

2017 Course Descriptions

COURSE # & TITLE	DESCRIPTION
BS520 BIBLICAL RESEARCH & WRITING ▲ Prerequisite(s): Old Testament, and New Testament; can be taken concurrently with required Bible course (previously as BS311/BS411)	This course will provide hands-on skills for the intensive study of a biblical text 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. The course will also focus on developing a thesis statement and presenting a coherent and comprehensive argument in a paper.
BT523 WRESTLING WITH PAUL Prerequisite(s): New Testament (NT511/301)	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.
CE510 INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PRACTICE ▲	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.
CH510 HISTORY OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY I ▲	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.
DS520 RCA CHURCH 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.
DS521 RCA 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.
DS524 BAPTIST STUDIES: HISTORY AND THEOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To deepen one's knowledge of Baptist principles, history, theology, and mission -To understand more fully the unities and diversities of Baptist life in the past and present -To learn more about some historical Baptist leaders, men and women -To become more aware of the various theological traditions among Baptists -To become aware of the Baptist contribution to the Christian community

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<p>ET512 MEDICAL ETHICS & COMMUNAL HEALTH <i>John Suydam Kulthal</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>FE00510 FIELD EDUCATION: (Req. M.Div.) ▲</p>	<p>In conjunction with an approved field education placement, this course is designed to guide students in the practice of ministerial reflection by examining his/her field education experience. Each student is required to attend class for theological reflection, peer group support and discussion on boundaries and best self-care practices. Time will be spent discussing personal spiritual formation. Additionally, the course will focus on developing a model for healthy disciplines/habits for ministry.</p> <p>Student placements 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 both inside and outside of a student's own tradition 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 granted for each completed unit of Field Education.</p> <p>Required Text:</p> <p>Floding, Matthew, editor. Engage: A Theological Field Education Toolkit. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. ISBN: 9781442273504</p> <p>Blodgett, Barbara J., and Matthew Floding, editors. Brimming with God: Reflecting Theological on Cases in Ministry. Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-62564-996-6</p> <p>Osward, Roy M. Clergy Self-Care: Finding a Balance for Effective Ministry. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 1991. ISBN: 13: 978-1-56699-044-8</p> <p>Stone, Howard W., and James O. Duke How to Think Theologically. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1996. ISBN: 0-8006-2967-1</p> <p>Recommended Text:</p> <p>Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. Boundaries. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. ISBN: 978-0-310-58590-9</p> <p>Foster, Richard. Celebration of Discipline. New York: HarperCollins, 1978. ISBN: 0-06-062839-1</p> <p>Nouwen, Henri, J.M. Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-06-168613-9</p> <p>Nouwen, Henri, J.M. The Wounded Healer. New York: Publisher Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc. 1979. ISBN: 978-0-385-14803-0</p>

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<p>IN511 RACE, CLASS & GENDER ▲ ■ Prerequisite: IN331 Undoing Racism Workshop Training.</p>	<p>This course will challenge assumptions of the social constructs of race, privilege, class and gender. Students will 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.</p>
<p>IN331 UNDOING RACISM WORKSHOP ▲ ■ Required with IN511 Race, Class & Gender</p>	<p>2 1/2 day workshop utilize 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.</p>
<p>IN520 THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE & WITNESS ▲</p>	<p>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)</p>
<p>IN521 CONTEXTUALIZED MINISTRY & SPIRITUALITY ▲ Prerequisite(s): Church History I and II; TH00401, Theology I and II; Introduction to Christian Ethics; Introduction to the Old Testament; Introduction to the New Testament, Introduction to Pastoral Care. Senior Level Standing Only.</p>	<p>This is a senior level course designed to view Christian ministry as faith and witness in multi-dimensional context. Christian spirituality and ministry today must engage in living dialogue with multiple publics, secular disciplines and pluralistic religious and cultural traditions in search of the common good and beloved community. Through this prophetic dialogue and witness Christian individuals and communities can come to a deeper understanding of Christ’s gospel and God’s kairos for our historical period.</p>
<p>IN528 INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGICAL STUDIES ▲ • ■</p>	<p>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.</p>

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<p>ML502 INTRODUCTION TO MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ■</p>	<p>This course, required for the fulfillment of the M.A. concentration in Ministry and Community Leadership, introduces students to the theory and practice of ministry and community leadership in an increasingly interconnected, urban world. Competent ministry and community leadership requires knowledge of oneself, one's church or other ministry setting, and the larger community in which one is looking to serve. It also requires good relationship and community outreach skills and a spiritual life that is alive and flourishing, as well as an inquiring mind and the ability and desire to understand and relate to societal problems and trends through the perspective of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through lectures, readings, class discussions, case studies and written work students will examine the many facets of effective ministry and community leadership (in the church, in faith-based institutions and other organizations) as well as their own abilities as a leader. Special emphasis will be placed on issues of gifts assessment and qualities of a Christian leader, asset-based program and ministry development, shared visioning, and assessing and honing "best practices" for both resource development for various ministries and program development strategies.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXTS Ashley, Willard W.C., Sr. (Ed). Learning to Lead: Lessons in Leadership for People of Faith. Woodstock, Vermont: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2013. (ISBN: 9781594734328) Edited by Perkins, John. Restoring At-Risk Communities: Doing it Together and Doing it Right. Baker Books 2007 ISBN-10:080105463X Fluker, Walter Earl. Ethical Leadership: The Quest for Character, Civility and Community. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009. (ISBN: 9780800663490) Salvatierra, Alexia and Peter Heltzel. Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in the Service to the World. Madison, WI: InterVarsity Press, 2014. (ISBN 978083083661-1) Lupton, Bob. Toxic Charity. HarperOne 2011 ISBN-10:0062076205 Nouwen, Henri. A Spirituality of Fundraising. ISBN-13: 9780835810449. Jacobson, Dennis, Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing, 2nd Edition. Fortress Press, 2017 ISBN 978-1-5064-1881-0 Queen, Edward L., ed. Serving Those in Need: A Handbook for Managing Faith-Based Human Service Organizations. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000 (chapter 13 on SAKAI) Perkins, John. With Justice for All: A Strategy for Community Development. Regal 2011. ISBN-10: 0830759549</p>
<p>ML503 PROGRAM PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION</p>	<p>In this course, students will learn the processes of planning, developing and evaluating faith-based education, social service, and community outreach programs. They will develop their skills in the negotiation, program planning, and design processes, setting up data collection processes that enable data-driven decision making, effective evaluation of programs and the use of evaluation results for a program's improvement. The course will also help students understand risk management, and ethical and socio-political issues in program development.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXTS Peter M. Kettner, Robert M. Moroney, Lawrence L. Martin. Designing and Managing Programs: An Effectiveness-Based Approach (Fourth Edition). Sage Publications, 2012.</p>

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	<p>Wayne Gordon, John M. Perkins, Shane Claiborne. Making Neighborhood Whole: A Handbook for Christian Community Development. Inter Varsity Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3756-4</p> <p>John Fuder, Ray Bakke. Neighborhood Mapping: How to Make Your Church Invaluable to the Community. Moody Publishers, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8024-134-1</p> <p>John M. Perkins, Editor. Restoring At-Risk Communities: Doing It Together & Doing It Right. Baker Books, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-8010-5463-1</p> <p>Henri S. Nouwen. The Spirituality of Fundraising. Upper Room Books, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8358-1044-9</p>
<p>ML592 PROJECT PROPOSAL SEMINAR ■</p>	<p>This seminar, required for all 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.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXTS</p> <p>Everist, Norma Cook. The Church As Learning Community: A Comprehensive Guide to Christian Education. Abingdon Press, 2002. ISBN 0-687-04500-2.</p> <p>Howell, Vincent Wyatt. Managing Projects in Ministry. Judson Press, 2017. ISBN 978-0-8170-1780-4</p> <p>Lee, Boyung. Transforming Congregations through Community: Faith Formation from the Seminary to the Church. Westminster John Knox Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-664-23330-3.</p> <p>Skjogstad, Joy F. 7 Creative Models for Community Ministry. Judson Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-8170-1730-9.</p> <p>Coley, Soraya M. and Cynthia A. Scheinberg. Proposal Writing: Effective Grantsmanship for Funding (SAGE Sourcebooks for the Human Services) 5th Edition. Sage, 2017. ISBN 9781483376431.</p> <p>Skjedstad, Joy. Starting a Nonprofit at Your Church (Alban Institute Publication). Alban Institute, 2002. ISBN 13: 978-1-56699-265-7.</p> <p>Roxburgh, Alan J. and M. Scott Boren. Introducing the Missional Church. Baker Books, 2011. ISBN 978-0-8010-7231-4.</p>
<p>MS 514 EVANGELISM</p>	<p>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.</p>

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MS565 INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP ▲	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.
NT511 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK I	This course is designed to introduce the student to Greek grammar and New Testament translation.
NT516 STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND GOD: THE BOOK OF MARK	<p>The course aims toward a critical interpretation of the Gospel of Mark, with a focus upon the struggles of the disciples to understand and come to terms with Jesus as Son of Man. Examination of the socio-historical setting, the author's specific interests, and particular themes including secrecy, hierarchy, and discipleship will receive attention. The meaning and significance of the Gospel of Mark for today's world and faith will also receive attention.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXTS</p> <p>Coogan, M.D. <i>The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV)</i></p> <p>W. Burkert, <i>Ancient Mystery Cults</i> ISBN-13: 9780674033870</p> <p>E. R. Dodds, <i>Pagan and Christian in an Age of Anxiety</i> ISBN 9780521385992</p> <p>C. Myers and O. Hendricks, <i>Binding the Strong Man</i> ISBN-13: 9781570757976</p> <p>J. Pettis, <i>Seeing the God: Ways of Envisioning the Divine in Ancient Mediterranean Religion</i> (on reserve in library)</p>
NT522 THE MEANING OF THE APOCALYPSE IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD	<p>This class will read critically the Book of Revelation, taking into consideration the socio-historical and cultural background and implications for the writing of the book, and the examination of specific themes including response to early Christian persecution, mythological language and imagery, divine revelation, and early Christian notions of new-world order. Particular attention will be given to the significance of the text for today's world.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXTS:</p> <p>Coogan, M.D. <i>The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV)</i></p> <p>Fiorenza, E. S. <i>Revelation: Vision of a Just World (1998)</i> ISBN 9780800625108</p> <p>Pettis, J. <i>Seeing the God</i> ISBN 978-1-61143-251-0 (Selections at library)</p> <p>Pettis, J. <i>The Sleeper's Dream</i> ISBN 978-1-4632-0256-9 (Selections at library)</p> <p>Sanders, E. P. <i>The Historical Figure of Jesus</i> ISBN 9780140144994</p>

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<p>OT510 INTRODUCTION TO OLD TESTAMENT ▲●■</p>	<p>This course will provide the 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.</p>
<p>OT511 HEBREW I</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>PC524 PASTORAL CARE TO YOUTH AND ADOLESCENCE</p>	<p>Adolescence represents a period of significant changes and influences in one's life. In this course, we will examine diverse theoretical and clinical approaches to pastoral care of adolescents. Moreover, we will explore various themes and concerns of teenagers today in church and community. Case studies and narratives of adolescents from different cultural contexts will be incorporated throughout the course.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXTS:</p> <p>Breaking Through to Teens – New Psychotherapy for the New Adolescence (Ron Taffel) Teens in Therapy: Making It Their Own: Engaging Adolescents in Successful Therapy for Responsible Lives (Richard Bromfield) The Body Project – An Intimate History of American Girls (Joan Jacobs Brumberg) Deep Secrets: Boys' Friendships and the Crisis of Connection (Niobe Way) Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less From Each Other (Sherry Turkle)</p>
<p>PC528 PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING WITH WOMEN</p>	<p>An introduction to the unique nature of the ministry of pastoral care and counseling with women. Emphasis will be placed on the role that the image of God and the socio-cultural and psychological particularities of women play in the development of relevant and effective approaches for this ministry. Psychotherapeutic and theological issues will also be addressed.</p>

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<p>PC539 PASTORAL CARE: MENTAL HEALTH AND THE SPIRITUALITY OF CARING</p>	<p>More than three out of four Americans identify with a religious faith, according to a 2014 survey by the Pew Research Center. Faith and spirituality can be part of a person's identity and can be a source of both comfort and turmoil for some individuals. Spirituality can be an effective part of treatment and coping with mental illness in a variety of ways, such as mindfulness therapies, meditation, 12-step programs, bereavement and grief counseling. Students will learn about common mental disorders, including symptoms, risk factors and treatment options and possible options in finding solace through faith and spirituality practices.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXTS:</p> <p>Fragile Connections, David Capps, Chalice Press ISBN: 10-0-827223-31-5 A Minister's Handbook of Mental Disorders, Joseph Ciarrocchi, Paulist Press, ISBN-10: 0809134039; ISBN-13: 978-0809134038 Darkness Is My Only Companion: A Christian Response to Mental Illness, Kathryn Greene-McCreight, Brazos Press; ISBN-10: 1587433729; ISBN-13: 978-1587433726 Mental Illness and Psychiatric Treatment: A Guide for Pastoral Counselors, Gregory Collins and Thomas Culbertson, Psychology Press, ISBN 0789018802, 9780789018809 Depression and Hope, Howard W. Stone, Fortress Press; ISBN 145140980X, 9781451409802</p>
<p>PC541 SPIRITUAL CARE IN TIMES OF: DISASTER, TRAUMA AND CRISES</p>	<p>Students will learn the theories and best practices for offering spiritual care during times of disaster, trauma and crises. You will be asked to visit sites, interview professionals, present your theology of disaster, trauma and crisis along with a practical pastoral resource list. Hands on learning is the main pedagogy along with reading and reflecting on basic texts.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXTS:</p> <p>Crisis Counseling, Howard Stone. ISBN: 0-8006.2760-1 Disaster Spiritual Care, Willard Ashley ISBN: 978-1-59473-587-5 Trauma Stewardship, Laura van Dernoot ISBN: 978-1-57675-944-8</p> <p>Recommended:</p> <p>The Little Book of Restorative Justice, How Zehr ISBN: 978-1-56148-376-1</p>
<p>PC00531 CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION ▲ ■</p>	<p>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 may apply to receive up to 6 academic credits of advanced standing toward the M.Div. degree, or the Pastoral Care Concentration in the M.A. degree, and 2 units of Field Education credit. No more than one unit (6 academic credits) of CPE will be credited.</p>

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<p>PR510 SERMON PREPARATION AND DELIVERY ▲ Limited enrollment: 12 students <i>(Formally Introduction to Preaching PR512)</i> Prerequisite(s): Old Testament CH510 (301) and New Testament CH511 (302)</p>	<p>This course is designed to help students find their individual preaching voice within the tradition of Christian preaching, as they develop the skills necessary for the construction and delivery of effective sermons. The substance of the course includes readings and in-class content related to the preparation of the person of the preacher, the development and creation of the sermon manuscript, and the effective delivery of the sermon. The format of class sessions may include: readings, lectures, video presentations, discussions, and individual, group and class exercises that will include performance training and preaching practice.</p> <p>REQUIRED TEXT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brooks, Gennifer Benjamin. <i>Good News Preaching: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon</i>. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780829818222 - \$20.00 2. Brown, Teresa L. Fry. <i>Delivering the Sermon</i>. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008. ISBN – 978-0-8006-0447-9 - \$15.00 3. Gilbert, Kenyatta R. <i>The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching</i>. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011 ISBN-13: 978-0800696276 - \$20.00 4. Gonzalez, Catherine and Justo. <i>The Liberating Pulpit</i>. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2003. ISBN-13: 978-1592441402 - \$19.00 5. Hogan, Lucy Lind. <i>Graceful Speech: An Invitation to Preaching</i>. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006. ISBN-13: 9780664228774 - \$25.00 6. Kim, Eunjoo <i>Preaching in An Age of Globalization</i>. Westminster / John Knox Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780664233693 - \$25.00 7. Lowry, Eugene L. <i>How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons</i>. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. ISBN-13: 9780687179244 - \$21.00. <p>The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Please have your NRSV Bible available in hard copy or ready on your computer for use at each class.</p>
<p>TH520 FOUNDATIONS AND GLOBAL THEOLOGY I ▲ Prerequisite Introduction to Old Testament CH510 (301) and Introduction to New Testament CH511 (302)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>UM511 INTRODUCTION TO PRISON MINISTRY AND RE-ENTRY</p>	<p>This course is designed to prepared faith leaders to develop awareness and skills to equip the faith community to support the successful transition of prisoners back into communities often ill prepared for their return. Specific topics include family support and reintegration, cognitive behavioral strategies, and partnering with other organizations and agencies, including the criminal justice system in general, and community corrections (probation, parole, etc.) in particular.</p>