

## INDEPENDENT STUDIES THROUGH THE INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (ITS)

### Does the following describe you?

- You need to take an elective course in your fall program but find that you have already taken the courses now offered.
- You would prefer to take a course that is *not* currently offered.
- You need two courses that are scheduled for the same time.
- You are required to complete some prerequisites in your program that are not offered when you need them.

If any of these fit your academic situation, consider the programmed independent studies of Talbot Seminary — ITS.

### What is ITS?

ITS — Institute of Theological Studies — courses are a part of the independent studies program at Talbot. These courses are lectures by outstanding biblical scholars on programmed audio CD's. They are ordered five days after final registration.

### Can ITS courses be taken for graduate credit?

Yes, ITS courses may be taken for graduate credit. The courses may be taken as electives, or as fulfillment of prerequisite units. (ITS courses may not be taken in lieu of core requirements unless there is an unsolvable schedule conflict and approval of the department chair.)

### Who may apply for ITS courses at Talbot?

Students who desire graduate credit for ITS courses must meet the normal requirements for admission to Talbot and receive a signature from the ITS Coordinator. Courses will be registered through the Registrar's Office.

### Why would I want to take an ITS course?

There are several advantages to taking ITS courses:

- Instruction by recognized authorities in the field of the selected course.
- Study time may be adjusted to the student's schedule and convenience.
- Materials may be replayed as many times as it is necessary to master them.
- Lecture time may occur during otherwise wasted time periods (such as time spent driving to and from work or school, waiting for appointments, doing some types of manual labor which do not require concentrated attention, etc.)
- ITS courses may also be taken for personal enrichment. A student may not need a particular course as a program requirement, but may wish to master a particular subject area in preparation for ministry. In this case, the student may simply purchase the programmed audio CD's for the course and take it on an audit basis.

### What is involved in each ITS course?

*Courses include:*

- A set of programmed audio CD's covering the content area of the course. Some series contain lectures of 30 minutes each; in others, the lectures are 45 minutes long. There are between 12 and 24 lectures in each series.

- A syllabus that provides a broad outline of the lectures, review questions, and a suggested bibliography for further study on the subject.

*Requirements for graduate credit include:*

- Textbook assignments
- Collateral reading
- Research papers
- Examinations

**Will there be anyone available to help?**

All ITS courses at Talbot that are taken for credit have proctors — advanced graduate students or adjunct professors who are specially equipped to assist you. These proctors will advise you as you progress through the course, and will be responsible, under the supervision of a full-time faculty member, to correct your papers and examinations.

**What does it cost?**

Regular tuition fees are charged for each course, and include costs for CD's and programmed syllabus. Materials must be ordered through the Dean of Faculty Office.

**How Many Total ITS Units May I Take?**

*Master of Divinity*

6 elective units or unsolvable schedule

*Master of Arts*

4 elective units or unsolvable schedule

*Master of Arts reduced (Any Master of Arts reduced program)*

2 elective units or unsolvable schedule

**OTHER TYPES OF INDEPENDENT STUDY**

The Institute of Theological Studies is not the only resource for Independent Studies at Talbot School of Theology. In special circumstances, and with instructor approval and supervision, students may take other courses in the curriculum by arrangement, on an independent study basis. Areas of special interest that are not in the Talbot curriculum may also be researched on this basis, with permission. Students who are interested in pursuing this type of independent study should begin by meeting with the chosen faculty for discussion. If preliminary approval is given, the student would then obtain an "Arranged Course Permission Form" from the Office of the Registrar, complete the requested information, and obtain the required signatures.

For a complete listing of I.T.S. courses offered by Talbot go to @  
<https://portal.biola.edu/portal>.