



NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



2018-2019 ACADEMIC CATALOGUE

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Required Courses – Masters Programs

Biblical Studies

BS520 Biblical Research and Writing (Required: MDiv)

This course will further the student's proficiency in the study of the Bible at a graduate level. The course will be taught using all of the resources in the library with a focus on how to find and evaluate resources, ask critical questions, and formulate written and oral presentation on scripture. The course will also focus on developing a thesis statement and presenting a coherent and comprehensive argument in a paper. Prerequisite(s): Old Testament, and New Testament; can be taken concurrently with other required Bible course after the first one is completed. (previously BS311/BS411)

OT510 Introduction to the Old Testament (Required: MDiv, MA)

This course will provide the cultural, historical and theological foundations for the study, teaching, and preaching of the Old Testament. The course is designed to introduce the student to the many ways of studying the Old Testament and appropriating that study for the church. Students will also discuss biblical authority and the ways the Bible is used in different communities. (previously OT301)

NT510 Introduction to the New Testament (Required: MDiv, MA)

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. (previously NT301)

Historical, Ethical & Theological Studies

CH510 History of Global Christianity I (Required: MDiv)

A survey of church history from the close of the age of the apostles until the eve of the Reformation, with attention to continuity and change in Christian life and doctrine and in the relationship between church and society. (previously CH301)

CH511 History of Global Christianity II (Required: MDiv)

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. Prerequisite: CH510 History of Global Christianity I (previously CH302)

CH512 Topics in World Christian History (Required: MA-MCL)

This course will enable students to interpret the present-day diversity that exists in American Churches in the light of the formative developments in Christianity, beginning with the main outlines of the history of Christianity from seventeenth-century Puritanism to the ecumenical movement. Through an emphasis on exploring the immense diversity of experiences of U.S. churches, students will gain an appreciation for and ability to think historically as well as contextually about the Christian Church and to use basic 'tools' for interpreting the past with reference to the present.

ET520 Christian Ethics and Social Justice (Required: MDiv, MA-PCC)

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. Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity I, CH511 History of Global Christianity II and MS301 Introduction to Ministry Studies.

TH520 Foundations of Global Theology I (Required: MDiv, MA)

An introduction to Systematic Theology which examines theological methodology, vocabulary, and the formation of doctrine, with special attention given to the development of theological understanding in relationship to the church and its mission in the world. Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity I and CH511 History of Global Christianity II

TH521 Foundations of Global Theology II (Required: MDiv, MA)

A continuation of Foundation of Theology I. Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity I, CH511 History of Global Christianity II, and TH520 Foundations of Global Theology I

TH522 Theology: Texts, Traditions, and Contexts (Required: MA-MCL)

This course will help students develop both a familiarity with and facility for understanding the theological discourse represented by classic, postmodern and contextual theologies, particularly as these relate to contemporary social and political contexts and issues. Special attention will be given to the emergence of liberal, orthodox, and neo-orthodox theologies in Europe and North America and to their impact on the rise of liberation and other two-thirds world theologies developed by women and men in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and amongst U.S. minorities. Students will have an opportunity to both clarify their own personal theological stance and come to better understand perspectives radically different from their own.

Interdisciplinary/Integrative Studies

FE510 Field Education (Required: MDiv)

Master of Divinity students are required to complete Field Education. Field Education provides students an opportunity, with the assistance of experienced supervisors and lay committees, to integrate classroom learning with actual practice of ministry in context. There are three primary goals:

- to help students develop skills for ministry;
- to teach students the practice of theological reflection; and
- to enable students to explore and grapple with ministerial identity.

Field Education assignments are made, in consultation with the Director of Field Education, based on the educational and experiential needs of the student. Placements are in communities of faith in a student's own tradition and in denominationally, ethnically and culturally diverse settings. Field Education sites may also include non-parish ministry setting such as parachurch organizations. A Field Education Learning/Serving Covenant must be approved for each placement. Written evaluations by the student and the supervisor must be submitted in order for credit to be awarded for each unit of Field Education. In conjunction with the placement, each student is required to attend group session for theological reflection, peer group support and discussion on boundaries and best self-care practices.

Supervisors and members of lay committees, oriented by the Seminary, collaborate with the faculty in the educational enterprise of the school. Field Education Handbooks for students, supervisors and

members of the lay committees are provided by the Seminary. Field Education units count for one academic credit per completed unit. Three (3) units are required for graduation.

Registration for Field Education is a two-step process. The first is to complete the Field Education Learning/Serving Covenant and to submit it to the Director of Field Education. The second is to register for Field Education during the Seminary's registration period. Registration is not final until both steps have been completed. Master of Divinity students are urged to make an appointment with the Director of Field Education during the first semester of their seminary studies.

IN511 Race, Class, & Gender (Required: MDiv, MA-MCL)

In an effort to promote understanding and confront some of the subtle and overt forms of racism, the Seminary took a bold step and challenge to produce a 20-year plan for NBTS to move the institution towards a more just and inclusive society, and to confront the issue of racism through a process of training and sharing. With this course, we desire to accomplish some of this goal. This course will challenge our assumptions of race, privilege and racism as well as the connected social constructs of class and gender. We will challenge students to critically analyze cultural differences and systems of inequality. This course will promote: cultural self-awareness, inform how culture is influenced by history, politics, power and privilege, communication styles, economics, institutionalized discrimination and inequality, and cultural values, beliefs and practices; promote curiosity on the part of students to ask complex questions about other cultures and classes, and to seek out answers that reflect multiple culturally perspectives, or encourage students to initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.

IN331 Undoing Racism Workshop (Required: MDiv, MA-MCL)

Companion workshop to IN511 Race Class & Gender; 2 ½ day workshop that utilizes a systemic approach that emphasizes learning from history, developing leadership, maintaining accountability to communities, creating networks, undoing internalized racial oppression and understanding the role of organizational gate keeping as a mechanism for perpetuating racism.

IN520 The Christian Experience and Witness (Required: MDiv)

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)

IN521 Contextualized Ministry and Public Faith (Required: MDiv)

This is a senior level course designed to explore public ministry and spirituality in multi-dimensional context. Christian ministry today must engage in living dialogue with multiple publics, secular disciplines and pluralistic traditions in search of the common good for church and society. Students will utilize a critical method of research, reflection, and praxis on the contextual challenges of ministry and spirituality in the public arena today. The content of the course will draw upon faith and developmental theory, multi-disciplinary analysis and contemporary theological and ethical discourse. Areas to be explored include prophetic and civil religion; post-civil rights whiteness and state-based violence; medical and ecological health disparities; inter-faith dialogue and partnerships; pluralistic models of leadership and faith-based organizing. The course pays close attention to the lenses of race, class

and gender in exploring public ministry in diverse global contexts. Reflection on one's own spirituality and vocation to public ministry is a key component of the course. Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity I, CH511 History of Global Christianity II, TH520 Foundations of Global Theology I, TH521 Foundations of Global Theology II, ET520 Christian Ethics and Social Justice, OT510 Introduction to the Old Testament, NT510 Introduction to the New Testament, and PC510 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling. Senior Level Standing Only.

IN522 (IN531) Our Christian Traditions in Context (Required: MDiv)

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. Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity I, CH511 History of Global Christianity II, TH520 Foundations of Global Theology I, and TH521 Foundations of Global Theology II. (Previously TH403)

Ministry Studies Required

CE510 Introduction to Christian Education Theory and Practice (Required: MDiv)

An introduction to the teaching ministry of the church, examining Christians as an aspect of the ministry to the whole congregation. Studies of the theories in which biblical, theological and social-scientific insights, especially faith development theory, are integrated to guide educational judgments

ML502 Introduction to Ministry and Community Leadership (Required: MA-MCL)

This course is one of the courses required for the fulfillment of the Master of Arts concentration in Ministry and Community Leadership. It introduces students to and helps them to focus on developing community outreach and leadership skills within the context of ministry (in the church, faith-based institutions and other organizations). Students also learn crisis management and risk analysis, as well as how to analyze and hone "best practices" and qualities of a Christian leader, using Scripture and case studies to ascertain and acquire leadership skills and styles relevant to and transformative for 21st century ministry. Finally, students develop a personal philosophy of leadership.

ML591 MA-MCL Project Proposal Seminar (Required: MA-MCL)

This seminar, required for all first-year students in the M.A. in Ministry and Community Leadership program, is designed to help students develop a formal topic proposal for their intended final project. The course will address theological writing, outlining a plan of action, research techniques, and human subjects in research. Students will have the opportunity to explore designing various types of projects, including traditional research focused on academic inquiry into a critical issue and/or concern; proposal writing for program development; a creative arts project; or community involvement in and analysis of a civic or global event.

ML592 Final Project (Required: MA-MCL)

Students undertake completing their final project and are guided through putting the finishing touches on their "leadership change project" as they work extensively with each other's plans to learn to provide positive feedback and work across teams. The seminar recaps the major themes of the program and explores deeper realms of human purpose and our roles as Christian leaders in shaping future human potential. At the end of the course, each student will present their final project proposal at a community forum.

MS510 Pastoral Administration (Required: MDiv) (effective Fall 2018)

This course will provide students with a foundation for intentional and productive pastoral church administration. It will provide opportunities for students to explore their own ministerial identity, and the role of pastor as administrator and leader, through practical models of church programming as a form of praxis.

MS565 Introduction to Worship (Required: MDiv) (effective Fall 2018)

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.

PC510 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling (Required: MDiv, MA)

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.

PC511 Research Methods in Pastoral Care (Required: MA-PCC)

The course is a practical guide to conducting research in the field of pastoral care and counseling utilizing quantitative and qualitative methodologies. It will explore developing research questions, collecting data, conducting a literature search, constructing research design, and interpreting the data. It is designed to provide M.A. candidates with the organization and development of their research project. Prerequisite: PC510 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling

PC531 Clinical Pastoral Education (Required: MA-PCC)

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) programs, usually located in hospital or prison settings, provide the opportunity for extensive work in pastoral care, along with group and individual reflection on the ministry experience. CPE programs may be taken as summer intensives or extended over nine months. Students who successfully complete one unit of CPE in the Pastoral Care Concentration in the M.A. degree, or the M.Div. degree may apply to receive up to 6 academic credits of advanced standing and 2 units of Field Education credit. No more than one unit (6 academic credits) of CPE will be credited.

PC592 Final Project 3 credits (Required: MA-PCC)**PC598, M.A. Thesis 6 credits: MA-PCC****Final Project 592 or Thesis 598:**

In the final year of study, the student shall elect either to complete a thesis for which six (6) academic credits will be awarded, or to enroll in a three (3) credit independent study course with a faculty member in the field, which will culminate in a research project in which the student studies some aspect of pastoral care, develops a project for providing pastoral care that grows out of the student's study and research, and then provides critical reflection on the outcome of the project.

PR510 Sermon Preparation and Delivery (Required: MDiv)

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. Prerequisites: OT510 Introduction to the Old Testament and NT510 Introduction to the New Testament

Electives – Masters Programs

Biblical Studies Electives

M.Div. students are required to take two (2) Biblical Studies electives.

BH526 Urban Christians: Then & Now

The early church grew up in a thoroughly urban and pluralistic environment. Through a study of the urban realities of the early church and a comparison of those realities with the urban realities of the modern world, students will better be able to relate the early Christian message within an urban context.

BS515 Agents of Change: The Bible, Social Action and Advocacy

The biblical witness offers a portrait of God's preferential treatment of persons and groups who are marginalized by structures of power and privilege. This preferential treatment of the poor lends itself to the larger question of whether this portrait offers a broader vision in which the people of faith are called to advocate for those who are the victims of unjust and oppressive systems. This course examines the biblical view of advocacy and social action as it pertains to issues of justice, social engagement and communities of faith. The biblical inspection together with an examination of contemporary concerns regarding disenfranchised and vulnerable populations is designed to stimulate student interest and involvement as change agents in the areas of an advocacy and human agency.

BT523 (NT520) Wrestling with Paul

Focusing on Paul's New Testament letters, this course will study Paul's thought as it developed in the context of his relationship with Judaism, the early churches, and the Greco-Roman world. The course will engage social, psychological, and intellectual issues in our present world from the perspective of Pauline theology. Prerequisite: NT510 Introduction to the New Testament

OT511 Biblical Hebrew I

This course is designed to introduce the student to biblical Hebrew, beginning with a study of essential grammar and vocabulary, as well as discussion on the theological importance of studying the texts in the original language. This course will introduce students to the computer program Bible Works or Accordance, which will enable students to engage in lifelong study of the text in its original languages.

OT512 Biblical Hebrew II - Exegesis

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. Prerequisite: OT511 Biblical Hebrew I

OT520 The Book of Psalms

This course will focus on the psalms as both liturgical pieces and scripture. The psalms will be studied as a central part of the worship life of ancient Israel and as a book of important theological understanding for the modern church. Students will also have the opportunity to increase exegetical and preaching skills as part of the course. Prerequisite: OT510 Introduction to the Old Testament

NT511 New Testament Greek I

The course aims to enable students to read New Testament Greek on an elementary level. This includes the analysis and interpretation of words, phrases and sentences. Students learn and work with Koine Greek paradigms, declensions, vocabulary, and sentence constructions toward the translation and interpretation of a range of selected New Testament texts. The course prepares students to take Greek II Exegesis.

NT512 New Testament Greek II - Exegesis

Completion of elementary grammar and developing skills in exegesis of the Greek New Testament.

Prerequisite: NT511 New Testament Greek I

NT514 The Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount is justly famous as a collection of some of Jesus' most lasting teachings. These chapters, however, have also engendered much scholarly discussions, especially about ethics and "how are we to live?" In this course we will work through the text of Matthew 5-7 with great care. We will also read and discuss various theories about Jesus' ethic in the Sermon on the Mount. The focus of this course, however, will be on the text itself. Prerequisite: NT510 Introduction to the New Testament

NT516 The Gospel of Mark

This course aims to orient students toward a critical reading of the Gospel of Mark, with a focus upon the socio-historic, literary narrative, and deeper levels of meaning and significance of the text. Consideration of the text in light of the Mysteries and religious experience will receive attention. The class will examine the implications of readings of the text in relation to contemporary faith and world. Prerequisite: NT510 Introduction to the New Testament

NT530 The Gospel of John

The course aims to orient students toward a critical reading of the Gospel of John and the socio-historical, religio-spiritual and cultural setting out of which the text issues. Themes including healing and salvation, the relationship between the human and the Divine, and the relationship between the masculine and the feminine elements will receive attention. The significance of the text for contemporary life and faith will also be examined. Prerequisite: NT510 Introduction to the New Testament

Historical, Ethical & Theological Studies Electives

ET512 Medical Ethics and Community Health

An in-depth study of theological and ethical problems arising in the practice of medicine due to the advance of science and technology. Issues include abortion, prenatal screening, genetic manipulation, euthanasia, medical experimentation, living wills, disabilities, addiction, ethics of food, community wellness, environmental and social justice in health care policy. The course will include case studies distinctively related to clergy, congregations and health care systems in the increasingly global field of bioethics.

TH567 Stricken by God?

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. (Previously Theology of the Cross)

TH568 A Conversation for Neighbors: Inter-Faith Dialogues

This course is designed around a series of inter-faith Conversations scheduled to take place throughout the semester between students and faculty at NBTS and leaders of different religious communities in the New Brunswick area.

Integrative Studies (Personal And Spiritual Formation) Electives

IN510 Transformational Leadership

Transformation through seminary trainings involves dynamic interactions between past, present, and future, obtaining our knowledge of biblical, historical, and theological traditions and reflection, re-shaping 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.

IN532 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.

IN530 Spiritual Disciplines

This course will explore some of the ways in which Christians have learned to be attentive to their personal relationship with God including forms of prayer and other spiritual disciplines both individual and communal. Students will engage in critical reflection on these practices in a variety of traditions, which will be chosen with particular attention to the theological and cultural diversity of the student body. In the light of this reflection, students also will be asked to consider how their practice of spiritual disciplines can assist them in preparation for pastoral ministry and in the ongoing practice of ministry.

Ministry Studies Electives

MS514 Evangelism

This course will explore the history and practice of mission, especially in the modern period. It will also include an exploration of the theology and practice of evangelism, and its relationship to revivalism, the social gospel, liberation theology and Asian and Black theology. Evangelistic methods will be critically reviewed.

MS526 Martin Luther King, Jr. & Howard Thurman

This course is a comparison analysis of the ideal community in the thought of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Howard Thurman, from the perspective of ministry studies. The African American looks at community in a different light than other faith communities. This course will look at community through Martin and Howard's eyes and then compare or search for our community today; affirming that in

one's quest to build community one must understand the "social expressions of the underlying experience of life with itself. Life feeds on life; life is nourished by life." Thurman, 1986.

Pastoral Care Electives

PC521 Pastoral Care and Violence

This course will explore the nature and impacts of violence against individuals, families, and faith communities while developing pastoral strategies and models for providing support to victims of violence. Based on a critical review of contemporary theological, social, and psychoanalytic theories of violence, this course will examine various factors in society which bring about, compound and reproduce the problems of violence at a familial, communal, and broader social level. Particular attention will be given to feminist discourses for understanding the roots of violence and for stopping and preventing violence against women and children. Personal memoirs, narratives and case studies will be drawn on in order to understand and address some significant pastoral and theological issues raised by victims, survivors and abusers in situations of violence.

PC523 Pastoral Care Ministry to Veterans & their Families

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.

PC525 Advanced Pastoral Care and Counseling

This course is a continuation of the Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling with an emphasis on practical hands on pastoral care and pastoral counseling theories and techniques. Students will utilize readings, lectures, case studies, small group discussions, role plays and multimedia presentations to learn effective counseling techniques to address various pastoral demands.

Prerequisite: PC510 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling

PC532 Pastoral Care in Three Worlds

Ethnic Christian faith communities seek to provide care for their own members in a variety of ways taking into account the particular needs of their members. This course will explore how three distinctly different cultural groups - African American, Asian American, and Hispanic American - within a majority American context engage in the ministry of the practice of care. It will discuss their similarities as well as their differences and consider what each might have to offer the broader pastoral care Christian community. Guest pastors from each respective community will be invited.

PC542 Spiritual Disciplines as Pastoral Care

This course has five (5) learning objectives and outcomes: 1) to understand the integration and application of spiritual direction within the context of pastoral care while recognizing the distinctive nature of the two disciplines. 2) to gain an understanding of a range of historic and contemporary spiritual traditions and approaches to prayer, exploring the role of spiritual direction and pastoral care within each of them. 3) to gain a basic knowledge of key issues in spiritual direction as it relates to pastoral care, for example: discernment, movement/transitions in prayer, noticing, resistance/ barriers to prayer, boundaries and role; transference; images of God and self. 4) to develop skills in listening and reflection vital for the practice of spiritual direction. 5) to experience the value of Spiritual

Direction as a resource for the Pastor or Counselor as well as a vital source to refer those who seek to grow in their walk with God.

Preaching Electives

PR515 Advanced Preaching

This course will include interviewing two local well-known preachers to listen to the story of their preaching ministry. Students will also have their sermons taped in the chapel and receive feedback based on Dr. William Hethcock's recently published guide to helping laypeople evaluate sermons. Students will be required to prepare two sermons for delivery during the week based on texts that will be assigned prior to the class to those who register. Prerequisite: PR510 Sermon Preparation and Delivery

PR595 How Shall They Hear: Course and Seminar

Intensive advanced preaching elective around the How Shall They Hear preaching conference: www.HowShallTheyHear.net

Urban Ministry Electives

UM510 Introduction to Metro-Urban Ministry

Urban Ministry finds its fullest meaning within the context of Metropolitan Ministry: a vision and practice that considers a myriad of systems that impact life in the urban context. How do traditional urban congregations relate to downtown, suburban and exurban congregations, agencies, and systems? What does it mean to practice ministry in the Northeast Corridor? What tools help course participant's vision and practice in such a context that is culturally competent, pastoral in heart, and prophetic in address? This course, a hybrid of on campus, online, and field research, explores resources to assist course participants in addressing these issues.

Denominational Studies Required for Select M.Div. Candidates

Denominational Studies courses examine the history, doctrine, and polity of various denominations from which students come and in which they will undertake their ministry. Students preparing for ordination in the RCA are required to take the RCA Denominational Studies courses; other students may be required by their denominations to take the appropriate denominational studies courses for their traditions. Students from Christian denominations not listed here may request instruction appropriate to their traditions on an independent-study basis.

Reformed Church in America

DS507 RCA Standards (Part 1) and Polity (Part 2)

Standards (Part I) The purpose of this course is to assist the student to obtain an understanding of the history, content and use of the Standards of Unity of the Reformed Church in America. The student will learn the historical contexts of their origins, the meaning of the standards within the framework of the history of theology and situate the standards within the life and ministry of the contemporary church.

Polity (Part II) This course is designed to introduce candidates to the office of minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America to the government of the Reformed Church in America. Students will learn the theology and polity that is expressed in the Book of Church Order and will learn how the polity works in the life and witness of the church.

DS508 RCA History and Mission (Part 3)/Worship (Part 4)

The History and Mission of the Reformed Church in America (Part 3). Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity I and CH511 History of Global Christianity II

The worship of the Reformed Church in America (Part 4). Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity, CH511 History of Global Christianity II, DS508 & DS509 RCA History and Mission, and

Presbyterian Church (USA)

DS413 Presbyterian (USA) Studies I History

The purpose of this course is to familiarize Presbyterian Church (USA) students beginning with the denominations roots in the reformation era and continuing to the present day. Prerequisites: TH520 Foundations of Global Theology I, TH521 Foundations of Global Theology II, and MS565 Introduction to Worship.

Baptist Studies

DS524 Baptist History and Theology

The objectives of this course are to deepen one's knowledge of principles, history, theology and mission and to understand the unities and diversities of Baptist life in the past and present. This course will also increase awareness of the various theological traditions amongst Baptists. Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity I, CH511 History of Global Christianity II, TH520 Foundations of Global Theology I, TH521 Foundations of Global Theology II, and MS565 Introduction to Worship.

DS530 Baptist Polity

This course will reflect on the development of Baptist polity as it shapes church practices today as well as help students prepare for ministry among and for Baptist of various backgrounds. The course will also discuss ordination issues and how that affects men and women seeking pastorates. Students may be required to write and ordination. Prerequisites: DS524 Baptist History and Theology, CH510 History of Global Christianity I, CH511 History of Global Christianity II, TH520 Foundations of Global Theology I, TH521 Foundations of Global Theology II, and MS565 Introduction to Worship

Additional Course Options – Masters Programs

Honors Thesis

An M.Div. student who has maintained a GPA of 3.0 or better through his or her first 61 credits of academic work may be granted permission to write an Honors Thesis under the supervision of a member of the Faculty. Six (6) credit hours will be granted the student who successfully completes this research and writing project. The policies of a M.A. thesis are applicable to an Honors Thesis, except for the assigning of a second reader. The student may request a second reader. An Honors Thesis is allowed only under the direction of the regular faculty. A student who wishes to complete an Honors Thesis should discuss the thesis with the faculty member with the most expertise in that particular area. The student should present the faculty member with a proposal for the thesis and a preliminary reading list. If the faculty member agrees to direct the thesis, the student must complete an Independent Study form, and then secure the approval of his/her academic advisor and the Dean of the Seminary.

Thesis

The writing of a thesis is either a requirement or an option, depending upon the concentration (see “Areas of Concentration.”) The thesis shall be an essay, of a maximum of 75 pages in length that defines and investigates some topic of significance to theological study and demonstrates the student’s creative competence in the field of her or his concentration. Depending upon the requirements set by the adviser, the thesis may or may not “break new ground” in the sense of introducing previously unknown material or unasked questions, and thus is not necessarily to be likened to a scaled-down Ph.D. dissertation. In every case, however, it must represent a project that is carefully conceived, researched and executed.

Normally during the student’s final academic year in the M.A. program, beginning in the Fall term, she or he shall register for the independent study courses in her or his field numbered 598 and 599, under the supervision of her or his adviser, to prepare the thesis. One of these courses is to be taken for two (2) credits, the other for four (4) (i.e., two credits in the Fall semester and four credits in the Spring, or vice-versa). A single grade will be assigned for both courses at the completion of the thesis; prior to completion a grade of IP (“in progress”) will be assigned.

Upon completion of the thesis, the student shall meet with the adviser and second reader, to defend the thesis. If the defense is scheduled in the spring semester, it must occur prior to the deadline for reporting of graduating students’ grades to the registrar.

After the successful defense of the thesis, the student shall submit one copy of the thesis, on acid-free paper in a spring binder, to Gardner A. Sage Library prior to the day of Commencement.

The thesis shall be a maximum of 75 pages in length, typewritten with double spacing. In bibliography, notes, and all other matters of style and form it shall follow the standards established in the most recent edition of A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate L. Turabian, or, in the event that other scholarly conventions prevail in the student’s area of study, another manual or style sheet specified by the adviser. It is understood that the writing will be careful and of publishable quality. Theses submitted in previous years are shelved in the Dutch Colonial Studies Room in Sage Library and may be examined there.

Independent Study (Masters Level Only)

A student may take up to two independent study courses for up to a total of six (6) credits. An independent study course is usually allowed only under the direction of the regular faculty. A student who wishes to complete additional study in a particular area should discuss the course with the faculty member with the most expertise in that particular area. The student should present the faculty

member with a proposal for the course, objectives for the course, and a preliminary reading list. The student must also have a GPA of 3.0 or better to be considered for this type of work. If the faculty member agrees to direct the study, the student must complete a “proposal for reading course or independent study” form, and then secure the signature of his/her academic advisor and the Dean of the Seminary. The readings and student-generated assignments for the course should be equivalent to those of regular classes.

Note the following limitations:

- Each degree program has specific requirements and limitations for independent study courses; see the individual degree requirements for more information;
- Students not fully matriculated in either the M.Div. or M.A. program cannot register for independent study courses;
- Required courses cannot be taken through independent study;
- Applying for more than two independent study courses, regardless of the amount of credit for each of the courses, needs the approval of the Academic Affairs Committee. This is done by writing a letter to the chairperson explaining, in detail, the reasons why the student believes he/she needs to be granted permission to take additional independent study credit hours along with the proposal for the course, objectives for the course, and a preliminary reading list. The chairperson of Academic Affairs Committee will notify the student in writing of the committee’s decision.

Help note: If a student discovers he or she needs a course for completion of a degree that is not offered in the course schedule, the student should bring this issue to the attention of the Academic Advisor and the Dean of Academics immediately.

Hybrid Course Offerings

Some required and elective courses offerings are offered in a hybrid format. The term hybrid refers to a course in which some traditional face-to-face time in the classroom is replaced by online learning activities. The mix of face-to-face time and online work is designed to interact pedagogically by reinforcing and complementing one another. A hybrid course requires that the majority of instructor-led learning occurs face-to-face in a classroom setting in order for it to count toward the residency requirement in the degree program.

Auditing (Master’s Level Only)

All non-matriculated auditors must use the Limited Enrollment form for registration. A matriculated who wishes to audit a course should use the regular registration form. The Seminary permits the auditing of regularly scheduled classes with the instructor’s approval, or the Dean of the Seminary’s approval in the case of an adjunct. The audit fee is one half of the regular class fee times the number of credits plus a non-refundable registration fee. Payment is due upon registering. Audits will not be processed without payment. Only classes with space available below the cap will be opened to auditors. An auditor is not expected to complete class assignments, nor is a grade issued for the course. An individual auditing a course will not be permitted to change his or her audit status to a credit status. St. John’s Department of Theology courses are not open to auditing students.

Required Courses – Doctor of Ministry

Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Preaching

3-Credit Courses

TP710 Introduction to Doctoral Study and Preaching Projects

This course will provide a foundational orientation to doctoral studies as well as explore approaches specific to preaching projects. This course will prepare students on how to integrate the theoretical into the development of a researchable and implementable project within the areas to which they practice.

TP711 Homiletical Theory

This course will provide students with a comprehensive view of contributions made by major homiletical theories on the discipline of preaching. We will explore the relationship between theology, hermeneutics and traditions as it shapes preaching. We will become intimately familiar with a variety of theories while understanding that no one approach to preaching fits all. Lastly, we will discuss the role, effectiveness and the future of preaching.

TP712 Writing About Preaching for Dissertations, Projects & Publishing

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to: write in a manner that shows a proficient understanding of the student's area of focus/study; write at a doctoral level with the intent to publish articles and or books; write as an advocate as they struggle with the forces exploiting their community; write in a manner that builds collegiality and community; write in a manner that indicates that the student understands and has the capacity to share power and authority; write to increase homiletical theory for use in the fight for justice in minority communities; write consistently as a pastoral discipline; and write to inform.

TP713 Apologetics: Preaching That Makes Disciples

This course is designed to challenge the student's view of traditional preaching and enable the student to develop a methodology for preaching that will produce disciples in an effective measureable way.

TP714 Preaching via Social Media & Other Non-Traditional Settings

This class examines the emerging relationship between preaching ministries and social media. We will explore the fears, effectiveness, responsibilities and the dangers of our usage of social media in ministry endeavors. We will explore our own readiness for the level of intellectual, emotional, financial and social criticism that is embedded in the social media and non-traditional settings such as church planting and online ministries. Students will also gain basic practical yet useful social media insights, "best practices," and effective ways to preaching the gospel in ways that produce profound transformation with cutting edge strategies that they can implement within their own ministry context.

TP715 Expository Preaching

This course will provide students with a comprehensive view of the contributions made by major expository preachers within the discipline of preaching. We will explore *in depth* the faithful approach to exegeting and preaching the text as to best communicate God's thoughts, word and character. We will become intimately familiar with the Expository approach and its methods while understanding that no one approach to preaching is *all-inclusive* enough to dominate the proclamation of the Gospel. Lastly, we will discuss the effectiveness and future of expository preaching and its necessity for transformation.

TP716 Hermeneutics and Homiletics

This course provides students with an opportunity to raise to consciousness and to acquire perspective on their interpretative strategies for preaching, including critical interpretation of community, culture, self, scriptures, congregation, God and occasion, and to develop their practice of interpretation in dialogue with recent critical thought and one another.

TP717 Preaching Evangelistically: Reaching the Unchurched & Uninterested

This course emphasizes the need to evangelize. It is designed to help students discover new patterns for doing old things. Traditional reaching is done on Sunday mornings in churches to the faithful. For a very long time, evangelism has been propositional, biblical, binary and other - worldly. Our 21st Century churches are located in biblically illiterate, postmodern and post-churched communities. If we are to go and make disciples of the unchurched and uninterested in our midst; our preaching, teaching and welcoming must be both faithful (true to the biblical mandate and model) and relevant (attractive in our contemporary cultural context). Together, we will discover how to give relevant expression and faithful embodiment to the gospel.

TP718 Preaching that Reaches Millennials

This course provides students with an opportunity to raise to consciousness and to acquire perspective on the realities and perspectives of millennials, particularly within the context of Christian preaching. Through this course, students will gain insight into the economic, political, social, and religious context of Millennials, and students will develop interpretative, performance, and homiletical strategies for preaching for/with/about/to/as Millennials.

TP719 Preaching Project Design and Proposal

This course is intended to prepare candidates in the Doctor of Ministry program to form a Doctor of Ministry Project proposal of substance and quality in their respective concentration (in this case, Transformational Preaching). Students will move from fine-tuning their research question(s) to selecting and engaging in appropriate research methodologies to creating a solid D.Min. project proposal draft.

Areas of focus will include:

- Reviewing the uses of bibliographic repositories of data (such as libraries and the internet);
- Writing an annotated bibliography;
- Understanding the role of the literature review and inventories of what's available in your in context [i.e., programs, histories, people's stories, etc.];
- Engaging in theological reflection, critical thinking, experiential learning, reflective observation, and academic writing;
- Exploring the differing and complementary strengths and weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative research methods;
- Considering research ethics, including plagiarism and the protection of human subjects (human rights) in research; and
- Constructing an effective work plan for completion of the project, and other project-related topics.

At the end of the course students will have produced a solid draft of their Doctor of Ministry project proposal and have a plan in place for moving toward their project completion and candidacy review.

TP720 Prophetic Preaching: From the Prophets to 21st Century

The purpose of this course is to highlight the role of Prophetic preaching through three millennia of the church's proclamation and witness. To understand who the prophets were; their calling, vocation and lifestyle. Further it is anticipated that course participants will gain an awareness of and appetite for the need for prophetic preaching in the 21st century. It is further anticipated that participants will understand in an informative and intellectual way the place and purpose of prophetic preaching in today's pulpit, that they will be able to distinguish between authentic biblical prophetic preaching and artificial prophetic utterances to the end that they will aspire to develop, design and deliver prophetic sermons that speak truth to power against systemic and institutional evil, violence, discrimination, patriarchy, sexism, racism and hedonism wherever it is found.

TP721 Cross-Cultural & Intergenerational Preaching

This course emphasizes the evolving dynamic in American communities and churches. A rapidly changing cultural landscape necessitates our doing church in more inclusive and strategically thought-out fashions. The mobility of the American population, increased life expectancy, and the multi-and-cross-cultural demographic of most communities (no longer limited to urban areas) call for an enlarged understanding of how faith institutions need to (a) intentionally create and (b) provide ministry with, to, and through a diverse membership. We will consider this theme via assigned readings, online discussion, and presentations in class during the Intensive Week in August.

6-Credit Courses

TP722 Dissertation I/ Project Narrative/ Writing Seminar

TP723 Dissertation II/ Project Narrative + Defense

Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling

3-Credit Courses

PC710 Foundations in Pastoral Care and Counseling

This seminar will provide a foundational framework for the practice of pastoral care and counseling designed to enhance the student's level of proficiency in the practice of short-term counseling. The emphasis is on the development of: (a) therapeutic relationship, (b) theological understandings of pastoral care and counseling, (c) pastoral uses of psychotherapeutic theories and strategies for change, (d) the use of religious/spiritual resources, and (e) various forms of pastoral care and counseling geared towards enabling the student to engage in therapeutic counseling relationships. It will include a variety of ethical and professional issues that contemporary pastoral care specialists, chaplains, pastoral counselors, and congregational clergy, need to navigate if they are to effectively serve others. It will consist of extensive independent coursework and online threaded discussions preceding and following the week of face to face on-campus intensive. The seminar will involve lecture, discussion, videos, role plays, individual and group presentations. A race, class, and gender analysis will be appropriated throughout the course.

PC711 Research Methods in Pastoral Theology, Care, and Counseling

This seminar introduces students to research methods in the discipline of pastoral theology, care, and counseling. The student will be exposed to a broad range of research methods (i.e., quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods) but will be given extensive exposure to the qualitative method and its implications for the development and practice of pastoral theory. Also, the student will be provided instruction on pastoral theological methodology and how it impacts practices of care within the church and broader social contexts. The seminar is intended to mentor students in the development of their final Project proposal.

PC712 Dynamics of Loss, Grief and Trauma in Pastoral Care and Counseling

This course explores the psychological, relational and theological dynamics of loss, grief and trauma. It will place these subjects in the larger theoretical contexts of attachment theory and trauma theory. It will give special attention to the growing incidence of trauma in modern life, and the corresponding body of literature that informs how one understands the dynamics of trauma. It will then explore the practical implications of this theory for pastors, chaplains and counselors who are seeking to help people and families in pain. Attention will also be given to the theological understandings of loss, grief and trauma in the context of clinical work.

PC713 Theological Anthropology

This course will investigate Christian perspectives on the mystery of human existence, dealing with human nature, creation, *imago Dei*, the Fall and finitude in sin, suffering, and death, free will and freedom, and new humanity in Christ. So central to the conceptual tools of anthropologists is “Relationality,” which is of relevance to pastoral care and counseling, that the methods, paradigms, and concrete themes of Christian anthropology may be viewed with respect to the concept of relationality. Human “Self” has substantial natures and expresses itself as person and in relationship with others. Thus, paradigmatic concepts for this class will be three: Substance, Personhood, and Relationality.

Secondly, this course will explore the profundity and uniqueness of Christian anthropology among cultural, contextual, and philosophical anthropologies as well as commonalities with them. Both the glorious view of humans having *imago Dei* and the fatal portrayals of human sinfulness and brokenness in the Fall and of human sufferings without any reason in Ecclesiastes seem to be hardly reconcilable. Yet, they most faithfully witness to the cruciality of human existentiality and to the depth of the divine interactions to human reality, which deepens our understanding of the mystery of human existence. God laments over us because God loves us all in God’s creation and renewal. We also lament over others and ourselves. What is central in terms of the unique Christian view of humanity is that we stand before God and before others.

The Trinitarian God is the one who forms links between God and humans, among humans, and between human reality before God and before other fellow human beings. God calls and invites us to have the divine relationship with God and with others.

Lastly, modern scientific development has challenged Christian views of human reality and existence. How effectively and critically Christian anthropology can be interactive with evolution theory, human genome project, neuroscience, and transhumanism of physical immortality remains crucial, as it is reshaped in the modern contexts. Because of the width of anthropology, discussion of this class will not only focus on the traditional issues but also extend to its relevance to modern contours of anthropologies.

PC714 Equipping Lay People for Ministry

PC715 Theories of Counseling

This course will examine many major theories of personality and counseling, as background theory and as having practical implications for one’s work as pastoral caregivers and counselors. The primary theme of this comprehensive review is what constitutes change. How do people change? What blocks change? What facilitates change? What really is the nature of change? Can people change or do people simply learn to manage? This effort will result in each student building an integrated theory of pastoral counseling and a theology of change. In order to understand how people heal, one must understand human development along with the many ways people cope. My hope is that this course will excite you and develop a passion for continuous learning in the field of mental health.

PC716 Pastoral Counseling with Couples & Families

Through the readings and assignments of this course, students will begin to form a better understanding of the underlying psychological factors that are at work in human relationships.

The course will finally seek to introduce students to the theories and applications of a variety of clinical approaches to solving issues that are problematic between couples and within families.

Once terms and theories have been introduced, students will be encouraged to select an approach that best fits their bent, and then work toward perfecting their understanding and skill in at least that one approach.

Finally, care will be taken to assist students in developing their own interventional plans for using this information within a pastoral counseling context so that they do not attempt to practice outside of their competency.

PC717 Assessment and Diagnosis in Clinical Theology

This course will review the major issues and approaches to the assessment and diagnosis of psychological and relational problems from a pastoral perspective. It will look in detail at the prevailing diagnostic scheme based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-V). It will attempt to reflect on various diagnoses from theological perspectives and suggest ways that the DSM-V system could be augmented by a spiritual axis. It will look at several of the more common assessment tools used by pastoral counselors today, and give students opportunities to become thoroughly acquainted with at least one tool. It will also delve into how to understand some of the more common psychological problems—depression, anxiety, obsessions and impulse control problems—from both psychological and theological perspectives. This course will teach students how to think theologically about psychological issues.

PC718 Multicultural Counseling

This course explores theories and practices in multi-cultural pastoral care ministry in the local church and other settings. This is a comprehensive course introducing students to dynamics of race, culture, gender, and other themes in relation to the practice of pastoral care in the local church and other settings. The course highlights the complexities of multi-cultural ministry with an awareness of the skills necessary for providing effective pastoral care and counseling. The course will also explore some of the history, current status, and future trends of multi-cultural pastoral care ministry within faith communities. Focus on how personal ideologies and personal experiences can influence a person's association to multi-cultural pastoral ministry. Highlight some distinctions between multi-cultural ministry and cross-racial pastoral appointments. This syllabus may be revised at the discretion of the professor.

PC719 Addictions and Spirituality

This course provides an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to addictions and examines the cycles of addiction, personality and patterns of interaction. It includes the historic and generational influences on alcohol and drug abuse/dependence including adult children of alcoholics, enabling, and the family disease concept; the influences of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and 12 step philosophies in alcohol/drug treatment; and the uniqueness of special populations including sexual orientation, cultural dimensions, adolescents, women and the elderly. Theories of addiction and their cultural relevance will be examined three-fold. Special emphasis will be to examine the relationship of the spiritual realm to addiction: Its origins, processes, recovery, and prevention.

Additionally, this course will examine contemporary drug issues relevant to the use and abuse of drugs. In addition, theoretical, and legal aspects of drug use will be presented. It will enable the students to become familiar with the general concepts and principles of drug use and its abuse; and

consequently, be prepared to make informed choices and judgments concerning drugs and their consequences. Upon completion of the course the student will be able to identify the physiological, psychological, social, and cultural implications of drug use and their integration with and value to pastoral-clinical care counseling.

PC722 Spirituality of Joy

This course explores the theological and psychological analysis of joy and develops a spirituality of joy. It surveys biblical understandings of joy, examines the theological insights on joy of John Wesley and Karl Barth and investigates the psychological conception of joy by Heinz Kohut. In addition, the course engages in self-reflections demonstrating a practice of a spirituality of joy.

6-Credit Courses

PC720 Pastoral Care Integrative Seminar

We believe that pastoral care knowledge and skills are applicable to all of life and living. Pastoral care is a discipline that addresses the dimension of human spirituality. The breadth of spirituality affects all dimensions of life at the deepest level of purpose and meaning - attitudes, values, practices, motivations, influencing how we think and behave, helping us find a true and useful place in our community, culture, and world. As such, all themes in this syllabus are an exploration of spirituality in each area of interest to help us grow personally and professionally in service to our respective caring communities and agencies.

As certified educators of Clinical Pastoral Education, Marianne and I will use a combination of required and recommended reading material, videos (YouTube, TED Talks, etc.), movies, and experiential activities in an effort to stretch your curiosity and stir your imagination.

PC798 Dissertation I/Project Narrative

PC799 Dissertation II/Project Narrative + Defense

Doctor of Ministry in Metro-Urban Ministry

3-Credit Courses

UM770 Framing A Theology of Prophetic Urban Ministry and Your Project Idea

The call of God's prophets was to initiate a necessary critique of Empire (i.e. those in power) to attend to the rebuilding of lives and the restoration of cities. Their prophetic critique and clarion call to care for the widows, orphans, and oppressed disenfranchised was inspired by their desire to correct the oppressive state of affairs of their day and bring these into alignment with the structure of the covenant in the Torah, and what they saw as God's alternatively organized new world order where 'swords would become plowshares and spears pruning hooks' and where 'nations would no longer fight against nations or practice war anymore (paraphrased of Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3). Jesus would also speak against empirical oppression as he proclaimed God's new order and the advent of the Kingdom of God to a number of biblical cities – a kingdom that suggests urban renewal as it speaks of a just world and a reversal of hierarchical order for the poor, disenfranchised and dispossessed.

The growing urbanization of our world and the urban realities of today presents the church with the unprecedented opportunity and challenge to recognize and address a complexity of issues in urbanized settings that not only include great progress and change, as evidenced in extraordinary human diversity, creativity and innovation, but also the growing, centralized power of Empire bolstered by institutional racism; systematized gender, economic and political disenfranchisement; and widespread dysfunctionality, violence and disillusion.

Through interdisciplinary reading and critical reflection, along with on-the-street engagement of contemporary events, students will begin to lay the foundation for an integral, liberating, and transformative theology of prophetic urban ministry. An examination of 21st century urban contexts and ministry strategies employed in these contexts will also be explored, particularly with in light of the biblical injunction to “seek the welfare of the city.”

UM771 Biblical Reflections on Cities: From Ancient Israel to the First Century Church

The phenomenon of urbanization is typically characterized by changes that transform sparsely populated agricultural spaces (i.e. rural spaces) to densely populated settlements (i.e. urban or city spaces). This course explores urbanization as it appears in biblical antiquity, most notably its earliest appearance in ancient Israel through the first century church. Participants will examine various cities in the territories incorporating the land of Canaan, Mesopotamia, Greece and Rome. A comparative analysis of the social and religious practices attending ancient populations will include, but is not limited to, understanding the significance of geo- proximity in the formation of ethnic and religious identity as well as how the cultural productions that emerge in the form of walls, symbols, monuments, etc. are markers of inclusion and exclusion in shaping an ancient urban landscape. The influence of imperial conquest on the formation of biblical cities as it relates to ideology, economics, and social practice will also be explored together with the ways empire (i.e. colonization) continues to shape contemporary processes of urbanization. Finally, students will be expected to develop a well-grounded theology of the city for the urban church specifically informed by the above inspections.

UM772 Christian Ethics, Diversity, and Intersectionalities in Urban America

The purpose of this course is to equip students with the theological-ethical tools to assess and engage ethical injustices and intersectionalities of church, city, and world. The course will pay special attention to the nature of the church, ethical diversity and social movements present in our global context.

The content of the course will draw upon multi-disciplinary analysis and contemporary Christian ethical discourse. Areas to be explored include racism and state-based violence; globalization and economic injustice; ecological ethics and environmental racism; public health disparities; gender justice; moral trauma and recovery; and God’s vision for beloved community. The course pays close attention to the dynamic relationship between prophetic urban leadership in relation to church, city and nation. Reflection on one’s own ethical style and method is a key component of the course.

Other goals of the course include gaining a deeper understanding of these basic principles:

Empowerment - the process of people becoming their own advocates in the struggle to unmask and engage forces threatening their community. Empowerment helps people to recognize within themselves the talents and abilities that are unique to them and encourages them to develop those gifts in relationship to others.

Collaboration - provides the framework of a cooperative venture based on shared power and authority. It is not hierarchical in nature. It assumes power based on knowledge and experience as opposed to power based solely on role.

Transformation - occurs when members of the church and community begin to change their view of themselves. This takes place when people come to a new understanding of themselves as individuals in community as people of God. In other words, transformation occurs when people begin to claim their moral agency and vision in communion with the living God

UM773 Seeking Justice in the City: Politics and Ministry in the Public Square

The practice of “Seeking Justice in the City” and engaging in politics and ministry in the public square, or doing public theology, enables faith communities to engage in a disciplined theological analysis of a specific context and a given social, political or economic issue to understand, appreciate and address the forces of good and evil in the public realm. The purpose of engaging in public theological analysis for the sake of seeking justice in the public square is to determine what action (s) a faith community needs to take to further the “kin-dom” of God on earth. Engaging in ministry in the public square is a collaborative process that involves doing (theological, sociological, political, and economic) analyses that lead to action which empowers the community and addresses their issue(s). Such work involves a very practical and pragmatic investment of one’s whole self. To answer the call to “Seek Justice in The City,” is to acknowledge and assess “The Cost of Discipleship.” Evil hits back at good, even more so when good shows signs of winning. Thus, this course will emphasize: Competence, Creativity, Courage, and Collaboration. We will practice a sustainable spirituality and holistic self-care to provide nourishment to your soul during heated battles against entrenched evil.

UM774 You, Your Church, and Your Community: Assessing the Urban Landscape

This course considers the forces that have given shape to the urban landscape as it has evolved in modern, industrialized cities over the course of the 20th century and the current forces that are impacting 21st century urban communities. We consider how the ideas of urban planners and architects, faith communities, the need for capital, the constraints of the environment, and the actions of differently positioned urban dwellers collide to shape urban space. Our task is thus to learn to “read” urban space in the context of sociocultural, religious relations and political economies.

UM775 Cooperative Economic Development in Cities and the Role of Religious Institutions

This course explores the intersection between economic development in cities and the role of religious institutions. This course explores the nature and extent of faith-based economic development activities in urban cities, seeks to describe institutions engaged in economic development in urban cities, and explores the organizational arrangements used for implementation of strategies and approaches. We hope to explore how housing, job training, social services interact and interface with faith-based activities encompassing: business operation; job training; financial activities; citizenship training; cultural development, and cooperative efforts with Community Development Corporations.

UM776 Sexuality Education for the Urban Minister

UM777 Seminar on Research Methods and Project Proposal Development

UM778 Urban Land Use, Policy Planning and Ministry

UM779 Media Training for the Urban Minister

UM780 Issues of Pastoral Care and Contemporary Issues in Urban Ministry

UM781 Immigration, Migration and Cultural Dimensions of Urban Ministry

6-Credit Courses

UM797 Dissertation Writing Seminar

UM799 Final Project & Oral Defense

No-Credit Required Course

UM798 Revisions, Editing & Project Summation