of Chicago Library
David G. Monaco, PhD 2011
“The Sentences of the Syriac Menander: Introduction, Text and Translation, and Commentary”
Associate Professor of Sacred Scripture, Pontifical College Josephinum
Annette Huizenga, PhD 2010
“Philosophers of the Household: Moral Training for Women in the Pastoral and Pythagorean Letters”
Assistant Dean of Seminary, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Edward Silver, PhD 2009
“The Prophet and the Lying Pen: Jeremiah’s Poetic Challenge to the Deuteronomical School”
Assistant Professor of Religion, Wellesley College
Laurena Brink, PhD 2009
Associate Professor of New Testament Studies, Catholic Theological Union
Meira Z. Kensky, PhD 2009
“Trying Man, Trying God: The Divine Courtroom in Early Jewish and Christian Literature”
Joseph E. McCabe Associate Professor of Religion, Coe College

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Recent Courses
Our faculty teach over 100 courses each year in the academic study of religion. Please visit divinity.uchicago.edu/courses for current and past course offerings.

- Jewish History and Society: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Chavel)
- Studies in Midrash: Leviticus Rabba (Fishbane)
- Greek Tragedy (Asmis)
- Family Matters in Ancient Israel (Chavel)
- Introduction to New Testament: Texts and Contexts (Mitchell)
- Law in Biblical Literature (Chavel)
- Plutarch: Isis and Osiris (Martinez)
- Song of Songs (Fishbane)
- Amos (Stackert)
- Justin Martyr (Martinez)
- The Gospel According to Mark (Mitchell)
- Ancient Sexualities and Early Christianity (Jay)
- The Thessalonian Letters (Mitchell)
- Isaiah 40-66: Babylon and Yehud (Chavel)
- Colloquium: Ancient Christianity (Mitchell)
- Science and Scripture: Jewish Philosophical Exegesis in the Middle Ages (Robinson)

Graduate Workshops
The Council on Advanced Studies (CAS) sponsors interdisciplinary graduate research workshops in the humanities, social sciences, and divinity, designed to bring together faculty and graduate students from the University of Chicago and the wider Chicago area to create scholarly dialogue, to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration, and to foster the exchange of ideas. Workshops include Middle East History and Theory, Medieval Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Religions in America, Early Christian Studies, Jewish Studies, and Hebrew Bible. In addition, the Divinity Students Association offers a range of workshops and clubs: one for each area and others according to student interest. Current groups include Buddhist Studies, the Women’s Caucus, and The Sacred Flame. To learn more, visit divinity.uchicago.edu/clubs-and-workshops.

The University of Chicago Library
Our library is one of the largest and richest research collections (both in print and online formats) in the world. Religious Studies has been a core component of the collection since the University’s founding, and its current strengths match the research needs of the areas of study in the Divinity School. The Library has a full-time Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy who holds workshops specifically designed for those studying religion. To learn more visit library.uchicago.edu.