



WESTERN SEMINARY



2010-2011 Academic Catalog Gospel-Centered Transformation



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Course Descriptions

Gospel-Centered Transformation

Course Descriptions

Course listings are arranged in alphabetical order by course prefix within three divisions of study.

DIVISION OF BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (DBTS)..... 107

DBS	Biblical Studies
BLS	Biblical Literature
NTS	New Testament Language and Literature
OTS	Hebrew Scripture
CHS	Historical Theology
SFS	Spiritual Formation
THS	Systematic and Biblical Theology

DIVISION OF INTERCULTURAL STUDIES (DIS) 115

DIS	Intercultural Studies
JMS	Jewish Ministry Studies

DIVISION OF PASTORAL AND CHURCH MINISTRIES (DPCM) 119

DMS	Ministerial Studies
CCL	Christian Camping Leadership
CNS	Counseling Ministry
EMS	Educational Ministry
FMS	Family Ministry Studies
ICS	Chaplaincy Ministry
MCS	Coaching Ministry Studies
MFM	Mentored Field Ministry
PCW	Pastoral Care to Women
PTS	Pastoral Ministry
YMS	Youth Ministry Studies

RESEARCH AND THESIS COURSES (RES) 127

Division of Biblical and Theological Studies (DBTS)

DBS 506 – Learning to Interpret Scripture. In this course you will study the foundational principles and interpretive procedures of the grammatico-historical method of biblical interpretation. You will also apply these principles and procedures in actual Bible study, using the English Bible. Required during the first year of M.A. or M.Div. studies. 4 credits.

DBS 507 – Advanced Hermeneutics. The purpose of this class is to investigate biblical interpretation in light of current theological, philosophical, ecclesiological, historical and social challenges. The student will be exposed to current scholarship on a variety of hermeneutical topics and will learn to both defend and demonstrate the authority of the whole of Scripture by interpreting to hear the Word of God. Enrollment limited to students granted advanced standing in DBS 506. 2 credits.

DBS 516 – Survey of Learning to Interpret Scripture. (M.A. in Counseling students only) In this course you will study the foundational principles and interpretive procedures of the grammatico-historical method of biblical interpretation. You will also apply these principles and procedures in actual Bible study, using the English Bible. Required for M.A. in Counseling students and M.A. in Intercultural Studies students only; other degree students enroll in DBS 506. 2 credits.

BIBLICAL LITERATURE (BLS)

Biblical Literature is the study of the literature of the Bible which takes into consideration the language, history, culture, and geography of the ancient world. The discipline focuses on the major sections of Scripture which are studied as to their literary, thematic, and theological contributions.

Each Biblical Literature course involves the study of the historical setting, specific purpose, and thematic development of the biblical materials with a view to identifying principles for application. Serious effort is made to discover the dynamic relevancy of the biblical materials for today.

BLS 501 – Interpreting Genesis to Song of Solomon. This initial course in biblical literature lays a foundation for the further study of the Bible by introducing the biblical covenants and God's kingdom program. Our examination of the Pentateuch will focus on the great attributes of God. The historical books will show how God works among His people. We will conclude with a consideration of the practical lessons found in the Wisdom Books and Psalms. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 4 credits.

BLS 501X – Interpreting the Old Testament I: Genesis to 2 Samuel. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 2 credits.

BLS 501Y – Interpreting the Old Testament II: 1 Kings to Song of Solomon. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 2 credits.

BLS 502 – Interpreting the Prophets and Gospels. In this course you will learn the historical background of each of the prophets and become acquainted with their distinctive contribution and modern relevance. After examining the prophecies concerning the Messiah, you will see how they are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Our focus in the Gospels will be on Matthew and John. You will study Jesus' teachings, miracles, and parables with consideration given to present day application. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 4 credits.

BLS 502X – Interpreting the Old Testament III: Isaiah to Malachi. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 2 credits.

BLS 502Y – Interpreting the New Testament I: Gospels. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 2 credits.

BLS 503 – Interpreting Acts to Revelation. Our focus in the early part of the course will be on the beginnings of the church. As we trace Paul's life, we will study his letters in the order in which they were written, giving attention to the historical and cultural settings. Special focus will be given to Paul's great teachings on salvation, justification, and sanctification. Our attention will then turn to the subject of eschatology as we examine the General Epistles and Revelation. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 4 credits.

BLS 503X – Interpreting the New Testament II: Epistles 1. The course will focus upon Acts, Galatians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Corinthians, Romans. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 2 credits.

BLS 503Y – Interpreting the New Testament III: Epistles 2. The course will focus upon Ephesians, Colossians, and 1 Timothy through the Revelation. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 506. 2 credits.

BLS 511 – Survey of Genesis to Song of Solomon. (M.A. in Counseling students only.) This initial course in biblical literature lays a foundation for the further study of the Bible by introducing the biblical covenants and God's kingdom program. Our examination of the Pentateuch will focus on the great attributes of God. The historical books will show how God works among His people. We will conclude with a consideration of the practical lessons found in the Wisdom Books and Psalms. Required for M.A. in Counseling students only; other degree students enroll in BLS 501. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 516. 2 credits.

BLS 512 – Survey of Prophets and Gospels. (M.A. in Counseling students only.) In this course you will learn the historical background of each of the prophets and become acquainted with their distinctive contribution and modern relevance. After examining the prophecies concerning the Messiah, you will see how they are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Our focus in the Gospels will be on Matthew and John. You will study Jesus' teachings, miracles, and parables with consideration given to present day application. Required for M.A. in Counseling students only; other degree students enroll in BLS 512. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 516. 2 credits.

BLS 513 – Survey of Acts to Revelation. (M.A. in Counseling students only.) Our focus in the early part of the course will be on the beginnings of the church. As we trace Paul's life, we will study his letters in the order in which they were written, giving attention to the historical and cultural settings. Special focus will be given to Paul's great teachings on salvation, justification, and sanctification. Our attention will then turn to the subject of eschatology as we examine the General Epistles and Revelation. Required for M.A. in Counseling students only; other degree students enroll in BLS 513. Recommended pre- or co-requisite: DBS 516. 2 credits.

BLS 521/621 – Genesis. This course involves a detailed study of Genesis with emphasis on the institutions, persons, and events that shaped the rest of history. Key principles of life are examined in light of further biblical amplification. 2 credits.

BLS 522/622 – The Poetical Books. An exposition of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and The Song of Solomon. The distinctive form of Hebrew poetry is noted and the central message of each book is emphasized. 2 credits.

BLS 523/623 – Isaiah. The life and times of this evangelical prophet, evaluation of his character, exposition of his message, and an examination of his culture and Messianic emphasis. 2 credits.

BLS 525/625 – Exposition of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is the last book of the Pentateuch, and as such, the canonical link between the Pentateuch and the Prophets. It is also one of the greatest books in the whole canon. Its influence on the believer's life, by admonishments concerning one's personal religion, one's walk with God, one's behavior in the larger community, is unequaled by any other book in the Bible. It is quoted over eighty times in the New Testament, and it is a book to which the early Christians also made frequent reference. A good number of manuscripts from Qumran have quotations or texts from Deuteronomy. Any serious student of the Old Testament must study and ponder this book. We will look at different issues important for the study of the book, like authorship, structure, theology, date and outlook of the book. We will examine the influence of the book on the whole Bible. 2 credits.

BLS 527 – Exposition of the Psalms. This course offers an exposition of the Psalms with attention to theology and personal application. Students will learn how to understand these poems in their formal categories and how to incorporate basic concepts from the Psalms in life and ministry. 2 credits.

BLS 528 – Exposition of Wisdom Literature. Students will explore the Old Testament wisdom books—Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs—in light of literary genre, theology, and application. 2 credits.

BLS 534/634 – Archaeology of Israel. Archaeology is not a hunt for buried treasure and museum pieces. Rather, archaeology involves the study of the material remains of antiquity. The archaeology of Israel provides background necessary for an accurate interpretation of the biblical text. In this course we will study the methods, excavations, and reports of archaeological work done in Israel. Our goal is to be able to read, evaluate, and use archaeology literature in teaching and preaching the Bible. 2 credits.

BLS 535/635 – The Life of Christ on Earth. A chronological study of the life of Christ, organizing the content of His life and ministry as given in the four Gospels and giving an interpretation of each event, saying, or segment of the ministry from the historical perspective. 2 credits.

BLS 538 – Epistle to the Romans. This course is designed to lead the student in a study of the book of Romans. The structure and argumentation of this all-important epistle will be considered. Special emphasis will be given to the major doctrinal themes and ethical issues with a view to practical application to the local church and its ministry. 2 credits.

BLS 540/640 – The Corinthian Epistles. Each letter is interpreted in light of its cultural background so as to understand clearly the nature of the problems addressed and the solutions offered. The meaning of the letters within the canon-wide concepts of Scripture is probed. Special attention is given to the interpretive aspects of Paul's use of the Old Testament both in their Jewish-Hellenistic contexts and in their implications for contemporary exegesis. 2 credits.

BLS 541 – Exposition of Galatians. Paul was engaged in a battle for the gospel in Galatians. By focusing on the interpretation of the letter, Paul's counterattack against the false teachers will be explored. Particular emphasis will also be placed on Paul's view of the law and his theology of justification. In addition, the application of the letter to the world of today will be discussed. 2 credits.

BLS 544 – Pastoral Epistles. This course is an expository study of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, with emphasis on the theological and practical relevance of the pastorals for society, for the church, and for church leadership. 2 credits.

BLS 545 – Exposition of Hebrews. This course involves the study of the book of Hebrews both synthetically and analytically. Historical context of composition and the intrinsic literary structure will receive special attention. 2 credits.

BLS 546/646 – Revelation. An evaluation of the various interpretive approaches to the book; including its relationship to other parts of the Bible; a determination of the symbolism employed; and a careful exposition of the text. Its premillennial eschatology is shown to be centered in the person and work of Christ. 2 credits.

BLS 548/648 – Apostolic History. A historical survey of the apostolic age in which the relation of the New Testament epistles to each other, and to the book of Acts, is studied. The occasion for Acts and the epistles, the chronology of the period, and the interpretation of difficult passages are explored. 2 credits.

BLS 550/650 – Biblical Cultures and Customs. Selected elements in the cultural backgrounds of both Testaments are treated in detail with emphasis upon the customs, institutions, and manners that bear most directly upon the interpretation of the Scriptures. Reconstructs cultural settings in which biblical events occurred and thereby aids students in their historical hermeneutics. 2 credits.

BLS 551/651 – Historical Geography of the Holy Land. General topographical features of Palestine and their bearing on the politics, economy, and history of the Holy Land. Sites from ancient historical documents (both biblical and extra-biblical) will be identified and examined as to their relation to biblical events in the times of both the Old and New Testaments. The course is designed to give perspective and depth to the student's appreciation of the message of God's unfolding revelation and the setting in which it took place. 2 credits.

BLS 561N – Understanding Judaism. Because Christianity is deeply rooted in the Old Testament, it is important for Christians to understand and appreciate the theology, history and customs of Judaism. The challenge for Christians is to appreciate the fact that Judaism is a religion of transition that has adapted itself to changing conditions throughout the centuries. The concept of “dual Torah” provides the basis for a growing and developing Judaism. This course will provide a foundation for understanding and appreciating Judaism. A major segment of the course is devoted to anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. 2 credits.

BLS 566F – Greece-Turkey Study Tour. This is a course designed to give the student knowledge of the Gentile world the Apostle Paul encountered as he set out on his missionary journeys. Focus will be given to Hellenistic, Roman, and Jewish cultures, as they intersected in the Mediterranean world. Study of key passages in both the book of Acts and various Pauline epistles will be made. All of this will be enriched by on site experiences, beginning with Paul’s birthplace, and ending with Paul’s ministry in Athens. On site emphases will include Ephesus, Philippi, Corinth, and Athens. In addition to the significant cities of the missionary travels of Paul, selected cities mentioned from the book of Revelation will be visited. The focus is on the movement of Christianity from its roots in first century Judaism to the Grecian-Roman world in which it expanded. 2 credits.

BLS 566G – Israel Study Program. A three-week course in the geographical and historical settings of the Bible is offered in conjunction with the Jerusalem University College. The course is taken on Mt. Zion at the Jerusalem University College campus. Guided field trips as well as class lecturers introduce the students to the geographical regions, travel routes, and archaeological remains throughout the land of Israel. Students visit such biblical sites as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, Hazor, Megiddo, and Capernaum. Overnight stays in the Negev and by the Sea of Galilee enable students to see how the Land of Israel shaped and influenced history of God’s dealings with His covenant people. 4 credits.

BLS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval of program coordinator is required. 1-4 credits.

NEW TESTAMENT LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (NTS)

The Greek language is the gateway to the interpretation of the New Testament and its application to your personal growth and ministry. The required courses provide you with grammar and vocabulary and with the ability to read basic portions of the New Testament. In the elective courses you will learn syntax while you read and interact with theologically significant passages, and you will integrate hermeneutics, exegesis and exposition. Together these courses will start you down the path of being a lifelong learner and user of the Greek text. In addition to the courses listed below, already-designed courses exist in such areas as eschatological literature, the General Epistles, critical problems, and advanced Greek grammar and reading. Although these courses are not expected to be offered in a regular classroom format over the next three years, students may request them as independent studies. Alternative areas of New Testament studies may also be pursued through the NTS 580/680 Individualized Research option described below.

NTS 501 – Functional Foundations of Greek. For students who choose not to develop the skill to read and translate the New Testament in Greek, Western Seminary offers the functional language track. It is designed to give students the practical ability to access the original Greek through the Bible Works computer program and other contemporary reference tools in a “hands on” approach to learning. In the first semester students will develop an understanding of the structure of the Greek language and the essentials of Greek grammar and syntax along with a foundational Greek vocabulary. 3 credits plus 1 hour lab. \$60 language fee. (Note: NTS 501-502 are designed to be taken in sequence.) Portland or Sacramento campuses.

NTS 502 – Functional Application of Greek. In this second semester of the functional Greek track students will develop their understanding of Greek syntax and learn the key steps of the exegetical process. They will use their skills to study the New Testament with access to the original language. By the end of the sequence, students will be able to use original language commentaries with discernment and do many steps of the exegetical process as they prepare sermons and lessons in ministry. 3 credits plus 1 hour lab. \$60 language fee. Prerequisite: NTS 501. (Note: NTS 501-502 are designed to be taken in sequence.) Portland or Sacramento campuses.

NTS 503 – Developing Foundations for Greek Exegesis. In this class the student will continue to develop the ability to read and exegete the Greek New Testament by memorizing additional Greek vocabulary, learning to parse Greek words without the use of secondary tools, and translating a number of New Testament passages with particular theological significance. Prerequisites: NTS 501 and NTS 502. 3 credits.

NTS 508 – Introducing the Foundation of Greek Exegesis. Recognizing the importance of using the original language for the interpretation of the New Testament, you will acquire a thorough foundation in biblical Greek. You will learn the essentials of grammar and an adequate vocabulary by doing exercises, by reading 1 John, and by the use of appropriate language and computer tools. 3 credits plus 1 hour lab. \$60 language fee. (Note: NTS 508-509 are designed to be taken in sequence.) Portland or San Jose campuses.

NTS 509 – Greek Reading and Syntax: Building on the Base for Exegesis. Building upon the foundation of grammar and vocabulary, you will read substantial portions of theologically significant passages in all genres of the literature of the New Testament in order to discover the value of the Greek New Testament for theological thinking and Christian living. To these passages you will apply the essentials of Greek syntax with a view to gaining an ability to think syntactically when reading the text and for solving significant doctrinal issues practical to spiritual life and ministry. Prerequisite: NTS 508. 3 credits plus 1 hour lab. \$60 language fee. Portland or San Jose campuses.

NTS 510 – Greek Exegesis: Acquiring Interpretative Skills. In this course you will bring together the skills of grammar, reading, and syntax as you develop a thorough, fifteen-step method for interpreting New Testament literature. You will gain an appreciation for various New Testament genres and textual criticism. You will produce exegetical and expositional products useful for constructing theology, teaching, preaching, and enhancing spiritual growth. Prerequisites: NTS 509. 3 credits. Portland campus.

NTS 520/620 – Exegeting Gospel Discourse Literature. Certain passages of the Gospels are significant discourses about Jesus' relation to the Law, the nature of the Kingdom, His love for His people, and His future reign. Using the Greek text, you will interpret the major discourses of Christ, focusing on the Sermon on the Mount, the Parables, and the Olivet and the Upper Room Discourses. Prerequisite: NTS 510 or the consent of the instructor. 2 credits.

NTS 524/624 – Exegeting Johannine Epistolary Literature. The nature of fellowship with God is the basis of spiritual formation. Perhaps no other Epistles deal with this as well as do these Epistles from the Disciple whom Jesus loved. Using the Greek text, you will study the Epistles of John to understand the great themes of truth and love. You will produce exegetical products including an inductive commentary and a biblical theology. You will also be introduced to the structure, authorship, style, and problem passages of the Epistles. Prerequisite: NTS 510 or consent of the instructor. 2 credits.

NTS 527/627 – Exegeting Pauline Soteriological Literature: Romans or Galatians. How to be justified and how to experience spiritual growth are the foundational concerns of Christianity. Exegeting the Greek text of either Galatians or Romans, you will trace the argument of the author and do an intensive study of the great themes of salvation and sanctification, and other matters such as the significance of the Law and the covenants for the believer. You will also study the authorship, date, structure, and place of origin of the epistle. Prerequisite: NTS 510 or consent of the instructor. 2 credits.

NTS 536/636 – Exegeting New Testament Apocalyptic Literature. The interpretation of the Apocalypse of John continues to be a challenge to the Church. Comparing the Apocalypse with its antecedents in the Old Testament and the intertestamental literature, your exegetical study will include various interpretive systems and such problems as the rapture of the Church; the relationship of the seals, trumpets and bowls; the antichrist or beast; the harlot; and the nature of both the Messianic Kingdom and the new heavens and the new earth. Prerequisite: NTS 510 or consent of the instructor. 2 credits.

NTS 537/637 – Exegeting the Book of Hebrews. Few books of the New Testament so clearly exalt the person of Jesus Christ as prophet, priest and king, and so convincingly call the believer to persevere by faith in worship of Him. Interpreting Hebrews will lead you to spiritual renewal in mind and in heart. The warning passages and the theology of the epistle are a special focus, along with the matters of authorship, date, recipients, style and vocabulary. Prerequisite: NTS 510 or consent of the instructor. 2 credits.

NTS 548/648 – Interpreting the Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Understanding how and why the New Testament quotes and alludes to the Old Testament is foundational to our faith. Such a pursuit has implications for textual criticism, hermeneutics, exegesis, theology and the spiritual life. In this course you will examine various passages where Jesus, Paul and the author of Hebrews used the Old Testament and why they did so. You will compare biblical methodology with rabbinic exegesis such as midrash, peshar and allegory. Other topics include the unity of scripture, typology, and the meaning of prophecy. Prerequisites: OTS 515 and NTS 510 or consent of the instructor. 2 credits.

NTS 552/652 – Engaging in Textual Criticism. Understanding the textual history of our New Testament enables us to evaluate English translations and the making of Greek texts. This course enables you to evaluate various methods of textual criticism, exposes you to major textual problems, and provides direct contact with facsimiles of important ancient manuscripts of the text. You will focus on building your own method of textual criticism. Prerequisite: NTS 509. 2 credits.

NTS 561/661 – Reading and Interpreting Early Patristic Literature. Reading the earliest writings to appear after our New Testament, you will gain a new appreciation for the devotion of these early heroes of the faith. Translating representative portions of the Apostolic Fathers (Didache, 1 and 2 Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, Barnabas, Hermas), you will engage in an inductive study of early Christian thought and practice, and discover such topics as gnosticism, ecclesiology, ethics, and spiritual formation. Prerequisite: NTS 508 or consent of the instructor. 2 credits.

NTS 580/680 – Individualized Research. Meeting specific needs of today's student, this elective research seminar gives you the opportunity for a significant learning experience. You craft your own course of study to enhance your preparation for personal growth and future ministry. Approval required. 1-4 credits.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE (OTS)

Courses in the area of Hebrew Scripture (the "Old" Testament) are designed to lead you into the discovery of the riches of the larger part of the Bible by a variety of means. First, you will learn the language of the Old Testament Scriptures as a means for a more authentic encounter with its meaning. Second, you will learn the manner of the Old Testament Scriptures. That is, you will discover the nuances of text and truth that are not easily translated. Together, these will serve as a means for deepening your own spiritual life before the Lord, and for enriching your ministries of His word in a wide variety of presentations. We believe the teaching of biblical languages in a practical, hands-on manner, to be an essential element in the thorough preparation for the ministry of the word by God's servants in the decades to come.

OTS 501 – Functional Foundations of Hebrew. For students who choose not to develop the skill to read and translate the Old Testament in Hebrew, Western Seminary offers the functional language track. It is designed to give students the practical ability to access the original Hebrew through the Bible Works computer program and other contemporary reference tools in a "hands on" approach to learning. In the first semester students will develop an understanding of the structure of the Hebrew language and the essentials of Hebrew grammar and syntax along with a foundational Hebrew vocabulary through a guided reading of the book of Ruth. 3 credits plus 1 hour lab. \$60 language fee.

OTS 502 – Functional Application of Hebrew. In this second semester of the functional Hebrew track students will develop their understanding of Hebrew syntax and learn the key steps of the exegetical process. They will use their skills to study the Old Testament with access to the original language. By the end of the sequence, students will be able to use original language commentaries with discernment and do many steps of the exegetical process as they prepare sermons and lessons in ministry. 3 credits plus 1 hour lab. \$60 language fee.

OTS 503 – Developing Foundations for Hebrew Exegesis. This course aims to help students develop fundamental skills for reading biblical Hebrew texts. During this course, students will memorize additional Hebrew vocabulary, parse Hebrew words, and read Hebrew text without depending on secondary tools. Prerequisites: OTS 501 and OTS 502. 3 credits.

OTS 508 – Introducing the Foundation for Hebrew Exegesis. In this class, you will acquire a good foundation of Biblical Hebrew. You will learn the basic grammar up to the strong verb. You will be introduced to the fundamentals of basic Hebrew Syntax. You will further sharpen your Hebrew skills by doing exercises, by reading the book of Ruth, by memorizing some basic vocabulary, and by the use of appropriate Hebrew language tools. 3 credits plus 1 hour lab. \$60 language fee. Portland campus.

OTS 509 – Hebrew Reading and Syntax: Building on the Base for Exegesis. A short systematic review and presentation of the grammar and syntax will be given, and then, building on the foundation of grammar and vocabulary, the grammar of the weak verb is covered. This knowledge will be further strengthened by reading the book of Jonah, and other various selected passages, with special attention to different points of syntax. An in-depth instruction is given in the use of various computer tools, which will help us in our quest for the meaning of the text. 3 credits plus 1 hour lab. \$60 language fee. Prerequisite: OTS 508 Portland campus.

OTS 510 – Hebrew Exegesis: Acquiring Interpretive Skills. This is the crowning achievement of the Hebrew study. In this class you bring all your knowledge to bear on the text to get to the meaning of the text. Through a multi-layered interpretive system, the student will be able to bring out the original meaning of the text. You will produce exegetically sound and expositively attractive products, useful for theology, teaching, preaching and your own spiritual growth. Prerequisites: OTS 508 and OTS 509. Portland campus. 3 credits.

OTS 518/618 – Exegesis in Legal Literature. The “law” of Moses was God’s great gift of grace to the people of Israel with the purpose of forming them into His holy people. In this course you will study selected texts of Torah, with comparison to extra-biblical legal materials, and with a focus of the role Torah was to play in the life of the people. You will also discover ways in which these texts relate to New Testament life and faith. Prerequisite: OTS 510. 2 credits.

OTS 520/620 – Exegesis in Hymnic Literature. The Psalms of Israel are among the greatest literary treasures from antiquity, and they form one of the most loved sections of the Bible. They are examples of great spirituality and deep theology. You will learn how to study the Hebrew text of the Psalms with reference to constructive form criticism, how to experience their poetic form, and how to minister to others from these ancient songs of hurt and joy. Psalms for class study will be selected to display a variety of style and content. Prerequisite: OTS 510. 2 credits.

OTS 521/621 – Exegesis in Narrative Literature. Everyone loves a story! Some of the finest stories in the world are found in the pages of the Hebrew Bible. In this course you will learn how these stories work, how to discover nuances from the original text, and how to minister the truth of God from narrative literature. Prerequisite: OTS 510. 2 credits.

OTS 522/622 – Exegesis in Prophetic Literature. The prophets not only spoke of the world to come; they also spoke to people(s) in the world in which they lived. Our study of selected portions will help you to learn the forms of prophetic speech, the role of the prophet in the life of ancient Israel, the use of prophetic passages in contemporary preaching and ministry of God’s word. Prerequisite: OTS 510. 2 credits.

OTS 523/623 – Exegesis in Wisdom Literature. The Hebrew Scriptures abound with varied types of literature. Among the last to be “discovered” for riches of meaning and significance are the “wisdom writings.” You will analyze selected portions of the wisdom of Israel in the light of ancient Near Eastern wisdom texts, and with a view to discovering the role these texts played in the life of the people of Israel, the development of God’s word, and their culmination in the life and ministry of Jesus, the truly Wise. Prerequisite: OTS 510. 2 credits.

OTS 528/628 – The Dead Sea Scrolls. Few biblically-related discoveries in the twentieth century match the importance of that made of long-hidden texts near the Dead Sea during the time of Israel’s war for independence. You will learn about the discovery, the significance, and the practical use of varied texts from that rich discovery. You will also learn how to understand continuing controversies relating to these texts. You will make comparative textual studies of selected readings from Qumran and the standard Biblical text. 2 credits.

OTS 533/633 – Reading and Interpreting the Septuagint. The first translation of the Old Testament was made into Greek about 250 BC. and became the Bible of the Early Church. It forms the basis for the theology and vocabulary of the New Testament. You will discover the Old Testament in its Greek translation by reading Messianic passages from all types of literature. You will learn about the origin, transmission, and significance of this vital translation. You will compare the Greek with both the Hebrew text and New Testament quotations. Prerequisites: OTS 509 and NTS 509. 2 credits.

OTS 552/652 – Biblical Aramaic. There are two languages of the “Old” Testament. Aramaic is the language of sections of both the Book of Daniel and the Book of Ezra. On the basis of Biblical Hebrew, you will move to an understanding of the grammar and syntax of Biblical Aramaic, with special attention given to the reading and exegesis of Daniel 2:4-7:28. 2 credits.

OTS 561N/661N – Early Hebrew Exegesis. To any text that we read we apply a certain method of interpretation, or even a rudimentary form of exegesis. Quite a few rules handed down to us in hermeneutical classes or exegesis classes have a long history. In this class, we will attempt to examine the various methods of interpretation which were used in the early years of the formation of the Tanak, Judaism, and Christianity. What were the seven rules of Hillel and how do they apply to us? From where do the 13 rules of Rabbi Ishmael come? How did the community of Qumran read their Bible? Are there any clues in the Scriptures on how we are supposed to interpret the Scriptures? These and other topics will be dealt with in this class. 2 credits.

OTS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval of program coordinator required. 1-4 credits.

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY (CHS)

To understand and prepare for contemporary ministry, a Christian leader needs to understand the major movements in church history from Pentecost to the present. Western's courses introduce you to key classic writings, theological controversies and developments, and examine timeless ministry principles from an historical perspective.

CHS 505 – Wisdom from Church History. In this course we will learn from the history of the Church from Pentecost to the present. We will focus on (1) the Church's people who, as saints and sinners, have been the flesh and blood of its history; (2) the Church's doctrine which has developed throughout its history; (3) the Church's writings which have exerted a tremendous impact on its history; and (4) the Church's movements which have composed the ebb and flow, the progress and regress, of its history. We will also consider what the past can contribute to the present, seeking to learn lessons from the history of the Church for our own lives, ministries, doctrines, and churches. 4 credits.

CHS 506 – Insight and Inspiration from Church History. In this course we will learn from the history of the Church from Pentecost to the present. We will focus on: (1) the Church's people who, as saints and sinners, have been the flesh and blood of its history; (2) the Church's doctrine which has developed throughout its history; (3) the Church's writings which have exerted a tremendous impact on its history; and (4) the Church's movements which have composed the ebb and flow, the progress and regress, of its history. We will also consider what the past can contribute to the present, seeking to learn lessons from the history of the Church for our own lives, ministries, doctrines, and churches. 2 credits.

CHS 511 – Baptist History. The origins and growth of Baptists in England and America. The major part of the course traces Baptist beginnings in the American colonies and their accelerated development from the close of the Revolutionary War to the present. Examination is made of several principles which have characterized historic Baptist life and doctrine with special emphasis on the history of the Conservative Baptists. 2 credits.

CHS 552/652 – Learning from the History of Christian Doctrine. The development of key Christian doctrines throughout the history of the church. Students in non-Th.M. degree programs must consult with the instructor prior to registration. 2 credits.

CHS 554/654 – Understanding the Theology of the Reformers. The Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century is arguably the singular most influential theological and ecclesiastical movement since the founding of the Church of Jesus Christ. Following a study of the historical background of this movement, you will read and analyze the most important works of Martin Luther, John Calvin, and (to a lesser extent) Huldrych Zwingli to understand their theological distinctives and contributions (e.g., sola Scriptura, justification by faith, predestination, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper). You will also consider how evangelical Christianity on the threshold of the twenty-first century can recapture the theological energy and renewal of these giants of the Reformation. 2 credits.

CHS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval required. 1-2 credits.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION (SFS)

Effective ministry leadership requires much more than the acquisition of professional skill; for Christian ministry, as shaped and enabled by the Spirit of Christ, flows from one's progressively renewed character. Leaders are called to serve as incarnate models of the truths that they seek to impart to others. Learning how to cooperate with and submit to God's transforming grace is therefore an essential priority for every Christian minister.

Because of this importance of genuine godliness, Western's curriculum makes spiritual formation an overarching priority. In other words, every course seeks to make some meaningful contribution to the development of Christian character. The foundation for this incremental growth is established by a series of core courses in spiritual formation. Subsequent courses from every discipline then reaffirm and expand these fundamental principles and priorities so as to nurture spiritual growth in every student.

SFS 501 – Learning to Love God and Others. The theological and practical dynamics of evangelical spirituality will be examined to provide a solid foundation for rich fellowship with the Triune God and for living out of the Great Commandment. The nature of spiritual maturity will be examined (including a biblically-balanced model of priorities) and practical experiences for nurturing that maturity will be provided. 2 credits.

SFS 502 – Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines. Growing more Christ-like in our attitudes and actions can be nurtured through the spiritual disciplines taught by Scripture and practiced by believers throughout the ages. You will learn, from an evangelical perspective, the contribution each activity can make to your spiritual growth and how to enhance your actual practice of these "holy habits." Extended attention will be given to developing a biblical understanding and practice of prayer. 2 credits.

SFS 504 – Growing into Ethical Maturity. The ability to discern right from wrong—and to act appropriately in light of that assessment—is essential if church leaders are to maintain and model ethical integrity. Your moral sensitivity will be enhanced as you become acquainted with some of the fundamental issues involved in developing a biblically-informed personal, professional and social ethic. 2 credits.

SFS 514 – Growing into Ethical Maturity. (M.A. in Counseling students only.) The ability to discern right from wrong—and to act appropriately in light of that assessment—is essential if church leaders are to maintain and model ethical integrity. Your moral sensitivity will be enhanced as you become acquainted with some of the fundamental issues involved in developing a biblically-informed personal, professional and social ethic. Required for M.A. in Counseling/M.Div. (dual degree) students only; other degree students enroll in SFS 504. 1 credit.

SFS 515 – Becoming a Spiritual Director. Biblical counseling also entails assisting others to grow in their positive response to God's Spirit so that they might deepen their devotion to the Lord. Traditionally this dimension of interpersonal counseling has been known as spiritual direction. This course will help you develop both an understanding of spiritual direction and skills in providing it as you seek to become a faithful "soul friend" to others. 2 credits.

SFS 545/645 – Readings in Contemporary Spirituality. In this course you will read contemporary works addressing issues such as spiritual maturity, discipleship, prayer, and the use of spiritual disciplines. Authors chosen will represent Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox perspectives. Cross-listed with CHS 545/645. 2 credits.

SFS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval required. 1-2 credits.

SYSTEMATIC AND BIBLICAL THEOLOGY (THS)

The theology faculty at Western is committed to the personal development of a theology grounded in the Word and focused on the world. The goal is theological and holistic thinking, mastery of a practical theological method, and integrating biblical truths with a ministry-oriented worldview. You will personalize answers to problem areas and apply your theological insights in your life and ministry.

THS 501 – Knowing the Triune God: Theology I. You will begin to cultivate your ability to think theologically by exploring how theology is done in various approaches in order to develop a practical theological method. Then you will probe God's progressive revelation focusing on the nature and authority of Scripture before pondering God's triune nature and work culminating in the incarnation of the Son. Your passion for carrying out God's mission in His world will expand as you begin to understand how the Father's revelation has impacted the world He created. 4 credits.

THS 502 – Glorifying the God of Our Salvation: Theology II. Continuing the process of learning to think theologically you will now apply yourself to biblical revelation regarding the Son as the source of life. You will investigate humanity, its dignity as image of God and its depravity as sinful beings, the reality and impact of spiritual beings as backdrop for the atoning work of the Son and its application in the aspects of our salvation. Contemplating the majesty of the Son's work in light of the depth of sin will invigorate our worship and impel our work for His kingdom. Prerequisite: THS 501. 4 credits.

THS 503 – Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III. You will culminate the process of learning to think theologically by exploring the Spirit's life-giving work. Then you will investigate the church as God's covenant community and instrument of His present working, ending with the consummation of His kingdom program in end time events. Throughout the course the Spirit will transform us as we see our part in His grand work. Prerequisite: THS 501. 2 credits.

THS 504 – Define and Defend the Christian World View. Building on the entire seminary curriculum, students investigate issues of contemporary significance exegetically, historically, and theologically. The course emphasizes the interrelations between the various aspects of theology, integrating them into a worldview. Students develop and apply a personal system of apologetics and consider aggressive challenges to the Christian worldview. Prerequisites: THS 501, 502, and THS 503. 2 credits.

THS 505/605 – Apologetics. In your ministry you will face many questions about the truthfulness or believability of Christianity. Answering them effectively requires developing a biblically based and personally relevant apologetic strategy. We will develop approaches to such typical questions as evil, hypocrisy, Christ the only way to God, and relativism. 2 credits.

THS 506 – Developing a Christian World View. Christianity goes beyond a personal relationship with Christ to truth about all of life, a world view. We will investigate exegetically, historically, theologically and culturally the assumptions and values of current world views which affect the way we think about our world. We will work toward integrating a personalized world view so that we can incarnate Christian principles in our life, communicate Christianity across cultural boundaries and disciple believers more effectively. 2 credits.

THS 508 – Integrating Ministry and Theology. Building on the exegetical, theological and ministry foundations laid in the seminary curriculum, students will build an integrative approach to such issues as women in ministry, divorce, bio-ethics, and church discipline. Students will also work toward this integration by finalizing and defending their personal doctrinal statements. Prerequisites: THS 501, 502, 503 or permission of instructor. 2 credits.

THS 516/616 – Man: The Image of God. Humanity—What is it? This question has always perplexed us. You will study the origin, nature and destiny of man (male and female) in light of the human role and responsibility as God's image. In addition you will examine the psychological, cultural, and biological models of man in light of the biblical data, overview the relationship of this anthropology to other areas of theology and develop practical implications of the image of God for various ministry roles. 2 credits.

THS 520/620 – Understanding the Atonement. Grasping the significance of the atoning work of Christ merits our best efforts for it is the heart of Christianity. You will do careful work to comprehend the biblical themes, interact with the major approaches past and present and grapple with the deep questions raised by atonement such as extent, healing, logic of substitution and limits of understanding. 2 credits.

THS 528/628 – Comparing Theological Systems. You will examine Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Wesleyan, and other systems of theological thought. For each system you will examine a typical systematic theology as well as recent literature. You will gain an appreciation for the perspectives and contributions of the various systems examined. Prerequisites: THS 501, CHS 501, or consent of the instructor. 2 credits.

THS 536/636 – Evaluating Approaches to Sanctification. Every discipleship method and every exhortation to maturity in Christ originates from a specific theological understanding of sanctification, what one ought to do in order to grow into Christlikeness. This course studies intensively the major models of sanctification and evaluates them against such key passages as Romans 6 and Galatians 5 with the goal of helping you integrate a theology of sanctification which is biblically based and readily applicable to your life and ministry. 2 credits.

THS 538/638 – Theological Ethics. Christian faith and theology have direct relation to personal and social issues of contemporary life. We will examine various systems of ethics as a basis for exploring the fundamental questions of how to go about formulating appropriate ethical guidelines and judgments. We will also wrestle with specific issues facing Christians living and ministering in contemporary culture. 2 credits.

THS 540/640 – Theology of the Pentateuch. The first five books of Hebrew Scripture form the foundation for the progressive unfolding of the remainder of the Bible. You will learn the origins, development and principles of biblical theology and will apply the practice of biblical theology to difficult and celebrated texts in these books. Prerequisites: BLS 501. 2 credits.

THS 544/644 – Theology of the Wisdom Writers. You will study the biblical theology of the Old Testament wisdom writers, learning particularly how their writings point toward Jesus Christ, the truly Wise One. You will also observe how these texts have elements of continuity and discontinuity with other wisdom texts from the ancient Near East. Prerequisites: BLS 502. 2 credits.

THS 546/646 – Theology of the Prophetic Writers. The prophets proclaimed God's Word to Israel and Judah and also to the whole world. You will examine their theological perspective on such topics as God, history, Messiah, and the end of the age as well as understanding their writings in relation to the rest of the canon. Prerequisite: BLS 502. 2 credits.

THS 552/652 – Pauline Theology. You will examine the theological contributions of the Apostle Paul as you learn the methods and principles of biblical theology. You will analyze such topics as Christology, the law, the human as sinner, atonement, justification, reconciliation, new life in Christ, church and eschatology. You will also look at such foundational topics as the relationship of Paul's theology to the Old Testament and to Jesus. 2 credits.

THS 561/661 – Equipping for Spiritual Warfare. Spiritual warfare begins with evangelism and discipleship and goes on to helping people traumatized by involvement with the demonic. Knowing the types and limits of satanic stratagems against Christians and the church is essential in our increasingly pagan society. From a strong biblical and theological foundation, we will develop practical methodologies to help people find freedom from spiritual bondage. 2 credits.

THS 561P/661P – A Biblical Theology of Suffering. Bad things happen to God's best people. Tragedy often transforms faith and joy into terrible grief and confusion. When suffering and evil assail us, we often react with hot anger against God mixed with paralyzing fear and doubt. If we formulate a biblical theology of suffering, we can prepare for the painful agonies of a broken world. Then we can minister to ourselves and others with less wavering, less denial, with realistic faith and hope, more like our Lord. We will reckon with how to live faithfully in a sin-marred, painful world. 2 credits.

THS 564G – Theology and Science: Interpreting the Books of Divine Revelation. This course provides the student with exposure to and interaction with the disciplines of science and theology, from both a theoretical/philosophical and historical perspective as well as addressing contemporary issues in which the two disciplines intersect. It is conducted as a graduate level seminar that assumes a basic understanding of theological method. Prerequisite: THS 501. 2 credits.

THS 564L – Prayer and Providence. Understanding the role of prayer in divine sovereignty is an essential question in the believer's life. It is a part of grasping the balance between God's providential guidance of the world and secondary causes such as obedience and sin. These sorts of questions merit our best efforts, for they lie at the heart of Christianity. You will do careful work to comprehend the various themes the Bible uses to describe providence and prayer, interact with the major contemporary and historical approaches, and grapple with some of the deep questions for ministry and life from personal and ministry perspectives. 2 credits.

THS 572/672 – Integrating a Theology of Women in Ministry. Near the top of the list of critical issues we are faced with in the church today is deciding what leadership roles in the church women may fill. You will examine key biblical texts, understand and evaluate the major positions and their underlying assumptions, interact with contemporary literature and representatives of each position, and apply the resulting principles to ministry situations in our world. 2 credits.

THS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval of program coordinator required. 2 credits.

THS 697 – Th.M. Integration Course. In an effort to encourage the best in evangelical scholarship at the graduate studies level, the Th.M. director conducts an integrative course for all students enrolled in the Th.M. program. The primary purpose of the course is to investigate the interrelatedness of the several areas that constitute the Th.M. program at Western Seminary. Students will strengthen their understanding of the doctrine of Scripture and theological methodology, improve their interpretative skills, learn to incorporate historical and philosophical theology in their work, and become better prepared to engage in scholarship that will serve the evangelical community. 2 credits.

Division of Intercultural Studies (DIS)

In light of the cultural diversity in America and globally, anyone called of God to minister will be working across cultural and social barriers. Our goal is to prepare God's people to recognize and creatively minister with effectiveness across these barriers. Students are given strategies and skills to develop effective interpersonal relationships, and to analyze culture and society. Emphasis is placed on intercultural understanding and effective local and global ministry.

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES (DIS)

DIS 500 – Discovering and Developing Your Ministry Potential. This personal assessment course uses a wide variety of tools that will enable you to gain greater insight into how your gifting, personality, passion, and background might best be matched with potential ministry opportunities. Substantial attention will also be given on how to gain maximum profit from formal and informal ministry training. An additional materials fee will be charged. This course should be taken during your first term of studies. 2 credits.

DIS 501 – Communicating Christ in Culture. Ministry is communication. The content must be known and experienced so the proclamation will have substance and credibility. After learning what we are to communicate, we must learn how to communicate. The course imparts fundamental concepts that will equip the student to communicate across personal and cultural barriers. 2 credits.

DIS 502 – Perspectives on World Ministry. This course provides practical direction to students in discharging the mandate of the Church to go into all the world and to make disciples. Emphasis is balanced between the imperatives of evangelism and edification. The course gives insights into missiology, and its applications to the ministry of the local church. 3 credits.

DIS 505 – Biblical Theology of Mission. This is a study of the theological foundations of mission. It examines both the Old and New Testaments, including Israel's responsibility to the nations, the mandates of Jesus Christ, and Pauline missiology. The course also considers the contemporary issues of ecumenism, syncretism and universalism, as well as the emerging theologies of indigenous churches in diverse cultures. 2 credits.

DIS 506 – Applied Cultural Analysis. Through an incarnational approach to ministry, this course seeks to inculcate a respect for, and understanding of, cultural diversity. Recognizing that cultural units are the social reality through which revelation was given and ministry is conducted, the student will develop basic skills for learning culture, including its patterns and networks. The course seeks to equip the student for a lifelong process of cultural learning, enabling effective ministry in multi-cultural settings. Prerequisite: DIS 508. 2 credits.

DIS 508 – Applied Anthropology. Concepts of culture and cultural effects on the communication of God's Word in different societies. Cultural assumptions and resulting patterns of attitudes and behaviors, as well as the need to use anthropological tools for field study, are identified. 2 credits.

DIS 516 – Applied Linguistics. Outlines a practical method for learning another language in the living setting of its own culture. The course draws on introductory phonetics, general linguistics, and psycholinguistic theory. 2 credits.

DIS 520/620 – History of Missions. The dynamic factors God has used in the expansion and spread of His church. Successes and failures in mission endeavors, from era to era, by both Eastern and Western churches and events are analyzed. Strategies used by missionaries throughout the ages are studied as a guide to forming a personal strategy of mission and an understanding of practical aspects and principles of world missions. 2 credits.

DIS 522 – Starting and Reproducing Churches. Basic principles for starting and reproducing churches. Concentration is on biblical and missiological factors in quantitative and qualitative church growth through daughter cells and congregations. Current church multiplication theories are critiqued as part of preparation for field practice. 2 credits.

DIS 524 – Foundations: Children and Youth at Risk. Many children are facing life crisis situations. Their spiritual need is equally as distressing as their physical needs. This course presents an overview of some of the major sources of physical and emotional suffering and danger. It also looks at past and present children at risk ministry strategies using the lens of guiding ministry principles with an emphasis on those ministries that have targeted evangelism and discipleship along with social outreach. 2 credits.

DIS 526/626 – Religions of the World. A survey of each major world belief system is presented in order to learn the common themes expressed in different religions. Strategies are examined for establishing an effective witness to the uniqueness of Christ to each of the major religions. Includes field trips to local places of worship. 2 credits.

DIS 531 – Intercultural Ministry Internship. Students live and minister in an ethnic community different from their own. This "cultural immersion" includes language learning, competent mentoring, rigorous accountability, continued theoretical input, and practical application. Timing and location are flexible, but normally a minimum of six months in length is required. Prerequisites: DIS 500, DIS 534. 1-4 credits.

DIS 534 – Adapting Cross-Culturally. Cross-cultural adaptation is necessary both for those serving in a distant country as well as in the reality of the shifting multi-cultural landscape of North America. This course prepares students personally and professionally to understand how to effectively integrate into a different culture so they may know how to act, reach, and touch people of other traditions as a fruitful ministry is developed. 2 credits.

DIS 539 – Mentored Ministry Experience. The Mentored Ministry Experience explores the process of mentoring by the learner through a field-based experience which is designed to integrate intercultural fieldwork with corresponding theoretical content. This will be done in partnership with a local church or mission organization (2 successive semesters, 1 credit each semester). Prerequisite: DIS 500. 1 credit.

DIS 553 – Women in Mission. The history of missions is a study of the dynamic factors God used in the expansion and worldwide spread of His Church. In this dynamic expansion throughout the last 2,000 years, God has been using faithful men and women. Because they are often overlooked in traditional courses, we will look at the unique and particular contributions of women in the process of expansion from Jerusalem to the uttermost parts of the earth. 2 credits.

DIS 562H – Introduction to Islam. This course is designed to help the student have knowledge of standard Islam. There will be a brief overview of the life of Muhammad, the Qur'an, the basic doctrines of Islam, Islamic fundamentalism, folk Islam, the main sects of Islam and the main approaches of reaching out to Muslims. 2 credits.

DIS 562J – Theological Issues of Children and Youth at Risk. Why would anyone minister to children at risk or any other troubled populations? Simply because it is consistent with the heart of God. As people after His own heart, we will approach ministry as He does. We will ask many questions: How is a child a person? What does family mean to orphans? What place do children have in the family of God? Should we evangelize children? How do we do that with integrity? What is the theological basis for drawing personal boundaries? Why does God allow such suffering? How can I participate in suffering (Phil. 3:10) without being destroyed? We will search the Scriptures to lay a strong biblical and theological foundation for practical methodologies for ministry. 2 credits.

DIS 570 – Developing Internship Proposal. A plan for the intercultural ministry internship is developed, involving a study of the geography, history, sociology, religions and church/missions activities in an intended area of service. In addition, students will complete the Intercultural Studies Internship Proposal. Note: The internship proposal must be approved before registering for DIS 531 Intercultural Ministry Internship. 2 credits.

DIS 580/680 – Individualized Research. An elective course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval of program coordinator required. 1 - 2 credits, as needed.

DOCTOR OF MISSIOLOGY

DIS 711 – Foundations of Missiology and History of Mission. This is an introductory course for the D.Miss. program. Basic understanding of the field of missiology and historical review of Christian missions are essential elements for this course. 3 credits.

DIS 712 – Proposal and Research Design. This is an introductory module in basic research design and survey of methodologies. During these sessions, the student's Program Focus gradually emerges, the overall Learning Contract for completion of the program is drafted and approved, and a framework for research planning in anticipation of conducting research and writing the dissertation is presented. Required gateway course. 3 credits.

DIS 715 – Theology of Christian Mission. Themes and issues of both biblical and contemporary theology of mission are surveyed and reviewed, leading to the formulation of theological foundation for missionary effort, mission practice and mobilization. 3 credits.

DIS 721 – Principles of Intercultural Communication. Students are given a foundation for relating insights from several disciplines to the essential task of Christian ministry - communication of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A basic understanding of intercultural communication is developed in class lectures, readings in both scholarly and popular literature, and thorough examination of case studies. This course provides a framework for further study in areas of major importance to the intercultural Christian worker, areas such as education, management and administration, and contextualization. Application may include original field research in communication situations of the student's ministry. 3 credits.

DIS 725 – Integrated Research Methodologies. Various types of methodologies pertinent to missiological and educational research will be surveyed and compared. Specific methodologies and skills will be studied with the express purpose of preparing students to conduct research for the dissertation. 3 credits.

DIS 732 – Educational Theory and Pedagogical Methodology. This course provides an overview of the historical, philosophical, and social forces in the formation of approaches to various aspects in education, including teaching, learning and curriculum in North America and major cultures of the world. At the end of the course, students will gain an understanding of the interdisciplinary dimensions of educational thoughts and their implications and applications. Upon analyzing the various educational theories and models, students will be able to construct their own alternative frameworks and formulate educational strategy within the context of their ministries. 3 credits.

DIS 741 – Cultural and Educational Anthropology. Anthropological theories, methodologies and techniques of culture and education are surveyed to develop an appreciation and understanding of commonalities, complexities and diversities of various people-groups. A holistic understanding of man is presented in preparation for a holistic gospel and educational ministry of contemporary cross-cultural workers. 3 credits.

DIS 742 – Contextualization and Leadership. Being culture specific, leadership varies contextually. This seminar will cover the debate and literature concerning contextualization and leadership. Theological, theoretical and methodological dimension of contextualization and leadership are being covered in a seminar format in this course. 3 credits.

DIS 744 – Evangelism and Church Planting Movements. The broad areas of pioneer evangelism, planting and developing churches, and bringing those churches to maturity are discussed in the intensive sessions. A knowledge of church growth theories is expected as well as the ability to relate critical areas of communication, anthropology and the other disciplines of missiology to the central challenge facing the Church—giving every person the opportunity to acknowledge Christ as Savior and Lord. 3 credits.

DIS 747 – Intercultural Education. Basic educational principles, as well as how those principles will be worked out differently in differing cultural contexts, must be understood. Cultural differences in learning and teaching styles are considered with their implications for mission. Education programs such as theological education by extension, correspondence courses, use of video, Bible institutes, and lay training used in intercultural ministries are to be examined and evaluated. 3 credits.

DIS 749 – Intercultural Leadership and Mentoring. This course will cover leadership and mentorship in intercultural contexts. Matter of leadership operations across cultural boundaries and related issues will be examined. Another major component of the course is the creation of a mentoring process which facilitates leadership development and operations cross-culturally. **3 credits.**

DIS 751 – D.Miss. Seminar. Specific topics are covered by specialists in their field. **3 credits.**

DIS 751H – Intercultural Leadership and Mentoring. This course will cover leadership development in intercultural contexts and leadership operations across cultural boundaries. Another major component of the course is the creation of a mentoring process which facilitates leadership development and operations cross-culturally. **3 credits.**

DIS 790 – D.Miss. Dissertation: Field Research Integration. **1-3 credits.**

DIS 791 – D.Miss. Dissertation: Research Report. (1-3 credits per semester) The dissertation is a comprehensive statement of the central problem of the student's doctoral program and the proposed solution or course of action in ministry that has been developed during the program of study. It will include library and field research and, in many cases, the results of field testing of programs proposed. The dissertation-project integrates both the student's previous experience and the completed studies. A minimum of six hours is required for 790 & 791 combined.

JEWISH MINISTRY STUDIES (JMS)

JMS 501 – Theological Themes in Jewish Ministry. Contemporary theological themes in Jewish ministry are identified and analyzed regarding the bases for, and their impact on, mission efforts to the Jewish people. Appropriate evangelical responses are presented to better equip the Jewish mission worker with relevant knowledge. **2 credits.**

JMS 502 – Jewish History. An overview of the history of the Jewish people from the time of Abraham to the present day will introduce and organize the important periods and highlights from Jewish history. Special attention is given to the Messianic anticipation and the implications of Jesus in Jewish history. **2 credits.**

JMS 503 – History of Jewish Missions. The historical means, people and movements in Jewish evangelism are studied. Particular practices are identified from history in order to derive concepts and ideas for current evangelistic ministry efforts to Jewish people. The greater concentration of material is in the period from 1880 to modern times. **2 credits.**

JMS 504 – Jewish Religious Thought. The beliefs, practices and cultural elements of Judaism in the various current forms are studied. In particular, these facts of Jewish life are considered in their response to evangelical ministry to the Jewish people. **2 credits.**

JMS 509 – Practical Issues in Jewish Evangelism. A unique lectureship series on relevant issues in Jewish evangelism from practitioners on the cutting edge of the field. **1 credit.**

JMS 531-534 – Jewish Ministry Practicum. Prerequisite MFM 500. **1 credit each for four semesters.**

JMS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval required. **1-2 credits.**



Notes

COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS

Division of Pastoral and Church Ministries (DPCM)

The Division of Pastoral and Church Ministries comprises those areas of ministry that are primarily local church based. Each discipline seeks to help students develop a theologically sound philosophy of ministry and those skills needed to apply effectively that philosophy in a wide variety of settings. Instruction is offered by both resident faculty (all of whom remain active in a variety of church ministries) and current full-time ministry practitioners so that a stimulating blend of perspectives and wisdom is provided.

DMS 501 – Thinking Theologically about Ministry Leadership. Ministry is built upon sound biblical, theological and cultural foundations. Each generation of the Church must understand and build on these foundations, as well as discover relevant contemporary innovations and applications. This course intends to help you integrate an understanding of the Word and the world with the development of a personal philosophy of ministry. 2 credits.

DMS 502 – Introducing Theology and the Practice of Worship. The biblical concept of worship and the appropriate utilization of music in its public forms. Identifies the conditions, qualities, and ingredients that most enhance the integrity and meaningfulness of public worship. 2 credits.

DMS 506 – Developing Godly Leadership for the 21st Century. A core leadership course designed for those who intend to be future leaders of the church. This course will move from definitions to the core values of a leader; how to take ministry through a vision process, engage in strategic planning, decision-making, and implementation, build great teams, work through conflict and change, delegate tasks, and effectively mentor the next generation of leaders. Models from the corporate, political, and military worlds will be compared and contrasted with the biblical definitions and illustrations of leadership. 2 credits.

CAMP AND CONFERENCE MINISTRY (CCL)

CCL 501 – Foundations of Camp & Conference Ministry: The Power of the Renewal Experience. A comprehensive introduction to the theological foundation, history and practice of Christian camp and conference ministry. An exploration of philosophical models, educational principles and practical skills related to experiential ministry in natural settings. A survey of program fundamentals necessary for creating renewal experiences for all ages, and the importance and role of support services such as marketing, fundraising, fiscal management, human resource utilization and hospitality management. 2 credits.

CCL 502 – Theology and Practice of Ministry in Outdoor Settings. An introduction to the theology and practice of integrating creation and all aspects of the natural setting as the context for camp and conference ministry. In addition, various 're-creation' ministry tools—such as adventure activities, wilderness trekking, sports, games, aquatics, group/individual challenges, visual and fine arts and service components—will be examined. The philosophical foundations and practical applications of stress, challenge, choice and competition will be addressed. Using creation and re-creation to create spiritual analogies, teachable moments and experiential learning experiences will be discussed. 2 credits.

CCL 511 – Program Design for Life Transformation. This course includes a survey of the developmental characteristics of individuals at each life stage with an emphasis on social, cognitive, emotional and spiritual formation. These constructs provide the platform for developing programs, objectives and effective strategies designed to facilitate renewal experiences. All ages and life stages will be addressed, as well as family and intergenerational programming. 1 credit.

CCL 512 – Essential Elements of Camp and Conference Management. Specific competencies for leadership and management of camp and conference ministry will be examined. This will include the tasks of fiscal management and budgeting, prioritization and time management, principles of site planning, fundamentals of marketing and fundraising, risk management, compliance with state regulations and licensing agencies, management principles, board governance models, and the basics of hospitality management including food service, contracting and partnering with guest groups. 1 credit.

CCL 513 – Building and Equipping Ministry Teams. Camp and conference ministry requires effective leadership of others. This ministry is characterized by interaction with boards, volunteers, year-round staff, event staff and seasonal staff. Leaders need to leverage the gifts and passions of others to do the work of the ministry. This course will equip students to recruit, develop and coach individuals; identify gifts and strengths; synergize individual talents to accomplish team goals; and conduct appraisals that grow team members. Leveraging your unique leadership style and strengths and creating a personal philosophy of leadership are desired outcomes. 1 credit.

CCL 514 – Programming for Special Populations and Interest Groups. Some camp ministries and facilities are designed for a particular niche; others are broad in scope but offer specialized events or programs. This course will survey many ministry opportunities including (but not limited to) at-risk youth and families; campers with physical, mental or behavioral challenges; ethnic groups; professional communities (e.g. writers, musicians, nurses, teachers, etc.); and campers dealing with common challenges such as grief or loss, recovery from addictions, blended families, etc. In addition, students will examine unique program methodologies such as silence, fasting and contemplative disciplines. 1 credit.

CCL 531 – Camp & Conference Practicum I. 1 credit.

CCL 532 – Camp & Conference Practicum II. Prerequisite: CCL 531. 1 credit.

CCL 533 – Camp & Conference Practicum III. Prerequisite: CCL 532. 1 credit.

CCL 534 – Camp & Conference Practicum IV. Prerequisite: CCL 533. 1 credit.

COUNSELING MINISTRY (CNS)

These courses provide training in the theory and practice of counseling, preparing men and women with a commitment to ministry to serve in a variety of church and community settings. Integrates biblical and theological foundations with the insights of psychology and practical counseling methods.

CNS 501 – Clinical Foundations: Basic Counseling Skills and Interventions. This course introduces the student to basic skills of attending, empathy, acceptance, genuineness, and concreteness necessary to effective clinical counseling. The course also addresses the additional skills of confrontation, immediacy, self-disclosure, and strategies for change to develop the psychotherapeutic skills for clinical intervention and accomplishing goals. The role of faith in psychotherapy will be explored. Activities include reading, lecture, observation, role playing, and student audio/videotaped clinical practice. 2 credits.

CNS 502 – Psychological Theory and Techniques. This course will cover the application and development of treatment strategies and interventions. Focus will be given to an eclectic approach to therapy. Prerequisite: CNS 501, CNS 504. 3 credits in San Jose and Sacramento, 2 credits in Portland.

CNS 503 – Family Systems Therapy. This course will include the theoretical and practical approaches to understanding and intervening with families. A review of the major family system theories will be covered. Prerequisites: CNS 501 and CNS 505. 3 credits in San Jose and Sacramento, 2 credits in Portland.

CNS 504 – Psychotherapeutic Systems. This course will provide a historical and theoretical overview of the major counseling theorists. 2 credits.

CNS 505 – Psychopathology. This course will focus on diagnosis and treatment of the major psychopathologies. Focus will be given to using the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder). 3 credits.

CNS 506 – Legal and Ethical Issues. This course will include an overview of professional ethics and state law as applied to counseling in private and state agencies, including addiction recovery programs. Topics to be addressed will include professionalism, licensure and practice issues. Prerequisite: CNS 501. 2 credits in San Jose and Sacramento, 3 credits in Portland.

CNS 507 – Human Life Span Development. This course covers human development; including biological, psychological, sociological, and cognitive development from conception to death, including aging and long-term care. Diagnostic and psychotherapeutic issues that are particular to each phase of development will also be highlighted. 3 credits.

CNS 508 – Introduction to Integrative Issues. This course provides an introduction to the theological and psychological categories or systems providing one with a model of integrative thought and practice. 2 credits.

CNS 509 – Advanced Integration. This course is part two of the required integration classes. It will explore the components and dynamics of the integration process. Focus points will include issues surrounding the person of the counselor in the integrative task, in addition to the assessment of paradigms utilized in cross-disciplinary integration. Topics include (but are not limited to) the history of integration, evaluation of models of integration, addressing objections to integration, the sufficiency of Scripture, the role of the Holy Spirit in counseling, mental health from a Christian world view, God in the treatment process, the role of suffering and hope. A base understanding of theology and psychology is assumed. Prerequisites: CNS 508, CNS 530, DBS 506/516, THS 501/511. 2 credits.

CNS 510 – Spiritual Development and Assessment. The practical and theological dynamics of spirituality will be examined. This course will focus on the process by which we both assess and encourage the spiritual life of those to whom we minister. Attention will be given to understanding the dynamic of spirituality, methodology for assessment, development of spiritual maturity and ways to involve spirituality in pastoral and clinical counseling. Prerequisite: CNS 508. 2 credits.

CNS 511 – Marriage and Contemporary Issues. This course prepares the student in a broad range of issues including pre-marital, marital and couple counseling, spousal abuse, single families and other contemporary issues. Prerequisite: CNS 501. 3 credits.

CNS 512 – Group Counseling. This course provides an overview of the principles of group theory, dynamics and process as applied to various therapeutic settings and problems. Prerequisite: CNS 501P. 3 credits in San Jose and Sacramento, 2 credits in Portland.

CNS 513 – Social and Cultural Foundations. This course will focus on the problems and issues arising from values and assumptions that affect counseling with individuals and families of different ethnic origins, including addictive behavior and co-occurring disorders. Prerequisite: CNS 501. 2 credits.

CNS 514 – Research in Family Studies. This course gives an introduction to testing and research in family studies, including an understanding of research methodology and statistical techniques. 2 credits.

CNS 515 – Marriage and Family Assessment. This course covers an introduction to testing instruments available for marital and family therapy that provides the counselor with quantitative and diagnostic information for appropriate interventions. Prerequisite: CNS 514. 2 credits.

CNS 516 – Marriage Counseling. Pre-requisites: CNS 501, CNS 505, CNS 507. 2 credits.

CNS 517 – Child and Adolescent Therapy. This course provides an overview of the major treatment modalities for children and adolescents. Prerequisite: CNS 501, CNS 505, CNS 507. 2 credits.

CNS 518 – Career and Lifestyle Development. The course begins with an exploration of the theology of work and moves to an examination of career selection and career development theories. Students will learn about occupational information sources and systems as well as lifestyle and career decision making. 2 credits.

CNS 521 – Substance Abuse. This course presents an overview of addictive processes, treatment modalities, and relapse prevention. This will include a knowledge of chemical reactions as well as treatment methods that include individual, family and community issues. 2 credits.

CNS 522 – Child, Spouse, and Elder Abuse. This course reviews recognition and assessment of abuse, reporting procedures and prevention programs. Prerequisites: CNS 503, CNS 505, CNS 507. 2 credits.

CNS 523 – Human Sexuality. This course will give an overview of the theological, physiological, psychological, and sociological perspectives on human sexuality. It includes a consideration of sexual identity, sexual behavior and sexual disorders as well as an introduction to treatment considerations and referrals. Prerequisite: CNS 505. 2 credits.

CNS 524 – Research in Counseling and Family Studies. This course is an introduction to psychological research and testing. The student will be introduced to research design and statistical methodologies. 2 credits.

CNS 525 – Tests and Measurements. This course will provide an introduction to testing instruments that are available to the counselor for use in diagnostic and therapeutic interventions within a counseling setting. There is a materials fee associated with this course. Prerequisite: CNS 524. 3 credits.

CNS 526 – Psychopharmacology. This course provides an overview of basic psychopharmacology including an introduction to the interaction between neurophysiology and psychotropic medications, and how such interactions influence psychotherapy treatment planning and interventions. 2 credits in San Jose and Sacramento, 1 credit in Portland.

CNS 527 – Physiology and Pharmacology of Addiction. This course provides an overview of basic psychopharmacology including an introduction to the interaction between neurophysiology and psychotropic medication, and how such interactions influence psychotherapy treatment planning and intervention. This course includes the biopharmaceutics and physiological effects of addictive behavior, focusing on alcohol and other recreational drugs, especially as to tolerance, withdrawal, and addiction patterns. 2 credits.

CNS 528 – Neuropsychology. This course will introduce students to current understanding of brain-behavior relationships. Emphasis will be placed on commonly used approaches in the assessment and measurement of human behavior and how we understand the brain's role in cognition, language, memory, spatial processing, emotion, spirituality and personality. Students will gain a basic understanding of principles of brain organization and professional/clinical issues in neuropsychology. 1 credit.

CNS 529 – Counseling Addictions. This course will examine the major categories of psychoactive drugs, the biology of addiction, and theories of addiction and recovery. Topics include the history and classification of psychoactive drugs, the neurobiology of addiction, principles of drug actions, uses and side effects, the addiction cycle and treatment alternatives. Theories of addiction will be examined from both a worldview and from a spiritual experience. Pre-requisites: CNS 501, CNS 505, CNS 507. 2 credits.

CNS 530 – Internship Case Conference I. This course will provide a supervised counseling experience with an on-site supervisor, and class and faculty feedback and evaluation. The internship requires that the student apply classroom knowledge to interviewing, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of individual, marital, and family dysfunction. Prerequisites required. Enrollment limited to counseling degree students. Pre- or co-requisites: CNS 500, CNS 501P, CNS 504, CNS 505, CNS 506. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 530C – Child/Youth Internship Case Conference I. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 530S/M – Counseling Practicum I. This course will provide a supervised counseling experience with an on-site supervisor, and class and faculty feedback and evaluation. The internship requires that the student apply classroom knowledge to interviewing, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of individual, marital, and family dysfunction. Prerequisites required. Enrollment limited to counseling degree students. San Jose or Sacramento campus. 2 credits.

CNS 530CS – Counseling/AS Practicum I. This course is for students enrolled in both the MFT and Addiction Studies Certificate (ASC) programs. This course will provide a supervised counseling experience with an on-site supervisor, and class and faculty feedback and evaluation. The internship requires that the student apply classroom knowledge to interviewing, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of individual, marital, and family dysfunction, including addiction issues. Prerequisites required. Enrollment limited to counseling degree students. San Jose campus. 2 credits.

CNS 530DS – Addiction Studies Practicum I. This course is for students enrolled only in the Addiction Studies Certificate (ASC) program. This course will provide a supervised counseling experience with an on-site supervisor, and class and faculty feedback and evaluation. Prerequisites required. San Jose campus. 2 credits.

CNS 531 – Internship Case Conference II. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 531C – Child/Youth Internship Case Conference II. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 531S/M – Counseling Practicum II. San Jose or Sacramento campus. 2 credits.

CNS 532 – Internship Case Conference III. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 532C – Child/Youth Internship Case Conference III. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 532S/M – Counseling Practicum III. San Jose or Sacramento campus. 2 credits.

CNS 533 – Internship Case Conference IV. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 533C – Child/Youth Internship Case Conference IV. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 534 – Internship Case Conference V. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 534C – Child/Youth Internship Case Conference V. Portland campus. 2 credits.

CNS 539 – Advanced Case Conference. Portland campus. Pre-requisite: CNS 532S/M or CNS 534. 1 credit.

CNS 539S/M – Advanced Practicum. San Jose or Sacramento campus. Pre-requisite: CNS 532S/M or CNS 534. 1 credit.

CNS 542 – Child Assessment and Treatment. This course is an introduction to the assessment and treatment of children ages three through 12 years of age. 1 credit.

CNS 544 – Counseling Violence and Abuse Issues. The purpose of this class is to prepare counselors to recognize and respond to some of the most pervasive, emotionally and physically damaging, yet hidden behaviors in our society. Prerequisites: CNS 501, CNS 505, CNS 506, CNS 507. 2 credits.

CNS 546 – Adolescent Counseling. This course examines and synthesizes adolescent growth and developmental stages, examines normal and abnormal adolescent behaviors, identifies common adolescent problems/symptoms, and presents counseling techniques and skills resulting in the ability to successfully work with adolescent populations. 1 credit.

CNS 551 – Advanced Substance Abuse. This course provides a review of specialized skills and knowledge related to the substance abuse services. Topics include intervention, relapse prevention, specialty fields, program development training and cross-discipline studies related to social work, medicine, law, theology, and psychology relevant to addiction professionals. Prerequisite: CNS 521. 2 credits.

CNS 552 – Treatment of Addictive Behavior and Counseling Addictive Behavior. This course surveys current standard models of education, prevention, and intervention in substance abuse. The course provides a practical understanding of how to help clients from all populations and major special populations arrive at sobriety in both religious and secular programs. A wide variety of addictive problems will be investigated including denial, relapse, and progression. 2 credits.

CNS 553 – Human Services for Addiction Treatment. This course presents case management, program development and management, and clinical supervision of addiction treatment. This will include specific case presentation skills such as assessment, treatment planning, counseling, crisis intervention and referral. Community care, prevention, education, outreach and response services will be studied. 4 credits.

CNS 554 – Addiction Group Dynamics. This course provides an overview of the principles of group dynamics and process specifically related to the addiction recovery population. Pre- or co-requisite: CNS 512. 1 credit.

CNS 557 – Emergency Preparedness: Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention. Part I. This course provides an overview of the effects of suicide and crises on persons of all ages. Content will include the counselor's role individually and as part of an interdisciplinary team, and the recovery process surrounding loss and bereavement. 1 credit.

CNS 558 – Emergency Preparedness: Crisis Intervention, Trauma and Loss. Part II. This course provides an overview of the effects of crises, disasters, and other trauma-causing events on persons of all ages. Content will include the counselor's role individually and as part of an interdisciplinary team in responding to both small- and large-scale trauma and the recovery process surrounding loss and bereavement. 1 credit.

CNS 564Q – Intervention Strategies for Victims of Sex Trafficking. 2 credits.

CNS 565H – Intervention Strategies for Children and Youth at Risk. Those children who have suffered deep trauma often develop at different rates and ways from other children. This course is designed to provide students with understanding about the most common challenges that children at risk face in their growth, key approaches to encouraging their healing, and an understanding of which signals should trigger the worker to enlist the help of a trained specialist. 2 credits.

CNS 580 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval of program coordinator required. 1-2 credits.

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY (EMS)

These courses provide both philosophical and practical instruction and experience for men and women preparing for ministry that is educational in nature. The courses provide a firm foundation of knowledge, perspective, and ministry practice to ensure continued personal and professional development consistent with biblical values.

EMS 502 – Grappling with Philosophical Issues in Educational Ministry. You will investigate the role of philosophy upon the educational ministry of the church. You will also develop a personal statement of a theological basis for a ministry based on philosophical principles. Pre-requisite or co-requisite: THS 503 or consent of instructor. 2 credits.

EMS 503 – Understanding the Learning Process. You will receive a general survey of knowledge about growth (human development) and learning (educational psychology), studied within the context of theological anthropology. 2 credits.

EMS 504 – Understanding the Teaching Process. You will learn major principles and elements of effective teaching and learning. You will also develop a personal philosophy of teaching and be involved in a variety of teaching methods (including the development of course outlines and lesson plans). You must have access to teaching opportunities with Christians (adults, youth, or children). Prerequisite: EMS 503 or consent of instructor. 2 credits.

EMS 505 – Growing Disciples Intentionally. Christ commands His children to “love God, love people and make disciples” (Matt 22:37-40, 28:16-20). This course will examine the role of the local church and para-church organizations in facilitating, guiding, and nurturing the spiritual growth of believers from infancy through the end of life. The teaching/learning process will be evaluated primarily in terms of intentional growth outcomes in the lives of Christians at all levels of spiritual maturity. 2 credits.

EMS 541 – Administrative Issues in Educational Ministry. An introduction to management theory and skills applied to education issues in the local church. Administrative models and practical procedures will be explored to manage the resources necessary for an effective educational ministry. 2 credits.

EMS 546 – Advanced Bible Teaching. This course seeks to help the student develop a larger repertoire of teaching skills as applied to the Bible. The course will explore teaching and learning models, the use of curriculum, and creative techniques in teaching, all within the context of praxis. Pre-requisite: DBS 506. 2 credits.

EMS 575/675 – Readings in Educational Ministry. Guided reading of literature related to a specific aspect of educational ministry. Prerequisite: EMS 501. Registration for this course is by petition only. A student proposal must be approved by the program coordinator prior to registration for the course. 1-2 credits per semester, up to 4 credits maximum.

EMS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. A student proposal must be approved by the program coordinator prior to registration for the course. Prerequisite: EMS 501. 1-2 credits per semester, up to 4 credits maximum.

FAMILY MINISTRY (FMS)

These courses provide both theoretical and practical instruction and experience for men and women preparing for a ministry with the family. The courses provide a firm foundation of knowledge, perspective, and ministry practice to ensure continued personal and professional development consistent with biblical values.

FMS 501 – Family Ministry in the Church. This course will focus on ministry to the contemporary family in and through the church. The role that the church should play in family assimilation will be discussed including the current types of family dysfunction. A solid basis in the theology of family ministry will be examined. Types of ministry best suited to various periods in family life development will be emphasized. 2 credits.

FMS 503 – Building the Pastoral Team. This course will explore the concept of the pastoral team including how it is formed, the dynamics of effective team service, and dealing with conflicts. The church as a system and expectations and roles of every one involved in the context of the church pastoral team will be investigated. 2 credits.

FMS 520 – Children’s Ministry in Family Perspective. This course will examine the role of family systems to children’s ministry primarily in and through the church and the reciprocal role of children’s ministry on family systems. Various ways the values of the family and those of the church children’s program can be integrated will be the focus of this course. 2 credits.

FMS 531 – Internship. Each student will be involved in a local ministry with the age group of his or her specialty. A local mentor is required from the ministry site and various experiences are planned for each semester. Specific skills to be developed include teaching, effective group leadership and the training of other workers. 1 credit.

FMS 540 – Adult Ministry in Family Perspective. This course will examine the role of family systems to adult ministry primarily in and through the church and the reciprocal role of adult ministry on family systems. Various ways the values of the family and those of the church adult program can be integrated will be the focus of this course. 2 credits.

FMS 580 – Individualized Research. This course is designed to allow students to research a topic of interest to them under the guidance of a faculty member. 1 - 4 credits.

CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY (ICS)

ICS 501 – The Chaplaincy. In this course students are introduced to and equipped for the mission field of chaplaincy ministry. A wide range of topics is covered, from possible areas of service to various expectations placed upon military, law enforcement, and institutional chaplains. 2 credits.

ICS 505 – The Hospital Chaplaincy. The unique nature of hospital chaplaincy is investigated in this course. Attention is given to appropriate relationships with hospital staff and patients and their families, issues such as death and dying, and other features pertinent to hospital ministry. Work is done in case studies, and fieldwork is engaged in actual hospital visits. 2 credits.

ICS 506 – The Military Chaplaincy. Particular attention is given to the nature and work of the military chaplaincy. Students explore expectations related to work in a multi-faith environment, and learn how the various branches of the military function relative to their chaplains. Emphasis is given to life and ministry issues (such as frequent mobility, separation from family, etc.) peculiar to persons in the military. Practical matters pertaining to such things as securing endorsement and appointment as a chaplain are also treated. 2 credits.

ICS 530 – Chaplaincy Practicum. An intense, guided field education experience in the student’s area of ministry concentration. Veteran, career chaplains in military or institutional settings, carefully supervise the student as he/she gains expertise in the military chaplaincy or in one of the institutional chaplaincies for which the Seminary provides training. 1-4 credits.

ICS 533 – Clinical Pastoral Education. Approval required. 1-2 credits.

ICS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval required. 1-2 credits.

COACHING MINISTRY STUDIES (MCS)

MCS 510 – Introduction to Coaching. This course provides students with a basic foundation for understanding and practicing coaching. Topics covered include: core coaching skills, coaching conversation model, the biblical basis for coaching, and how the student can use coaching in his or her ministries or workplace. 1 credit.

MCS 511 – Coaching for Change. This course provides students the knowledge and skills necessary for coaching individuals and groups through change. Attention is given to understanding different types of change, how to support people going through transitions, and how to use coaching to initiate positive change. Prerequisite: MCS 510. 1 credit.

MCS 512 – Life and Personal Coaching. This course provides students with practical tools that can be used when coaching clients through a wide range of personal, life and family issues. Special attention is given to helping students explore how to start a coaching practice, covering topics such as: marketing, legal and financial considerations, networking, and defining your coaching niche. Prerequisite: MCS 510. 1 credit.

MCS 513 – Coaching Approach to Leading and Managing. This course provides students the knowledge and skill necessary for taking a coach approach to working with teams, managing direct reports/volunteers, and leading within a church or other organization. Prerequisite: MCS 510. 1 credit.

MCS 514 – Coaching in Congregations for Spiritual Development. This course provides students the knowledge and skills necessary to apply coaching to faith conversations. Attention is given to how a dialogical approach can be effective for evangelism and discipleship, how coaching can be expressed in the ministries of a local church, and the relationship between coaching competencies and Christian practices. Prerequisite: MCS 510. 1 credit.

MCS 519 – Coaching Supervision. This course allows students the opportunity to coach and be coached in an environment that includes faculty and peer feedback for the purpose of enhancing their ability to coach with greater effectiveness. Special attention is given to a student's desires for advancing toward appropriate ICF competency level and the ICF certification process. Course is conducted via telephone. Prerequisite: MCS 510, two other MCS courses, and at least 25 hours of documented coaching experience. 1 credit. May be repeated.

MCS 531 – Coaching Practicum 1. Prerequisite: MCS 510 and two other MCS courses. 1 credit.

MCS 532 – Coaching Practicum 2. Prerequisite: MCS 531. 1 credit.

MCS 533 – Coaching Practicum 2. Prerequisite: MCS 532. 1 credit.

MCS 534 – Coaching Practicum 2. Prerequisite: MCS 533. 1 credit.

MCS 561F – Coaching and a Brain-Based Approach to Learning. Prerequisite: MCS 510. 1 credit.

MCS 562x – Coaching Seminar. Advanced coaching skills, concepts and applications. Prerequisite: MCS 510. 1 credit.

MCS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval required. 1-2 credits.

MENTORED MINISTRY (MFM)

Because Western students are being prepared for positions of ministry leadership, practical experience in ministry is an essential complement to classroom instruction. This ministry experience is even more valuable when it comes under the personalized tutelage of a seasoned and respected practitioner.

To that end, all students in the professional masters' level programs are required to take at least six units in mentored ministry. The first two hours are devoted to a personal assessment course (MFM 500), designed to explore each student's personality type, gifting, leadership style and other factors that might inform a wise vocational choice within the framework of God's call. The remaining two-four hours consist of experience in the form of ministry to which the student senses a divine call. This ministry experience entails supervision and assessment by the student, a faculty advisor, and a field mentor. Thorough evaluation of key competencies will be done both during and at the conclusion of each field experience.

MFM 500 – Discovering and Developing Your Ministry Potential. This personal assessment course uses a wide variety of tools that will enable you to gain greater insight into how your gifting, personality, passion, and background might best be matched with potential ministry opportunities. Substantial attention will also be given on how to gain maximum profit from formal and informal ministry training. An additional materials fee will be charged. This course should be taken during your first term of studies. 2 credits.

MFM 501-4 – Mentored Field Ministry. This course is designed to help students gain greater confidence and competence in the actual practice of those ministry skills that will be needed in the student's anticipated ministry role. Mentoring is provided through both individual meetings with an experienced practitioner and peer ministry reflection groups. Current involvement in field ministry is a prerequisite for enrollment. Students should plan on taking one unit of this course over four different terms to enable sufficient breadth of ministry experience and personal mentoring. Prerequisite: MFM 500. 1 credit for each of four semesters.

PRA 531 – Developing Ministry Proficiency: Practicum. This course is designed to help students, under the direct supervision of an experienced mentor, gain greater confidence and competence in those elements of ministry that will likely characterize their anticipated post-graduation role. 1-5 credits.

PASTORAL CARE TO WOMEN (PCW)

PCW 511 – Pastoral Understanding of Women. This course fosters an understanding of the issues that impact effective biblical strategies for pastoral care to women. Students discover how the physiological, psychological, cultural and spiritual aspects of a woman affect good pastoral care. Featured is an understanding of seasons and transitions in life cycles against the background of societal role change for women, and the impact of physiological changes, nurturing needs and feminine perspective. Gender and cultural stereotypes are examined, and biblical strategies for developing friendships, mentor/protégé relationships, group support and other helps for shepherding women are presented. 2 credits.

PCW 512X – Women in Pain, Part I. Increasing awareness of experiences that cause deep pain in women's lives enables one to offer strategic pastoral care and referral when needed. Issues discussed in this course may include divorce recovery, lesbianism, eating disorders, sexual abuse, suicide, widowhood, post-abortion syndrome, pornography, domestic violence, and depression. Students learn how, from a biblical basis, to help women grieve losses, begin transition to health, and secure professional help when needed. 2 credits.

PCW 512Y – Women in Pain, Part II. In addition to issues explored in PCW 512, this course examines experiences that cause deep pain in women's lives. Issues discussed may include infant/child death, religious abuse, addictions, infertility, terminal illness, physical disabilities, homeless women and incarcerated women. From a biblical perspective, students learn how to offer strategic pastoral care and referral when needed. 2 credits.

PCW 513 – Women in Leadership. In this course students explore four essential components of being a Christian woman in leadership: call, character, craft, and competencies. Concerning the call of a woman in leadership, attention is given to understanding and valuing what motivates a person to lead. Students learn how to define and develop Christlike character and integrity of heart in private and public arenas. The art of leadership is examined, including cycles, styles, and gender issues. The many facets of being a change agent, communicator, and mentor are investigated, and insights are gained from biblical and historical examples of women in leadership. 2 credits.

PCW 514 – Building Relational Ministries to Women. Students learn how to build, maintain and advance - from vision to reality - relational ministries featuring four components: cast the vision, build the team, discern the needs, and mold the ministry. The focus is on relational components, such as building and strengthening a leadership team, accurately discerning the needs of individual women and molding ministry around that unique profile while developing spiritual friendships and mentoring relationships. Students will learn how to enhance ministry effectiveness by reflecting emphasis in promotion, evaluation and celebration. 2 credits.

PCW 515 – Developing and Delivering Messages. Learn how to prepare and deliver messages that are biblically accurate, relevant and applicable. Use homiletic principles and skills to prepare and evaluate messages. Expand ability to involve audience, to maximize visuals, to include humor, and to modify content to fit situation. Prepare to speak with clarity and passion. Explore elements of effective devotionals, special event messages, and retreat series. 2 credits.

PCW 521 – Develop Life-Changing Bible Study Curriculum. Learn how to write, select and adapt Bible study curriculum for women that is biblically sound, relevant, and applicable to all arenas of a woman's life. Grow in confidence in training discussion leaders to shepherd biblically stimulating and relationally healthy small groups and curriculum-writing teams that can create materials appropriate for neighborhood and/or church-based women's Bible studies. 1 credits.

PCW 522 – Women and Spiritual Warfare: Championing Women to Stand Firm in the Face of Adversity. Kerri Kenyon, M.A. This course will help students identify the strongholds that affect women mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually today. Students will gain practical biblical insights to guide women out of confusion, emptiness, or torment and into the fullness of who they were created to be. Spiritual warfare tactics and the ability to combat spiritual warfare with biblical truth will also be taught. Glean the biblical disciplines that release women from bondage into the freedom of their true identity, overwhelming victory, and joy-filled life in Jesus Christ. 2 credits.

PCW 531-534 – Pastoral Care to Women Practicum. Prerequisite MFM 500. 1 credit each for four semesters.

PCW 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective research seminar course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval required. 1-2 credits.

PASTORAL MINISTRY (PTS)

Effective ministry depends upon the practical implementation of a carefully crafted theology of ministry. Therefore, the courses in this discipline are designed to enable students to apply a sound theology of ministry in the work of the pastoral ministry. This is accomplished by providing both opportunity for reflection on issues of theory and practical guidance for performing the varied responsibilities of spiritual leadership in pastoral ministry. Among these responsibilities are accurate, relevant, clear, and persuasive expository preaching of the Word of God; management and administration of human and material resources; leadership in worship; the work of evangelism; skillful disciple making; and emphasis on missions.

PTS 503 – Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics. Strategies and programs for biblically based evangelism are explored in this course. You will develop your own skills in personal evangelism, as well as how to do evangelistic outreach through the local church. You will develop an ability to address questions about the truthfulness or believability of Christianity that often arise in evangelistic moments through a biblically based and personally relevant apologetic strategy. 2 credits.

PTS 504 – Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence. This course gives attention to the essential nature and vocation of the Church as God's called people. Students are challenged to rethink the mission of the Church, moving beyond traditional assumptions, and relating the mission to a modern/post-modern context. Focus will be given to countering pluralism and the new paganism, determining a biblical strategy for accomplishing the mission, developing a social conscience, putting together a global approach to ministry, and creating the structures for achieving redemptive influence. 2 credits.

PTS 505 – Providing Leadership in Ministry. This course builds on the principles of DMS 506 and applies them to the local church. The aim is to prepare pastors to be the leaders God intends for His church. Specific issues treated include pastoral self-leadership; building a leadership team; creating a healthy staff-board relationship; leading a congregation through change, crises and conflict, and the dynamics that come with growth; effective management of resources—from volunteers to staff development to budgeting and expenditures; and leading the church into the future. 2 credits.

PTS 506 – Providing Pastoral Care. This course will equip you to shepherd the church. A philosophy of pastoral care and the skills required for the practical application of this philosophy will be addressed. The role of the shepherd will be examined, as well as the spiritual foundations for pastoral care. The duties that come with shepherding will be taught, including the conducting of ordinances, weddings and funerals. The essentials of pastoral counseling, visitation, care to the dying, and congregational accountability will be covered. 2 credits.

PTS 507 – Providing Pastoral Counseling. The core pastoral counseling course is designed to introduce ministers to the basic counseling skills needed in pastoral ministry. Course topics include paradigms of pastoral counseling, problems most commonly encountered, understanding your own natural style, when to help and when to refer, and developing a network of trusted referral resources. Basic helping skills will be cultivated through a variety of experiences (role play, video, live practice). 2 credits.

PTS 508 – Developing Strong Families. The divine design for marriage and family roles and responsibilities is explored in order that the Christian leader may reflect and model godliness in these important relationships. Attention is given to improving both one's own faithfulness and equipping one to provide counsel and spiritual nurture in such areas as pre-marital and marital counseling and parenting. 2 credits.

PTS 509 – Laying the Foundations for a Preaching Ministry. In this course you will explore biblical, historical, and practical perspectives establishing preaching as the dynamic center of the pastoral ministry. You will learn sound homiletical values expressive of an informed commitment to expository preaching. 2 credits.

PTS 510 – Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons. In this course you will learn how to organize and develop life-changing sermons based upon and bounded by careful biblical interpretation. You will also learn how to communicate the relevance of the biblical message to your contemporary audience, and to deliver that message in a natural and effective manner. Prerequisite: DBS 506. 2 credits.

PTS 514 – Preparing for a Preaching Ministry. Building upon the foundation of PTS 510, you will develop further your gifts for preparing and preaching expository sermons. You will prepare and preach sermons from various biblical literary genre, and will be video-taped and evaluated by your professor and peers. You will also gain preaching experience by delivering messages in settings outside the classroom. Prerequisite: PTS 510. 2 credits.

PTS 515X – Advanced Expository Preaching, Part 1. This course is designed to further develop the skills essential to the expository method of preaching as introduced in PTS 510. As such, significant attention will be devoted to identifying the purpose and structure of a preaching portion and to translating these into a preaching form that faithfully communicates the meaning of the biblical text. Attention will also be given to enhancing communication skills necessary for the delivery of an effective sermon (introductions, conclusions, illustrations, etc). The student will prepare and preach sermons that will be video-taped and evaluated by professor and peers. Prerequisites: DBS 506, PTS 510. 2 credits.

PTS 515Y – Advanced Expository Preaching, Part 2. This course is designed to further develop the skills essential to the expository method of preaching as introduced in PTS 510. As such, significant attention will be devoted to the distinctive features relevant to preaching various biblical literary genres (e.g. how to preach an epistle, a psalm, a narrative, apocalyptic), with an intentional sensitivity to Christocentricity. The student will prepare and preach sermons that will be video-taped and evaluated by professor and peers. Prerequisites: DBS 506, PTS 510, PTS 515x. 2 credits.

PTS 524 – Enhancing the Relevance of Your Preaching. In this course, working with a variety of biblical passages, you will acquire skills for developing, from its meaning, the contemporary significance and application of a text of Scripture. You will analyze selected sermons to discern this underlying process and to observe its sermonic expression. You will also practice the reasoning processes that enable relevant preaching. Prerequisite: PTS 510. 2 credits.

PTS 531 – Ministry Internship. Advanced ministry participation in conjunction with a specific area of ministry responsibility. Formal design, planning, and evaluation components are required. Prerequisite: Required MFM 501-504 sequence. 1-4 credits.

PTS 532/632 – Establishing New Local Churches. A practical approach to the planting of new churches, including both the biblical foundations for and the philosophy of new church work. Special emphasis is given to church surveys, home Bible classes, organization, and facility needs. 2 credits.

PTS 535/635 – Contemporary Moral Problems. The relation of Scripture to issues such as capital punishment, substance abuse, pollution, abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, gambling, pornography, genetic engineering, etc. Students formulate a biblical system of ethics, conduct biblical research on specific problems, and study creative ways of dealing with these issues in preaching, teaching, and counseling ministries. 2 credits.

PTS 549 – Developing Global Vision in a Local Church. While local congregations have both the responsibility and the resources to make a global impact for the cause of Christ, their actual contribution to the Great Commission worldwide often falls far short of their potential. In this course you will learn how to shape and communicate a global vision for a local church and how to implement it effectively so that your congregation can maximize its worldwide ministry. 2 credits.

PTS 550/650 – Crisis in Ministry. The personal and church-related crises which pastors confront. Through lectures, case studies, and interaction, class sessions will deal with subjects such as criticism, pluralism, power struggles, difficult relationships, how crises develop, and how some can be avoided. 2 credits.

PTS 570 – Senior Project. 2 credits.

PTS 580/680 – Individualized Research. This is an elective course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval of program coordinator required. 1-4 credits, as needed.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

PTS 711 – Foundations for Ministry & Mission. The course focuses on two areas: the assessment of students' strengths, weaknesses, ministry and relational skills; and the exploration of pastoral ministry from a historical and theological perspective. The aim is to give students a solid theological foundation on which to build the rest of the doctoral courses. 3 credits.

PTS 712 – Research Design & Methodology. This is a core doctoral course covering research and design methodologies. Students will learn the basics for research at a doctoral level, including the use of library and internet, writing skills, and selection of methodology for ministry application and dissertation completion. Students will become familiar with proper form and style, and will be prepared to write a dissertation proposal. 3 credits.

PTS 732 – Pastoral Preaching. Consult the D.Min. office for course description. 3 credits.

PTS 737 – Pastoral Leadership. Consult the D.Min. office for course description. 3 credits.

PTS 747 – Pastoral Care. Consult the D.Min. office for course description. 3 credits.

PTS 752 – Pastoral Life/Spirituality. Consult the D.Min. office for course description. 3 credits.

PTS 780 – Individualized Research. The student identifies an area of ministry need or personal interest and proposes a course of study addressing the topic. The course must be approved by the program director and the faculty advisor assigned to supervise the study. 3 credits.

PTS 791 – D.Min. Dissertation. Application is conducted and evaluation made of ministry-related materials developed during the course. The product demonstrates the strengthening of the actual practice of ministry. It includes planning, doing, assessing, and reporting of ministry effectiveness. 1-6 credits.

YOUTH MINISTRY (YMS)

These courses provide both theoretical and practical instruction and experience for men and women preparing for a ministry with youth. The courses provide a firm foundation of knowledge, perspective, and ministry practice to ensure continued personal and professional development consistent with biblical values.

YMS 501 – Understanding Adolescent Development. The cognitive, social, moral, and emotional development of adolescents will be explored. Particular emphasis will be given to the tasks, challenges, and crises during adolescence that are relevant to youth ministry, including the implications for the development of faith during the teenage years. 1 credit.

YMS 502 – Developing a Theological Model for 21st Century Youth Ministry. The historical, philosophical, and theological underpinnings of youth ministry will first be introduced. Then popular models of contemporary youth ministry (both congregational and para-congregational) will be described and evaluated. 2 credits.

YMS 503 – Managing Youth Ministry. Specific competencies for leadership and management of youth ministry will be imparted, including the tasks of organizing, equipping, training, program assessment, staff relationships and personnel evaluation. Specific emphasis will be given to developing a growing and multiplying ministry. 2 credits.

YMS 504 – Communicating to Youth. You will develop skill in listening to youth, reading youth culture, and analyzing current contexts of the adolescent experience. This will impart the competencies needed for relating to, speaking to, and entering into the world of a young person with the gospel of Jesus. 1 credit.

YMS 505 – Issues for 21st Century Youth Ministry. You will gain proficiency in engaging contemporary youth issues from a biblical perspective, e.g., sexuality, poverty, globalization, internet, media, multi-culturalism, etc. 1 credit.

YMS 506 – Spiritual Formation of Youth. You will gain insight into effective nurturing of an adolescent's spiritual life through mentoring, spiritual direction, discipleship, and shepherding. You will also gain greater insight into the emergence of adolescent spiritual maturity. 1 credit.

YMS 531-534 – Youth and Family Ministry Practicum. Prerequisite MFM 500. 1 credit each for four semesters.

YMS 580 – Individualized Research. This is an elective course designed to meet the specific needs of the individual student. Direct guidance by a professor within the discipline gives an opportunity for a significant learning experience. Approval of program advisor required. 1-4 credits, as needed.

RESEARCH AND THESIS COURSES

RES 500/600 – Graduate Research and Writing. Necessary tools and methodology required for graduate-level study concentrating on the theological disciplines are examined in this course. Investigation is made of various library research tools, including the use of the computer in research and writing. Also studied are matters of proper form and style for academic writing. The course is required of students selecting the thesis option in their programs and is available as an elective for all students. 1 credit.

RES 502/602 – Thesis/Product. For students preparing a thesis, one or two credits per semester are scheduled until the thesis is completed. Minimum credits required: M.A. 3 credits; Th.M. 4 credits. Pre- or co-requisite: RES 500/600.