

COURSE #	TITLE & DESCRIPTION
BT00537	Prayer, Protest, & Play: Biblical Strategies for Social Justice ⁺ This course will look at instances of prayer, protest, and play in the Scriptures and how these tactics are implemented in the cry of God's people for social justice. Dr. Wiles will share insights and relevant actions from her recent trip to the Sacred Stones Camp of the Standing Rock Sioux "Water Protectors" as they have exemplified prayer, protest, and play in their efforts to stop the Dakota Access PipeLine. Weaving social justice actions of today (like #NoDAPL and #BlackLivesMatter) together with social justice actions of God's people as reflected in Biblical texts and during other critical historical actions, we will explore the varied ways of wisdom for change in our world today.
CH00511	History of Global Christianity II [▲] Prerequisite CH00510 Continuation of History of Global Christianity I. A survey of church history from the Reformation until the present, with attention to the theological and social aspects of the Reformation and major post-Reformation movements.
ET00520	Christian Ethics & Social Justice - ^{▲●} Prerequisite: CH301/501+ CH302/CH511+MS401/502 This course examines methods for doing Christian Ethics and seeking social justice in changing communal and global contexts. It explores the ways that Christian ethical ideals, character, and moral decisions are shaped and formulated in response to normative sources and the changing environments of church and society. Topics include: placing Christian ethics in historical context; developing goals, laws and virtues; ethics and the use of scripture; liberation ethics; feminist ethics; communitarian ethics; economic inequity and globalization; bio-medical and sexual ethics; just war and peacemaking; ecological justice; mass incarceration and criminal justice reform; post-civil rights racism and non-violent resistance. The goals of the course include equipping students with a range of methods for doing Christian ethics and seeking justice, allowing students to practice applying methods of doing Christian ethics to issues that are relevant to the practice of ministry, and to enable students to clarify the core elements and methodology of their own Christian ethic.
FE00510	Field Ed [▲] This course will guide the student in the practice of ministerial reflection by examining his/her field education experience. Time will be spent discussing issues of boundaries and personal spiritual formation. Additionally, the course will focus on developing a model for healthy disciplines/habits for ministry.
IN00512	Creating and Sustaining a Debt Free Ministry: The Clergy Cycle, Congregation and Church ⁺ This course offers an historical, cultural, Biblical and social overview of consumer debt in Western society. The evolution and impact of marketing and advertising as contributors to the culture of debt will be explored. The relationship between Christian faith, clergy and consumerism will also be considered. The impact of debt on clergy and congregational ministry will be studied. Methods of assessing, addressing and avoiding high levels of personal debt will be developed. Consideration will be given to the implications of the prosperity Gospel theology and movement for mainline churches and clergy. Models for financial health among professional clergy will be designed.
IN00520	Christian Experience and Witness [▲] This course, as one of the interdisciplinary courses required for the M.Div. degree at NBTS, asks students to consider a fundamental aspect or dimension of Christian life and ministry that does not belong uniquely to any of the fields of study into which the M.Div. curriculum is divided ("theological studies," "biblical studies", and "ministry studies") but upon which they all have bearing. In case, that aspect or dimension of Christian life and ministry is "the Christian witness"—that is, the expression that Christians give to their faith so as to communicate it to the world around them. This is our fulfillment, as Christians, of the Lord's declaration to his disciples that "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)
IN00528	Introduction to Theological Education ^{▲●■} Transformation through seminary trainings involves dynamic interactions between past, present, and future, obtaining our knowledge of biblical, historical, and theological traditions and reflection, reshaping our spirituality in ministry and in worship, and engaging in our present contexts. This course is designed for the first year students to grasp an overarching picture of transformational leadership through seminary trainings. It consists of (1) an introduction to ministry studies focusing on transformation, leadership, pastoral care and counseling, Christian education, worship, and field education, (2) an introduction to various disciplines of theology such as biblical studies, historical studies, missiology, Christian ethics, and systematic theology, and (3) an introduction to contextual interactions with the text, person, and tradition. Prerequisite: None.

IN00531	<p>Our Christian Traditions in Context ^{▲ ■} Prerequisite CH301/501+ CH302/CH511+TH401/TH520+TH402/TH521</p> <p>This course will guide the student in a statement of faith that expresses the student's understanding of the Christian faith responsive to the theology of his/her tradition and is appropriate to the context in which she/he ministers. It is recommended that students register for this course in the final term prior to completion of the program.</p>
ML00566	<p>Samuel Proctor Conference Travel Seminar ⁺</p> <p>(limited to 20 students. Permission of the instructor is required.) Dr. Lorena M. Parrish To be offered to our students on both NBTS and St. John's campuses; pre and post conference class meetings to take place on NBTS campus</p> <p>This immersion travel seminar will help students explore and analyze the historical and contemporary socio-political and economic implications of <i>Empire</i> in the context of neoliberal globalization. Black and brown people and poor people around the world continue to be denigrated and disenfranchised by material <i>and</i> psychosocial dimensions of oppression and exploitation. This course then not only focuses on the material inequalities generated by structural injustice but also asks under what conditions healing is possible for marginalized communities. In particular, black churches will be engaged as sites wherein visions of justice, love, and healing can be envisioned and lived out. Students will attend conference workshops for all attendees as well as sessions specifically for seminarians which will pay special attention to the relationship between structural quests for justice and communal quests for healing.</p> <p>Includes pre and post-conference meetings on Saturdays, 11:00am - 1:30pm (Jan 21, Feb 4, Feb. 11, March 4), on NBTS campus and the conference (Feb. 20-23, 2017). Travel date is Feb. 19, 2017.</p> <p>Note: NBTS covers conference registration fee; students cover hotel, travel expenses and course tuition. Note: Students attending the conference must notify all professors of their other spring courses of any classes they will miss at the beginning of the spring semester. Students are responsible for obtaining class syllabi in advance and making arrangements with professors to make up any work that is due during the week of the conference.</p> <p><i>This course serves as an elective for the MA in Ministry and Community Leadership and the M.Div.</i></p>
MS00523	<p>Ministry to Military Veterans & their Families ⁺</p> <p>The community of faith response to the rising evidence of wounds to the soul among military veterans is to promote awareness while strengthening pastoral care skills and abilities. The increased rate of incident in suicide, homicide, and domestic violence all indicate that the rising tide demands a spiritual component of addressing healing. This course is designed as an introductory course to expose seminarians to the challenges of providing pastoral care to military families and to foster an environment of learning to build better community networks that assumes a leading role in the care, rehabilitation, and support of veterans seeking care to enable them to blend back into the fabric of society.</p>
MS00564	<p>Ministry in Times of Disruption ⁺</p> <p>The social, economic, environmental and spiritual challenges that are prevalent in our time require leaders who are skilled in nurturing communities of resilience by "getting underneath" the symptomatic surface to questions that are at the heart of the matter: Who are we? Who are we to be together? Who will we be as we open to the unfolding future?</p>
MS00565	<p>Introduction to Worship ^{▲ ●}</p> <p>This course will explore the development of Christian worship, from its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures to the present. It will examine the theological convictions that guide and undergird worship practices that had their origin in the Reformation. In its ecumenical component, this course seeks to discover those features that are held in common with other Christian traditions. In its practical component, it will help students to acquire the skills necessary to plan and lead worship, as well as perform the various rites practiced by Reformation-oriented congregations.</p>
NT00511	<p>Introduction to New Testament ^{▲ ● ■}</p> <p>This introductory course focuses on contextual interpretation of the documents of the New Testament. The nature of interpretation, of both texts and contexts, receives primary focus in the course. The course attends to ancient and contemporary contextual analysis (literary, sociological, and historical) and the intellectual skills required to engage in such analysis. The integrity of the interpreter is key to all responsible interpretation and thus will be a persistent theme throughout the course. No prerequisites.</p>
NT00512	<p>Greek Exegesis (Greek II) ⁺ Prerequisite Greek I</p> <p>Completion of elementary grammar and developing skills in exegesis of the Greek New Testament.</p>

NT00549	<p>Powers, Principalities, and Rulers: The Epistle to the Ephesians ⁺</p> <p>This course aims toward a critical reading of the Epistle to the Ephesians, with focus on issues of social justice within and resulting from cultural and religious power structures and hierarchies. Particular themes include human suffering, alienation and identity, reconciliation, spiritual wisdom, and transformation on both personal and collective levels. These themes will receive specific attention in light of today's faith and society. Secondary source readings include writings by D. Bonhoeffer, J. Cone, and R. Gross.</p>
NT00550	<p>Bringing Light Into Darkness: The Gospel of John for Pastoral Ministry ⁺</p> <p>This course aims to orient students towards a critical reading of the Gospel of John, with a focus upon its meaning and significance for pastoral ministry. Consideration will be given to the ways the text illuminates and addresses the human condition. Particular subjects include human loss and suffering, anxiety, and the possibility for spiritual transformation. These will be examined in light of the Johannine understandings around religio-spiritual renewal and resurrection as predominate themes. Theorists considered include Victor Frankl, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, and Marie-Louise Von Franz.</p>
OT00512	<p>Hebrew Exegesis (Hebrew II) ⁺ Prerequisite Hebrew I</p> <p>This course is a continuation of OT511 and will focus on the reading and translating of biblical texts from the original Hebrew as well as a focus on issues of translation and theological meanings.</p>
OT00578	<p>African-American Biblical Hermeneutics ⁺</p> <p>The task of interpreting the bible is a complex one. This complexity is further heightened when factors such as ethnicity and context are taken into consideration. This course examines and explores the distinctive contributions of an Afrocentric hermeneutic that is derived from African Americans' engagement with biblical texts. Students will also be introduced to the methodologies and ideologies that have historically marginalized the presence of Africans in the bible as well as how these approaches have contributed to the invisibility of this group in our interpretative process. Finally, students will come to understand the significance of social location when employing interpretative strategies to biblical material.</p>
PC00510	<p>Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling ^{▲ ■}</p> <p>Theories of pastoral care and counseling are explored in lectures. Pastoral care verbatim reports are presented by students and discussed in small groups. Attention is given to dealing with some basic problems in pastoral care and counseling.</p>
PC00573	<p>Human Development and Pastoral Care ⁺</p> <p>This course offers a general introduction to theories of human development across the lifespan in consideration of their practical implications for pastoral care and counseling. It will explore what constitutes optimum growth and development; how factors such as one's culture, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and faith affect and shape human development; and how the understandings of human development (and maldevelopment) inform the practice of pastoral care and counseling. This course will examine developmental processes that address cognitive, psychosocial, gender/sexuality, moral, and spiritual aspects of a person while taking into account the conditions of developmental impairments and disabilities that pastoral caregivers/counselors may encounter.</p>
PC00574	<p>Issues of Men & Masculinities in Pastoral Care ⁺</p> <p>This course will explore some of the fundamental pastoral care issues related to men and masculinities, such as fatherhood, husbandship/partnership, male violence, and men's spirituality, from socio-historical, psychological, and pastoral theological standpoints. While introducing key theoretical concepts and approaches to masculinities, this course will evaluate the images and expressions of manhood in religious and cultural contexts, i.e., religious men's movements and mass media. Given the psychoanalytic insight that masculinity is not only an exclusive domain of men, it will also pay attention to how the construction and interpretation of masculinities influence psychosocial and spiritual development of women and men and the life of faith communities, and vice versa. The voices of women and socially marginalized masculinities will be taken seriously to bring critical eye to dominant and hegemonic construals of masculinities in this society. This course is designed as a reading seminar. Most of the learning will depend on assigned readings, class discussions, and student presentations.</p>

PC00575	<p>Pastoral Care in the Black Church ⁺</p> <p>This course will examine the pastoral care needs present in the Black community and Black churches. These needs and concerns have varied over the years and attention must be given to analyzing the most significant concerns present at a given time. This course will be examining three themes: 1) Interpersonal Relationships, 2) Racial Identity, and 3) Pathways to Freedom. These three themes will be developed as we analyze the following subjects: African American racial identity, the Black male, the Black family (single parent and two parent households), African American youth, and African American elderly.</p>
PR00512	<p>Introduction to Preaching ⁺ Prerequisite(s): Introduction to Old Testament and/or Introduction to New Testament.</p> <p>This course will explore the fundamentals of sermon design and construction. There will be an emphasis on exegesis for sermon preparation as well as intense scrutiny of how the ancient scriptures intersect modern day human situations. Also, this course seeks to provide students with a basic methodology for sermon preparation on a regular basis.</p>
TH00521	<p>Foundations & Global Theology II ^{▲▲■} Prerequisite: CH301/510, CH302/CH511, TH520</p> <p>A continuation of Foundation of Theology I.</p>
TH00567	<p>Theology of the Cross: Texts, Traditions, & Contexts ⁺</p> <p>This course will investigate Christian perspectives on the mystery of Christ's crucifixion, dealing with numerous biblical texts, diverse traditional thoughts from Irenaeus to Pannenberg, and constructive, critical, and creative contextual views from Liberation, Feminist, Ancestor, and non-violent Christologies. Some atonement thinkers have selectively theologized a certain biblical text, holding up their traditional concept of passive aspect of the cross such as punishment and sacrifice. Others have attempted to revise them, emphasizing active and constructive aspects of the cross as gift and peace. Still others seriously doubt any possibility of the atonement theology because they believe that it glorifies violence and abuse. The cross is becoming a stumbling block to them (1 Cor. 1:23). The course will include diverse atonement views based on texts, traditions, and contexts, suggesting "sharing, bearing, and drawing" dimensions of the cross, which will stimulate participants to have more mature and creative perspectives on the divine sacrifice of God in Christ on the cross.</p>
TH00568	<p>A Conversation w/ Neighbors: Interfaith Dialogue ⁺</p> <p>This course is designed around a series of inter-faith Conversations scheduled to take place throughout the semester between students and faculty at NBS and leaders of different religious communities in the New Brunswick area.</p> <p>There will be a total of 8 or 9 Conversations founded on two primary strategies to nurture deeper and broader interaction between participants: 1) a visit to the places of worship/devotion of four or five traditions (e.g., Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Hinduism, etc.) where leaders of each tradition present a lecture, followed by extensive Q&A; 2) meetings centered on "scriptural reasoning" where participants commit to encounters with the holy scriptures of traditions other than their own.</p>
UM00526	<p>Human Sexuality & Urban Ministry ⁺</p> <p>This course is designed to explore issues of human sexuality, particularly as it relates to those who are preparing for parish ministry in urban settings. Students will examine biblical texts related to sexuality, study contemporary pastoral concerns and explore the urban landscape of resources available to faith leaders who seek to promote sexual/spiritual health. The overall objective of this course is to help students gain a greater awareness of personal, societal, religious/spiritual and historical sexuality issues that impact pastoral leadership.</p>
UM00527	<p>Womanist Practical Theology in Urban Settings ⁺</p> <p>*Prerequisite: an introduction to theology course, or permission of the instructor.</p> <p>Being informed by the theologies, lived experiences and religious questions posed by those on the margins is critical for fostering inclusive, relevant and responsive 21st century communities of faith. This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to engage and put into practice central aspects of Womanist theological thought, theory and praxis in the 20th and 21st centuries as one of the multiple streams of gender and race-cognizant theological articulation, scholarship, and praxis. We will use an interdisciplinary approach to examine the central concerns of womanist theologians, ethicists and theorists, including the "intersectionality" of race, gender, sexuality, and class; and the historicity and cultural specificity of the subordination Black women face. We will examine these concerns through a critical reading of a wide range of texts and employ postmodern womanist reimagining as a tool for fostering worshipping communities grounded in love, healing, liberation and just communal living.</p>