



## **2020 SPRING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**REQUIRED COURSES: M.DIV. ▲, MA-MTS ■, MA-PCC •**

### **BS520 Biblical Research and Writing ▲**

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 courses after the first one is completed. (previously BS311/BS411)

### **CE510 Introduction to Christian Education Theory 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.

### **CH511 History of Global Christianity II ▲**

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)

### **CH521 Spirit and Struggle: Histories of Christianity in the United States**

How did colonialism, revivals, the institution of slavery and the making of race, revolutions and changes in American life shape Christian faith and practice? How have diverse Christian communities engaged in issues of immigration, sex, science, consumerism, and politics in the United States?

This class is not just about the pew and the pulpit. We will discuss historic tensions between piety and power, grapple with material culture, and get embroiled in messy theological and political fights. Our studies will interrogate gender and class and racial constructs, encounter ethnic diversity, and probe how Christian communities have influenced or been influenced by social and cultural developments. Investigations will span from the Early Modern Atlantic world to the establishment of the United States and extend through major nineteenth and twentieth-century changes in society and the US's place in the world. Considerations of various eras and movements will help us interpret Christians' varied involvement in US politics, society, and culture, and the ways Christianities in the United States contributed to systems of dominance and movements for resistance.

### **DS508 RCA Studies III & IV**

Students will study the history and missions and worship of the Reformed Church in America, becoming conversant with the arc of RCA history and missions and source materials as well as learning to lead the basic RCA liturgies and plan worship intelligently and creatively. Prerequisites: CH510 History of Global Christianity, CH511 History of Global Christianity II

### **ET520 Christian Ethics and Social Justice ▲•**

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, 4 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.

### **FE510/FE512/FE513 Field Education ▲**

Register for FE510 if this is your FIRST unit of Field Education  
Register for FE512 if this is your SECOND unit of Field Education  
Register for FE513 if this is your THIRD unit of Field Education

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 5 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.

### **IN331 Analyzing and understanding Systematic Racism Workshop ▲●**

Companion workshop to IN511; 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.

### **IN511 Analyzing, Understanding, and Working to Dismantle the Sin of Racism, Sexism, Gender Discrimination, and Classism ▲●**

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.

### **IN531 Our Christian Traditions in Context ▲**

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; IN522)

### **MA006 Master's Level (Maintaining Matriculation)**

This is for students to register for a continuation of the master's thesis beyond the academic year. Students who do not complete the thesis must continue their thesis by registering for this course. Students who do not register for the continuation course will be considered an enrolled student. Students must be enrolled to use the library services and meet with their advisor.

### **ML567 Samuel Proctor Travel Seminar**

### **MS001 Clergy Ethics Training Workshop ▲●**

Healthy boundaries create trust and sustain all our relationships. Clergy boundary issues have been at the forefront for many years, but lay leaders have an important role in ensuring a healthy, safe faith community.

Join Rev. Dr. Faye Taylor as she discusses the role that lay leaders play in ensuring your congregation is a safe place to worship, learn, and work.

**MS510 Pastoral Administration ▲ (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.

**MS516 Women in Church and Society**

This course will address the roles of Women in the Church and Society, with the intention to clarify misunderstandings that exist. We will examine biblical implications that help create the misunderstandings and look at women leadership in the church and society to recognize when there is gender dimension at work and how they can out strategize gender bias and their own habits to achieve better results. We will look at negotiation skills, how to use emotional intelligence to drive results. We will also look at giving and receiving feedback and learn how to outsmart the work-life balance. *No Prerequisites*

**NT510 Introduction to the New Testament ▲●●**

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)

**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

**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

**OT523B1 “How Will This King Save Us?”: The Books of Samuel**

An exegetical exploration of the books of Samuel, with particular attention to its literary features and its underlying political agendas. Our objectives are to improve our close-reading skills, attending to biblical narrative’s multi-vocality and multiplicity of meaning; to gain familiarity with the textual complexities, the literary character, and the possible rhetorical functions of the books of Samuel; to become familiar with the social and historical context(s) of the books of Samuel in order to explore what this text might have meant to those who lived at the time it was written; to think theologically and ethically about the ways in which the books of Samuel have found, and continue to find, new voice in literature and political discourse. *Prerequisite OT510*

### **PC334 Hospital Ministry**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the opportunities for pastoral ministry that exist within the context of healthcare institutions (hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers). The student will learn about these institutions as places for ministry, develop techniques for institutional healthcare ministry, crisis counseling, and explore their own feelings and understanding about healthcare institutions, issues of suffering, mortality, and grief. No

*Prerequisites*

### **PC510 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling ▲●**

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.

### **PC537 Ministry in Alternative Settings**

Traditional seminary education equips its graduates for parish based ministries in both urban and suburban settings. There are growing opportunities for ministers who may not feel called to pulpit ministries. Institutional pastoral care in hospitals, long-term care facilities, prisons, and community faith-based actions groups afford seminarians the experience of living out their call to ministry for social justice, equality and liberation. These specialized ministries require additional skills in counseling, mentoring and evidence based treatment modalities. This course offers an introduction to a variety of specialized ministries that require a commitment to ministering to the under-served, under-privileged, out-casted and marginalized.

### **PC541 Crises and Disaster Spiritual Care**

The goal is to study how to offer effective pastoral care after a disaster or crisis. We will explore good disaster preparation and develop a resource list to help before, during and after a disaster. We will learn the theories, techniques and theologies of disaster response and recovery. You will be asked to focus on one community that experienced a disaster as you explore how to offer pastoral care for your selected community. If you interview people you must receive written permission from your interviewees to share your work. You will explore how the reading, lectures and online discussions impact your area of ministry. We will examine the dynamics that help congregations and organizations to become places of healing and transformation. Online learning discussions and Process Consultation will be highly esteemed values and constant goals throughout the course. The Course Teaching Team and students will partner to create a safe learning and sharing environment. 2 of 12 Thus, this course will emphasize: Compassion, 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.

### **PC544 Clinical Pastoral Education II**

A continuation of CP543. 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 of the academic year. Students will engage persons from multiple faiths, often in stressful situations. Students will also engage in reflection with their supervisor and other students in their peer group. Students will learn about themselves and others. Many denominations require C.P.E. for ordination. Prerequisites PC543. A required course in the M.A. and recommended for the M.Div.



### **PC552 The Theory and Practice of Groups**

Students learn the theories and techniques used in various small group settings from board meetings to therapeutic groups. We examine the dynamics and processes that help congregations and organizations become places of healing and transformation through small groups. Our class also explores the principles of effective group facilitation and participatory decision-making in small groups. We will practice appreciative inquiry hosted World Cafe style in our class meetings. Students are expected to demonstrate their learning through reports of group interactions in their own ministry context and in the classroom. This is a hybrid course that meets face to face four times. This course was designed in consultation with the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA). *No Prerequisites*

### **PC592 Final Project: Pastoral Care & Counseling •**

### **PR515 Advanced Preaching ▲**

This course is designed to further prepare students to enter into the weekly ministry of preaching effective, contextual messages of God's transforming presence and action in the world. Students will encounter diverse sermon structures and strategies for interpreting biblical passages, and they will continue to develop in their delivery style. Care will be given to examine and engage the task of contextualizing the preaching of the Word in a given context. *Prerequisite PR510.*

### **TH521 Foundations of Global Theology II ▲••**

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 in Contemporary Contexts ••**

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.

### **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. There will be a total of 8 or 9 Conversations founded on two primary strategies to nurture deeper and broader interaction between participants: 1) a visit to the places of worship/devotion of four or five traditions (e.g., Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Sikhism, etc.) where leaders of each tradition present a lecture, followed by extensive Q&A; 2) meetings centered on "scriptural reasoning" where participants commit to encounters with the holy scriptures of traditions other than their own.

The course asks students to engage directly with canonical primary texts as well as contemporary worship practices of each of the major world religions, to understand their social, religious, and philosophical foundations as well as their continuing relevance to people today. Ultimately, this

class will challenge the student to think about issues in the relationship between church and society, Christianity and the global community, and what it means to participate in global Christian movement through inter-faith/religious dialogues in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **UM513 Ministry and the Criminal Justice System**

This is a course inspired by the need for religious leadership to invest more seriously in issues of criminal justice. The staggering incarceration rates of African American males, the rapidly rising rate of incarceration for all females, and the record numbers of African American men and women returning from incarceration demand our attention. But even preceding this, the Hebrew Scriptures gave us direction for cities of refuge, Paul wrote eloquently from his experience as an inmate and Jesus spoke clearly about our mandate to visit the incarcerated. The present crisis in criminal justice requires that a course such as this be offered. As stated in the video documentary "A Justice That Heals," after the criminal justice system has done its work, the church is called to a higher form of justice: the idea that true justice comes when there is reconciliation between all stakeholders affected by offense– perpetrator and victim, family and community.

Restorative Justice refers to a branch of ethics concerned with setting right relationships in response to offense. In the criminal justice system, offense is treated through some form of consequence, usually punitive. But the Christian needs to look beyond punishment to the concept of order and right relationship prescribed by God in His will for His people. So while the criminal justice system tends to punish and segregate offenders, the church strives for more– for restoration of relationships and all this entails. If participants take this course seriously, they will never be able to rid themselves of the image of a new way to address crime and justice in America– and especially in the African American community.

### **UM523 Urban Ministry in Global Contexts**

We live in an increasingly urban world. According to UN projections (2018) 2.5 billion more people will be living in cities by 2050. This will correlate to approximately 68% of the world population living in urban spaces. With most of this growth occurring in Africa and Asia – “almost seven in every 10 urban inhabitants globally” (World Population Highlights 2007), the contextual, multi-religious, economic and everyday realities in these and other areas will be critical in shaping the global church especially as it too becomes an urban church. How does the church in these global urban contexts engage critical post-colonial analysis of theology and history to chart more emancipatory ways of being God’s beloved people? How can congregations in all nation states exercise a preference for the poor and marginalized in the face of grave environmental atrocities, horrific acts of violence and economic disparities? What role do youth and children play in speaking truth to the powers and being the church in the church’s work for justice and the transformation of all communities? What are tools to aide course participants develop a vision and daily practice that are global in outlook, local in application, contextually relevant, historically grounded, culturally competent, pastoral in nature, and prophetic in witness? This course, a hybrid of on campus, online, and field research, will address these questions and will explore the resources and skills course participants will require to lead congregations and social agencies with cultural competency, integrity and wisdom in an increasingly urban world. *No Prerequisites*