

Learning at



VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

VTS CATALOG

2026-2027





INTRODUCTION

Learning at VTS contains the Seminary's regulations, policies, and guidelines relating to academic life, financial aid, and personal integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, the regulations, policies, and guidelines included in this publication apply to all students enrolled in one or more academic programs. Substantial changes made in the curriculum after a student has been accepted and enrolled in a degree or diploma program may not be applicable or required.

Learning at VTS is published each year. It contains detailed information on such matters as dropping and adding courses, independent study projects, financial obligation restrictions, and other explanatory material. In consultation with your academic advisor, *Learning at VTS* will assist you in setting learning goals and monitoring progress toward graduation. In addition, you may consult with any faculty member regarding course selection and overall planning of a course of study.

Further questions about academic policies may be explored with the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Associate Dean of Students, or the Registrar.

The interpretation or texts of these regulations and policies are definitive and kept with the Office of the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs.

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ABOUT VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mission of VTS

Led by the Holy Spirit, Virginia Theological Seminary forms and educates leaders who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and helps others participate in God's mission throughout the world. We are a racially and culturally diverse residential community of The Episcopal Church, devoted to worship and prayer; teaching and learning; and research and service to the wider church.

The Mission Emphases

Our home is The Episcopal Church. We bring to all we do an abiding commitment to the life of faith with the life of the mind; our love of liturgy, music, and preaching; and a generous, open orthodoxy.

Our longing is for God to form human lives who are passionate in their beliefs and practices for the Good News of God in Christ, caring for the earth, and bringing the presence of Christ to congregations through pastoral care and ministry to those in need.

Our ministry and mission are grounded on a lovely campus in a residential community, where people daily learn the discipline of worship, engage in rigorous graduate studies, and participate in lively table fellowship in the Refectory.

Our work is graduate theological education, where texts and traditions are opened, where connections are made with the contemporary church and the world in ways that compel and excite.

Our mission is global in reach. Through our deep connections in the Anglican Communion and our Center for Anglican Communion Studies, we have ministry partners worldwide. We value our ecumenical and interfaith relationships and seek to learn from the perspectives of others.

Our Lifelong Learning programs, through creative and innovative initiatives, seek to bring education, training, and resources within the reach of all.

Our deep commitment is to shape Church leaders, lay and ordained, who are committed to the creation of a just society in which the image of God in all people is honored and where the sins of racism and injustice are named, challenged, and ultimately eradicated.

Our service to the Church and the world is enhanced by a dedicated focus on research with an emphasis on practice. Our connections with alumni, friends, and congregational and diocesan partners are important and strengthen the Seminary.

Our mission is delivered by dedicated employees who strive for excellence through the provision of services, and through careful stewardship of our resources. We are invested in the development of our staff and are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our life together.

History

Virginia Theological Seminary was founded in 1823 to educate men for the ministry of Christ's church. It was born of the struggle which followed the Revolutionary War. During the early days of America's independence, a small group dedicated themselves to the task of recruiting and training a new generation of church leaders. In 1818, a "Society for the Education of Pious Young Men for the Ministry" was formed and five years later opened the School of Prophets, which became the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia. When the school opened in Alexandria with two instructors, 14 students were enrolled.

Embracing the wholeness of God's creation, Virginia Theological Seminary has made steady progress in the diversification of its student body and faculty. The first Native American student, Joseph DuBray, was admitted in 1913, and the first African American student, John T. Walker, arrived in 1951. In 1953, Virginia Seminary merged with The Bishop Payne Divinity School, the seminary in Petersburg that had trained Black men and women since 1878. Women first joined courses in 1958 and were admitted into degree programs beginning in 1960. The first woman to graduate with a VTS degree was Phyllis Ingraham in 1966.

In January 1997, the Board of Trustees of the Seminary officially adopted the policy “Call to a Holy Life” recognizing that individuals from the LGBTQ+ community are welcome at VTS. In 2009, the Very Rev. Ian Markham, Dean and President of VTS, issued a formal apology for the Seminary’s participation in the “sinful structures of oppression and injustice” prevalent in society throughout the Seminary’s history. He also pledged that “going forward, we promise to do what we can to challenge racism and create an institution that can train and utilize all the gifts of all God’s people.”

Accreditation

Virginia Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS), and the following degree programs are approved: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Educational Ministry.

The Commission's contact information is:

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada
10 Summit Park Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15275 USA
Telephone: 412-788-6505; Fax: 412-788-6510; Website: www.ats.edu

Individuals who believe that VTS is not meeting any of the standards established by ATS are encouraged to address their concerns in writing to the Chair of the Board of Trustees or the Dean and President. The Board Chair or the Dean will determine an appropriate means to investigate the concern, to judge its validity, and to remedy it if warranted. The Chair and the Dean will keep records of all correspondence and subsequent actions related to a concern on file. Since the ATS is the Seminary’s only accrediting agency, degrees may not be recognized by public institutions for certification and courses may not be accepted at other institutions.

STATEMENT ON EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Virginia Theological Seminary is committed to assuring and enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in both our Master’s and Doctoral degree programs. We believe that the process of gathering assessment data, analyzing this data, and acting in ways that respond to assessment data is an integral part of our collective vocation.

Assessment and evaluation are the means by which we will:

- equip students to reflect on their progress toward program-level student learning outcomes (through portfolios, capstone projects, and thesis work);
- demonstrate, through direct and indirect means, that student learning has occurred, as measured against student learning outcomes (portfolio reviews, course evaluations, and outcomes assessment);
- ensure the quality of educational offerings (questionnaires, course evaluations, Contextual Ministry assessments, and outcomes assessment); and
- pursue ongoing quality enhancement of programs by providing better access to assessment and evaluation data and facilitating conversations about this data within the community.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE (AASL) STUDENT SERVICES CONTACTS

Aspinwall Hall, First Floor

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (GTS and VTS)

Melody Knowles, mknowles@vts.edu; knowles@gts.edu

- Oversees all academic programs and the department of Academic Affairs and Student Life

Operations Manager for AASL (GTS and VTS)

Quinn Harkless, qharkless@vts.edu

- Supports the work of the Senior Vice President and Associate Dean of Students
- Oversees the Spiritual Director program
- Coordinates Commencement activities and planning
- Manages canonically required student assessments
- Supports the Honorary Degree process
- Processes Academic Affairs receipts, including faculty-related expenses
- Maintains AASL department communications and information
- Supervises the Flamingo student publication
- Administers the Bell-Woolfall scholarship program

GTS Registrar

Dan Coleman, registrar@gts.edu

- Manages students' progress, and ensures that records are accurate and secure
- Drafts the course of studies and the academic calendar
- Manages the course registration, supports advising, maintains student group/classes email lists, and manages course evaluations
- Maintains the academic handbook
- Determines valid transfer credits, approves course overloads, and manages transcript requests
- Liaises with Consortium partners, and manages reporting to accrediting agencies

VTS Registrar

Victoria Elie, registrar@vts.edu

- Manages students' progress, and ensures that records are accurate and secure
- Drafts the course of studies and the academic calendar
- Serves as advisor for part-time students
- Manages the course registration, supports advising, maintains student group/classes email lists, and manages course evaluations
- Maintains the academic handbook
- Records valid transfer credits and records course overloads.
- Liaises with Consortium partners, and manages reporting to accrediting agencies
- Assigns and oversees classroom spaces
- Manages education verifications with various government agencies, verification institutions, and transcript requests
- Serves as the Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) for SEVIS F-1 international students

Director of Educational Technology and SIS and LMS Administrator (GTS and VTS)

Jenn Baker, jbaker@vts.edu, jbaker@gts.edu

- Oversees Brightspace, Populi, Zoom (GTS), VoiceThread, and other learning technologies
- Teaching Assistant support for navigating online courses and using learning platforms effectively
- Provides LMS and SIS orientation resources
- Supports student portfolio processes and portfolio course site setup (VTS)

Associate Dean of Students (VTS)

Rachelle Sam, rsam@vts.edu

- Leads student onboarding and supports the ongoing pastoral experience of students while supervising Recruitment and Housing
- Coordinates systems and resources that support student formation and success
- Organizes student orientation programs and community life events
- Provides guidance and support in response to pastoral needs, student concerns, feedback, and community matters
- Maintains and updates the Student Handbook
- Oversees the issuance of canonically required student assessments
- Collaborates closely with Student Government to support student engagement and leadership
- Serves as the Designated School Official (DSO) for SEVIS F-1 international students

Associate Director for Recruiting, Admissions, and Housing (GTS and VTS)

admissions@vts.edu

- Leads recruitment programs and oversees VTS student housing
- Organizes campus visits and coordinates visit days for prospective students
- Processes admissions applications and supports the work of the admissions committee
- Oversees the admissions process and VTS proctors

Program Coordinator for Doctoral Programs (VTS)

Jenn Baker, jbaker@vts.edu

- Ensures the strength and success of the Doctoral programs while supporting student progress toward degree completion
- Advises students on course selection and academic progress within their degree programs
- Develops and manages communications for students and faculty
- Coordinates campus support and logistics for residency programs
- Onboards new students and doctoral staff members, including contracts, payments, and orientation processes

Housing and Admissions Coordinator (VTS and GTS)

- Supports admissions processes for both VTS and GTS
- Provides housing information and coordinates student move-ins and move-outs at VTS
- Manages student employment opportunities and processes at VTS

Computer Lab Staff (VTS and GTS)

Cynthia Radar, crader@vts.edu, crader@gts.edu

- Student technical support for account access, passwords, troubleshooting, and technical issues

Coordinator for Student Care and Wellness (VTS) Sally Slater

sslater@vts.edu

- Serves as a confidential and support resource for students experiencing emotional, academic, or spiritual challenges
- Collaborates with the Associate Dean of Students to coordinate student wellness and spiritual care resources
- Assists in supporting students with learning accommodations

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Curricular Design

The Doctoral Programs are designed with an intentional, developmental trajectory in mind. Student development in ministry and leadership effectiveness is the overarching aim – to build up and strengthen students as wise, skillful, faithful leaders, for the sake of transforming lives, communities, and cultures. These greater aims of personal, communal, and cultural transformation

are rooted in the life-giving, life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ and his proclamation of the kingdom of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the world and in all places of human life.

The figure shows how the Doctoral Programs overlap in their concern with all three domains of transformative ministry and leadership – personal, communal, and cultural. The figure also shows how each of the three tracks within the Doctoral Programs – Educational Leadership, Ministry Development, and Christian Spirituality – emphasizes one of these three areas of transformation, while also overlapping with the other two areas. This sense of primary emphasis with overlapping concerns is important in understanding how the Doctoral Programs seek both to focus and to expand students' attention regarding the wide-ranging perspectives and skills for transformational leadership.

Ministry Development's primary focus is on transformational work with communities – both the faith community itself and the surrounding neighborhoods and public communities – with overlapping attention to persons and cultures.

Christian Spirituality's primary focus is on transformational work with individuals, with overlapping attention to communities and cultures.

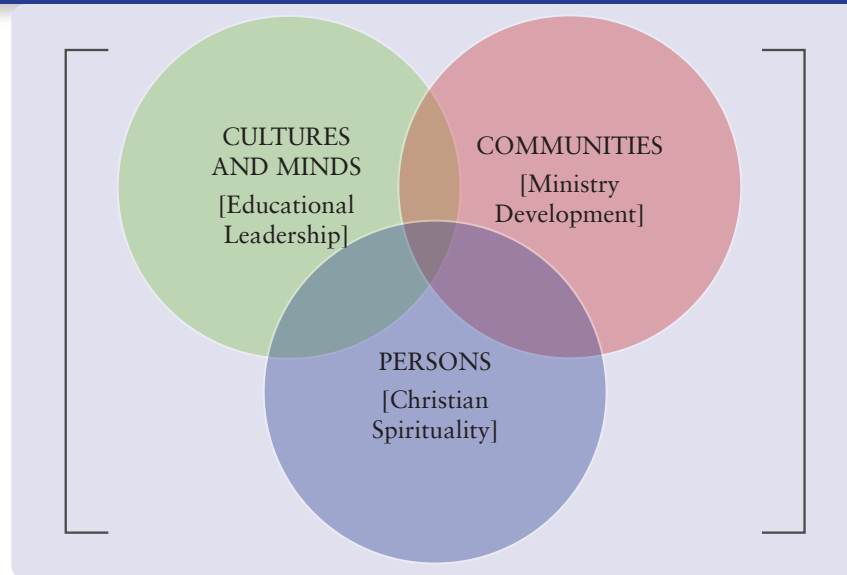
Educational Leadership's primary focus is on transformation of cultures and of minds, with overlapping attention to people and communities.

To work toward these aims of strengthening transformational leaders, the coursework in the Doctoral Programs is designed to develop knowledge, skill, and habit through interdisciplinary academic rigor, integrative analytic movement between theory and practice – and between text and context – unflinching challenge for personal growth, and demanding expansion of skills and habits through practice, experimentation, and reflection that is intertwined with students' contexts of ministry.

The deepest and most integral work in the doctoral programs happens in the **Integrative Courses**. In these, students work to develop consistent, sturdy habits of bridging between theory and practice between text and context. Here, students learn to study deeply their context of ministry, and themselves in action, drawing on different traditions of wisdom and insight to see themselves and their settings with new eyes. Students also read deeply in Christian scripture and tradition, and in other disciplines, to expand their understanding of how people have understood paths of transformation toward holy and healthy life in individuals, communities, and cultures – and then bring these insights into conversation with the challenges and opportunities they face in their specific settings.

The **Core Courses** help to form a solid foundation specifically intended for students in each track. Drawing on biblical, theological, historical, social scientific, and pragmatic sources, these courses help to provide some overarching perspectives and form new practices for transformational leadership specific to the building and strengthening of persons, communities, and cultures.

The **Project Thesis** allows students to branch out, to explore and dig deeply into a range of topics and practices that are most applicable to their contexts and of most interest for their own development.



Learning Outcomes for VTS Doctoral Programs

The primary goal of VTS Doctoral Programs is to strengthen Christian ministry and leadership for increased excellence in fostering transformation in individuals, communities, and cultures in witness to the living Christ. These programs offer terminal degrees for ministry practitioners that demand original research through innovative ministry projects that are attentive to cultural contexts, culminating in a summative thesis of doctoral-level academic writing. Program-wide goals and track-specific goals are as follows:

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. **Theological Foundations:**
 - DMin outcome: To sharpen expertise and understanding of the historical, biblical, and theological foundations of Christian discipleship, creatively integrating them with contemporary Christian ministry, leadership, and mission.
 - DEdMin outcome: To understand the historical, biblical, and theological foundations of Christian discipleship, creatively integrating them with contemporary Christian ministry, leadership, and mission.
2. **Transformational Vision:** To identify, articulate, and incorporate the aims of Christian ministry with the communities with which one serves for the purposes of Christ and the common good.
3. **Contextual Interpretation:** Using theological, social scientific, and related professional disciplines to build advanced critical skills in reading, understanding, and shaping the life of communities of faith in diverse and changing contexts.
4. **Personal Growth:** To develop enduring habits for effective leadership and to learn how to form relationships of mutual support that cultivate ministry expertise as a reflective and scholarly practitioner.
5. **Analysis of Ministry Practice:** To develop advanced capacities for assessing ministerial experience and context, critically integrating biblical, theological, behavioral, developmental, and organizational tools.
6. **Leadership Development:** To develop professional skills and habits that foster leadership in self and lead others to committed discipleship.

Track Specific Learning Goals:

Ministry Development:

1. **Strengthening communities:** Engage practices that forge community bonds amid varying circumstances and contexts to inspire mission.
2. **Mission and evangelism:** Theologically engage interdisciplinary approaches that promote personal and communal transformation to seek personal and social transformation in the world in Christ's name.
3. **Leadership Development:** Develop reflective capacities and skills to engage institutional systems and structures and to form transformational leaders.

Educational Leadership:

4. **Transforming Contexts:** Foster learning communities that prioritize spiritual formation and promote the worth and dignity of every human being.
5. **Knowing Traditions:** Understand, interpret, and engage perspectives on Christian religious education and formation.
6. **Leadership Development:** Demonstrate creativity and collaboration in shaping institutional cultures committed to human flourishing and God's transforming work in the world.

Christian Spirituality:

1. **Knowing traditions:** Understand, interpret, and appropriate the wisdom of scriptural and historical traditions of Christian spirituality.
2. **Fostering discernment:** Develop habits of discernment through contemplative listening and study to support personal and communal transformation.
3. **Living practices:** Explore and cultivate spiritual practices in oneself to lead contemporary Christian communities in spiritual practices for formation and transformation.

Revised goals adopted by the VTS Faculty in May 2024-25

Admissions Requirements

Doctor of Ministry Program

All applicants should fulfill the following basic prerequisites:

1. Possess an earned Master of/in Divinity degree from an accredited seminary, or its equivalent, with at least a B grade average (consideration will be given to an applicant with a Master's degree in a non-theological discipline if the applicant demonstrates knowledge, competence or skills that would normally be provided by specific MDiv-level courses);
2. Show strong motivation for professional and spiritual growth;
3. Exhibit curiosity, humility, and courage to learn and try new ways of leading;
4. Demonstrate a strong capacity for writing, reading, reflection, and conversation in the English language;
5. Have a minimum of three years' experience in employed work of ministry and leadership.

Educational Leadership – at least three years in school, campus, or educational ministry, and be at work full-time in continuing school, campus, or educational ministry.

Ministry Development – at least three years in ordained ministry or full-time church work and be at work full-time in continuing ministry.

Christian Spirituality – at least three years in educational, congregational, or pastoral care ministry, and be at work full-time in continuing ministry.

Doctor of Educational Ministry Program

All applicants should fulfill the following basic prerequisites:

1. Possess an earned Master's degree in one of the cognate disciplines that represents one of the central foci of the Educational Leadership program of at least 48 credits: education and educational leadership, organizational behavior and leadership, or spiritual and pastoral leadership or related field;
2. Demonstrate a strong capacity to comprehend and work with texts and concepts from the classic theological disciplines;
3. Show strong motivation for professional and spiritual growth;
4. Exhibit curiosity, humility, and courage to learn and try new ways of leading;
5. Demonstrate a strong capacity for writing, reading, reflection, and conversation in the English language;
6. Have a minimum of five years' experience in employed educational vocation, and be at work in a position of organizational leadership, direction, or instruction in a religiously affiliated or sympathetic educational setting;
7. Be an active member of congregations and faith communities for at least six years and through the present.

Application Process and Procedures (DMin and DEdMin)

Applicants must submit their applications online via the VTS Admissions portal. Admission requirements include:

1. A non-refundable application fee of US \$75.
2. An official transcript of work completed at each college, university, or seminary attended.
3. A resume or CV that includes a record of all significant employment and volunteer work since college.
4. Two essays (delineated below).
5. Three letters of reference: one letter of endorsement and recommendation from the applicant's ecclesiastical authority or equivalent, one recommendation letter from a ministry colleague, and one from an academic instructor. In other words, one letter must speak to the applicant's spiritual readiness, one must speak to the applicant's professional readiness, and one must speak to the applicant's academic readiness for doctoral work. For DEdMin applicants, the letter of endorsement from a church pastor or priest must include an affirmation of the applicant's active involvement in church life.

The Admissions Committee is interested in the applicant's range of experience in the practice of ministry. Applicants need to prepare the following items and upload them to the online application:

1. A 4- to 5-page essay entitled "Theology of Leadership," which displays how the applicant understands and expresses leadership within their specific ministry context. The essay should include the following elements:

- 1) a brief description of applicant's ministry context (no more than one page); 2) a portrayal of the applicant's leadership within that context, that is, how the context shapes their leadership and how their leadership shapes that context; 3) exploration of theological and biblical resources that shape the applicant's approach to leadership. The essay should reference at least two books significant to the applicant's thought and practice.
2. A 2-page Personal Statement outlining the applicant's areas of interest for research, study, and practice of ministry during doctoral work.
3. Essays should be double-spaced, Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins.

Campus Residency Sessions

The Summer Sessions at VTS are the heart of the doctoral program experience. For consecutive summers (mid-June through early July), students come to VTS for up to three weeks of on-campus residency. Each residency includes daily four-hour class sessions for three intensive core and elective courses, daily worship, daily afternoon seminar sessions for integrative courses, and the project thesis proposal workshop (final summer).

Academic Courses and Seminars

Academic courses are the essence of our Doctoral Programs. During each residency, students are immersed in courses for integrative work for effective ministry, leadership, and mission. Each track in the Doctoral Program requires a set of core academic courses that provide central foundations, principles, and best practices particular to that track. In addition, students can take elective courses on topics of particular interest to them. These courses bring together biblical, theological, social science, and professional perspectives on issues such as governance and authority, conflict and change, spirituality and spiritual development, education and formation, mission and evangelism, and the development of communities and cultures. Students prepare for courses in advance of each residency and complete final assignments in a designated period following each residency.

Case Study Workshops

In case study workshops, students reflect with each other and with faculty on their practices of ministry through the study of case situations about themselves in action in situations from the prior year that took them to the edge of their competency and comfort. Case studies are written using an action-reflection approach that involves studying oneself in action in ministry and leadership, then relating that action and people's responses to theological and social science perspectives. Students learn the case study method in their first residency. Prior to all subsequent residency sessions, students prepare case studies on their experiences and actions in ministry and leadership, submit these for review by faculty, and then post them in defined peer-and-faculty groups online. Students are assigned cases for which to write an analytic appraisal. Colleagues and faculty discuss and explore each case in case study seminars during the residencies.

Faculty members facilitate discussion and reflection, emphasizing theological, social science, and practical reflection. Seminar members form a mentoring community as together they consider their leadership roles as missionaries, pastors, educators, administrators, and spiritual and ethical guides.

The case method offers an opportunity for students to:

- Identify effective styles of ministry and leadership to increase self-understanding in ministry and decision-making, and develop skills in the analysis of situations and context
- Reflect on the theology of the mission and ministry of a school, church, hospital, or another context.

Contextual Study Seminars

In the first residency of the DMin program and the second residency of the DEdMin program, students attend sessions that prepare them for the yearlong study they will conduct of their contexts of ministry and surrounding communities. Following this yearlong study, students submit their completed in-depth studies for review by faculty and then post them in defined peer-and-faculty groups online. Each student then writes an analytic appraisal of a posted study. Colleagues and faculty then discuss and explore each study in seminars that are conducted similarly to case study seminars.

Progress Consultations

During the residential terms, students have opportunities for one-on-one consultations with the director of the Doctoral programs and other faculty members. Each student's work is reviewed and discussed with the case study workshop leaders as well. Suggested reading emerges from these discussions as goals for the program are stated and clarified.

Worship and Scripture

Daily worship in Immanuel Chapel is an integral part of summer residencies. Attendance at worship is expected and brings students and faculty together for varied ecumenical expressions of praise, prayer, and deep immersion in scriptural texts. Holy Eucharist (Communion) is celebrated twice a week.

Family on campus

Due to the intense, immersive nature of the residential periods of study in the Doctoral Program, we highly recommend that students attend the residential periods unaccompanied by family members. There is no on-campus housing for families during the residential periods. Students who choose to bring their families to the Washington area during the residential period must seek suitable housing off campus and will not be given special consideration for class absences or failure to complete assignments due to circumstances related to family responsibilities or commitments.

Study at Home

The Doctoral Programs at VTS require work throughout the year, between and in preparation for summer residencies. All core and elective courses require an online component, which includes completion of all readings, participation in online forums, and completion of preparatory assignments. Integrative courses require ongoing study of text and context and the learning of practical theological methods, through the yearlong process of studying one's context of ministry, the two-year *Visions of Transformation* reading course, and the practice of deep reflection on situations of ministry and leadership through the writing of case studies. Prior to the final Summer Session, students prepare their project thesis proposals.

Online Component of Summer Coursework

Residencies require preparatory reading and work, beginning months in advance – the courses themselves begin with online work which starts in April. Short syllabi with assigned texts are provided to students at the time of online registration, allowing for early acquisition and reading of texts. From April through early June, each academic seminar course provides three to six weeks of online coursework that engages course readings and concepts through forums and assignments. Students are expected to engage fully in online work within the assigned timelines of each course.

Through this online engagement, students begin to form a course culture of interaction with each other and the instructor(s), focus on key questions and themes from course readings, and prepare themselves for high-quality class sessions during residency.

Contextual Study

Following the first residency, students will study the places of ministry where they serve. Students conduct this study in partnership with their chosen Contextual Study Group, through an eight-month online course that takes them through different approaches to “reading” their congregation, school, hospital, judicatory, or other context of ministry, and its surrounding community. The study examines the congregation or ministry organization's history, current life, organizational structure, interpersonal and social dynamics, human capital, implicit theology, and relationship with the surrounding community and broader world, to describe the challenges that confront the organization's ongoing mission and ministry. Students are expected to check in with faculty and peers through online forums provided, and through other means of continuing contact. Each study will include student self-assessment of the role, leadership strengths and areas for growth, and points of learning – with input from the contextual study team.

Independent Reading

Doctoral students are expected to have developed mastery of a body of biblical, theological, social scientific, professional, and interdisciplinary literature that relates directly to their context of ministry and their work in leadership and ministry development. Admission to the Doctoral Program includes the assignment of required foundational readings for entry into the program. Upon admission, new students are enrolled in their first courses and gain access to syllabi with assigned preparatory readings and assignments. All residency academic courses and seminars involve thorough preparatory reading and preliminary assignments to be completed before the residency class sessions. Each course provides the required and recommended reading lists, which become part of the corpus of literature that each student begins to master. Beyond this, students are expected to read and study in areas that pertain to their interests in personal, professional, and congregational/community development. This body of literature will begin to be assembled in the creation of an annotated bibliography and will contribute to and be expanded by the references that are used in writing the theology of ministry paper and the project thesis.

Biblical and Theological Studies (DEdMin Only)

Biblical and Theological Studies I and II provide an overview of Christian doctrine and biblical studies for students without an MDiv or equivalent. The overview is offered with particular attention to application in contemporary contexts of ministry. Oriented toward students in the Doctor of Educational Ministry program, they are introductory courses that provide students a background in theology and biblical studies, such that they may fully engage VTS's Doctoral Programs' commitment to integrating thought and praxis. Biblical and Theological Studies I focuses on theology; Biblical and Theological Studies II focuses on ethics. Biblical Studies is integrated throughout both semesters.

Visions of Transformation: The Two-Year Guided Readings Course

A sequence of four guided reading courses for Doctoral students titled "Visions of Transformation" takes two years and is completed during the semesters between residencies. This course sequence is designed to immerse Doctoral students in biblical, theological, philosophical, and social/psychological literature that offers images and ideals of a good society and good person from across time and different cultural contexts. The course is intended to help students focus their theological reflection around questions of ultimate aims (teleology, or God's desires and intentions for humanity as individuals, communities, and cultures) ultimate outcomes (eschatology, or "how the story will end"), and the means by which we might move toward those aims and outcomes in concert with the Holy Spirit (soteriology, or God's process of salvation and sanctification and our participation in that process). This course will help guide the selection of independent readings.

Project Thesis: Final Residency and Beyond

The Doctoral Program culminates in the student's writing and successful defense of a project thesis.

Project Thesis Proposal Seminar and Workshop

For the final Summer residency, students prepare a proposal for their project theses – their focused thesis topic and associated project (a transformational effort in ministry and leadership) that will become their major written work. A thorough development and vetting process assists students in drafting a project thesis proposal that is critically and clearly focused on a specific challenge in Christian ministry and leadership that transcends their own setting, deeply grounded in theological and social science perspectives, solid in design and research methodology, and geared toward focused transformational impact.

Prior to the final residency, each student consults with the Director or other designated faculty for guidance on the shaping of the thesis and associated project. Students then post proposal drafts online for peer and faculty review and discussion, and reflect on issues relating to the proposal. During the residency, students attend an initial proposal discussion seminar and a final proposal workshop. Through refinement, each student emerges with a proposal vetted, approved, and ready for launch under the direction of a chosen thesis advisor.

An instructor in the Doctoral Program must be selected as a faculty advisor for a student's thesis project. This advisor will supervise and work with the student through the various stages in the development of the thesis

project and its completion. After the first or second residential session at VTS, identifying a faculty advisor becomes a high priority for the student in consultation with the Director of the program. NOTE: The advisor's approval of the accepted proposal is the final stage of approval to move to the next stage. Project thesis proposals are usually due by June 1.

Project Thesis

Upon acceptance of the proposal by the Doctoral faculty, the Director, and the advisor, the student will be a candidate for the doctoral degree (DMin or DEdMin). The student consults with the advisor and Director to create a thesis committee that includes the advisor and two readers. Students write their theses and carry out their ministry projects in the contexts of their own ministries and leadership.

Students in the thesis stage are advised to attend the Thesis Week offered each January. Doctoral students may request a writing consultation with the VTS Academic Resource Center (ARC) for guidance after discussing it with their advisor and the Director of Doctoral Programs. ARC may offer a limited number of coaching hours to establish the foundation of the project. This guidance is usually provided toward the beginning of the writing process, focused on a single chapter. Learnings then ground the writing process for the remainder of the thesis writing. Students are also encouraged to form peer writing groups to support one another across the thesis process and seek additional help independently.

The thesis is written and the project is conducted in the context of a student's location of ministry and leadership. Each student is expected to consult with their advisor on matters related to theological and social scientific content, project and research design, and the structure of the document. Chapters are submitted to and reviewed by their advisor through email correspondence. Students may also consult, for specific purposes only, their readers prior to the completion of their full draft.

The thesis may focus on a wide variety of areas of ministry, but must be rooted in the practice of ministry. Integrating material and insights from the theological and behavioral disciplines that illuminate the topic and its associated project is critical to the thesis. An acceptable project thesis will state its case in 80 to 120 pages of text. This does not include any appendices or bibliographical references. Students may only exceed the limit of 120 pages with the express permission of the thesis advisor.

Final Oral Defense

The oral defense may take place at the Seminary or through an online conference platform. Students will schedule their defense in consultation with their advisor and the Doctoral Programs Coordinator. Six weeks in advance of a desired defense date, students are expected to submit to their readers a complete draft as approved by their advisor. Readers will review and respond with feedback at least three or four weeks prior to the defense, allowing students and advisors to work together on appropriate revisions. A defense-ready draft must be submitted to the entire committee at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled defense date.

A two-hour oral defense of the project thesis concludes the degree program. The thesis committee will read the manuscript and conduct the oral defense with the student. At the conclusion of the defense, the project thesis will receive one of the following evaluations:

- High Pass without revisions
- High Pass with minor revisions (advisor review only)
- Pass without revisions
- Pass with minor revisions (advisor review only)
- Pass with moderate revisions (requires committee review)
- Revise and resubmit (rare – requires substantive redesign)

The Doctoral degree is conferred each May at Commencement. Candidates must complete all academic work and successfully pass the oral defense by March 31 of the year of graduation.

Curriculum Sequence by Degree and Specialization

Doctor of Ministry in Ministry Development

	DMin Degree Requirements Ministry Development		
Core Classes - 12 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
History and Philosophy of Education in America	PRXT 915	2	
Governance & Mission	PRXT 925	2	
Moral & Ethical Leadership	CHWT 930	2	
Biblical Foundations of Mission and Community	BIBL 925	2	
Building Evangelizing Communities	PRXT 920	2	
Dynamics of Conflict and Change	CHWT 946	2	
Elective(s) — at least 2 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Integrative Classes — 13 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Visions of Transformation I	CHWT 981	1	
Visions of Transformation II	CHWT 982	1	
Visions of Transformation III	CHWT 983	1	
Visions of Transformation IV	CHWT 984	1	
Contextual Study	PRXT 975	4	
Intercultural Leadership Workshop	PRXT 955	1	
Case Study Method and Introduction	PRXT 970	1	
Case Study II	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study III	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study IV	PRXT 971	1	
Thesis — 7 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Project Thesis Proposal	WWRE 992	1	
Project Thesis Defense	WWRE 995	6	
Project Thesis Continuation*	WWRE 994	0	

* taken every six months while writing the thesis

Doctor of Ministry in Educational Leadership

	DMin Degree Requirements Educational Leadership		
Core Classes - 12 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Ministry in Context: Methods of Doctoral Research	PRXT 900	2	
Philosophy of Education	PRXT 915	2	
Theological Anthropology and Human Development	PRXT 930	2	
Governance & Mission	PRXT 925	2	
Moral & Ethical Leadership	CHWT 930	2	
Sacred Texts and Education	BIBL 921	2	
Elective(s) — at least 2 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Integrative Classes — 13 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Visions of Transformation I	CHWT 981	1	
Visions of Transformation II	CHWT 982	1	
Visions of Transformation III	CHWT 983	1	
Visions of Transformation IV	CHWT 984	1	
Contextual Study	PRXT 975	4	
Intercultural Leadership Workshop	PRXT 955	1	
Case Study Method and Introduction	PRXT 970	1	
Case Study	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study	PRXT 971	1	
Thesis — 7 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Project Thesis Proposal	WWRE 992	1	
Project Thesis Defense	WWRE 995	6	
Project Thesis Continuation*	WWRE 994	0	

* taken every six months while writing the thesis

Doctor of Ministry in Christian Spirituality

	DMin Degree Requirements Christian Spirituality		
Core Classes - 12 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Ministry in Context: Methods of Doctoral Research	PRXT 900	2	
Biblical Foundations of Christian Spirituality	BIBL 910	2	
Theological Anthropology and Human Development	PRXT 930	2	
Interpretation and Contemplation in Christian Spirituality	CHWT 911	2	
Historical Expressions of Christian Spirituality	CHWT 912	2	
Contemporary Expressions of Christian Spirituality	CHWT 913	2	
Elective(s) — at least 2 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Integrative Classes — 13 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Visions of Transformation I	CHWT 981	1	
Visions of Transformation II	CHWT 982	1	
Visions of Transformation III	CHWT 983	1	
Visions of Transformation IV	CHWT 984	1	
Contextual Study	PRXT 975	4	
Intercultural Leadership Workshop	PRXT 955	1	
Case Study Method and Introduction	PRXT 970	1	
Case Study II	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study III	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study IV	PRXT 971	1	
Thesis — 7 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Project Thesis Proposal	WWRE 992	1	
Project Thesis Defense	WWRE 995	6	
Project Thesis Continuation*	WWRE 994	0	

* taken every six months while writing the thesis

Doctor of Educational Ministry in Ministry Development

	DEdMin Degree Requirements Ministry Development		
Core Classes - 16 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Foundations of Biblical and Theological Studies	CHWT 970	2	
Philosophy of Education	PRXT 915	2	
Ministry in Context: Methods of Doctoral Research	PRXT 900	2	
Governance & Mission	PRXT 925	2	
Moral & Ethical Leadership	CHWT 930	2	
Biblical Foundations of Mission and Community	BIBL 925	2	
Building Evangelizing Communities	PRXT 920	2	
Dynamics of Conflict and Change	CHWT 946	2	
Elective(s) — at least 4 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Integrative Classes — 17 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Biblical and Theological Studies	CHWT 971	1	
Biblical and Theological Studies	CHWT 972	1	
Visions of Transformation I	CHWT 981	1	
Visions of Transformation II	CHWT 982	1	
Visions of Transformation III	CHWT 983	1	
Visions of Transformation IV	CHWT 984	1	
Contextual Study	PRXT 975	4	
Intercultural Leadership Workshop	PRXT 955	1	
Case Study Method and Introduction	PRXT 970	1	
Case Study II	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study III	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study IV	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study V	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study VI	PRT 971	1	
Thesis — 7 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Project Thesis Proposal	WWRE 992	1	
Project Thesis Defense	WWRE 995	6	
Project Thesis Continuation*	WWRE 994	0	

* taken every six months while writing the thesis

Doctor of Educational Ministry in Educational Leadership

	DEdMin Degree Requirements Educational Leadership		
Core Classes - 14 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Ministry in Context: Methods of Doctoral Research	PRXT 900	2	
Foundations of Biblical and Theological Studies	CHWT 970	2	
Philosophy of Education	PRXT 915	2	
Governance & Mission	PRXT 925	2	
Moral & Ethical Leadership	CHWT 930	2	
Sacred Texts and Education	BIBL 921	2	
Theological Anthropology and Human Development	PRXT 930	2	
Elective(s) — at least 6 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Integrative Classes — 17 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Biblical and Theological Studies I	CHWT 971	1	
Biblical and Theological Studies II	CHWT 972	1	
Visions of Transformation I	CHWT 981	1	
Visions of Transformation II	CHWT 982	1	
Visions of Transformation III	CHWT 983	1	
Visions of Transformation IV	CHWT 984	1	
Contextual Study	PRXT 975	4	
Intercultural Leadership Workshop	PRXT 955	1	
Case Study Method and Introduction	PRXT 970	1	
Case Study II	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study III	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study IV	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study V	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study VI	PRXT 971	1	
Thesis — 7 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Project Thesis Proposal	WWRE 992	1	
Project Thesis Defense	WWRE 995	6	
Project Thesis Continuation*	WWRE 994	0	

* taken every six months while writing the thesis

Doctor of Educational Ministry in Christian Spirituality

	DEdMin Degree Requirements Christian Spirituality		
Core Classes - 16 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Ministry in Context: Methods of Doctoral Research	PRXT 900	2	
Foundations of Biblical and Theological Studies	CHWT 970	2	
Theological Anthropology and Human Development	PRXT 930	2	
Philosophy of Education	PRXT 915	2	
Biblical Foundations of Christian Spirituality	BIBL 910	2	
Interpretation and Contemplation in Christian Spirituality	CHWT 911	2	
Historical Expressions of Christian Spirituality	CHWT 912	2	
Contemporary Expressions of Christian Spirituality	CHWT 913	2	
Elective(s) — at least 4 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Integrative Classes — 17 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Biblical and Theological Studies I	CHWT 971	1	
Biblical and Theological Studies II	CHWT 972	1	
Visions of Transformation I	CHWT 981	1	
Visions of Transformation II	CHWT 982	1	
Visions of Transformation III	CHWT 983	1	
Visions of Transformation IV	CHWT 984	1	
Contextual Study	PRXT 975	4	
Intercultural Leadership Workshop	PRXT 955	1	
Case Study Method and Introduction	PRXT 970	1	
Case Study II	PRXT 971	1	
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Case Study IV	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study V	PRXT 971	1	
Case Study VI	PRXT 971	1	
Thesis — 7 credits	Course Number	Credits	Term completed
Project Thesis Proposal	WWRE 992	1	
Project Thesis Defense	WWRE 995	6	
Project Thesis Continuation*	WWRE 994	0	

* taken every six months while writing the thesis

ACADEMIC POLICIES FOR DOCTORAL-LEVEL STUDENTS

Grading in Doctoral Programs

Students accepted into the Doctoral Programs are expected to be intrinsically motivated learners. Traditional grades are not given. Performance in all classes is assessed using the following grades: HP (High Pass), P (Pass), and F (Fail).

	Grade	Descriptor
High Pass - Superior Performance	HP	Exceeds expectations as articulated in course objectives, demonstrating accurate and perceptive understanding and application of knowledge and skills. Displays exceptional synthesis and integration with ministry context, drawing from a wide variety of sources. Equivalent to a high A (93%+).
Pass - Satisfactory Performance	P	Consistently meets requirements as derived from course objectives. Demonstrates understanding and application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Equivalent to A- to B- (80%-92%).
Incomplete	INC	Only given when the student did not complete the course due to exceptional circumstances warranting an extension.
Fail	F	Does not meet requirements as derived from course objectives. Equivalent to C+ (79%) or below.

Extensions and Incompletes

Coursework is due on the dates indicated by instructors on syllabi or in public notifications. It is each student's responsibility to submit work in a timely manner – or, in the event of unforeseen circumstances, to request an extension from the instructor no less than four days prior to a due date for any assigned work. Failure to submit coursework by the due date or to file successfully for an extension will result in a failure for that assignment.

A student who, for sufficient reason, is not able to complete an in-course assignment by the deadline must request an extension in writing to the instructor before the assignment is due. The instructor may grant the request and negotiate a new deadline, keeping in mind the date when course grades are due. If the work is not submitted by the agreed-upon deadline, the instructor is to assign a grade of "F" ("zero" if using a point scale for grade calculations) for the missing work, calculate the final grade for the course, and submit it by the date that course grades are due.

When extraordinary circumstances warrant an Incomplete for the course, the student must request an Incomplete in writing from the instructor before course grades are due. The instructor may grant the request and negotiate a new deadline for any remaining work, keeping in mind that all Incomplete grades must be changed into a P/F grade by three months after the conclusion of the term. If the work is not submitted by the agreed-upon deadline, the instructor is to assign a grade of "F" for any missing work and then calculate the final grade for the course by the deadline of three months after the conclusion of the term.

All graduating Doctoral-level students must have cleared all Incomplete grades from their transcripts by the time that grades are due for graduating students.

Required Courses

It is expected that all required courses will be taken at VTS. With permission of the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs or the Director of Doctoral Programs, exceptions may be granted.

Transfer Credit

Courses completed at the appropriate level in other accredited institutions may be counted toward Doctoral degrees if they receive a grade of “B” or higher and are no more than 10 years old at the time the student requests consideration from the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs or Director of the Doctoral Programs. Doctoral-level students must complete at least ½ of their credits at VTS, and ordinarily the Doctoral Program’s core courses are not transferable.

In all programs, not more than half of the credits required may have been earned as part of the award of another degree program at the same academic level from VTS or any other accredited institution.

Academic Probation

A student who receives 1 or more grades of “F” or lower in any given term will be placed on Academic Probation for the following term.

Any student who is placed on Academic Probation will develop learning goals and a plan for implementation of those goals in consultation with the Director of Doctoral Programs. The results of the consultation will be communicated in writing to the student.

A student who is placed on Academic Probation for more than one consecutive year will be asked to withdraw from the Seminary and will not be eligible to re-enter for at least a year after the withdrawal. The faculty reserves the right to deny re-entry to any student for academic reasons.

Waiver of Required Courses (or requirements)

Normally, students who are degree candidates will complete all required courses in their degree program. In some cases, students may have already covered the material in a particular course by work done in another academic institution. In such cases, students may request that they be granted a waiver of the required course and be allowed to substitute an elective in the same field for that required course. Permission can be given by the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs or the Director of the Doctoral Programs.

Changing Tracks Within Degree Programs

Students wishing to change tracks in the Doctoral Program should inform the Registrar and the Director of Doctoral Programs in writing. If such a request occurs after student’s first summer residency, then this change must be approved by the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Independent Studies

Any student may register for an independent study project with the agreement of the professor who will direct the study. Adjunct instructors do not serve as the directors of independent studies without special permission of the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. At registration, students must file an Independent Study form.

Normally independent study projects will not be undertaken if they cover material already covered in existing courses. Independent studies normally do not fulfill the required courses.

Leave of Absence

Doctoral students may apply for a leave of absence for residency terms exceeding no more than 24 consecutive months. Doctoral students considering a leave of absence must consult with the Director of the Doctoral Programs before completing and submitting a Leave of Absence Request Form (found on Brightspace). Doctoral students incur a fee for leaves of absence. The Leave of Absence Request Form (Supplement P, found on Brightspace) must be submitted to the Registrar prior to the first day of the term/residency in which the leave is to begin.

Students should notify the Registrar and the Director of Doctoral Programs if they wish to resume their coursework earlier than indicated on the Leave of Absence Request Form. Students who do not return after the end of the approved leave of absence will be administratively withdrawn from their degree program and must reapply for admission if they later wish to re-enroll.

Degree Completion

The requirements for the Doctor of Ministry are typically completed in five years; the maximum time allowed for completion is 10 years. The requirements for the Doctor of Educational Ministry are typically completed in six years; the maximum time allowed for completion is 10 years.

Registration

Policy on Registration

Students must register for future enrollment periods through the VTS Student Information System (SIS) by the published deadline each semester. Students who register after the deadline may not gain enrollment in preferred courses. Students have to meet with their advisor before registering for classes. Changes in course registration must be made through the VTS SIS according to the published deadline for each enrollment period.

Dropping, Adding, or Withdrawing from Courses

Students may add, drop, or change to audit, credit (letter grade), or pass/fail any course, based on the dates published in the Academic Calendar. The Academic Calendar is located on the VTS SIS and website.

For all changes in registration, students must use VTS SIS. After the drop/add period, courses cannot be added or dropped without the approval of the Director of Doctoral Programs.

Under special circumstances, a student may wish to withdraw from a single course. The student shall write a letter to the Director of Doctoral Programs requesting withdrawal. Withdrawals will be granted on a case-by-case basis. Failure to take the examination in a course or withdrawing from or ceasing to attend classes in a course after the drop/add period without approval of the Director of Doctoral Programs will result in a grade of “F” for the course.

Course Evaluations

Course evaluations are administered by the Doctoral Program Office at the end of each Term.

Course Attendance

Regular attendance is expected in all courses. Failure to maintain regular attendance may be grounds for exclusion from the school, or from the course, or seminar involved. Attendance, preparation, or lack thereof, and class participation may be considered by the individual instructor in determining grades.

Codes of Conduct for Doctoral Students

The codes of conduct for Doctoral students are identical to those for Master’s-level students. Matters relating to academic, personal, and professional expectations are outlined in this document’s section “Living with Integrity at VTS,” as well as the entirety of Living at VTS. It is expected that Doctoral students abide by these policies during their campus residency terms, in their online and between-residency coursework, and during the entirety of their work on their project theses. Students are also expected to adhere to the community covenant.

Conduct with one another in classes, during residencies, and in online and distance interactions shapes the culture and character of the Doctoral Programs. There are the usual prohibitions, of course, regarding academic, personal, and professional integrity, including but not limited to: no plagiarism, no sexual or discriminatory harassment or misconduct.

In addition, Doctoral students and instructors are expected to adhere to a high standard of respectful, honest, and caring discourse with one another within and across cohorts, tracks, and programs.

Doctoral students working on their congregational, institutional, or contextual studies and on their project theses must adhere to the Guidelines for Research Conducted by Persons Affiliated with Virginia Theological Seminary, found below in this handbook. It is essential that students review these guidelines prior to any research or project conducted in their ministry contexts.

Confidentiality Principles of the Doctoral Programs

We at Virginia Theological Seminary hold in the highest regard the personal and professional lives of our Doctoral students and the people in their contexts of ministry. A mutually understood pledge by all allows people to take the step of bringing some of the most challenging situations for mutual reflection and shared wisdom and insight.

Under no circumstances are the experiences of other students or faculty to be shared outside the context of the Doctoral Programs' residency sessions or with anyone outside the Doctoral Programs. This applies to classroom discussions of individual situations as well as case studies. In particular, our integral use of case studies presented by DMin and DEdMin students from real situations encountered in their contexts of ministry must be engaged with an understood high level of trust among fellow students and faculty.

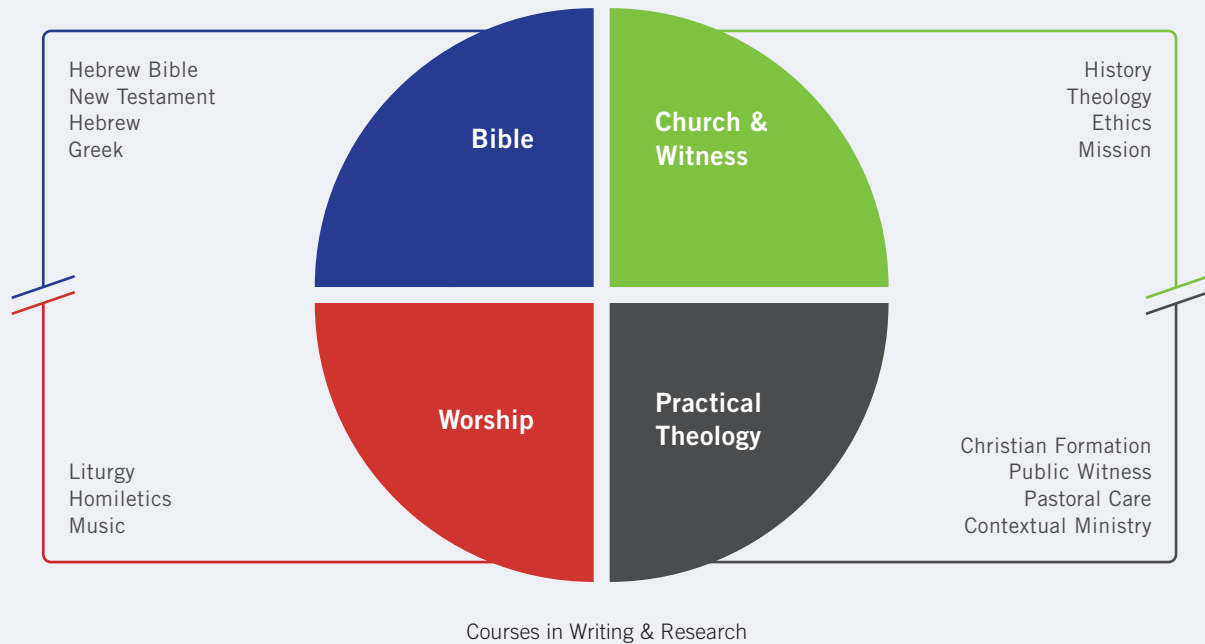
1. Cases are distributed only to members of the assigned case study discussion group, and these documents are returned to the case presenter (unless expressed permission is given by the presenter to keep the document).
2. Group members pledge to keep discussion of any identifying details of the case within the confines of the group, and promise to share no identifying details or themes with anyone outside the group.
3. Under no circumstances are case situation documents, printed or electronic, to be distributed to anyone outside the group discussing the case, without the explicit written consent of the author.
4. All participants, students, and faculty pledge to keep to themselves matters about each other's leadership competencies and skills that are engaged in group discussions.

Any action by a student, staff member, or faculty member that violates these norms of confidentiality, in written, electronic, or verbal exchange will entail serious consequences, potentially including dismissal.

It is also recommended that students preparing case studies take reasonable steps to safeguard a degree of confidentiality and privacy for the people about whom they write in particular case situations. Standard practice in medical, legal, and psychotherapeutic cases involves using fictitious names. We advise students to adopt this practice; in preparing case studies, each student is advised to change names and other identifying characteristics of people in the situation.

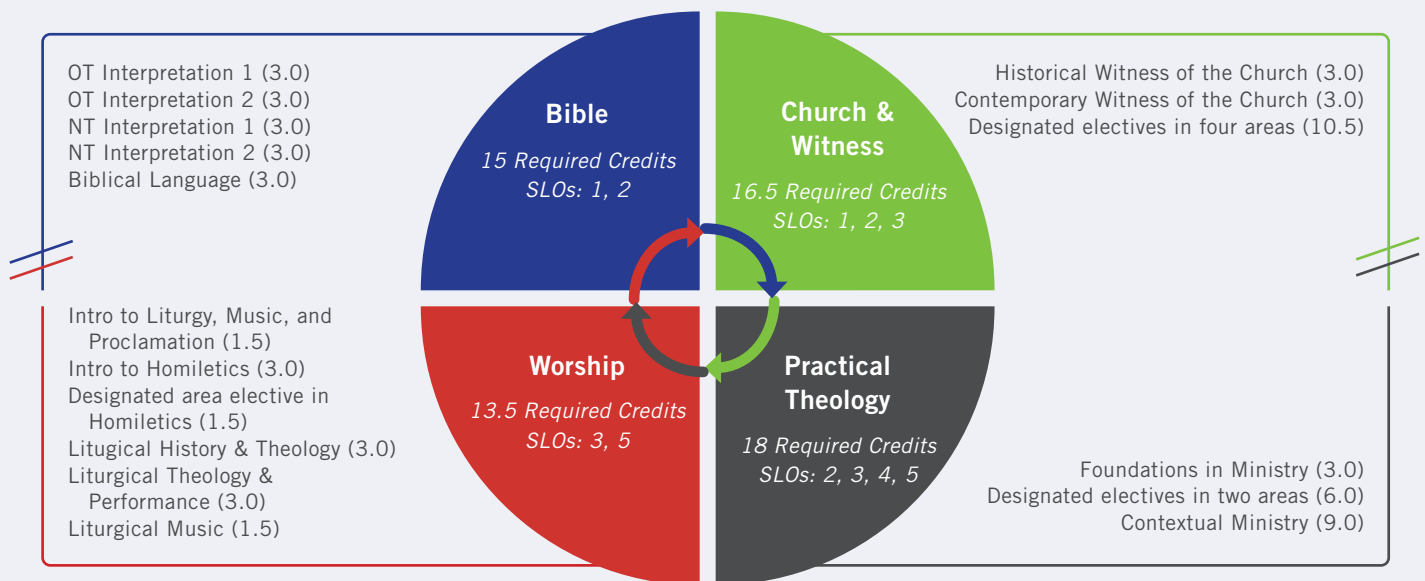
MASTER'S-LEVEL PROGRAMS

THE VTS MASTER'S-LEVEL CURRICULUM



MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

THE VTS MDiv CURRICULUM



Total of 78 credits, with 15 free electives.

(SLOs: 1. Religious Heritage, 2. Cultural Contexts, 3. Ministerial and Public Leadership, 4. Personal & Spiritual Formation, 5. Liturgical Formation & Leadership)

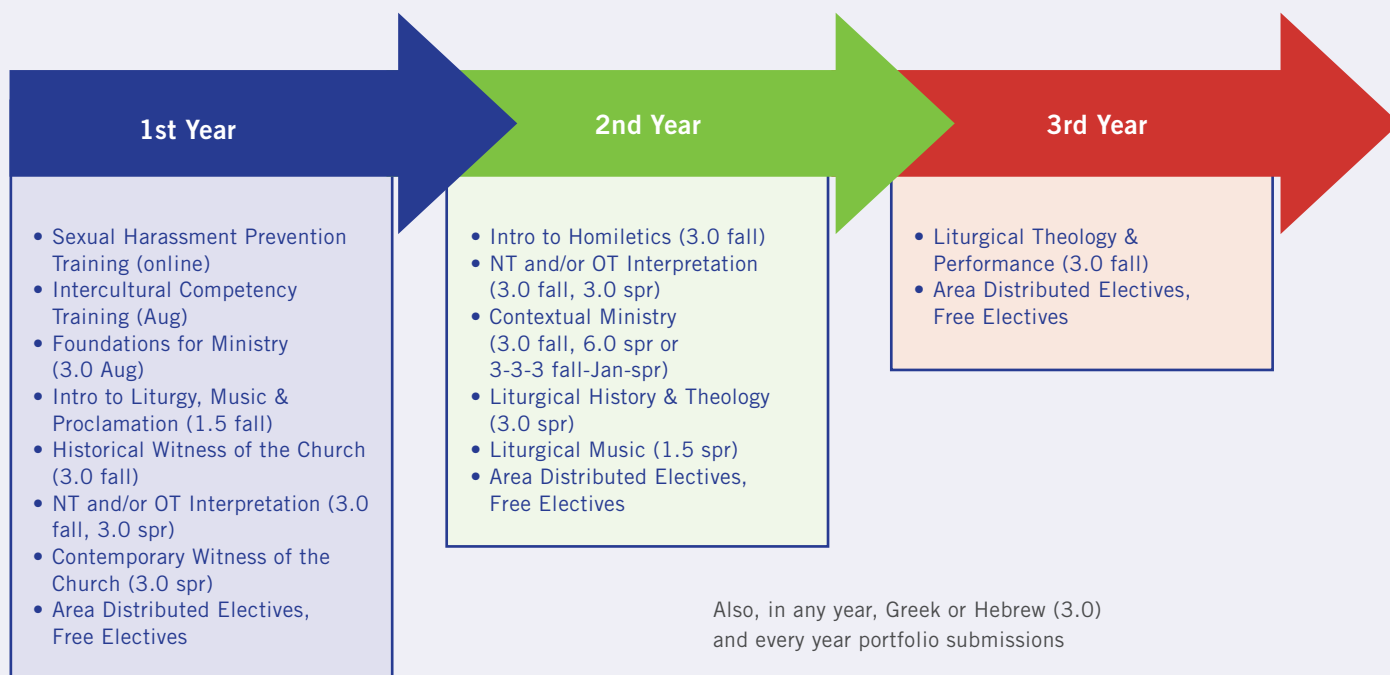
Program Description

The curriculum for the MDiv degree balances structured discipline in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for ministry and freedom for students to pursue knowledge and skills to which they feel called. A wide variety of courses are available to students both on campus and through the Washington Theological Consortium. In addition to academic classes, the program aims to foster a life of prayer through attending daily chapel attendance and a life of interaction with community by participating in the noonday meal.

The MDiv can be earned through part-time study; however, the final two years of study must be taken full-time. The degree can be completed in a minimum of three years or a maximum of seven years. A minimum of 53 credits must be taken at VTS.

Entering students are required to participate in the August term, which combines the Foundations for Ministry course and orientation to life in the Seminary community. Students who enter the program with prior academic work in one or more of the required areas of study are encouraged to apply to the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Life for assessment and possible permission to fulfill the requirement by other means than the standard introductory course.

MDiv REQUIREMENTS BY YEAR



Fall Parent Term: Fall & Jan

Spring Parent Term: Spring & Summer

Full-time enrollment: 12-15 credits in a parent term

Area Distributed Electives

Courses that specifically progress focused study within the larger areas (such as Mission and Church History within CHWT, or Christian Formation/Public Witness within PRXT) are called Area Distributed Electives. These courses build upon foundational courses in their area and are designed to address specific curricular matters not covered in foundational courses. Except under extenuating circumstances, these courses are taught by VTS faculty who were hired to teach in the designated area.

MDiv Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Goal 1. Religious Heritage: Know and interpret the texts and contexts of Scripture and Christian traditions. The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Bible and the Christian tradition as given in worship, belief, and way of life. (knowledge of tradition)
2. Appropriate the faith to interpret and critique human life and society. (use of tradition)

Goal 2. Understanding Cultural Contexts: Reflect on the faith in light of a diverse and complex society with special sensitivity to the dynamics of racism. The student will be able to:

1. Interpret contemporary life and events from a theological and multidisciplinary perspective. (awareness of cultural contexts)
2. Actively engage difference with knowledge and sensitivity. (intercultural literacy)

Goal 3. Ministerial and Public Leadership: Lead communities collaboratively in service of God's mission. The student will be able to:

1. Communicate the Christian faith with critical thinking, creativity, and rhetorical power. (articulation of the faith)
2. Engage the public square in participating in God's mission of justice and creation care. (promotion of justice)
3. Provide and develop pastoral care, Christian formation, lay ministry, evangelism, faithful stewardship, and effective governance. (ministerial leadership)
4. Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in contexts of religious pluralism and a secular society, including engaging ecumenically and interreligiously. (ecumenical and interfaith relationships)

Goal 4. Personal and Spiritual Formation: Embody an authentic Christian practice. The student will be able to:

1. Model one's faith through Christian vocation in the church and in the world. (enacting faith)
2. Develop and practice a rule of life. (rule of life)
3. Articulate a theology of vocation. (theology of ministry)
4. Demonstrate self-awareness and identify areas for growth. (self-knowledge and personal growth)
5. Embrace the struggles and opportunities of living in the community. (community membership)

Goal 5. Liturgical Formation and Leadership: Proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and lead the worship of the church in a variety of cultural contexts. The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a historical and theological understanding of liturgical and homiletical practices of the church. (theology of liturgy)
2. Preside, preach, and lead effectively the community of faith in its worship. (liturgical leadership)
3. Employ music and the other arts in worship effectively. (liturgical arts)

Master of Divinity Curriculum

Texts and Contexts – 31.5 credits			Course Number	Credits	Completed
Bible – BIBL (15 credits required)					
Old Testament Interpretation I			BIBL 501	3.0	
Old Testament Interpretation II			BIBL 502	3.0	
New Testament Interpretation I			BIBL 503	3.0	
New Testament Interpretation II			BIBL 504	3.0	
Biblical Languages (Beginning Biblical Greek or Hebrew)			BIBL 510/511	3.0	
Church and Witness – CHWT (16.5 credits required)					
Historical Witness of the Church			CHWT 501	3.0	
Contemporary Witness of the Church			CHWT 502	3.0	
Church History Distributed Elective - Selected from: The History and Identity of Anglicanism, The History of the Episcopal Church, The History of the Medieval and Reformation Church			various	1.5 minimum	
Theology Distributed Elective – Selected from: Theology of Nicaea and Chalcedon, Problems of God, Engaging Latino/a/x Theologies, Seminar on a Pre-Modern Theologian, Seminar on a Modern Theologian, Seminar on a Contemporary Theologian, Ascetical Theology, Anglican Thought, Suffering Science and the Problem of Evil			various	1.5 minimum	
Ethics Distributed Elective – Selected from: Politics & Christian Ethics, Moral Problems, Environmental Ethics			various	1.5 minimum	
Mission Distributed Elective – Selected from: Theology of Mission, Resistant Theologies, Missional Church, Ecumenical Readings of Mission History			various	1.5 minimum	
Additional Church and Witness Area Electives				4.5	
Arts of Ministry – 31.5 credits					
Practical Theology – PRXT (18 credits required)					
Foundations for Ministry			PRXT 500	3.0	
Contextual Ministry			PRXT 600-606	9.0	
Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective Discipleship; Teaching Faith; Being Fully Human; Adult Christian Formation; Schools and Churches; Camps, Conferences & Retreats; Christian Formation of Youth; Spirituality of Children and Families; Christian Formation & Theologies of Disability; Advanced Teaching Faith; Evangelism; Race, Christian Discipleship, and the African American Experience; Forming Advocates for Children			various	1.5 minimum	
Congregational Study/Pastoral Care Distributed Elective Foundations in Christian Leadership; Priesthood in Context; Foundations of Pastoral Care; Pastoral Care for at-risk Children; Public & Political Pastoral Care; Climate Crisis and Pastoral Care			various	1.5 minimum	
Worship – WRSH (13.5 credits required)					
Introduction to Liturgy, Music, and Proclamation			WRSH 500	1.5	
Introduction to Homiletics			WRSH 501	3.0	
Liturgical History and Theology			WRSH 510	3.0	
Liturgical Music			WRSH 515	1.5	
Homiletics Elective			WRSH 6XX	1.5	
Liturgical Theology and Performance			WRSH 600	3.0	
Free Electives – 15.0 credits					
Course #	Credits		Course #	Credits	
Consortium Course (at least 2 credits):					
Additional Required Elements					
Portfolio ☐ Sexual Misconduct Prevention ☐ Intercultural Competency ☐					
Total Credits – 78 Credits					

Students are expected to track their courses and be in frequent contact with their faculty advisors.

Concentrations

Students wishing to further shape their MDiv degree program in focused areas can opt to take a concentration. To have this recorded, the student needs to inform the Registrar and the Faculty Coordinator as soon as possible. The latest date for this informing is the fall semester before graduation. Students can only take one concentration.

Christian Spirituality

This concentration allows students to develop a theological account of the cultivation of virtue and growth in holiness as the foundation for contemporary Christian spiritual practices. Against the background of biblical and classical texts and schools of Christian spirituality, special attention is given to the Anglican ascetical tradition and, where relevant, its enrichment through ecumenical and interfaith engagement. Students may explore the origins and performance of practices such as centering prayer, the “Jesus prayer,” lectio divina, breath prayers, types of meditation, spiritual direction as a form of pastoral care and formation, and others. This concentration requires an immersive experience of practice in approved institutional or formational settings (counting for 3.0 credits), 4.5 required credits, and an additional 4.5 credits from elective courses taken either at VTS or a consortium school.

Questions that guide and animate this concentration include:

- What are the classical traditions of prayer and practice that shape Christian faith?
- What rule of life sustains me in my relationship with God and my ministry to God’s people?
- What is the relationship between prayer and action, contemplation and mission?

Faculty Coordinator: The Rev. Dr. James Farwell

Required Credits: 12 | Updated July 2026

Required Courses (7.5 credits)	Credits	The course also counts for
CHWT 660: The History of Spirituality	3.0	
CHWT 668: Ascetical Theology	1.5	
CHWT 835: Immersion in Spiritual Practice	3.0	(independent study course)
Suggested Electives (4.5 Credits)		
BIBL 655: Psalms and Negro Spirituals	3.0	
BIBL 663: The Psalms	3.0	
CHWT 527: Foundations of Christian Spirituality	3.0	
CHWT 625: Anglican Thought	1.5	
PRXT 550: Introduction to the Visual Arts	1.5	
PRXT 615: Discipleship	1.5	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 616: Being Fully Human	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 675: Priesthood in Context and Practice	1.5	
PRXT 680: Teaching Others to Pray	1.5	
PRXT 681: Spirituality of Children	1.5	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 685: Spirituality of Children and Families	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
WRSH 602: The Eucharist	1.5	
WRSH 606: The Preacher as Artist	1.5	Distributed Elective (Homiletics)
WRSH 610: Hymnody of the Christian Church	1.5	
WRSH 622: Liturgy in the Context of Suffering, Evil and Trauma		
WRSH 700: Preaching in the Anglican Tradition	1.5	Distributed Elective (Homiletics)
Related Consortium Electives		WTC credit

Faith and Justice Concentration

This concentration forms Christian leaders to skillfully and faithfully engage their communities with justice. The required courses in the concentration aim to train students in the concrete skills of advocacy, activism, and organizing, while electives allow students to situate those skills in broader Christian traditions of thought and action.

Questions that guide and animate this concentration include:

- How have Christians faithfully and effectively participated in the work of justice?
- What skills, practices, and repertoires of action allow Christian to strive for justice and peace among all people?
- How does my faith ground, motivate, and enable the work of justice?

Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Kyle Lambelet

Required Credits: 12

Required Courses (6 Credits)	Credits	Course Also Counts For
Experiential Core: CHWT707 Justice Praxis Seminar or CHWT 825: Puerto Rico CCEP or EP-282-HB Faith Politics & the Public Square (Wesley Theological Seminary)	3.0	
Academic Core: PRXT621: Foundations in Christian Leadership or CHWT685: Politics and Christian Ethics	3.0	PRXT Area Distributed Elective in Congregational Study/Pastoral Care OR CHWT Area Distributed Elective in Ethics
Suggested Electives (6 Credits)		
BIBL 645: Biblical Prophecy	3.0	
BIBL 660: Reflection on Violence	3.0	
CHWT 685: Politics and Christian Ethics	3.0	CHWT Area Distributed Elective in Ethics
CHWT 615: Environmental Ethics	3.0	CHWT Area Distributed Elective in Ethics
CHWT 611: Ecumenical Mission of the Church	1.5	
CHWT 617: Theology of Mission	3.0	CHWT Area Distributed Elective in Mission
CHWT 645: Engaging Latino/a/x Theologies	1.5	CHWT Area Distributed Elective in Theology
CHWT 651: History of the Episcopal Church	1.5	CHWT Area Distributed Elective in History
CHWT 685: Politics and Christian Ethics	3.0	CHWT Area Distributed Elective in Ethics
CHWT 664: Liberation Theologies	1.5	
CHWT 667: Resistant Theologies	1.5	CHWT Area Distributed Elective in Mission
CHWT 676: Missional Church	3.0	CHWT Area Distributed Elective in Mission
CHWT 710: Crossing Cultures Well: CCEP (Cross-Cultural Education Programs) Preparation, Reflection, Integration	1.5	
CHWT 790: Anglican Social Ethics	3.0	
PRXT 658: Race and the African American Experience	3.0	PRXT Area Distributed Elective in Christian Formation/Public Witness
PRXT 670: Christian Formation and Theologies of Disability	1.5	
PRXT 683: Pastoral Care for At-Risk Children	1.5	PRXT Area Distributed Elective in Congregational Study/Pastoral Care
PRXT 684: Public and Political Pastoral Care	3.0	PRXT Area Distributed Elective in Congregational Study/Pastoral Care
WRSH 601: Preaching in a Time of Eco-Crisis	1.5	WRSH Elective in Homiletics
WRSH 609: Preaching Politics	1.5	WRSH Elective in Homiletics
WRSH 707: Liturgy and Culture	3.0	

Intercultural Ministry

This concentration, in the context of a pluralist and diverse worldwide Christian church, provides an opportunity to engage critical questions in intercultural theology and practice. Learning to center cultures and voices traditionally marginalized and minoritized, and voices from beyond the U.S. context, students will study scripture, theology, history, and contextual practices with an intercultural/international lens. Students will reflect on the complexity of issues present for faith communities that value diversity of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, theology, and faith tradition. Please note that the learning goals in the CXM placement should reflect the aims of this concentration. Questions that guide and animate this concentration include:

- What does it mean to have an intercultural orientation towards communal life?
- How might individuals and communities cultivate an intercultural approach to building relationships?
- What gaps in cultural perspective are present in your own life, ministry, and community(ies), and how might you appropriately go about addressing those gaps?

Faculty Coordinator: The Rev. Altagracia Perez-Bullard, Ph.D. Required Credits: 12 | Updated May 2026

Required Courses (4.5 Credits)	Credits	The course also counts for
PRXT 656: Foundations of Pastoral Care OR PRXT-684: Public and Political Pastoral Care	3.0	
CHWT 710: Crossing Cultures Well	1.5	
Suggested Electives (7.5 Credits)		
BIBL 613: Corinthian Correspondences	3.0	
BIBL 622: Film and the Bible	3.0	
BIBL 655: The Psalms and Negro Spirituals	3.0	
BIBL 658: Bad Girls of the Bible	3.0	
CHWT 610: Christian Mission and Many Religions	3.0	
CHWT 617: Theology of Mission	3.0	Distributed Elective (Mission)
CHWT 645: Engaging Latino/a/x Theologies	1.5	Distributed Elective (Theology)
CHWT 647: Mission of God	3.0	
CHWT 664: Liberation Theologies	1.5	
CHWT 665: Latin American Theology in Context	1.5	
CHWT 667: Resistant Theologies	1.5	Distributed Elective (Mission)
CHWT 672: Conflict Resolution	1.5	
CHWT 705: Theology of Culture	1.5	
CHWT 8XX: International CCEP	3.0	
PRXT 520: The Prayer Book in Spanish	1.5	
PRXT 521: The Bible in Spanish	1.5	
PRXT 616: Being Fully Human	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 617: Evangelism	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 621: Foundations in Christian Leadership	3.0	Distributed Elective (Congregational Study/Pastoral Care)
PRXT 658-2: Race, Christian Discipleship and the African American Experience	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 660: Christian Formation of Youth	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 684: Public and Political Pastoral Care	3.0	Distributed Elective (Congregational Study/Pastoral Care)
WRSH 612: Women in Church Music	1.5	
WRSH 622: Liturgy in the Context of Suffering, Evil, and Trauma	3.0	
WRSH 707: Liturgy and Culture	3.0	
Related Consortium Electives		WTC credit

New Mission Practices

This concentration seeks to equip leaders with critical and constructive competencies for Christian witness in local, national, and international contexts at the edges of traditional ministry. Along with classroom learning, and dialogue with practitioners in the wider Church, the New Mission Practices concentration requires a practicum (either a Cross- Cultural Education Program or a “non-traditional” Contextual Ministry site).

Questions that guide and animate this concentration focus on the issues of continuity, contextualization, and creativity.

- What patterns of thought and practice must continue for the sake of faithful witness?
- How is the Gospel articulated in dialogue with the resources of particular cultures?
- How is ministerial creativity enriched today?

Faculty Coordinator: The Rev. Dr. Robert Heaney

Required Credits: 12 | Updated July 2024

Required Courses (6 credits)	Credits	The course also counts for
CHWT 676-2: Missional Church or CHWT 617: Anglican Theology of Mission	3.0	Distributed Elective (Mission)
CHWT 8XX: Cross-Cultural Education Program or PRXT 6XX: Contextual Ministry Site with a focus on “non-traditional” parish ministry	3.0	
Electives (6 Credits)		
CHWT 610: Christian Mission and Many Religions	3.0	
CHWT 611-2: Ecumenical Mission of the Church	1.5	Distributed Elective (Mission)
CHWT 645: Engaging Latino/a/x Theologies	1.5	Distributed Elective (Theology)
CHWT 647: Mission of God	3.0	
CHWT 664: Liberation Theologies	1.5	
CHWT 710: Crossing Cultures Well	1.5	
PRXT 520: The Prayer Book in Spanish	1.5	
PRXT 521: The Bible in Spanish	1.5	
PRXT 615: Discipleship: Practices and Processes	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 617: Evangelism	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 653: Pastoral Care Across Cultures	3.0	Distributed Elective (Pastoral Care/Congregational Study)
PRXT 658-2: Race and the African American Exp.	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 659: Teaching Faith	3.0	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
PRXT 660: Christian Formation of Youth	1.5	Distributed Elective (Christian Formation/Public Witness)
WRSH 701: Prophetic Imagination and Public Witness	3.0	Distributed Elective (Homiletics)
Related Consortium Electives		WTC credit

MDiv Portfolio

Portfolios provide the opportunity to assess student work across the entire program, which is a requirement for accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. To comply with this requirement, the faculty has selected the following artifacts for collection within the portfolio. These artifacts will be submitted and evaluated via the Brightspace learning management system. A completed portfolio is a graduation requirement for all students pursuing a master's-level degree.

Level	Artifact	Description
Goal 1: Religious Heritage Know and interpret the texts and contexts of Scripture and Christian traditions.		
Baseline	CHWT 501 Response Paper	A 3-4 page paper analyzing a significant theme in a primary source
Developing	Upper-level CHWT distributed elective or BIBL assignment	Any assignment from an upper-level CHWT or BIBL course from the Middler Year
Culminating	Upper-level CHWT distributed elective or BIBL assignment	Any assignment from an upper-level CHWT or BIBL course from the Senior Year
A 100-150 word description of how these artifacts illustrate progress in this Student Learning Objective.		
Goal 2. Understanding Cultural Contexts Reflect on the faith in light of a diverse and complex society with special sensitivity to the dynamics of racism.		
Baseline	Intercultural Competency Reflection paper	A short pre- and post-reflection on the experience
Developing	An upper-level PRXT assignment or CHWT 710/ CCEP Cultural Briefing paper.	Any assignment from an upper-level PRXT course from the Middler year OR A 5-page paper outlining a particular cultural issue to be engaged in a CCEP site, if taken
Culminating	An upper-level PRXT assignment	Any assignment from an upper-level PRXT course from the Senior year
A 100-150 word description of how these artifacts illustrate progress in this Student Learning Objective.		
Goal 3. Ministerial and Public Leadership Lead communities collaboratively in service of God's mission.		
Baseline	PRXT 500 Theology of Ministry paper	A paper describing theology of ministry as assigned in PRXT 500
Developing	An upper-level PRXT assignment	Any assignment from an upper-level PRXT course from the Middler year
Culminating	CXM Final Assessment by supervisor	Addresses students' skills in pastoral care, Christian formation, lay ministry, evangelism, faithful stewardship, & effective governance, as well as liturgical leadership
A 100-150 word description of how these artifacts illustrate progress in this Student Learning Objective.		

(continue on next page)

MDiv Portfolio *(continued)*

Level	Artifact	Description
Goal 4. Personal and Spiritual Formation Embody an authentic Christian practice.		
Baseline	Admissions Essay	A 4-5 page essay describing events that led to application to seminary, assessment of academic abilities, and reflection on strengths and challenges student faces as they prepare for leadership in the church
	PRXT 500 Rule of Life	Students propose a rhythm of spiritual practices to foster the health of the body, mind, and spirit for their first semester
Developing	Middler Review Self-Evaluation	To be completed before the student meets with the faculty member, including questions on enacting faith, rule of life, theology of ministry, self-awareness and areas for growth, and community membership; as well as academic gaps and plans for coverage
Culminating	Senior Reflection	In the spring, seniors review their portfolio to reflect on how they have seen their development in their education and vocation and share in formation & advisory group
A 100-150 word description of how these artifacts illustrate progress in this Student Learning Objective.		
Goal 5. Liturgical Formation and Leadership Proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and lead the worship of the church in a variety of cultural contexts.		
Baseline	WRSH 500 Prayers of the People	An example of Prayers of the People that was completed in class
	WRSH 500 Instructor's Assessment of Public Reading	The instructor's assessment of public reading of Scripture
Developing	WRSH 600 Liturgical Planning Project	Liturgical planning assignment from WRSH 600
Culminating	Senior Sermon	An audio or video recording of a sermon preached in Immanuel Chapel or at CXM placement site.
A 100-150 word description of how these artifacts illustrate progress in this Student Learning Objective.		

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Program Description

The MA program prepares students academically for advanced research and/or professionally for service to the church. In the equivalent of 2 years of full-time study, students pursue a program that emphasizes discipline focus (the majority of credits are devoted to the field of study and a summative capstone project) and supports cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary engagement via cross-cultural programs and electives.

The Master of Arts degree is specialized in three disciplinary areas:

- *The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies* is a 48-credit program that aims to prepare students academically by an in-depth focus on the field of biblical languages and interpretation. The course requirements consist of:
 - Introductory and upper-level courses in the Bible, with at least 1 year of Greek or Hebrew required (27 credits)
 - a thesis with writing courses to support this project (9 credits)
 - international travel normally to either Palestine/Israel or Rome (4.5 credits)
 - free electives (7.5 credits)
- *The Master of Arts in Church and Witness* is a 48-credit program which aims to prepare students academically by an in-depth focus on the fields of theology, history, and ethics. The course requirements consist of:
 - Introductory and upper-level courses in theology, history, and ethics (27 credits)
 - either a thesis or summative capstone project with writing courses to support this project (9 credits)
 - international travel (4.5 credits)
 - free electives (7.5 credits)
- *The Master of Arts in Christian Formation* is a 48-credit program which aims to prepare students academically and professionally by an in-depth focus on the fields of practical theology and liturgy. The course requirements consist of:
 - Introductory and upper-level courses in practical theology and liturgy (27 credits)
 - either a thesis or summative capstone project with writing courses to support this project (9 credits)
 - contextual ministry (6 credits)
 - Free electives (6 credits)

MA Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Goal 1. Religious Heritage: Know and interpret the texts and contexts of Scripture and Christian traditions.

1. Combine knowledge of texts, traditions, theories, and best practices in a chosen area of concentration. (knowledge of tradition)
2. Appropriate the faith to interpret and critique human life and society. (use of tradition)

Goal 2. Cultural Contexts: Reflect on the faith in light of a diverse and complex society with special sensitivity to the dynamics of racism.

1. Interpret contemporary life and events from a theological and multidisciplinary perspective. (awareness of cultural contexts)
2. Actively engage difference with knowledge and sensitivity. (intercultural literacy)

Goal 3. Ministerial and Public Leadership: Lead communities collaboratively in service of God's mission.

1. Communicate effectively with critical thinking, creativity, and rhetorical power. (effective communication)
2. Engage the public square in participating in God's mission of justice and creation care. (promotion of justice)

Goal 4. Personal and Spiritual Formation: Integrate theological education and ministry for life.

1. Articulate one's academic interests and vocational goals, and set goals for lifelong learning in the chosen area of ministry or study. (self-knowledge and personal growth)
2. Develop a pattern of life shaped by intentional spiritual practices to support one's chosen field of ministry. (rule of life)

Goal 5. Theory and Praxis Integration: Develop knowledge and wisdom through rigorous study, research, and practical engagement in a chosen field.

1. Demonstrate the ability to integrate material from across disciplines. (interdisciplinary integration)
2. Be a reflective practitioner. (theory and praxis integration)

VTs MA CURRICULUM



Total of 48 credits, emphasizing discipline focus and supporting cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary engagement
 SLOs: 1. *Religious Heritage*, 2. *Understanding Cultural Contexts*, 3. *Ministerial & Public Leadership*,
 4. *Personal & Spiritual Formation*, 5. *Theory & Praxis Integration*

Degree Requirements

Biblical Studies

Bible – 27 credits required					
Foundational Courses					
BIBL 501: Old Testament Interpretation I			3.0		
BIBL 502: Old Testament Interpretation II			3.0		
BIBL 503: New Testament Interpretation I			3.0		
BIBL 504: New Testament Interpretation II			3.0		
Biblical Languages - Selected from:					
BIBL 510: Beginning Biblical Greek O R BIBL 511: Beginning Biblical Hebrew			3.0		
BIBL 600: NT Biblical Greek O R BIBL 601: NT Biblical Hebrew			3.0		
Bible Upper-Level Elective Courses					
BIBL 6/7 : Upper-Level Bible Elective			1.5-3.0		
BIBL 6/7 : Upper-Level Bible Elective			1.5-3.0		
BIBL 6/7 : Upper-Level Bible Elective			1.5-3.0		
BIBL 6/7 : Upper-Level Bible Elective			1.5-3.0		
BIBL 6/7 : Upper-Level Bible Elective			1.5-3.0		
BIBL 6/7 : Upper-Level Bible Elective			1.5-3.0		
Cross-Cultural Education – 4.5 credits required					
Foundational Course					
CHWT 710: Crossing Cultures Well			1.5		
Cross-Cultural Education Program					
CHWT 830: Costa Rica CHWT 854: Jerusalem CHWT 8xx: Independent Study			3.0		
Academic Writing and Thesis – 9 credits required					
Foundational Courses					
WRRE 510: Introduction to Theological Writing			3.0		
WRRE 600: Advanced Theological Writing			3.0		
BIBL 8XX: Thesis			3.0		
Free Electives – 7.5 credits required					
Course #	Credits		Course #	Credits	
Additional Required Elements					
Portfolio ☐ Sexual Misconduct Prevention ☐ Intercultural Competency ☐					
Total Credits – 48 Credits					

MA (Bible) Curriculum - Fall 2026

Christian Formation

Practical Theology – 27 credits required						
Foundational Courses						
PRXT 500: Foundations for Ministry			3.0			
Practical Theology/Liturgics Elective Courses						
PRXT/WRSH 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective			1.5-3.0			
PRXT/WRSH 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective			1.5-3.0			
PRXT/WRSH 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective			1.5-3.0			
PRXT/WRSH 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective			1.5-3.0			
PRXT/WRSH 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective			1.5-3.0			
PRXT/WRSH 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective			1.5-3.0			
PRXT/WRSH 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective			1.5-3.0			
PRXT/WRSH 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective			1.5-3.0			
Relevant Upper-Level Electives from other fields can be substituted. 3.0 credits of Cross-Cultural Colloquy can be included for international students in place of Upper-Level Electives. Introductory courses may be waived for Upper-Level Electives with an applicable previous educational background.						
Contextual Ministry – 6 credits						
PRXT 600: Contextual Ministry			3.0			
PRXT 601: Contextual Ministry			3.0			
Academic Writing and Thesis – 9 credits required						
Foundational Courses						
WRRE 510: Introduction to Theological Writing			3.0			
WRRE 600: Advanced Theological Writing			3.0			
PRXT 8XX: Summative Capstone Project or Thesis			3.0			
Free Electives – 6 credits required						
Course #	Credits		Course #	Credits		Course #
Additional Required Elements						
Portfolio ☐ Sexual Misconduct Prevention ☐ Intercultural Competency ☐						
Total Credits – 48 Credits						

MA (Christian Formation) Curriculum - Fall 2026

Church and Witness

Church and Witness – 27 credits required					
Foundational Courses					
CHWT 501: Historical Witness of the Church		3			
CHWT 502: Contemporary Witness of the Church		3			
Church and Witness Elective Courses					
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
CHWT 6/7 : Upper-Level Elective		1.5-3.0			
Relevant Upper-Level Electives from other fields can be substituted. 3.0 credits of Cross-Cultural Colloquy can be included for international students in place of Upper-Level Electives. Introductory courses may be waived for Upper-Level Electives with an applicable previous educational background.					
Cross-Cultural Education – 4.5 credits required					
Foundational Course					
CHWT 710: Crossing Cultures Well		1.5			
Cross-Cultural Education Program					
CHWT 830: Costa Rica CHWT 854: Jerusalem		3.0			
CHWT 8xx: Independent Study					
Academic Writing and Thesis – 9 credits required					
Foundational Courses					
WRRE 510: Introduction to Theological Writing		3.0			
WRRE 600: Advanced Theological Writing		3.0			
CHWT 8XX: Summative Capstone Project or Thesis		3.0			
Free Electives – 7.5 credits required					
Course #	Credits	Course #	Credits	Course #	Credits
Additional Required Elements					
Portfolio ☐ Sexual Misconduct Prevention ☐ Intercultural Competency ☐					
Total Credits – 48 Credits					

MA (Church Witness) Curriculum - Fall 2026

Students are expected to track their courses and be in frequent contact with their faculty advisors.

The MA can be earned through part-time study, full-time residency or any combination of the two. The degree can be completed in a minimum of two years or a maximum of seven years. A minimum of 32 credits must be taken at VTS. A grade point average of at least 2.0 is required.

MA Portfolio

Portfolios provide the opportunity to assess student work across the entire program, which is a requirement for accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. To comply with this requirement, the faculty have selected the following artifacts for collection within the portfolio. These artifacts will be submitted and evaluated via the Brightspace learning management system. A completed portfolio is a graduation requirement for all students pursuing a master's-level degree.

Artifact	Submission Date	SLOs	Description and Purpose
Admissions essay	End of 1st semester	ALL	Baseline of academic knowledge and professional skills
Intercultural Competency Reflection	End of 1st semester	2.1, 2.2	Baseline of intercultural competency
Self-assessment 1 (Advising/Formation Groups)	End of 1st semester	All, especially 2.2, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Helps students reflect on, take responsibility for, and set goals for learning that integrate academic knowledge and professional skills
1 assignment completed during the first semester based on track	End of 1st semester	Various	Biblical Interpretation: One exegesis paper (1.1, 1.2, 3.1) Church & Witness: A response paper from Historical Witness of the Church (1.1, 1.2, 3.1) Christian Formation: Rule of Life (4.2, 4.4) and Theology of Ministry paper (2.1, 3.1, 4.3, 4.4) from PRXT 500
Cultural Briefing Paper OR an assignment completed during the first year	End of 1st year (24 credit hours)	Various	Cultural Briefing Paper from CCEP, if taken (2.1, 2.2, 3.4)
Approved Summative Capstone Project Proposal	End of 1st year (24 credit hours)	Various, especially 3.4	Helps students plan large projects; allows advisor and Master's Committee to suggest revisions
Cultural Briefing Paper OR an assignment completed during the second year	End of 2nd year (48 credit hours)	Various	Cultural Briefing Paper from CCEP, if taken (2.1, 2.2, 3.4)
Summative Capstone Project	End of 2nd year (48 credit hours)	Various, especially 3.4	Requires students to integrate and apply academic knowledge in an area of interest
Self-Assessment 2 & Reflection on seminary experience as a whole (Advising/Formation Groups)	End of 2nd year (48 credit hours)	All, especially 2.2, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Helps students reflect on, take responsibility for, and set goals for learning that integrate academic knowledge and professional skills

DIPLOMA IN ANGLICAN STUDIES

Program Description

Through offerings in Anglican history, theology, liturgy, polity, ecumenism, and the Anglican Communion, the Post- Graduate Diploma in Anglican Studies prepares students for ordination in The Episcopal Church. Students form a cohort group, and curricular offerings are supplemented with a weekly formation and advising group, daily worship opportunities, participation in worship planning teams, and worship leadership.

This program is for individuals who have received a graduate theological degree. Exceptions may be made for qualified applicants without a graduate theological degree from local or diocesan formation programs. Applicants for this program should be postulants or candidates for Holy Orders or have the written permission of their Bishop to attend.

Student Learning Outcomes

This program aims to equip students for ministry leadership in an Episcopal setting.

Requirements for Graduation

Requirements include the successful completion of at least 24 credit hours at VTS. 14 credits must normally be in required courses as specified in the following curriculum.

Anglican Studies students must attend at least four offerings of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies, complete Intercultural Competency Training, and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Training, meet regularly in formation groups, participate in worship leadership, and regularly eat in the refectory.

11 additional credit hours of Contextual Ministry, Practical Theology, History, Ethics, Liturgics, etc., are chosen in consultation with VTS's Director of Anglican Studies and informed by expectations of the Bishop or other diocesan authorities where the student is resident. Anglican Studies students are encouraged to take a course in singing the services of the church.

Students have the option to pursue this program either full-time living on campus, or part-time commuting to campus. The diploma can be completed in a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 5 years.

A grade point average of at least 2.0 is required.

Anglican Studies Curriculum - Fall 2026

2026-2027

Required Courses – 15.5 credits required				Credits	Completed?	
Foundational Courses						
CHWT 675: Mapping Anglican Studies				2.0		
Upper Level Courses						
CHWT 650: The History and Identity of Anglicanism				1.5		
CHWT 651:The History of the Episcopal Church in the USA				1.5		
CHWT 625: Anglican Thought				1.5		
PRXT 675: Priesthood in Context and Practice				1.5		
WRSH 510-2: Liturgical History and Theology				3.0		
WRSH 515 Liturgical Music				1.5		
WRSH 600: Liturgical Theology and Performance				3.0		
Free Electives – 8.5 credits required						
Course #	Credits		Course #	Credits	Course #	Credits
Additional Required Elements						
☐ Four offerings from Center for Anglican Communion Studies		☐ Sexual Misconduct Prevention		☐ Intercultural Competency		
Total Credits – 24 Credits						

DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

Program Description

The purpose of the Post-Graduate Diploma in Theology is to strengthen theological formation for students who want to deepen or refresh their learning from their previous institutions.

Student Learning Outcomes

The outcomes of the program are shaped by the particular needs, interests, and plans for ministry of the participating students.

Program Requirements

- A minimum of 24 hours of credit earned at VTS.
- At least 3 credit hours in each of the following disciplines: Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology.
- Additional training requirements (not for credit) include Intercultural Competency Training and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Training.
- A grade point average of at least 2.0.
- The diploma can be normally completed in a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 5 years.

Diploma in Theology Curriculum

Fall 2026

Required Areas – 12 credits required				Credits	Completed
BIBL __: <i>Course in Old Testament</i>				3.0	
BIBL __: <i>Course in New Testament</i>				3.0	
CHWT __: <i>Course in Church History</i>				3.0	
CHWT __ : <i>Course in Theology</i>				3.0	
Free Electives – 12 credits required					
Course #	Credits		Course #	Credits	
Additional Required Elements					
☐ Sexual Misconduct Prevention		☐ Intercultural Competency			
Total Credits – 24 Credits					

PATHWAY TO MINISTRY

Program Description

Pathway to Ministry offers one year of study to students who have not yet engaged in a discernment process but wish to pursue formal theological education in an academically rigorous and spiritually nurturing environment. Pathway students who transfer to the MA or MDiv program must submit a new application to VTS Admissions by February 1.

Program Requirements

Pathway to Ministry Curriculum

Version updated Fall 2025

Required Courses – 28.5 credits required	Credits	Completed
August Term		
PRXT 500: Foundations for Ministry	3.0	
Fall Semester		
WRSH 500-2: Introduction to Liturgy, Music, and Proclamation	1.5	
BIBL 501: Old Testament Interpretation I O R BIBL 503 New Testament Interpretation I	3.0	
BIBL 510: Beginning Biblical Greek O R BIBL 511 Beginning Biblical Hebrew	3.0	
CHWT 501: Historical Witness of the Church	3.0	
WRRE 510: Introduction to Theological Research and Writing	3.0	
Spring Semester		
BIBL 502: Old Testament Interpretation II O R BIBL 504 New Testament Interpretation II	3.0	
CHWT 502: Contemporary Witness of the Church	3.0	
Free Elective	3.0	
Free Elective	3.0	
Additional Required Elements		
☐ Sexual Misconduct Prevention ☐ Intercultural Competency		
Total Credits – 28.5 Credits		

PART-TIME NON-DEGREE STUDY

Virginia Seminary welcomes applicants who wish to explore theological education, but who do not currently want to pursue a degree or earn a diploma. Studying as a Part-Time Non-Degree student is an excellent way to become acquainted with VTS and what the Seminary has to offer. For instance, a person might desire to take classes in an area of study that is of particular interest, for continuing personal enrichment, or to begin study in anticipation of joining a degree program at a later time. For those who would like to study on a part-time basis (up to 11 credit hours), it is possible to apply for admission as a Part-Time Non-Degree student.

To be eligible for this program, one must have earned a baccalaureate degree, completed a brief application process, and interviewed with the Director of Admissions. Part-Time Non-Degree students may continue in this capacity until they have accumulated 26 credit hours of study. Credits earned in this program can be transferred into a degree program at a later date.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS AND POLICIES FOR MASTER'S-LEVEL STUDENTS

For the purposes of this section, Master's-Level students include students enrolled in the following programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Post-Graduate Diploma in Theology, Post-Graduate Program in Anglican Studies, and Pathway to Ministry. These policies also apply to non-degree students enrolled in courses for credit, where applicable.

Degree Work

To receive the degree for which they are enrolled, students must complete the prescribed course of study with a grade point average of at least 2.0. To earn the three-year Master of Divinity degree, students may not receive a grade of "D" or lower in more than six courses, of which not more than four shall be required courses. Those in the Master of Arts program may not receive a grade of "D" or lower in more than four courses, of which not more than three shall be required courses.

An "F" in a required course must be made up by retaking the course or an approved equivalent at the Seminary or one of the other schools of the Washington Theological Consortium.

Grading System

The following are the faculty-approved guidelines for grading at Virginia Theological Seminary. Specific grading criteria will differ according to individual instructors and the goals, structure, and requirements of particular courses. Means of evaluation may include examinations, papers, projects, presentations, and class participation.

	Letter grade	Numerical grade	Grade point	Descriptors
Outstanding	A	93-100	4.0	Demonstrates excellent knowledge of content, and concepts, and evidences a superior understanding of assumptions and implications among different authors and points of view in the field of study. Written work as required goes beyond a "B" paper in its command, exposition, use of sources, and constructive and creative development. Class attendance is exemplary, and contribution in class demonstrates preparation, often including reading beyond the required texts and integrating other courses and life experiences into discussions.
Excellent	A-	90-92	3.7	
Accomplished	B+	87-89	3.3	Demonstrates solid knowledge of content and concepts, and evidences a good understanding of primary assumptions and implications among different authors and points of view. Written work as required is organized and developed around a clear thesis. All work evidences adequate grammar, draws upon primary resources, and correctly uses scholarly tools, including citation of resources. The student attends class except for good reason, engages materials and other students with respect and an open mind, fulfills commitments, and meets all deadlines.
Good	B	83-86	3.0	

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	Letter grade	Numerical grade	Grade point	Descriptors
Fine	B-	80-82	2.7	
Developing/ Marginal	C+	77-79	2.3	
Developing/ Marginal	C	73-76	2.0	Demonstrates only basic knowledge of course material and may exhibit one or more of the following: inability to understand assumptions and implications among different authors and points of view; written work that is unfocused, uses few or no primary sources, or is technically flawed in failing to properly cite sources; several unexplained absences from class, rare or irrelevant engagement in class discussion, failure to listen to other opinions, and the turning in of late work.
Developing/ Marginal	C-	70-72	1.7	
Minimal	D	60-69	1.0	Demonstrates inadequate knowledge of course material, appears unprepared for class, and may turn work in late. Written work lacks logical coherence, may use non-standard or poor grammar, may be unedited, and may not include proper references to cited materials. The student has several unexplained absences from class and/or minimally engages in in-class discussion.
Inadequate	F	0-59	0.0	Fails to demonstrate knowledge of course material and may exhibit one or more of the following: failure to complete assignments, failure to attend class, or deliberate acts of academic dishonesty.

Pass/Fail Grades

Letter grades are the norm for all courses. A student may take a letter-graded course as pass/fail with the permission of the instructor if: the course is a free elective, and the pass/fail grade is requested at the time of registration or within the “drop/add” period. An exception is the required semester of biblical language in the MDiv, which may be taken pass/fail with permission from the instructor. Area Distributed Electives in the MDiv and upper-level electives in the Master of Arts program must be taken for a letter grade.

In some cases, a course, such as Contextual Ministry, may be designated as pass/fail. The only required courses designated as pass/fail are:

- Advanced Theological Research and Writing – requirement for MA students only
- Contextual Ministry
- Intercultural Competency

Independent study projects may be graded pass/fail or a letter grade.

Students in degree programs must take at least 75% of their coursework for a letter grade. Courses designated pass/fail do not count toward the limit of pass/fail courses.

	Grade	Descriptor
Pass – Satisfactory Performance	P	Meets requirements as derived from course objectives. Ranges from accomplished to minimal in understanding and application of theoretical knowledge and/or practical skill. Equivalent to 100%-60%.
Incomplete	INC	The student has not completed the coursework and was granted an extension.
Fail	F	Does not meet the requirements as derived from the course objectives. Equivalent to 59% or below.
Audit	AU	
Withdrawal	W	
Work in Progress	WIP	

Audit Policy

Auditors in Master's-level courses have an official relationship with VTS, although they do not receive academic credit. The purpose of auditing is for the continuing education of the learner, recognizing that an auditor is a guest in the classroom and not a fully enrolled student. To audit a class, one must complete the "Quick Application" through the VTS Admissions Office with information about the academic background and reasons for desiring to audit. Permission to audit is granted (or not) by the instructor of the course. An auditor is counted among those registered for the course, so there must be space available in the class to register as one. Below are expectations for auditors in a Master's-level course at VTS. Instructors may modify these criteria at their sole discretion, provided auditors are notified to prevent misunderstandings.

- Auditors do not take exams or write papers but do participate in class as directed by the instructor.
- All communication about registration must go through the Registrar's office.
- Auditors may only attend classes in which they are enrolled.
- Those on a waitlist for a class may not attend the class until they are notified that a seat has become available.
- Auditors may not bring guests to class.
- Auditors may register for up to 3 audit hours in Master's-level courses during each term (Fall term: June through December; Spring term: January through May). Participation in continuing education classes is not included.

All regularly matriculated students may audit any course with the consent of the instructor. The instructor may impose terms upon granting consent. If the student wishes the audited course to be included on the transcript, an audit contract must be completed, signed, and submitted at registration, available on the Student Information System (SIS).

Any student, degree-seeking or not, who has audited a course may not normally take that course for credit at a later time.

Policy on Virtual Participation in In-Person Classes

Required courses, which include Area Distributed Electives for MDiv students and upper-level electives for MA students, must be taken in person. Instructors have discretion to allow students to participate remotely in individual class sessions in certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, family sickness or inclement weather for commuter students.

Free Electives may have additional flexibility at the discretion of the faculty in consultation with the SVPAA.

The Washington Theological Consortium course requirement is taken in the format offered.

Policy on Extensions on Assignments and Incomplete Course Grades

A student who, for sufficient reason, is not able to complete an in-course assignment by the deadline must request an extension in writing to the instructor before the assignment is due. The instructor may grant the request and negotiate a new deadline, keeping in mind the date when Incomplete grades are due. If the work is not submitted by the agreed-upon deadline, the instructor is to assign a grade of “F” (“zero” if using a point scale for grade calculations) for the missing work, calculate the final grade for the course, and submit it by the date when Incomplete grades are due.

All graduating Master’s-level students must have cleared all Incomplete grades from their transcript by the time that grades are due for graduating students.

Policy for Changing Final Course Grades

Grades may be changed by the instructor up to one semester after the original deadline for the submission of grades. This is done by the instructor requesting in writing to the Registrar. Changes past this date (but before grades for graduates are due) can only be requested due to computational error or the unintentional overlooking of relevant work completed by the student during the course. A change of this sort must be requested in writing and approved by the SVPAA or the Director of Doctoral Programs. If the contested grade relates to a course taught by the SVPAA or the Director of Doctoral Programs, the ADoS will stand in his/her place.

Policy for Appealing a Grade

If a student believes that their coursework has been erroneously evaluated by the instructor, they must meet with the instructor to see if the issue can be resolved (see above). If this does not resolve the issue, the student can make a formal appeal to the SVPAA or the Director of Doctoral Programs via a written document that states the grounds for the appeal and includes a copy of the syllabus and all relevant coursework.

If the appeal involves a particular assignment that the student believes has been misgraded, an anonymous copy of this work will be given by the SVPAA or the Director of Doctoral Programs to a colleague to be regraded and returned to the SVPAA or the Director for moderation.

If the student believes that there has been a computational error (and this cannot be resolved via the change of grade policy outlined above), the various elements will be re-calculated by the SVPAA or the Director. In both instances, the SVPAA or Director will report the final grade to the Registrar and inform the Master’s or the Doctoral Committee.

Appeals made relating to potential mis-grading of course assignments must be made by the end of the semester after the grade was due. Appeals relating to possible computational errors must be made before the grades for graduating students are due. If the contested grade relates to a course taught by the SVPAA or the Director of Doctoral Programs, the ADoS will stand in his/her place.

Examinations

A student who fails to take or complete a final examination due to illness or other imperative reasons must promptly notify the instructor. The student must make a written request for an extension as soon as possible and arrange with the instructor to make up the examination by special provisions.

Required Courses

It is expected that all required courses will be taken at VTS. With permission of the SVPAA, exceptions may be granted.

Transfer Credit and Shared Credit

Courses completed at the appropriate level in other accredited institutions may be counted toward the MDiv and MA degrees if they are at the level of “B” or higher and are no more than 10 years old at the time the student

requests consideration from the SVPAA. Master's-level students must complete at least 2/3 of their credits at Virginia Theological Seminary (i.e., 32 credits out of the required 48 must be completed at VTS for the MA degree, 52 out of the required 78 must be completed at VTS for the MDiv degree.) For the MDiv degree, students must also meet the two-year full-time residency requirement.

In degree programs, not more than half of the credits required may have been earned as part of the award of another degree program from VTS.

Academic Caution

1. A student whose admission file contains undergraduate transcript(s) with low grades or a low grade point average or a poorly written essay may be admitted on Academic Caution.
2. A student who receives 2 or more grades of "C+" or lower in any given semester will begin the following semester on Academic Caution. This includes Semester, Summer, January, and August term grades.
Any student placed on Academic Caution will develop learning goals and a plan for implementation of those goals in consultation with the Associate Dean of Students and the professors in the courses involved. The results of the consultation may be communicated in writing to the student and the student's bishop (if applicable).

The student will be removed from Academic Caution following two consecutive semesters (Fall, Spring) with grades of no more than one "C".

To earn the three-year MDiv, students may not receive a grade of "D" or lower in more than six courses, of which not more than four shall be required courses. Those in the MA program may not receive a grade of "D" or lower in more than four courses, of which not more than three shall be required courses.

Academic Probation

A student who receives 2 or more grades of "D" or lower or 1 grade of "F" in any given semester will be placed on Academic Probation for the following semester. This includes Semester, Summer, January, and August term grades.

Any student placed on Academic Probation will develop learning goals and a plan for implementation of those goals in consultation with the Associate Dean of Students and the professors in the courses involved. The results of the consultation will be communicated in writing to the student and the student's bishop (if applicable).

A student on Academic Probation is not eligible for election to the student body or class offices and may be asked to resign from an office if he or she goes on Academic Probation after the election.

A student placed on academic probation for two consecutive semesters (Fall and Spring) will be asked to withdraw from the Seminary and will not be eligible to re-enter for at least a year after the withdrawal. The faculty reserves the right to deny reentry to any student for academic reasons.

A student placed on academic probation for three semesters, consecutive or otherwise, will be asked to withdraw from the Seminary permanently.

Cross Registration

Candidates for the MDiv degree are required to take at least two credit hours taught by a member of the faculty of another school at another campus in the Washington Theological Consortium or a Consortium-sponsored seminar. The course can be taken in person or online.

Waiver of Required Courses

Students may request that they be granted a waiver for a required course and be allowed to substitute for an elective in the same field for that required course. Permission can be given only by the SVPAA, who may consult with the instructor or department offering the required course.

Changing Degree Programs

Students who are already in a Master's program may request to change their degree program on or before February 1. Fill out the MA/MDIV Degree Change Request form in Populi. This request is subject to a vote by the Admissions Committee and the Faculty.

Independent Studies

Any student may register for an independent study project with the agreement of the instructor who will direct the study. Adjunct instructors do not serve as the directors of independent studies without special permission from the SVPAA. At registration, students must file an Independent Study form. Normally, independent studies will not be approved if they cover material that is already covered in existing courses and do not fulfill the required course.

Registration

Policy on Registration

Students must register for future enrollment periods through the VTS Student Information System (SIS) by the published deadline each semester. Students who register after the deadline may not gain enrollment in preferred courses. Changes in course registration must be made through the VTS SIS according to the published deadline for each enrollment period.

Students must meet with their advisor prior to registration. Full-time students must register for a minimum of 12 credit hours in any Parent Term. Parent terms for Master's-level programs are defined as: Fall Parent: August Term, Fall Semester, and January Term; Spring Parent: Spring Semester and Summer Term.

Masters Committee decision

January Term

Master's-level students can normally take only one course per week and no more than 3.0 credit hours total. Independent study forms for those doing immersions during January are due on or before the first day of the January Term.

Enrollment

A full-time student will normally take 12-15 credit hours and must take a minimum of 12 credit hours per parent term and no more than 18 credits per parent term.

Part-Time, Non-Degree Student Enrollment

Enrollment in courses that are required for degree or diploma programs is limited to space available after matriculated students have registered.

Normally, part-time non-degree students may not take more than 26 hours of courses for credit. Part-time non-degree students who apply for admission to a degree program may transfer a maximum of 26 hours of credit to the degree program. Courses taken for audit are not counted toward a degree and normally may not be repeated for a grade.

Dropping, Adding, or Withdrawing from Courses

Students may add, drop, or change to audit, credit (letter grade), or pass/fail any course, based on the dates published in the Academic Calendar. Students may add, drop, or change to audit, credit (letter grade), or pass/fail a course taught in the Summer, August, or January Terms by the end of the first day of class.

For all changes in registration, students must use the Student Information System. After the drop/add period, courses cannot be added or dropped without the approval of the SVPAA.

Under special circumstances, a student may wish to withdraw from a course. The student shall write a letter to the SVPAA requesting withdrawal. Withdrawals will be granted on a case-by-case basis. Failure to take the examination in a course or withdrawing from or ceasing to attend classes in a course after the drop/add period without approval of the SVPAA will result in a grade of “F” for the course.

The final date to withdraw from a course without an “F” is noted in the Academic Calendar.

Course Evaluations

Course evaluations are administered through Brightspace at the end of each academic term.

Course Attendance

Regular attendance is expected in all courses. Failure to maintain regular attendance may be grounds for exclusion from the school or from the course involved.

Work Load

No matter the course number, the workload for Master’s-level courses is pegged at roughly 3 hours/week per credit hour outside of class during the semester. The workload for Doctoral-level courses is somewhat higher. Students should expect to spend additional time on midterm and/or final assignments.

In order to promote learning in individual classes in the context of the full program of enrollment, the following are suggested guidelines for pre- and post-course work, based on 3.0 credit courses.

Fall and Spring semester 3.0 credit courses

- instructors can require 3-6 hours of engagement with course materials before the first class
- instructors can assign final assignments that approximate one additional week’s worth of coursework (i.e., 12 hours) over and above the usual coursework engagement

August term 3.0 credit courses

Given that most students will have a longer time frame to prepare for August term courses, and given that a limited number of orientation events occur during the class weeks, the following guidelines are suggested:

- instructors can require 6-12 hours of engagement with course materials before the first class
- instructors can assign final assignments that approximate one additional day of coursework (i.e., 12 hours) over and above the usual coursework engagement

As a reminder, students take only one course at a time in August and should expect to spend most days of the term in class or doing course work independently.

January term 3.0 credit courses

Given that January term courses are intensives and thus there is less time during the week to complete the course assignments, the following guidelines are suggested:

- instructors can assign up to 6-12 hours of engagement with course materials before the first class
- instructors can assign final assignments that approximate one additional day’s worth of coursework (i.e., 12 hours) over and above the usual coursework engagement

As a reminder, students can take only one course in any given January term week, and should expect to spend most days of the week in class or doing course work independently.

Residency Requirement

Students in a three-year MDiv program are required to be in residence full-time for the last two years of their course of study. Any exception to this policy requires a vote of the faculty.

Pathway to Ministry students are required to be full-time and live on campus.

Full-time MDiv and Anglican Studies Commuter Students: As with all full-time MDiv, Pathway to Ministry, and Anglican Studies students living on campus, residency for all full-time MDiv and Anglican Studies Commuter students entails participation in class, lunch in the Refectory any day they are on campus for classes, participation in one act of corporate worship daily when they are on campus, and participation in formation and advising/colloquy groups.

Part-time Students: Part-time MDiv and Anglican Studies students are expected to attend classes, participate in one act of corporate worship on the days when they are on campus, and are encouraged to attend a formation and advising/colloquy group. Lunch participation is also encouraged.

Worship Leadership Expectations: Full-time MDiv and Anglican Studies students—both residential and commuter—are expected to participate in the worship rota and in worship planning teams.

MA Students: MA students may pursue their degree either full-time or part-time.

Full-time MA students are expected to participate in class, eat lunch in the Refectory any day they are on campus for classes, participate in one act of corporate worship daily when they are on campus, and participate in formation and advising/colloquy groups.

Part-time MA students are expected to attend classes, participate in one act of corporate worship on the days when they are on campus, and are encouraged to attend a formation and advising/colloquy group.

MA students are encouraged to participate in the worship rota and worship planning teams.

MASTER'S-LEVEL THESIS OR SUMMATIVE CAPSTONE PROJECT

Purpose and Description

A Master's-level Thesis or a Summative Capstone Project (SCP) provides a distinctive opportunity for the investigation of a problem or question that will yield unexpected insight, sharpen skills in reading texts and developing arguments, and generate creative work.

A Thesis is a major paper. A SCP may be a major paper or may take other forms, such as a media presentation or an annotated work of art or literature. A Flex SCP may also include curricula, a portfolio, or an oral examination in the area of concentration.

A Thesis length is usually 12,000 words (approximately 40 pages) inclusive of footnotes and bibliography, with a 10% allowance above or below for 3.0 credits. A SCP should be of appropriate equivalent length. MDiv students writing for 6.0 credits should double these amounts.

The precise nature of a Thesis or SCP should be developed in consultation with and at the discretion of the Thesis Advisor. The student must develop a bibliography to support their Thesis or SCP, demonstrating engagement with primary and secondary materials related to the topic and an awareness of relevant periodic literature or sources. The form, style and presentation of the finished Thesis must follow the VTS Style Guide. Clear English prose with correct grammar, spelling and citations is required.

Eligibility

MDiv students who have a member of the permanent residential VTS faculty willing to serve as a Thesis Advisor may opt to write a Thesis in their final year. MDiv students must have a 3.0 Grade Point Average at the end of their middler year. To write an Honors Thesis, the MDiv student must have a 3.75 Grade Point Average sustained throughout the final year, and receive no less than an A- on the Thesis itself.

All MA students are required to complete a Thesis or SCP. To write a Thesis, the MA student must have at least a 3.5 Grade Point Average after completing 24 credits. To write an Honors Thesis, the MA student must have a 3.75 Grade Point Average after completing 24 credits, and receive no less than an A- on the Thesis itself.

MDiv Thesis Procedure and Timeline

1. Complete talks with a faculty member about serving as the Thesis Advisor in the semester prior to undertaking the Thesis writing.
2. Submit a completed MDiv Thesis or Honors Thesis Form to the Registrar by April 15 for a Fall Semester or Full Year Thesis in the academic year prior to graduation.
Submit a completed MDiv Thesis or Honors Thesis Form to the Registrar by January 1 of that year for a Spring Semester Thesis.
3. The Advisor should be from the department most clearly related to the selected subject area. The Advisor should approve the general topic, the outline, the approach and the format of the work. The Advisor will schedule periodic meetings through the duration of the course to discuss and evaluate the progress of the study. It is the responsibility of the Advisor to authorize and oversee the scope and depth of the approved project, such that it reasonably meets the equivalent standard of 3.0 credits of advanced graduate level work.
4. If a student is still without an Advisor they should contact the SVPAA for further possible suggestions in a timely manner.
5. MDiv students writing a Thesis are encouraged to register for WRRE 600 Advanced Theological Research and Writing to be taken in the Fall Semester. This course is optional (but highly recommended).
6. Secure and notify the SVPAA and the Director of Academic Writing of a Second Reader, chosen in consultation with the Thesis Advisor, before the beginning of the Fall Semester of the final year. The Second

Reader will read the completed Thesis or SCP, submit a written evaluation to the Thesis Advisor, and suggest a grade.

The Second Reader for an MDiv Thesis is a member of the VTS faculty.

The Second Reader for an MDiv Honors Thesis is a faculty member from another institution, also referred to as an External Reader.

7. In the request to the potential External Reader, the student and/or Advisor may wish to include these guidelines from the formal contract letter sent out by VTS. For a Full Year or Spring Semester Thesis: "Your responsibility will be to read the Thesis upon its completion on or before March 30, and to send to the Thesis Advisor a one-page written evaluation of the Thesis (including a suggested grade) on or before April 15. The due date for a signature from you on the final version of the Thesis is May 1. VTS can offer you a small honorarium."

For MDiv students writing a 3.0 credit Fall Semester Thesis, the relevant dates are November 15, November 30, and December 20.

8. Submit the completed Thesis to the Advisor and Second Reader for evaluation on or before March 30 of the final year.

For MDiv students writing a 3.0 credit Fall Semester Thesis, this date is November 15.

9. Receive Reports back from the Advisor and the Second Reader by April 15, to allow time for possible revisions and retyping before the deadline for work required for graduation.

For MDiv students writing a 3.0 credit Fall Semester Thesis, this date is November 30.

10. Submit two typed and proofread copies of the revised Thesis or SCP for the final approval of the Advisor no later than May 1. These copies must be submitted with the standard title page, signed by the Advisor and Reader, and returned to the student before May 12.

For MDiv students writing a 3.0 credit Fall Semester Thesis, this date is December 20.

11. Students are invited to present their project briefly to the VTS Community during the Thesis and SCP Presentation event in May.
12. Submit one signed copy of the Thesis to the Bishop Payne Library by May 12. The second copy of the Thesis is for the student to keep.

MDiv Thesis Credits and Grading

MDiv students may register for a Thesis as a 3.0 credit course in the Fall or Spring semester.

Students may choose to register for a Thesis in both the Fall and Spring semesters as a 6.0 credit course. In a 6.0 credit Full Year Thesis, no grade will be given until the end of the Spring semester, at which time the grade will be recorded for both semesters.

Each MDiv Thesis will be assigned a letter grade by the Thesis Advisor, taking into account the suggestion of the Second Reader. This will be the final grade for the course.

The final grade for an MDiv Honors Thesis must be A- or higher to qualify for the honors designation. A passing grade lower than A- will result in a standard (non-honors) thesis designation. The evaluation will take into account form as well as content.

MA Thesis or Summative Capstone Project

Procedure and Timeline

Students who wish to write a Thesis or SCP must:

1. Complete talks with a faculty member about serving as the Thesis or SCP Advisor between April 1 and April 10 of the academic year prior to graduation.

2. Secure the signature of the Thesis or SCP Advisor by April 10 on an MA Thesis/SCP Proposal Form.
3. The Advisor should be from the department most clearly related to the selected subject area. The Advisor should approve the general topic, the outline, the approach and the format of the work. The Advisor will schedule periodic meetings through the duration of the course to discuss and evaluate the progress of the study. It is the responsibility of the Advisor, in consultation with the Masters Committee, to authorize and oversee the scope and depth of the approved project, such that it reasonably meets the equivalent standard of 3.0 credits of advanced graduate level work.
4. If a student is still without an Advisor after April 10, they should contact the SVPAA for further possible suggestions.
5. Submit a completed MA Thesis/SCP Proposal Form to the SVPAA and the Director of Academic Writing by April 15, who will then submit it to the Masters Committee for approval.
6. Register for WRRE 600 Advanced Theological Research and Writing to be taken in the Fall Semester by all MA students.
7. Secure and notify the SVPAA and the Director of Academic Writing of a Second Reader, chosen in consultation with the Thesis Advisor, before the beginning of the Fall Semester of the final year. The Second Reader will read the completed Thesis or SCP, submit a written evaluation to the Thesis Advisor, and suggest a grade.

The Second Reader for an MA Thesis, an MA Flex SCP is a member of the VTS faculty.

The Second Reader for an MA Honors Thesis is a faculty member from another institution, also referred to as an External Reader.

8. In the request to the potential External Reader, the student and/or Advisor may wish to include these guidelines from the formal contract letter sent out by VTS. For a Full Year or Spring Semester Thesis: "Your responsibility will be to read the Thesis upon its completion on or before March 30, and to send to the Thesis Advisor a one-page written evaluation of the Thesis (including a suggested grade) on or before April 15. The due date for a signature from you on the final version of the Thesis is May 1. VTS can offer you a small honorarium."
9. Submit the completed Thesis or SCP to the Advisor and Second Reader for evaluation on or before March 30 of the final year.
10. Receive Reports back from the Advisor and the Second Reader by April 15, to allow time for possible revisions and retyping before the deadline for work required for graduation.
11. Submit two typed and proofread copies of the revised Thesis or SCP for the final approval of the Advisor no later than May 1. These copies must be submitted with the standard title page, signed by the Advisor and Reader, and returned to the student before May 12.
12. Students are invited to present their project briefly to the VTS Community during the Thesis and SCP Presentation event in May.
13. Submit one signed copy of the Thesis or SCP to the Bishop Payne Library by May 12. The second copy of the Thesis or SCP is for the student to keep.

MA Thesis or SCP Credits and Grading

MA students will register for the Thesis or SCP as a 3.0 credit course, and will receive an additional 3.0 credits upon the completion of WRRE 600 – Advanced Theological Research and Writing in the Fall Semester.

Each MA Thesis will be assigned a letter grade by the Thesis Advisor, taking into account the suggestion of the Second Reader. This will be the final grade for the course.

The final grade for an MA Honors Thesis must be A- or higher to qualify for the honors designation. A passing grade lower than A- will result in a standard (non-honors) thesis designation. The evaluation will take into account form as well as content.

Pass/Fail is the default option for an MA Flex SCP. However, an A-F letter grade may be selected by eligible students who have a 3.5 Grade Point Average or higher after completing 24 credits, when registering for the SCP.

Sample Thesis or SCP Title Page

A sample title page is available on the Student Information System.

Bishop Payne Library Submission Form

Each thesis writer must donate a copy of their thesis or SCP to the library for the collection by May 12. Please consult the Bishop Payne Library for submission instructions.

Study Carrels

Students who are writing a Thesis are eligible for a study carrel in the Bishop Payne Library.

Writing Coaches

To assist students in improving their writing skills, the Seminary engages qualified coaches who are available by appointment throughout the academic year. Coaches do not propose topics or serve as proofreaders of completed pieces of student writing. Rather, coaches help in response to students' requests in such matters as refining the topic for a paper, organizing ideas and clarifying thoughts, examining drafts and suggesting revisions in light of an Advisor's feedback, and helping students learn to spot their own errors in grammar, punctuation, and English usage.

The Seminary recommends that all students take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen existing writing skills.

The Admissions Committee may require a student to work with a Writing Coach, if at the time of admission, they are perceived to have need of improved writing skills. Students with English as a second language will be invited to take the Foundations in Theological Research and Writing Seminar during the August Term.

CONTEXTUAL MINISTRY AND CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

Purpose

The Contextual Ministry Program at VTS is designed to provide experiential, contextual learning opportunities to assist seminarians with:

- Integrating study of Christian tradition and practice of Christian ministry;
- Developing pastoral liturgical, teaching, and leadership abilities;
- Fostering personal and professional growth and identity, and
- Engaging in ongoing theological reflection on ministry.

Contextual Ministry Program Requirements

MDiv students must complete nine (9) required CXM credits in the Middler year and participate in Colloquy in the Fall and Spring semesters. MA students in Christian Formation complete six (6) CXM credits.

Preparation in the Junior Year	
Visiting CXM sites including:	
Parish Sites	Organizational Sites
Urban	Episcopal Schools
Suburban	Universities
Rural	Hospitals
Church-Plants	Prisons
Emergent	Hospices
Multi-Cultural Congregations	Retirement Communities
Historic Churches	Church/Community Organizations
No Staff	
Multi-Staff Churches	
Reflect on these visits in consultation with the CXM Director.	
Active and prayerful discernment in the site selection process.	
Interviewing with supervisors to negotiate their own site, supervisor, and stipend.	

Track I:

Track I seminarians complete 9 credit hours of CXM in the Middler Year in this sequence: 12 hours/week in the fall semester (3.0 credits)
24 hours/week in the spring semester (6.0 credits)

Track II:

Track II seminarians complete 9 credit hours of CXM in the Middler Year in this sequence: 12 hours/week in the fall semester (3.0 credits)
A January OR Summer Term CXM Intensive. See CXM Intensives for further explanation. (3.0 – 6.0 credits)
12 hours/week in the spring semester (3.0 credits)

Track III:

Seminarians planning to do CXM in chaplaincy settings (e.g., hospital, work, military, port, etc.) will work with the CXM Director and their Supervisor to develop an Individual CXM Plan to be implemented and completed in the seminarian's Middler year.

Students in MA or Diploma programs may choose to complete either three (3), six (6), or nine (9) credits of CXM with permission from the CXM Director.

MDiv Students may continue in an “unofficial” (i.e., not for credit) or elective credit capacity in the Senior year to fulfill specific diocesan requirements and/or to experience deeper involvement and learning by remaining in the same placement for two years.

CXM Intensives

All CXM intensives must be pre-registered for and approved by the Director of Contextual Ministry.

Requirements for January Term Intensives/Summer Term:

For Parishes	Three credits, 160 hours Six credits, 320 hours (Summer Only) Regular weekly supervision of the seminarian Minimum: 1 hour/week supervision Regular weekly lay support team meetings
For Organizations	Three credits, 160 hours Six credits, 320 hours (Summer Only) The above requirements, with the lay support team as optional An additional written description of training within the organization by the supervisor

Stipends

Stipends are based primarily on the geographical distance of each site from the Seminary. CXM stipends of \$600 or more per year are taxable and seminarians are responsible for completing the appropriate tax forms. Seminarians negotiate directly with their supervisors during the interview process regarding the amount of the stipend they will receive and the date(s) of receipt. The CXM Director serves as a resource for seminarians in negotiating stipends with sites and can serve as a resource and/or advocate regarding stipends.

Once an agreement is reached, the seminarian must e-mail the CXM Department with the Supervisor on copy with the following information:

1. Supervisor's name
2. Site Name & Location
3. Annual stipend
4. Payment date(s)
5. CXM track

Seminarian Learning Covenant

In consultation with the CXM Director and CXM supervisor, each seminarian formulates two or three CXM learning goals which can be revised or updated at the beginning of each semester.

Supervisors

While serving at a site, all seminarians will engage in weekly individual or group supervision with their supervisor. Supervisors are expected to participate in a three-year Supervisors' Enrichment program.

Lay Support Teams

Seminarians will participate in monthly, two-hour meetings with their Lay Support Team, comprised of site members committed to assisting the seminarian in their formation. To facilitate this ministry to VTS seminarians,

all seminarians and lay support team conveners will be required to participate in Annual Lay Support Team Orientation and Assessment workshops as scheduled. The seminarians and conveners will in turn train the rest of the Lay Support Team members with what they learned during the workshop and share the documents and resources they received.

CPE Segue and Colloquy

In lieu of weekly Formation and Advising Groups Middler groups will meet for CPE Segue (2-3 sessions) and Colloquy (all other sessions). Seminarians gather in confidential, small groups to reflect and further integrate the CPE and CXM experiences into ministerial identity and practice. Each format has its own purpose: CPE Segue provides an opportunity to debrief after the intensity of CPE, while Colloquy develops the art and skill of theological reflection in relation to ministry. Facilitators are experienced faculty and senior seminarians recommended by previous facilitators as especially gifted in theological reflection and small-group leadership skills.

CPE Segue and Colloquy is required for all MDiv, and optional for all MA, and Diploma in Theology seminarians participating in Contextual Ministry. Anglican Studies students are expected to attend Formation group sessions and are not able to participate in Colloquy.

Grading

All papers, forms, evaluations, and reports assigned by the CXM Director to the seminarian and their supervisor, as well as attendance and participation in Colloquy, serve as the basis for CXM grades. All papers are due by dates listed on the CXM calendar.

	Grade	Descriptor
Pass - Satisfactory Performance	P	Meets requirements and has made adequate progress toward stated learning goals. Demonstrates satisfactory engagement in theological reflection, integration of coursework and ministry activities, attention to professional and personal development, and growth in leadership practices.
Incomplete	INC	The student and/or supervisor did not submit all required assignments by the due date.
Fail	F	Does not meet requirements or show progress regarding stated learning goals. Demonstrates minimal engagement in theological reflection, integration of coursework and ministry activities, attention to professional and personal development, and growth in leadership practices.

Clinical Pastoral Education

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is training in pastoral care in hospitals, prisons, schools, social service agencies, and other sites in need of pastoral support. Although CPE is not required for the MDiv degree, most dioceses require or recommend it. Please contact your diocesan liaison for specific requirements and permissions.

CPE is generally taken in the summer between Junior and Middler years. Seminarians are responsible for the application process and all fees or other expenses associated with CPE. Upon satisfactory completion and receipt of the final signed evaluation and certificate of completion by the Contextual Ministry Department, three (3) credit hours may be recorded on the seminarian's transcript as transfer credit.

VTS supports CPE experiences by providing:

1. A CPE orientation.
2. Assistance with finding a CPE site, and
3. CPE Segue to facilitate the transition back into seminary life. Please see CPE Segue and Colloquy for further explanation.

AWARDING MASTER’S-LEVEL DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS

Requirements for Graduation

Being an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, this seminary follows the requirements for graduation and for awarding degrees as laid down by the association. To receive the MDiv degree, students must successfully complete a minimum of 53 semester hours at VTS and meet the two-year full-time residency requirement. To receive the MA degree, students must complete a minimum of 32 semester hours at VTS. Credits more than ten years old may not be counted toward a degree without faculty approval.

All Master’s-level degree/diploma students are required to take the following training (not for credit): Intercultural Competency Training and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Training.

Master of Divinity

The degree of Master of Divinity (MDiv) will be awarded to candidates who have successfully completed the three-year course of study, with a grade point average not lower than 2.0, and have earned 78 hours of credit in the designated areas. The last two years of work must be done in full-time study (ie, a minimum of 12 credits hours per parent term) in residence at the Seminary. All requirements must be completed within seven years.

Admission Without Bachelor’s Degree (MDiv Program)

In limited circumstances, students can be provisionally admitted under ATS regulations without a college degree. Those students will be considered for admission to the MDiv after successfully completing their first year of study. Students who are provisionally admitted should register for WRRE 510 in their first semester.

Master of Arts

The degree of Master of Arts will be awarded to candidates who have successfully completed the Master of Arts course of study, with a grade point average not lower than 2.0, and have earned 48 hours of credit. Full-time study in residence is not required for this degree. All requirements must be completed within seven years.

Post-Graduate Diploma in Theology

The Post-Graduate Diploma in Theology will be issued to students who have completed a one-year course of study with a grade point average not lower than 2.0 and have earned at least 24 hours of credits with at least 3 credit hours in each of the following disciplines: Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Systematic Theology.

Post-Graduate Diploma in Anglican Studies

The Post-Graduate Diploma in Anglican Studies will be issued to students who have a previous theological degree and have successfully completed the one-year course of study, with a grade point average not lower than 2.0 and have earned 24 hours of credit.

Cum Laude

MA and MDiv students are eligible to graduate Cum Laude if they complete the prescribed course of study with a grade point average of 3.80 or higher and attain a GPA in the top 10% of the graduating class.

Financial Obligations

The Seminary reserves the right to refuse to issue diplomas to students who are delinquent in their financial obligations to the Seminary.

VTs REGALIA SPECIFICATIONS

MDiv

Hood: SHELL: Single Oxford cut, length 3'6" black faille; LINING: White satin field with black satin chevron;
EDGING: Scarlet 3" velvet

No tippet, stole, or tabs are to be worn by graduating students

Gown: Cassock and surplice

Cap: none

MA

Hood: SHELL: Single Oxford cut length 3'6", black faille; LINING: White satin field with black satin chevron;
EDGING: Scarlet 3" velvet.

Gown: Master's gown

Cap: black mortarboard with a black tassel

PGDTh

Hood: SHELL: Single Oxford cut, length 3', black faille; LINING: White satin field with black satin chevron;
EDGING: Red cording on all edges

OR wear a hood from their previous master's degree

Gown: Master's gown

Cap: black mortarboard with a black tassel

PGDAS

Hood: SHELL: Single Oxford cut, length 3', black faille; LINING: White satin field with black satin chevron;
EDGING: Red cording on all edges.

OR wear a hood from their previous master's degree

No tippet, stole, or tabs are to be worn by graduating students

Gown: Cassock and surplice

Cap: none

DMin and DEdMin

Hood: SHELL: Single Oxford cut, length 4', black faille; LINING: Black satin field with white satin chevron;
Edging- Scarlet 5" velvet.

Gown: Doctoral gown with three bars of black velvet.

Cap: 6-sided black tam with a short fixed gold tassel.

STUDENT PRIZES

	Award	Deadline	Eligibility
Language Prizes	The Venerable Charles B. Tachau Award and The Armistead Boothe Grant	Nomination	Middler or MA student enrolled at VTS who plans to attend St. George's College in Jerusalem and has shown over the past year the most progress or proficiency in the study of Biblical languages.
	The Jane A. Morse Scholarship Fund for Old Testament Languages	Nomination	Any Master's student who has a minimum of one semester of Hebrew language at VTS (or is deemed to be proficient by the Faculty) and is recommended by the Faculty on the basis of merit.
Writing Awards	The Yoder Scholarship	April 1	VTS students are eligible to apply by submitting an essay, poem, and/or musical piece that explores the centrality of love in Christian doctrine, scripture, creeds, liturgy, worship, music and practice and/or explores love as a possible unifying principle within and among all religions and spiritual traditions. Submit piece to qharkless@vts.edu
	Student Essays in Christian Wisdom Competition (administered by <i>The Living Church</i>)	June 15	Any Anglican student enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program may submit an essay of 1,500 to 2,000 words. Essays may address any topic within the classic disciplines of theology. We also welcome essays written to fulfill course requirements. We will give special consideration to essays that demonstrate a mastery of one or more of the registers of Christian wisdom and radiate a love of the communion of the Church in Jesus Christ, the Wisdom of God. Submissions may be sent to essaycontest@livingchurch.org .

(continue on next page)

STUDENT PRIZES (continued)

	Award	Deadline	Eligibility
Graduating Students	The Anglican Communion Prize	April 1	Graduating student in MDiv, MA, Doctoral, Anglican Studies may apply with an outstanding commitment to discerning the mission of God through World Anglicanism. The prize winner will have demonstrated dedication to international Christian mission and theological understanding across cultural and theological differences. Submit 500-word statement on how you have engaged in the mission of God internationally and across differences to hwensing@vts.edu .
	The Bishop Mark Dyer Prize for Theological Reflection	Nomination	Graduating Senior who developed theological skills that equip her or him to understand the craft of ministry.
	The Charles and Janet Harris Award	Nomination	Graduating Candidate for Holy Orders who has best demonstrated academic excellence and leadership ability as well as other qualities that evidence fitness for ordained ministry.
	The Episcopal Preaching Foundation Award	Nomination	Graduating Master's student who exhibits notable aptitude in preaching.
	The Greene Chair	Nomination	Graduating Master's student who has exhibited, through the range of his or her overall contributions, a strong commitment to the community life and mission of the Seminary.
	The Woodward Award for Reading of Scripture and Liturgy	Readings Performed in March	Graduating Master's student who has distinguished themselves in the articulation and presentation of scripture and liturgy. Award committee will hold tryouts for this prize in March.
	Master of Arts Award	Nomination	Graduating Master of Arts student who has written an exceptional and original thesis or capstone project with clarity, depth, and integrity.
	Doctoral Thesis Award	Nomination	Graduating Doctoral student who has written an exceptional thesis with clarity, depth, and boundedness that addresses a higher aim of Christian life, service, and leadership.
Further Studies	The Bell Fellowship Fund and the Woolfall Memorial Fund	March 31	Highly competent students pursuing a post-seminary academic degree, normally a Ph.D. degree, with the intention of teaching one of the theological disciplines in a seminary or other center of higher education. Submit an application through the VTS website.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, WITHDRAWAL, AND CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION

Leave of Absence

Master's-level degree students may apply for a leave of absence from their program of studies for academic terms exceeding no more than 12 consecutive months. Master's students considering a leave of absence must consult with the Associate Dean of Students before completing and submitting a Leave of Absence Request Form.

Students must notify the Registrar and the SVPAA if they wish to resume their coursework earlier than indicated on the leave of absence form. Students who do not return after the end of the approved leave of absence will be administratively withdrawn from their degree program and must reapply for admission if they later wish to re-enroll.

A leave of absence suspends the time limitations for the completion of the degree until the end of the leave period.

Withdrawal from Seminary Programs

Students who wish to leave their master's or doctoral studies permanently must submit a written notice of withdrawal to the Registrar. Full-time degree students who do not formally apply for either a withdrawal or a leave of absence and who fail to attend classes and participate in Seminary life over a semester period will be administratively withdrawn. Students who are voluntarily or administratively withdrawn must reapply for admission if they later wish to re-enroll.

Withdrawal from Individual Seminary Courses by Master's-Level Students

Master's-level students who find it necessary to withdraw from a given course(s) beyond the approved drop/add period, must apply in writing to the Associate Dean of Students. A determination will be made whether to grant withdrawal from the course(s). If approval is granted, consultation with the faculty will determine whether an F or a W will be recorded on the student's transcript for the course(s) not completed. The final date to withdraw from an individual course is noted on the Academic Calendar.

Continuous Registration for Part-Time Master's-Level Students

All degree and diploma students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment from the point of matriculation until graduation. Part-time Master's-level degree students who wish to temporarily discontinue studies and not enroll for a given term or semester must request to remain active under Continuous Registration status by contacting the Registrar.

RECORD KEEPING

Directory Information

According to federal law, schools must furnish such information as date and place of birth, date of enrollment, the degree to be earned and anticipated date of award, home and local addresses, and telephone numbers as published annually in the Seminary Directory online. If you do not wish this information to be disclosed, please notify the Registrar in writing at the beginning of each academic year. The directory is found through Populi.

Address and Name Change

Notification of any change of name or address must be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Life for the student's records to be corrected promptly and properly. All formal changes of names on official VTS documents require legal documentation.

Confidentiality and Retention of Student Records

Within the administrative support structure that serves students from the time of inquiry, application, and admission, to the time of their withdrawal or graduation, a number of offices maintain student records. These records are maintained with integrity and discretion, and largely in keeping with the guidelines of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Access to a student's academic record is not allowed to anyone other than faculty or administrative personnel without the student's written permission, except upon Court Order or subpoena, in either of which case the student will be notified. (See also Policy on Reporting to the State of Virginia).

Each student's academic record (in the student files) shall be available for review by that student, to the extent specified by law, during regular working hours. Otherwise, a student's academic record shall be held confidential by the Seminary as permitted or required by law and is not released without the written authority of the student.

General Ordination Examination Results

The results of the General Ordination Examination are communicated to the Dean and President by the General Board of Examining Chaplains and may be shared with faculty members as determined by the Dean and President.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA permits the disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from a student's education records, without the consent of the student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in § 99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the student, § 99.32 of FERPA regulations requires the institution to record the disclosure. Eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A postsecondary institution may disclose PII from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student.

TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION AND REQUESTS

Authority

The Registrar maintains student academic records and issues official copies of academic transcripts.

In keeping with federal law on privacy and the Seminary's policy on confidentiality of records, all requests for academic transcripts must go through the online transcript request portal, linked on the Registrar's page of The Hub and VTS.edu. Current transcript fees are posted on the request portal. Official digital and paper transcripts are available.

Transcripts for Postulants and Candidates

Students will need to request a transcript through the transcript portal at the end of each semester to be sent to their Bishop as needed according to their Diocese's practices and procedures.

Financial Obligation Restrictions

The Seminary reserves the right to refuse to permit registration or to issue transcripts for students with delinquent financial obligations to the Seminary.

End of Semester Grade Reports

Unofficial transcripts and grade reports are available on VTS SIS.

WASHINGTON THEOLOGICAL CONSORTIUM

Consortium Courses

The Washington Theological Consortium is a rich ecumenical and interfaith resource in the greater Washington area.

Consortium Course Requirement

Students are required to take at least 2.0 credits taught by a non-VTS faculty member at another school of the Consortium. The required Consortium course may not be taken pass/fail unless the entire class is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Fulfillment of Required Courses

Normally, Consortium courses may not be taken to fulfill required courses. In some cases, a student may petition the SVPAA to take a required course through the Consortium.

Enrollment Privileges

Only students who have been accepted into a degree or diploma program may cross-register for a Consortium course. This privilege is not extended to Contextual Ministry supervisors or part-time non-degree students.

Registration

Students should register for a Washington Theological Consortium course by filling out the WTC Cross-Registration form and providing it to the Registrar. The form is found on Populi.

Members, Academic Calendars, Schedules, and Locations

The member schools' calendars, schedules, and locations of classes vary and are posted at www.washtheocon.org/academic.html. The student is responsible for contacting the consortium school for the schedule and location of specific classes.

Washington Theological Consortium Libraries

VTS students and faculty have borrowing privileges during the academic year and summer at the seminaries of the Washington Theological Consortium. To borrow from any of the schools, you must present a WTC Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement Form and a photo ID (preferably your VTS ID). Borrower's forms may be obtained at the VTS library.

Consortium Certificates

To receive a Certificate from the Consortium, the student must complete a total of twelve credits in courses related to the certificate that are offered in the Consortium member schools. For further information see the Consortium website at <http://washtheocon.org/for-students/consortium-certificates/>. These certificates are tracked and awarded by the Consortium.

THE GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

In an agreement between both seminaries, VTS students may enroll for eligible courses at GTS in a process similar to the Washington Theological Consortium. GTS students are also able to register for courses at VTS and usually take January Term in-person courses on the VTS campus. Courses taken at GTS do not fulfill the Washington Theological Consortium requirement.

THE BISHOP PAYNE LIBRARY

The library supports the mission of the seminary through the provision of resources, research assistance, and a place to study. The library meets patron needs through extensive resources in the field of religion (theology, biblical studies, ministry, and ecclesiology) in both print and e-book formats, as well as additional subject areas to supplement core holdings. At the Bishop Payne Library, you will find an atmosphere conducive to deep study and a staff ready and willing to serve your learning.

Overview

Catalog Home: <https://librarycatalog.vts.edu>, search here for print and e-resources, books, and journals.

Regular Hours: Please check the library website: <https://library.vts.edu/>

Reach Out for Assistance: To talk to the circulation desk staff, call (703) 461-1733, or email paynelib@vts.edu for questions about using the library, research, or resources. During library hours, librarians and staff are always ready to assist you in person. Stay up to date by visiting our Brightspace page and “liking” our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/bishoppaynelibrary

Resources & Collections

The library maintains a collection of over 200,000 print resources in addition to extensive access to hundreds of thousands of e-resources across the disciplines.

- **Borrowing:** Students can borrow books for 4 weeks at a time, though they may be recalled if needed for course reserves. If not recalled, students may renew materials up to three times. E-resources are available at any time for use online. Off-campus users will be required to authenticate using their library barcode.
- **Reserve Books:** Course texts are available for two-hour borrowing; ask at the circulation desk.
- **Archives:** Materials related to the history of the Episcopal Church and VTS, and the African American Episcopal Historical Collection are available for research.
- **Rare Books:** Historical editions of the Book of Common Prayer, Anglican liturgies, church music, and the history of the Bible are all part of the library's rare book collection available for research.

Study & Research

- **Study Space:** The library provides tables, desks, and reading chairs to suit your preferences. There are computers for patron use, and Wi-Fi is available anywhere in the library. Group study rooms of various sizes are open for use when not reserved.
- **Research Questions:** Library staff have various subject specialties. They are eager to support your individual research questions, in-person, via Zoom, or by email paynelib@vts.edu.
- **Library Guides:** Staff maintains “library guides” on specific subjects, search tips and suggestions, and basics for using e-resources: vts.libguides.com.
- **Printing and Scanning:** Multiple printers/scanners are available for use throughout the library using the Percut system. Circulation desk staff can get you oriented and set up.

POLICIES FOR FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid Policies for Doctoral-Level Students

Virginia Theological Seminary offers limited financial aid for doctoral students. One type of aid comes in the form of Ministry Context Grants which help reduce the cost of tuition. Grants are targeted to students who minister in churches or organizations that reach underserved and/or financially challenged populations, so that the benefits of a Doctoral-Level educated minister may have the greatest impact on the Church and God's people. Ministry Context Grants range in award amount and assist with only a portion of the students' tuition costs. Students must secure funding for all remaining tuition, room, board, fees, books, and travel expenses. International students are required to demonstrate a capacity to meet all financial obligations, including any annual visa fees. To be considered for a Ministry Context Grant, students must complete the Ministry Context Grant Application Form (found in the online admissions application portal) and submit it along with the required admissions application materials. To be considered for the scholarship, one must be a newly accepted student or an active student in the Doctoral Program at Virginia Theological Seminary in good academic standing.

1. In consultation with the Doctoral Committee and Doctoral Office, VTS will consider students for scholarships from this fund based on the following criteria: Strong past academic performance and strong academic capacity as evidenced in undergraduate and graduate transcripts, quality and depth of writing in application essays, and recommendation letters. For returning students, ongoing academic performance and capacity in the Doctoral Program are considered in light of grades and instructor feedback.
2. Strong experience and adeptness in ministry and leadership in religiously affiliated or religiously sympathetic organizations and settings, as evidenced in current and previous work in contexts of ministry and leadership, including churches and regional judicatories, schools, universities, hospitals, and health-related agencies, and social service and social justice agencies. Other previous or simultaneous occupations will be considered for their contribution to a student's array of ministry and leadership capacities. Performance and impact in current and prior settings will be considered as noted in resumes, essays, and recommendation letters.
 - Current work of ministry and leadership that addresses particular challenges (internal and/or external) in a setting, as evidenced in resumes, essays, letters, and context grant applications. If needed, an additional description of the context of the ministry and its impact may be requested. The following provides examples of types of settings given priority in consideration for student scholarship:
 - Smaller organizations and settings with significant impact or with potential for increased impact.
 - Newer organizations or communities of faith face challenges of growth and development.
 - Organizations and settings engage with people and communities that are typically underserved or less privileged.
 - Organizations and settings in which there is direct and sustained intentional work with people, families, or communities affected by disabilities or trauma.

Scholarship awards may be renewed across consecutive residency terms, but renewal is not guaranteed. Scholarship awards for any recipient who subsequently takes a leave of absence from the program will be discontinued but given good academic standing, the student will again be considered upon return to the program.

Doctoral students are encouraged to network for sources of funding through their ecclesiastical governing bodies, places of worship, and employing institutions. Funding may also be pursued from various private scholarship foundations, as well as from educational and civic organizations with which the student is affiliated.

Payment Options

With all financial support considered, some students may still find they need help in meeting their personal payment responsibilities. The Seminary offers payment flexibility by accepting one-time or incremental payments made in advance of a residency, as well as payment via credit card. The Seminary also makes available an interest-free installment payment plan so that students may pay billed charges over the course of several months.

Financial Aid Policies for Master's-Level Students

At Virginia Theological Seminary, we seek to cover the costs of Master's-Level education for our full-time residential students. This means that all eligible full-time master's degree residential students they will be awarded a package that includes:

- The cost of tuition;
- The cost of on-campus housing (if available);
- The cost of a meal plan (for resident hall students, three meals/weekday; for all others, the lunch-only plan);
- Institutional/student fees will not be included in the scholarship package;
- Health Insurance will not be included in the scholarship package.

Cost of Residency categories are defined as follows:

- Resident Hall students: \$20,000;
- Married students living in an on-campus one-bedroom apartment: \$29,900;
- Married students living in an on-campus two-bedroom apartment: \$32,300;
- Married students living in an on-campus three-bedroom apartment or house: \$34,700;

No off-campus housing subsidy will be provided for any student.

Any student electing to live off-campus when on-campus housing is available will not be eligible for housing scholarship or subsidy, but will be eligible to receive an award to cover tuition and a lunch-only meal plan. Such a student is considered a commuter student.

Each student will be required to present an annual budget of living expenses. This budget should clearly identify the resources that will be used to meet all other financial obligations during residency. In addition to the VTS financial aid package, students are encouraged to explore other potential sources of financial support (diocese, parish, family, friends, private scholarships) as needed.

The Seminary strives to clearly articulate its aid policies and procedures, pledging to consistently apply them in order to foster an environment of accessibility, transparency, and accountability for all involved. Students must communicate openly, honestly, and regularly with Seminary personnel to ensure effective collaboration in all matters of financing their education.

VTS does not participate in federal financial aid programs. As a result, students do not need to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for financial aid.

Apartment-Style Housing Support

Students interested in on-campus apartment housing must have a spouse and/or dependent children living with them, which makes them unable to live in the single-style housing set aside for individuals.

Students who choose to live off-campus when on-campus apartments are available will not be eligible for a housing subsidy. Should the Seminary not be able to meet an applicant's housing needs through its on-campus units, the applicant will be wait-listed or admission deferred until campus housing is available. Pathway to Ministry students must live on campus and are not eligible for off-campus housing subsidies. VTS does not subsidize any off-campus housing.

Awarding of VTS Aid

VTS aid is automatically renewed each year, provided that the student is in good standing with the seminary. VTS financial aid of any kind is available only for the standard period required to complete a degree, meaning three years' maximum eligibility for the MDiv, two years' maximum for the MA, and one year's maximum for Anglican Studies/Diploma in Theology/Pathway to Ministry.

Scholarships received from outside sources (diocese, parish, etc.) may be paid directly to the Seminary; refunds will be disbursed to students for any credit balance remaining on the student's account after billing has been completed.

Taxability of Grant Financial Aid

Any grant/gift aid received by a student from all sources of funding (VTS, Parish, Diocese, etc.) over and above the required VTS charges (Tuition and Fees) is considered taxable income. Students will receive a 1098-T with appropriate information for filing taxes at the end of January each year. These grants have not had taxes withheld from them, so there may be a tax liability for any student receiving aid over Tuition and Fees. IRS Publication 970 is a resource for the interaction of education payments, grant scholarships, and taxes.

Aid Disbursement and Student Account Processes

Virginia Theological Seminary assesses charges to students for two different billing periods during the academic year. To conserve resources, the Finance Office no longer issues paper invoices but instead notifies students via e-mail when they may view their statement of account online. During August, students may view their statement of account reflecting all August Term and Fall Semester charges. Any amount owed is due no later than the Thursday before Fall Semester classes begin. In early January, students may view their statement of account reflecting all January Term and Spring Semester charges. This amount is due no later than the Thursday before Spring Semester classes begin.

Academic year scholarships and grants from VTS are disbursed to student billing accounts in two installments, one for each billing period.

Students are responsible for contacting their sponsoring diocese and home parish to determine when and how any funds offered will be disbursed. Some dioceses/parishes require proof of the student's enrollment or wish to see a copy of the student's account invoice before releasing their funds. If any type of documentation is needed to secure diocesan or parish funds, and students need help in compiling materials, students should contact the Finance Office for assistance.

If there is a credit on the student billing account, the Finance Office will issue eligible students a refund payment; students are then responsible for budgeting these monies for all unbilled expenses. Refunds are not available until the end of the third week of the Fall and Spring Semesters, so students must budget their monies accordingly, especially for August and January Term expenses.

For students who owe a balance that they are unable to pay in full, the Finance Office offers an installment payment plan that allows the balance to be paid over the semester. There are no fees or interest charged for the installation payment plan. Students interested in this option should contact the Finance Office's Staff Accountant and complete a Schedule of Payment form.

Payment Policy

Students who are admitted and register for classes at Virginia Theological Seminary are financially responsible for all associated fees. Full payment and/or acceptable documentation to demonstrate that the student's balance will be fully paid must be received before the published deadline. Acceptable documentation includes enrollment in the Seminary's Schedule of Payment plan, a financial aid notification letter, or a copy of an outside scholarship/third-party award letter.

All fees (e.g., Registration and Degree, Student Activities) are non-refundable.

Health Insurance charges are refundable monthly for any remaining months. The student is responsible for canceling their health insurance policy to generate a refund.

Doctoral Students: Tuition Refund Policy

Tuition (not paid by VTS scholarship) will be refunded for doctoral students who withdraw completely from all coursework for withdrawals requested:

- Through the 2nd instructional day of the residencies: 100%
- Through the 4th instructional day of the residencies: 50%
- Through the 6th instructional day of the residencies: 25%
- After the 6th instructional day of the residencies: NONE

The residence hall charge for each residency period is not refundable, regardless of the date of withdrawal. Charges for the meal plan service are assessed at the beginning of each residency and are not refundable.

Part-Time Master's Study

Tuition (not paid by VTS scholarship) will be refunded as follows for part-time students who wish to drop some or all of the coursework for which they are registered:

- During the Fall and Spring Semesters, the Full-Time Master's Student refund policy applies.
- During the January and Summer Terms, cancellations must be received before 11:59 pm on the first day of class to receive a full refund of tuition charges. Students canceling on the first day of class will receive a full refund of tuition, but will be charged a \$100 cancellation fee. Cancellation on the second or subsequent days of class will result in the cost of full tuition being charged, and payment is expected.

Balance Due Accounts

Students are expected to keep their accounts current. A financial hold will be placed on a student's record if the student owes the Seminary an outstanding debt. The debt could include, but is not limited to, outstanding tuition, fees, overdue book fees, and Butterfly House fees. Financial holds may prevent the student from participating in registration, room lottery, re-admittance, receiving or having a transcript mailed to another institution, and receiving their diploma. Financial obligation must be paid in full for the hold to be removed. The Seminary reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of a student with past indebtedness; the cancellation of enrollment, however, does not relieve the student of the incurred debt. Any student with past due indebtedness may not attend classes or be permitted to move into campus residences, nor be allowed to participate in registration, room lottery, enroll for any subsequent semester, obtain a transcript, or receive a diploma until their accounts are settled with the Office of Student Accounts. In the event an account becomes delinquent, the Seminary reserves the right to notify a student's bishop if applicable and assign the account to the credit bureau and/or a collection agency, at which time the student will be responsible for all associated collection fees, costs, and expenses incurred in such collection efforts.

Tuition and Fees for Doctoral Students

Registration and Degree Fee (new students only)	\$200
Tuition per credit hour	\$575
Room & Board, per week	\$500
Project Thesis Continuation Fee (charged every 6 months for at least 4 terms)	\$500
Unbilled Costs - Estimated Living Expenses for the Academic Year (not billed by the Seminary but generally incurred by students):	
Transportation	\$200-\$500/residency

Tuition and Fees for Master's Students

Registration and Degree Fee (new students only)	\$200
Tuition (per credit)	\$655
Annual Administrative Fee	\$200 (\$100/semester)
Audit Fee (waived for full-time students)	\$600/class
Non-Refundable Apartment Fee	\$500
Non-refundable Pet Fee	\$300 per pet (2 pet max)
Meal Plan (lunch only)	\$1,500
Student Activity Fee	\$200
ID Card Replacement Fee	\$50

There is also a non-refundable fee of \$500 for students who sign up for the CCEP to Israel/Palestine. Graduating students should also expect to pay to buy or rent their academic garb.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Policy on Inclusive Language

Exclusive language can cause unwitting and unintended harm by distorting reality and excluding members from our community. Therefore, all members of the Virginia Theological Seminary community (students, faculty, and staff) are invited to join together in using language that more adequately reflects the unity of the people of God and the reality of God.

Guidelines on Inclusive Language

The following guidelines are suggested for use in lectures, papers, sermons, publications, and classroom discussions as possible ways of carrying out the spirit of that policy. These items refer only to gender issues:

1. Avoid the generic use of the term “man,” especially by itself, but also in such compounds as “mankind.” Use instead such words as humanity, humankind, human beings, humans, persons, people, everyone, or men and women.
2. Avoid the exclusive use of masculine or feminine pronouns such as “he” or “his,” “her” or “hers,” to refer to men and women together. Substitutes might include “he and she,” or “his and hers,” or such combinations as “she/he” or “his/hers.” Other ways to handle the problem include:
 - a. Reword to eliminate unnecessary gender pronouns, e.g., “The average American drinks his coffee black” can be replaced by “The average American drinks black coffee.” Recast into the plural, e.g., “Most Americans drink black coffee.”
 - b. Alternate male and female pronouns, expressions, and examples – use “his” in one sentence, “hers” in another, etc., when referring to generic terms or including men and women in the same group. Replace masculine pronouns with “you” or (less desirable) “one,” but do so sparingly.
3. Avoid occupational terms ending in man, replacing them whenever possible with terms that include members of either sex. If referring to a specific person, it would be possible, but not necessarily desirable, to use the sex- specific form of the word in question, for instance: “clergyperson” and other such “-person” combinations should be used whenever this is not unduly awkward; alternative descriptions should also be used when possible, e.g., “letter carrier” for “mailman.”
4. Language used to designate and describe females and males should treat both sexes equally.
5. Use parallel language for women and men – “men and women” or “husband and wife” (not “men and ladies” or “man and wife”). Refer to women in the same way as to men: “Ann Smith and John Doe,” not “Mrs. Smith and John Doe.” Similarly, not “Mrs./Dr. Ulanov,” unless you would also (and do) say “Mr. Ulanov.” One sex should not always be first in order of mention, but order should be alternated, “sisters and brothers,” “men and women.” Avoid using only feminine pronouns to refer to such entities as the Church or Israel. Conversely, avoid using male-dominant phrases when more than just males are meant, such as “sons of God,” “faith of our fathers,” or “the brethren” when referring to the whole Christian assembly.
6. The use of imagery and examples should display both men and women as whole human beings sharing common human strengths and weaknesses, hopes and dreams, abilities, and faults. For example, men may be portrayed as nurturing, passive, or accommodating. Women may be portrayed as decisive, assertive, or aggressive.
7. The roles and tasks in which women and men are seen need to be balanced in examples and images, regardless of cultural stereotyping. For example, women should be portrayed in roles that can be emulated by men as well as women. For example, “He wanted to grow up to be just like Professor Helen White.” Men should be portrayed in roles in which they deal with the day-to-day minutiae of home life, regardless of class distinctions. For example, “Dr. Dave Jones spent the day folding laundry and sweeping up after the children.”

REGULATIONS GOVERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ORDINATION

The attention of applicants planning to study for the ordained ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church is called to the requirements outlined in Title III of the Canons of the Episcopal Church. A student will normally have been accepted as a postulant by his or her bishop before enrolling at Virginia Theological Seminary and before entering the MDiv program.

Transcripts and annual evaluations of a student's academic and personal qualifications for the ordained ministry are required to be submitted to the bishop and the postulant. At the end of the three years, the faculty is required to give a judgment about the candidate's qualifications for the ministry of the Episcopal Church. This means that every student enters the Seminary with the understanding that he or she is beginning a period of evaluation because the faculty cannot give its recommendation unless the candidate has convinced them that he or she has the necessary personal as well as academic qualifications.

LIVING WITH INTEGRITY AT VTS

(Voted by the VTS Faculty, Oct. 31, 2017, and Board of Trustees, Nov. 14, 2017)

Virginia Theological Seminary calls for and expects the integrity of every member of the community. Integrity can be considered a regard to the values of “honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility” – these five values, along with “the courage to act on them even in the face of adversity,” form the foundation of the academy.¹ Such values are also the expression of life among a community of persons “marked as Christ’s own forever” (BCP 1979, 308) who in their common life seek to “be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph 5:21).

We seek, then, to be forthright with one another as an act of reverence to Christ: communicating honestly; collaborating appropriately and giving proper credit; representing ourselves and our credentials with honesty and humility; supporting the work of others without interference in their learning process; truth-telling concerning our academic successes and failures; and discretion and love in all things.

A commitment to academic integrity is also manifested in clear and transparent policies and procedures to guide our common life. The following is offered to that end.²

Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism, as defined in the next section,
- Submission of academic work for assessment that was acquired from another source,
- Improper collaboration on academic work for assessment,
- Aiding another’s academic dishonesty, or failing to take reasonable precautions to prevent academic work from being improperly used by other students,
- The use of unauthorized aids or resources in tests or examinations,
- Stealing, tampering with, or destroying another’s academic work, or in any other manner preventing anyone else from completing a task for academic assessment,
- Submitting false information or false medical documentation to gain a postponement or advantage for any academic work,
- Misrepresenting credentials or submitting false information to gain admission or credits,
- Impersonating someone else for academic assessment,
- Providing a false signature for attendance at any class or assessment procedure or on any document related to the submission of material where the signature is used as proof of authenticity or participation in the academic assessment.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- The reproduction of any material derived from work authored by another without clearly acknowledging the source (this includes AI-generated tools such as Chat-GPT), or
- duplicating substantial amount of material previously used in other work submitted for assessment or review without acknowledging such other previous submission.

Thus, plagiarism may be committed in a number of ways, including copying another person’s work or ideas; submitting previously submitted or assessed work of your own without attribution; submitting work solicited from (or written by) others; and/or failing to reference sources adequately.

All sources, including the internet, anonymous or unpublished materials (including work done by another student), must be properly acknowledged and correctly cited.

Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty of Students

1. The course instructor will make the initial determination of the possibility of academic dishonesty. The method of determination is at the discretion of the instructor but may include his/her analysis of a student’s work or self-representation, consultation with another faculty member, and/or consultation with the student.
2. The course instructor shall notify the Associate Dean of Students of any such case in which she/he is determining a (possible) instance of academic dishonesty, notwithstanding whether a charge of academic

dishonesty is ultimately brought. This step is a safeguard against a pattern of possible academic dishonesty across courses that an individual instructor is not in a position to detect.

3. The Associate Dean of Students will notify the instructor if similar investigations of academic dishonesty have been reported by other instructors.
4. When the instructor, in consultation with the Associate Dean of Students, believes that there is sufficient cause to proceed with a possible charge of academic dishonesty, one or both will meet with the student to review the material as well as the procedures. The student can bring a companion to this meeting. In cases involving academic work submitted for course credit, the Registrar shall be notified of the charge and asked to withhold the filing of a final grade. The student may not be permitted to withdraw from the course prior to the determination.
5. Within one week after the meeting, the Associate Dean of Students shall confer with the instructor and determine whether or not there has been a violation of academic integrity as well as the penalty (if any), and notify the student and his/her advisor. If the student is in the ordination process and the charge is determined to be neither a first nor a minor offense (see below), the student's Bishop will be informed.

Penalties for Acts of Academic Dishonesty by Students

If the determination is that no violation has been committed or that there is insufficient evidence on which to make a determination, the Registrar shall be advised to enter the grade. In the case of insufficient evidence, the charge may be reconsidered if further evidence emerges at a later date.

If the determination is that a violation has been committed, the Associate Dean of Students and the instructor shall consider the following:

- If it is a first and minor offense (such as inadequate academic referencing or insufficient awareness of academic conventions) then the instructor may reduce the grade on the piece(s) of academic work, or reduce the course grade up to 5%;
- If it is neither a first offense nor a minor offense (as listed above), the Associate Dean of Students and the instructor may impose a penalty of:
 - a letter noting the offense and warning against further infringements from the Associate Dean of Students to the student and his/her advisor;
 - a reduction of the grade on the piece(s) of academic work;
 - a reduction of the course grade (including the grade of "F");
 - suspension, i.e., the withdrawal by the Seminary of all academic and community privileges for a specified period, after which the student is eligible to return;
 - expulsion, i.e., the withdrawal by the Seminary of all academic and community privileges for an indefinite period;
 - recommendation to the Board of Trustees to rescind the student's degree;
 - such other penalties as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

A student may not resubmit a corrected version of the piece of academic work for a grade.

Appeals Against the Decision of Academic Dishonesty of Students

Students shall have a right of appeal of a determination that he/she has committed an act of academic dishonesty and of any penalty on the following grounds: failure to follow these procedures, the commission of a substantive administrative error in the determination of the guilt or penalty, or the existence of new and significant evidence.

Appeals are made to the SVPAA and/or the Dean and President.

1. T. A. Fishman, ed. *The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity* (2nd ed. Clemson University: International Center for Academic Integrity, 2014), 16.

2. Many elements of the following definitions, policy, and procedure are adopted from McMaster University's "Academic Integrity Policy" (<https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf> [downloaded, September 4, 2016]). We gratefully acknowledge the permission of McMaster University for this use.

Appeals will be considered only if submitted in writing, accompanied by all necessary documentary evidence substantiating the ground of the appeal, within 2 weeks of the date of the notice informing the student of the decision. The student shall be informed of the decision within 2 weeks of receipt of the written request for an appeal.

The Senior Vice President and/or the Dean and President can decide that no offense has occurred and remove the original penalty; confirm the original decision and/or penalty; or confirm the original decision and adjust the penalty.

The Use of Quotations in Written Work

Anything quoted directly from a book, periodical, or other published material either in print or on the Internet should be clearly indicated and cited with proper references to the original source. In the case of a relatively short quotation, the words should be placed within quotation marks and the source indicated by the use of a footnote or endnote.

Longer quotations may be indicated by indenting and single-spacing the quoted material, again indicating the source by a footnote or endnote. Students should also acknowledge by a footnote or endnote indirect quotes, paraphrases, or citations of another person's ideas, even though they are rewritten in the student's own words. All resources should be listed in a bibliography.

The purpose of a paper is to allow the student to study a subject in some depth and then, after careful thought, to expound or reflect on that subject in his or her own words. Quotations may be useful in several ways: illustrating a point already made in one's own words, providing a principle of organization for the discussion, summarizing, or serving as a foil for one's ideas. It is not appropriate, however, to write a paper that is essentially the pasting together of long quotations from published works strung together with minimal comments from the student, even when such quotations are footnoted. It is, of course, unacceptable to submit the work of another person, either directly quoted or in paraphrased form, as one's own work.

Submission of a Paper in More than One Course

It is not permissible to submit the same paper to fulfill the requirements in two different courses. This is true even if the assignments in two courses are sufficiently parallel to make it seem possible to do so.

The only exception to the above rule is that a student may ask permission from two instructors involved to do a double paper and submit it in two courses. This request can be made when the subject matter of the two courses makes such a double paper educationally appropriate. If permission is granted by both instructors, then the same paper may be submitted in both courses if the length of the paper is equal to the sum of the lengths of the two papers required.

Use of Computers for Examinations

Students taking in-class or closed-book examinations may normally use computers. Exam administrators may set conditions for particular examinations that are different from the following policies; students should be notified in advance of those exceptions or modifications.

All in-class or closed-book exams are normally expected to be taken in a classroom and not in private rooms or carrels. Computer users are expected to be sensitive to other test takers' need for silence.

The exam administrator may place restrictions on the use of materials during the exam; those restrictions should be reasonably even-handed between those hand-writing the exam and those taking the exam by computer. For example, students allowed to use only an unmarked copy of the Bible might also be allowed to use an electronic text of the Bible but not other Bible software tools. If handwritten class notes are not permitted, electronic class notes are not permitted either. If computer users are permitted to use spell check or thesaurus utilities, hand-writers could be permitted to use a printed spelling dictionary or thesaurus.

Policy on Continuance in Course

It is the prerogative of the Dean and President to separate from the Seminary those students who in the opinion of the Dean do not meet the academic, personal, or ethical standards of VTS. Such action may be deemed necessary, for example, in response to patterns of behavior that have a significant disruptive effect on the general welfare of the community or in cases of cheating on examinations, plagiarism, or other violations of trust and mutual respect.

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Faculty, staff, and students may at times engage in contextual, situational, and historical research that requires information-gathering from and intervention with living people. These guidelines apply to all involved in such research, particularly in research that deals with non-public sources of information.

All persons who conduct research with individuals, communities, and organizations, under the auspices of Virginia Theological Seminary, are expected to abide by fundamental ethical principles and best practices of “human subjects research” as outlined in various fields of social science. All researchers will treat everyone involved in their research with the respect and care expected in ethical research practice. Researchers are expected to abide by the following guidelines to ensure adequate protection and informed, uncoerced participant consent.

1. Informed Consent

The principal investigator (researcher) shall explain to participants, prior to their participation,

- a. the objectives of the research;
- b. the procedures to be followed;
- c. the expected duration of the person’s participation;
- d. any foreseeable risks to the participant, including psychological and social discomforts;
- e. any benefits that the participant or others may reasonably expect from the research;
- f. the extent to which the confidentiality of the records identifying the participant will be maintained; and
- g. how data and information will be used to optimize confidentiality, especially in the case of interview quotes and meeting proceedings.

Where it is determined that the research involves no more than minimal risk to the participant (see below) and involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context, informed consent may be obtained either through a signed consent form, an oral or email-based discussion. In the case of a written research instrument (e.g., a survey), the above information about the research should be placed in a visible place on that instrument. The respondent’s completion of the instrument shall constitute implied consent. All investigators are expected to document the procedures by which informed consent has been gained.

In circumstances of minimal risk, and where it is in the interest of the research not to provide full information before administering research instruments or conducting interviews, the investigator shall provide additional pertinent information to participants after their participation.

2. Freedom from Constraint

Investigators shall not use individuals in their research unless satisfied that they, or others legally responsible for their well-being, consent to participation freely and with an understanding of the consequences.

No person may be induced to participate by means or in circumstances that might affect their ability to decide freely. It shall be made clear to participants that they are free to withdraw from active participation in the research at any time.

Anyone indicating a desire to withdraw shall be allowed to do so promptly and without penalty of loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled. Investigators shall clearly communicate such freedom to withdraw.

Special Concerns

- a. Children and Youth: Research with anyone under the age of 18 requires informed consent, with information given and consent received from both the parents and the child (not including children under the age of 2). Research involving direct and sustained interaction with minors requires institutional review.

- b. Incarcerated or Institutionalized Populations: Research with any incarcerated or institutionalized persons requires informed consent procedures that include the persons, their legal guardians or wards, and the institution in which they live. This applies to prison and jail populations, as well as to people in long-term or permanent residence in facilities, or to people with significant physical, developmental, or mental disabilities or disorders. Due to the vulnerability of such populations, research in these places automatically requires institutional review.
- c. Pastoral Relationships and Research: Investigators need to clearly communicate their research intentions and aims with anyone whom they wish to interview, observe, or survey, with whom they have a pastoral relationship (i.e., a relationship in which the person otherwise seeks out or relies upon the investigator for pastoral care, support, and authoritative guidance). Particular attention needs to be given to ensuring the person's freedom of participation, freedom from the necessity to please the researcher, and guarantee of no diminishment of the person's access to pastoral care.
- d. Organizational or Institutional Consent: Virginia Theological Seminary considers it a matter of good practice to inform and obtain general consent from any organization or institution (e.g., school, congregation, business, government agency) in which a researcher plans to do significant research that might focus in some way on organizational patterns of behavior, action, or experience and expects researchers to inform organizational or institutional bodies of their presence, aims, and interests.
- e. Research Venues: Investigators shall conduct research in settings that are visible, accessible, and meet Episcopal Church Safeguarding standards. If the research requires more private conditions, institutional review is required.

3. Confidentiality

Investigators shall respect participants' privacy. They shall protect confidential information given to them, advising people in advance of any limits upon their ability to ensure that the information will remain confidential, particularly including revelations of actual or planned harm to self or others, or abuse from others.

4. Disclosure of Affiliation and Sponsorship

Investigators should indicate their relationship with Virginia Theological Seminary and shall disclose whether the research is sponsored by the Seminary.

5. Requirements for Review

Research that involves minimal risk shall not be subject to special review. Minimal risk means that the probability and magnitude of physical or psychological harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests.

Student investigators are expected to describe their research in a brief proposal, to be submitted first to their faculty advisors, and then to the designated review committee of their degree program (i.e., the Doctoral or Master's Committee). This proposal should state its scope and intentions, its methods and means for collection of data and information, the types of information to be gathered from people, and a brief description of risks and benefits for individuals and communities involved. The proposal should also outline the range and scope of interactions (information-gathering) and interventions (efforts to change structures, environments, thoughts, or behaviors) intended in the research.

Faculty investigators are expected to meet the ethical standards of any organization funding the research, including the Seminary, and to submit any proposal that poses more than minimal risk to participants to the Seminary's designated research review committee. If the submitting faculty member serves on the research review committee, they are expected to recuse themselves from the process.

If research is deemed to pose more than minimal risk to participants, it shall be subject to a more thorough review before approval by the Seminary's designated research review committee. Such "more than minimal" risks may include:

- a. responses or observations of participants recorded in such a way that direct identification of subjects may be possible; and
- b. the responses or observations of participants, if they became known outside the research, could reasonably place participants at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to their financial standing or employability; or
- c. the research deals with sensitive aspects of the participant's behavior, such as illegal conduct, drug or alcohol use, sexual behavior; or
- d. Research with direct and sustained interaction with youth under 18

On the rare occasion that a research proposal involves selective or experimental interventions (for instance, offering a specific form of pastoral care or leadership training to one set of people but not to another) it will require a more thorough review, with direct consultation of external resources on human subjects research, including individuals and committees at other institutions. Such referrals will be made by the research review committee designated by the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Suspension of Research

Research shall be immediately suspended and reviewed by the Seminary's designated review committee if complaints of risk are received from participants, or investigators observe that such risk factors are present, or if investigators observe any adverse consequences that may be attributable to the research.

Records of Research Proposals and Projects

Research proposals approved by the Master's and Doctoral Committees will be recorded in the committee minutes. Those approved by the Seminary's designated review committee will be recorded in writing and kept in electronic form in the Office of Academic Affairs. Investigators of approved higher-risk research are expected to notify the Office of Academic Affairs of project completion, with a summary of the numbers of people interviewed/surveyed and types of interactions and interventions. Any substantive changes to methods also require notification to the Office of Academic Affairs.

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Mr. Zachary Ferguson

COURSE CATALOG

Course Numbering (passed fall 2018):

The Registrar, in consultation with the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, designates course numbers in accordance with the following scheme:

- **000-099** Non-credit bearing requirements (intercultural competency, sexual misconduct prevention, etc.)
- **500-599** Master's-level introductory and survey courses
- **600-699** Master's-level intermediate courses that build upon or presuppose prerequisite courses or basic competence in the area
- **700-799** Master's-level advanced electives characterized by focused attention on certain topics and substantial research, building upon or presupposing prerequisite courses or basic competence in the area. This level includes most independent studies.
- **800-899** Master's-level capstone courses, some independent studies, theses, or cross-cultural education courses
- **900-999** Doctoral-level courses

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

BIBL 501: OLD TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION I

Stephen Cook, Judy Fentress-Williams, Melody Knowles

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies

Option for Interpretation Course for Pathway to Ministry

This course is the first semester of a 2-semester sequence that explores the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible while learning strategies for reading and interpreting the text. The first semester takes as its focus the Torah and historical narratives and surveys the contents, historical arc, and major streams of tradition relating to this part of the Bible. Students will be introduced to exegetical approaches and tools for the purpose of hermeneutical competence in the Old Testament as a theological discipline and a cross-cultural exercise. The course will intersect with theological reflection, Christian formation, homiletical practice, and artistic interpretations of the text.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Recognize the major events and themes of the biblical corpus*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Identify major traditions in the Bible

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Apply a variety of critical approaches to the text

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Locate the contexts of biblical material and identify the context of the reader

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Reflect on possible theological meanings of the text

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Exegete a variety of biblical passages for biblical scholarship, teaching, and preaching

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

BIBL 502: OLD TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION II

Stephen Cook, Judy Fentress-Williams, Melody Knowles

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies

Option for Interpretation Course for Pathway to Ministry

This course is the second semester of a 2-semester sequence that explores the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible while learning strategies for reading and interpreting the text. The second semester takes as its focus the prophets, poetry, wisdom literature, and writings, and will survey the contents, historical arc, and major streams of tradition relating to this part of the Bible. Students will be introduced to exegetical approaches and tools for the purpose of hermeneutical competence in the Old Testament as a theological discipline and a cross-cultural exercise. The course will intersect with theological reflection, Christian formation, homiletical practice, and artistic interpretations of the text.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Recognize the major events and themes of the biblical corpus*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Identify major traditions in the Bible

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Apply a variety of critical approaches to the text

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Locate the contexts of biblical material and identify the context of the reader

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Reflect on possible theological meanings of the text

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Exegete a variety of biblical passages for biblical scholarship, teaching, and preaching

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

BIBL 503: NEW TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION I

John Yieh, Katherine Grieb

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies

Option for Interpretation Course for Pathway to Ministry

This course is the first semester of a 2-semester sequence that explores the New Testament while learning strategies for reading and interpreting the text. The first semester takes as its focus the four Gospels and the historical Jesus and will survey the contents, historical arc, and major streams of tradition relating to this part of the Bible. Students will be introduced to exegetical approaches and tools for the purpose of hermeneutical competence in the New Testament as a theological discipline and a cross-cultural exercise. The course will intersect with theological reflection, Christian formation, homiletical practice, and artistic interpretations of the text.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Discuss the distinctive features of each New Testament writing studied and reflect theologically upon its contents* MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)
Locate the places where major events occurred on a map of the Mediterranean Sea and its environs MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)
Recognize the source of important quotations from the New Testament texts read MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)
Engage in research on cultural and historical matters related to the interpretation of the New Testament MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Imagine literary and other artistic ways in which the New Testament writings can be interpreted for our times, or at least begin to do so

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

BIBL 504: NEW TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION II

John Yieh, Katherine Grieb

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies

Option for Interpretation Course for Pathway to Ministry

This is the second semester of a year-long study of New Testament interpretation. Having explored the canonical Gospels and the Jesus of history, we turn our attention to the uncontested letters of Paul, the post-Pauline letters, other New Testament epistles, the Acts of the Apostles, the Apocalypse or Revelation to John, and questions about the canon, inspiration, and the authority of Scripture for

the Church, utilizing lectures, exegetical studies, and discussions.

Attention will be given to historical background and setting, literary genre, the development of the early Church, the history of the interpretation of biblical texts, the basic issues of New Testament theology and ethics, with their implications for the Church's faith and life today.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Discuss the distinctive features of each New Testament writing studied and reflect theologically upon its contents* MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)
Locate the places where major events occurred on a map of the Mediterranean Sea and its environs MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)
Recognize the source of important quotations from the New Testament texts read MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)
Engage in research on cultural and historical matters related to the interpretation of the New Testament MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Imagine literary and other artistic ways in which the New Testament writings can be interpreted for our times, or at least begin to do so

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

BIBL 510: BEGINNING BIBLICAL GREEK

John Yieh, Katherine Grieb

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Option for Required Language Component for Master of Divinity

Option for Required Language Component for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies

Option for Required Language for Pathway to Ministry

This course introduces students to the foundational grammar of the noun system, the verb system in the indicative mood, and the translation of simple sentences.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Write the Greek alphabet and the names of the Greek letters*

Conjugate the present active indicative of some verbs Decline the first and second declensions of some nouns Say the Lord's Prayer in Greek

Conjugate the present middle and passive, imperfect, future, aorist, and perfect indicative of some verbs Decline the definite article

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

BIBL 511: BEGINNING BIBLICAL HEBREW

Judy Fentress-Williams, Stephen Cook, Melody Knowles

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Option for Required Language Component for Master of Divinity

Option for Required Language Component for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies

Option for Required Language for Pathway to Ministry

This is the first semester of the Hebrew sequence and intends to give students an introduction to reading Biblical Hebrew. By the end of the semester, students will be able to read basic sentences of the biblical text in its original language.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Recognize and be able to write out the Hebrew alphabet*

Understand elementary aspects of Hebrew grammar Recognize basic vocabulary

Read and translate very basic Hebrew sentences

Recognize the value of reading Biblical texts in the original language Develop strategies for studying Hebrew

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

BIBL 600: NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL GREEK

John Yieh, Katherine Grieb

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 510 Beginning NT Greek

Option for Required Language Component for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies

This is the second installment of a year-long study of Biblical Greek. Built on the progress made in BIBL510 that introduces students to the foundational grammar of the noun system, the verb system in the indicative mood, and the translation of simple sentences, this course advances to the uses of the verb in participial, subjunctive, infinitive and imperative moods, which add layers of nuance to the Greek language, and the translating of complex and compound sentences. Students will increase their Greek vocabulary frequently used in the New Testament. Emphasis will be placed on grammatical analysis and translation strategies of Greek sentences to prepare students for a proficient exegesis of the Greek New Testament.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Demonstrate a grammatical understanding of how the Greek language works in New Testament texts*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Translate New Testament Greek texts into accurate and fluent

English MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Engage in cross-cultural dialogue with ancient writers of the New

Testament, the Greek Orthodox tradition, and some liturgical texts in Greek

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Analyze and reflect on nuances of biblical interpretation not available in English translations in preparation for sound exegesis, teaching, and preaching

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

BIBL 601: OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL HEBREW

Judy Fentress-Williams, Stephen Cook, Melody Knowles

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 511 or equivalent

Option for Required Language Component for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies

This part of the Hebrew sequence intends to give students exposure to reading and exegeting Biblical Hebrew. Having achieved a basic comprehension in the earlier courses, students will now be able to delve much more deeply into the world of the text.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Understand many aspects of Hebrew grammar*

Recall significant vocabulary in the Hebrew Bible Read and translate complex Hebrew sentences

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Exegete Hebrew texts in a way that understands biblical interpretation as a cross-cultural exercise MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Begin to transfer what they are learning in this course to other aspects of theological education

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

BIBL 604: GREEK READING

John Yieh

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: BIBL 500

Course Description and Goals: This advanced course in Greek reading is designed to enhance students' ability to read and translate select passages from the Greek New Testament. By focusing on the texts and contexts of select passages, students will be able to increase their knowledge of Greek vocabulary and grammar for linguistic analysis and learn about Greek syntax and style in an inductive way for exegesis and interpretation.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

Read and analyze a total of 180 verses (an average of 15 verses for each class session) from the Greek text of the Gospel of Matthew for English translation.

M. Div. SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Review basic paradigms of Greek nouns (declension), adjectives, and verbs (conjugation of tense, indicative, participle, subjunctive, and infinitive moods) for linguistic analysis.

MDiv SLO: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLO: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Interpret Matthew's main theological themes as revealed in the Greek text of the First Gospel for exegetical purposes MDiv SLO: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLO: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

BIBL 610: MONSTERS, MAYHEM, AND MESSIAH

Stephen Cook

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501 & BIBL 502

The course engages Scripture's apocalyptic texts, including their literary form, their conception of reality, and their place in society and history. Selected texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Book of Daniel, and the Major and Minor Prophets are investigated in English translation. Students will work to develop the skills and experience necessary for critical, exegetical study of apocalyptic texts. They will also explore modern hermeneutical and theological approaches to apocalypticism, wrestling with apocalypticism's current relevance in a world of COVID-19, marked racial tensions and civil unrest, radical climate change, and widespread terrorism. The seminar also confronts the fierce debate in church and academy about the Apocalyptic Jesus.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Recognize the major themes and concerns of the biblical apocalyptic corpus*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Apply a variety of critical approaches to the apocalyptic texts

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Locate the contexts of biblical apocalyptic material and identify the context of the reader MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Reflect on possible theological meanings of the apocalyptic texts

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Exegete a variety of biblical apocalyptic passages for scholarship, teaching, and preaching

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts

(2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

BIBL 613: CORINTHIAN CORRESPONDENCES

John Yieh

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 504 or permission of instructor

This NT seminar is an exegetical study of Paul's two Letters to the Corinthians in their social-historical contexts to understand Paul's theological vision and ethical advice on holy life and church as a community, to assess the implications and effects of influential interpretations in history, and to reflect on the principles and praxis of ministry that might be applicable today. The Church in Corinth was an urban, diverse, and gifted church called to be saints, but their division over leadership, difficulties over conversion, and debates over cultural and church practices caused dangerous chaos in the young church. In response, Paul discussed such topics as spiritual wisdom, new life in faith, the body of Christ, the gift of love, the hope for resurrection (1Cor), ministry of the new covenant, and offering for the saints (2Cor), all of which continue to be informative and paradigmatic for the ministry of the present-day church.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Explain the main issues and rhetorical arguments in Paul's Letters to the Corinthians*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Describe the social-historical settings for the issues confronting the Church in Corinth MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Evaluate the significance of Paul's theological insights, ethical persuasions, and pastoral skills in building up the church as a community of faith, hope and love

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Use the history of effects approach to assess competing interpretations of Paul's theology and ministry in the Corinthian Correspondences and use them as resources for preaching and teaching

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Theology of Ministry (4.3)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

BIBL 620: THE BIBLE, MYTH, AND SUPERHEROES

Judy Fentress-Williams

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501 & BIBL 502

The resurgence of myth and superheroes in film and other media is, among other things, a commentary on the values and needs of the cultures that produce them. Contemporary

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BIBLE

superhero stories are designated modern-day myths, yet function like ancient stories. What if anything is “modern” or unique about the heroic tales we tell today? What roles do superheroes play in contemporary western culture? To what extent does the function of modern-day myth and hero inform our understanding of the function of myth in scripture? This course will undertake the following tasks: to define and identify myth in ancient and modern stories, to consider the function and pattern of myth and the roles of heroes in literature and society through the lens of intersectionality, and finally to reflect on the theological function of myth and hero in the ancient and modern world.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Develop a working definition of myth as a literary and cultural phenomenon in biblical and extra-biblical literature MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Recognize and critique patterns of the hero's journey in myth, and articulate how these influence the power and effectiveness of the myth

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Analyze myth through the lens of intersectionality

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Critically engage the function and economics of myth in comic books, science fiction, and the Bible with an eye towards the purposes these serve in our culture and our spiritual formation

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Create an artifact of “mythic proportion” that can be used in some aspect of teaching, formation, or proclamation MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Enacting Faith (4.1); Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

BIBL 621: THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

John Yieh

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 503 or permission of instructor

The Gospel of Matthew contains distinctive materials such as the Nativity stories, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables of the Final Judgement, and the Great Commission, and was the most popular Gospel in the early Church. By carefully studying the texts, contexts, and effects of the First Gospel, the main purpose of this course is to gain a deep understanding of its central messages for the first readers in the social-historical contexts at the end of the first century (exegesis); its major impacts on various doctrines and

practices of the Church throughout history (history of effects); and its important relevance to the faith and life of the Church today (contextualization). This seminar provides students ample opportunities to hone their critical exegetical skills, explore various interpretive approaches, and develop creative uses of Matthew as resources for theological reflection and spiritual formation. It may also help students prepare sermon ideas and teaching plans for the Lectionary Year of Matthew (application). This course is limited to 15 students.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Explain the literary features and main themes of Matthew's Gospel MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)*

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Describe the social-historical settings of Matthew's church

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Evaluate the significance of Matthew's theological insights

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Account for influential interpretations and effects of the Gospel in history

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2);

Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Appraise the strengths and weaknesses of major scholarly approaches to the Gospel MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Apply their critical study of Matthew to the task of preaching and teaching MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

BIBL 622: FILM AND THE BIBLE

Melody Knowles

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: At least one semester of an introductory Bible course at the Master's level

This class will examine several films that present a “re-telling” of biblical texts. The goals of the class include exposure to an international variety of visual exegetical projects, a critical engagement with the ways film artists interact with biblical texts, and an expansion of the ability to discuss the bible about popular culture and thoughtful artists. This course deliberately incorporates an international selection of films to see biblical texts presented in a variety of contexts and periods (Hollywood in the 1950s, Montreal in the 1990s, Mali and South Africa in the early 21st century), as well as in a variety of languages such as French, Xhosa, English, and Bambara. The course aims to have students

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

articulate their visual and cultural expectations of the ancient biblical world, including assumptions about race, gender, and religion, and to interrogate these expectations while providing alternatives. Films often screened include *La Genèse*, *Noah*, *Unogumbe – Noye's Fludde*, *The Ten Commandments*, *Prince of Egypt*, *David and Bathsheba*, *King David*, *Rei- Davi – O Filme*, *Il Vangelo secondo Matteo*, *Jésus de Montréal*, *The Passion of the Christ*, and *Son of Man*.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Demonstrate competency in analyzing the use of biblical texts in a variety of film projects*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Fine-tune an exegetical hermeneutic that recognizes the force of cultural context upon biblical interpretation MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Engage the arts (esp. media and music) in an analysis of parts of the Christian tradition MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

BIBL 627: OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

John Yieh

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: At least one semester of an introductory Bible course at the Master's level

This seminar explores the inter-textual relationship between the OT and the NT with the view to understanding the varied ways in which NT authors (Paul, Luke, Matthew, John, Hebrews) used the scriptures of Israel (Psalms and Isaiah among many others) to make sense of their faith commitment to Jesus Christ and to explain their life experiences as the Church. The OT concepts and symbols informed NT authors and served as their faith language to build up a coherent symbolic world of early Christians. Main questions for discussion include (1) theological reasoning of NT themes (Christology, ecclesiology, and eschatology) based on the OT; (2) continuity and innovations of OT themes (God, Torah, Messiah) developed in the NT; (3) relationship between the two Testaments in the one Christian Canon; and (4) hermeneutical principles found in the two Testaments applicable to contemporary interpretation of the Bible. Selected texts for investigation include ethnic issues such as acceptance of Gentile converts, cross-cultural issues such as mission to all nations, and gender issues such as leadership of women. The goal is to reach a deeper understanding of the "scriptural reasoning" for those issues and facilitate a critical reflection on similar issues in current times.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to: Articulate ways in which OT writings were used by NT authors (quotations, allusions, references, echoes)*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Explain why certain OT themes and symbols are chosen for use and development in the NT (fulfillment, proof, illustration, visions)

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Cultural and Inter-Cultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Cultural and Inter-Cultural Literacy (2.2)

See how OT and NT are connected both historically and theologically, and give an account of the dialectical relationship between the two Testaments of the one Christian Bible

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ecumenical and Inter-faith Relationships (3.4)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

BIBL 635: LUKE-ACTS

John Yieh

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 503 or permission of instructor

Who was Jesus of Nazareth, executed for treason by the Roman Empire? How did his Jewish followers survive the trauma of his death? Why did his religious movement from the periphery of the Empire expand across regions and cultures to reach the center even under persecution? What happened to Peter and Paul as leaders of the Church? How did the Holy Spirit guide the mission of the Church? To answer these important questions, Luke, a learned Gentile convert, wrote a two-volume history of Jesus and his Church for people from all nations. This seminar will engage in exegetical, historical, and theological studies of The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of Apostles to appreciate Luke's theological insights and the Church's first missionary efforts and to reflect on their continuous significance to the identity and ministry of the church today.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Retell major events in the narrative of Luke-Acts, identify key characters and issues, and locate those events in their particular social-historical contexts

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Discern major theological themes in Luke-Acts and explain how they are interpreted to inform the various traditions of faith and mission throughout the history of the church

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Converse with scholars on historical contexts and theological themes of Luke-Acts

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Develop exegetically sound preaching and theologically coherent teaching from selected pericopes in Luke-Acts MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Theology of Ministry (4.3)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

BIBL 640: HEBREW READINGS 1: NARRATIVE

Judy Fentress-Williams, Stephen Cook, Melody Knowles

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 601 or equivalent

Students will read through Jonah and Ruth and selections from the narrative biblical texts as they continue to hone their exegetical skills.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Successfully read and translate the book of Ruth or Jonah*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Increase knowledge of Hebrew grammar and syntax

Expand the working vocabulary for Hebrew prose and some poetry

Increase competency in using references including lexicons and software Become more confident in recitation, singing, and reading Hebrew aloud Develop competence in translating prose

BIBL 645: BIBLICAL PROPHECY

Stephen Cook

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 502, or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

A prophet, Abraham Heschel wrote, gets caught up in God's viewpoint and pain, responds to God's pathos, and strains to reconcile humanity and God. He or she insists on God's certain involvement in human history, on God's embroilment in earth's aggressive, sprawling pride, and on God's ancient, long-range plan to set earth right. The course will entail theological interpretation of selected prophetic texts to be chosen, in part, based on the interests and desires of students enrolled in the course. The course will intersect with theological reflection, Christian formation, homiletical practice, and artistic interpretations of the text.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Recognize the major themes and concerns of the biblical prophetic corpus*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Apply a variety of critical approaches to the prophetic texts

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Locate the contexts of biblical prophetic material and identify the context of the reader MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Reflect on possible theological meanings of the prophetic texts

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Exegete a variety of biblical prophetic passages for biblical scholarship, teaching, and preaching

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

BIBL 646: THE BIBLICAL PROPHETS AS MODELS FOR MINISTRY

Rebekah Rochte Votral

Credit Hours: 1.5

This one-week intensive course will engage students in critical and theological study of prophetic texts in ways that lead to significant reflection on what it means to lead, preach, and serve prophetically in their ministry contexts. Taking up selected classical prophetic texts of the Old Testament as well as their echoes in the New Testament, we will explore the prophetic identity and role within its ancient context, and examine how the biblical prophets interpreted their historical and sociopolitical settings, proclaimed God's justice and mercy, and sustained hope amid communal crisis. We will draw on diverse interpretive perspectives to dialogically assess how the texts' major themes, rhetoric, and symbolic actions can provide insights and resources for ministers as we address social and spiritual challenges in our own time and place. Alongside textual study, we will reflect on the vocation of prophetic ministry, including its challenges and risks, in congregational and public settings. By the end of the week, students will be equipped to recognize major themes and concerns in the biblical prophetic corpus; articulate a theology of prophetic witness; and more fully embody a ministry shaped by prophetic courage and compassion.

BIBL 655: THE PSALMS AND NEGRO SPIRITUALS

Judy Fentress-Williams

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501 & BIBL 502

This course is an examination of the texts, contexts, and functions of Psalms and Negro Spirituals. We will critically examine the historical and cultural contexts that produced these sung prayers. Using the words and music when applicable, we will catalog the various functions of spirituals and Psalms along the continuum of praise and lament. We will sing and listen to Psalms and spirituals as they are expressed in a variety of forms. The similarities and differences between these two collections will form a dialogue intended to provide a deeper understanding of the theological imagination that shapes both collections.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Understand the contexts and functions of Psalms of Praise and Lament*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2) Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2) Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Understand the contexts and functions of sorrow songs in the Negro Spirituals and songs of rejoicing

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)
Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)
MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)
Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Consider the functions of
psalms and spirituals through the lens of the other
MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts
(2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)
MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts
(2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Identify and articulate the
theological underpinnings of these sung prayers
MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)
MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)
Engage in the creation and/or celebration of psalms and spirituals in
ways that have meaning for themselves and communities of faith
MDiv SLOs: Enacting Faith (4.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal
Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)
MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Theory and
Praxis Integration (5.2)

BIBL 658: BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE

Judy Fentress-Williams

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501 & BIBL 502

This course examines the stories of women whose behavior and/or ancestry has traditionally been perceived as ranging from morally suspect to reprehensible. Using the Hebrew Scriptures as a primary source, we will carefully read and reevaluate their stories by studying their literary function in the narrative. Our goal is to liberate these women from the limitations of narrow and unimaginative traditions. We will pay attention to the dialogic nature of scripture and use a dialogic method to interpret these stories literarily and theologically for contemporary and culturally diverse audiences.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Distinguish between the material in the Bible and the traditions that are formed around biblical characters* MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1) Exegete biblical narrative using a dialogic approach

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Engage in a remix of biblical stories using digital and oral storytelling for use in Christian formation and preaching MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Effective Communication (3.1); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

BIBL 659: BIBLICAL STORYTELLING FOR SURVIVAL

Judy Fentress-Williams

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501 & 502 or BIBL 511 & 512

This is a biblical storytelling course with a specific focus on studying and performing biblical texts told as a means of survival. Using the Babylonian exile, current events, and Trauma Studies as lenses, this course will explore how ancient and contemporary communities told and retold stories of triumph and trauma to equip and encourage communities and strengthen identity. Students will study familiar and lesser-known narratives through the lenses of exile, oppression, marginalization, and trauma as they consider how these stories set out lessons about survival. They will consider biblical stories alongside contemporary essays about survival as they learn, perform, and compile a portfolio of survival stories.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Compile and perform a portfolio of 3-4 biblical stories that can be used to equip communities of faith and strengthen identity

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Have an awareness of how different contexts and cultures shape and interpretation and use of scripture MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Use storytelling to proclaim the gospel as teachers and preachers

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theory and Praxis Integration

(5.2) Experience the transformative power of embodying texts

MDiv SLOs: Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Practice the spiritual discipline of biblical storytelling

MDiv SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2)

MA SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2)

BIBL 660: BIBLICAL REFLECTION ON VIOLENCE

Stephen Cook

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501 & BIBL 502

This course explores hermeneutical and theological approaches to interpreting, preaching, and teaching biblical passages of violence, including divine violence. Our work will aim at students developing a biblical theology of the nature of violence (including both destructive violence and constructive violence); especially as it is described in Scripture. The course will intersect with theological reflection, Christian formation, homiletical practice, and artistic interpretations of the text.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Recognize the major themes and design patterns in Scriptures of violence.*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Apply a variety of critical approaches to the biblical texts of violence MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Locate the contexts of biblical texts of violence and identify the context of the reader MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Reflect on possible theological meanings of the biblical texts of violence

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Exegete a variety of biblical passages for biblical scholarship, teaching, and preaching

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

BIBL 663: THE PSALMS

Melody Knowles, Stephen Cook

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 502 or permission of instructor

The course will combine an overview of some of the broader issues of the Book of Psalms with a deeper study of individual psalms. Emphasis will be placed on core categories of analysis (especially poetic features, form, and function) that will emphasize poetic approaches and history of reception as well as feminist and multi-cultural critique.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Exegete Psalms with greater skill*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1) Examine and assess the use of Psalms within a variety of communities throughout time

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

BIBL 664: THE BOOK OF REVELATION/APOCALYPSE

John Yieh

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 504

This course will engage in a thorough exegetical study and thoughtful theological reflection of the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse) with an emphasis on the interactions between its literary structure, visionary rhetoric, social-political reality, and theological worldview. It will also review some interpretations and influences of this book on theologies, sermons, hymns, and arts in history to learn how best to teach and preach its apocalyptic messages faithfully and contextually to the church and the world today.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Summarize the main themes of Revelation and the theological problems and pastoral crises confronting its community.*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of tradition (1.1)

Use Revelation as a historical and theological source to understand the early Christian debates on Christology and the formation of Christian ethics.

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2), Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2), Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Integrate biblical ideas with church history, theological themes, and ethical implications, and use the experiences of Revelation's community as an example to address similar issues in the faith and life of the church today.

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Preach and teach effectively from Revelation.

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Theology of Ministry (4.3).

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Theory and praxis integration (5.2)

BIBL 710: GENESIS 12-50: THE ANCESTORS

Judy Fentress-Williams

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501 & BIBL 502

The stories of the ancestors are central to the identity of the Abrahamic religions. In this English exegesis seminar, we will closely read Genesis 12-50 and wrestle with the narratives, themes, motifs, metaphors, and theologies of the ancestral narratives that have shaped Christian imagination and identities. Special attention will be given to the gap between the narratives and the traditions that form around them, the role of women, and the Joseph narrative. Because these stories come from the oral tradition, the spiritual discipline of biblical storytelling will be a component of our in-class work and assignments. We will also engage in limited dialogue with ancestral traditions in Judaism and Islam that inform and challenge our own.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Identify the major themes and motifs in the ancestral material and distinguish between text and traditions*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Exegete scripture for teaching and preaching

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1) Engage in a group "theological remix" of the ancestral materials

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2) Create a digital story or tell a biblical story "by heart" about the ancestors

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2) Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

BIBL 715: PARABLES OF JESUS

John Yieh

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 503 or permission of instructor

Jesus is a master storyteller who specialized in provocative and memorable parables which contain his central message of the Kingdom of God and his major teachings on discipleship and eschatology. This seminar uses multiple tools (literary-narrative, social-historical, theological-contextual, and hermeneutic-reflective) to explore and appreciate Jesus' parables in the multi-layered contexts of his historical ministry, the Synoptic traditions, the history of interpretation, and the history of art, to facilitate a critical reflection and proper use of them as resources for theological construction, preaching preparation, and teaching plan.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to know well Jesus' parables reported in each Gospel*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Interpret their meanings in historical, literary, and theological contexts

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Assess various hermeneutical approaches taken to interpret those parables and the consequences of those interpretations in the history of the church

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Use them critically as biblical resources for theological reflection, teaching, and preaching MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

BIBL 720: GOSPEL OF JOHN

John Yieh

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 503 or permission of instructor

This is an advanced seminar for students with proficiency in NT interpretation to pursue a critical and comprehensive study of the Gospel of John. We will analyze the remarkable literary devices of John's gospel (e.g. dualism, symbols, ironies); social-historical complexities of John's community (e.g. Jewish-Christian conflict, social tension with the world); consequential theological themes in John's construction (e.g. incarnation, eternal life, Spirit); and spiritual/pastoral issues in contexts (e.g. abiding in the Son, mutual love, polemical language). We will also examine select passages of the gospel to research their history of interpretation and history of effects and engage in a hermeneutical reflection on their messages and implications for the life and ministry of the church today.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to explain the main themes of the Gospel of John and analyze the theological problems, social tensions, and pastoral crises confronting John's community*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Use the Gospel of John as a historical and theological source properly to assess the early Christian formation and debates of Christology, ecclesiology, Spirit, and ethics

MDiv SLO: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Articulate the relevance of John's visions of faith and discipleship to the challenges of the church today in faith, life, and missions

MDiv SLOs: Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

Preach and teach the text of the Gospel of John faithfully and effectively MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

BIBL 730: DANIEL AND APOCALYPTICISM

Stephen Cook

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501 & BIBL 502

The course engages the Book of Daniel in English translation. Students will work to develop the skills and experience necessary for critical, exegetical, and theological study of a major apocalyptic text of the Church. They will also explore modern hermeneutical and theological approaches to apocalypticism, wrestling with apocalypticism's current relevance in a world of military invasion, marked racial tensions and civil unrest, and radical climate change.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *Recognize the major themes and concerns of Daniel and biblical apocalypticism MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)*

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Apply a variety of critical approaches to Daniel's apocalyptic texts MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Locate the contexts of biblical apocalyptic material and identify the context of the reader MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Cultural and Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (5.2) Reflect on possible theological meanings of Daniel's apocalyptic texts

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theory, Praxis, and Interdisciplinary Integration (2.1), Cultural and Inter-cultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Exegete-specific pericopes in Daniel for scholarship, teaching, and preaching

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1), Inter-Cultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Personal and Spiritual Formation (4.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

CHWT 501: HISTORICAL WITNESS OF THE CHURCH

Hannah Black, Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Master of Arts – Church & Witness

Required for Pathway to Ministry

The Historical Witness of the Church is the first half of a two-part interdisciplinary sequence for juniors integrating introductory themes and topics from theology, history, global mission, and ethics. We will begin with the generative era of Christian history, the Patristic era from the 1st to 5th centuries. These texts and historical themes will embrace the work of the first four Ecumenical Councils, from Nicaea to Chalcedon. In the last section of our course we will look ahead, to the medieval and early Reformation periods, drawing on the elements we have raised from the original doctors and Fathers of the Church.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Be familiar with the institutional, contextual, and global history of the church in late antiquity*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Situate the Episcopal Church and present-day Christian moral responsibility in the broader landscape of the religion and political life of the ancient church and the patristic tradition

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Articulate the essential, tradition core of Christian doctrine and theology in the historical experience of the church

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

M.S. SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

CHWT 502: CONTEMPORARY WITNESS OF THE CHURCH

Robert Heaney, John Knight, Kyle Lambelet, Ian Markham

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 or equivalent permission of instructor

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Master of Arts – Church & Witness

Required for Pathway to Ministry

This course is an exploration of theological and ethical themes in the modern period within a historical frame. The course touches on themes of the mission of God and the context of empire, colonization, and the development of Anglican and Episcopal theology. This course provides a map of the primary approaches in modernity, which will be explored in more detail in the distributive electives.

This course will introduce students to a broad sweep of Christian and Anglican history beginning with the Jamestown colony; the development of an Anglican Communion 'beyond the realm'; the emergence of the modern missionary and ecumenical movement; and the possible meanings of a post-colonial witness. It will address issues particularly relevant to contemporary churches in the United States, including

theology's response to modern methods of historical and biblical inquiry as well as moral formation amid secularism. The witness of the church throughout this period raises particular ethical and missiological questions. These include various approaches to moral discernment; Gospel witness amidst pluralism; liturgy's role in moral formation; conversion and proselytism; and Christian responses to wicked problems like race, empire, colonialism, and environmental degradation. The course will combine plenary lecture with examination of key texts in discussion sections, and represent a balance of historical context with the theological resources for contemporary witness.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, students will be able to:*

Situate current understandings of Christian mission in relation to the history of the church (MA SLO 1:1; MDiv SLO 1:1);

Identify, across mission history, important inter-cultural encounters that continue to influence ecumenical approaches to Christian witness (MA SLO 2:3; MDiv SLO 2); and

Resource their own developing understanding and practice of Christian witness in today's world (MA SLOs 2:1, 3:1; MDiv SLOs 1:2, 3:1, 3:4).

CHWT 527: FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Kathleen Brown

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

This course is intended to provide frameworks from our Christian tradition as well as contemporary authors for reflecting on our spiritual lives as Christians. The approach will be thematic, with each course unit focusing on a particular aspect of the spiritual life: prayer, discernment, etc. Students will be invited to reflect on their own spiritual lives in light of these frameworks. The course will provide resources and language for talking about the spiritual journey with those to whom we minister.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Have a basic understanding of the spiritual life, its breadth, depth, and language, in order to understand the contributions to the Christian spiritual tradition of both historical and contemporary authors

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Examine and understand the key themes of the Christian spiritual tradition and the spiritual life noting the implications for both those to whom they will minister

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Reflect on the student's own spiritual journey in ways necessary for the exercise

Offer effective pastoral ministry, and spiritual leadership that is grounded in the Christian spiritual tradition

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Theology of Ministry (4.3); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

CHWT 610: CHRISTIAN MISSION AND MANY RELIGIONS

James Farwell

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

This course considers the significance of religious diversity for the Church's participation in the mission of God, from an Anglican point of view. Topics include theological accounts of religious diversity; interreligious engagement as a form of mission; and implications for mission within emergent Christian theologies.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Articulate a Christian theological account of religious plurality*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Exercise cooperative and respectful leadership in multi-religious contexts MDiv SLOs: Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

CHWT 613: ECUMENICAL READINGS OF MISSION HISTORY

Robert Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Mission Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course invites students into a sustained examination of the church's call to be a witness for Christ in the world. Through ecumenical study of key figures and theological ideas in mission history, students will have opportunity to resource their own sense of vocation and gain clarity on the call of the church today.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, students will be able to:*

Situate current understandings of Christian mission in relation to the history of the church (MA SLO 1:1; MDiv SLO 1:1);

Identify, across mission history, important inter-cultural encounters that continue to influence ecumenical approaches to Christian witness (MA SLO 2:3; MDiv SLO 2); and

Resource their own developing understanding and practice of Christian witness in today's world (MA SLOs 2:1, 3:1; MDiv SLOs 1:2, 3:1, 3:4).

CHWT 615: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Kyle Lambelet

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502

Ethics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

What does it mean to be a creature? What forms of moral consideration do we owe to other creatures and other parts of creation? How should we act as members of ecological communities? How can we live a good life amid ecological destruction and decay? How am I called to live a creaturely faith? This course explores these questions through engagement with Christian environmental ethics. Students will build their

ethical vocabulary through engagement with fundamental concepts (such as creation, nature, world, ecology, climate change, biodiversity loss, the Anthropocene, and environmental justice) and will test that vocabulary by applying it to Christian creaturely practices (such as lament, confession, conversion, eating, inhabitation, and praise). Students will conclude the course by bringing the materials to bear on their vocations.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

Define key concepts and practices utilized in Christian orientations toward creation and locate them in relation to the scriptural, theological, and liturgical traditions of the Christian church
MDiv SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)
MA SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Employ these concepts and practices to describe, evaluate, and propose moral responses to complex ecological dilemmas. MDiv SLOs Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Enacting Faith (4.1) MA SLOs Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Articulate the vocational implications of these concepts and practices for your current and future work, regardless of your career trajectory. MDiv SLOs Theology of Ministry (4.3); Self-Knowledge & Personal Growth (4.4) MA SLOs Self-Knowledge & Personal Growth (4.1)

CHWT 617: THEOLOGY OF MISSION

Robert Heaney

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

Mission Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Beginning in doctrine, this class invites students to refresh their vision of God and renew their confidence in the vocation of the church. Through a series of lectures, readings, and seminars on the doctrine of God; ecumenical understandings of mission (including Anglicanism's "Five Marks"); and historical practice this class will provide an opportunity for leaders in the church to develop a critical and constructive missiology.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Demonstrate an awareness of how key criticisms of the Western Christian mission have missiological significance

MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

Develop an intercultural theological method

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Begin to articulate an Anglican theology of mission with an emphasis on God as the primary agent of mission

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

CHWT 619: THEOLOGY OF NICAEA AND CHALCEDON

Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502

Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

Each Sunday and major feast day we recite the ancient and ecumenical symbol of the Church, the Nicene Creed. This Creed is considered the summary of the Church's faith, across its many divisions. This term we study the doctrinal heart of this Creed, the dogma of the Holy Trinity. We will also engage the Chalcedonian Creed, and then turn to modern Christologies: Barth, Temple, and Bulgakov. In all these works, we will seek to study and learn more deeply the promises of God, which are Yes in him.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Recognize key elements in Nicene Trinitarianism*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Identify major elements within Chalcedonian Christology

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Recognize commonalities and differences among ancient and modern Christologies, Eastern and Western doctrines of Christ's Person and Work

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Develop their own Christologies, drawing on major theologies on the tradition MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Show salient commonalities and differences among Eastern and Western doctrines of Trinity MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Articulate their own Trinitarian theology with the aid of major theologians of the tradition MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

CHWT 620: THEOLOGY AND TRUTH

Ian S. Markham

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisite: CHWT 502. Students seeking an exception from this requirement will be considered, provided they are willing to conduct background reading to cover any necessary gaps.

In a season of "fake news" the Christian obligation to "seek the truth" is essential. This course is divided into four sections. The first section starts with an examination of the different philosophical accounts of truth (from correspondence to coherence to pragmatic etc.). The second section looks at Biblical and doctrinal approaches to truth, particular attention is paid to Augustine On the Free Choice of the Will. The third section deals with ecclesiology and truth, with reference to Alasdair MacIntyre. And the final section looks at conspiracy theories and virtue epistemology. This last section is where we look at competing world views in an internet age where determining the truth is difficult.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of the course, the student will be able to understand the centrality of the theme of truth in the Christian tradition and be familiar with the basic philosophical literature.*

Engage with complex distortions of the truth and have strategies to help those involved in conspiratorial accounts.

Have a sense of church as a community of truth seekers.

MDiv: Knowledge of Tradition 1.1., Use of Tradition 1.2, Effective Communication 3.1

MA: 1.1 Knowledge of Tradition, Use of Tradition 1.2

CHWT 621: MORAL PROBLEMS

Kyle Lambelet, Ian Markham

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 502 or permission of instructor
Ethics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course invites students to explore certain moral questions in detail. The precise issues which will be explored vary from year to year. The three areas of focus will be "interpersonal relationships", "medical ethics," and "the environment". The course is intended to impart a set of skills that can then be applied to other areas. The student will learn to explore Biblical and theological resources, engage with the best scientific practice, and then reflect on the appropriate application within the church and the broader society.

The Goals of the course are:

To invite the student to reflect on a limited set of moral problems.

To learn a skill set that can then be applied to other moral problems – this skill set includes appropriate reading of Scripture, appreciating the resources in the tradition, learning to listen to appropriate authorities, and reflecting appropriately on application.

For students to have formed a view on the three moral problems of "interpersonal relationships," "medical ethics," and "the environment."

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Appreciate the ethical resources embedded in Scripture and the Christian tradition*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Appreciate that ethical reflection is linked to one's particular vantage point and experience MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Articulate ethical values within a leadership role within the Church

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

CHWT 625: ANGLICAN THOUGHT

Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Required for Post-Grad Diploma in Anglican Studies, Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

What is Anglicanism? One answer to this vexed question of identity is that Anglicanism is a theological movement and school of thought. The Anglican branch of the Church has exemplified characteristic patterns of thought, exegesis,

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

and sources. This course will offer an opportunity to study pioneers of our tradition, from the pivotal 16th century forward. We will aim to find these commonalities, to receive them and allow them to shape us; but to receive them critically as well. How will our Anglicanism be shaped and deepened by our encounter with these doctors of the Church?

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Identify major strands in contemporary Anglican theology*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Reflect on the commonalities and differences that constitute

Anglicanism MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Shape their own theology in light of doctrinal work written across the Communion MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

CHWT 626: DOCTRINE OF GOD

John Knight, Ian Markham, Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

This course is an invitation to explore our understanding of God as developed within the Christian tradition and in conversation with a range of diverse perspectives. Starting with the classical accounts of God (with a focus on Divine Necessity, Divine Immutability, Divine Simplicity, and Divine Timelessness), the course moves to examine process account of God and those shaped by liberation and queer theologies.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

Appreciate the theological resources embedded in scripture and the Christian tradition

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Appreciate that theological reflection is linked to one's particular vantage point and experience

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

CHWT 627: THE CONCEPT OF GOD

Ian Markham, Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 or permission of instructor
Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course is an invitation to explore our understanding of God as developed within the Christian tradition and in conversation with a range of diverse perspectives. Starting with the classical account of God (with a focus on Divine Necessity, Divine Immutability, Divine Simplicity, and Divine Timelessness), the course moves to examine process accounts of God and those shaped by liberation and queer theologies.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Appreciate the theological resources embedded in scripture and the Christian tradition*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Appreciate that theological reflection is linked to one's particular vantage point and experience MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

CHWT 628: DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: Students are encouraged to have taken an Introductory Course in CHWT or Bible. If not, attendance is at the discretion of the Professor.

In the Ordinal collect we pray to the unchangeable God in thanksgiving for the Church, that "wonderful and sacred mystery." This course offers us the opportunity examine the marks. And nature of that mystery: its identity, its character, its unity, its purpose. We live in an era of the divided church, so its catholicity and its unity are not apparent to us; and we live in an era where the Church does not strike many as "wonderful," so its holiness and apostolicity are not easily discerned. Our readings, drawn from the breadth of the tradition, will allow us to define, defend, and examine the rich heritage of ecclesiology and the Doctrine of the Church in our day.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Examine the Church in light of theological tradition*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Locate the Anglican Church within the One Church of Christ

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Articulate more clearly one's own membership within the Church

MDiv SLOs: Theology of Ministry (4.3); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLO: Self Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

CHWT 630: PROBLEMS OF GOD

John Knight

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 502

Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Does God know everything, including what I'm going to do tomorrow? If so, do I still have any free will? Is God a White racist? Is it rational to believe in God? Is it conceivable to think of the world existing without God? Do oppressed peoples have epistemic access to God unavailable to people in dominant classes? "Problems of God" is designed to introduce students to some of the philosophical problems that have arisen out of Christianity as well as philosophical questions that have religion itself as their object. Focusing on primary texts, the course seeks to provide students with tools that will develop their ability to understand and critically evaluate sustained theological and philosophical arguments. The course will also help students gain familiarity with thinkers who have exerted an outsize impact on the development of Western Christian theology and philosophy of religion. Finally, the course will

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

introduce students to critiques of these dominant thinkers and alternative ways of doing philosophical theology.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Have first-hand knowledge of key texts that have shaped the Western theological tradition*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Have improved their ability to analyze and critically evaluate sustained arguments regarding basic problems in philosophical theology

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

CHWT 645: ENGAGING LATINO/A/X THEOLOGIES

Sharon Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None. However, CHWT 665 Latin American Theology in Context and CHWT 664 Liberation Theologies are helpful companion courses.

Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course provides students with an opportunity to critically engage with histories, cultures and society in the United States bringing contextual issues into conversation with vibrant theological reflection and praxis from within Latino/a/x communities. This course challenges students to allow these testimonies and this witness to interrupt dominant narratives, reframing the discussion and challenging theological understandings and ministerial practice. The Episcopal Church has a flourishing ministry among Latino/a/x congregations across the United States. Ministry among multicultural 5congregations also bears testimony to growth in the Episcopal Church. This course seeks to discern applications and implications for ministry, responding to Diocesan requests for competent intercultural church leaders. The final class paper or presentation is constructed by 5 each student, in light of their engagement with Latino/a/x theologies and in response to particular topics of interest for ministry within a multicultural, intercultural or Spanish speaking community.

A knowledge of Spanish is not required for this course as English texts will be provided. However, those students keen to immerse themselves in the Spanish language will be given the opportunity to do so.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, students will be able to:*

Demonstrate an understanding of the histories, contexts and realities in which Latino/a/x Theologies flourish in the United States

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.2); Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Articulate a deepened understanding of the significance of the theological themes arising in Latino/a/x reflections and draw implications for ministry

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Express sensitivity towards the cultural, racial, and ethnic contexts of the United States, and model awareness of the power dynamics present in congregations, institutions and communities

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

CHWT 647: MISSION OF GOD

James Farwell, Robert Heaney, Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

This course invites students to consider the essentially theological nature of mission. Students will learn that mission begins and ends with a vision of divine love. In a series of lectures and seminars, doctrinal, liturgical, and missiological commitments will be posited as central to a renewed and renewing Church and Communion.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Demonstrate how liturgy gives expression to God's mission and shapes the vocation of the church*

MDiv SLOs: Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Discern a critical and life-giving approach to mission for today's church

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

CHWT 650: THE HISTORY AND IDENTITY OF ANGLICANISM

Robert Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Required for Post-Grad Diploma in Anglican Studies Church History Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

The History and Identity of Anglicanism provides students with an opportunity to listen to voices that illumine the Anglican way. The course will be made of a combination of a framing historical narrative, readings from within the Anglican theological tradition, and secondary scholarship from historians and theologians as they reflect on the nature of the tradition. This course invites students to discern both the paradoxes and promise of Anglican traditions and invites them to find their own identity within the broad currents of the Anglican heritage. CHWT650 is required for Anglican Studies students but is also open to all MDiv and MA students.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Gain a general familiarity with the history of the Anglican/ Episcopal Church and its own self-understanding MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Engage the history of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition so as to allow the students to place themselves within the tradition, knowing where they are to be placed and why

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)
MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2) Articulate and inhabit one's own ministerial calling
MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3)
MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)
Develop a personal theology of ministry as critiqued by the ecclesiology of the wider church MDiv SLOs: Theology of Ministry (4.3)
MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

CHWT 651: THE HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Required for Post-Grad Diploma in Anglican Studies Church History Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This is a one-semester course that focuses on the religious history of the territory now known as the United States and on the history of the Episcopal Church in the United States and related regions. It covers the period from the beginnings of colonization through the American Revolution, the development of the Episcopal Church as a denomination and its challenges and changes in the nineteenth century. The course will end at the turn of the 20th century. The course will be divided between lectures and in-class presentations. Students will be encouraged to read in a wide variety of secondary source materials, become familiar with the archives of the Episcopal Church and practice teaching this church history to lay audiences. All students will contribute to a compilation of resources. This class is required for Anglican Studies students and is highly recommended for graduating seniors.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Be familiar with the institutional history of the Episcopal Church*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)
MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)
Situate the Episcopal Church in the broader landscape of American religious and political life, so to understand better the role it can and will play in the future based on the role it has played in the American past
MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)
MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)
Understand the intersection of the history of slavery, the history of the United States, and the history of the Episcopal Church as parts of one story, and to have a clearer understanding of American Christianity's role in the creation of race and racism as the country continues to understand those terms; we will also examine the Episcopal Church's past successes and shortcomings in this area
MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)
MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

CHWT 652: THE HISTORY OF THE MEDIEVAL AND REFORMATION CHURCH

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501

Church History Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

The Medieval and Reformation Church is a distributed elective beginning at the year 1000 and continuing through the Reformation. We will examine the nature of the medieval church and the role it played in medieval society, exploring the politics, culture, and theology of the medieval ecclesiastical world. We will then survey both the events and the wide-ranging impacts of the Reformation and the diverse routes by which the new Protestant and Catholic confessions emerged. We will consider both the effects these changes had on theology and high politics, but also on ordinary people's daily lives.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Recount the basic narrative of Western Church History from 1000 to the year 1600*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)
MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)
Use their knowledge of historical figures, patterns of leadership, methods of theological articulation, and apologetic strategies to interpret, critique, and transform the contemporary use of tradition
MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)
MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)
Understand the flowering of medieval civilization and how that legacy, together with regional and cultural contexts, shaped the course of the Reformation
MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)
MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)
Appreciate how medieval and Reformation traditions stand at the back of many debates between Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox, and have a better understanding of how those divisions came about
MDiv SLOs: Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)
MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

CHWT 660: THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALITY

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501

This course examines how Christian spirituality has developed within the broader history of the church, from the early centuries of Christian history through the Middle Ages to the confessional world of the Reformation. We will examine the many different ways that Christians over time have attempted to approach God in adoration, to make a language to address God, and to unmake that language when it invariably falls short of its object. Although this study has obvious parallels in the history of theology, the history of spirituality will concentrate on those often-neglected works that are usually not considered formal theology, as well as practices from the monastic tradition, particularly where those have been adopted by laypeople. Where possible we will incorporate art and music of all kinds into this story, and this course will contain an assignment examining Christian spirituality in film.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Be acquainted with a broad variety of texts within the Christian tradition of spirituality, within the context of the history of Christianity, and to give them a deeper appreciation for this tradition

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)
MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)
Have a rich understanding of how to articulate and express the Christian faith in creative ways, using poetry, art, and music
MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)
MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1) Be encouraged to update or modify their rule of life
MDiv SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2)
MA SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2)
Possess knowledge of and appreciation for ancient liturgy as one of the most significant arenas for the expression of Christian spirituality
MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

CHWT 663: INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM AND THE QUR'AN

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

This class is an introductory course on Islam and its sacred scripture, the Qur'an. Students will become familiar with key themes and stories from the Qur'an that are central to Islamic theological thought. The course will also examine the historical origins of Islam in the 6th century, the development of medieval Muslim civilization, and its transformative influence on science and literature.

In addition, the class will address contemporary issues related to the portrayal of Muslims and Islam in the media. These discussions will be framed within the context of "Islam and Contemporary World Politics," examining how Western colonialism and its enormous damage gave way to anti-colonial political movements in the Muslim world, contributing to the modern political interpretations of Islam.

CHWT 664: LIBERATION THEOLOGIES

Sharon Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None. However, CHWT 665 Latin American Theology in Context provides a helpful foundation and serves as a good companion course.

This course offers an introduction to the context in which the theology of liberation flourished. In light of such challenges, significant theological themes arose in Catholic and Protestant Latin American thought. Themes explored include Liberation, Christology, the Kingdom of God, Ecclesiology, Transformation, and Social Responsibility. We will reflect on the influence of these liberation themes of faith, culture, and ministry within and beyond the Latin American context.

This course is open to all students. It is developed for those seeking to structure a theological understanding of the themes of liberation and social justice. It is also recommended for students who will encounter Spanish speakers in their community or congregation and for those interested in building relationships with faith communities in Latin America. A knowledge of Spanish is not required for this course as English texts will be provided. However, those students keen to immerse themselves in the Spanish language will be allowed to do so.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Demonstrate an understanding of the context in which the theology of liberation flourished*

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)
MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)
Articulate the significance of the theological themes which have arisen in the Latin American context MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2)
MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2)
Reflect on liberation themes in their current context and with deeper awareness engage more sensitively with Spanish speakers they encounter in their faith community
MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)
MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

CHWT 665: LATIN AMERICAN THEOLOGY IN CONTEXT

Sharon Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None. However, CHWT 664 Liberation Theologies and CHWT 645 Engaging Latino/a/x Theologies are helpful companion courses.

This course offers the opportunity to explore the Latin American theological landscape. Students will seek to understand the historical backdrop of the continent and the implications of colonialism on society. The variety and richness of the Latin American cultural heritage will be explored. In light of this, the diversity of the Christian witness on the continent will be presented to enable students to assess the role of the Catholic Church, the faces of Latin American Protestantism, and the spread of Pentecostalism.

This course is open to all students. It is recommended, in particular, for those students who will encounter Spanish speakers in their community or congregation, and also for those interested in building relationships with faith communities in Latin America. It is also recommended for students seeking to develop their awareness of theological issues arising in encounters across cultures.

A knowledge of Spanish is not required for this course as English texts will be provided. However, those students keen to immerse themselves in the Spanish language will be allowed to do so.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Demonstrate an appreciation of the key historical and cultural aspects behind Latin American theology*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2)
MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2) Explain and illustrate the diversity of the Christian church in Latin America
MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)
MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

Engage more sensitively across cultures in their faith community, particularly with Spanish speakers and those with Latin American roots

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

CHWT 667: RESISTANT THEOLOGIES

Robert Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 502

Mission Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

R.S. Sugirtharajah complains that Western theologians have been captivated by issues such as secularization and postmodernism and have been “eloquent in their silence” when it comes to “assessing the role of the West in colonial domination.” In recent years, this situation has changed not least with the emergence of post-colonial theology. As a result of examining a series of important texts (dealing with critical theory, biblical studies, theological studies, Anglican studies, and mission studies) this course will begin to equip leaders to participate in dialogue, collaboration, partnership, and planning which unveils unjust power relations and works towards a fuller expression of the Christian gospel.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to identify the broad themes and distinct contributions of post-colonial theology*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Express an understanding of the gospel which assesses the West's attempts at hegemony and dominance MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

Develop strategies for more just dialogue, collaboration, and partnership

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Theology of Ministry (4.3) Community Membership (4.5)

Reflect critically on how insights gained from post-colonial theology might impact leadership priorities and the task of reconciliation within the Anglican Communion

MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

CHWT 668: ASCETICAL THEOLOGY

Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

Theology Distributed Elective for Masters of Divinity

Jesus says: “Come, follow me!” What is the shape of a life, following the Lord Christ? How do we come to love God more truly, to love our neighbor more deeply, as Christ commands? The ascetical or spiritual traditions of the Church catholic

show us how the saints before us have opened their lives to the Good God and patterned their way of life after the example of Christ. We will read these rules, prayers, meditations, essays and sermons, asking at each turn: how can our lives be shaped by this testimony?

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to know the major teachers and practices of the Spiritual Masters*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Investigate these practices for their own spiritual life, to clarify their own vocations, and to teach others the life of prayer and discipleship

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Enacting Faith (4.1); Rule of Life (4.2); Theology of Ministry (4.3); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Rule of Life (4.2)

CHWT 672: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Robert Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & 502

All leaders will experience conflict. The Christian tradition emerges from conflict and seeks discernment always amidst conflict. Reading the work of poets, theologians, and practitioners from East Africa, West Africa, the Middle East, and North America this course invites students to consider the nature, practice, and spirituality of reconciliation as it relates to Christian ministry.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Discern (through poetic texts, spiritual exercises, and international case studies) that conflict and contestation do not necessarily represent ecclesiological dysfunction but are part of Christian witness throughout the ages

MDiv SLOs: Religious Heritage (1.2), Cultural Contexts (2.1, 2.2)

MA SLOs: Religious Heritage (1.1, 1.2) & Cultural Contexts (2.1, 2.2) Develop an understanding and spirituality of Christian reconciliation

MDiv SLOs: Personal & Spiritual Formation (4.1, 4.3, 4.4)

MA SLOs: Personal & Spiritual Formation (4.2)

Construct realistic strategies for conflict resolution or conflict transformation MDiv SLOs: Ministerial & Public Leadership (3.2)

MA SLOs: Ministerial & Public Leadership (3.2), Theory & Praxis Integration (5.1, 5.2).

CHWT 675: MAPPING ANGLICAN STUDIES

James Farwell, Carla Roland

Credit Hours: 2.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for Post-Grad Diploma in Anglican Studies

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fields of concern, areas of competency, and critical questions that make up the Diploma in Anglican Studies at

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

Virginia Theological Seminary. Students are also introduced to the central elements of the VTS learning context.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Outline the basic history and theological characteristics of the global Anglican tradition*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of the Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

Name and characterize the Episcopal Church's crucial ecumenical partnerships and posture toward interreligious engagement

MDiv SLOs: Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4) Craft an initial working rule of life for their program at VTS

MDiv SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4) Articulate the core theology of the 1979 Prayer Book

MDiv SLOs: Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

CHWT 676: MISSIONAL CHURCH

Robert Heaney

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 502

Mission Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Within a missiological framework, the 77th General Convention, adopting Resolution C095, recognized that the Holy Spirit is "urging The Episcopal Church to reimagine itself." This course is an opportunity to do such missiological re-imagining. In a series of classes and seminars, we will bring together texts, discourses, videos, online sources, and experiences from missional communities within and without North America. Theologically reflecting on such sources, we will begin to discern how The Episcopal Church, and other Christian traditions, might "more faithfully" (C095) participate in the mission of God.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Reflect on the thought and practice of a wide variety of growing missional communities from contexts familiar and unfamiliar

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Discern models or patterns of thought and praxis that might be missiologically effective in a specific context MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Imagine together a vibrant future for The Episcopal Church

MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2); Theology of Ministry (4.3)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

CHWT 677: SUFFERING, SCIENCE, AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Ian Markham

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

The question is fundamental: why does God allow evil and suffering? This course starts by locating the different experiences of suffering from the Holocaust to the enslavement of persons. Then the course uses the question as a way into debates around "the concept of God", the nature of creation, providence, miracles, and Incarnation. Bringing in some modern debates in science and religion, the course invites students to see alternative ways of understanding divine action. The Goals of the course are to invite the student to reflect on theological issues surrounding theodicy, to appreciate the different experiences of suffering within different communities, to locate the debates around providence and miracles in the context of modern science, and for students to be able to explain their understanding of theodicy.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

Appreciate the different responses to theodicy in the Christian tradition and how Christianity can engage with contemporary science

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Appreciate that the experience of suffering takes different forms within different communities MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Be able to explain their understanding of theodicy

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

CHWT 678: DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY

Kate Sonderegger

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 and CHWT 502, or permission of Instructor

The Articles of Religion tell us that 'Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary for salvation, so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.' (Art. VI) Though largely a negative definition, this Article affirms two elements of authority traditionally assigned to the Bible: it is sufficient as a source of saving belief, and the central doctrines of the faith are taught and proved by it. Such language, a foundation of Tudor and Stuart Anglican formularies, have found their way into our Baptismal Covenant—continuing in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship—and in the Ordinal, where the candidates affirm that the 'Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and contain all things necessary for salvation.' The Bible stands as it was before, but the study of the Bible has been revolutionized. Historical study, political analysis of religious texts, post-colonial modes of interpretation, and secularism of many types have all made the authority, sufficiency, and perspicuity of Scripture more difficult to warrant, to achieve, and to confess. Why this is so and how, as present-day Christians, heirs to the faith once delivered to the saints, we can yet in our day 'read, mark, learn and inwardly digest' the Holy Word is the topic and aim of our course.

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

CHWT 679: RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Ian Markham

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502

Popular perception is that science is constantly opposed to religion. In this course, we explore the ways in which science and religion can be used in conversation. Starting with a brief historical survey of the relationship (that captures both the antagonism and mutual interdependence), the course moves to consider certain topics thematically – creation, providence, spirituality, sacraments, and eschatology. The course concludes by looking at future areas for conversation, including AI.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Understand the complex ways that the history of science can be read.*

MDiv SLOs Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

Reflect on scientific discussions of religious questions and the ways in which they can shape our understanding of the faith today.

MDiv SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Anticipate certain trajectories that might emerge in the future and have some methodological sense of how best to engage with those trajectories.

MDiv SLO Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

CHWT 685: POLITICS AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Kyle Lambelet

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course examines practices of Christian witness in the public sphere and explores how those practices both express and cultivate specific moral theological commitments. Students will build their ethical vocabulary through fundamental engagement with concepts such as politics, justice, power, and movement and will test that vocabulary by applying it to the concrete practices of organizing, activism, and advocacy. We will conclude by using the tools developed by the course to engage a specific instance of Christian organizing for racial or economic justice in our context in the DMV.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

Define key concepts and skills of Christian political witness and identify how significant schools of political thought within the Christian moral theological tradition have made sense of citizen efforts like organizing, activism, and advocacy.

MDiv SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2) Form others in the concrete skills of social change.

MDiv SLOs Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs Effective Communication (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2) Apply the conceptual vocabulary of the course to particular efforts, thus thinking theologically about social and political change.

MDiv SLOs Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Imagine and articulate the vocational implications of politics and Christian ethics for your current and future work, regardless of your career trajectory.

MDiv SLOs Theology of Ministry (4.3); Self-Knowledge & Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs Self-Knowledge & Personal Growth (4.1)

CHWT 700: SEMINAR ON A PRE-MODERN THEOLOGIAN

Kate Sonderegger, Ian Markham, John Knight

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

The aim of this course is to allow students to focus on a single theologian from the pre-modern era of the Church, East or West. While comparing theologians, one with another, is illuminating, there is no substitute for deep engagement with an author's thought, across the periods and genres of that author's work. This is an encounter with a living voice who witnesses out of his or her era to our own, such that we heed and learn of God through that voice, as well as clarify our own theology in light of or in contrast with that early teacher.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Demonstrate their theological skills of both a critical and constructive kind in conversation with a pre-modern theologian.*

MDiv SLOs Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs Use of Tradition (1.2)

Articulate an in-depth understanding of an influential figure in pre-modern Christian thought.

MDiv SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Further develop a critical awareness of their own theological position in light of, or in contrast to, the pre-modern theologian studied in this course

MDiv SLOs Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs Effective Communication (3.1)

CHWT 701: SEMINAR ON A CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGIAN

Kate Sonderegger, Ian Markham, John Knight

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502 or permission of instructor

Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course is designed to introduce students to an important thinker in the intellectual history of Christian thought in the contemporary era and will have the later twentieth century in view until the current day. Together we will explore the

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

significant aspects of theology present in the theologian's work and witness, articulating key themes and discerning the impact on society, the academy and the church.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Engage with the thought and themes present in the work and witness of a contemporary theologian.*

MDiv SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Consider the critical contribution offered by the contemporary theologian and analyze how their contribution has been received in the academy and the church more widely

MDiv SLOs Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Articulate the implications of this work and witness on their own theological understanding and ministry.

MDiv SLOs Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

CHWT 702: ADVANCED SEMINAR ON A MODERN THEOLOGIAN

Kate Sonderegger, Ian Markham, John Knight

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502

Theology Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course is designed to introduce students to an important thinker in the intellectual history of Christian thought in the modern era. This era is understood to consist of two periods, the first beginning after the Reformation era and the second beginning in the early twentieth century. Friedrich Schleiermacher is the theologian submitted as an example, but many others could be mentioned, including D.F. Strauss, F.C. Baur, F.D. Maurice, John Wesley, John Henry Newman, Arthur Schopenhauer, Henry Highland Garnet, Alexander Crummel, and Walter Rauschenbusch, among others.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Demonstrate their theological skills of both a critical and constructive kind.*

MDiv SLOs Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs Use of Tradition (1.2)

Articulate an in-depth understanding of an influential figure in modern Christian thought.

MDiv SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Further develop their ability to analyze and critically evaluate sustained theological positions.

MDiv SLOs Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs Effective Communication (3.1)

CHWT 706: THEOLOGY OF CULTURE ADVANCED SEMINAR

Robert Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

This class provides an opportunity to understand culture and cultural change in the context of World Christianity. In conversation with theories, theologies, and experiences of crossing cultures ¾ students will develop a critical

approach to understanding their own culture and capacities for discerning the work of the Holy Spirit amidst cultural diversity. The class is open to all students. It is particularly suited to students with considerable international or cross-cultural experience and/or students considering international ministry or ministry in culturally diverse contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Assess a range of theories of culture and cultural change*

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Develop a theological understanding of culture

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Design a means of discernment toward recognizing the Holy Spirit at work in culture MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Theology of Ministry (4.3) MA SLOs Self-Knowledge & Personal Growth (4.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

CHWT 707: JUSTICE PRAXIS SEMINAR

Kyle Lambelet

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Justice is not only a principle, a value, or a virtue. Justice is a practice of building right relationship with neighbors and enemies. This class forms participants in the skills, knowledge, and dispositions for justice making. This immersive theory-and-practice course works in collaboration with community partners to introduce students to the work of policy craft, organizing, and advocacy. Students will learn and practice concrete skills like relational meetings, power analysis, cutting an issue, and building coalitions. Students will analyze policy work drawing on political and moral theory and the theological traditions of the Church. The end goal of the course is that students will increase their capacities for public witness in their vocations, whatever those vocations may be.

CHWT 710: CROSSING CULTURES WELL: CCEP (CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS) PREPARATION, REFLECTION, INTEGRATION

Robert Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Required for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies,

Required for Master of Arts – Church & Witness

This course is required for those planning to take part in a January and/or summer term CCEP immersion.

Many congregations, dioceses, and ministries have strong ties with World Christianity. As a consequence, opportunities for cross-cultural visits and/or immersions arise. Despite such opportunities, doing immersions and cross-cultural partnerships well is fraught with difficulties. The purpose of this course is to examine what good immersion preparation is, how to do theological reflection during immersions, and how to integrate immersion experiences into ongoing ministry.

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Demonstrate an awareness of the difficulties and opportunities in cross-cultural education programs (CCEPs) and partnerships*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Design a process of theological reflection for a planned or imagined CCEP MDiv SLOs: Theology of Ministry (4.3); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Discern means for ongoing critical and constructive cross-cultural relationships MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

CHWT 790: ANGLICAN SOCIAL ETHICS

Ross Kane

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 501 & CHWT 502,
Ethics Distributed Elective, or permission of instructor

This course trains students in Anglican understandings of the gospel priority of working for common goods and caring for the poor. The class engages Anglican approaches to social justice by employing seminal texts from the Anglican tradition, discussing them in light of contemporary moral problems and students' experiences in contextual ministry. The course also explores contemporary texts that are shaping Anglicanism today, especially drawing on intercultural resources.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Articulate Anglican approaches to social justice, especially drawing from resources around the Communion.*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2), Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1), Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Identify faithful ecclesial responses to injustice

MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2), Enacting Faith (4.1), Theology of Ministry (4.3), Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2), Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1), Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Model difficult and respectful conversation across differing ecclesial perspectives

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3), Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1), Theory and Practice Integration (5.2)

CHWT 825: PUERTO RICO CCEP

Altagracia Pérez-Bullard

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisite: CHWT 710 Crossing Cultures Well
Option for CCEP for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies
Option for CCEP for Master of Arts – Church & Witness

This course provides students the opportunity to learn with and from the ministries of Episcopal churches outside of the continental U.S. Students will learn from a diocese with excellent models of Community Development and creative use of its assets in serving the marginalized. This experience will support their understanding of ministry in challenging contexts, a reality that most of our students will face in the changing landscape of ministry today. This course reflects on the faith in light of a diverse & complex society with special sensitivity to the dynamics of racism MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy Goal (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy Goal (2.2) Lead communities collaboratively in service of God's mission

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4); MA SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

CHWT 825: COSTA RICA CCEP

Katherine Grieb

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 710 Crossing Cultures Well
Option for CCEP for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies
Option for CCEP for Master of Arts – Church & Witness

This course immerses students in the Anglican Church of Costa Rica for 3 weeks, studying its history and culture, its theology and politics, its opportunities and challenges, while worshipping at the Anglican Cathedral of El Buen Pastor. Extra cost for travel associated with this course.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Engage with theology and scripture in the context of Costa Rican Anglicanism*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2) Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1) Reflect on the intersection of Anglican tradition, location, and political context

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2) Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Listen to Church members from a Spanish-speaking part of the Anglican Communion MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Theology of Ministry (4.3)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Effective Communication (3.1) Learn how slavery and emancipation worked in another context

MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2);

Appreciate natural beauty as well as environmental opportunities and challenges MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2) Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2) Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2) Begin to articulate a sense of Anglican identity and mission in the global context

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1) Theology of Ministry (4.3)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

CHWT 825: JERUSALEM CCEP (JERUSALEM MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM)

Melody Knowles, Judy Fentress-Williams, and other faculty

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 710 Crossing Cultures Well
Option for CCEP for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies
Option for CCEP for Master of Arts – Church & Witness Extra cost for travel associated with this course.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Engage with Scripture in the context of the biblical lands*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Reflect on the intersection of text, location, and political context

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Engage with peers from other parts of the Anglican Communion

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Engage with Palestinian Christians as well as with Jewish and Muslim perspectives

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Refine a sense of Anglican identity and mission in the global context

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

CHWT 825: NEW ZEALAND CCEP

Robert Heaney and Sharon Heaney

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: CHWT 710 Crossing Cultures Well
Option for CCEP for Master of Arts – Biblical Studies
Option for CCEP for Master of Arts – Church & Witness

This course provides students the opportunity to learn with and from the ministries of Episcopal churches outside of the continental U.S. Students will learn from a diocese with excellent models of Community Development and creative use of its assets in serving the marginalized. This experience will support their understanding of ministry in challenging contexts, a reality that most of our students will face in the changing landscape of ministry today.

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PRXT 500: FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY

PRXT Faculty

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Master of Arts – Christian Formation,

Required for Pathway to Ministry

This course introduces the discipline of practical theology and several sub-fields: Christian formation, pastoral care, race and ethnicity studies, and evangelism. It examines the ministry of all baptized people, paying close attention to the self-in-context, relationship with God and neighbor, wisdom from multiple perspectives and disciplines, and to the process of arriving at effective and faithful responses to present situations. Using a theme of “disruption,” students will develop foundational frameworks and skills for critical theological reflection in relation to three interrelated areas of Christian ministry for the sake of the mission of the church in the world: 1) personal discipleship and vocation; 2) cultures and contexts of ministry; and 3) practices and habits for spiritually grounded leadership in the community.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Understand the fundamental disposition and practices for entering new contexts, communities, and situations in the service of Christian ministry and leadership

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Apply practical theological methods to interpret and inform leadership in mission, evangelism, community engagement, Christian formation, pastoral care, social justice, and organizational care

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

Interrogate how social location shapes the “self” and informs Christian vocation in the community MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Examine vocation as a minister in the church paying close attention to faithful practices for self-care, an emerging theology of ministry, and the cultivation of commitment to continuous learning

MDiv SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2); Theology of Ministry (4.3); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1); Rule of Life (4.2) Demonstrate growth in capacity to work as a team on challenging ministry events/situations

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Community Membership (4.5)

PRXT 520: THE PRAYER BOOK IN SPANISH

Altargracia Pérez-Bullard

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

The number of Spanish-speaking congregations in the Episcopal Church in the United States has been growing rapidly within the past three decades. This course is designed to assist students in the public reading of El Libro de Oración Común, the Spanish language edition of the Book of Common Prayer, and other appropriate liturgies. This course will invite students to begin to integrate their understanding of Spanish language liturgy with broader concerns in Spanish-speaking communities. Selected readings from Latino/a theological texts will be explored and class guests will be welcomed to share experiences of life or ministry as Spanish speakers in our local context.

Students of other denominational traditions may substitute their own Spanish language liturgies.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Demonstrate a strengthened ability as a leader of worship in the celebration of the liturgies of the church in Spanish MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Reflect a deepened understanding of themes arising in Latino/a theological reflection as they relate to our ministry and local congregations

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

Develop sensitivity towards the cultural, racial, and ethnic contexts in which ministry and worship are taking place MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

PRXT 530: INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

This course provides students with a foundation for understanding and engaging in the practice of spiritual direction in the Christian tradition. It is intended to enhance the students' understanding of the spiritual life, with attention given to developing the basic skills required for this ministry, with people experiencing struggles with prayer, grief, spiritual darkness, and abuse. The readings will include writers from various Christian denominations and native spirituality, and reference will be made to the contributions of eastern religions to contemplative prayer.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Have an understanding of the spiritual life, its breadth, depth, and language, in order to understand the context of spiritual direction ministry.

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2) Theology of Ministry (4.3) MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Examine and understand the core principles of effective spiritual direction, noting the implications for both the director and the directee.

MDiv SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4) MA SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Enhance and practice the basic interpersonal skills necessary for the exercise of this ministry, such as maintaining appropriate boundaries, dealing with transference and counter-transference, etc.

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3), Effective Communication (3.1), Theory and Practice Integration (5.2)

Explore a range of issues for which people might seek spiritual direction – loss, grief, spiritual darkness, etc.

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2) ; Enacting the Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Christian Formation (1.2b) Theory, Praxis, Integration (3.2)

PRXT 550: INTRODUCTION TO THE VISUAL ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Peggy Parker

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

This course explores the ways we can integrate the visual arts into our ministries (lay and ordained): in studying and teaching scripture; in prayer; in liturgy and preaching; in social justice ministries; in ministries to children and young adults; in creating a holy space for worship through architecture, furnishings, and liturgical art. Students will examine and discuss art from a wide range of periods, cultures, and peoples; discuss criteria for judgment based on the theological and scriptural integrity of the art; and develop a final project that can be used in the student's ministry.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

Employ visual images to reflect on the Scripture and Christian Tradition MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2) Employ visual images to discuss issues of racial justice and equity

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Employ visual images in ministerial and public leadership

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2) Employ visual images in personal and spiritual growth

MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Employ visual images in liturgical Leadership

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2); Liturgical Art (5.3) Employ visual images in study and engagement with student's chosen field

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

PRXT 6XX: CONTEXTUAL MINISTRY

Laura White and others

Credit Hours: 3.0 & 6.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for Master of Divinity (9 credits)

Required for Master of Arts – Christian Formation (6 credits)

Contextual Ministry offers experiential, contextual learning opportunities to assist seminarians with integrating their study of Christian tradition and their practice of Christian ministry, developing their liturgical and leadership abilities, enhancing their personal and professional growth, and promoting lifelong theological reflection on the practice of ministry.

Colloquy is a weekly, peer, small group reflection seminar designed to assist seminarians with developing a lifelong habit of theological reflection. Required for MDiv Middlers.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Demonstrate an ability to use resources from theology other disciplines and one's ministerial context to develop a working knowledge of that congregation/site, including its vision and mission, formal and informal leadership, strengths and limitations, and relationship to the larger community

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Demonstrate increasing competence in liturgical and leadership functions and articulate the theological understanding that guides one's liturgical and leadership decisions

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Demonstrate progress towards Contextual Ministry goals

For Colloquy: Demonstrate the ability to use at least two methods of theological reflection in a group setting MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theology of Ministry (4.3)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

PRXT 6x3: Fall Semester, 12 hrs./week for 12 weeks; with Colloquy; 3.0 credits PRXT 6x6: Spring Semester, 24 hrs./week for 12 weeks; with Colloquy; 6.0 credits PRXT 6x3: Spring Semester, 12 hrs./week for 12 weeks; with Colloquy, 3.0 credits PRXT 6x3: any term, @ 160 hours total; no Colloquy, 3.0 credits

PRXT 6x6: any term, @ 320 hours total; no Colloquy, 6.0 credits

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PRXT 614: ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Lisa Kimball

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: PRXT 500 or permission of instructor
Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

If Christian formation is a lifelong process, what is distinctive about “Adult Formation,” and what is essential in this moment of history? This course will focus on best practices in Christian adult education, paying particular attention to your theological anthropology, the socio-cultural contexts and realities, and recognizing the challenges and opportunities of our digital age.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Assess and describe conditions and dynamics of adult education in the church today*

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Construct and articulate a theology of adult Christian education

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Discuss models of adult learning and theories of faith/spiritual development MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

Identify and compare formal and informal education in the church

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

Locate and utilize quality multimedia resources for adult education in diverse cultural contexts.

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1): Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1): Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Describe a vision for planning and sustaining an effective ministry of adult faith formation

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

PRXT 615: DISCIPLESHIP: PRACTICES AND PROCESSES

Lisa Kimball, Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500 or permission of instructor
Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course is designed as an exploration of the relationship between liturgy and formation that makes the catechumenate a vital tool for discipleship in today's church. Understood well, the catechumenate prepares people for baptism and baptismal living while providing an opportunity for the renewal of the congregational mission.

The course examines the history, theology, and practice of baptism as a rite of initiation, and of liturgies that reaffirm baptism (confirmation, reaffirmation, reception) in the context of lifelong Christian discipleship. Particular attention will be paid to the significance of these rites in the life of congregations, and the ongoing faith formation of children, parents, youth, grandparents, and godparents. How do the outward and visible signs of ritual and worship shape a congregation's identity and spiritual maturity? How can

the catechumenate be adapted in diverse cultural contexts, within and across generations?

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Acquire foundational knowledge of the history of the catechumenate*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Demonstrate ability to discuss the theological principles of the catechumenate in the Early Church MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Identify and adapt ancient liturgical practices for use in the contemporary church MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Appreciate the catechumenate as an opportunity for the conversion of individual and community MDiv SLOs: Community Membership (4.5)

Explore a variety of catechetical structures and a range of practices MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

Determine the distinctions between catechesis and schooling,

catechesis and evangelism MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

Demonstrate a working knowledge of spiritual development of all ages

MDiv SLOs: Enacting Faith (4.1); Rule of Life (4.2); Theology of Ministry (4.3); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Identify persons involved in rites of initiation, explain their roles, and articulate the relationship between the rites and the Christian life

MDiv SLOs: Community Membership (4.5); Liturgical Leadership

(5.2) Design an appropriate catechumenal process for an identified worshipping community

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

PRXT 616: BEING FULLY HUMAN: BECOMING SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS

Lisa Kimball, Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course examines the intersections of human development, faith development, theological anthropology, and cultural context in the service of human flourishing. It pays particular attention to definitions of “spiritual,” “religious,” and “Christian formation” by listening to voices on the margins to challenge taken-for-granted norms and assumptions of “normal.” After critiquing 20th-century stage theories of human development, the course presents alternative frameworks (socio-cultural) and expansive models (ecological) to understand the human condition. It presents being fully human as a lifelong, life-wide process of human development that incorporates human diversities of body, mind, and spirit and accounts for human agency. Moving from theory to praxis, the class will explore how Christian practices and sacraments function not only as tools for formation (individually and communally); but also,

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

sometimes replicate fallen ways of being in the world. This course is limited to 20 students.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Examine, at a beginning level, the use and understanding of “spiritual” and “religious” in popular culture and contemporary research

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Cite and explain the contributions of multiple theorists in relation to human growth and development and faith development

MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Explicate the meaning of “mature Christian faith,” its relationship to the mission of the church, and the challenges of faith transmission in today’s spiritual marketplace

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Access and assess resources to support vibrant faith formation

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Identify and utilize texts and traditions to establish a theological foundation for lifelong and life-wide Christian formation, aimed toward justice and flourishing

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Community Membership (4.5)

PRXT 617: EVANGELISM: THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE

Tricia Lyons

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500 or permission of instructor
Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course examines the historical theologies and practices of evangelism that have animated the Anglican Tradition. We will also assess and critique current approaches and practices of evangelism across the Episcopal Church. What is faithful and fruitful evangelism? What methodologies currently operating best represent the breadth of the moral, philosophical, and sacramental tradition of Anglicanism, and which do not? Students will complete the course having worked out their own sense of mission in ways true to their theological commitments. Building on work done in PRXT 500, students will complete the course by articulating a practical theology of evangelism.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Research and assess current practices and resources for evangelism in the church today*

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Construct and articulate a theology of evangelism, in conversation with Anglican/Episcopal identities MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Identify best practices in leadership and formation of evangelists in faith communities MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

Locate and critique quality multi-media resources for evangelism in and for diverse cultural contexts MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Encounter and analyze post-colonial evangelism practices

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

Articulate a vision for planning and leading evangelism formation in faith communities MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

PRXT 618: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN NOVELS

Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Using the literary tool of close reading and the practical theological tool of ethnography, we will carefully read 20th and 21st-century American fictional texts to cultivate skills of paying attention to the world around us (to people, to places, and to God’s presence in the midst). Doing so will bolster our ability to attend to the cultural context and theological values of particular communities and congregations, and it will help us to notice how myriad elements shape our lived faith in the world. Through these practices, we will cultivate theological imagination.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Participate in the establishment of a learning community, investigate the various dynamics at work, and discover ways to pay attention (graciously and critically) in settings where they are/will be called upon to serve as ministers, educators, and advocates. This will require them to notice what is happening (cf. Osmer’s first of four practical theological tasks) without immediately moving to judgment or change. Instead, it is an act of loving kindness, rooted in the relationality of imago Dei. Challenge the division between fiction and reality, noticing instead the ways that created works of fiction can show/tell us the truth of our lived experience and the lived experience of others from across time and geographical space

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Move beyond simplistic reader response to literature (e.g., a superficial emotional reaction disconnected from history or context or Gospel imagination)

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2) Embody faith as they bear witness to God’s love and join God’s movement in the world

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PRXT 619: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON POETRY

Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Using the literary tool of close reading and the practical theological tool of ethnography, we will carefully read poetry to cultivate skills of paying attention to words (and how they are combined) and to the world around us (to people, to places, and to God's presence in the midst). Doing so will bolster our ability to attend to the cultural context and theological values of particular communities and congregations, and it will help us to notice how myriad elements shape our lived faith in the world. Through these practices, we will cultivate theological imagination. Particular attention will be given to ways of using poetry in congregational and school settings.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

Consider poets and poems from varied eras, geographies, and contexts. Be able to talk about them and consider what they have to teach us. Cultivate self-reflection and the capacity to talk about difference.

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) MDiv SLOs: Spiritual Formation – Enacting Faith – Theology of Ministry (4.1, 4.3)

MA SLOs: Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Lead intergenerational Christian congregations in ways that are attentive to the presence of diversities, and that use literature to cultivate justice-seeking for all people

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership – Articulation of Faith – Promotion of Justice (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

MA SLOs: Ministerial Leadership – Effective Communication – Promotion of Justice (3.1, 3.2)

PRXT 621: FOUNDATIONS IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Altagracia Pérez-Bullard

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500 or permission of instructor
Congregational Study/Pastoral Care Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Pastoral Care/Congregational Study Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity (for entering students in 2023 and after). Christian leaders face incredible challenges and opportunities for personal, communal, and social transformation. The theological reflection that engages the social sciences informs and strengthens the work of growth and change in the parish. Using organizational theories, leadership models, and community organizing strategies, we will explore theoretical and practical tools to equip leaders for relevant and vital ministries within and outside the church. Concepts covered: systems theories, practical theology methodologies, the challenges of change and growth, congregational leadership development, community organizing, leadership development, and inclusive congregational development.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will*

Learn the importance of their ongoing development as grounded faith leaders in order to support communities (in the congregation and the wider parish) through the conflicts, grief, and growing pains inherent in organizational change

MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Be familiar with theories and methods of leadership, especially in changing organizational contexts MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Apply practical theology methods and the process of theological reflection to their collaborative work of personal and community transformation

MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2) Learn the application of basic community organizing strategies and tools for change

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

PRXT 625: SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course will trace the historical relationship between churches and schools (public, private, charter, and homeschooling), primarily in the United States. This includes schools run under the auspices of churches, faith education as a pull-out program in public schools, the shifting role of chaplaincy, and the rise of Christian homeschoolers. We will consider the theological/cultural/political rationales for various models, along with curricular frameworks and instruction methods used in various settings.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Discuss with clarity how churches (especially TEC) have related to schools in America and on what historical and political grounds

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Discern and compare various models of schooling and faith formation that are rooted in contextual, cultural awareness MDiv SLOs:

Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Offer thoughtful and faithful Christian presence in school setting, with the capacity to articulate personal vocation and community engagement, aimed toward justice and empowerment

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Enacting Faith (4.1); Theology of Ministry (4.3)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PRXT 645: CANON LAW

Mary Kostel

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

An introductory course providing a basic understanding of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, including the overarching structure and architecture of the Church from the churchwide General Convention to regional dioceses, to local parishes and missions. Learners will gain a sense of the development of the Canons from the founding of The Episcopal Church as well as insights into how authority is exercised at each level of the Church. One day of the course will be devoted to Title IV (Disciplinary Canons) and will serve as required Title IV Training.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Articulate an understanding of the canonical norms that govern community life with The Episcopal Church and of the particular history and tradition that gave rise to those norms.

M. Div. SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

PRXT 650: CAMPS, CONFERENCES, AND RETREATS

Lisa Kimball, Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Intentional immersion experiences in the Christian community offer a unique window into the Kingdom of God. Individuals often have life-changing encounters with the Divine at a summer camp or during a retreat. Too often, these experiences are episodic and disconnected from ongoing Christian formation in local congregations. Individuals may be left with memories of “mountain-top” experiences or moments of awakened spiritual hunger, and dedicated camp/conference staff disperse without sustaining relationships with local congregations. This class will explore the elements of camps, conferences, and retreats that contribute to a significant transformation of body, mind, and soul.

The course will survey experiential learning and faith development theory, and biblical and theological foundations for intentional Christian community to equip church leaders to integrate camp, conference, and retreat experiences into an ecology of lifelong Christian formation. By attending to the relationship between immersion programs and daily

Christian practices, clergy and lay leaders will be able to nurture individual spiritual growth and build stronger congregations.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Explain the experiential learning cycle and identify its use in camp/conference programming Describe the significance of intentional Christian community in the forming of disciples*

Articulate a coherent theological vision for Christian camp, conference, and retreat experiences in contemporary contexts

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Demonstrate an ability to use a practical theological method and resources from non-formal education to analyze case studies of Christian immersion experiences

Develop criteria for quality “camp” programming that integrate sound theory and praxis MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Design a camp/conference/retreat program or initiative to nurture Christian discipleship and congregational vitality MDiv SLOs: Enacting Faith (4.1); Community Membership (4.5)

PRXT 651: PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

In the Acts of the Apostles, the first deacons are appointed to care for the poor and the practical concerns of administration and management of the community of Jesus. This course will broadly examine the essential elements of management in ministry with an emphasis on the parish context. We assume that money, stewardship, human resources, and organization are all critical aspects of the ministry of the church. However, these practical and functional issues will be grounded and framed theologically.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Demonstrate an ability to integrate Bible, Theology, and Ethics into practical community life issues and management of congregations and other places of ministry

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Demonstrate an understanding of sound practices in effective governance including in supporting lay leadership and service, stewardship and finance, and systems of pastoral care, evangelism, and servant ministry (how each fits together in a whole and healthy community).

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1), Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

PRXT 652: FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Using the primary concepts of Bowen Family Systems Theory (BFST), you will be invited to consider specific ways your family of origin shaped your leadership. You will be asked to articulate the leadership gifts and struggles you received from that “first” small group (i.e., your family of origin), examine your current leadership functioning, and ascertain how BFST might promote your functioning as a spiritual leader.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, you will be able to: Name and offer coherent explanations of the basic BFST concepts*

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Demonstrate an understanding of how BFST concepts are illustrated in the genogram of Abraham and Sarah and your own genogram

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Enacting Faith (4.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Integrate BFST concepts into your decision-making processes

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1);

Enacting Faith (4.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Demonstrate systems thinking as a spiritual leader of an anxious community

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Enacting Faith (4.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

PRXT 654: THE PRAYER BOOK OFFICES

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: PRXT 500 and WRSH 500, or permission of instructor

An examination of the Pastoral Offices in the Book of Common Prayer begins with baptism and continues through the life cycle to burial. Students will be expected to master the content, theology, canons, and rubrics associated with these offices. The exercise of pastoral leadership in a congregational or institutional setting will be basic to the course. There will be special emphasis on theologies of evil and grace, pre-marital and family counseling, same-sex blessings, spiritual growth, addiction, loss, and grief.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Draw on the resources of scripture, as well as tradition as embodied in the Pastoral Offices of the Book of Common Prayer and reason as understood by contemporary science to provide pastoral care in a congregational or institutional setting

M. Div. SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Develop and lead theologically sound, personally enriching, and culturally sensitive liturgies for pastoral ministry

M. Div. SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

PRXT 655: PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Using your understanding of selected Pastoral Care and Counseling (PC&C) theories and images, as well as your previous experiences with and knowledge of PC&C, you will be invited to identify, discuss, and demonstrate the theology, presence, habits, and skills needed for effective functioning in various pastoral situations. In addition, you will be asked to articulate your reasons for choosing a particular course of action in a given situation. Finally, you will be invited to share the insights you are gaining with respect to your pastoral strengths, growing edges, functioning, and identity.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, you will be able to: State the basic concepts of selected Pastoral Care and Counseling theories*

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Effective Communication (3.1) Articulate your theology of pastoral care

MDiv SLOs: Theology of Ministry (4.3); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Present, with two of your classmates, your best understanding of one image of pastoral care

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Discuss the image(s) of pastoral care with which you most closely identify

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Present, via a chosen medium, your image of pastoral care

MDiv SLOs: Enacting Faith (4.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Reflect on your own pastoral care and counseling strengths and growing edges

MDiv SLOs: Enacting Faith (4.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Offer examples of pastoral care and counseling challenges and learnings from your own experience MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Enacting Faith (4.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Share your wisdom, life-giving practices, and other resources for pastoral care and counseling that you have accumulated over the years.

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Enacting Faith (4.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PRXT 658: RACE, CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Joe Thompson

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500 or permission of instructor & WRRE 700 – Introduction to Intercultural Competency

Christian Formation/Public Witness and Congregational Study/Pastoral Care Distributed Elective for Master in Divinity

Focusing on the histories and experiences of African Americans, this course examines how the concept of race is structured and has been structured historically, in the United States of America. It will also explore the power of race to shape social and economic relations. Multidisciplinary readings and viewings from history, literature, and sociology, as well as an engagement with current events, will serve as vehicles for reflection on the discourse of race. Students will be encouraged to consider themselves as persons embedded in particular social and racial contexts and will be invited to explore how God is calling them to advance racial justice, within the parameters of their particular experiences, background, and gifts.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Discuss the concept of race with an understanding of how it has affected the experiences of African Americans over time MDiv SLOs:

Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Examine race as a moral, theological, and ethical issue

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3) Articulate how God is calling them to help advance racial justice

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

PRXT 659: TEACHING FAITH

Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Christianity is a way of life, the life of the baptized. If, as Tertullian wrote, "Christians are fashioned, not born," what the church teaches and how it is taught matters greatly. This course focuses on the role of the church to teach and mentor the people of God as they seek to live out the Baptismal Covenant and to express their unique calling as followers of Jesus Christ. It introduces students to Christian formation as a lifelong and life-wide process and the importance of intentional Christian education in formal (church/school) and informal (home/camp/recreational) settings. This course prepares students for Christian formation leadership by using systems theory to develop sustainably, contextual education plans to nurture faith development and congregational vitality. This course is limited to 20 students.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Explore Biblical and*

theological foundations for teaching in the church and other Christian settings

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Conduct a systems analysis of a congregation (or other organization) to identify its strengths and needs for lifelong Christian formation

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Understand the foundations of sound, culturally contextual teaching and learning (pedagogy).

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Demonstrate familiarity with faith development theory across the lifespan

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2) Articulate the ministry of teaching in, and its importance to, the mission of the church

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Demonstrate competency using The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation and the Five Marks of Mission as foundations for teaching in the church

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2). Develop a sustainable Christian formation plan for a congregation

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

PRXT 660: CHRISTIAN FORMATION OF YOUTH

Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 3 credits

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

An exploration of adolescence and the identities of youth in everyday life, church, and wider culture as a significant pastoral theological concern. Using methods of practical theology, we study the changing understandings of youth across time; the formation of adolescent identities and youth culture today, the impact of consumer culture on young people, and the church's ministries with them. How can the church respond authentically to their lives while honoring the importance of tradition? We will explore models and resources for building and sustaining vibrant ministries with young people that are theologically and culturally appropriate for diverse congregational settings.

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to answer the question, "What is youth ministry?" with clarity and confidence*

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Critically examine contemporary constructions of adolescence and youth ministry MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Locate and assess the value of resources for ministry with young people in diverse ministry settings MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Articulate emerging practical theologies of youth ministry, demonstrated in the ability to conceive, document, and present a final assignment grounded in sound theory and practice

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

PRXT 670: CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND THEOLOGIES OF DISABILITY

Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course examines theologies of disability to help students articulate their own working theology of disability. It addresses practical strategies and promising pathways for moving beyond proclamations of inclusiveness and toward practices of invitation and hospitality. Students will learn about effective starting points and strategies for enabling people with disabilities and their families to participate deeply in congregational life and to experience belonging within a church community.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Comprehend various theologies of disability*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Construct and articulate a working theology of disability for themselves MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Describe and Assess modes of inclusion for people with disabilities in congregational settings MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Construct and articulate a vision for faithful ministry of people with varied abilities

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.4); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Enacting Faith (4.1); Theology of Ministry (4.3)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Promotion of Justice (3.2); Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Access quality resources to support contextualized Christian formation ministries MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (2.1)
MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (2.1)

PRXT 675: PRIESTHOOD IN CONTEXT AND PRACTICE

James Farwell

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Limited to Anglican Studies students or students in their final year

*Required for Post-Grad Diploma in Anglican Studies
Congregational Study/Pastoral Care Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity*

This course reflects on the origins, theology, and spirituality of priesthood; explores the practice of priesthood in relation to church polity, the prayer book, and pastoral norms; and considers the Episcopal Church's ecumenical agreements and dialogues, with brief attention given to the church's interreligious engagements. Intended for students in Anglican Studies and other students in their final year before ordination.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Explain the origins of ministerial orders and the theology of the 1979 ordinal, with a focus on priesthood*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Theology of Ministry (4.3)

Demonstrate an understanding of the practices that sustain priestly ministry and the expectations and obligations of the ministry context

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Rule of Life (4.2)

Understand the significance of ecumenism and interreligious cooperation and the ecumenical relationships and agreements of the Episcopal Church: MDiv SLOs: Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships (3.4)

PRXT 680: TEACHING OTHERS TO PRAY

SSJE Brothers

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

This course would explore several types of meditative and contemplative prayer, offering students opportunities to experience them first-hand. Students will also learn how they might help others grow in prayer in a variety of settings (e.g. through sermons, classes or workshops, retreats or quiet days, etc.)

PRXT 682: CLIMATE CRISIS AND PASTORAL CARE

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisite(s): PRXT 500

This course addresses climate crises through spiritual care, enabling students to empathically listen to colonial trauma and its aftermath in the neoliberal era. It empowers students to frame their pastoral care approaches through postcolonial and intersectional analysis of ecological trauma and oppression so that they can construct embodied eco-care to heal, reconcile, and do justice for the body, the land, and the environment.

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PRXT 683: PASTORAL CARE FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN

Rode Molla

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Congregational Study/Pastoral Care Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Children's living web – family, schools, churches, nation-states, and the environment—could be places that nurture children's holistic development or cause risks that hinder children's God-given rights. In the 21st century, even though children face trauma due to psychological, social, and political instabilities and the market economy, there are few conversations about how pastors, educators, ministers, or parents can care for children. Therefore, this course will examine children's risks (trauma, poverty, sexual abuse, street children, rape, sickness, psychological crisis, and gun violence) through empirical practical theology, pastoral care, and theological methods. Students will develop practical theological interpretative skills about psychological, physical, environmental, social, and political risks children face and be able to construct pastoral care methods and approaches to provide holistic and contextual ministry and care for at-risk children.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Analyze the risks that children are facing through pastoral care and practical theological methods*

Use pastoral care methods to construct a holistic care ministry that empowers and nurtures at-risk children MDiv SLOs:

Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Understand the risks that children face in diverse contexts, cultures, and ministerial settings MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Utilize resources that will enable them to advocate for at-risk children

MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

Integrate theory and praxis to write their pastoral care paper that will enable them to provide care for at-risk children in their context

MDiv SLOs: Theology of Ministry (4.1)

MA SLOs: Theology of Ministry (4.1)

Analyze the psychological, social, spiritual, and political challenges that children are facing in diverse contexts

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

PRXT 684: PUBLIC AND POLITICAL PASTORAL CARE

Rode Molla

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Congregational Study/Pastoral Care Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Political and Public Pastoral Care claims that caring for the individual is inseparable from attending to individuals'

and communities' political and public needs. Therefore, this course will explore intercultural, postcolonial, political, feminist, and womanist pastoral care paradigms to articulate care in political spaces and will invite students to frame their pastoral care leadership and ministry by understanding macro and micro systems that cause economic, political, cultural, and psychological challenges for individuals and communities. Students will attempt to develop pastoral formation and competency skills of self-differentiation, reflexivity, emphatic listening, and intercultural care through class discussions, readings, journaling, role play, classroom practices, group work, and public care praxes. These pastoral formations and competency skills will enable students to demonstrate an interculturally liberative care approach for self, individuals, and communities in religious, cultural, and institutional contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Critically understand and analyze diverse paradigms of pastoral care*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Demonstrate integrated self-reflexivity in identifying life-giving and life-limiting embodied and embedded individual, cultural, and religious stories, norms, and practices

MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

Demonstrate pastoral competency skills of self-differentiation, empathic listening, and interpretive skills MDiv SLOs:

Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis (5.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis (5.2)

Be able to recommend and provide an intercultural pastoral care approach to address the social, economic, political, and spiritual webs of communities and individuals in the congregation, parachurch ministry, and religious and institutional contexts.

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Context (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Context (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

PRXT 685: SPIRITUALITY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Elizabeth DeGaynor, Rode Molla

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

The spirituality of children and families begins from God's love and gets nurtured through relational and life-giving Christian practices. Thus, in this course, attention will be given to interdisciplinary analysis and practical theological reflection to ask and describe: what is the spirituality of children and families, why does the spirituality of children and families matter, what are the individual and communal systems that obscure their holistic spiritual flourishing, and how can we nurture their spiritual development? The course will decolonize social, political, and spiritual practices that obscure the holistic development of children and

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

families through Jerome Berryman's Godly Play and Feminist theologians' critical approach to racial, patriarchal, political, and social impositions on the spirituality of children and families. Students will strive to articulate a theology of care and praxis that informs their varied ministries with children and families in conversation with scripture, vocation, children's education and ministry, and pastoral care.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Use interdisciplinary approaches to describe the spirituality of families and children*

MDiv SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis (5.2) MASLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis (5.2)

Utilize theological and practical methods to analyze the challenges of the children and family ministries in their communities, organizations, and faith traditions

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

Reflect on the complexity of children and families' lived experiences to construct a ministry of care and educational praxis for nurturing the spirituality of children and families.

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2) MA

SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Develop intercultural competence to frame ministry for children & families in postcolonial and postmodern contexts MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Context (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Context (2.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

PRXT 686: FORMING ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course invites students to engage in prophetic advocacy and analyze advocacy for children through a postcolonial lens: Can Children speak? Do they have a voice? Where do they speak? In the neoliberal era, advocating for children is shaped through an individual understanding of the child that neglects the familial, communal, and societal challenges that impact the child and his/her/their living experiences. So, in this course, we examine the colonial and neoliberal paternalistic approaches to rights, theologies, and religions that colonize children's voices and create gendered, race, and class inequities in the everyday lives of children and their families. Constructing a theology that claims children's agency as their liberation, which is holistic and communal, the course attempts to form advocates for children who urge equity, justice, and liberation. In the end, students will be skilled in practicing interdisciplinary analyses of the lives of children and construct political theologies of care that call and empower churches, communities, and societies to advocate for the holistic liberation of children.

PRXT 700: ADVANCED TEACHING FAITH

Elizabeth DeGaynor, Rode Molla

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: PRXT 500

Christian Formation/Public Witness Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

WRRE 500: ADVANCED ENGLISH FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES I

Sharon Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

This course provides the opportunity to explore foundational theological resources and integrate this reading with advanced English language and grammar work, specifically relating to the field of theology. The student is encouraged to apply the style, approach, and argument structure they meet in the theological readings they explore. Students will then implement strategies to improve and deepen their own written, academic English and communicate their theological reflections effectively. This class will meet weekly during the semester. Students are encouraged to select theological materials of interest to them and integrate these resources with advanced, academic English language and grammar resources. Appropriate reading, language, grammar, and written tasks are set each week and will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to describe a variety of examples of academic English set within a theological context*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Apply techniques and approaches gleaned from a diverse range of theological materials MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

Implement strategies to improve written, academic English for theological studies MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Communicate their theological reflection and engagement with confidence MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

WRRE 501: ADVANCED ENGLISH FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES II

Sharon Heaney

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: WRRE 500

Building on the foundation of Advanced Academic English for Theological Studies I in the Fall Semester, this course provides the opportunity to further explore a diverse range of theological resources and integrate this reading with advanced English language and grammar work, specifically relating to the field of theology. The student is encouraged not only to apply the style, approach, and argument structure they meet in the theological readings they explore but also to bring issues of translation and interpretation into the dialogue. Students will continue to implement strategies to improve and deepen their own written, academic English and communicate their theological reflections effectively.

This class will meet weekly during the semester. Theological materials from diverse language communities will be studied and integrated with advanced, academic English language and grammar resources. Appropriate reading, language, grammar, and written tasks are set each week and will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of each student. Students will also be encouraged to translate and interpret theological resources, theological reflection, prayers, liturgy, and music from their first language during the class.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Describe a variety of examples of academic English set within a theological context*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Apply techniques and approaches gleaned from a diverse range of theological materials MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1)

Implement strategies to improve written, academic English for theological studies MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Communicate their theological reflection and engagement with confidence MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

WRRE 505: THE ART OF WRITING THEOLOGICALLY

Susan Sevier

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

International Students and ESL Students only

This course is designed for international and ESL students seeking to strengthen their theological academic writing skills in a seminary context. Students will be provided with opportunities to examine a variety of theological writing. Each student will be encouraged to develop strategies for improving their own writing skills through participation in class activities and written exercises. This written work will be complemented by oral and aural language work to give students confidence as they engage with those they meet in a seminary context.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Differentiate between the varieties of approaches in theological writing*

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Implement strategies to improve their own writing skills for a theological context MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

Engage more confidently with those they meet in the Seminary context

MDiv SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4); Community Membership (4.5)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

WRITING AND RESEARCH

WRRE 510: INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

Sharon Heaney

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: none

Required for all Master of Arts programs

Required for Pathway to Ministry

This course is required for all Pathway to Ministry and MA students and is open to all Master's-level students at VTS who would like a practical and active engagement with the issues of theological research and writing. This course will strengthen the skills of academic research and writing in a theological context. Students will learn to use research libraries and resources effectively and with confidence to prepare their written assignments with clarity, depth, and academic integrity. This class is an opportunity to be guided through the process of researching and writing a piece of work on a theological subject the student has chosen.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Navigate the complex environment of theological resources*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Explain the practical process involved in theological research

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Implement strategies for theological writing

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Produce a sustained research paper that builds on the skills of formulating a clear thesis statement, developing a credible theological argument, refining one's own work, and demonstrating academic integrity

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

WRRE 600: ADVANCED THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

Sharon Heaney, Elizabeth DeGaynor

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None

Required for all Master of Arts programs

This course is required for all graduating MA students and is open to all Master's-level students at VTS who would like an advanced, practical, and active engagement with the issues of theological research and writing. This course will strengthen the advanced skills of academic research and writing in a theological context with specific reference to the students' Capstone Project, Senior Thesis, or a piece of Extended Research of choice. Students will develop their competence in using research libraries and resources effectively with clarity, depth, and academic integrity. This class is an opportunity to be guided through the active process of researching and writing the extended piece of work on a theological subject the student has chosen.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Competently navigate the complex environment of theological resources*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Demonstrate the practical process involved in theological research

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Interdisciplinary Integration (5.1); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Confidently implement strategies for theological writing MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Effective Communication (3.1)

Produce a first completed draft of their MA Capstone Project or MDiv Senior Thesis that builds on the skills of formulating a clear thesis statement, developing a credible theological argument, refining one's own work, and demonstrating academic integrity

MDiv SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.4)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

WRITING AND RESEARCH

WRSH 500: INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY, MUSIC, AND PROCLAMATION

James Farwell, Shawn Strout, Ruthanna Hooke, Marty Wheeler Burnett

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: none

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Pathway to Ministry

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of liturgy, church music, and Scriptural proclamation. The course includes vocal and physical training to promote the full engagement of body and voice in public worship leadership, equipping students to lead public worship prayerfully and with authority. It also provides basic musical instruction. The section meeting allows time for students to practice and be coached on their public reading of Scripture.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to To develop skills required for the art of public reading of Scripture.*

MDiv SLO: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

To learn methods of vocal and physical expression that allow the Word of God and public liturgies to be more fully spoken and heard.

MDiv SLO: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

To bear effective witness to God's Word through the public reading of Scripture and liturgy with passion, authority, and authenticity.

MDiv SLO: Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

To craft effective Prayers of the People that meet prayer book requirements MDiv SLO: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

To develop the ability to teach others to read Scripture and lead prayers effectively to help form people in this ministry.

MDiv SLO: Ministerial Leadership (3.3) To demonstrate knowledge of basic music notation

MDiv SLO: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

WRSH 501: INTRODUCTION TO HOMILETICS

Ruthanna Hooke, other faculty

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 500, two semesters of an Old Testament or New Testament introductory course, or permission of instructor

Required for Master of Divinity

This course seeks to set a foundation for a lifelong approach to preaching in which preachers proclaim the Good News with full engagement of body, mind, and spirit. Since preaching is based on a living relationship with God, the spirituality of preaching is central to the course, as is the formation of a community of preachers as the context in which preachers find their voice.

The course teaches preachers to cultivate the preaching imagination by integrating scriptural exegesis, knowledge of the Christian tradition, and interpretation of congregational and cultural contexts with the preacher's own embodied identity and cultural particularity. Students not only develop their skills in the art and craft of preaching but also articulate their theology of preaching—that is, why they preach.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Interpret scripture, the human condition, and social contexts in relationship to preaching*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) Craft and speak sermons that proclaim the Good News meaningfully to listeners

MDiv SLOs Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Reflect on sermons in group settings and support classmates as they learn to preach MDiv SLO: Community Membership (4.5)

Form an understanding of preaching as a way of life rooted in a relationship with God, and develop practices that support that way of life

MDiv SLOs: Enacting Faith (4.1); Rule of Life (4.2)

MA SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2)

Embody sermons with confidence, freedom, and authenticity

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Sketch the contours of a personal theology of preaching that

displays the development of the preaching imagination MDiv

SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theology of Ministry (4.3); Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

WRSH 505: SEMINARY CHOIR

Marty Wheeler Burnett

Credit Hours: 0.5

Prerequisites: None. Open to all students without audition

Seminary Choir enriches worship in Immanuel Chapel through the leadership of congregational song and the offering of anthems. The choir typically sings for a weekly community Eucharist and special occasions during the semester.

Weekly rehearsals focus on the preparation of music for worship. As part of this preparation, students will experience:

- The seasonal, scriptural, and thematic relationship of music to the liturgy
- Historical background, style, and cultural context of music
- Contributions of composers, arrangers, authors, translators, and poets to the Church's song
- Increased familiarity with the contents of *The Hymnal 1982* and its supplements
- A deeper understanding of the role and ministry of the choir in a worshipping community
- Seminary Choir allows students to develop vocal skills and technique, observe methods of teaching new music, and participate in the cooperative artistic endeavor of choral singing.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Understand the Church's song from textual, musical, liturgical, and historical perspectives*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

WORSHIP

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)
Explore the musical resources found in The Hymnal 1982 and its supplements

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

Experience the role of the choir in worship through active participation MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

WRSH 510: LITURGICAL HISTORY AND THEOLOGY

James Farwell, Shawn Strout

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 500 or permission of instructor

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Post-Grad Diploma in Anglican Studies

After an introduction to ritual and Christian worship as liturgy and theology, this course surveys the history of Christian liturgy; traces the development of the prayer book tradition; introduces the authorized liturgical resources of the Episcopal Church; and explores the content of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer with some attention to Enriching Our Worship, Vol.1. The focus is on Baptism, Eucharist, Office, Proper Liturgies, Orders, and the Calendar.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Explain the basic history of the major public rites*

MDiv SLOs: Theology of Liturgy (5.1); Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Identify the organizing theology of the 1979 Prayer Book

MDiv SLOs: Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Demonstrate familiarity with the structure, elements, and rubrics of the major public rites and use of the calendar MDiv SLOs: Theology of Liturgy (5.1); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

Express an understanding of Orders and their relationship to the ministry of the Baptized MDiv SLOs: Theology of Liturgy (5.1)
Theology of Ministry (4.3)

WRSH 515: LITURGICAL MUSIC

Marty Wheeler Burnett

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: WRSH 500 or permission of instructor

Required for Master of Divinity and Anglican Studies

This course explores church music through a variety of lenses: understanding its history, listening, and responding to musical examples, and addressing practical issues for clergy and laity. An introduction to music notation will be offered, followed by the opportunity to develop vocal skills through singing and chanting. Emphasis will be placed on experiencing the breadth and diversity of sacred music, as well as encouraging personal musical development.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Understand the heritage of Christian music, including the cultural context*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Articulate the role of music in worship, formation, and leadership

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Demonstrate knowledge of basic music notation

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

Develop vocal skills by accurately singing assigned chants MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

WRSH 600: LITURGICAL THEOLOGY AND PERFORMANCE

James Farwell, Shawn Strout

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 510

Required for Master of Divinity

Required for Post-Grad Diploma in Anglican Studies

This course explores the theology of sacraments in general and then works through the liturgical and sacramental theology, planning, and performance of all authorized liturgical resources of the Episcopal Church, with emphasis on the public rites. The focus is on excellence in liturgical practice, the capacity to analyze and function in sacred space, and competence for catechesis.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Demonstrate knowledge of the authorized liturgical resources of the Episcopal Church*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Articulate a theology of the sacraments and rites of the Episcopal Church MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Develop a coherent learning experience for a parish, school or other ecclesial community

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theology of Liturgy (5.1); Ministerial Leadership (3.3)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2) Effectively plan and preside at font and altar

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2); Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MA SLOs: Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

WRSH 601: PREACHING IN A TIME OF ECO-CRISIS

Ruthanna Hooke

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: WRSH 501 or permission of instructor

Homiletics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course provides resources for preaching on one of the most pressing issues of our time—the ecological crisis caused by climate change, habitat loss, deforestation, and pollution. The course provides background knowledge on the environmental issues currently putting our planet in peril, includes the study of theological and scriptural resources for preaching on this crisis, and involves the exploration of strategies for addressing these topics that will allow these difficult messages to be hearable. Students will also consider the emotional and spiritual weight of preaching on environmental justice and develop strategies for preaching on these issues that offer hope and promote action.

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

WORSHIP

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of the course, the student will be able to:*

Preach sermons that evince a solid understanding of the scientific, political, and economic issues driving the current environmental crisis

MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1)

Preach sermons that draw effectively on theological and scriptural resources to address environmental issues MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Promotion of Justice (3.2)

Preach sermons that provide hope and motivate action to address ecological crisis MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

WRSH 602: THE EUCHARIST

James Farwell

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 510

We will explore the sacrament of the Eucharist in three movements. First, we will trace the development of the rites in East and West with attention to principal themes in sacramental theology. Second, we will consider three interpretive accounts of the Eucharist from different ecclesial traditions. Finally, we will consider contemporary issues connected to Eucharistic themes and theologies and relevant to pastoral leadership and practice. Issues to be explored include sacrifice and violence; suffering; race; liturgical inculturation; evangelism and hospitality; interreligious engagement; and digital worship.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of the Eucharist*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) Articulate a theology of the Eucharist

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Reflect and strategize on a contemporary issue or concern in ecclesial or cultural life within the frame of Eucharistic themes

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Articulation of the Faith (3.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

WRSH 603: EMBODYING THE SERMON: VOCAL AND PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR PREACHERS

Ruthanna Hooke

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 501 or permission of instructor
Homiletics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course is for preachers who wish to improve their skills in the embodiment and delivery of their sermons. The course will focus on teaching vocal and physical skills which will enhance the preacher's ability to be fully present when preaching, and hence able to express the full range of the thoughts and feelings contained in the sermon. The course will also include opportunities to preach and to receive feedback on aspects of your performance of the sermon.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Describe in theological terms the importance of the body's full presence and engagement in the sermon*

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Learn vocal and physical exercises that can be used to enhance the expressive use of the voice and body in preaching MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Develop the ability to express in preaching the full range of thoughts and feeling found in Scripture MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Cultivate greater authenticity and authority in their preaching

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Self-Knowledge and Personal Growth (4.1) Be more fully present in the preaching event

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

WRSH 605: SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

Shawn Strout

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 501 or permission of instructor

WRSH 608: MINISTERING AND PREACHING THE PASTORAL OFFICES

Shawn Strout

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 501 or permission of instructor
Homiletics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course will prepare students to minister and preach the pastoral offices (baptism, confirmation, marriage, reconciliation of a penitent, ministries to the sick and dying, and burial). The course will approach these offices from an ecumenical and intercultural perspective. Students will consider each office's historical context, theological insights, cultural connections, and pastoral perspectives. They will also learn to construct and deliver baptismal, marital, and funeral sermons.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *at the end of this course, the student will be able to: Demonstrate knowledge of the prayer book offices*

MDiv SLOs: 1.1 Knowledge of Tradition; 1.2 Use of Tradition 5.1 Theology of Liturgy

MA SLOs: 1.1 Knowledge of Tradition; 1.2 Use of Tradition

Navigate the important cultural connections inherent in the Prayer Book Offices MDiv SLOs: 2.1 Awareness of Cultural Contexts; 2.2 Intercultural Literacy

MA SLOs: 2.1 Awareness of Cultural Contexts; 2.2 Intercultural Literacy

Develop pastoral skills for ministering the Prayer Book Offices

MDiv SLOs: 3.1 Articulation of Faith; 3.3 Ministerial Leadership

MA SLOs: 3.1 Effective Communication

Effectively preach sermons for baptisms, weddings, and funerals

MDiv SLOs: 5.2 Liturgical Leadership

MA SLOs: 5.2 Theory and Praxis Integration

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

WORSHIP

WRSH 610: HYMNODY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Marty Wheeler Burnett

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 515 or permission of instructor

This course offers an introduction to Christian hymnology, exploring the Church's song from its earliest forms through modern developments. The class will focus primarily on The Hymnal 1982 and its supplements (Lift Every Voice and Sing II, Wonder, Love, and Praise, and Voices Found). Emphasis will be placed on experiencing and appreciating the breadth and diversity of Christian hymnody, as well as practical methods for expanding the repertoire of congregational songs.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

Understand the Church's song from textual, musical, liturgical, and historical perspectives

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Develop a practical working knowledge of the resources found in The Hymnal 1982, its Appendix, supplements, and other related collections published since The Hymnal 1982

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

Explore approaches to teaching hymns in a parish setting MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

WRSH 611: SHAPERS OF THE HYMNAL 1982

Marty Wheeler Burnett

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: WRSH 500 or permission of instructor

The Hymnal 1982 is a landmark publication that has shaped the Church's song and provided a wealth of musical resources. Meet the poets, composers, clergy, musicians, liturgists, and scholars who contributed to this influential book, and hear their insights about what has worked well – and the changes they envision for the future. Class sessions will feature lectures, interviews, discussion, and singing. Videos and readings will be assigned in preparation for each class session. Open to auditors.

Course Format: In person, seminar style, 1 session per week, 80 minutes, two written reflection papers. (Papers are not required for auditors.)

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Understand the Church's song from textual, musical, liturgical, and historical perspectives*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

Develop a practical working knowledge of the resources found in The Hymnal 1982

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

WRSH 612: WOMEN IN CHURCH MUSIC

Marty Wheeler Burnett

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: WRSH 500 or permission of instructor

WRSH 615-2: BIBLICAL STORYTELLING FOR PERFORMANCE

Ruthanna Hooke

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 501 or permission of instructor
Homiletics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Biblical storytelling is a course for preachers and for all who wish to discover the liveliness of the Word of God in scripture. In this course, we will learn by heart and tell a range of stories from scripture that tell the story of our Christian faith from Genesis to Revelation. Throughout the course, we will engage in techniques of performance that enable us to be more fully present, passionate, and expressive in our communication of sacred stories. Some years will focus on telling the story of sacred space in scripture—from the sacred space of Eden to the Promised Land and the temple, to Jesus Christ as the new temple, to the Eucharist as sacred space, and the vision of the new heaven and earth in Revelation. One aspect of telling this story is to heighten our sense of responsibility to care for creation as a sacred space, particularly in this time of ecological crisis. Participants will create an ensemble production of this story, to be offered to the seminary community after this course. The goal of the course is to renew and deepen our relationship with scripture so that this relationship can inform our preaching in life-giving ways.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Gain a deeper sense of the shape and the themes of the story of salvation history*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Have an ability to embody this story with skillful use of voice, body, movement, gesture, staging, and blocking—exhibiting passion, authenticity, and authority in the telling of this story

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Develop their storytelling ability, including a deeper knowledge of what makes for a good story, and good storytelling, and a developing mastery of these skills

MDiv SLO: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

Garner a deeper sense that this story is our own story, and an ability to tell the story so that those who hear it feel that it is their story also, capable of making sense and making meaning of our lives

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2); Enacting Faith (4.1)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Obtain an experience of the value of telling this story as an ensemble; an appreciation that each voice is necessary for the full proclamation of the story

MDiv SLOs: Community Membership (4.5)

Possess the tools to use in their future ministry for biblical storytelling MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

WORSHIP

WRSH 620: SCHOLA CANTORUM

Marty Wheeler Burnett

Credit Hours: 0.5

Prerequisites: 1 semester of WRSH 505 or equivalent choral experience and permission of instructor. Students must be concurrently enrolled in WRSH 505 to register for this course.

The Schola Cantorum enriches worship in Immanuel Chapel through the leadership of congregational song, the offering of anthems, and the singing of choral services such as Evensong and Compline. This smaller chamber ensemble sings at selected liturgies throughout the semester and may also sing for special seminary events. Students are selected by audition from the Seminary Choir.

This course is designed for experienced singers and develops advanced choral music skills. In Schola, students develop vocal technique, ensemble skills, performance skills, and knowledge of sacred choral repertoire and chant. Students are expected to prepare assigned music before each class and work cooperatively with the director and other students.

Weekly rehearsals focus on the preparation of music for worship. As part of this preparation, students will experience:

- The seasonal, scriptural, and thematic relationship of music to the liturgy
- Historical background, style, and cultural context of music
- Contributions of composers, arrangers, authors, translators, and poets to the Church's song
- Increased familiarity with the contents of The Hymnal 1982 and its supplements
- A deeper understanding of the role and ministry of the choir in a worshipping community
- Schola Cantorum provides additional opportunities for students to observe methods of teaching new music and participate in the cooperative artistic endeavor of choral singing.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to Understand the Church's song from textual, musical, liturgical, and historical perspectives*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2); Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Intercultural Literacy (2.2)
Explore the musical resources found in The Hymnal 1982 and its supplements

MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

Experience the role of the choir in worship through active participation MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Arts (5.3)

WRSH 622: LITURGY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUFFERING, EVIL, AND TRAUMA

James Farwell

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 500

This course considers suffering, evil, and trauma, from the dual standpoint of theological reflection and pastoral

liturgical practice. What do we mean by these different terms – suffering, evil, and trauma? How does liturgy perform the meaning of suffering, evil, and trauma? What are the liturgical practices relevant to terminal illness, accident, catastrophe, evil, and trauma? How does one plan and perform such liturgies with pastoral sensitivity and understanding?

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

Develop a deeper understanding of suffering, evil, and trauma (and their differences) and articulate a theological account of these realities

MDiv SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

MA SLOs: Use of Tradition (1.2)

Demonstrate knowledge of the liturgical rites and practices relevant to these realities of human experience and the pastoral ability to use them

MDiv SLOs: Ministerial Leadership (3.3); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

WRSH 625: THE LITURGIES OF LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER

James Farwell

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 500

The Proper Liturgies for Special Days are the key to the theology of the Book of Common Prayer 1979; their presence in the prayer book is an index of the cultural context of the contemporary church; and they are powerful liturgical practices when performed well. This course explores the history, theology, and performance of these rites. This course is limited to 20 students.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to:*

Trace the origins, history, and recovery of the rites with particular attention to the Anglican tradition and the Episcopal Church

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1)

Articulate the theological and cultural significance of the rites in the modern west MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

Prepare and execute the rites in light of theology and best practices MDiv SLOs: Liturgical Leadership (5.2)

WRSH 632: PREACHING EVERY WEEK

Kevin Vandiver

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 501

This course is open to Anglican Studies Students if they have taken homiletics elsewhere, and MDiv Seniors.

Homiletics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course is designed to prepare students for the weekly discipline of sermon preparation. Through lectures, class discussions, and a preaching laboratory, they will develop skill sets in exegeting both Scripture and congregations for sermon preparation, preaching the liturgical calendar, using a lectionary as a resource for sermon preparation,

MASTER'S-LEVEL COURSES

WORSHIP

and developing a working method for series preaching and pastor's choice scriptural selections. Students will prepare and preach four sermons during the class as a way of preparing them for the challenges involved in the crafting and delivery of sermons on a sustained basis.

WRSH 650: PREACHING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Stephen Cook and other faculty

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: BIBL 501, WRSH 500, and WRSH 501
Homiletics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

Preaching the Old Testament serves as an advanced, integrative course that brings together competencies developed in biblical interpretation and introductory homiletics. While students often study Scripture and preaching in separate curricular contexts, this course intentionally unites the two disciplines in sustained practice. Its focus on the Hebrew Bible addresses a persistent pedagogical and ministerial challenge: the difficulty many preachers experience in confidently proclaiming Old Testament texts with theological depth, interpretive integrity, and pastoral relevance.

WRSH 700: PREACHING IN THE ANGLICAN TRADITION

Ruthanna Hooke

Credit Hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: WRSH 501 or permission of instructor
Homiletics Distributed Elective for Master of Divinity

This course aims to mine the riches of the Anglican preaching tradition. The course will set a theological framework for Anglican preaching by putting preaching in conversation with sacramental theology, grounded in a theology of the Incarnation and doctrines of the Trinity. The course will also consider the links between preaching and the arts, a particularly vibrant aspect of the Anglican preaching tradition. Other topics include the mystical tradition and its influence on Anglican preaching, Anglican social thought in the theology and practice of preaching, preaching and liturgy, and preaching the doctrine of creation. Students will put these resources to use in crafting and delivering sermons that draw from these rich veins of thought and practice.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Develop a personal theology of preaching that draws from Anglican understandings of preaching*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); Theology of Ministry (4.3); Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2)

Craft and speak sermons that make expressive use of the arts

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

Draw from the tradition of Anglican social thought to create sermons that offer a witness for social justice
MDiv SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Promotion of Justice (3.2)

Reflect on sermons in group settings and support classmates as they learn to preach
MDiv SLO: Community Membership (4.5)
Form an understanding of preaching as a way of life rooted in a relationship with God, and develop practices that support that way of life

MDiv SLOs: Enacting Faith (4.1); Rule of Life (4.2)

MA SLOs: Rule of Life (4.2)

Develop skills in sermon delivery that are inspired by understanding preaching as sacramental and embodied
MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1); Liturgical Leadership (5.2)
MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1)

WRSH 707: LITURGY AND CULTURE

Shawn Strout

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: WRSH 500 or permission of the instructor

This seminar will discuss the interrelationship between liturgy and culture through the framework of inculturation. Topics to be discussed include liturgy and gender identity, race/ethnicity, queering the liturgy, the new cosmology, creation care, and social justice.

Course Learning Outcomes (tied to SLOs): *At the end of this course, the student will be able to: Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between incarnational theology, inculturation, and liturgy*

MDiv SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1); Use of Tradition (1.2); and Theology of Liturgy (5.1)

MA SLOs: Knowledge of Tradition (1.1) and Use of Tradition (1.2)

Articulate the nuances of gender, racial/ethnic, and sexual orientation identity in relationship to the liturgy
MDiv SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) and Intercultural Literacy (2.2)

MA SLOs: Awareness of Cultural Contexts (2.1) and Intercultural Literacy (2.2) Reflect on contemporary cultural issues regarding the liturgy

MDiv SLOs: Articulation of the Faith (3.1) and Promotion of Justice (3.2)

MA SLOs: Effective Communication (3.1) and Promotion of Justice (3.2) Craft a liturgy that embodies the interrelationship of liturgy and culture

MDiv SLOs: Theology of Liturgy (5.1); Liturgical Leadership (5.2); and Liturgical Arts (5.3)

MA SLO: Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

XXXX 801-804: THESIS AND SUMMATIVE CAPSTONE PROJECT

See Guidelines in Learning at VTS.

Students in any Master's-level program may write a thesis. Students in the MA program must complete a Summative Project in their field of concentration.

MA SLOs: Theory and Praxis Integration (5.2)

DOCTORAL LEVEL COURSES

BIBLE

BIBL 910: BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Credit Hours: 2.0

An exploration and immersion in biblical texts, and the foundations they have set for different expressions of Christian spirituality. The course emphasizes close exegetical and hermeneutical work, including intensive engagement with specific texts determined by the instructor.

BIBL 921: SACRED TEXTS AND EDUCATION

Credit Hours: 2.0

An ongoing challenge in school and college education is the role of sacred texts in the curriculum. The course employs different educational approaches and models in the study of specific biblical and other sacred texts as a means of exploring a variety of ways that scripture can be engaged, thereby providing a platform upon which teachers can design new courses and redesign existing courses that use scripture.

BIBL 925: FOUNDATION OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course explores visions of community and practices of mission that are informed by New Testament accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. Through engaging theological readings of scripture, students will come to understand how the social locations of Jesus' ministry and the emphasis the New Testament writers give to Jesus as God-with-us provide a resource for critical reflection and application of ministry in parish and other settings.

BIBL 945: SCRIPTURE AND MINISTRY SEMINAR

Credit Hours: 2.0

This seminar course is offered periodically with a focus on varying biblical subjects as they relate to ministry, changing in relation to instructor interests.

CHURCH AND WITNESS

CHWT 911: INTERPRETATION AND CONTEMPLATION IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course explores defining themes and approaches to the study of Christian spirituality through an introduction to theories of interpretation, an examination of selected classic texts, and engagement with contemplative spiritual practices. A core course for Doctor of Ministry students in the Christian spirituality track, the Foundations course also holds relevance for those studying leadership and education.

CHWT 912: HISTORICAL EXPRESSIONS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course introduces students to many of the most significant theologians and practitioners in the history of spirituality. Extending from late antiquity through the early modern period, we will examine figures important to Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant traditions of Christian spirituality within a broad historical framework. Our discussions of particular practices within Christian spirituality will parallel the other courses in the Foundations sequence.

CHWT 913: CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course offers an overview of contemporary Christian spirituality. We will focus on the lived experience of faith in contemporary contexts giving particular attention to the witness of feminist spirituality, liberationist spirituality, African American spirituality, and the intersection of spirituality with syncretism. Students will engage in spiritual practices and personal reflection to complement academic study.

CHWT 930: MORAL AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Credit Hours: 2.0

The institutional leader is called upon, virtually every day, to make decisions based on competing goods and the conflicting self-interests of different constituencies. This course examines the role that character, virtue, ethical decision-making, and integrity play in the leadership process, as well as how leaders can help to shape the moral identity of an institution.

CHWT 941: THE ARTS IN SPIRITUALITY, LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course will introduce the participants to both the theological and practical dimensions of arts ministry in the Christian tradition. Throughout the course, there will be opportunities to make, appreciate, and reflect on various art forms as they are incorporated into spiritual life, liturgy, and ministry. Featured art forms include church architecture, the visual arts, music, dance, the literary arts, theatre, and

film. The goals of the course are: (1) to help the participants understand important themes in the "Great Conversation" about Christianity and the arts from the perspective of artists and theologians; (2) to help widen the vision and capabilities of the participants as they consider how to incorporate the arts into spiritual life, liturgy, and ministries of the church; (3) to awaken the participants to new or buried creative impulses in their own lives.

CHWT 946: DYNAMICS OF CHANGE AND CONFLICT

Credit Hours: 2.0

In this course, students and instructors explore different factors and dynamics contributing to and resulting from change and conflict. Participants examine change and conflict in a variety of social, religious, and organizational contexts. Through the practice of various approaches to effectively engage in change facilitation and management, conflict identification, conflict resolution, and appropriate and well-timed agitation, students develop new ways of leading in change and conflict.

CHWT 970: CRITICAL METHODS OF BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDY

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course provides D.Ed.Min students with an introduction to biblical and theological literature, and an immersion in fundamental methods and practices of biblical exegesis and interpretation and theological thinking and analysis.

CHWT 971: BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES I

Credit Hours: 1.0

This is a set of guided and self-directed readings courses (online) that immerses D.Ed.Min students in foundational biblical and theological texts during their first year of study. The first course is intended to provide students with a helpful introduction to an array of biblical and theological voices and perspectives over six months.

CHWT 972: BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES II

Credit Hours: 1.0

This is a set of guided and self-directed readings courses (online) that immerses D.Ed.Min students in foundational biblical and theological texts during their first year of study. The second course continues with expanding and deepening student exposure to an array of biblical and theological voices and perspectives.

CHWT 981: VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION I

Credit Hours: 1.0

This is the first course in a set of guided and self-directed readings courses (online) to immerse doctoral students in biblical, theological, philosophical, and social/psychological images and ideals of the Good Society and the Good Person. In CHWT 981, students study biblical texts and biblical scholarship over six months to discern similarities and differences within scripture in visions of the Good and of paths of transformation.

DOCTORAL LEVEL COURSES

CHURCH AND WITNESS

CHWT 982: VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION II

Credit Hours: 1.0

This is the second course in a set of guided and self-directed readings courses (online) to immerse doctoral students in biblical, theological, philosophical, and social/psychological images and ideals of the Good Society and the Good Person, from different historical, cultural, and religious contexts. In CHWT 982, students study theological texts over six months to grasp differences in visions of the personal and communal Good, and the paths of personal and societal transformation that emerge with these visions.

CHWT 983: VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION III

Credit Hours: 1.0

This is the third course in a set of guided and self-directed readings courses (online) to immerse doctoral students in biblical, theological, philosophical, and social/psychological images and ideals of the Good Society and the Good Person, from different historical, cultural, and religious contexts. In CHWT 983, over six months, students engage social, political, educational, and developmental philosophies and other interdisciplinary literature that present visions of the Good, paths of transformation, and best practices and tools to aid in facilitating transformation.

CHWT 984: VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION IV

Credit Hours: 1.0

This is the fourth course in a set of guided and self-directed readings courses (online) to immerse doctoral students in biblical, theological, philosophical, and social/psychological images and ideals of the Good Society and the Good Person, from different historical, cultural, and religious contexts. In CHWT 984, students develop their own trajectories over six months, reading literature and collecting resources that focus on a particular vision of the Good and of transformation, and that helps develop capacities and a body of tools for facilitating such focused transformation.

DOCTORAL LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PRXT 900: MINISTRY IN CONTEXT: METHODS OF DOCTORAL STUDY

Credit Hours: 2.0

The course provides students with an overview of the research practices employed in their doctoral studies at Virginia Theological Seminary. Designed for students in their first year of study, it is primarily a course in practical theology that gives frameworks for understanding a ministry context in its wholeness. The course covers the basics of qualitative research, assumptions, and practices of social sciences, and provides an introduction to the practice of action research. The research tools provide a means of discernment by which students can engage their ministry contexts with greater theological acuity.

PRXT 910: FOUNDATIONS OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course explores the visions of community and practices of mission that have shaped the ecclesia that participates in the Missio Dei. Through the study of scriptures, historical events, and theological writings, students will come to understand how people of faith in settings other than contemporary society formed communities within their cultural contexts, built bridges with surrounding groups, and pursued the works of mission. Students will take historical, sociological, theological, and ministerial approaches to analyze selected texts, key figures, pivotal events, and principal communities in the NT, and reflect together on the sense of call and direction of ministry as servant leaders of the Church today. Learning activities will include reading, research, review, presentation, discussion, and writing both online and in class.

PRXT 915: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course explores major themes in the historical and social development of education in the United States. Participants explore undergirding educational and political philosophies that have shaped various education movements, as well as an examination of how church-state relations, social and political movements, and issues of gender, race, and class have affected and been affected by education and how they relate to the work and life of the students.

PRXT 920: BUILDING EVANGELIZING COMMUNITIES

Credit Hours: 2.0

Building upon previous coursework, this course introduces students to best practices in strengthening evangelism as a fundamental practice of Christian leaders and faith communities. Students are expected to develop a plan for fostering evangelistic practice in their congregations and faith communities.

PRXT 930: GOVERNANCE AND MISSION

Credit Hours: 2.0

This course considers issues of leadership from a theological perspective. The syllabus is designed to encourage cross-disciplinary and inter-professional discussion both within and between our two cohorts. The course raises such questions as: What is pastoral leadership? How are patterns of decision-making, authority, and governance in our respective institutions compatible with our pastoral instincts and training? What resources—scriptural and spiritual, intellectual, psychological, and material—do we bring to bear as leaders when we encounter new situations or find our way through times of crisis?

PRXT 931: THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Credit Hours: 2.0

This is an in-depth interdisciplinary course exploring the interface between psychological theories of development and various systems of theology. Through examination of the human across the lifespan (with particular foci on childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood) and consideration of some key theological systems and constructs, participants map the relationships between human development and religious belief, faith, and practice. The course moves through developmental literature and theological readings toward an understanding of “developmental theology” - a dynamic understanding that concepts of God, humanity, and the nature of being and purpose change over the life course.

Application of this integrative work is expected in relation to participants’ contexts of pastoral, educational, liturgical, and organizational leadership.

PRXT 970: CASE STUDY METHOD AND INTRODUCTION

Credit Hours: 1.0

The case study method is at the heart of the VTS Doctoral Programs. In this course, students are introduced to the action-reflection approach for writing case studies that look closely at one’s own ministry-in-practice and in relation to the theology of the church and to best practices in service and leadership. The first case study is written on campus and discussed during the first residency as a way to learn and practice the art of writing and discussing case studies.

DOCTORAL LEVEL COURSES

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

PRXT 971: CASE STUDY SEMINAR

Credit Hours: 1.0 per case study and discussion

In this seminar, doctoral students present case studies in discussion groups that include other doctoral students and two instructors. Case studies are written by students with an analytic eye drawing upon practical theological methods, and are discussed intently in groups in a manner both focused and exploratory. Through case studies and discussions, students become more adept at reading the complexities and nuances of situations, and at assessing themselves in ministry and leadership in light, considering deep and wide-ranging theological and social/behavioral perspectives. This course is repeated until completion of the required number of case studies designated for a particular D.Min or D.Ed.Min track.

PRXT 975: CONTEXTUAL STUDY

Credit Hours: 4.0

This online course exposes students to a range of ways to read, understand, and assess congregations and the communities in which they are set. Each module presents a distinct perspective, and a set of exercises for gathering information and input that will broaden, deepen, and clarify understanding of the patterns, meaning systems, and structures that are part of the rich life of each student's congregation and community. By the end of this course, students will have gathered all the needed material to write a rich, insightful congregational study for their ministry contexts.

DOCTORAL LEVEL COURSES

WRITING AND RESEARCH

WWRE 992: PROJECT THESIS PROPOSAL

Credit Hours: 1.0

In this workshop, each student brings a preliminary project thesis proposal which includes a description of the problem to be addressed, a focused thesis statement, a description of the project to be designed or implemented, the method of analysis and reflection, and an annotated bibliography. The final document will meet the expectations of the faculty advisor and thesis committee.

WWRE 994: PROJECT THESIS CONTINUATION

Zero credit hours, repeating half-year registrations until project thesis defense. There is a fee for registration. Doctoral students approved to conduct their projects and write their theses must register for this course every six months, with approval from their thesis advisors, to continue as active students working toward completion of the program.

WWRE 995: PROJECT THESIS DEFENSE

Credit Hours: 6.0

The final stage of the Doctor of Ministry Program is the Project Thesis, a major undertaking that combines the integrative method of study used in the residential program, the application of ministry practice and theory in a “live” setting (the Project), and an academic paper reporting on and analyzing the design and outcome of the project (the Thesis Paper). Registration must be designated by the academic area for which the Thesis will be credited.

XXXX 961: INDEPENDENT STUDY

Credit Hours: 1.0

An Independent Study proposal must be approved by the Director of the Doctoral Program.

XXXX 962: INDEPENDENT STUDY

Credit Hours: 2.0

An Independent Study proposal must be approved by the Director of the Doctoral Program.



VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Also known as The Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia

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