



Course Catalog

MASTER'S LEVEL COURSES

ASSESSMENT SEMINARS

ASR 401 Mid-Degree Seminar (1)

The Mid-Degree Seminar is designed to help students reflect on their progress in formation for ministry, especially their ability to integrate theory and practice. In the Mid-Degree Seminar, students review their completed ministry studies and begin to articulate their own theological convictions in preparation for professional processes, such as ordination interviews. (Prerequisite: THL 301, MIN 301)

ASR 412 MACM Summative Seminar (2)

The MACM Summative Seminar is an intensive engagement with theology and ministry related to the area of specialization, usually taken in the final semester of coursework. The course is designed to draw on all aspects of prior learning in development of an integrative paper that demonstrates capacity for a theologically and contextually informed practice of ministry in the area of specialization. (Prerequisite: THL 301, MIN 301)

ASR 420 Summative Seminar (2)

The Summative Seminar is an intensive engagement with theology and ministry designed to help students develop their ability to integrate theory and practice. In this class students articulate their theology in relation to their ministry setting or intended ministry setting. This course is designed to help students prepare for ordination/commissioning processes. Each version of the Summative Seminar course attends to a distinct doctrine in conversation with one of the following curricular area: leadership, pastoral care, preaching, worship, evangelism, Christian religious education, church and society, or spiritual formation. (Prerequisite: ASR 401)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP (CHL)

CHL 233 Willow Creek Leadership Summit (1)

Willow Creek Community Church annually sponsors the "Global Leadership Summit," which is an international forum of leadership development for local churches. This course will engage the Summit critically and creatively. As the major focus of the course, students will attend the two-day conference as it is simulcasted to the Leawood campus of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. Texts and discussion in the course will be coordinated with the Summit topics and faculty. The course includes advance and post-session assignments.

CHL 301 Spiritual Development: Theology and Theory (1)

This course examines the theology and theory of spirituality as a practice of "deep listening" that enables us to take on the mind of Christ or develop a nondualistic perspective. The writings of Richard Rohr, Brian McLaren, Howard Thurman, and others will be engaged.

CHL 302 Spirituality and Activism (Prophetic Ministry) (1)

This course examines practices of spirituality that cultivate prophetic action on behalf of justice for communities. Spirituality is presented in relational, communal terms in which we act on behalf of the furthering of life in specific actions of healing and wholeness.

CHL 311 Practice of Parish Ministry (3)

This course considers practices of the pastor in basic church administration and management of ministry. Attention is given to ordained and lay ministries in a variety of settings in the mission fields of churches and their communities. Interaction of classroom work with experience in settings of ministry is expected.

CHL 312 Spirituality and the Renewal of Rural Congregations (3)

This course will explore how practices of spiritual formation such as eating as a gift can lead to the revitalization of rural congregations. Prominent interpretations of the context – rural, global, and American Christian will be studied.

CHL 313 Spiritual Leadership (3)

This course addresses the nature of "spiritual" leadership as the fundamental context for the growth and development of religious communities in post-modern American society. How does "spiritual" leadership differ from other forms of leadership? What are the core characteristics, dynamics, and abilities inherent in effective church leadership? These are the base-line questions on which a team-learning model will be constructed. The course will provide students with a vocabulary and landscape for leadership development and challenge them to identify how they would define leadership within those parameters.

CHL 314 Practice of Leadership (3)

This course will familiarize students with important theories in the "new" sciences and in organizational and leadership studies in order to develop a practical theological model of leadership useful and effective in their ministry. Emphasis will be placed equally upon leadership in nonprofit and ecclesial organizations, including but not limited to congregations. Topics such as chaos, conflict, community building, vision and mission, and leadership competencies will be explored.

CHL 315 Managing Church Conflict (3)

Approaches for understanding and dealing constructively with conflict are explored for the sake of developing greater communion in a variety of communities. Subject matter includes gender, race, and culture studies, personal resources for engaging conflict creatively and non-defensively, intervention strategies, and helpful theological frameworks.

CHL 316 Exploring Models of Ministry (3)

Focusing upon specific contexts and practices, this course critically engages models of ministry that demonstrate effective partnerships of clergy and laity. Study includes models' theological rationale as well as the purpose, process, and outcomes of the ministry design and implementation. Ministry models serve as case studies by which students reflect upon their own leadership and ministry and learn how to generate, implement, and evaluate ministry with excellence.

CHL 318 Rural Ministry (3)

This course explores the unique gifts and challenges for ministry in rural settings with a guiding premise that the whole church can benefit from what rural churches and communities have to teach. Drawing from material in practical theology, sociology and rural studies, students will explore social dynamics and current issues facing rural communities; then develop context appropriate and theologically grounded proposals for ministry.

CHL 320 Administration and Leadership (3)

This course will develop leadership potential in students and give them a familiarity with the elements for the administrative process. The course focuses on Christian organizations, particularly the local church, helping students become more effective church administrators and leaders in both theory and practice.

CHL 391 Adaptive Church Leadership (3)

Adaptive leadership is the practice of mobilizing congregations to address pressing challenges, changing environments, and contemporary contexts in a way that leads to vitality. In this course, students will engage adaptive leadership theory and learn to apply it to the unique context of the church.

CHL 410 Leadership in Context (3)

This course attends to various approaches to church leadership and how congregational studies and community analysis can be resources for leadership. In this course students select a congregation or faith-based organization and seek to deepen their understanding of it in a disciplined manner using tools of congregational studies and community analysis. Work in this course assists students in understanding a specific congregation and the situation of church more broadly and what leadership might look like in those contexts. (Prerequisites: MIN 301, CTX 301, CTX 302)

CHL 411 Building Communities in Context (3)

The course examines how a larger cultural analysis of context functions as a component of praxis, which integrates theory, theology, and the practices of ministry. The course examines how a larger cultural analysis of context functions as a component of Christian leadership praxis. Different interpretive lenses are used to analyze situations and issues in building community. The course requires attendance at the Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute. (Prerequisite: MIN 301)

CHL 412 Organizing for Change (3)

The course focuses on leading communities for social justice ministries. It considers theological grounding for social witness, understanding of justice, and how persons and communities can be formed for leadership in times of polarization and change. The course also attends to faith-based community organizing as a resource for justice ministries, including participation in training for organizing by a group such as MORE2, a member of the Gamaliel network of faith-based community organizations. (Prerequisite: MIN 301)

CHL 413 Strategic Leadership (3)

This course concentrates upon methods of constructing and articulating a vision and mission of ecclesial life and ministry and of planning the steps by which such a vision/mission might be enacted within a context of ministry. Students are led through a process for engaging their ministry setting in discernment and planning within an explicit theological framework. (Prerequisite: MIN 301)

CHL 414 Leading Across Difference (3)

The course focuses on the formation of leaders in times of polarization and change. Course content engages differences such as theological perspective, religion, and race/ethnicity. Students will engage exemplary leaders navigating the crossroads of difference.

CHL 420 Becoming Agents of Hope (3)

The course focuses on theological and other theoretical approaches to leadership and how they can motivate and inform the practice of ministry. The course compares and contrasts a variety of approaches to leadership, considering their theological/theoretical grounding, how they can inspire hope in God's future, and how they contribute to the practice of Christian leadership contexts. The course includes participation in a conference on leadership. Such as the Leadership Institute of the Church of the Resurrection.

CHL 422 Leading the Intercultural Church (3)

This course examines how to develop and sustain intercultural capacities for leading a multi-ethnic congregation. Theory related to leadership and intercultural formation will be tied to literature on the practice of leading multi-ethnic churches. Emphasis will be placed on developing intercultural capacities of the pastor and the congregation, as well as the disruption and re-formation of a normative culture. (Prerequisite: MIN 301)

CHL 430 Leadership through Lay and Clergy Partnership (3)

The purposes of this course are: 1) to develop a theological rationale for the sharing of leadership responsibilities by laity and clergy in the church; 2) to identify and reflect on the possibilities of shared ministries in specific situations; and 3) to gain skills in planning and administering ministries shared by laity and clergy as partners. (Prerequisite: MIN 301)

CHL 431 Integral Church: Ecclesiology, Worship, Leadership (3)

Every church tradition has its distinctive understandings of worship and of ministry. Rarely, however, are they integrated into a coherent whole. This advanced level course explores diverse traditions of worship and ecclesiology and concentrates on leadership skills to develop greater integration, depth, and effectiveness in ecclesial life. (Prerequisite: MIN 301, THL 301, WOR 41*)

CHURCH AND SOCIETY (CHS)

CHS 320 Approaches to the Study of Religion (3)

This course provides an overview of the significance of interdisciplinary contributions to the study of religion. The course explores the correlation between social scientific methodologies, such as participant-observer, discourse analysis, ethnography, and case study, religion, and society. Readings and discussions will highlight the importance of the social sciences in ministerial formation.

CHS 321 Almost Human: Race and Christianity (3)

Contemporary Black and Womanist theologies emerged by bringing the life of the Black church and the history of marginalized and enslaved people into Christian thought. Black and Womanist scholars offered a critique of and issued a call to white theology and ministry to reflect on unacknowledged social location and dominant theology, which created and creates injustice in the Church and world. This course investigates how “whiteness” and “Blackness” are constructed to support a dominant worldview in Church and society. The course also interprets Christianity as a way of life, which situates Christians in the world with Christ as center and guide so that every experience or action has the potential to be a practice of justice.

CHS 322 Theology of Growing & Eating (3)

This course will explore the theology and social ethics of the global food supply system which at present produces a significant degree of hunger. It will approach the spirituality of food practices and suggest how it is that a spiritual recovery of eating practices could begin to remediate the global food disorder. It will employ embodied pedagogy and we will grow food with the Master Gardeners Association of Kansas City and also become a community garden for the community.

CHS 323 The Church in a Divided America (1)

America in the 21st century is divided into sociopolitical groups that provide people with identity, belonging, and an interpretative lens with which to view others outside the group. This tendency toward group identity is a global phenomenon and can be found within the church as well as outside of it. While group identity can be beneficial it can also lead into misperception of and conflict with others. This course examines this phenomenon from a theological perspective and considers ways it can be addressed so that churches and Christians can more faithfully participate in the mission of God through finding their primary identity in Jesus Christ.

CHS 330 Mission of the Church in the Contemporary World (3)

This course is designed to develop a passion for and strengthen one’s commitment to mission, to acquire a biblical, historical, ecumenical, and theological understanding of mission, and to design a mission education and cultivation strategy for the local church incorporating the various methods available.

CHS 335 Racial Justice and Intercultural Development (1)

This course cultivates students’ ability to engage in social and theological analysis about social structures, ideologies, and embodied practices that lead to domination or oppression. It facilitates critical thinking about social locations, power and privilege, and what effect these have on student’s vocational paths. The course takes the perspective that this sort of analysis, engaged in community and supported with spiritual practices, is crucial to serving effectively in today’s complex social environment. It encourages students to deepen their commitment to dismantling privilege and oppression at individual, institutional, and societal levels.

CHS 340 African American Church in Postmodernity (3)

This course is an exploration of the Black church and Black culture and the role of the church in the coming decade in preaching and worship, in justice ministries, in the empowerment of Black people, and in the commitment to a pluralistic and racially inclusive society.

CHS 344 Leading the Affluent Church (3)

Social class is one of the largely ignored topics in the local church. This course will incorporate social scientific perspectives on class in America, with a particular focus on the wealthy. It will identify theological traditions on the role of wealth in the Christian life and explore how the church can minister with and to the affluent.

CHS 345 Race and Religion (1)

This course explores religious perspectives on human questions about life, suffering, goodness, and ultimacy. It will survey the history of the academic study of religion in light of its historical relationship among European colonizers, non-European colonies, and other non-Western regions of the world. We will look at the “power/knowledge” correlation established in the discipline of Religious Studies as scholars ‘define,’ classify, interpret, and explain “religion” as a way of meaning-making through human experience and relationships. Along the way, we will discuss the connection between religion and empire and how imperial projects emerged through various constructions of “otherness.” We will also look at cutting-edge postcolonial theorists who use analytical methods to recover various interpretations of religion and what it means to be human beings in the globalized discursive structures of the human sciences.

CHS 347 Prison Industrial Complex and Syst Sin (2)

The role of prisons and prisoners in U.S. society is changing. In this course students will analyze the prison system as a means of economic development, the implications of privatization of the prison industry, the incarceration rate of racial and ethnic minorities, and the effect of culture and language on judicial process. In light of these trends the class will explore such theological and ethical concepts as dignity and sin of individuals and society.

CHS 348 Evangelism in a Pluralistic Society (3)

This course addresses the challenge of communicating the gospel in a plurality of contexts. Attention is given to the impact of the Enlightenment on North American culture and the resulting trends toward secularism and pluralism. There is an examination of specific generational, regional, and racial/ethnic contexts. The course helps students contextualize the gospel while maintaining its integrity.

CHS 349 The Black Church in the USA (3)

This course provides a general overview of religious expressions among African Americans in the United States. We examine the impact of culture, from the Trans-Atlantic slave trade to the beginning of the twenty first century, as a framework to explore various aspects of the Black church.

CHS 350 Restorative Justice and Systemic Sin in the Prison Industrial Complex (3)

The course will theologically examine the criminal justice system and the concept of systemic sin. Restorative justice will be explored as a more biblically faithful model of criminal justice and corrections. Contemporary issues will include mass incarceration, racism, punishment as justice, factors leading to wrongful convictions, offender reentry, victims' issues, juvenile justice ramifications, and economic stakes in the status quo.

CHS 351 Democracy in Peril (1)

Democracy in the 21st century is challenged by popular authoritarian movements both across the globe and in the United States that gain power through undermining its institutions and norms. This course examines the nature of this challenge and the conditions that have led to it. It offers a Christian perspective on the enduring value of democracy as well as implications for ministry within this time of cultural change and political polarization.

CHS 352 Prophetic Witness and Service (3)

This course is intended to help students claim their prophetic voices and demonstrate an understanding of prophetic service in the world. Attention will be given to the scriptural and theological basis for prophetic witness and service, as well as the need to disrupt and recreate systems that limit the realization of abundant life for all as proclaimed by the Gospel.

CHS 355 Mission of the Church in the World (2)

This course is designed to develop a passion for and strengthen one's commitment to mission, to acquire a biblical, historical, ecumenical, and theological understanding of mission, and to design a mission education and cultivation strategy for the local church incorporating the various methods available. This course meets UM requirements for ordination.

CHS 415 Prophetic Ministry (2)

This seminar addresses contemporary social and global issues (e.g., global warming, farm crisis, health care) as they are informed by the Judeo-Christian prophetic and biblical tradition. Students explore different understandings of prophetic ministry within their historical and communal contexts. Reflecting on their own ministry, students consider the impact of social and global issues on the church and the actual living out of an approach to life and ministry which combines a vital spirituality with a lived proclamation of the gospel. (Prerequisite: ETH 301)

CHS 415 Prophetic Ministry (3)

This seminar addresses contemporary social and global issues (e.g., global warming, farm crisis, health care) as they are informed by the Judeo-Christian prophetic and biblical tradition. Students explore different understandings of prophetic ministry within their historical and communal contexts. Reflecting on their own ministry, students consider the impact of social and global issues on the church and the actual living out of an approach to life and ministry which combines a vital spirituality with a lived proclamation of the gospel.

CHS 430 Sexual Issues in Church and Society (3)

This course will examine the personal and social dimensions of several concrete subjects in the field of Christian sexual ethics, such as the moral significance of sexual pleasure, sexual love, and sexual diversity (GLBTQ). The course also focuses on methodological issues in the field. Special attention will be given to the biblical and early church traditions regarding sexuality and to contemporary debates among theologians about and perspectives on these questions. (Prerequisite: ETH 301)

CHS 431 Biomedical Issues in Health and Welfare (3)

This course will examine the personal and social dimensions of several concrete subjects in the field of Christian biomedical ethics, such as access to healthcare, physician assisted suicide, and artificial reproductive technologies. Special attention will be given to cultural and theological interpretations of health, suffering, decline and dying. Students will be encouraged to bring "cases" from congregational life to our discussions. (Prerequisite: ETH 301.)

CHS 442 Cultural Dynamics in Pastoral Care (3)

This course explores the impact of culture on the formation of personhood and on the care of suffering persons. An introduction to cultural theory in conversation with pastoral theology will provide the basis for thinking about the way cultural norms and practices and social institutions impact human lives. The course will also consider the variety of racial and ethnic cultural contexts within the U.S.

CHS 450 Int Sem: Restorative Justice and Prison (1)

This seminar focuses on providing students with an opportunity to build on previous work in Restorative Justice and Prison Ministry and pursue a project that will allow them to explore relevant theological and ministerial themes in further depth. Students will develop a proposal for an integrative project and complete the project in order to demonstrate their competence in Restorative Justice and Prison Ministry. This course addresses important issues of justice and ministry that face the contemporary church.

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CRE)

CRE 320 Missional Christian Education for Today's Church (3)

What does it mean to educate for a missional church? This course will examine the inter-relationship between mission and Christian education. It will look at educational strategies that foster missional identity and practice. Students will have the opportunity to explore these strategies in a ministry setting.

CRE 360 An Educational Approach to Spiritual Formation (3)

In response to the current interest in spiritual formation, this course explores the educational intent of historical and contemporary models of spiritual formation paying attention to contributions from a variety of cultural and religious perspectives. Students have an opportunity to assess models of spiritual formation from their own denominational tradition considering educational theory. Students design a model for leadership in the ministry of spiritual formation in their unique ministry settings.

CRE 362 Faith Formation and New Generations (3)

The focus of this course is the question, "Do traditional Christian religious education theories meet the spiritual formation needs of Generation Z and the Alpha Generation?" The course explores foundational educational theories and generations, evaluates them in terms of the church's changing educational ministry, and makes proposals for ministries of faith formation.

CRE 364 Uncovering an Ecology of Faith Formation (3)

In this course a proposal for an ecology of faith formation is evaluated through an examination of the interconnection and interrelationship of formative elements in the early Methodist movement. Students research faith formation models from other historical traditions as well as explore and create contemporary proposals for models of faith formation in individual ministry settings.

CRE 380 Ministry Across the Lifespan (3)

This class examines theories about how persons grow in faith, including psychosocial, cognitive, moral, faith development, and wholeness perspectives. Students select a focus on ministry with children, youth, adult, or intergenerational groups and design a ministry project for their age group. A major concern will be how these various developmental theories affect the practice of educational ministry in the church.

CRE 382 Youth Ministry (2)

In this course, the focus is on youth concerns, settings, and resources as they are related to the church's total youth ministry. Special attention is given to curriculum resources and program planning.

CRE 384 Adolescent Growth and Faith Development (2)

This course provides an overview of the psychology of adolescence in the areas of personal, moral, social, and religious development. The focus is on the integration of various developmental theories in understanding adolescent personality and their implications for youth ministry.

CRE 386 Teaching/Learning: Lifelong Process (3)

The process of teaching and learning is at the heart of Christian religious education. In this course, students look at how people learn in a variety of contexts and the teaching methodologies that contribute to learning in these contexts. The course explores how people learn and teach, as well as the purposes and meaning of the teaching/learning process.

CRE 462 Spiritual Formation Through Mentoring Relationships (3)

This course offers a basic study of the nature of spiritual formation and spiritual mentoring, including theory, process, models, and settings. Students have an opportunity to explore how mentoring relationships that occur through the worshipping, teaching, and serving ministries of the church may serve to enhance or inhibit spiritual growth. Students design a mentoring project for their own ministry settings. (Prerequisites: MIN 301, HBS 301, HST 301, HST 302, NTS 301, ETH 3*).

CRE 464 Spiritual Direction/Companionship (2)

This course focuses on attentiveness to God, listening skills, psychological awareness, personal spiritual disciplines, historical background (including formative Wesleyan spirituality), and ethical issues for fostering this supportive relationship of spiritual guidance. It includes readings in the Christian classics, experiencing the practice of spiritual companionship, and training in ways of offering spiritual guidance in congregations. (Prerequisites: MIN 301, HBS 301, HST 301, HST 302, NTS 301, ETH 3*)

CONTEXTUAL EDUCATION (CTX)

CTX 301 Preparing for Local Ministries I (0.5)

Preparing for Local Ministries is a first-year contextual education course designed to support students in their local ministry settings and introduce them to vocational formation through emotional and spiritual maturity and moral integrity for a holistic practice of ministry. Experienced ministers lead groups. Students are required to serve in an approved ministry setting for an average of four hours per week. Time in a ministry setting is a no-credit corequisite for Contextual Education classes. (Credit/No Credit)

CTX 302 Preparing for Local Ministries II (.5)

Preparing for Local Ministries is a first-year contextual education course designed to support students in their local ministry settings and introduce them to vocational formation through emotional and spiritual maturity and moral integrity for a holistic practice of ministry. Experienced ministers lead groups. Students are required to serve in an approved ministry setting for an average of four hours per week. Time in a ministry setting is a no-credit corequisite for Contextual Education classes. (Prerequisite: CTX 301) (Credit/No Credit)

CTX 330 MACM Collaboration Group (0.5)

MACM Collaboration Groups are discussion-based formation courses for students in various stages of the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree program to come together and focus on their specialized areas of ministry and vocation. The Collaboration Group also provides opportunities for students to develop and articulate emotional and spiritual maturity and moral integrity for a holistic practice of ministry. Faculty members normally facilitate groups. Students are required to serve in an approved ministry setting for an average of four hours per week. Time in a ministry setting is a no-credit co-requisite for Contextual Education classes. (Credit/No Credit)

CTX 390 Chapel Intern (1)

This course gives the student practical experience in worship planning and leadership through service to the ministries of chapel at the seminary. Using resources from a variety of traditions, the team of chapel interns works together with the Director of Spiritual Formation to provide intentional, meaningful worship experiences for the seminary community which integrate theological studies and spiritual practices. By appointment of the Formation and Worship Committee only; students should contact the Director of Spiritual Formation for an application before registering. (Credit/No Credit)

CTX 403 Ministry in Context (3)

This course allows students to develop a contextual understanding that can inform the practice of ministry. Using tools of congregational studies and community analysis, students learn about the neighborhoods around the Saint Paul campuses in Kansas City and Oklahoma City and learn about and reflect on their own ministry setting and context. Students reflect on ministry in these contexts with special attention to missional outreach and ministry with persons in poverty.

CTX 405 Reflection on Ministry I (.5)

Reflection on Ministry is an advanced Contextual Education course that provides students with an opportunity for theological reflection on their own practice in ministry. Making use of tools such as learning goals and case studies, students share questions and insights in a small group setting led by contextual education supervisors. Students are required to serve in an approved ministry setting for an average of ten hours per week.

CTX 406 Reflection on Ministry II (.5)

Reflection on Ministry is an advanced Contextual Education course that provides students with an opportunity for theological reflection on their own practice in ministry. Making use of tools such as learning goals and case studies, students share questions and insights in a small group setting led by contextual education supervisors. Students are required to serve in an approved ministry setting for an average of ten hours per week. Part II of a two-term sequence.

CTX 431 Ministry Collaboration Group (.5)

Ministry Collaboration Groups are discussion-based courses where students reflect on their formational experiences in life and ministry. Faculty members normally facilitate groups. Collaboration Groups provide opportunities for growth in articulation of vocational identity as well as emotional and spiritual maturity and moral integrity for a holistic practice of ministry. Time in a ministry setting is a no-credit co-requisite for Contextual Education classes. (Prerequisite: CTX 301, CTX 302, MIN 301) (Credit/No Credit)

CTX 450 Summative Contextual Education Colloquy (.5)

The Summative Contextual Education Colloquy is a final year contextual education course for students in the MDiv program. It is designed to equip graduating students to reflect critically on their vocational formation for a holistic practice of ministry, including articulation of the student's development of emotional and spiritual maturity and moral integrity during seminary. Students create a portfolio containing various artifacts from previous semesters of CTX for critical reflection. Faculty members normally facilitate groups. Time in a ministry setting is a no credit co-requisite for Contextual Education classes. (Prerequisite: CTX 301, CTX 302, two semesters of CTX 431, MIN 301) (Credit/No Credit)

DENOMINATIONAL STUDIES (DST)

DST 310 UM History and the Arc of Justice (3)

This course examines Methodist history from John Wesley to the current era with attention to justice issues that have driven the debates, schisms, unions, and identity of United Methodism: slavery/racial justice, women's rights, poverty/economic justice, globalism, and sexual orientation. Fulfills the denominational requirement for United Methodist History.

DST 311 United Methodist Doctrine (3)

The purposes of this course are: 1) to explore the theology of United Methodism from its beginning with the Wesley's in England to the developments of the later 20th century in America; 2) to learn how to theologize in the Wesleyan and United Methodist tradition; and 3) to gain a command of the doctrinal heritage of United Methodism's order to appropriate critically, explain, and communicate it. (This course meets the doctrine requirements of the United Methodist Book of Discipline.)

DST 312 The Means of Grace in the Wesleyan Traditions (3)

This course is an introduction and overview of the theology of John Wesley and Methodism with a focus on the means of grace. Attention is given to Wesley's original understanding of prayer, scripture, sacraments, classes and bands, and spiritual disciplines, and the changes in the theological understanding of these means of grace in the North American context. Prospects for current renewal are examined. (This course meets the doctrine requirements of the United Methodist Book of Discipline.)

DST 313 Wesley and the Movements of the Spirit (3)

This course is an introduction and overview of the theology of Wesley and Methodism with a focus on the impact of Wesley's theology on the African American, Holiness, Pentecostal, and Charismatic movements. The course examines the continuities and discontinuities between these various movements as well as compares them with other historic theologies within Methodism. (This course meets the doctrine requirements of the United Methodist Book of Discipline)

DST 320 United Methodist History (2)

The purposes of this course are: 1) to help the student review, with appreciation, the United Methodist tradition in light of its historical development; and 2) to help the student appropriate the United Methodist tradition so as to enable responsible participation in the life and leadership of the United Methodist Church, effective communication of the tradition, and informed engagement in the ecumenical dialogue. (This course meets the history requirements of the United Methodist Book of Discipline)

DST 330 United Methodist Polity (2)

Through extensive use and discussion of the Book of Discipline, this course seeks to inform United Methodist theological students of the sources, developments, and trends of their denomination's polity and to prepare them to function effectively within, be appreciative of, and affect creatively that polity. (This course meets the polity requirements of the United Methodist Book of Discipline)

DST 332 African American Methodism (3)

This course is a study of the history, polity, and theology of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

DST 350 Denominational Studies (2)

Denominational studies for Disciples of Christ (Christian Church), Presbyterian, Episcopal, and United Church of Christ students will be provided, in cooperation with executives of those judicatories, when demand arises.

ETHICS (ETH)

ETH 301 Introduction to Christian Ethics (3)

The purpose of this course is to gain an introductory knowledge of various sources and approaches to Christian moral discernment and judgment. The general goal is to introduce the discipline of Christian ethics in ways appropriate to the interests of pastors, educators, and other leaders in the church.

ETH 430 Topics in Theological Ethics and the Natural Sciences (3)

This course examines core areas in the emerging dialogue between theology and the natural sciences, especially physics, cosmology, evolutionary biology, genetics, cognitive science, and neuroscience. After this examination of the core issues, the course concludes by exploring some of the implications of the science and theology dialogue for Christian theological ethics with special attention devoted to methods of ethical reasoning. (Prerequisite: ETH 301)

ETH 431 Pastoral Ethics (1)

This course will examine the ethics of pastoral ministry. Several "professional" issues – such as confidentiality, personal boundaries, practices associated with financial accountability, and ecumenical relations – will be addressed. Students will be asked to consider real life cases from their leadership experiences. (Prerequisite: ETH 301)

ETH 432 Advanced Seminar in Bioethics (1)

This is an advanced seminar, offering an opportunity to explore contemporary ethical issues in medicine and bioscience, such as genetic engineering. The course is offered collaboratively with the Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience. It provides a setting for cross-disciplinary collaborative learning, with medical students and ministry students working together on problems in bioethics – and learning from one another. It is designed especially for ministerial students considering specialized ministry in healthcare settings and/or serving on hospital ethics committees. (Prerequisite: ETH 3*)

ETH 433 Ethics of Forgiveness (1)

This course will examine the personal, interpersonal, and political dimensions of the Christian practice of forgiveness. Several issues –such as the relationship of truth and justice to reconciliation – will be discussed in relationship to specific case studies. Course will draw on biblical, liturgical, and theological understandings of forgiveness. (Prerequisite: ETH 301)

ETH 435 Religion and Health Care (3)

This course will examine Christian theological and ethical traditions about health care, focusing on broad issues like (1) the duty to care for one's own health and welfare, along with those of others, (2) suffering in relation to chronic illness, pain, disabilities, disease, and experiences of diminishment as well as (3) death and dying. These topics will be addressed in relation to specific topics like addiction, HIV/AIDS and physician assisted suicide. It will also focus on the church's role in healing ministries (through liturgical services, parish nursing, hospice work and other healing ministries) and its role as a public advocate access to care. (Prerequisite: ETH 301)

ETH 440 African American Critical Religious Thought (3)

This course concentrates on the Theo-ethical perspectives of selected African American Christian thinkers. The course features historical and contemporary figures such as Howard Thurman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Katie Cannon, James Cone, J. Deotis Roberts, and Jacqueline Grant. Special attention is given to implications for the contemporary church. (Prerequisite: ETH 301 or HST 301, HST 302)

ETH 441 Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista/Latina Ethics (3)

This course is a survey of emerging approaches to Christian Ethics as they are being developed by contemporary African American womanist, Euro-American feminist, and Mujerista/Latina thinkers. Students will study the foundational, that is, methodological questions raised by these approaches as well as specific ethical issues emerging from within these communities. We will study the constructive work of such theological ethicists as Rosemary Ruether, Katie G. Cannon, Marcia Riggs, and Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz. Special attention will be given to implications of these perspectives for a variety of ministry issues. (Prerequisite: ETH 301)

ETH 450 Moral Problems and Ethical Possibilities (3)

A primary objective of this course is to examine the transformative significance of four ethical sources: 1) the invisible transcript of scripture; 2) counter realities within tradition; 3) reason as embodied engagement; and 4) the experience of self-naming in Alice Walker's non-fictional works. The course will employ a systematic approach to textual interpretation that probes the depths of written work through an interrogatory engagement in order to assess the unstable truth in selected essays by Walker. (Prerequisite: ETH 301).

EVANGELISM (EVN)

EVN 311 Evangelism Through the Local Church (3)

This is an introduction to the biblical and theological foundations of evangelism and the local church as a center for evangelism. Attention is given to the content of the gospel, its communication through word and deed, and the context of the recipients.

EVN 312 Theologies and Models of Evangelism (3)

This course is an examination and assessment of biblical, historical, and contemporary theologies, models, and strategies for evangelism, enabling the student to develop his or her own model of evangelism.

EVN 313 Evangelism as Congregational Care and Nurture (3)

This course considers the ministry of evangelism through the care of members by such means as pastoral care, visitation, support and self-help groups, and the growth and empowerment of lay persons in faith and discipleship.

EVN 314 Evangelism as Congregational Outreach and Growth (3*)

This course examines the role of equipping the congregation to tell the Christian story to those outside the church, to seek a response to the Christian message, and to assimilate persons into the life and ministry of the church. Topics include communication theory and skills, outreach methods and approaches, and models for assimilating new members.

EVN 348 Evangelism in a Pluralistic Society (3)

This course addresses the challenge of communicating the gospel in a plurality of contexts. Attention is given to the impact of the Enlightenment on North American culture and the resulting trends toward secularism and pluralism. There is an examination of specific generational, regional, and racial/ethnic contexts. The course helps students contextualize the gospel while maintaining its integrity.

ENGAGING WORLD RELIGIONS (EWR)

EWR 310 Judaism (3)

An introduction to the broad range of Jewish thought, ritual, tradition, law, and culture both historically and in contemporary settings, with attention to the religious and ethnic diversity of the Jewish people.

EWR 311 Engaging World Religions: Buddhism (3)

This course is designed to introduce to students the fundamental aspects of Buddhism as a religious tradition in terms of its teachings, rituals, symbols, ethical values, and visions for the better world.

EWR 312 Engaging World Religions: Islam (3)

This course is designed to introduce fundamental dimensions of what the Islamic religious tradition stands for by way of getting acquainted with the Quran, symbols, rituals, Islamic laws, and liturgy. The course will also explore ways of constructive dialogue that is devoid of prejudice, bias, unexamined knowledge about “others,” and develops hermeneutics of dialogue.

EWR 313 Engaging World Religions: People of the Book (3)

This course examines historical and theological relations among the three major religions known as “people of the book:” Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Course topics include understandings of scripture, scriptural authority, and scriptural interpretation as well as comparative work on figures and themes of the respective scriptures.

EWR 316 Religions in China: Daoism and Confucianism (3)

The course is designed to introduce the basic tenets and convictions embraced by Daoism and Confucianism as they are manifested in the Chinese culture, religious performance, symbols, and worldviews. The approach is historical and religious-phenomenological.

EWR 317 Christian Encounter with Hinduism (3)

This course aims to introduce students to a basic understanding of the history, beliefs, and practices of Hinduism, to enable them to recall and evaluate the ways in which Christians have encountered Hinduism, and to help a construct a theology of religions that assists in developing a relevant and meaningful relationship with Hindus in the United States, both as individuals and as congregations.

EWB 319 Latin American Spiritualities (3)

An exploration of Latin American spiritual culture from pre-Columbian times until today, with a special focus on Mexico, stressing its affective continuity across the centuries. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the widely shared values and orientations central to the lives of Latin American immigrants and their descendants, one of the fastest growing populations in the US mission field (Mexicans being the largest population within this stream).

EWB 350 Native American Religious Traditions (3)

A survey of the worldviews and spiritualities of Native American people as these pertain to both inter-tribal beliefs and Native American ceremonial life, with an attempt to show how Native American practice proceeds from their world view. The relationship of Christian faith to Native American worldviews and spiritualities will also be explored.

HEBREW BIBLE STUDIES (HBS)

HBS 301 Introduction to Hebrew Bible (3)

This course is a critical introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), including survey of the content of the Hebrew Scriptures, their ancient historical contexts and development, diverse contemporary methods of interpretation, the place of the Hebrew Bible in the Christian canon, and its importance for ministry in the Church today. This course can meet the upper-level HBS requirement.

HBS 320 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I (3)

This is the first term of a year-long intensive introduction to the basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew. After completing this course, students will be able to read simple connected Hebrew prose. (Students are expected to enroll in HBS 321 the following semester). This course can meet the upper-level HBS requirement.

HBS 321 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew II (3)

This is the second term of a year-long intensive introduction to the basic grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew. After completing this course, students will be able to read simple connected Hebrew prose. (Note: Biblical Hebrew is offered every other year as a year-long course) (Prerequisite: HBS 320)

HBS 420 Laughter and Lament in the Hebrew Bible (3)

This class will explore stories in the Hebrew Bible that use humor and lament to convey significant theological arguments about who God is and what it means to be God's people. Although modern readers are often taught to take sacred scriptures quite seriously, there are stories throughout the Hebrew Bible that, when looked at closely, do not seem take themselves altogether seriously. We will also look at a corresponding biblical genre also often misunderstood by modern readers in texts that use lament to express deep human suffering and question God's justice. We will ask ourselves how prevalent such humorous stories and laments are in the canon and focus on the ancient methods and motivations used in these types of storytelling. One of our overarching questions will be: what do humor, and lament allow us to ask and express those other approaches do not? (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 421 Five Scrolls (3)

An in-depth exploration of the Five Megillot (scrolls) of the Hebrew Bible, namely Ruth, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Song of Songs. The course will include references to the contemporary and historic commentaries on the ways tradition encounters these texts, both existentially and liturgically. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 423 Wisdom Literature (3)

HBS 425 The Hebrew Prophets (3)

The prophetic material in the Hebrew Bible is some of the most enigmatic, challenging, and theologically rich material in the canon. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 426 The Psalms (3)

This course covers interpretation of individual psalms with attention to their literary form, setting in life, and place in the collection as a whole. The course considers the importance of the Psalter for biblical theology, community worship, and private devotion. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 427 Amos and Hosea (3)

This course is an historical study of Amos and Hosea, two eighth-century prophets, in their social and religious contexts. The course includes consideration of the development of the books of Amos and Hosea and their canonical significance, as well as special attention to the relevance of Amos and Hosea for ministry in the church today. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 428 Women of the Hebrew Bible (3)

An examination of women in the Hebrew Bible, from their generalized roles in the various eras of Ancient Near Eastern society, to their specific roles Hebrew Bible passages. Will also include an overview of feminist interpretations of the Hebrew Bible. Students will study textual and material evidence related to women in the Hebrew Bible and will do their own original research for the class, driven by their interests. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 430 Qohelet (3)

This is an exegetical course on the book of Qohelet (Ecclesiastes), emphasizing theological and ethical themes. Students will explore the appropriation of Qohelet in the life of the church, including preaching and other practices of ministry. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 431 The Book of Jeremiah (3)

This is an exegetically based course on the book of Jeremiah, including the history of the book's development and close reading of the book in its final form. Special attention is given to the theological and ethical significance of Jeremiah, along with its relevance for ministry in the church today. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 432 The Book of Isaiah (3)

This course is a study of the prophecy of Isaiah of Jerusalem; of Deutero-Isaiah, prophet to Israel in exile; and of the continuing Isaianic tradition in the post-exilic period. The course gives final attention to the unity and message of the book of Isaiah as a whole. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 433 The Book of Genesis (3)

This course is designed to serve as an orientation for the student-interpreter to a general yet critical understanding of the literary, historical, and theological complex of issues involved in the interpretation of the Book of Genesis. The orientation will present an analysis of major methodological approaches utilized by past and present interpreters; an exploration of the issues and problems in contemporary studies; and a discussion of the functional and pragmatic implications of a confessional interpretation of the Book of Genesis. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 434 The Book of Exodus (3)

If the book of Genesis tells the stories of the first things—of God’s creation of the heavens and the earth and covenant with Israel’s earliest ancestors—the book of Exodus tells the stories of the first days of Israel as a people. In this examination of Exodus, we will look at the opening stories of the women who ensure the survival of Moses, God’s battle with pharaoh in the plague narratives, Israel’s wandering in the wilderness, the centrally important moment Israel receives the law at Sinai, the monumentally bad decision to construct the golden calves, and the meticulous planning and construction of the tabernacle. We will seek to better understand the narrative stories of Exodus, as well as its legal material and focus on the shape and importance of sacred space. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 435 Genesis from a Rabbi’s Perspective (3)

An in-depth journey into the first book of the Hebrew Bible. Genesis From a Rabbi’s Perspective will offer contemporary and historic commentary about this seminal text of the Western religious tradition. Special emphasis will be placed on the ways in which the Jewish tradition encounters the text. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 440 Ruth and Esther (3)

An in-depth exegetical study of the books of Ruth and Esther. Students will learn to apply current scholarship on these books to preaching and teaching that is relevant to the church. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 442 The Bible, Homosexuality, and Christian Community (3)

What does the Bible say about homosexuality? How can the Bible most appropriately inform Christian theological reflection and ethical inquiry concerning issues of sexual orientation and experience? This course examines diverse responses to these questions. Students engage in exegetical, historical, and cultural studies aimed at assessing critically the role of the Bible in contemporary debate about homosexuality and the church. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HBS 450 Interpreting Biblical Narratives (3)

The religious and cultural influence of the Bible owes much to the skill of ancient, anonymous storytellers. In this course, students will examine the characteristics and techniques of narrative composition in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. The course will practice literary-critical, exegetical interpretation and seek to foster performative interpretation as well as studying and imagining ways of retelling Biblical stories in various contemporary media, including preaching, drama, and electronic multimedia. (Prerequisite: HBS 301)

HISTORY (HST)

HST 301 Introduction to Christian Traditions I (3)

This course surveys the history of Christianity in the second through fifteenth centuries, introducing a variety of theological and spiritual traditions and their cultural settings. It introduces diverse key figures, movements, and practices in the early and medieval churches of east and west and includes close reading of selections from primary sources. It also introduces the art of interpreting texts to discover how historical witnesses can inform the theology and practice of ministries today.

HST 302 Introduction to Christian Traditions II (3)

This course surveys the history of Christianity from the Reformations of the 16th century to the present, providing an introduction to the history of the church and theology in this period. It attends to diverse figures, movements and practices and includes close reading of selections from primary sources. It also introduces the art of interpreting texts to discover how historical witnesses can inform the theology and practice of ministries today.

HST 414 Spiritual Traditions and Ministry (3)

In this course, students engage methods and tools for understanding faith communities and their context, with attention to the way a community's history has shaped its present. Students employ those methods and tools to gain understanding of a particular faith community and its context. Students also attend to themselves as persons called to ministry and their own spiritual formation sustaining ministry. This course meets concurrently with HST 514.

HST 420 Classics of Christian Theology (3)

An introduction to the history of Christian thought, this course focuses on a variety of classic works from the early, medieval, Reformation, and modern periods. Works by authors, such as Justin Martyr, Philo, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Anselm, Abelard, Teresa of Avila, Julian of Norwich, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Philip J. Spener, Schleiermacher, and Adolph von Harnack are considered. (Deacon: Church History or Theology). (Prerequisites: HST 301, HST 302)

HST 426 Nineteenth Century Protestant Theology (3)

This is a study of "modern" Protestant theology from Schleiermacher to the dialectical theology of the early 20th century. This course attends to the issues posed to theology in the "modern" period, including the rise of historical consciousness, the challenge of the scientific world view, and the call for just social and economic structures, and examines important and representative responses to these issues. (Prerequisites: HST 301 and HST 302)

HST 430 US Religious History: Major Groups Involvement (3)

This course studies U.S. religious history from the Native American traditions to the mid-20th century by focusing on major religious groups and movements. It examines their histories, self-understandings, and practices and their place in the context of U.S. history as a whole. (Prerequisite: HST 302)

HST 431 History of Christian Ethics (3)

This course examines major issues and figures in the history of Christian ethics from the early church to the early modern period. It proceeds by considering the interrelations among historical and social location, understanding of Christian identity, and understanding and practice of the ethical life. (Prerequisite: HST 302)

HST 450 Luther and Schleiermacher (3)

This course compares the life and theology of the founder of Protestantism with that of the founder of modern Protestant theology. It attends to the interrelation of historical-social location, leadership in church and society, and theology in Luther and Schleiermacher. (Prerequisite: HST 302)

HST 452 Readings in Early Christian Authors (3)

This course focuses on a classic early Christian author such as Augustine or a few related authors such as the Cappadocians. It focuses on close readings of selected classic texts, paying attention to their historical, philosophical, spiritual, and theological dimensions, their cultural contexts, and their implications for church renewal and ministry today. Different figures will be studied in different years. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisites: HST 301)

HST 454 Seminar in Historical Studies (3)

This course provides an advanced level investigation of selected figures, movements, and/or issues in Christian history. The course includes analysis of the ways historical figures and movements offer resources for contemporary Christian witness. The focus for the course is announced prior to registering. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisites: HST 301, HST 302)

HST 460 Christian Mystics (3)

The course explores Christian figures in Church history who write about the lived experience of faith. The focus of study is the way in which Christians of the past illuminate our understanding of faith in the present. (Prerequisite: HST 301)

HST 462 Christian Spirituality Practices (3)

This is an overview of some major traditions of eastern and western Christian spirituality spanning the time period from the New Testament to the twentieth century. The course involves close reading, discussion, and analysis of selected texts. Students also practice a range of Christian spiritual disciplines as part of the course work. (Prerequisites: HST 301, HST 302)

HST 470 John Wesley's Theology and Ethics (3)

This course is a comprehensive examination of John Wesley's theology and ethics, including an analysis of major interpretations of Wesley's thought as well as Wesley's own writings. The implications of Wesley's thought for the Christian life and the formational and missional practices of the contemporary church will be considered. (Prerequisites: HST 301, HST 302)

HST 472 Wesley, Edwards, and the Eighteenth-Century Awakening (3)

This course examines the eighteenth-century Protestant awakening in Europe and America and its impact on church and society. Attention is focused on England and America, and on the theologies and practices of the two great theologians of the awakening, John Wesley, and Jonathan Edwards. Their understanding of faith and the Christian life, as well as their pattern of proclamation, formation, and social concern, has implications for the ministry and outreach of the church today. (Prerequisites: HST 301, HST 302)

HST 474 Early American Methodism (3)

This course is a study of early American Methodism from its inception until the Civil War. It includes an examination of the Evangelical United Brethren tradition, the emergence of African American Methodism, and the beginning of the Holiness movement. Issues include the changing relationship of doctrine and discipline, practices of evangelism and social reform, and the relation of Methodism to American culture. Through understanding this formative period in Methodist history, we will gain important insights that can aid our contemporary engagement with these issues. (Prerequisites: HST 301, HST 302)

INDEPENDENT STUDY

IND 230 Independent Study: Church Leadership

IND 231 Independent Study: Church and Society

IND 232 Independent Study: Christian Religious Education

IND 233 Independent Study: Denominational Studies*

IND 234 Independent Study: Ethics

IND 235 Independent Study: Evangelism

IND 236 Independent Study: Engaging World Religion

IND 237 Independent Study: Hebrew Bible Studies

IND 238 Independent Study: Historical Studies

IND 241 Independent Study: New Testament Studies

IND 242 Independent Study: Pastoral Care

IND 243 Independent Study: Preaching

IND 244 Independent Study: Theological Studies

IND 245 Independent Study: Worship

IND 530 DMIN Independent Study: Church Leadership

IND 531 DMIN Independent Study: Church and Society

IND 532 DMIN Independent Study: Christian Religious Education

IND 534 DMIN Independent Study: Ethics

IND 535 DMIN Independent Study: Evangelism

IND 537 DMIN Independent Study: Hebrew Bible Studies

IND 538 DMIN Independent Study: Historical Studies

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)

MATS 410 Creative Project and Thesis Proposal Writing (1)

The Creative Project and Thesis Proposal is the first step in the summative evaluation for the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree program. This proposal includes a working thesis and discussion of the issue to be addressed, a preliminary literature review and annotated bibliography, discussion of method and structure of the creative project and thesis. This course may be taken up to four times. (Credit/No Credit)

MATS 411 Creative Project and Thesis Proposal Conference (0)

The Creative Project and Thesis Proposal Conference is a scheduled discussion among the student and thesis committee in evaluation of the proposal and plans for the MATS creative project and thesis. At the conclusion of the Conference the committee decides whether or not to approve the proposal and thus grant permission for the student to continue with the preparation, research and writing phase of the degree program. This course may be taken up to two times. (Credit/No Credit)

MATS 412 Creative Project and Thesis Research and Writing (6)

The MATS Creative Project and Thesis Research and Writing is an alternative capstone project for the MATS degree that includes a creative project such as original art or media presentation, accompanied by a written academic research thesis. The Project and Thesis are informed by biblical, historical, and theological studies and significant scholarship, including at least one historically marginalized perspective, on a selected topic in a defined area of study. In this course students prepare the project, and research and write the thesis in consultation with their Thesis Committee. This course may be taken up to four times. (Pre-requisite: MATS 411) (Credit/No Credit)

MATS 413 Creative Project and Thesis Conference (0)

The Creative Project and Thesis Conference is a scheduled discussion between the student and thesis committee in evaluation of the MATS project and thesis. At the conclusion of the Conference the committee decides whether to approve the project and thesis. This course may be repeated up to two times. (Pre-requisite: MATS 412) (Credit/No Credit)

MATS 420 Thesis Proposal Writing (1)

The Thesis Proposal is the first step in the summative evaluation for the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree program. This proposal includes a working thesis and discussion of the issue to be addressed, a preliminary literature review and annotated bibliography, discussion of method, structure of the thesis, and timeline for completion. This course may be taken up to four times. (Credit/No Credit)

MATS 421 Thesis Proposal Conference (0)

The Thesis Proposal Conference is a scheduled discussion among the student and thesis committee in evaluation of the thesis proposal and plans for the MATS thesis. At the conclusion of the Conference the committee decides whether or not to approve the proposal and thus grant permission for the student to continue with the thesis writing phase of the degree program. This course may be taken up to two times. (Pre-requisite: MATS 420) (Credit/No Credit)

MATS 422 Thesis Research & Writing (6)

The MATS thesis is an academic research paper informed by biblical, historical, and theological studies and significant scholarship, including at least one historically marginalized perspective, focused on a selected topic in a defined area of study. In this course students research and write the thesis in consultation with their Thesis Committee. This course may be repeated up to four times. (Pre-requisite, MATS 421) (Credit/No Credit)

MATS 423 Thesis Conference (0)

The Thesis Conference is a scheduled discussion between the student and thesis committee in evaluation of the MATS thesis. At the conclusion of the Conference the committee decides whether to approve the thesis. This course may be repeated up to two times. (Pre-requisite: MATS 422) (Credit/No Credit)

MINISTRY (MIN)

MIN 230 Introduction to Theological Writing (1)

This course surveys basic writing styles and skills for theological studies. The goal of the course is to equip students with fundamental skills in writing, research, speaking, and critical thinking for professional and academic competence. This course requires simultaneous enrollment in another Saint Paul School of Theology course for which writing is required. (Credit/No Credit)

MIN 231 Information Literacy in Theological Education (1)

This course introduces students to a variety of strategies and techniques for effective research throughout the students' seminary coursework. This foundational course is grounded in a hands-on approach to information discovery that quickly develops student research skill and information literacy in the broad areas of local library resources, subscription databases, and the internet.

MIN 301 Introduction to Ministry (3)

In this course students examine their own lives as persons of faith and consider God's call to the ministry of the church. Various models and forms of ministry and various contexts for ministry are explored in light of God's mission in today's world. The impact of social, historical, and global location is addressed along with issues of structured inequality, especially ageism, classism, racism, and sexism. Attention is given to formation of personal qualities, interpersonal skills, and sustaining spirituality necessary for ministry with an emphasis on helping students identify appropriate boundaries of professional conduct for clergy and lay leadership.

MIN 340 Topics in Women, Society, and Church Studies I (1)

This seminar explores matters relating to the study of Women, Society, and Church. Designed for students specializing in Women, Society, and Church Studies, the course is open to other students. Students will read and assess at least one common text. Students in the WSCS Specialization must complete the seminar twice, one of which will be in their final year of study when they will present portfolios of their Women, Society, and Church Studies work (course essays and projects as well as extracurricular projects). Content will vary annually so this course may be taken more than once.

MIN 341 Topics in Women, Society, and Church Studies II (1)

This seminar explores matters relating to the study of Women, Society, and Church. Designed for students specializing in Women, Society, and Church Studies (WSCS), the course is open to other students. Students will read and assess at least one common text. Students in the WSCS Specialization must complete the seminar twice, one of which will be in their final year of study when they will present portfolios of their Women, Society, and Church Studies work (course essays and projects as well as extracurricular projects). Content will vary annually so this course may be taken more than once.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (NSO)

NSO 001 New Student Orientation (0)

This course provides entering students with an introduction to Saint Paul School of Theology. The primary goal is to inform students of academic expectations, community resources, policies and procedures needed to function effectively and successfully achievement of her or his educational goal.

NEW TESTAMENT (NTS)

NTS 301 Introduction to the New Testament (3)

This course understands the informed study of the New Testament and careful reading of thoughtful scholarly writings about the New Testament to be a spiritual discipline. The course introduces students to the basic content of the New Testament writings, the historical circumstances from which they emerged, various critical methods by which to interpret them (including exegetical skills), and ways in which these texts might shape the understandings and lives of contemporary Christian communities.

NTS 320 New Testament Greek I (3)

This is the first term of a two-term intensive introduction to the language of the New Testament documents leading to the reading of New Testament texts.

NTS 321 New Testament Greek II (3)

This is the second term of a two-term intensive introduction to the language of the New Testament documents leading to the reading of New Testament texts. (Prerequisite: NTS 320)

NTS 420 The Gospel of Matthew (3)

How does Matthew shape and present the story of Jesus? How does his story inform our story and the stories of our congregations? Attention is given to exegetical methods. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 426 The Gospel of Luke (3)

This course examines Luke's presentation of the story of Jesus. Attention is given to the gospel's socio- historical context, literary shape, and theological claims through various critical methods. The tasks of preaching/teaching the gospel (Year C of the lectionary) and its implications for contemporary communities of disciples are also important concerns. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 430 The Gospel of John (3)

This course examines John's distinctive presentation of the story of Jesus. Special attention is given to the literary form, the socio-historical setting, and the theological claim of the gospel. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 431 Selections from the Synoptic Gospels (3)

This course will examine selections from the Synoptic Gospels such as from the birth narratives, parables, Sermon on the Mount/Plains, and passion narratives. Choices will be made from these options. The course will employ a variety of methods to examine Christological, soteriological, ecclesiological, and eschatological themes in the chosen passages. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 432 Romans (3)

This course examines one of the most influential letters in the church's history. Attention is given to exegetical methods and to Paul as a pastoral theologian who interprets the gospel for a community. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 433 The Corinthian Correspondence (3)

The focus is on 1 and 2 Corinthians and on Paul's stormy relationship with this church. Attention is also given to the social setting of the Corinthian congregation and to Paul's understanding of his ministry and role as a pastoral theologian. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 434 Galatians and 1 Thessalonians (3)

This course explores the historical contexts, literary-rhetorical shape, and theological claims of two of Paul's letters. It attends to Paul's pastoral-theological method and engages contemporary scholarship on these two significant writings. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 437 Hebrews and the General Epistles (3)

Study of the pastoral and theological concerns, methods, and commitments in Hebrews, 1 Peter, and James, and complementary early Christian literature. Against the backdrop of the multicultural world of early Christianity and the developing Christian church, students will be encouraged to reflect upon the social locations of early Christians, the media of communication chosen by early Christian writers (the "epistle," in particular), and the nature, variety, and adaptability of the Christian Gospel in the first and the twenty-first centuries. Students will reflect upon the contemporary meaning and significance of these documents for the Church and the world, particularly with reference to the pervasive influence of multimedia and the Internet. Students will be encouraged to undertake a project of "translating" the message(s) of these ancient epistolai into newer, electronic media. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 438 The Book of Revelation (3)

This course examines the historical context, the literary genre and shape, the linguistic expression, and the theological claims of this mysterious biblical text. The questions of method and of contemporary address have significant roles. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 442 Pauline Prison Epistles (3)

This course seeks to discover the impact of Paul's imprisonment upon the history of the early church, with special attention to the emergence of what may be called "political theology," and "Trinitarian Ecclesiology. Paul's authentic letters from prison, Philippians and Philemon will be carefully examined and theologically interpreted. The images of Paul as the "prisoner of Christ," and "martyr" in the deuteron-Pauline literature (Colossians, Ephesians, 2 Timothy, 3 Corinthians) and in Acts of the Apostles will be part of this New Testament Course. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 454 Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation (3)

The course seeks to discover the impact of Paul's imprisonment letters on areas of peace, justice, and reconciliation. Paul's authentic letters from prison, Philippians, and Philemon, will be carefully examined and used as sources of peace and reconciliation in the world. This course will attempt to determine the political and social posture of the apostle and the Church which nourished the memory of him as the prisoner of Christ. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 456 Women in the New Testament (3)

This course exposes students to the untold stories, silent voices, and sacred lives of women in early Christianity. Attention will be devoted to the role women played in offering Christian leadership in the early Church. A secondary concern of the course involves the use to the New Testament as a source for constructing the socio-political role of women in the Christian movement. (Prerequisite: NTS 301)

NTS 458 Biblical hermeneutics: Clergy Formation (3)

This course will examine various parameters for Biblical Interpretation Methods, and will focus on Biblical, Theological, spiritual, and historical aspects of Christian and Clergy formation. The course will show how specific methods are applied to Bible Study and Interpretation in different social, economic, and social contexts. (Prerequisite: HBS 301, NTS 301)

PRACTICUM (PCM)

PCM 301 Practicum: Spiritual Formation (.5)

This practicum is a spiritual retreat guided by a ministry practitioner with expertise in spiritual direction and formation. Students will do reading related to diverse approaches to spiritual formation and practice, engage in spiritual practices, and come together for one or two meetings for didactic presentations, spiritual practice, and discussion of what students are experiencing and learning. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 302 Ministry with Veterans (.5)

This practicum is an opportunity to learn more about the various contexts of military service, and the church's responsibility in providing support. Students will do directed reading related to the various aspects of military life and engage in the efficacy of spiritual practices. Students will come together for one meeting consisting of lecture, small group discussion and spiritual reflection. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 303 Spiritual Direction (.5)

This practicum will provide a foundational introduction to the practice of spiritual direction. It will focus on the practice of holy listening within congregational, community and one-on-one relationships. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 304 Financial Sustainability through the Pandemic and Other Crises (.5)

This course will provide a roadmap for the church's response to traumatic events that impact our world today. Special focus will be on offering financial recovery tools for faith communities. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 305 Tulsa Race Massacre: Ministry through Advocacy (.5)

This course will address systemic levels of oppression, especially as it relates to the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, and the biblical underpinnings of both the attack, rebuild, and current plight of advocacy for justice. It will also explore current parallels in how systemic racism is still prevalent today, and the need for ministry that advocates its elimination. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 306 Ministry in Migrant Context: US/Mexico Border (.5)

The practicum will explore how pastoral leaders heighten their own attention and the attention of their congregations to justice-based issues. How pastors engage and advocate for migrants in their own communities that are respectful, just, and affective. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 307 Community-Based Ministry (.5)

This course will examine the nature of community-based ministry in the modern context. It will seek to teach faith leaders to lead congregations into community-based ministry, while simultaneously working with leaders to dream individually about local community impact, advocacy, and organizing, whether working in a local congregation or not. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 308 Mission Trips (.5)

Mutually designed short-term mission trips (meaning planned with, instead of for our partners) are a great way for churches to impact the kingdom and grow disciples. This course will unpack the dynamics that factor into how to plan and execute culturally competent, development-oriented serve trips. Practical tools and contextual considerations will be shared from the Church of the Resurrection's experiences, including an honest look at what has been learned from missteps. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 309 Conflict Mediation (.5)

This course is about resolving conflict peacefully within ourselves and in the church. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 310 Ministry to Hospitalized Children and Families (.5)

Providing pastoral care to children who are suffering with an illness requires understanding of the needs of the family and empathetic skills to assist in bringing the ministry of healing and hope to whatever situation may arise. This practicum will examine the biblical calls to love and justice for children and families as they inform ministry and practice. The course will assist ministers in building skills to support children and families during crises and hospitalization, with particular attention to matters of culture, economics, and language as barriers in the healthcare system. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 311 Care for the Hospitalized (.5)

This class will explore how to engage in a pastoral conversation with a hospitalized person. The class will examine the components of a hospital visit and the context of the hospital environment as a setting for ministry. Additionally, the class will discuss issues such as the impact of trauma, the awareness of issues of grief and loss and the impact of healthcare ethics. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 312 Dinner Church Movement (.5)

The course introduces students to fundamental historical and theological roots of the Dinner Church Movement that is growing in prominence in North American Christian worship today. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 313 Leadership for a Changing Future (.5)

The rate and speed of change today are increasing, heightened by the prolonged pandemic, stretching the leadership capacity of leaders and their organizations. In this class, we'll ask the question, "What is the primary task of leadership?" According to the adaptive leadership framework, leadership means energizing, mobilizing, and preparing a community for its own transformation in tackling tough problems. This work of leadership begins with one's own journey inward, in order to lead outward. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 314 Music in Worship (.5)

This course explores the Biblical foundation for worship, typical liturgical formats, and incorporating music in worship in practical, creative, and effective ways. Topics include analyzing theological relevance of song lyrics, thematic worship, an involving both lay musicians and the congregation in meaningful worship through music. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 315 Radical Hospitality (.5)

The Radical Hospitality Conference will offer participants the opportunity to learn about developing a culture of radical hospitality throughout all areas of ministry. Topics covered will include: (1) Principles of Radical Hospitality (Notice, Personal Attention, Follow Through), (2) Multiple Contexts to carry out Radical Hospitality (Digital welcome [website, social media presence], Parking Lot, Building, Worship Experience, Post-Worship and Ministry applications, (3) Attracting Visitors, and (4) Strategic Planning Principles. Students are required to attend all days and sessions of the Church of the Resurrection (COR) conference. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 316 Preaching and Technology (.5)

This course will explore theological reflection on the preacher's virtual presence and ministry which is vital to the future of the church. We will discuss how the present techno culture changes the way humans communicate with one another, including in preaching. Students will continue to hone their preaching voice as they learn social media platforms, techniques, and ethical frameworks for preaching God's Living Word beyond the four walls of the church. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 317 Immigration, Justice, and Advocacy (.5)

Faith communities have a long history of solidarity with asylum seekers and advocating for the rights of refugees and the undocumented. There are several models for how we support and accompany those who are made vulnerable or marginalized. This practicum will explore several models, but primarily focus on the Sanctuary Movement. The origins of Sanctuary Movement were born out of a deeply rooted faith teaching to love our neighbor and welcome immigrants; a movement that is based in accompaniment with immigrants. We will begin with some foundational understanding of immigration 101, detention and deportation in the United States. We will have encounters with those who are most impacted living in this country undocumented. This practicum will empower students to engage in immigration justice advocacy in their congregation and community. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 318 Leading the Foolish Church (.5)

This course discusses the concept that if we are going to make room for people we have tended to overlook, we will need to clarify our intentions, our boundaries, and how we seek reconciliation when things go awry. We will learn and practice four rules that will help you live out Foolish Church in any setting, welcoming folks with more authentic and resilient relationships. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 319 Alternative Funding: Community-Based Development (.5)

The modern church calls leaders, laity, edge ministries, and local congregations to rethink our approach to managing ministerial assets. Through asset-based community development, we will examine the assets already available to us and ways we can make those assets work to fund transformational ministry. We will explore leadership principles in stewardship and alternative funding that can offer us valuable guidance for present and future challenges of church economics. From grant writing and collaborative partnerships to asset leveraging and investments, this is a season that calls us to adaptive leadership. When tithes and offerings are no longer enough, it's time to think outside the offering plate. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 320 Spirituality and Aging (.5)

The practicum will explore themes found in Robert Atchely's award winning publication Spirituality and Aging. The book is divided in to three sections: (1) Examining the nature and development of spirituality, (2) Creating and participating in ministry service opportunities (teaching, preaching, pastoral care, worship, social ministry) rooted in spirituality, and (3) Discovering how spirituality informs cultural norms in caregiving, death, and dying experiences. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 321 Interreligious Pastoral Theology and Care (.5)

This practicum explores pastoral theology and care in interreligious relationships and in multi-religious communities and contexts. Students develop their ability to engage in reflexive self-assessment of their competencies for interreligious care by attending to theologies, needs, and values in interreligious care; historical and socio-religious contexts that shape interreligious care; differences between religious traditions that influence interreligious care; and skills for interreligious care. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 322 Interfaith Engagement: Muslim/Christian Dialogue (.5)

This class will provide students a broad understanding of religious diversity in the community and how to develop strong relationship among different faith groups and will offer an introduction to dialogue and engagement across Muslim and Christian faith traditions and practices. It will also explore the best local and international interfaith dialogue experiences among Muslims and Christians. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 323 The Racialized Church (.5)

Racism is embedded in the very fabric of our society including the Church. This practicum will examine how race and racism have played a role in shaping the Church even to this day. It will also explore practical things that can be done to help move the Church toward healing and reconciliation. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 325 Preaching, Politics, and Social Action (.5)

This course will examine the challenges of preaching justice and social action in the midst of the current political climate in the United States. Students will study how to examine scripture through the lens of liberation. We will also explore how to craft a sermon in light of sociopolitical realities facing our nation. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 326 Suicide: Prevention, Intervention, Grief (.5)

In this course, students will examine and reflect on their own attitudes, beliefs, and experiences around the difficult topic of suicide. Students will also:

- Identify warning signs and risk factors for suicide.
- Learn to respond to a suicidal person and refer to appropriate resources.
- Respond to friends and family members following a suicide.
- Plan a memorial service for a person who has died by suicide. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 327 Ministry with Older Adults (.5)

Adults over 65 are the fastest-growing segment of our population. This course will focus on developing a ministry to all ages and stages of this vital population that goes well beyond pastoral care to include such areas as an intergenerational ministry, empowering leadership, continuing discipleship, and creating a spiritual legacy. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 328 Making Sense of Money Matters in the Church (.5)

This practicum will take a holistic, practical approach to equipping pastors with a broad view of dealing with, directing, and talking about money in the church. The time will be spent between three main areas: How the pastor's understanding of their own finances influences their leadership in church finances, ways to create a culture of generosity, the best practices of church finance.

PCM 329 Online Outreach: Strategizing with Optimism (.5)

Having a strong online presence is crucial for churches to reach out to their communities and engage with members. However, many church leaders hesitate with how to effectively use digital and social platforms to connect with people. This positive, hands-on practicum will provide practical strategies, tactics, and tips for enhancing a church's digital presence.

PCM 330 Budgeting and Financial Statements (.5)

This practicum covers basic process, tools, priorities and pitfalls of financial planning and oversight in the local church. Topics will include annual Budgeting Process, Stewardship Campaigns and financial Management, Monthly financial Statements, Monthly Budget Review Process, finance committee Role and Responsibilities, Importance of Internal Auditing, and Designated funds. Student will learn how to develop a budget, how to read financial statements, how to avoid financial compromise as well as where to find valuable tax and accounting information when questions arise. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 331 Practicum: Help for Beginning Preachers (.5)

This practicum will introduce beginning preachers to the basics of sermon preparation and delivery, so they might develop good skills early in their ministries. Four stages of preaching will be focal: interpreting the Scriptures and focusing the sermon; brainstorming contemporary stories and connections; crafting a sermon sequence; and embodying the message. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 332 Personal Finance (.5)

This practicum covers a basic theological understanding of personal finance and biblical stewardship. Topics will include: A Biblical Understanding of Financial Stewardship; A Theology of Stewardship; Spiritual Formation and a Journey of Personal Stewardship; Cash Flow Planning; Overcoming the Burden of Debt; and Proven Tools for Financial Peace and Generosity. Students will learn how to develop a personal budget that reflects their own emerging / developing practice of stewardship. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 333 Finding Your Truth North: A Practicum on Prayer (.5)

This practicum will lead students in a process to uncover and strengthen the foundations and reset the boundaries for honest, whole-hearted praying that leads to greater clarity and peace during ministry and study. It includes praying time. This practice of ministry represents prayer as both a personal and communal spiritual discipline that emerges from and is informed by an ethic of self-care. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 334 The Art of Joyful Table Celebration (.5)

Celebrating the sacred meal requires much more than adding a liturgy to usual worship; communion can deepen, transform, interpret, manifest and norm all our worshiping. Explore what it means to approach this sacrament as a joyful art as we learn to craft and celebrate liturgies that are creative, vibrant, orthodox, and integrated into the entire worship event. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 335 The Practical Arts of Curating Worship (.5)

Worship requires not only leaders, but curators—persons who serve as caretakers, custodians, and coordinators of all the worship arts. This role reaches across lots of practical disciplines: copyright, sound and light engineering, music, and graphic design, among others. Learn what it means to curate worship and how to navigate these practical dimensions toward an aesthetic for offering worship in any setting. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 336 Festival of Young Preachers (.5)

Partnering with the United Methodist Festival of Young Preachers, this practicum encourages students to think more deeply about the homiletical theory they are developing as well as the practical preaching skills they are developing. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 337 Worship Planning Practicum (.5)

This practicum will cover basic processes, tools, priorities, and pitfalls of planning for weekly worship in the local church. Students will learn how to identify, create, and implement the key elements of a weekly worship service. They will also be introduced to an online planning tool that is adaptable to any size church. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 338 Global Music Resources (.5)

This practicum will explore numerous resources for exploring and introducing global music and we will delve into several global music traditions including Latin American, African, Celtic, and Asian song. Be prepared to sing, share, laugh, try some new instruments, and learn much. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 340 Funerals and Memorial Services (.5)

This practicum gives students an experience in guiding grieving families through the sacred preparation of funerals and memorial services. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 341 Practicum: Ministry with Children (.5)

This course introduces students to best practices in creating and strengthening ministries for children. Children, like most people, seek to feel welcome in the faith community and to serve and feel useful and creative. Students will learn, discuss, question, and experience multiple ways to be appropriately present to children in ministry, as well as different scenarios that might engage children in opportunities for deepening faith. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 342 Practicum: Leadership Institute and Doctrinal Reflection (.5)

This practicum interacts with the Leadership Institute offered through the Church of the Resurrection. Students experience differing understandings of the mission and nature of the church through assigned readings, peer interactions, and by being participant-observers at the Leadership Institute. The practicum's goals are twofold: for students to deepen their understandings of different positions concerning the ministry and mission of the church; and for students to clarify their own theological positions and practices concerning these matters. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 343 Ministry with Youth (.5)

This practicum provides the opportunity to explore matters relevant to developing a local congregation's ministry with youth. Students will examine practical solutions to develop effective discipleship for youth. The practicum's goals are threefold: develop a basic understanding of adolescent faith development, develop a theological model to enhance the Christian formation of youth, participate in a youth ministry event or activity. This course relates to contemporary issues because the faith formation of youth is crucial to the renewal of the Christian church, particularly in local congregations. Many pastors and lay leaders do not have depth of experience in this area. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 344 Children with Incarcerated Parents (.5)

The course will take place at New Day Camp, a church camp for children with incarcerated parents. The children are Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, and Native American. They are ages 8-11. Volunteers will visit with students and students will attend camp activities, primarily worship, focus groups and recreation. The location is Cross Point Camp near Kingston, OK. There is no video link. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 345 Introduction to Prison Ministry (.5)

The practicum would expose students to all security levels of male prisoners in the Oklahoma system. Students would be exposed to living conditions and religious programs. Students would also interact briefly with prisoners. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 346 United Methodist Jurisdictional Conference (.5)

Students will spend the day at the South-Central Jurisdictional Conference, studying the processes and learning about episcopal elections. This is an opportunity for students to learn firsthand about United Methodist conferencing and the episcopacy. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 347 Writing Liturgy in Context (.5)

Students will learn how to craft liturgy for corporate worship as well as for particular occasions such as funerals, baptisms, and cultural moments, such as following the Oklahoma City bombing. Attention will be given to identifying pastoral, social and missional contexts for writing liturgy. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 348 Building Faith-Rooted Movements: Faith, Race, and Power (.5)

Race is a deep, inescapable part of our collective history; it has coursed through our choices, our churches, and our communities. In order to challenge the broken systems that pain the communities we love and lead multiracial movements, this course will equip participants with understanding, tools and organizing practices for ministry as prophetic leaders using the lenses of faith, race, gender, and power. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 349 Church Governance Practicum (.5)

Vital churches have healthy leadership structures that are wired to help the church navigate in a strategic direction. Yet many churches have become accustomed to “business as usual” with boards, committees, and councils that consume energy and diminish the potential of the local church. This practicum will cover basic processes, priorities, and pitfalls of managing the governance process in the local church. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 350 Ministry of Social Justice (.5)

This course will concentrate on process of discerning God's will in the political realm. We will explore how to exercise congregational leadership in this area of ministry. We will also get practical guidance from elected leaders and persons who have served in that capacity in the past. We will spend time in a church setting with a marginalized minority, specifically prisoners and their families. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 351 Practicum: Alternative Christian Community and Social Witness (.5)

This course engages students with Cherith Brook Catholic Worker House in Northeast Kansas City. Students will seek to understand the urban context in which Cherith Brook is located, the intentional Christian community that is Cherith Brook, and its ministry of peace and justice in the larger Northeast community. Students will reflect on the assets and challenges of a diverse community in which poverty and injustice are present and how ministry in that context can be shaped. Students will also reflect on practices of community that can sustain persons and ministries. Finally, students will ask how what they have learned might inform community and ministry in their own present or future ministry. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 352 Equipping and Engaging Congregations Through Community Organizing (.5)

Faith-rooted community organizing is a method of working with faith communities to utilize its strengths to address the problems and concerns of their communities, and in turn, invigorate and strengthen the life of congregations. The practices of community organizing that will be explored in this practicum include building relationships through 1:1 conversation, researching and analyzing issues, building power relationships with community leaders, and developing organizing leaders for community transformation. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 353 New Ministry Development Practicum (.5)

This practicum will cover basic processes, tools, priorities, and pitfalls of developing new ministries in the local church. Topics will include fundamental ministry development steps (vetting new ideas, prerequisites, and purpose alignment, developing new leaders, setting goals, allocating resources, resolving conflicts, and measuring performance), as well as how to evaluate existing ministries and how to increase the likelihood of a successful ministry launch. Students will learn how to manage a decision-making process for vetting and resourcing new ministries in the local church, equip the church to successfully launch new ministries, and evaluate the fruitfulness of the church's ministries. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 354 Leadership in Ministry: Understanding the Role of the Pastor and the Work of the People (.5)

This practicum engages students in reflections on pastoral ministry related to identity, vision casting, and leadership for discipleship formation. The practicum is led by a pastor and meets at a local church. It engages students with their own calls to ministry, the practices that sustain them, and witnessing to the Gospel in ministries of teaching and preaching. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 356 Multi-Ethnic Church Planting (.5)

Ministry in diverse settings is among the most important skills for ministers in the 21st century. In this practicum, students will attend and participate in the workshop in Multi-Ethnic Church Planting on the theme, "Partners in God's Mission: Being the People of God in an ethnically diverse nation." The workshop will include intercultural development, plenary presentations, and a session for seminarians to process what they have learned. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 357 Technology in Ministry (.5)

Technology in Ministry will seek to cover basics of personal computer usage and production technology to utilize at local churches. Topics will include parts of a computer, internet browsing, social media, general computer organization/use, and production technology basics such as graphics and how to create them, audio (what sounds good and what doesn't), video techniques, and lighting boards. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 358 Capital Campaign Planning for the Local Church (.5)

This course introduces students to basic concepts employed to design and develop an effective Capital Campaign program for the local church. It will help students explore their own financial stewardship leadership approach that is based on a sound theology of faith and money. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 359 Praying with Joy in A Troubled World (.5)

This practicum will lead students in a process of discovery of prayer that emanates from a joyful life and is itself joyful. This is important particularly in the light of what is happening around them and in the world which leads many to be fearful. How would you name the practice of ministry that this practicum represents? This practice of ministry represents prayer as both a personal and communal spiritual discipline that emerges from and is informed by an ethic of self-care. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 361 Native American Ministry (.5)

There is always much to share about Native American Ministries and much to unfold as we move from one topic to the next. During the day, we will look at the historical pieces of Native American life and contexts which will help us as we look at the other topics of religions, identity, values and the environment. These topics will help us to understand more about the current contextual ministry that is happening in the Native context. The course will help those who desire to serve in a Native context to be more fully aware of the context in which you might serve through missions and in other ways. The other hope is that this will help you to form relationships with Native entities in your area. We will utilize class presentations and small group discussion for the course. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 362 Mentoring Youth Toward Ministry (.5)

Students will serve as adult companions to youth participants in a six-part vocational discernment workshop as part of Youth 2019 during the Summer of 2019 in Kansas City, MO. Students in this practicum will explore models for mentoring adolescents, particularly for discerning a call to ministry. Requires concurrent reduced rate registration at Youth 2019 (see www.youth2019.com). Instructor will provide details. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 363 Strategic Planning (.5)

A strategic direction paints a vivid picture of the future, generates organizational momentum, and creates a process for transformation. However, the process can seem daunting. Discover how leaders in a church of any size or condition can explore its current reality, discern where God is leading and developing steps to effect meaningful change. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 364 Urban Church in the 21st Century (.5)

Urban Church in the 21st Century helps students to understand the nuances of ministry in the inner-city. This course will highlight the importance of prophetic preaching, need-based community service, and transformative leadership. (Credit/No Credit)

PCM 365 Teaching the Next Generation to See (.5)

Jesus used everyday items such as fish or nature to teach the Gospel to those who were not able to go to the temple, much like our current situation. This practicum will focus on teaching others how to see spiritual/biblical connections using the practical application of ordinary items. Students will develop a workshop or training to educate members in the practice of learning to see and share the gospel using any and everything around them. (Credit/No Credit)

PASTORAL CARE (PCR)

PCR 301 Introduction to Pastoral Theology and Care (3)

This course introduces students to theological approaches to pastoral care, theories for interpreting human behavior, and basic skills in parish-based pastoral care and counseling.

PCR 330 Topics in Pastoral Care (1)

This course offers a focused, in-depth exploration of a topic pertinent to the practice of pastoral care, such as, grief, crisis intervention, depression, pastoral boundaries, hospital visitation. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies.

PCR 331 Ministry in the Midst of Violence (3)

This course explores theological and theoretical understandings of violence in order to develop ministries of the church to lessen the violence that permeates life in the 21st century. Students will study various types of interpersonal violence, such as shootings, sexual assault, bullying, human trafficking, and media violence, and propose ministries that respond to victims and perpetrators of interpersonal violence in ways that are pastorally and theologically supported. While this course does not study war and state violence, it does look at the norms and practices of violence that support violence at all levels, both individual and social.

PCR 420 Pastoral Psychology (3)

Pastoral ministry requires an understanding of what makes persons who they are, how they develop psychologically, and what motivates them to behave the way they do. This course explores the intersection of psychological theories, pastoral theology, and the practice of pastoral care. (Prerequisite: PCR 301)

PCR 424 Trauma and Care (3)

This course offers a focused exploration of parish-based pastoral care for persons suffering from the long-term psychological and spiritual effects of trauma. Some of the specific topics included are Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, combat trauma, sexual abuse, and community tragedies such as terrorist attacks and natural disasters. (Prerequisite: PCR 301)

PCR 440 Feminist/Womanist Pastoral Care (3)

This course examines the intersection of feminist (including Black feminist) and womanist concerns with pastoral theology and care. The class will look at the historical development and key concepts of feminist and womanist thought in the U.S. and explore feminist and womanist sources and methods in pastoral theology and care, including feminist theory as an interpretive lens on human behavior and suffering. (Prerequisite: PCR 301 or THL 301)

PCR 442 Cultural Dynamics in Pastoral Care (3)

This course explores the impact of culture on the formation of personhood and on the care of suffering persons. An introduction to cultural theory in conversation with pastoral theology will provide the basis for thinking about the way cultural norms and practices and social institutions impact human lives. The course will also consider the variety of racial and ethnic cultural contexts within the U.S. (Prerequisite: PCR 301)

PCR 491 Clinical Pastoral Education (3)

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE) is a nationally recognized accrediting agency in the field of clinical pastoral education. ACPE provides education to improve the quality of ministry and pastoral care offered by spiritual caregivers of all faiths using the clinical educational methods of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Degree-seeking students may register for PCR 491 to receive academic credit for a single unit of CPE successfully completed at an ACPE-accredited site. Students must apply directly to an approved site and, upon acceptance, provide proof of admission before registration can be completed at Saint Paul. This course may not be substituted for PCR 301. (Prerequisite: PCR 301)

PREACHING (PRE)

PRE 401 Introduction to Preaching (3)

This course offers theology and practice of proclamation as focused on the role of the preacher, the proclamation of Scripture in worship, and the genre of sermon/homily. Experiences may include written and preached sermons, faculty evaluations and Scriptural exegesis. Two hours will be offered as plenary lectures by regular faculty members. The third hour will be small group practice labs of 5-7 students by faculty (one each) and the adjunct instructors. (Prerequisites: MIN 301, HBS 301, NTS 301)

PRE 430 The Sermon and the Short Story (3)

The course focuses on the unique relation of the sermon and the short story. Due to their insights into the human condition as well as their economy of words, short stories offer preachers wonderful sermonic possibilities and ideas. Thus, we will seek to explore the ways these stories can inform our preaching, offer ideas for forming our sermons, all in hopes of transforming us and our listeners. (Prerequisite: PRE 401)

PRE 431 Preaching Literary Forms of the New Testament (3)

This course is an intensive study of the diverse literary forms of the New Testament and the role of such forms in sermon preparation, both hermeneutically and homiletically. The course also considers the ways in which rhetorical critical approaches to New Testament interpretation intersect with the interpretation of the local church context, and thereby influence the preacher's own repertoire of sermon forms. (Prerequisite: PRE 401)

PRE 440 The Preaching Task (3)

Using an action/reflection model, the course is designed to help students reflect on the weekly task of preaching in a ministry setting by critically examining their own sermons after they have been preached and critically reflecting on an upcoming sermon. The course is structured around the four stages of sermon preparation: interpreting texts, brainstorming connections, crafting a sequence, and embodying the gospel. (Prerequisite: PRE 401)

PRE 444 Ministry of Preaching in A Digital Age (.5)

This course focuses on the opportunities and risks of preaching in this digital age, both in theory and practice. We begin with a brief look at Christianity's relationship with the media of each age before we engage with the particularities of our time. The goal is to form church leaders who are not merely media savvy but are able to walk the fine line between being critical of and collaborative with emerging mediums for mediating the Gospel of the Word made flesh in this virtual day and age. (Prerequisite: PRE 401)

PRE 450 Preaching the Parables of Jesus (3)

Given the popularity of parables, both in the Synoptic Gospels and the church's preaching, this course will examine the parables of Jesus in order to help students develop a sound approach to preaching from that literary form. In addition to hermeneutical issues associated with the history of interpreting parables, we will consider the homiletical strategies available to preachers today. (Prerequisites: NTS 301, PRE 401)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION (SFR)

SFR 301 Spiritual Formation Retreat (.5)

Spiritual Formation Retreats will nurture spiritual formation through community experience that integrates personal and social holiness. Students and faculty will gather for corporate worship, spiritual practices, and community building centered on a theme. (Credit/No Credit)

SFR 302 Spiritual Formation in the Age of COVID (.5)

Spiritual Formation Retreats will nurture spiritual formation through community experience that integrates personal and social holiness. Students and faculty will gather virtually for corporate worship, spiritual practices, and community building centered on a particular theme. (Credit/No Credit)

SFR 320 Spirituality in a Global Context (2)

Students in this course will attend the Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in addition to other online requirements before and after the course. The purpose of the course is to root students in practices of Christian community so that they can bear fruits of justice and mercy in a globalized context. Students will be immersed in rhythms of study, prayer, silence, liturgy, reflection, and relationship. Students will be introduced to new and alternative forms of Christian community. (Credit/No Credit)

THEOLOGY (THL)

THL 301 Introduction to Systematic Theology (3)

This course is an initial exploration of the discipline of theology and the rich dimension of life of the Christian church, for and in which theology serves critical and constructive roles. Readings and lectures cover such areas as theological genres (creeds and statements of faith), theological methods, significant theological thinkers, varying ways of interpreting Christian teachings in relation to the historic doctrinal loci such as authority of the Bible, reason and revelation, Trinity, Jesus as the Christ, human nature/condition, Church, worship and sacraments, death, and resurrection.

THL 412 Theology and the Church's Ministry (3)

This seminar requires the examination and analysis of one's own setting for and practice of ministry for greater theological awareness and theological integrity. It explores the importance and relevance of doctrines (e.g., sin, Christology, ecclesiology, soteriology) to specific ministerial practices, to deepen and broaden the interface of one's theology and tasks of the church's ministry. One's own theological perspective is identified and developed. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 415 Race and Religion (3)

Recognizing the centrality of the construction of "race" and the maintenance of racism to life in the U.S., the complicity of Christian theologies in constructing "race" and maintaining racism, and the need for Christian theology to articulate an anti-racist vision of God's desire for the flourishing of all of Creation, Critical Approaches to Race and Theology offers a survey of key concepts from various trajectories of Critical Race Theory. Students will then begin to integrate these critical approaches to "race" into their theological construction and reflection. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 419 Native American Theologies (.5)

Given the contextual nature of all theology and ministry, this course focuses on the construction of theology using Native American theological and spiritual traditions. Particular emphasis will be given to the doctrines of creation, theological anthropology, and ecclesiology/community with attention to how learning from diverse cultural settings can deepen and enrich our practices of ministry.

THL 420 Seminar in Theological Studies (1)

This course provides an advanced level investigation of selected figures, movements, and/or issues in Christian theology. Analyzing ways these positions offer resources for contemporary Christian witness forms a key consideration of the course. The focus for the course is announced prior to registering. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 421 Seminar in Theological Studies II (2)

This course provides an advanced level investigation of selected figures, movements, and/or issues in Christian theology. Analyzing ways these positions offer resources for contemporary Christian witness forms a key consideration of the course. The focus for the course is announced prior to registering. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 422 Seminar in Theological Studies III (3)

This course provides an advanced level investigation of selected figures, movements, and/or issues in Christian theology. Analyzing ways these positions offer resources for contemporary Christian witness forms a key consideration of the course. The focus for the course is announced prior to registering. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 423 Science, Theology, and Ministry (3)

This course provides a special opportunity to equip ministers with the information needed to be religious in a scientific age and to be ministers to persons struggling with science issues. Such issues are increasingly at the heart of what it means to be human and to conduct one's life with integrity. The course addresses the mutual relevance of pastoral concerns, science, and Christianity. Part of the course explores how Christianity has influenced the development of science, how science has impacted the content of theology, how Christianity and science are set in cultural context, and how Christianity can engage in interreligious dialogue about science. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 424 Theology in Context (1)

This course provides an examination of selected figures, movements, and/or issues in Christian theology with an eye to the historical, social, and geographical contexts of these theological positions. Analyzing ways these positions offer resources for contemporary Christian witness forms a key consideration of the course. The topical focus for the course is announced prior to class registration. The course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 425 Theology in Context II (2)

This course provides an examination of selected figures, movements, and/or issues in Christian theology with an eye to the historical, social, and geographical contexts of these theological positions. Analyzing ways these positions offer resources for contemporary Christian witness forms a key consideration of the course. The topical focus for the course is announced prior to class registration. The course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 426 Theology in Context III (3)

This course provides an examination of selected figures, movements, and/or issues in Christian theology with an eye to the historical, social, and geographical contexts of these theological positions. Analyzing ways these positions offer resources for contemporary Christian witness forms a key consideration of the course. The topical focus for the course is announced prior to class registration. The course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisites: THL 301, THL 425)

THL 430 Doctrines of the Christian Faith (3)

This is a systematic examination of one or more doctrines of the Christian faith. The doctrine is examined through its historical development and its impact on the development of Christian thought and practice. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 431 The Problem of Evil (3)

In this advanced seminar, participants closely examine a variety of ways in which thinking people have responded to evil. All of them have challenged and contributed to current understanding. The outcome of the reading and discussion is increased awareness and understanding of evil on the part of each participant as they prepare for ministry. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 432 Theological Anthropology (3)

This course is an exploration of the human person as both subject and object of theological discourse. It includes such themes as self, relation, transcendence, finitude, freedom, and imago Dei. It provides an introduction to theology and theological method. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 435 Process theology (3)

Process theology is a philosophical theology characterized by a dynamic and relational worldview, which affects how God, humanity, and nature are understood. This course explores forms of process theology informed by the philosophies of Alfred North Whitehead and Charles Hartshorne. The course emphasizes features of process theology that enhance Christian life and thought and that ground social justice (for example, justice for women or nature). (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 440 Theology of Interreligious Dialogue (3)

This seminar will examine current theological scholarship dealing with the theology of religions and compare them to discern viable theological wisdom for effective inter-religious encounters through dialogue. (Prerequisites: THL 301, EWR*)

THL 441 Christian Scripture and Feminist Hermeneutics (3)

This course is an examination of various approaches to the interpretation of scripture from feminist/womanist perspectives and their contribution to constructive theology. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 442 Contemporary Evangelical Theology (3)

This is a comparative study of several representative evangelical theologies and their responses to the challenge of Western modernity and postmodernity to historic Christianity. The course introduces students to the historic roots of and theological diversity within contemporary evangelicalism. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 443 Theological Commentary, Feminism, and the Psalms (2)

This course examines ways that Christians have interpreted the Psalms to understand their way in the world with an eye to how these practices might shape contemporary belief and practice. Study includes the challenges and opportunities of theological commentary on the Psalms, with special attention to work by feminist theologians and biblical scholars. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 444 Pentecostal and Charismatic Theology (3)

This course explores the diverse theologies of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements. Students are introduced to the historic roots and contemporary expressions of these movements through a comparative study of representative theologians. In addition to the various Pentecostal traditions in their cultural and global diversity, the course examines Protestant, Roman Catholic, non-denominational, and “Third Wave” forms of the Charismatic movement. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 446 Liberation Theology in the U.S. (3)

Informed by literature and social sciences, the survey of liberation theologies establishes particular social, cultural, political, economic, and historical contexts in the United States. The course explores central doctrines of such liberation theologies as black and womanist, Latino/a, Asian American, Native American, feminist, and gay/lesbian theologies. In addition to theological and contextual issues, the course emphasizes the relevance of liberation theologies to constructive approaches to ministry. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 448 Liberation Theology in Global Contexts (3)

Informed by literature and social sciences, the survey of global liberation theologies establishes particular social, cultural, political, economic, and historical contexts for theology across the world. The course explores central doctrines of liberation theologies in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. In addition to theological and contextual issues, the course emphasizes the relevance of liberation theologies to constructive approaches to ministry. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 450 Studies in a Selected Theologian (3)

This course examines the thought and writings of a leading historical or contemporary theologian, such as Augustine, Barth, Bonhoeffer, Bonino, Brunner, Calvin, Cobb, Cone, T. Cranmer, E. S. Fiorenza, G. Gutierrez, E. R. Johnson, Kierkegaard, Luther, McFague, J. Macquarrie, G. Marcel, Moltmann, R. Niebuhr, H.R. Niebuhr, W. Pannenburg, K. Rahner, R. Ruether, Schleiermacher, Soelle, Tillich and H. U. von Balthasar. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 451 Luther and Theological Anthropology (3)

This course examines significant themes in Martin Luther's teachings on the meaning of being human, male, and female. The focus will be on ways these teachings offer resources for theological anthropology in the twenty-first century. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 452 Min-Jung Theology and Dalit Theology (3)

This course introduces Asian liberation theologies to students: Min-Jung theology of Korea and Dalit theology of India. It examines points of convergence and divergence in relation to other liberation perspectives, such as Latin American and feminist theologies. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 454 Theology and Well Being Global Perspective (3)

Issues of faith and human well-being have long been intertwined. Individual health conditions are often impacted by the religious beliefs and social structural arrangements and practices. The course will explore the interfacing areas of them in a more systematic and analytic ways. Students will explore the relationships between the religious faith and healthcare services through both the academic study of faith practices and its practical implications for public service with the ecclesial, governmental, non-governmental and social organizations, in nonprofits and in business, in arts, in health care and other professions. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

THL 460 Prayer and Spirituality (3)

This course is designed to study the tradition of Christian prayer in terms of its nature, form, style, and role in spirituality and in worship. It will explore new forms, styles, and roles in Christian spirituality as it has been affected by practices of other religions. (Prerequisite: THL 301)

WORSHIP (WOR)

WOR 220 Choir (0.5)

This course gives students an opportunity to engage and energize community worship services through the music ministry of the choir. The group meets weekly for rehearsals and is open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages and abilities. Basic singing techniques, church music ministry, and the Holy Spirit's work in worship are a few topics which may be discussed. The choir performs in chapel approximately five times a semester, and for Commencement Convocation in the spring. On days when the ensemble performs, students will be expected to arrive early for warm-ups and a brief run through of music selections. Students may choose to enroll in the course for credit or to attend as a volunteer. Staff and faculty may also participate, if desired. This course is repeatable for credit. A maximum of 3 credit hours may be earned. (Credit/No Credit)

WOR 260 Prayer (3)

A practical course on the leading of public prayer, the relationship of personal to corporate prayer, and topics related to personal prayer practice, healing, specific spiritualities, or teaching prayer.

WOR 325 Worship Design Studio Annual Planning Retreat (1)

In this course, students attend the Worship Design Studio's Annual Planning Retreat, which leads participants in planning creative worship experiences through the next liturgical year. The retreat will rejuvenate passion for worship, lead students through planning worship themes, and design alternatives for rhythm-flexible worshipers both in-person and online. www.worshipdesignstudio.com/planningretreat (additional fee for this class; CR/NC)

WOR 410 Introduction to Worship and Liturgy (3)

By definition, Christian worship or liturgy is the work of the people. Thus, Christian worship involves the participation of all Christians in the ministries of leading, planning, and reflecting on worship. This course equips ordained and lay leaders for such a ministry by focusing on the following areas: (1) history and theology of the Sunday service and the sacraments in the light of the ecumenical movement for liturgical renewal and reform, (2) review of major liturgical resources, and practice with their use in a variety of settings, (3) development of skills necessary for leading prayer in the Christian assembly, (4) development of models for planning, leading, and reflecting on worship that engage the participation of congregation members. (Prerequisite: MIN 301)

WOR 411 Introduction Worship: Baptism Conversion (3)

This course addresses the basic theology and purpose of worship, and its primary elements, rhythms and structures. History and theology of the Sunday service, church year, and sacraments will be covered in light of the ecumenical movement for liturgical renewal and reform. The course's focus will be on theology, history, and practice of Christian initiation and its relationship to conversion.

WOR 412 Intro to Worship: Dining in the Kingdom (3)

Introduction to Worship invites study of the purpose, theology, and practice of worship as a gift from God and an offering of the Church-- including sacred time, sacred space, Sunday worship, and sacraments (ordinances). This course will focus on Holy Communion (theology and practice) in its relationship to union with Christ, the nurture of Christians, and the feeding of the world.

WOR 413 Introduction to Worship: The Practice of Worship Leadership (3)

This course equips ordained and lay leaders for a ministry of leading, planning, and reflecting on worship by focusing on the following areas: 1) history and theology of the Sunday service and the sacraments in the light of the ecumenical movement for liturgical renewal and reform; 2) review of major liturgical resources, and practice with their use in a variety of settings; 3) development of skills necessary for leading prayer in the Christian assembly; 4) development of models for planning, leading, and reflecting on worship that engage the participation of congregation members. (Prerequisites: MIN 301, HST 301, HST 302)

WOR 414 Introduction to Worship: History and Theology (3)

This basic worship course will prepare the student to understand theologies and histories of worship forms and to articulate their own theology of worship in relation to these. Additionally, students will obtain understanding of and skills for current worship practice. To this end, the class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and experiential practicum. (Prerequisites: MIN 301, HST 301, HST 302, THL 301)

WOR 415 Designing and Leading Worship (1)

This course gives students practical experience and mentoring in worship planning and leadership through service to the ministries of the chapel at the seminary. Using resources from various traditions and by writing original prayers, the team of students works together with the Director of Worship to provide intentional, meaningful, and creative worship experiences for the seminary community. Students may take this class up to three times for elective credit. (Credit/No Credit)

WOR 420 Sacramental Theology (3)

This course is a historical and denominational sketch of theologies of Christian initiation and Eucharist, focusing on selected authors from the New Testament to the 21st century. Attention will be given to the relationship of symbol and practice to embodied theology. The “sacramentality” of other actions (e.g., preaching, foot-washing, weddings, funerals) will be explored. (Prerequisite: WOR 41*)

WOR 430 Christian Ritualizing and the Baptismal Process (3)

This course asks the question: How can pastors support the baptized in their Christian life through creative liturgy and ritualization? Theologies of baptism and the baptismal life will be explored. Principles of Christian ritualization will be addressed from studies of ritual and rites of passage. The class will engage in generating rites to enable growth and healing. Doctoral students may enroll to do additional work in this field. (Prerequisite: WOR 41*)

WOR 432 Embodying Forgiveness and Reconciliation (3)

This course brings to awareness church understandings of sin and forgiveness/reconciliation and practices in relationship to worship. Engaging received tradition (e.g., sacraments, ordinances, hymnody) as well as creative practices, students will work with personal and corporate sin, repentance, forgiveness, and amendment of life, and the (sacramental) role of embodying and enabling these processes. (Prerequisites: WOR 4**, HTS 301, HST 302, THL 301)

WOR 440 Alternative Worship Practices (3)

In the face of post-Christendom and postmodernism, worship practices are changing in radical ways and will likely continue to do so in the new millennium before us. While grounding worship in traditional biblical, historical, and theological foundations, the course seeks to re-examine some of these foundations and explore alternative worship practices already in place and those still being birthed. These include online worship communities, dinner-based models, and house church movements. (Prerequisite: WOR 410)

DOCTORAL LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH LEADERSHIP (CHL)

CHL 510 Biblical Preaching Missional Capacity (2)

This course explores the ways in which biblical preaching can cultivate a missional imagination among the people of a particular congregation or other ministry setting. How can the biblical imagination inspire the congregation to see where God might be at work in the community beyond the church's walls? Students will consider how the biblical witnesses present the *Missio Dei* in order to incorporate this vision into their own contexts for ministry.

CHL 511 Building Communities in Context (3)

The course examines how larger cultural analysis of context functions as a component of praxis, which is the integration of theory, theology, and the practices of ministry. The course examines how larger cultural analysis of context functions as a component of Christian leadership praxis. Different interpretive lenses are used to analyze situations and issues in building community. The course requires attendance at the Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHL 512 Organizing for Change (3)

The course focuses on leading communities for social justice ministries. It considers theological grounding for social witness, understandings of justice, and how persons and communities can be formed for leadership in times of polarization and change. The course also attends to faith-based community organizing as a resource for justice ministries, including participation in training for organizing by a group such as More2, a member of the Gamaliel network of faith-based community organizations. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHL 513 Person and Role of Minister as Leader (2)

This course focuses on effective leadership in the church with special attention given to characteristics of effective leaders, collegiality in ministry, the discernment of priorities among the multiple roles of the minister, and the significance of personhood in the shaping of one's ministry. Students read and reflect critically on current literature in the field of leadership. They also present case studies for group analysis and discussion. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHL 514 Leading Across Difference (3)

The course focuses on formation of leaders in times of polarization and change. Course content engages difference such as, theological perspective, religion, and race/ethnicity. Students will engage exemplar leaders navigating the crossroads of difference. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHL 520 Becoming Agents of God's Hope (3)

The course focuses on theological and other theoretical approaches to leadership and how they can motivate and inform the practice of ministry. The course compares and contrasts a variety of approaches to leadership, considering their theological/theoretical grounding, how they can inspire hope in God's future, and how they contribute to the practice of Christian leadership contexts. The course includes participation in a conference on leadership. Such the Leadership Institute of the Church of the Resurrection. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHL 521 Intercultural Competence I (1)

This is the first of a two-part online course that develops skills in intercultural competency for ecclesial leadership and to enhance congregational innovation, mission, and strategic planning. Students must complete both semesters to fulfill degree requirements.

CHL 523 Ministry Leadership (3)

Students will assess their styles of leadership in the congregation in conversation with texts and with each other. Contemporary theories of leadership will be presented and studied so that participants in the class can discover other ways of examining their own styles of leading congregations and of practicing leadership. The importance of diagnosing the wider context, the congregation itself, and one's own styles of leadership will be emphasized. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHL 524 Intercultural Competence II (1)

This is the second of a two-part online course that develops skills in intercultural competency for ecclesial leadership and to enhance congregational innovation, mission, and strategic planning. Students must complete both semesters to fulfill degree requirements.

CHL 545 Leadership for Effective & Innovative Min (1)

This course introduces students to the concepts and practical steps in leading ministries that are both effective and innovative. In particular, we will review the various leadership philosophies that have guided organizations in recent years and will evaluate their potential for leading collaborative efforts between the church and the community at large. We will assist students in determining their personal leadership style and give them tools for developing leadership within the congregation that leads to success in implementing effective and innovative ministries.

CHL 546 Organizing Effective Ministry (2)

This course engages students in identifying and drawing upon the best structures, processes, and practices within one's tradition and in the church at large for effective congregational governance. These resources will be used to assess and reconceive organizational governance in one's present and possible contexts of ministry. Study will be oriented toward developing and communicating a clear and compelling missional vision within the organization and aligning its resources, activities, and community accordingly.

CHL 570 Practices of Personal Holiness (1)

As the first of three immersions in covenantal community, this course focuses on biblical, theological, and experiential sources for spiritual disciplines that emphasize personal holiness and their relation to social holiness, church leadership, discipleship, and mission. Open to all students with permission of instructor.

CHL 571 Practices of Social Holiness (1)

As the second of three immersions in covenantal community, this course focuses on biblical, theological, and experiential sources for Wesleyan communal practices that foster and intensify social holiness. Implications will be drawn for personal holiness, church leadership, discipleship, and mission. Open to all students with permission of instructor.

CHL 572 Organizing Missional Communities-Wes Sp (3)

As the third of three immersions in covenantal community, this course focuses on biblical, theological, and experiential sources for principles and practices of organizing communities for communion and mission. This course examines the steps by which communities emerge for authentic missional practice. Open to all students with permission of instructor.

CHL 573 Wesleyan Church Leadership (2)

This course focuses on the spiritual grounding, leadership competencies, and missional passion for evangelistic and prophetic ministry. Through critically reflecting on current literature and the discussion of case studies, students will learn the characteristics of effective leadership in the local church in light of Wesleyan theology and mission. Students will also explore resources and practices of spiritual formation as foundational for authentic and effective church leadership.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY (CHS)

CHS 510 Children and Poverty: Global Perspective (3)

According to United Nations figures, more than 35,000 children die every day because of hunger and preventable causes. And yet, the problem remains invisible. This course examines current situations in a global context, systematic causes, and theological grounding for why and how the church, and individuals within the church, should become change agent(s) to transform the world and care for God's children everywhere.

CHS 515 Prophetic Ministry (2)

This DMin seminar addresses contemporary social and global issues (e.g., global warming, farm crisis, health care) as they are informed by the Judeo-Christian prophetic and biblical tradition. Students explore different understandings of prophetic ministry within their historical and communal contexts. Reflecting on their own ministry, students consider the impact of social and global issues on the church and the actual living out of an approach to life and ministry that combines a vital spirituality with a lived proclamation of the gospel. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHS 516 Contextualizing the Vital Church (2)

The effectiveness of leadership and the vitality of congregational life depend, to a large extent, on understanding the context of the disciples who worship there. Contextual identity is generational, geographic, and faith based. The course will offer participants a chance to analyze their contexts, whether urban or rural, and to consider how those might impact the ministry of the congregation in community. Attention will be paid to the ways in which context impacts preaching, especially listener dynamics in preaching. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHS 517 Locating Social Justice Ministries (3)

Using case studies, this course examines aspects of specific injustices, such as war, disease, and food distribution, as a basis from which to explore ways socio-political and cultural contexts influence the Christian mandate to participate in acts of justice on behalf of all. The course includes reflections on the theological grounding for acts of justice.

CHS 518 Models of Diversity & Community (2)

Vital congregations are those which celebrate community while embracing diversity. Persons with different cultural, religious, racial, and sexual orientations are reflections of the diversity of God's creation. This course seeks to explore how congregations can be revitalized by examining the triune nature of God, the inclusivity of the gospel, and the implications for ministry in various local contexts.

CHS 520 Advocacy: Children, Poverty & Public Policy (2)

There are countless organizations that work to improve the lives of children around the world. Reflecting on their own ministry, students assess various responses to particular issues and ways in which these views influence their faith community's/denomination's articulation or endorsement of policy and its global implications.

CHS 524 Community Organizing for Missional Living (3)

Community organizing is all about relationship building. This course will assist congregational leaders in getting to know the wider community context in which the local church is situated. It will help participants develop their leadership for bringing people together to work for change and increase their abilities in power analysis and effective strategizing. Community organizing is a powerful approach to living out one's faith in the world.

CHS 525 Social Justice Foundations (3)

This DMin seminar examines the relationship between justice theories, practical expressions of faith, and the Gospel message to respect human life and dignity. This integrative approach examines experiences of children, poverty, and health and the church's local and global commitment to promote social justice. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

CHS 530 Healthcare: Biblical & Ethical Xn Trads (2)

This course explores the relationship of Christianity to health and healthcare, specifically biblical and other historical Christian traditions about health, healing and wholeness/wellness as well as illness and death. These biblical and traditional narratives, teachings and practices will be critically retrieved in the broader context of the church's current global ministries.

DOCTORAL MINISTRY (DMIN)

DMIN 510 Orienting Seminar (2)

This seminar introduces students to the overall scope and methods of doctoral study and forms a learning community of experienced persons in professional ministry. Students will explore the basic methods of congregational study, seek to clarify the direction of their doctoral research. (Credit/No Credit)

DMIN 540 Pre-Praxis Thesis Evaluation (1)

In this course students prepare for the transition to the Praxis Thesis portion of the DMin program by reflecting on their learning, resources used, and developing thought to-date. Through a review of their coursework, students assess their progress toward the program level Student Learning Outcomes and reflect critically on how their doctoral coursework may contribute to the Praxis Thesis project. (Prerequisites: THL 512, HST 514, and CHS 515). (Credit/No Credit)

DMIN 550 Praxis Thesis Seminar (2)

The course introduces students to the overall scope and methods of doctoral study and forms a learning community of experienced persons in professional ministry. Students are introduced to practical theological methods by which theology and practices are integrated for the purpose of transforming praxis in diverse contextual settings. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510) (Credit/No Credit)

DMIN 560 Praxis Thesis Proposal Writing (1)

The Praxis Thesis Proposal identifies the practice of ministry and the question(s), problem(s), or opportunities that triggered the investigation. It delineates the context for ministry, the theological framework and methods, and contributions to the practice of ministry that the student hopes to make. This course may be taken up to three times. (Pre-requisite: DMin 550, CR/NC)

DMIN 565 Praxis Thesis Proposal Conference (0)

This conference provides the opportunity for faculty to evaluate the adequacy of the Praxis Thesis proposal and the student's readiness to undertake a field project. This course may be taken up to two times. (Prerequisites: DMIN 560) (Credit/No Credit)

DMIN 571 A, B, C, D, E Praxis Thesis Research and Writing 1 (3)

In the final phase of the DMin program students carry out the plan developed in the Praxis Thesis proposal and write their Praxis Thesis. In this course students are expected to make regular progress toward completion of the Praxis. This course may be taken up to three times. The letters (A-E) correspond with individual advisors. (Prerequisite: DMIN 565) (Credit/ No Credit)

DMIN 572 A, B, C, D, E Praxis Thesis Research and Writing 2 (3)

In this course students are expected to complete the writing of the Praxis Thesis. Students work independently on research and writing and regularly consult with their committee to complete the Praxis Thesis. This course may be taken up to three times. The letters (A-E) correspond with individual chairperson. (Prerequisites: DMIN 560, DMIN 571) (Credit/No Credit).

DMIN 573 A, B, C, D, E Praxis Thesis/Project Conference (0)

The final written version of the Praxis Thesis is presented, discussed, and evaluated in a Conference with the Praxis Thesis Committee. The letters (A-E) correspond with individual advisors. This course may be taken up to two times. (Prerequisite: DMIN 572) (Credit/No Credit).

EVANGELISM (EVN)

EVN 571 Evangelism in the Wesleyan Tradition (2)

This course focuses on the biblical grounding, competencies, and missional passion for evangelistic ministry. Through critically reflecting on current literature and engaging congregational leaders, students will learn the characteristics of effective evangelism in the local church in light of Wesleyan theology and mission. Students will also explore emerging movements within the field of evangelism (i.e., emergent and monastic) and their relevance to the Wesleyan tradition. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

HISTORY (HST)

HST 514 Spiritual Traditions and Ministry (2)

This DMin seminar considers various practices and theologies of spirituality within the Christian tradition. Students learn from the historical witnesses and ask how they might inform life and ministry today. Students write their own spiritual autobiography. They also engage in and reflect on diverse spiritualities with the goal of recognizing and developing their own spiritual disciplines and their ministry in the church as a community of spiritual practices. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

NEW TESTAMENT (NTS)

NTS 510 Biblical Visions of Love, Justice, and Reconciliation (3)

Using the New Testament as a model for love, justice and reconciliation, this course explores approaches to peacemaking in the 21st century Global Church. The Pauline trajectory of reconciliation forms the basis for this course. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

NTS 511 The Bible and Ministry (2)

This D. Min. seminar (alternating with HBS 511) engages various contemporary critical approaches to the New Testament, such as conventional historical and literary critical methods, as well as various liberation perspectives, imperial-critical, and postmodern approaches. It provides insights into contemporary scholarly discussions in relation to contemporary ecclesial contexts. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

PASTORAL CARE (PCR)

PCR 510 Contextual Pastoral Theology and Care for the Marginalized (3)

A contextual approach to pastoral care requires a deep analysis of the place and sociocultural environment in which care takes place. A pastoral theology that supports and emerges from contextualized care understands the systemic interconnection of personal, natural, and social, and healing and justice. This course explores contextual pastoral theology and care in relation to issues of health and wholeness for the marginalized. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

PCR 515 Global Health: Pastoral Theology and Care Perspectives (3)

Concrete life experience in critical dialogue with theological and social scientific knowledge serves as the basis for pastoral theological construction. This course engages pastoral theologies of health and disease at the intersection of mind/body/spirit and individual/natural/cultural. Students will develop and practice appropriate congregational short- and long-term ministries of care in response to local and global illness and disease. Some of the specific topics may include living with physical and/or mental disability, diseases of poverty, violence against women and children, and the effects of war. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

PREACHING (PRE)

PRE 501 Rethinking Biblical Preaching (3)

How one comes at the task of preaching is grounded first in one's theology of preaching. Having examined various homiletical theologies, the course helps students to rethink the use of numerous methodologies for biblical interpretation, especially socio-rhetorical criticism. Lastly, the course helps students to rethink their patterns of sermon preparation and how to recover from burnout. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION (SFR)

SFR 501 Spiritual Formation for Ministry I (3)

The course will immerse the student in the rhythms and practices of spiritual formation through the Academy for Spiritual Formation. It provides a broad overview of Christian spiritualities as well as grounding in Scripture. In addition, this course will reflect with the students together in the cohort on spiritual formation for ministry in their ministry contexts. (Credit/No Credit)

SFR 502 Spiritual Formation Ministry II (3)

The course will immerse the student in the rhythms and practices of spiritual formation through the Academy for Spiritual Formation. It provides a focused exploration of New Testament and Roman Catholic spiritualities as well as grounding in liturgy and corporate worship as spiritual formation. In addition, this course will reflect with the students together in the cohort on spiritual formation for ministry in their ministry contexts. (Credit/No Credit)

SFR 503 Spiritual Formation Seminar III (3)

The course will immerse the student in the rhythms and practices of spiritual formation through the Academy for Spiritual Formation. It provides a focused exploration of New Testament spirituality, Protestant spirituality, and practices of discernment and healing. In addition, students will reflect together in the cohort on spiritual formation for ministry in their contexts. (Credit/No Credit)

SFR 504 Spiritual Formation Seminar IV (3)

The course will immerse the student in the rhythms and practices of spiritual formation through the Academy for Spiritual Formation. It provides an exploration of leadership in local communities with focus on witness to the reign of God and practices to sustain that witness over decades of ministry. In addition, students will reflect together in the cohort on spiritual formation for ministry in their contexts. (Credit/No Credit)

THEOLOGY (THL)

THL 512 Theology and the Church's Ministry (2)

This DMin seminar requires the examination and analysis of one's own setting for and practice of ministry for greater theological awareness and theological integrity. It explores the importance and relevance of doctrines (e.g., sin, Christology, ecclesiology, soteriology) to specific ministerial practices, to deepen and broaden the interface of one's theology and tasks of the church's ministry. One's own theological perspective is identified and developed. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

THL 527 Theology Spirituality Wesleyan Tradition (3)

This DMin seminar examines the theology and practice of John and Charles Wesley with a focus on present implications for ministry and church renewal. A central issue is the relationship between growth in the Christian life and participation in the means of grace. Specific attention is given to holiness of heart and life understood in terms of Christian affections, the nature of grace and its relation to faith and works, faith as an epistemological capacity, the relation of justification to sanctification, and the creational and eschatological framework within which the Christian life is understood. The course examines adherence to a spiritual discipline of participation in such means of grace as prayer, searching the scriptures, the Eucharist, classes and bands, and acts of mercy enabled growth in the Christian life. The goal is to develop a contemporary vision of the Christian life and the communal, liturgical, and devotional contexts that encourage growth in the knowledge of and love of God and neighbor.

THL 527A Theology & Spirituality in Wesleyan Tradition (2)

This DMin seminar examines the theology and practice of John and Charles Wesley with a focus on present implications for ministry and church renewal. A central issue is the relationship between growth in the Christian life and participation in the means of grace. Specific attention is given to holiness of heart and life understood in terms of Christian affections, the nature of grace and its relation to faith and works, faith as an epistemological capacity, the relation of justification to sanctification, and the creational and eschatological framework within which the Christian life is understood. The course examines adherence to a spiritual discipline of participation in such means of grace as prayer, searching the scriptures, the Eucharist, classes and bands, and acts of mercy enabled growth in the Christian life. The goal is to develop a contemporary vision of the Christian life and the communal, liturgical, and devotional contexts that encourage growth in the knowledge of and love of God and neighbor. 2-credit course is for Korean Wesleyan Spirituality and Congregational Renewal DMin track.

THL 570 Wesleyan Heart Personal Social Holiness (1)

As a contemporary theological examination of the heart of Wesleyan spirituality, this course explores the relation between Christian affections or tempers (the terms Wesley used for the inner core of personal motivations and dispositions) and practices of piety, mercy, and prophetic action. This relation will be understood as manifested in the liturgical, communal, and missional contexts within which the Christian life of personal and social holiness is formed and shaped.

THL 571 Topics in Wesleyan Studies (1)

This course focuses on a selected topic in the areas of theology, history, or spirituality as it relates to the Wesleyan tradition. When offered, the course is in conjunction with the Wesley Studies Conference held at Saint Paul School of Theology. Students are expected to participate fully in this conference and accompanying class sessions as well as complete pre-conference and post-conference assignments. (Prerequisite: DMIN 510)

WORSHIP (WOR)

WOR 501 The Worshiping Church (3)

Worship is the portal through which visitors find a spiritual home, members grow to greater discipleship and the whole congregation is inspired to "go and do likewise" in the world. The need is great for vital worship at the epicenter of congregational life. This course will explore the depths of spirituality, excellence of practice in sensory-rich communication and intentional preparation needed by leaders of the 21st century church for worship that revitalizes congregations. Prerequisite: Admission to the DMin program. (Prerequisite: WOR 410)