

Major Electives: Master of Divinity

***CM591* Introduction to Church Music** [3 Credits]

This is an exploration of the biblical and historical foundations of church music. In addition, it will provide an introduction to music theory and training in the basic skills of directing choir and leading congregational singing, interpretation, service planning and the proper use of hymns and music for various kinds of church services.

***TS521* Introduction to New Testament Greek** [3 Credits]

This is an intensive introduction to the fundamentals of New Testament Greek vocabulary and grammar to enable students to use tools in order to read simple passages in the Greek New Testament and to do simple translation and exegesis.

***TS522* Intermediate New Testament Greek** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS521* Introduction to New Testament Greek

This course will continue to help students to understand Greek grammar and syntax and to develop a working vocabulary, along with practice in translation and exegesis of selected passages from the New Testament.

***TS523* Introduction to Biblical Hebrew** [3 Credits]

An introduction to the essential elements of Biblical Hebrew, with emphasis upon mastering forms, fundamentals of syntax and basic vocabulary and grammar, to enable students to use tools to read and exegete simple passages from the Hebrew Scriptures.

***TS611* Pentateuch** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS511, TS512*

A study of the earliest history of ancient Israel with particular reference to the development and meaning of the Torah as it defines and delineates Israel's way of life and understanding of God. Attention will be given to literary analysis, historical backgrounds and the main religious and theological concepts.

***TS612* Wisdom Literature and the Psalms [3 Credits]**

Prerequisite: *TS511, TS512*

A course designed to study the content of the Psalms, Job and Proverbs with special focus on the use of the Psalter in Christian worship and prayer. Job and Proverbs will be studied in relation to the wisdom literature and wisdom genre in the Old Testament.

***TS613* The Major Prophets [3 Credits]**

Prerequisite: *TS511, TS512*

An examination of the prophetic tradition in Ancient Israel from its origins to the formative period of Judaism as found in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and others. Some attention will be given towards understanding the message of the prophets in its original setting as well as its formative influence on Judaism and early Christianity.

***TS614* The Minor Prophets [3 Credits]**

Prerequisite: *TS511, TS512*

This is a study of the prophetic texts of Amos, Hosea and Micah and the rest of the minor prophets in the context of eighth-century Israel. Special emphasis will be given to social and individual morality and their relevance to present day social and political issues.

***TS615* The Synoptic Gospels [3 Credits]**

Prerequisite: *TS515, TS516*

This is an introduction to the literary characteristics and historical background and hermeneutic significance of the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

***TS616* The Gospels and Epistles of John** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS515, TS516*

A study of the content of Johannine thought, focusing on the exegesis and theology of the Gospel of John, with some attention given to the message of the Johannine epistles.

***TS617* The Letters of Paul** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS515, TS516*

This course will consider the letters attributed to the apostle Paul from literary, historical and hermeneutical points of view. The important theological and ethical statements of the letters will be highlighted.

***TS639* Christian Social Ethics** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS634* Principles of Christian Ethics

A critical study of the various methods in social ethics from the point of view of biblical, and Christian theological and philosophical presuppositions; deliberating specially on the current issues in Asia and Thailand and analyzing them from a biblical and Christian theological perspective.

***TS655* Liturgy and the Sacraments** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS551* Introduction to Christian Worship

An in-depth study of the history, theology and development of church liturgy in apostolic church, the orthodox church, the Roman Catholic church and various Protestant denominations. The students will be encouraged to develop a liturgy that is relevant and culture-based.

***TS712* Biblical Theology** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS511-12 & TS515-16*

This is an introduction to the theology of the Old and New Testaments, with attention given to methodology, the unity and diversity of theologies in both Testaments. The course will trace the successive formulation of Israel's understanding of God and other theological themes throughout the biblical period and the present reflection on these formulations within the movement of biblical theology.

***TS713* Biblical Hermeneutics** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS511-12 & TS515-16*

This is a study of the history and principles of interpreting the scriptures. Ways of making the scriptures more relevant to the Asian context will be sought. The study will be an integrative course that will apply sound biblical exegesis to the tasks of preaching and teaching.

***TS721* Biblical Exegesis** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS521* Introduction to New Testament Greek

A course to introduce students to the principles of biblical exegesis so as to equip them with a methodology for further studies on their own. Representative passages from both the Old and the New Testament will be selected for the study.

***TS732* Issues in Modern Theology** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS631-32*

This is a seminar course for students who are interested in examining various themes, problems and controversies in modern and/or postmodern or contemporary theology. The topics will vary from year to year.

***TS733* Modern Theologians** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS631-32*

An introduction to the main theological ideas of modern theologians beginning with Karl Barth and continuing to some of the more influential theologians of the present; pointing out how they have influenced and shaped theological thinking of the modern era.

TS735 Gender Issues in Theology [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS631-32*

This particular course deals with the origins and development of Jewish Christian tradition that account for the exclusion of women by male-oriented structures. It will look into the contribution of feminist and womanist theology in understanding contemporary theology.

TS736 Theology and the Arts [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS631-32*

This examines the artistic and literary expressions of theological themes such as creation, sin and salvation. Focus will be given to texts, creative dimensions and examples of literary, artistic and musical interpretations of theological themes.

TS737 History of Christian Thought [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS535 or TS631*

This course explores the theologies of a certain period or thinker within the Christian Church. The course will vary so as to include the thought of the early Christian fathers, the Greek fathers, Augustine, the Reformation and the nineteenth century.

TS738 History and Theology of Ministry [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS535 or TS631*

This is a seminar on the dominant images of the ministry and their relevance for the modern church. This course will include reading of representative texts from the patristic, medieval, reformation and contemporary literature. Special attention will be given on the changing understanding of the ministry in the age of internet technology and globalization and the growing number of women in the ordained ministry. This course should move the participants to find an integrative vision of ordained and lay ministry in their ministry in church and society.

TS739 Ecumenics [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS631-32*

This is an exploration of the ecumenical idea and theology and the past endeavors that have been done to bring it to fulfillment. A special consideration will be given to the formation and history of the World Council of Churches and regional ecumenical bodies and the present status and future challenges of church unity throughout the world.

TS742 Buddhism and Christianity [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS541* History of Religions

This is an analysis of the fundamental presuppositions and the various schools of thought within Buddhism from both historical and contemporary perspective. The course will explore what Buddhism, Theravada Buddhism, in particular, and Christianity may have in common and how they may be dialogical partners in the region.

TS744 Sociology of Religion [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS541* History of Religions

This course will introduce the students to the analytical methods, critical skills and formative concepts in sociology of religion. Using classic texts and current studies, the course will show the importance of studying social systems to disclose the nature and character of socio-economic and cultural influences upon the church and the ministry.

TS745 Psychology of Religion [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS541* History of Religions

The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding of the different forms of religious experience especially on the effect of religion on the personality. Faith will be studied as a psychological process as expressed in the context of beliefs and practices, conversion and mysticism, and prayer and worship.

TS746 Philosophy of Religion [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS541 & TS631*

This course examines philosophically the nature of religion, the existence of God, faith and reason and religious language, with the view to help the student to understand some of the central questions in religious philosophy and cultivate a critical attitude towards the philosophical problems that religion raises while at the same leading towards a more positive appreciation of the nature and value of religion itself.

TS753 Mission and Evangelism [3 Credits]

This is a course that deals with the theology of mission and the nature and principles of evangelism in the local church. Attention will be given to the understanding of the church's ministry of mission and evangelism in the context of ecumenism and dialogue.

TS754 Spirituality [3 Credits]

A course aimed at discovering and developing contemplative and active spirituality, with primary emphasis on understanding and deepening one's own journey holistically. The fundamental elements of spirituality such as calling and discipleship, community and solitude, liberty and accountability, prayer and service will be considered and will be augmented by readings from ancient and contemporary masters.

TS755 Denominational Studies [3 Credits]

In order to accommodate the students who may come from other Protestant traditions, the polity and ministry, the doctrinal and worship practices of the denomination to which a particular student belongs will be studied. Depending on the need or the size of the class, this course may be handled as a directed study.

TS758 Issues in Pastoral Care and Counseling [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS552* Introduction to Pastoral Care

This course will investigate contemporary issues in church and society, specifically the personal, familial, social and economic impact of such issues on the ministry of pastoral care. It will also look into some of the cultural practices in Asia and, particularly, in Thailand that will lend themselves in enhance and make the ministry of counseling and caring more effective.

***TS759* Clinical Pastoral Education** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *TS552* Introduction to Pastoral Care

The student-participant is given a clinical pastoral responsibility for persons in need and receives a close pastoral supervision as well as peer group feedback. The experience will help to facilitate a new awareness of his/herself as a person and as a minister and care giver. From a theological reflection on specific human situations, he should gain a new understanding of himself and others.

***TS800* Independent Study** [3 Credits]

Prerequisite: *Decided by the adviser*

The student and his/her adviser will work out the details and direction of this study.