

Master's Level Course Descriptions

All courses are 3 quarter hours credit unless otherwise noted. For curricular areas, check the course schedule for the corresponding term.

BL 301 Biblical Hebrew I

A basic introduction to the grammar and vocabulary of the Hebrew Old Testament. After completing this course, the student will be able to utilize the tools for Biblical study such as Hebrew lexicons and concordances and commentaries, recognizing Hebrew script and transliteration.

BL 302 Biblical Hebrew II

This course is a continuation of a basic introduction to the Hebrew grammar, vocabulary and syntax. This course will prepare the student to be able to read and translate the Hebrew Bible expressively.

BL 303 Hebrew Syntax/Exegesis

This course will prepare students to gain knowledge of Hebrew syntax through reading and translating texts. It will also equip students to be able to write an academic exegesis paper.
Prerequisite: BL 301 and BL 302

BL 350 New Testament Greek I

A basic introduction to the grammar and vocabulary of the Greek New Testament. On completion of this course, the student will be able to read parts of the Greek New Testament without constant reference to a lexicon. The student will also understand the purposes and limits of exegesis.

BL 351 New Testament Greek II

A continuation of BL 350. The student will be able to read much of the Greek New Testament without constant reference to a lexicon, and understand the purposes and limits of exegesis.

BL 352 Greek Syntax/Exegesis

An intermediate study of Greek syntax and exegesis, based on a particular New Testament text.
Prerequisite: BL 350 and BL 351

CH 301 Early and Medieval Christianity

This course is a basic introduction to the history of Christianity from its beginning to the end of the Middle Ages and the dawn of the Reformation. It covers the development of the institutional church, explores Christianity as a lived religion, traces the progress of doctrine, and introduces some of the men and women whose thoughts and lives influenced the course of Christian history.

CH 302 Reformation and Modern Christianity

An examination of major developments in Christianity from the time of the Reformation to the present. The class explores how and why the church evolved as it did with a focus on personalities whose ideas and actions molded Christian piety and belief.

CH 304 Protestant Reformers

the course examines the lives of leading 16th century Protestant Reformers in the Luther, Reformed (Calvinist), Anglican and Anabaptist traditions with special attention to their contributions to issues facing Christians today in the areas of spirituality, theology and the intersection of church and society.

CH 360 History of African American Religious Experience in America

A historical survey of the African American religious experience and church in America from the African Diaspora to present.

CH 366 World Christianity

This course is a survey of the history of world Christianity since the 19th century and includes some background on the earlier missionary expansion of the Church but its emphasis is on the transition of Christianity from a western to a world religion in the last two centuries. Most of the course treats the modern history of Christianity outside of Europe and North America.

CH 402 Baptist History

An overview of Baptist history, with particular attention to characteristic Baptist emphases and their implications for Baptist spirituality today.

CH 405 Historical Issues of the Christian Faith

This course reviews the background of issues occurring in Christian history and emphasizes how such issues shed light on contemporary problems. The focus will be on the experience of the church in North America through interdisciplinary study of Christian history and contemporary missional ecclesiology combined with student reflection on the life and mission of the church in their own contexts.

CH 407 History of American Religion

This course introduces the panorama of people, movements, issues, groups, events and institutional developments which have characterized religious experience in the United States from the colonial period to the present.

CH 409 Classics of Christian Devotion

This course will explore a representative sample of Christian devotional literature from the early church to the present in order to ascertain the depth and variety of Christian spirituality in the church's history.

CH 428 History of Evangelicalism

This class will explore the origins, development, and spread of the Protestant movement known as evangelicalism, broadly construed. It will examine the ideas and people who have shaped

different expressions of evangelical Christianity, the twentieth-century explosion of evangelical forms of Christianity beyond the West, and the styles and ethos of evangelical religion.

CHPC 436 History and Identity in Ministry

This seminar will introduce students to the perspectives of the Church on the nature and practice of the Christian ministry, what it means to be a minister/do ministry and the environmental as well as theological factors in the shifts (and non-shifts) in the development of Christian ministry.

CT 303 Building Multicultural Communities

The pluralistic cultural context of religious institutions mandates the understanding of and appreciation for cultural diversity. This course will promote cultural sensitivity through exposure to a variety of cultural traditions and stories. Story-telling and story-listening will be emphasized. A reflection-action approach will be taken to examine theological and philosophical presuppositions, as well as social science principles and theories that inform heterogeneous community development.

CT 304 Christ and Culture: Theology and the Movies

This course will be a theological review of popular films. We will gaze through an Augustinian lens at movies' depiction of the relationship between human desire and goodness, beauty and truth. Writing assignments will consist of movie reviews, responses to classical Christian attempts to discern God's providential work in the "world," and engagement with recent literature on finding God in the movies.

CT 310 Church and Society: A Cross-Cultural Approach

This course focuses on the complex and dynamic relationship between the church and the world at large. It addresses the issue of the call for the church's witness *vis-à-vis* the problems, values, structures and ideologies current in culture and society. Thus, the goal is to assist the minister-student in her/his task of developing a theological, critical assessment of specific problems in the surrounding culture in order to plan and lead the church's mission.. The participants will become acquainted with different theories about the relation between society and religion as well as with various models and principles for understanding the nature of the interaction between faith and secular thought; they will analyze some of the pressing issues for the church today, and will explore how these issues require and elicit ethical and missional decisions on the part of the community of faith.

CT 315 Ministry in Rural and Small Communities

This intensely practical course will introduce students to the basic pastoral skills needed to effectively serve churches in small and rural communities. Students will be exposed to issues affecting ministry such as low populations, large geographic areas, powerful subcultures and traditions, as well as rural poverty and ignorance. Students will interact with actual case studies and be given a notebook with specific tools and resources.

CT 330 Ministry in a Multicultural Context

What does it mean for the church of Jesus Christ to exist and make its witness in a multi-cultural context? What does racial, cultural diversity mean in the postmodern world? What are some

theological, missiological, social implications of the multi-ethnic/multi-cultural church? In response to these questions, this course is to explore the church in a multi-cultural perspective.

ED 302 The Teaching Ministry of the Church

The purpose of this course is to enrich the students' knowledge and skills in nurturing the spiritual life of personal in all age groups through the educational ministry of the church. Contemporary approaches to the teaching of all age groups will be explored. Both theory and practice will be part of the experience in this course.

ED 303 Principles and Methods of Teaching and Learning

An examination of the teaching-learning process, including theories, strategies and methods which shape quality teaching in the local church. Students will apply principles of teaching and learning to the design, implementation, and evaluation of teaching approaches.

ED 402 Educational Ministry with Children

An exploration of opportunities and age-appropriate strategies for teaching and learning with children with special attention to crucial issues and crisis points. A variety of models and resources will be examined.

ED 404 Educational Ministry with Adults

An exploration of the characteristics and development issues of young, middle, and older adults; theories and principles of adult religious education and resources for adult ministries in the local church.

ED 409 Organization/Administration of Christian Education

An exploration of models and views of comprehensive educational ministry. The focus will be on selecting or designing, integrating, and maintaining the effectiveness of the various components with special attention to the context and character of the congregation.

EDUR 427 Educational Ministry in an Urban Setting

Building reciprocal relationships in the context of dialog and mutuality are essential for the survival of most urban ministries. This course examines strategies for developing relationships of mutual respect and understanding across cultural and economic barriers. The dialogical educational context is critical for urban ministry partnerships, leadership development and raising consciousness.

GE 100 Seminary Success Seminar

This non-credit five week seminar is designed to help students who are re-entering academic life refresh their writing and study skills. It is also designed to help students who want to succeed in seminary and do well in their classes. Focus will be on time management, reading skills, studying skills, preparation for exams and quizzes, the proper use of the library, researching and writing term papers, the use of Turabian, and how to use the computer in the preparation of footnotes and endnotes.

IN 303 Research Methodology

This course is an introduction to research methodology, especially bibliographic tools and computer resources. Students will be guided in the development and writing of a research paper, from selection of a workable topic to the final presentation of the paper.

IN 410 Baptist Polity

This class will provide a basic overview of Baptist Polity and the ABC context for ministry. Some of the goals of the course are to understand the life and faith of Baptist polity from a historical, contemporary/practical and theological perspective; to have a basic understanding of black Baptist church polity; to become articulate regarding the inclusion of women in the ordained ministry; and to familiarize oneself with regional and national requirements and processes for licensure and ordination in one's denomination.

MA 501 Thesis

Students in the research option of the M.A. program should sign up for this course the quarter before they plan to take the oral exam and finish their program. During this quarter, the student should be finishing their thesis under faculty supervision.

MA 502 Oral Exam

Students in the research option of the M.A. program should sign up for this course the quarter before they plan to take the oral exam and finish their program. During this quarter, the student should be finishing the thesis under faculty supervision.

MA 503 Comprehensive/Oral Exam

Students in the generalist or specialist option of the M.A. program should sign up for this course the quarter before they plan to take the oral exam and finish their program.

ME 301 Theology and Practice of Evangelism

The purpose of this course is to develop critical awareness to ensure relevant communication of the Gospel in postmodern contexts. This course will identify and challenge assumptions about traditional methods of evangelism and explore alternative ways of thinking and action in ministry. This course will equip church leaders as evangelists with the ability to incarnate the Gospel through friendship evangelism and to reconcile seekers to God.

ME 302 Issues in Cross-Cultural Evangelism

This course will focus on the relationship of evangelism and poverty. The poor are with us always. How do we minister to the poor among us? The Great Commission mandates that we make disciples of all people regardless of social class. The church must get involved and not assume that the poor must be rugged individuals and pull themselves up by the bootstraps. This course will explore how to do evangelistic ministry in the context of poverty.

ME 305 Introduction to World Religions

An introductory survey of the major living religious traditions, with attention to contemporary religious pluralism and secularization. The course will include lectures, discussion, videos, and selected student presentations.

ME 388 Missiology in Church and Culture

This course applies an understanding of culture gained from the findings of cultural anthropology to the study of the global mission of the church, and examines how culture influences the perception of reality, spirituality, theology and forms of ministry. It explores the dynamic relationship between context, culture, Bible, theology and the church's life and mission. The challenge of becoming a community of the "New Creation" in Christ will be pursued as this vision becomes a reality in each situation.

ME 393 Global Anglicanism

This course will survey the history and theology of member churches of the Anglican Communion of the non-Western world, primarily in Africa, Asia and Latin America and among "First Nations" people in North America, Australia and New Zealand. Some attention will be paid to the mission efforts of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The phenomenon of "Anglican" churches in two-thirds world which are not in communion with Canterbury will also be addressed.

ME 401 Contemporary Issues in Missions

This course will focus on trends, problems and opportunities facing the worldwide mission of Jesus Christ in the third millennium of the church's existence. Students will be encouraged to struggle with one or more of the following issues: urbanization, unreached peoples, justice, the internationalization of mission and partnership.

ME 402 Introduction to World Mission

This course is a basic introduction to the mission of the church in fulfillment of the imperatives given by the risen Lord Jesus Christ. We will examine how these commands were understood, how the church spread from the day of Pentecost, and how contemporary missiological thinking regards the evangelistic task.

ME 403 Mission in Light of Global Christianity

Participants will wrestle with the implications of the "shift in the center of gravity in the global Church" to the southern hemisphere. Students will re-examine the mission of the church in fulfillment of the imperatives given by the risen Lord Jesus. We will examine how these commands were understood, how the church spread from the day of Pentecost, and how contemporary Western missiological thinking regards the evangelistic task in light of new global realities.

ME 406 Global Mission Today

This course approaches the subject of global mission from three angles: Biblical foundations, current information and current issues in the theory and practice of mission. Special attention will be given to the work of American Baptist Churches/USA, and its partners around the world.

ME 407 Islam and the Christian Mission

An introductory course which will expose students to the history and worldview of Islam in its various global expressions, analyze its central claims in light of the gospel, and explore effective

means of Christian witness among Muslims as well as of training American Christian congregations in greater Muslim awareness and missions support.

ME 408 Biblical Theology of Missions

An examination of God's purpose and activity in the world and the way in which God's redeemed people are to be involved in the mission of extending the knowledge of God and the salvation provided through the work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

ME 409 Discipling and Mentoring

The purpose of this class is to develop a biblically grounded plan which features making reproducing disciples as the central mission of the church. We will reflect theologically on the meaning of disciple, discipleship and discipling; examine Jesus and Paul's approach to making disciples; and then explore the personal and corporate strategies for how disciples can be made in the local church.

ME 410 Global Missions in Chicago

This course is designed to introduce the global mission of God in world-class cities like Chicago. Urban missiological issues will be examined from theological, historical, anthropological, sociological, and congregational perspectives with a view to the development of an experiential awareness of the cultural pluralism in large cities. There is an expectation that participants will acquire resources for responsible global missions among culturally diverse groups living in urban areas.

ME 420 Church Planting and Revitalization

The purpose of this course is to study theoretical foundations and strategically designed practical steps for church planting and church revitalization. In doing so, two ministry models, one for church planting and the other for church revitalization, are employed.

MN 330 Christian Leadership

This course will address the role of pastoral leadership in a Christian context. Leadership is defined as the discipline/ability to coach, influence, inspire, and persuade others to move an organization from vision to reality. The purpose of the course is to prepare seminarians to effectively lead in diverse Christian settings by exposing them to various types/styles of pastoral leadership in different contexts of ministry.

MN 335 Church Administration

Administration is the bringing together of people, programs, and procedures in such a way as to produce effective working relationships that lead to the realization of organizational goals. This course will analyze and evaluate several aspects of the administrative process while encouraging each student to utilize the best principles and procedures in their role as pastor.

MN 338 Missional Church Leadership

The purpose of this course is to introduce learners to the readings, influences, materials, methods, and organizations encompassing the changing styles of leadership related to leading the

church into becoming missional in the 21st century. This course will challenge assumptions about present forms of church, mission and leadership and explore alternative models for leading the church.

MN 345 Leadership and Communication

This course will deconstruct leadership as hegemony, one-way communication and program orientation. It will explore paradigms of leadership that emphasize communication effectiveness as the basis for evangelizing unchurched audiences.

MN 360 Cross-Cultural Communication

The purpose of this course is to understand the correlation between culture and communication and to experience the dynamics of cross-cultural communication.

MN 382 Principles of Preaching

This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to preaching. It is based on Michael Quicke's text, *360 Degrees of Preaching*. Students will explore the preacher as a person, engaging the text, interpreting the text, designing a sermon, imagistic language, eventful gestures, the role of celebration and basic sermon models.

MN 383 Practice of Preaching

This course intends to provide a supervised "lab" experience in both the practice and evaluation of preaching. It builds on the "Practice of Preaching" course (MN 382), but places more emphasis on biblical interpretation and delivery of the sermon.

Prerequisite: Introductory course in preaching

MN 433 Church in Postmodern Context

This course will examine the theological and practical issues that confront the pastor/church planter in the postmodern - post Christian culture. Postmodern understandings are crucial to the future ministry of the church in North America. This course will define ways of thought and living called postmodern and will develop a postmodern ecclesiology that engages scripture, practical concerns as well as the challenges posed by postmodernity and post Christian culture.

MN 440 Equipping God's People For Ministry

This course will use a practical interactive approach to implement the biblical and theological principles for equipping God's people to discover and deploy their spiritual gifts through the ministries of local churches.

MN 441 Leadership for Congregational Transformation

This course focuses on the role of leaders in the dynamic process of intentional congregational change. Special attention is given to biblical models of leadership, understanding the process of change in volunteer organizations, conflict management, tools for analysis and evaluation of congregations, contemporary models of congregational life and ministry, and the integration of spiritual, theological and organizational dynamics in congregational transformation.

MN 480 Preaching in the African American Religious Experience

This course will provide an overview of the rise, development and uniqueness of Narrative Preaching in the African American Religious Experience and give students the opportunity to preach a sermon reflective of the narrative tradition. While the narrative genre is the course's primary focus, other sermon genres in African American preaching will be given brief consideration.

MN 481 Eventful Preaching from the Heart

The goal of preaching is to transform lives. Transformation is most likely to occur when the sermon is eventful and from the heart. This type of preaching is in contrast to the didactic or "right handed" style that is aimed at the head. The course offers an introduction to "left handed" preaching that is experiential and engages the whole person. Through biblical storytelling, the student will first be given the tools of dialoguing with scripture so that he or she can offer a message from the heart. The student will then explore ways that a sermon can become eventful through the use of images, gestures, suspense and storytelling.

MN 483 Preaching to Renew the Church

This course is designed to examine the ways by which preaching can renew the Church. Special attention will be given to an analysis of contemporary culture, relevant biblical texts that pertain to the renewal of the Church and the design of appropriate sermon models that are biblically grounded and culturally relevant.

MN 484 African American Church Ministry: Challenges and Issues

This course is designed to examine some of the major challenges to, and issues facing, the African American Church in general and the clergy person, specifically.

MN 486 Women in African American Ministry

This course will explore biblical, theological, historical and contemporary issues related to African American women in ministry.

MN 492 Models of Effective Preaching

The student will be introduced to a variety of models of preaching that have proved to be effective. These will include: biblical storytelling, first person expository narrative, genre sensitive, African American, pastoral and mission models.

MN 520 Women in Pastoral Ministry

This class will explore the current state of women in pastoral ministries. The foundation of women's equal participation in pastoral ministries is solidly founded on God's Word. The biblical mandate of women's full participation in leadership calls for examination of the church's history and current practice in freeing women to serve in the Church and beyond. This issue will be funneled through historical, cultural, and psychological grids. Students will be encouraged to shape, analyze, and articulate their understanding of their current place and future dreams in ministry.

MN 540 Practice of Pastoral Ministry

This course will focus on the call, nature, and primary components of pastoral ministry. Through lectures, readings and discussion students will examine habits, skills, and responsibilities associated with effective pastoral leadership.

MNWS 410 Taking Scripture to Body and Soul: Enacting the Bible in the Community of Faith

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to uses of scripture for worship and for wider Christian experience of scripture. A central focus is the unity of *form and content* in scripture and how we can recreate that unity in contemporary contexts. The course is useful for preaching but it is not a course in preaching and does not involve preaching in a conventional sense.

NT 301 Matthew, Mark, Luke

This course provides a basic introduction to Matthew, Mark and Luke (the “Synoptic Gospel”) and acquaints students with an overview of the teaching and mission of Jesus in these gospels.

NT 302 Paul and His Letters

This course aims to acquaint students with the mission, letters and theology of Paul. The focus is on exegesis and theology in the service of building up one’s own biblical-theological basis for preaching, teaching and other practices of ministry.

NT 336 The Revelation of John

This course is an examination of the Revelation of John with respect to its socio-historical occasion, literary structure, genre and theology. Attention will be given to the definition and nature of apocalyptic, literature and movements.

NT 404 The Gospel of John

This course will explore John’s presentation of the life and teaching of Jesus in light of its historical and theological background and practical implications for the church today.

Prerequisite: NT 301

NT 407 I Corinthians

This course focuses on the text in its original socio-historical context. Attention will be given to the specific moral, spiritual and theological questions that Paul takes up in the letter, treated from the standpoint of the ancient Mediterranean world as the cultural context of Paul and the Corinthian churches. It will also include exposure to the ways in which the ancient post-Pauline Christian communities interpreted the letter and the significance of I Corinthians for the practice of the Christian faith today. Knowledge of Greek is not required.

NT 409 Galatians

The primary purpose of this course is to read this challenging work carefully and discerningly. In the process we will seek to sharpen exegetical skills and deepen understanding. Some of the pertinent scholarly literature will be surveyed. We will reflect on matters of theological concern that arise from our discussion of the text, including such issues as the righteousness of God, the fate of Israel, the significance of Christ’s death and the community’s participation in its effects,

the role of the Mosaic Law, apocalyptic eschatology, the Spirit-led Christian life, the implications of Paul's reasoning for women and ecumenical discussion.

NT 410 The Gospel of Luke

This is an exegetical study of the Gospel of Luke. The course examines Luke in its original socio-historical context with special attention to comparisons between ancient Mediterranean worldviews and modern/postmodern worldviews.

Prerequisite: NT 301

NT 411 Romans

This study of Romans focuses on the text in its original socio-historical context. Attention is given to the specific moral, spiritual and theological questions Paul takes up in the letter, treated from the standpoint of the ancient Mediterranean world as the cultural context of Paul and the Roman congregation(s). The significance of Romans for the practice of Christian faith today will be part of the class discussions.

Prerequisite: NT 302

NT 419 Acts

This class will introduce the student to the Hellenistic world of the early church, the context of the early Jerusalem church, the various settings encountered by Paul, the unique organizing principles evident in the Book of Acts, and the theological issues which are dealt with in each section of the book.

NT 456 Parables of Jesus

An intensive study of the parables, their original settings, their use in the early church, the history of their interpretation and their modern application.

NT 460 Worship in the Early Church

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the theology and practice of ancient Christian worship, focusing on the New Testament but with some consideration of other early Christian writings as well as archeological and other information. The course covers the period from the earliest beginnings through roughly the middle of the second century. Some attention is also given to the significance of early Christian worship for contemporary debates about blended worship.

OT 301 The Pentateuch

An introduction to the Old Testament, to the methods, work and results of biblical archaeology and to the discipline of biblical criticism. Students will be introduced to the content of the Pentateuch and to the many historical, political, religious and social events that shaped the history of the patriarchs and that molded later Israelite society.

OT 302 The Former Prophets

This course introduces the methods and results of biblical criticism and how they affect biblical studies. It will also survey the history of Israel from the time of the nation's entrance into Canaan until the restoration of the nation after the Babylonian exile. Focus will be on the

historical, political, religious and social events that shaped Israelite society and provided the impetus for the preaching of the prophets.

OT 303 Wisdom Literature

This course will examine Israelite Wisdom literature setting it in its ancient Near Eastern context of Egypt and Mesopotamia. Students will read the books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom of Solomon and Ben Sira and analyze the way in which each writing defines Wisdom in its particular social setting.

OT 304 The Major Prophets

An introduction to the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. It will emphasize the historical, political, social and religious situations that are an integral part of the message of the Major Prophets.

OT 305 The Minor Prophets

An introduction to the books of the twelve Minor Prophets. The course will focus on the historical, political, religious and social events that shaped the ministry of the Minor Prophet and provided the impetus for their preaching.

OT 417 The Book of Daniel

An introduction to the theological background of the Book of Daniel. Special attention will be given to the apocalyptic movement and to the political, social and religious background that gave rise to the apocalyptic literature in Israel.

OT 419 Psalms

The focus of the course will be on the interpretation of the book of Psalms and its theology. Students will analyze the genres, the historical and social backgrounds of the Psalms, and how these Psalms functioned in the ancient Israelite religion and its liturgical settings.

Prerequisite: OT 301 or OT 302

OT 423 Isaiah

To understand the book of Isaiah as a whole, students will learn the basics of canonical and redaction criticism as well as gain knowledge of contemporary scholarship which deals with the hypothetical reconstruction of the original text. Emphasis on themes running throughout the book and research into how these themes develop over the course of the book in its present form will enable the student to preach and teach Isaiah with confidence.

OT 424 Jeremiah

An introduction to the Book of Jeremiah. This course will emphasize the historical, political, social and religious issues that are an integral part of the message of Jeremiah, and will provide guidelines that will help students to teach and preach from the Book of Jeremiah.

Prerequisite: Any OT 300 level course.

OT 428 Hosea

This course will: 1) help students gain an understanding of the content and message of the Book of Hosea; 2) provide students with guidelines for the interpretation of the biblical material in its literary, historical, and theological contexts; 3) help students preach and teach from the book of Hosea to meet the needs of today's society.

OT 450 Women in the Old Testament

This course will help students to discover the important contribution of biblical women to the life, culture, religion and history of Israel. This course also will provide students with guidelines for the interpretation of the biblical material in its theological, cultural, social, and historical context, and will help students develop an appreciation for the Old Testament as an integral part of the Christian Scripture.

Prerequisite: OT 301 or OT 302.

OT 451 Faith in Israel

This course will introduce students to the faith of ancient Israel and to the discovery of what the Biblical text has to say about God and the word, Israel and the nations, and about the human predicament.

Prerequisite: OT 301 or OT 302

OT 453 Studies in the Book of Micah

An introduction to the historical and theological introduction to the Book of Micah. Special attention will be given to the prophetic movement in Israel, as well as the social and religious situation in Judah in the eighth century B.C.

OT 458 Old Testament Theology

A study of the ideas of various sections of the Old Testament as expressions of Israelite religion. Major trends in Old Testament studies are consulted and weighed.

Prerequisite: OT 301 or OT 302.

OT 462 Preaching from the Old Testament

An exploration of the basic knowledge and skills necessary for interpreting the Old Testament in its literary, historical and theological context as preparation for preaching. Students will prepare and preach sermons based on different types of literature.

Prerequisite: One Old Testament 300 level course.

PC 301 Introduction to Pastoral Care

This introductory course is intended to help the student think theologically about the meaning and practice of pastoral care, develop her or his own understanding of the meaning and place of pastoral care in her or his ministry, develop an understanding of personal and interpersonal issues calling for pastoral care, and develop skills in the practice of pastoral care.

PC 302 Introduction to Pastoral Counseling

This introductory course is intended to help the student think theologically about the meaning and practice of pastoral counseling, develop her or his own understanding of the meaning and

place of pastoral counseling in her or his ministry, develop an understanding of salient and typical issues in pastoral counseling, and develop skills in the practice of pastoral counseling.

PC 311 Conflict Mediation

This course is designed to equip participants with conflict mediation skills, which when used, will help them effectively work with congregations in various conflicted situations. It will give participants a theoretical framework and practical skills and experiences to support them in skillfully managing a mediation process.

PC 401 Pastoral Theology

An exploration of the integration of theology with the practice of pastoral care through the use of case studies by class participants.

PC 402 Pastoral Care and Aging

This course is a study of the experience and dynamics of aging as understood within the life cycle and the development of skills in the pastoral care of aging persons. While the emphasis is on older adults, aging is seen as a lifetime process and as an issue for all persons. Cross-cultural issues are considered.

PC 404 Pastoral Care of Women

A theologically based, practice-centered introduction to issues involved in pastoral care of women. This course is designed to help women *and men* deal with those factors that will impede effective pastoral care of women.

PC 407 Pastoral Care in a Pluralistic World

An exploration of diversity within society as a factor in the care of people. The limits of one's own experience as a base for offering pastoral care will be considered.

PC 410 Developing Sermons for Pastoral Care Needs

This course aims to help students develop sermons to meet pastoral care needs. It builds upon participants' understanding and experience of pastoral care and focuses on particular challenges of preaching pastorally. This course should integrate pastoral concerns into the task of communicating biblical truth.

PC 418 Pastoral Care During Life Transitions

In ministry we guide and walk with people through many life transitions – aging, divorce, the birth of a child, relocation, to name only a few. We also lead congregations as they go through times of change, whether imposed or by choice. This course addresses the dynamics of shepherding people through times of transition and leading people into transitions. The course focuses on skills needed in caring for persons in transition.

PC 419 Pastoral Care in Times of Crises

People within the church and those outside of the church turn to pastors for help in facing crises. This course will explore the range of crises ministers face, will enable the identification of theological resources for supporting ministry in times of crisis and will develop skills in

responding to crisis. Crises considered will include church crises and community crises as well as individual crises.

PC 428 Pastoral Care in an Urban Setting

This course is designed to explore and examine Pastoral Care issues impacting people living in an urban setting. The student is expected to discover their theory of pastoral care. We will identify some issues and create a Pastoral Care plan to provide care for the People of God and their family members living in an Urban Setting.

PC 430 Premarital and Marital Counseling

This course emphasizes skill training in the assessment and treatment of couples. Issues considered are: use of tools to assess differences in couples personality, communication skills, identifying and treating abusive behavior, dealing with betrayal, resolving conflict, and the use of pornography and its effect on the marriage relationship. This will be accomplished through class lectures, readings, and training in the use of the Taylor Johnson Temperament Test. The books and tapes required for this course will be the tools, needed in your own ministry to do premarital and marital counseling.

PC 488 Victims Care: Issues for Clergy

This course is intended to help the student think about the meaning and practice of pastoral care with victims of crimes and other traumata, develop her or his own understanding of the meaning and place of pastoral care to the traumatized, and develop skills in the practice of pastoral care.

SM 301 Formation for Christian Ministry

A course for first-year ministry students intended to deal with issues of call to ministry, personal strengths and weaknesses, and spiritual disciplines needed for effective ministry.

SM 401/402 Internship

Supervised Ministry is designed to integrate the practice of ministry with educational studies. It assists students in gaining competence in self-assessment and in critical reflection on the process of ministry. Each student will have the opportunity to discover his/her strengths and weaknesses in the practice of Christian ministry; to learn through the actual practice in a ministry setting; and to assess progress in professional development through periodic evaluation and critical reflection on the process of ministry. *(3 hours credit for SM 401 and 3 hours credit for SM 402)*

SM 501 Integrative Seminar

A seminar based on the case-study method in which students demonstrate how they can draw on biblical, theological, historical, and ethical resources to deal with real-life ministry issues.

SM 502 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE) accredits pastoral education programs in hospitals and other training centers across the country. The focus is on students' relationships with colleagues, with other professionals and with troubled persons, as students minister primarily in the hospital context. An interview with the institution for admission to the program is usually required in the fall for acceptance to their program the following summer. A

full-time basic unit requires an intensive experience of at least 10 weeks of involvement (40 hours per week). *6 hours.*

Prerequisite: PC 301 or PC 302 and completion of at least 30 hours of seminary coursework.

SM 503 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) - Extended Unit, Part 1

The course description for CPE Extended Unit Part 1 is the same as for SM 502 above. The difference is that in an Extended CPE Program the student is able to complete the CPE requirement on a part time basis during three academic quarters of study: Fall, Winter and Spring. Students should apply and interview with the institution during the Winter prior to beginning the following Fall. Students register for SM 503 for Fall Quarter. *3 hours*

Prerequisite: PC 301 or PC 302 and completion of at least 30 hours of seminary coursework.

SM 504 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) - Extended Unit, Part 2

The course description for CPE Extended Unit Part 2 is the same as for SM 502 and SM 503 above. Students register for SM 504 for Winter Quarter. *3 hours*

Prerequisite: SM 503

SM 514 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Equivalency

CPE Equivalency enables the full-time working student to complete a professionally supervised ministry experience which involves participation in one of two options: Family Centered Hospice or DuPage County Convalescent Center. Students will complete 160 hours of ministry over a 10 week period.

This course is not accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Students intending on serving in professional chaplaincy positions upon graduation from seminary should enroll in SM 502 or SM 503 and SM 504.

Students seeking ordination should contact their denomination to ascertain whether or not the CPE Equivalency will fulfill ordination requirements.

Prerequisite: PC 301 or PC 302 and completion of at least 30 hours of seminary coursework.

TE 301 Introduction to Christian Ethics

This course introduces students to Christian ethics as a practical discipline. The focus is on the sources and process of moral decision.

TE 410 Seminar in Ethics

An examination of an issue of ethical controversy in the church, exploring the reasons (biblical, historical, theological, etc.). Christians take different positions on the issue.

TE 415 Pastoral Ethics: Ministering with Integrity in the Contemporary Context

This course will focus special attention on the moral dilemmas the pastor will face in ministry. In addition, special attention will be devoted to working out the “kind of person” each pastor must become in order to walk the life of ministry in the 21st century. Spiritual disciplines will be explored as the means to develop a pattern for ministerial life.

TE 417 Sexual Ethics and the Family

This course covers the fundamental moral issues concerning the Christian ordering of human sexuality in marriage and the family. Sexuality raises questions about our theological understandings of intimacy, love, God and creation. It also raises practical questions about the nature of moral discernment, personal character and “how do we marry?” Finally, it raises questions about brokenness, sin, grace, reconciliation and the church as redeeming community. This course will provide a foundation for addressing these issues in the Christian life. Through this course the student will critically interact with multiple theological points of view from a standpoint that attempts to be faithful to Evangelical commitments and the historical orthodoxy of the church.

TE 426 Medical Ethics and the Pastor

This course will cover the fundamental moral issues facing every Christian as he or she encounters modern medicine and many of the issues the pastor must face as he/she leads her congregation amidst the new worlds of modern medicine. Both issues traditionally labeled bioethics such as abortion, cloning, stem cell research, euthanasia as well as moral issues concerning doctor-patient relationships, allocation of scarce medical resources and the justice of medical care distribution and institutions will be covered.

TH 301 Christian Theology I

This course is the first in a two-course sequence in basic theology which includes an introduction to systematic theology from a cross-cultural perspective. Its purpose is to introduce the major doctrines in Christian reflection and theological construction with particular attention to how these doctrines are construed and constructed across cultures. The exploration of these doctrines will involve a study of the correlation of one’s own faith convictions, the biblical foundations of theology, the sociocultural contexts of faith and practice, and the life and mission of the Christian community.

TH 302 Christian Theology II

An introduction to theological construction, engagement with the historical and traditional sources of theology and the practice of ministry.

Prerequisite: TH 301

TH 406 Christianity and Pluralism

An examination of the theological problem of modern pluralism as confronted by the Church in American culture. The course will attempt to address both the doctrinal and practical theological questions that pluralism presents to a pastor and her/his church.

TH 409 Reconciliation and Racism: The Way of Faith

This course examines the origins and development of race and racism in our contemporary situation, analyzing both the objective and subjective dimensions of a context in which race matters and racism constitutes a worldview. In addition, the course examines and engages the resources of Christian faith and the biblical teaching in reconciliation in order to lead more intentionally in the struggle to overcome racism in church and society.

TH 410 Contemporary Theology

A study of some leading Christian thinkers who have shaped the modern theological scene, beginning in the nineteenth century. The contribution of evangelical theology also will be addressed. The development and devolution of traditional theological loci are considered in relation to modern critical influences, the socio-cultural shifts brought by World and Cold Wars, the increasingly common distinctions known as ‘modern’ and ‘postmodern.’ Attention will be given to the interaction of scripture, hermeneutics, theological method, and the influences of gender, race and cultures.

TH 420 Theology in Context

This course will explore critically the constructive relationship between theological reflection and articulation, and the sociocultural contexts in which such reflection and articulation take place. The fundamental questions guiding this exploration are: What is the relationship between a theology and its context, and in what ways are theology and context mutually influenced and determined?

TH 421 The Minister as Theologian

This course examines the ways in which the minister engages in theologizing in the context of ministry, and the ways in which ministry supports and gives expression to theology. Attention is given to matters related to the convergence of theological method and ministry practice.

TH 427 The Cultural Captivity of the Church

This course explores the intersections where “church” and “culture” meet, interact, and influence each other. With the use of printed and electronic texts for reading and plenty of conversation, we will examine and assess the variety of ways in which ecclesial identity and mission have been and are expressed in the milieu of transition from modernity to postmodernity.

TH 431 Discerning the Triune God

In this course we will look into the historic roots, trunk and branches of the doctrine of the Trinity. By investigating the biblical bases that disclose the discernment and experience of God, attending to the diversity of opinion among leaders of the ancient church, and inquiring into the pastoral and discipleship implications, we will assess contemporary views of the trinity and contribute to the ongoing recovery of Trinitarian theology.

TH 433 Contemporary Perspectives in Black Theology

An analysis of explicit theological concepts in the writings of several contemporary African American (Black) theologians, among them Cone, Roberts, Jones and Williams.

TH 434 Readings in Postmodern Philosophy/Theology

This course surveys several major thinkers in Postmodern Continental Philosophy as well as an assortment of theological responses to postmodernity. The course aims to introduce the student to first hand encounters with the thinkers that are shaping the theological mind of today in response to postmodernity. The student should come away with a basic understanding of the formative philosophical issues facing current Western theologians and church practitioners as

well as being prepared for further reading and engagement with philosophical writings that are setting the course for so much of the post-Christendom West.

Prerequisites: TH 301, TH 302, Ethics

TH 436 Perspectives in Womanist Theology

This course will introduce students to the emerging academic writings of Womanist theologians and several of the dominant themes: God, Jesus Christ, Salvation, Sanctification and Suffering. It will acquaint students with women's relationships in the Bible and in the church/community.

TH 445 Theological Identity in Baptist Life

Through the study of Baptist history and major Baptist confessions of faith, students will explore the convictions and characteristic forms in which Baptists have expressed their social-cultural, theological and ecclesial identity. Matters related to the contemporary expressions of Baptist identity also will be considered.

TH 450 Seminar on African American Theology: Historical Perspective

A study to develop/construct historical perspectives of several major writers and/or genre in African American theology that are relevant to scholars, preachers in the pulpit and the lay person in the pew. Major themes include God, Jesus Christ, Holy spirit, sin suffering and eschatology. Others may include the nature of conversion, the meaning of freedom, the nature of humankind, church and religion.

TH 470 Revelation, Scripture and Ministry

An assessment of a variety of views of Revelation from the standpoint of their historical and theological origins and their influence on subsequent theological formulation. Attention will be given to the formulation of doctrinal statements and the epistemological claims being made.

TH 471 Jesus in History and Faith

This course examines the meaning, significance and theological understanding of Jesus as he is portrayed in the scriptures, as he is interpreted in different contemporary contexts, and as he is handed on to us in the Great Tradition.

UR 301 Urban Ministry of the Church

This course will explore complex systems of urbanization and dynamics of holistic ministry in urban contexts with a special emphasis on justice to the oppressed. The class will visit urban ministries in the Chicago area to observe and interview practitioners in action.

UR 302 Urban Field Experience: Chicago

This course is designed to acquaint participants with the socio-cultural dynamics that affect the quality of life, inform theology, and challenge the manner in which ministry is conducted in our urban world. The course helps the student explore contemporary models of urban mission in the extraordinarily diverse context of Chicago. Much of the city is the course lab including visits, observations and interviews throughout the greater Chicago area.

UR 405 Toward a Theology of Urban Ministry

This course will read and analyze recent efforts to articulate theology for urban ministry and confront basic theological issues raised by the urban context. Focus will be on the changing dynamics of the urban context and culture as it relates to building faith communities and the local church.

UR 415 Research in Urban Ministry

This course explores the ethnic and cultural diversity in the urban context from a cross-cultural perspective. Students do ethnographic research of urban cultures different from their own.

WS 301 Theology of Worship and Spirituality

This course explores the biblical, historical and doctrinal foundations of corporate Christian worship under the conviction that the best foundation for such worship is the revealed Word of God (“regulative principle”).

WS 302 History of Worship and Spirituality

This course focuses on the movements of worship and spirituality and the various paradigms of the ancient, medieval, Reformation and modern. Special attention is given to the cultural context of each paradigm and the impact of culture on the worship and spirituality of the period.

WS 303 Current Practices of Worship and Spirituality

This course seeks to explore the intrinsic, yet often hidden, connections between the actions of our worship and the depth of our spiritual lives in Christ. Students will be invited to explore the vital connections of Christian spirituality to the rhythms of worship in baptism and communion, the marking of time, and the relationship between Sabbath and vocation in the world.

WS 321 Worship Practicum I; WS 322 Worship Practicum II; WS 323 Worship Practicum III

Students will gain practical experience designing and participating in worship services which reflect and incorporate the understanding of worship that is embraced and exposed at Northern Seminary as well as the diversity of the Northern community. Experience will be gained in planning worship as a team and will be a core group participating in Northern’s weekly chapel services. *1 hour for each course.* Note: Courses do not need to be taken in any particular order.

WS 405 Leading and Designing Worship

This course prepares students to design and lead worship services in a variety of contexts. Building on a foundation of establishing a philosophical framework in which to design and implement worship, specific elements and design forms or structures will be presented, experienced, analyzed and evaluated against the philosophical framework.

WS 408 Worship and Culture

This course examines the relationship of the worship ministry of the church to issues of culture. Building on biblical, historical and contemporary analysis of that relationship, the course will look at implications for worship of the surrounding contemporary culture, indigenous culture of the church and broader cross- or multicultural perspectives.

WS 415 Multicultural Worship

This course introduces students to the issues of cross-cultural encounter in worship. Our focus will be to discover how culture informs our modes of worship. Topics will include: cultural identity, prayer, preaching, music, language, and non-verbal communication with special emphasis on the possibility of racial reconciliation through worship. We will examine barriers that separate various groups from each other within the family of God.

WS 433 Worship in Baptist Traditions

This course will introduce students to the breadth of Baptist worship traditions through the study of the early to contemporary Baptist church.

WS 450 Worship Spirituality

This course seeks to explore the intrinsic, yet often hidden, connections between the actions of our worship and the depth of our spiritual lives in Christ. Students will be invited to explore the vital connections of Christian spirituality to baptism and communion, keeping the Sabbath and observing the church year.

WS 452 The Spiritual Journey

One of the greatest challenges to Christian maturity is learning how to cooperate with the Lord in His desire to be formed in us. This course will focus on underlying foundations that open the door to a lifelong journey of Christian growth and maturity.

WS 453 Postmodern Spiritual Formation

This course will focus on the Worship, Evangelism, and Nurture Mission of the Church, including a process to evangelize the disciple, spiritually form and incorporate new Christians in a post modern world.

WS 454 Sin and Salvation in *Narnia*

There is no true resolution of church conflict without a diagnosis of the real problem. This course will explore the sins of the heart—pride, greed, envy, and the like—and their underlying contribution to the difficulties of life in Christian community. These core sins will be explored as an invitation for the formation of Christian character offered the believer, even, and perhaps, especially in the midst of difficult church situations.

WS 458 Prayer in Life and Ministry

The purpose of this course is to expand and deepen the student's life of prayer, both personally and in the context of ministry. The emphasis in this course will be given to the nature of prayer as it is grounded in fervent evangelical Protestant faith. Class lectures and discussion will be Biblically based and practically focused, with the dual intent of inviting the student to enter more deeply into his/her own prayer life and enabling the student to assist others in their encounters with God.

WS 480 Creative Arts in Worship

This course will expose students to a variety of creative arts with discussion on how each can be used in church worship as a door to encounter the living God. The course is unique in that there

will be a different instructor each class teaching in their artistic expertise. The artistic areas covered are: theology of the arts, spiritual formation in the arts ad artist, storytelling, visual arts, dance/movement, space and the Christian year, creative arts in the African-American tradition.

WS 488 Spiritual Disciplines

This course will examine biblically and historically the spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, contemplation, the ascetic disciplines (fasting, poverty and celibacy), love etc. Participants will also become acquainted with devotional literature upon which they will reflect in group discussions.

YM 301 Theology/Philosophy of Youth Ministry

This course will explore the theological foundations and philosophical principles of ministry to adolescents with assessment of personal gifts and personality in light of these foundations and principles. The course will include both a historical component and the development of an integrated philosophy leading to effective practice in authentic youth ministry settings.

YM 302 Adolescent Development

This course is designed to take a critical and practical look at the research and theory on the development of adolescents. As such, this course attempts to accomplish the following goals: to provide an overview of development during adolescence, and to apply the information on adolescent development to the practice of youth ministry.

YM 303 Adolescent Culture

This course will focus on the spiritual, psychological, and social problems confronting American youth from historical, current and future cultural contexts and the behavioral, emotional and relational issues faced by millennial adolescents.

YM 410 Teaching Strategies in Youth Ministry

This course will discuss the mental and emotional development of adolescents and the principles and skills needed in order to effectively teach them. Students will outline a teaching strategy and will prepare several lesson plans that they can use in youth ministry.

YM 411 Counseling Adolescents

This course will introduce students to the basic philosophy and practice of counseling adolescents from biblical perspectives. It will approach the subject in a “first response” manner which will be particularly helpful to pastors, ministers with youth, and leaders of para-church organizations. Students will be exposed to issues which grow out of the developmental process; disorders which begin with or are unique to adolescence, and prevention, intervention and referral strategies..

YM 412 Leadership in Youth Ministry

This course will explore strategies and principles of leadership, including self-assessment and strategy-development to foster lay leadership. The course will be designed to follow a problem based learning style. This means that the students will be given a problem that must be solved before the completion of the course. This is a hands-on, learner involved approach where every

student controls and directs the process. The instructor becomes the course facilitator. Not only do students learn about leadership, it is modeled and experienced.

YM 413 Multicultural Youth Ministry

The objective of this course is to present challenges and opportunities of working with and to adolescents in multicultural settings. Students will explore attitudes toward adolescence from various cultural perspectives. Students will be challenged to consider their individual roles in the global community as they strategize, plan, implement and/or execute cross-cultural ministries, with or to adolescents. Emphasis will be placed on the historical, theological and cultural development of Christian mission as it relates specifically to adolescents.

YM 414 The Spiritual Formation of Youth

This course will help students understand postmodern adolescents and explore various ways that these adolescents develop spiritually. Students enrolled in this course will wrestle with today's youth culture and develop a plan to help them grow in their relationship with God.

YM 415 Reaching At Risk Youth

This course will discuss the characteristics of "at risk" adolescents and the principles, skills and strategies needed to effectively teach them. Students will interview a ministry leader of a ministry to at risk youth and three at risk young people, and outline a ministry strategy and an evangelism strategy.

YM 418 Sub-Culture Youth Ministry

This course will provide students with a personal experience of Christian youth subcultures in order to understand subculture origins, history, focus, audience, and theological underpinnings, with the intent to acquire skills for the local church to develop authentic relationships and ministry to subculture youth.