2015-2016 Academic Catalog
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Our Mission
The purpose of Western Theological Seminary is to prepare Christians called by God to lead the church in mission. Western Theological Seminary is an evangelical and ecumenical community of faith and learning in the Reformed tradition that serves the church of Jesus Christ. In covenant with the Reformed Church in America, Western equips men and women for Christ-centered, biblically based, theologically integrated, culturally competent, mission-oriented Christian leadership.

Message from the President

In the name of the Lord Jesus, Welcome!

Western Theological Seminary exists to form leaders who serve the cause of the gospel in the church and the world. We are deeply committed to the task of preparing men and women called by God to preach, teach, counsel, care, pursue justice, and tell the good news of Jesus to everyone, everywhere.

Western Theological Seminary welcomes students from many denominations and both honors and benefits from the rich traditions from which they come. This is no “cookie cutter” seminary. Students with a wide range of vocational passions come here to have their hearts and minds quickened and deepened for fruitful ministry in the church and in the world.

As you consider God’s claim on your life, I urge you to consider Western Theological Seminary as a place to deepen your faith, sharpen your gifts, and ready your heart to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world in the name of Jesus!

Grace and peace,

Dr. Timothy Brown
President
Henry Bast Professor of Preaching
Our Commitment to You

At Western Theological Seminary, we don’t just give you solid theological training and push you out into the world. **We stick by you for the first five years of your ministry.**

**Learning to Follow, Learning to Lead**

Our transition into ministry program, called “Learning to Follow, Learning to Lead,” begins from one’s call to seminary and is woven through core classes and a formation for ministry process. It continues with learning opportunities for five years beyond graduation.

From the very first day in class, you will ponder questions like: what does it mean to follow Christ? how do we follow others? what does it mean to lead, first as a student and later as a pastor?

After graduation, new pastors are connected with a coach and pastoral network. For each of their first five years in ministry, graduates are welcomed back to campus for the annual Transition into Ministry Summit, where they reconnect with peers and faculty for renewal, learning and encouragement.

Western Theological Seminary wants to equip you for a lifetime of impact.

**Our Roots**

Established by the Reformed Church in America in 1866, Western Theological Seminary is an evangelical and ecumenical community of faith and learning in the Reformed tradition that serves the church of Jesus Christ.

We welcome students from many Christian traditions, and we offer graduate degree programs as well as continuing education for clergy and lay leaders in the church.

**The Curriculum**

We center our curriculum on the Bible—its languages, history, themes and interpretation. Built upon that foundation are studies in theology, ethics, pastoral care and counseling, preaching, worship, the history and traditions of the church and more.

**Practical, Hands-On Approach**

You will place your classroom learning in context as you work concurrently in a variety of short- and long-term mentored ministry placements.

**Accessible Faculty**

Faculty/student ratio of 1:12
Admissions

Should I attend seminary? Which one?
These are life-defining questions, and we would like to help you answer them. As we hear how you sense God calling you to Christian leadership, we can pray together, asking for God’s clear leading and direction.

This seminary is an excellent place to prepare for a lifetime of effective ministry leadership. Western Theological Seminary seeks students who are committed to following Christ. We are looking for men and women who are emotionally and morally suited for Christian leadership and intellectually capable of rigorous academic scholarship.

Should I visit? Will I fit in?
There is no better way to explore the ethos of this institution than to spend a day with us. You will experience a normal day in our community as we enfold you into the student life of our school. Our campus visitors say they leave with fresh clarity. Come be our guest!

- Attend classes
- Experience our daily worship service
- Meet our community during morning break
- Eat lunch with a current WTS student
- Meet the president of WTS and/or key faculty and staff
- Learn about Admissions, housing, financial aid and potential internships for a Teaching Church
- Explore your vocation with our Admissions Staff

Arrange a campus visit on a day that works best for you. Call 800-392-8554 or email us at admissions@westernsem.edu.

Minimum Undergraduate Requirements
Applicants to Western’s in-residence and distance learning M.Div. programs must earn a Bachelor of Arts degree or its academic equivalent from an accredited college or university in order to be admitted as a candidate. In rare cases, an applicant without a bachelor’s degree but with exceptional compensatory qualifications may be admitted to the degree program under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools standards. Such acceptance will normally be provisional pending satisfactory academic performance during the first semester.

A 2.75 undergraduate grade point average (GPA) is required for admission to all degree programs. An applicant with less than 2.75 GPA may be admitted on probation if the Admissions Committee believes there is potential for academic success. A GPA of 2.75 or higher must be sustained to qualify for the lifting of academic probation and continuation in the degree program.
Transfer Students

Western Theological Seminary accepts credits from other graduate institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Courses are eligible for transfer when the grade received is a minimum of B- or its equivalent. WTS will accept up to 6 credits in which a student earned a “pass” instead of a grade. An academic assessment will identify class status and determine the steps toward completing the degree program at Western. M.Div. students must earn at least 30 credit hours in our institution, and M.A. students must earn at least 24 credit hours in our institution to earn a degree.

All Application Forms

Prospective students may apply online at www.westernsem.edu or download printable application forms from our website. The application fee is $50.

Applications will be regarded as incomplete without permission for a criminal background check.

Distance Learning Applicants

The process for applying for the M.A. and M.Div. distance learning programs is the same as that for in-residence. Please note the detailed technological requirements for distance learning on our website.

Dual Track M.Div.-M.S.W. Applicants

Those pursuing our Dual Track degree program must complete a Master of Divinity application and a one-page statement detailing future vocational and educational plans. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is recommended.

Graduate Certificate for Urban Pastoral Ministry Applicants and Non-Degree Applicants

Applicants must complete a shortened two-page application form, include all academic transcripts, and submit a one-page statement of how their learning might enhance and empower their future ministry.
Doctor of Ministry Applicants
Applicants must hold the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and have at least three years of ministry experience since their M.Div. was completed in order to be considered for admission to the Doctor of Ministry program. Also, they must have served in their current ministry setting for at least one of the three years.

Students participate in seminars for two weeks in May for three consecutive years. Apply by January 15 to be considered for admission to the cohort that begins its work that May.

International Applicants
This school is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.

Master of Theology Applicants
To be considered for admission to the Master of Theology program, international and North American applicants must have completed a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent.

International applicants must have a letter of endorsement and recommendation from their denomination or a ministry-related agency in which they have served for 3+ years. The letter must verify past service and indicate promise for future service and leadership.

International applicants to the Master of Theology program must have a minimum TOEFL score of 550 on the written exam or 80 on the internet-based exam. A certified statement showing sufficient financial resources and medical insurance for dependents for the duration of the degree program is also required.

admissions@westernsem.edu
1.800.392.8554
Housing

Housing options at Western Theological Seminary seek to build community among students.

Townhouses
The townhouses on campus are especially attractive to families with young children. They encircle a commons area with picnic tables, a playground, and plenty of room for gatherings. The townhouses are available in 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units, and each includes air-conditioning, a washer and dryer, as well as major kitchen appliances. Handicapped accessible units are available.

The Friendship House
Because more than 40 million Americans live with a disability, Western Theological Seminary decided to do more to prepare our students to work with these individuals and their families. In 2007 the Ralph and Cheryl Schregardus Friendship House opened, offering students a unique housing option—the opportunity to live alongside young adults with a cognitive disability. This is the first residence of its kind among seminaries across the U.S.

The Ralph and Cheryl Schregardus Friendship House accommodates 18 seminary students (including a resident director) and six people with cognitive impairments. Each special-needs adult shares an apartment with three seminary students, engaging in friendships yet functioning independently. By virtue of living in community with people who have cognitive impairments, Western students become more aware of the challenges faced by persons with a variety of disabilities. Students who live in Friendship House take their experiences into the church— influencing congregations and ministries with the care and sensitivity persons with special needs deserve.

Other Options
In addition to the townhouses and the Friendship House, the seminary owns traditional apartments and houses near the campus. All housing options are within walking distance of parks, churches, and the downtown shopping district.

Applying for Housing
After being accepted to Western and submitting a $250 confirmation fee, students can apply for housing by contacting Norman Donkersloot at 800-392-8554, x107 or norman@westernsem.edu. Housing is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If all units are filled, the business manager will assist students in finding suitable housing.

Pricing
In 2014-2015, townhouse, apartment, and house rentals range from $560 to $840 per month depending upon the location and number of bedrooms. A bedroom in the Friendship House rents for $335. Utilities are included, except for phone and cable. The seminary provides internet service for the townhouses and the Friendship House. The apartments and houses are wired for cable.
Financial Information

Financial Aid
Western’s financial aid program is designed to help students meet their educational expenses as they prepare for Christian ministry.

The total cost of educational and living expenses for nine months ranges from around $23,000 for single students to approximately $33,500 for married students. Distance learning students can expect educational, traveling, and living expenses around $18,000 per year (single) or $28,500 (married). Living costs are variable for students in this program and obviously depend upon regional factors.

We recommend that students contact their home congregations and governing ecclesiastical bodies for potential assistance in their seminary education.

To determine eligibility for financial aid, students can request an application from Financial Aid Administrator, Pat Dykhuis, at 800-392-8554, x120 or pat@westernsem.edu.

If a student cannot match expected expenses with equivalent income, savings, and assistance from his or her home congregation, the next step is to request and complete Western’s financial aid application and the government’s FAFSA forms. The FAFSA forms are available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The deadline for submitting a financial aid application is April 1 for full consideration for scholarships and May 30 for limited scholarships (as resources allow). Students admitted after May 30 will receive consideration for financial aid for the following spring semester if we receive their completed WTS financial aid application no later than December 1. Award letters will be mailed within a week of receiving their WTS financial aid application.

Scholarships, loans, and work opportunities are available to help meet educational costs. Scholarships range from $500-$10,000 and usually involve the opportunity to meet the benefactor at the seminary’s annual scholarship luncheon. Loans are granted through government programs or through banking institutions. Work opportunities are available in maintenance, the bookstore, and the library.

Payment Arrangements

Degree seeking candidates:
Students receive a tuition statement before the start of the semester. It includes pending scholarships (changes to your class schedule could affect your scholarship). Adjusted student bills are distributed the week after the drop/add period for the semester. Payment is due 21 days after the first day of class by one of three ways:
1) Cash, check, credit card
2) Apply for a Direct Loan by contacting Pat Dykhuis
3) Start a payment plan. A $25 administrative fee will be charged for each semester the student is on the plan, and the outstanding balance will be assessed a 1% finance charge each month until it is paid off, which must be in 4 or less monthly payments. Students cannot begin a new semester with balances still due.

Non-Degree seeking candidates:
Students receive a statement at least two weeks before the start of the semester. Payment is due before the first day of class.
2015-2016 Tuition and Fee Schedule

**In-Residence Master of Divinity**
**Dual Track M.Div./MSW**
**Master of Theology**
$418 per credit hour
$100 per credit hour to audit*
  $50 Application fee (non-refundable)
  $200 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
  $20 Noon luncheon fee (each semester)
  $750 January-term retreat (junior year)
  $600-1000 Intercultural Immersion trip (middle year)
  $60 Graduation fee
* Free audits for certain in-residence courses are permitted to spouses of full-time degree students by applying to the academic dean.

**Distance Learning Master of Divinity**
**WTS-Newbigin DL Master of Divinity**
**Master of Arts**
$435 per credit hour
$50 Application fee (non-refundable)
$250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
$600-1000 Intercultural Immersion trip (year three)
$60 Graduation fee
$50 per semester Intensive fee
The cost of transportation, meals, and lodging for the intensives courses are the responsibility of the student.

**Doctor of Ministry:**
$13,500 total tuition for the program for students beginning in 2016.
$50 Application fee (non-refundable)
$250 Acceptance confirmation (applied toward tuition)
$60 Graduation fee
A continuation fee of $750 is charged for each additional year beyond the first four years in the program.

**Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry:**
$418 per credit hour
$100 per credit hour to audit
$50 Application fee (non-refundable)
$60 Graduation fee

Please note that prices are subject to change each year. Current prices are on www.westernsem.edu/admissions/cost

**Drop Dates**
Each semester the dean’s office publishes a drop date for courses. This is usually five days after the start of the semester. A student will bear no academic or financial penalty for any course dropped prior to that date. Tuition will be refunded if a course is dropped prior to, but not after, the drop date. If the course is dropped after the drop date, a student will be responsible for a prorated amount of the tuition.

**Insurance**
Students must carry medical insurance for themselves. If students cannot provide proof of insurance on a medical policy, they are required to sign up for the seminary sponsored program. Details of this program are updated annually and are provided by the Student Services office.
In-Residence Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program usually leads to ordained ministry. It also provides foundational training for ministries in mission, social service, evangelism, education, pastoral care, chaplaincy, and theological research. The In-Residence Master of Divinity is available on-campus in Holland, Michigan.

Requirements for the Degree
The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree requires 96 semester credit hours, usually completed in three years of full-time study. All M.Div. candidates are required to take introductory courses in the Biblical, Theological, and Christian Ministry Fields, as well as Formation for Ministry courses. Students choose elective courses in areas of their own interest.

A required orientation is held each year for all M.Div. candidates in the residential program during the week prior to the beginning of the first semester. During orientation new students are introduced to the M.Div. curriculum and receive information crucial to seminary life. They are assigned to peer groups and ministry settings (also known as their “Teaching Church”). Through worship, conversation, and spiritual autobiography, they begin to form a community of faith and learning. Early in their first year they also undergo evaluation of their capacities and competencies to provide a baseline for future growth and to help each person set individual learning goals.

Guide for College Students
College students interested in pursuing theological education should seek a balanced undergraduate liberal arts program to equip them with foundational knowledge for theological studies.

Ordination Procedures
Each denomination has its own procedures for enrolling, supervising, and examining candidates for ordination. M.Div. candidates should check with their pastors or denominational officers regarding specific instructions for ordination in their particular denomination.

An M.Div. candidate seeking ordination in the Reformed Church in America must apply to his or her classis through the home church consistory for a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry. This certificate and the M.Div. degree are required for ordination in the Reformed Church in America. Western’s faculty reviews M.Div. candidates annually and recommends to the board of trustees that it grants the certificate to those candidates who are deemed “fit for ministry.”

Western Theological Seminary works in a close partnership with other denominational boards and candidate committees responsible for the formation of men and women for ordained ministry.
# IN-RESIDENCE MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR ONE</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>BL100 New Testament Greek 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH100 Church History I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MN100 Worship Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FR121 Entering Christian Ministry</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>J-Term</strong></td>
<td>FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL101A New Testament Greek II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>BL101B New Testament Interpretation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundations</td>
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<td>TH101 Church History II</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MN105 Pastor as Person</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MN101 Preaching Foundations</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>J-Term</strong></td>
<td>FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>BL110 Biblical Hebrew</td>
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<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I</td>
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<td>TH112 Gospel, Culture and Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FR123 Engaging Christian Ministry</td>
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<td><strong>J-Term</strong></td>
<td>FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience</td>
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<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>BL111 Hebrew Translation &amp; Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</td>
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<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
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<td>FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry (Internship)</td>
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<td>BL101A New Testament Greek II</td>
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<td>FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry (Internship)</td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>TH121 Christian Ethics</td>
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| PROGRAM TOTAL: 96 credit hours |
Formation for Ministry

Formation for ministry is the experiential dimension of the M.Div. program—a place to practice ministry and spaces for reflection on your experiences in ministry. Think of it as an opportunity for integrating theory and practice, all the while growing into your ministerial identity. This will take place in a ministry setting under the guidance of a supervisor-mentor and the support of a mentoring team who will do their best to foster a nurturing, yet challenging mentoring environment.

Formation for Ministry Requirements
Students register separately for four 100 hour part-time and one 400 hour full-time unit of Formation for Ministry courses (FR121, 122, 123, 124 are part-time and FR125 is full-time). Course work complements and enriches the experiences in each of these offerings.

Learning Covenants are powerful tools to explore ministry passion areas and grow in ministerial competency. Categories to explore include:

- Disciple-making
- Preaching
- Worship/Liturgical Arts
- Pastoral Care
- Social Justice/Advocacy
- Administration
- Evangelism
- Cross-cultural proficiency

Students use the Learning Covenants to focus their learning, and they write case studies to present real experiences in ministry to each other in peer reflection groups. This enhances their own learning and fosters conversations that enrich the learning of peers.

Ministry Settings
Placement in a Teaching Church or other ministry setting begins after a student is accepted for admission to the M.Div. program and places a deposit to secure his or her place in the incoming class.

After guided investigation and consultation, students interview with potential sites. Upon discerning a good fit, commitments are made for the upcoming year. Many students spend the first two years in the same ministry setting.

Examples of ministry settings include:

- Congregations
- Nursing homes
- Hospitals
- Correctional Facilities
- Parachurch ministries
Peer Groups
Peer groups, numbering about six students, meet weekly and are guided by a ministry mentor. The peer groups represent varieties of backgrounds—colleges, denominations, ages, etc. Care is given to maintain the same groups when possible through the first two years. The groups meet for personal support, reflection on ministry practice, and prayer.

Christian Formation Retreat
During January Term (J-Term) in the first year, students continue delving into their own self-disciplines and identity by first attending a financial literacy workshop where attitudes and habits are discussed and practical tools are given. Then they go off campus for a Retreat for Christian Formation. This spiritual retreat uses autobiography, the spiritual disciplines, and engagement with peers to assist students in clarifying and embracing God’s call upon their lives.

Intercultural Immersion Experience
In groups of 10-15 students with at least one professor as a guide, Western’s M.Div. students travel to other cultural contexts to experience the diverse character of the church’s witness and mission.

These 11-day trips present students with problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism. The trips are taken during the January Term for both distance learning and residential students.

Our students have been immersed into cultures such as:

- India
- Oman
- Chiapas, Mexico
- Borderlands (US/Mexico)
- Israel
- Brazil
- Cambodia
Distance Learning Master of Divinity

Western Theological Seminary offers its Master of Divinity degree in a 5-year blended distance education format. Each year of the fully approved program contains two 14 week semesters, one 3-week January term, and one 6-week summer term.

Blended distance learning offers students a community-rich environment with the opportunity to complete an M.Div. without moving to campus. The distance learning student receives the benefit of belonging to a community of learners while remaining in his or her ministry context.

The 96 credit hour program involves Western’s entire faculty and offers a similar yet specifically designed curriculum as the in-residence Master of Divinity program. The program incorporates spiritual formation retreats, peer groups facilitated by experienced mentors, supervised ministry in teaching churches, and rich community experiences through worship, community fellowship, and shared meals.

Students admitted into the distance M.Div. program are expected to maintain regular and consistent participation in order to complete the degree in five years. The on-campus intensives in October and May are required to receive academic credit for each course taken during those semesters. The J-Term and 6-week summer term are fully online.

The Frost Research Center evaluated Western Theological Seminary’s distance learning program and found that 100% of the students surveyed felt their expectations were met for a high quality graduate theological program. The program strengths most identified were: community developed among students, the ability for second career/non-traditional students to answer their call to ministry, and the spiritual and pastoral formation character of the program.

Program Components
The degree program includes not only the academic courses but also daily worship and shared meals while on campus, and meetings with peer groups during each intensive. In addition, the program has a carefully designed ministry formation process focused on developing a vocational identity.

Semester Schedule
- **Orientation:** In mid-August, new students participate in online orientation and learn how to use the learning management system (Canvas). As students work within Canvas, gaining experience with the tools used in courses, they begin to develop an online community within the new student cohort.

- **Fall Semester:** 14 weeks, early September-December. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a 5-day on-campus intensive in mid-October in Holland, MI.
• **January Term:** 3 weeks, fully-online elective courses.

• **Spring Semester:** 14 weeks, January-May. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a 5-day on-campus intensive in mid-May in Holland, MI.

• **Summer Term:** 6 weeks, late May-late June, fully online courses.

**Admissions**

Applicants are required to meet the same admissions standards as the in-residence program and must demonstrate a capacity for success in distance learning. Application deadline is July 1. Each annual cohort group begins in the fall semester. For questions, contact the director of admissions, Dr. Mark Poppen, at 1-800-392-8554.

**Technology Requirements**

Each student is required to provide his or her own computer according to the standards on the distance learning section of www.westernsem.edu. Wireless connection is available in the library, classrooms, and most of the seminary campus.

**New Student Preparation**

Western seeks to ensure the best start for each new student. New student preparation includes online orientation created within the program’s learning management software (Canvas). This is designed to give students the experience needed for successful navigation and communication within the online components of a course.

In addition, student support is provided by the distance learning department and the academic office. An upper level DL student is also available to encourage new DL students as they begin.

**Community Groups**

During the first two years of the program, community groups consisting of approximately six students and an experienced ministry facilitator meet during the October and May intensives. These groups gather together for support and reflection on their lives and ministries.
## DISTANCE LEARNING M.DIV. CURRICULUM

### YEAR ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td><strong>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL100 New Testament Greek I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td><strong>MN100 Worship Foundations</strong></td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL101A New Testament Greek II</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BL101B New Testament Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BL102 New Testament Foundations</strong></td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td><strong>MN105 Pastor as Person</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Elective using Greek (NT Elective)</strong></td>
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### YEAR TWO

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<td><strong>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</strong></td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td><strong>FR116 Entering/Exploring Christian Ministry</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td><strong>BL111 Hebrew Translation &amp; Interpretation</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td><strong>FR117 Engaging Christian Ministry I</strong></td>
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### YEAR THREE

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<td>Fall</td>
<td><strong>TH100 Church History I</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FR118 Engaging Christian Ministry II</strong></td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td><strong>FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td><strong>TH101 Church History II</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>FR119 Engaging Christian Ministry III</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>MN101 Preaching Foundations</strong></td>
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<td>Summer</td>
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### YEAR FOUR

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<td>Fall</td>
<td><strong>TH113 Systematic Theology I</strong></td>
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<td>J-Term</td>
<td><strong>MN124 Practice of Worship &amp; Preaching</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TH114 Systematic Theology II</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>TH112 Gospel, Culture and Church</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td><strong>Elective (or MN121 Standards and Polity for RCA Candidates)</strong></td>
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### YEAR FIVE

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<th>Semester</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>MN120 Leadership</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TH121 Christian Ethics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td><strong>TH124 Credo</strong></td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
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</table>

**PROGRAM TOTAL: 96 credit hours**

*Italics = purely online course*
**Formation for Ministry for DL M.Div.**

Master of Divinity students take part in supervised ministry at a “Teaching Church” (a setting such as a church, hospital, nonprofit organization, prison, etc.). The Teaching Church program provides a place to practice ministry and a space to reflect on it.

Three elements guide the Teaching Church experience:

1. **A mentor** at the church or organization regularly meets with the student to reflect theologically and personally on the student’s ongoing formation for ministry.

2. During the second and third years of the program, the student writes a **learning covenant** focusing on one area of ministry:
   - education and faith formation
   - pastoral care
   - preaching and worship
   - leadership and administration
   - social justice/advocacy
   - evangelism
   - cross cultural proficiency

3. **A mentoring team** – 3 to 5 people from the ministry setting provide support and feedback.

Distance Learning M.Div. students are required to complete four semesters/units of Teaching Church. Each unit is a minimum of 130 hours of supervised ministry (about 9 hours a week over the 14-week semester).

If a student is already working in ministry, it usually makes sense for that site to become his or her Teaching Church. However, students are encouraged to gain a broad range of experiences to best prepare for their future ministries.

Each student initiates the process of finding a Teaching Church, in communication with the Formation for Ministry office at WTS. The student considers factors such as denominational affiliation, plans for ordination, the kind of ministry to which he or she feels called, ministry skills needed, and the presence of adequate pastoral supervision. The Formation for Ministry team clarifies expectations for the internship with the ministry site.

Questions about the Teaching Church program may be directed to Glenn Swier, Associate Director of Formation for Ministry, at glenn@westernsem.edu or 616-392-8555, x165.

**Peer Groups**

During the FR116, FR117, FR118, and FR119 courses, students process their Teaching Church experiences in peer groups. They present their own case studies as a tool for reflection on who they are becoming as pastors in formation.

**Intercultural Immersion Experience**

See pg. 14 for the description under the In-Residence Master of Divinity program.
WTS-Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity

Are you passionate about church planting, revitalization, and center city renewal ministry? Western’s Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity program may be just the option you are looking for.

Students who are part of the Newbigin Cohort focus on ministry in the city. Drawing on the rich experience of City Church San Francisco, the Newbigin Cohort prepares people for ministry in urban, highly secularized contexts. The program includes coursework centered on ministry in the city, mentoring and spiritual formation with a focus on urban ministry, and internship placements in a variety of urban contexts.

The WTS-Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity is an approved distance-learning M.Div. degree. Distance learning courses are offered through Western Theological Seminary, which is fully accredited, and includes approved courses through the Newbigin House of Studies.

Newbigin House of Studies is located in San Francisco, a city with the lowest church attendance in the U.S. This secular environment will uniquely prepare you to reach the world with the Gospel.

The experiences of Newbigin’s faculty member, Dr. Scot Sherman, and other pastor-scholars, along with the learning lab of the city, provide students with insight from the ground floor of ministry in an urban, secular context.

The three year full-time residential curriculum for a Master of Divinity degree has been sequenced over four years. The WTS-Newbigin DL M.Div. is not possible for a student who works full-time. Part-time work is possible in the first two years of the program. The last two years involve a full-time internship/course work.

For the four years of the program, students travel to Holland, Michigan for 5 days in October and 5 days in May. Students also travel to San Francisco for one week in July or August of the first three years. The seminary and Newbigin House provide information on affordable accommodation options.

Students also participate in an intercultural immersion experience of approximately 11 days in the third year of the program during the January term. (see pg. 14)

Semester Schedule

• Orientation: In mid-August, new students participate in online orientation and learn how to use the learning management system (Canvas). As students work within Canvas, gaining experience with the tools used in courses, they begin to develop an online community within the new student cohort.

Newbigin Faculty

Dr. Scot Sherman
Executive Director of Newbigin House of Studies

Kevin Adams
Newbigin Adjunct Instructor

Peter Choi
Newbigin Adjunct Instructor
• **Fall Semester:** 14 weeks, early September-December. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a 5-day on-campus intensive in mid-October in Holland, MI.

• **January Term:** 3 weeks, fully-online elective courses.

• **Spring Semester:** 14 weeks, January-May. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a 5-day on-campus intensive in mid-May in Holland, MI.

• **Summer Term:** 6 weeks, late May-late June, fully online courses.

• **Late Summer Term:** mid July-late August. Includes a 1-week intensive held in San Francisco during years 1-3 of the program.

**Formation for Ministry for WTS-Newbigin DL M.Div.**

The Teaching Church supervised ministry experience takes place during years 3 and 4 of the program in the City Church setting in which the student is already engaged. The student will work three-quarters time (approx. 400 hrs in a 14 week semester) in ministry practice and one-quarter time (approx. 15-20 hrs in a semester) in ongoing academic coursework. Integration of the ministry experiences, the coursework, and mentoring from both a seasoned urban pastor and a gifted church planter are strong features of the embedded internship. The two years of the internship will track specific learning outcomes in ministry readiness.

**WTS-NEWBIGIN DISTANCE LEARNING MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR ONE</th>
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<th>YEAR TWO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>BL100 New Testament Greek I</strong></td>
<td><strong>BL110 Biblical Hebrew</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MN100 Worship Foundations</strong></td>
<td><strong>BL110 Biblical Hebrew</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MN107 The Urban Christian</strong></td>
<td><strong>BL110 Biblical Hebrew</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BL101A New Testament Greek II</strong></td>
<td><strong>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BL102 New Testament Foundations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MN105 Pastor as Person</strong></td>
<td><strong>BL111 Hebrew Translation &amp; Interpretation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MN108 The Urban Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pastoral Training Seminar</strong></td>
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<td>Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td><strong>TH113 Systematic Theology I</strong></td>
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<td>Late Summer</td>
<td><strong>MN117 Urban Church Planting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FR130A Urban Internship I (kick off)</strong></td>
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<td>Pastoral Training Seminar*</td>
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**YEAR THREE**

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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td><strong>TH100 Church History I</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FR130A Urban Internship I (no face to face)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TH101 Church History II</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MN101 Preaching Foundations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FR130B Urban Internship II (11 hrs face to face)</strong></td>
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**YEAR FOUR**

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<td><strong>TH121 Christian Ethics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FR131A Urban Internship II (11 hrs face to face)</strong></td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>MN124 Practice of Worship &amp; Preaching</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FR131B Urban Internship II</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td><strong>MN122 Church Revitalization in the Urban Context</strong></td>
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**PROGRAM TOTAL: 96 credit hours**

*Rotating Pastoral Training Seminars on site in San Francisco: Racism Awareness, Addictions Recovery, Clergy Sexual Misconduct Awareness

*Italics = purely online course

Type in blue: Newbigin House of Studies additional infrastructure (italics = purely online)
Dual Track Master of Divinity-Master of Social Work

The Dual Track Master of Divinity-Master of Social Work program is designed to help students prepare for professional ministry where the depth and breadth of Christian theology and faith meet the pain and struggle of human life.

After four years of intense study accompanied by challenging internships, students are ready to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in contexts ranging from marriage counseling in a congregation to coordinating programs at a ministry with homeless people.

Students learn to integrate the theory, knowledge and skills required of pastors and social workers as they seek to be instruments of grace and peace. In turn they are equipped to help the Church more effectively follow the compassionate Christ into the world.

Program Design
The program can be completed in one of two ways. The primary design is that students spend the first two years of the four year dual track program at WTS taking Master of Divinity in-residence coursework. Years three and four are spent in an accredited Master of Social Work program at another institution of the student’s preference. WTS does not have a partnership with any particular school in this program. Application and admission to each institution is done separately.

69 hours of the 96 required for an M.Div. degree are completed in the first two years. The remaining 27 hours are transferred from the M.S.W. program back to WTS as electives, which enables a student to complete both masters degrees in four years instead of five.

Students who decide not to pursue an M.S.W. degree after the first two years of M.Div. coursework can receive an M.Div. degree only after completing all of its degree requirements. WTS recognizes that students who have completed a Bachelor of Social Work degree can receive “advanced standing” in certain M.S.W. programs. Advanced standing allows a student to finish an M.S.W. degree in less than two years.

The Dual Track program is also open to students who have already earned an M.S.W. degree (within 7 years prior to M.Div. matriculation at WTS). M.Div. coursework can be completed in two years accompanied by transfer credits from the student’s M.S.W. program in order to reach the 96 credit requirement. In addition, these students must complete a full-time summer internship after the first year at WTS.
Distance Learning Option
The Master of Divinity portion of the dual track program can also be completed in the distance learning format. For more information on this 5-year track, contact the registrar or Glenn Swier, the director of the Dual Track M.Div.-M.S.W. program.

Cohort Learning Groups
Across the years of the program, students meet consistently in cohort learning groups with a ministry professional who facilitates the integration of the two professional areas.

Students work at exploring and refining their own professional identities while discussing theoretical and practice dimensions of ministry and social work.

Cohort meetings take place weekly—face to face in the first two years while at WTS and then online while completing the M.S.W. degree.

Unique Ministry
Unique ministry opportunities will open for those pursuing Western’s Dual Track degree:

• Christian Counseling
• Counseling hurting people
• Coordinating urban youth programs
• Chaplaincy in a treatment program
• Restorative justice work in the criminal justice system
• Community development here or abroad
• Children and family support and education
• Outreach Pastor
• Social justice research and advocacy
• Starting a nonprofit ministry
Master of Arts

Western Theological Seminary’s newest and most flexible degree program, the Master of Arts, is designed as a general theological degree in biblical and theological studies. This degree will support men and women with resources for thoughtful and competent Christian leadership in a broad range of ministry settings.

Distinctives of the Program

- Half of the 48 credits needed to earn this degree are electives. This means you have flexibility to focus your learning in areas most meaningful to you.
- Students may select courses in a residential format, a purely online format, or a blended format with both online and face-to-face interaction.
- Theological and biblical course requirements will help you to understand and articulate Christian traditions and convictions.

Western Theological Seminary’s highly effective and community-rich distance learning environment offers courses wherever you are. Some courses are delivered completely online while others use a hybrid design, blending online learning with face-to-face instruction on the WTS campus. For those who prefer to take most courses on campus, in-residence options are also available.

WTS welcomes transfer students and transferred coursework. Up to half of the coursework required to complete the M.A. may be transferred from another ATS accredited seminary for degree completion at Western Theological Seminary.

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) has approved this Master of Arts program.

Semester Schedule

- **Orientation:** In mid-August, new students participate in online orientation and learn how to use the learning management system (Canvas). As students work within Canvas, gaining experience with the tools used in courses, they begin to develop an online community within the new student cohort.
- **Fall Semester:** 14 weeks, early September-December. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a 5-day on-campus intensive in mid-October in Holland, MI.
- **January Term:** 3 weeks, fully-online elective courses.
- **Spring Semester:** 14 weeks, January-May. Hybrid courses that blend online and classroom learning include a 5-day on-campus intensive in mid-May in Holland, MI.
- **Summer Term:** 6 weeks, late May-late June, fully online courses.
## MASTER OF ARTS CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
<th>BL102 New Testament Foundations</th>
<th>3.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Can be taken in any order)</td>
<td>TH113 Systematic Theology I</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH114 Systematic Theology II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH100 Church History I -or- TH101 Church History II</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN120 Leadership</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN102 Practice of Discipleship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TH126 Summative Examination</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits of required courses:** 24

| ELECTIVE COURSES | 24 elective credits may be selected from any of the fields (Biblical, Theological, or Christian Ministry) |

**Total credits of elective courses:** 24

**Program total:** 48 credit hours
Master of Theology

The primary purpose of the Master of Theology (Th.M.) program is to enable qualified graduates of post-baccalaureate degree programs in theology (i.e., the M.Div. degree or its equivalent) to broaden and deepen their theological knowledge. Students will do this by participating in core seminars, taking a limited number of electives, and pursuing research in a specialized area within the Biblical, Theological, or Christian Ministry fields.

Our program has three further distinctive characteristics:

1. In the Th.M. core seminars, we focus on theological and cultural underpinnings of how Christian faith and practice are and might be embodied in various cultures and contexts. Th.M. students come from around the globe, and their diverse experiences enrich scholarly discussions on Christian faith and practice.

2. Given the global cultural shift into post-modernity, our Th.M. seminars are designed to help students lead the church into this new way of thinking and being, directly from a methodological perspective.

3. Generous funding is available for U.S. and international students, pastors, and leaders. We offer up to five full scholarships to Th.M. candidates on a competitive basis of academic excellence.

The Th.M. degree is intended for pastors who wish to deepen their education, students preparing for further Ph.D. studies, or, in certain contexts, for leaders who will serve and teach in theological institutions.

To apply, a candidate must:

- have a Master of Divinity degree or the equivalent.
- submit transcripts of all schools attended.
- have the ability to relate theological study to social, cultural, and historical contexts of his or her ministry.

International Students must submit a TOEFL score of at least:

- Paper based: 550, TWE 4
- Internet based: 80
- IELTS: Overall 6.0

MASTER OF THEOLOGY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>J-term</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MT210 Orientation Seminar</td>
<td>MT220 Research Design</td>
<td>MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics</td>
<td>Non-thesis option: Two 3-credit Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT235 Seminar in Theological Method</td>
<td>Two 3-credit Electives</td>
<td>MT253 Comprehensive Examination</td>
<td>MT260A Research Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thesis option:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis option: One 3-credit Elective</th>
<th>MT253 Comprehensive Examination</th>
<th>MT260 Thesis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Total: 25 credit hours
Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program is offered to those who hold the Master of Divinity degree or its educational equivalent and who are currently engaged in leading the church and its ministries.

The D.Min. program exists to refine and extend the practice of ministry. The program encourages students:

1) to grow in understanding how God has called and formed them;
2) to integrate insights from the various social scientific and theological disciplines into their ministry;
3) to discern the theological and cultural traditions of life and ministry;
4) to increase skill in ministry;
5) to grow in capacity to work with others; and
6) to make a significant contribution to the practice of ministry.

The successful design and completion of a thesis project in the third and fourth years will demonstrate that the student has met these six goals.

The program emphasizes self-designed learning with faculty mentoring. Students have the flexibility to shape their program around their particular needs while also working in collaboration with peers.

The self-designed learning encourages growth at four levels simultaneously: as children of God (theological and ecclesial formation), as persons (emotional and psychological formation), as practitioners (skills formation), and as scholars (intellectual formation).

The D.Min. program at Western is approved by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

Expectations of student progress:

The D.Min academic year begins on May 1 of each year and ends on April 30 of the following year. The program is full-time, and students are expected to complete the degree in three years but not more than four years.

Candidates are expected to complete one seminar and 2 learning units (12 credits) each of the first two years and a project seminar (4 credits) the third year. The third and fourth year of the program are devoted to completion of the thesis. The thesis is 16 credits.

The D.Min degree is granted when a student has completed the core curriculum of 44 credits. Students not progressing at the above listed rate will not be considered making progress towards a timely completion.

(see next page for curriculum)
## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets for two weeks in May</th>
<th>DM810 Orientation Seminar</th>
<th>4.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduces major components of the program. During the seminar, students clarify their program of study and work on designing learning units.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Learning Units

16.0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets for two weeks in May</th>
<th>DM820 Candidate Seminar</th>
<th>4.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begins the second year of the program. This seminar focuses on questions of context in relation to one’s program of study.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets for two weeks in May</th>
<th>DM830 Project Seminar</th>
<th>4.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begins the third year and focuses on vocation and the D.Min. project based upon their first two years’ work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets for two weeks in May</th>
<th>DM840 Project</th>
<th>16.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design and completion of a thesis project is the final stage of the D.Min. program. The D.Min. project consists of an original investigation or activity in ministry and affords students an opportunity to develop a mature practice of ministry characterized by careful scholarship and pastoral wisdom.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Total: 44 credit hours**
Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry

The Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry (GCUPM) provides an opportunity for urban pastors and leaders to renew their minds by going deeper with graduate level biblical and theological learning. Participants also refresh their ministry skills by learning from each other and from faculty who are committed to multiracial/ethnic ministry in the city.

Students can move through the program at their own pace, typically taking one or two courses per semester over a period of up to four years.

To serve the needs of working pastors and church leaders, the schedule for courses is varied. Many courses are offered during the day, but at least one course each semester is held on Thursday evenings or on the weekends. When interest has been sufficient, courses have been held off campus, e.g. in Muskegon and Kalamazoo, MI.

Students in the program often serve as pastors or ministry leaders in established ministries in a variety of urban contexts in western Michigan.

Financial aid is available for GCUPM students. Application is made by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid form) and our WTS form. Tuition awards are based solely on financial need as determined by these two forms. Contact Financial Aid Administrator Pat Dykhuis for more information at pat@westernsem.edu or 616-392-8555, x120.

Upon successful completion of the Graduate Certificate, students can enter Western Theological Seminary’s Master of Divinity or Master of Arts program through a separate application process. All Graduate Certificate courses can be applied to Master of Divinity or Master of Arts programs at Western or at other ATS accredited seminaries.

Persons interested in the GCUPM Program should contact Admissions at admissions@westernsem.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GCUPM CURRICULUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL103 Old Testament Foundations 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL102 New Testament Foundation 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH101 Church History II 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN124 Practice of Worship &amp; Preaching 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course at SCUPE in Chicago may be used in place of one of the courses below:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Ministry course I 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Ministry course II 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective 3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Total: 24 credit hours
Non-Degree-Seeking Students

Western Seminary allows those who wish to register for seminary courses without enrolling in one of our degree programs to apply for non-degree-seeking status. Those admitted as non-degree-seeking students may audit courses or take courses for credit. Those wanting academic credit for a course are subject to all regular academic requirements.

Non-degree-seeking students may not register for more than 15 semester credit hours without receiving permission from the academic dean. Formation for Ministry courses and directed-study courses are not available to non-degree-seeking students.

SCUPE

The Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry (GCUPM) provides an opportunity In addition to its regular degree programs, Western participates in SCUPE, the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education, located in Chicago. SCUPE is an interdenominational organization committed to convening and educating all those who seek to engage the urban environment. SCUPE develops leaders by offering specialized intensive courses and internships in urban ministry.

Courses offered by SCUPE

Public Theology in the City
(Taught in context at Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN or Louisville, KY or Pittsburgh, PA) Public theology is a collaborative process best learned in the context of urban diversity where public concerns or issues are found. In partnership with an urban church, the class will learn the basics of the art of doing public theology that leads to redemption and transformation of social sin. 3 cr

Eco-Justice: A Vision for a Sustainable City
The church has a significant role in developing a holistic vision for a sustainable city as an outworking of shalom, a just peace. The course evaluates economics, environment and equity (or social justice). Central to the course is the question, “What does it mean to be a sustainable urban community?” 3 cr

Public Issues in Urban Ministry
Learn public theology by doing theology. Begin by identifying the theological issues that underlie urban culture, economy, politics and society. Using Chicago as a learning laboratory, the class will explore what it means to pursue and advance substantive Christian moral values in the midst of systemic injustice and secular society. 3 cr

Interfaith & Intercultural Ministry Intensive
The world has come to the city. Provides students with practical theology for ministry in a multicultural context, anti-racism training, and exposure to ministries in diverse cultural settings. 3 cr

Urban Peacemaking in a Culture of Violence
Addresses peacemaking in its “full spectrum” from direct action and intervention to restorative justice and conflict resolution. Introduces active listening, circle process, and non-violent practice. 3 cr

Urban Principalities and the Spirit of the City
Examines spiritual realities foundational to understand and transform social, economic and political structures of our urban world. 3 cr

Christology and Culture
Studies the diversity of cultural images and models used to elaborate the meaning of Jesus throughout history and its significance for urban ministry. 3 cr

Prophetic Preaching in the Urban Context
Preaching the Word with urban social insight and prophetic imagination allows playful energy that can delight and shock the listener out of stuck thinking as it kindles and strengthens hope. 3 cr

Restoring Urban Communities
Examines relationship between biblical faith and community development through site visits to exceptional Chicago development models. 3 cr

Dimensions and Dynamics of Urban Ministry
Organized as city-wide experiential learning opportunities in congregations and faith-based organizations where students dialogue with urban ministry leaders who offer vision, courage and hope. 3 cr

Good News for the City
Held in conjunction with the Congress on Urban Ministry, which addresses evangelism and justice within politics, economics, race, and culture. Fees include event registration. 3 cr

SCUPE Supervised Ministry Practicum
Focuses on personal formation for ministry by integrating work in the ministry setting with SCUPE's academic curriculum. Credit varies by seminary. Schedule: TBD
Resources

Academic Affairs
The Academic Affairs office provides:
• degree program administration
• academic calendar
• advisor assignments
• writing tutors
• class and exam schedules
• grades, transcripts
• class enrollment
• drop/add and withdrawal forms
• financial aid applications
• current enrollment data

Writing Studio
The Writing Studio is offered to students who would like to improve their writing skills. Tutors are equipped to help students learn how to conceive, develop, organize and clarify their writing efforts. The Writing Studio is a free service for enrolled students.

Student Services

Student Assistance Program (SAP)
Students have access to individual counseling, spiritual direction, formative workshops, and general education-for-ministry opportunities. Each of these can provide significant insights into one’s person and calling. The SAP is underwritten by WTS and the Dr. Stanley Rock Preparation for Ministry Fund and underscores the seminary’s commitment to a wholistic approach to persons.

Student Council
Student Council advocates for student concerns and provides programming that engages the entire student body. Each class has representation along with elected leaders. The dean of formation for ministry serves as faculty liaison.

Health Insurance
Students in need of medical insurance can sign up for the seminary sponsored program. Details of this program are updated annually.

Placement Services
While the seminary does not “place” its graduates, we offer helpful support including workshops on topics such as the RCA Ministerial Profile, interviewing as a candidate, and compensation for clergy.
WTS hosts churches and other ministries that wish to make our graduates aware of openings. Many open ministry positions are listed on Western’s website at westernsem.edu/about/jobs/

Racial-Ethnic Initiatives
The seminary is committed to working toward racial-ethnic diversity in our community.

Diversity Initiatives
The Diversity Committee attentively creates a culture of racial-ethnic hospitality through events such as racial-awareness training, our annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, and the Stoutemire Lecture in Multicultural Ministry Series. The group engages the campus in issues relative to racial and ethnic unity. Contact diversity@westernsem.edu for questions, suggestions or concerns regarding issues of diversity in the community.

C.J. Kingdom-Grier serves as assistant to the president for racial initiatives, taking the lead in assisting Western Theological Seminary toward a future freed of racism, advising seminary leaders in strategic plans to create a culture of racial-ethnic hospitality, and connecting with students and outside peoples and agencies. CJ can be reached at grier@westernsem.edu.

Faculty Fellow Program
Racial-ethnic scholars who are completing their Ph.D. dissertation are sought by the seminary for possible appointment as Faculty Fellows. Western created this program as part of a strategy to prepare leaders for diverse congregations. Our first scholar, Prof. Eric Williams, taught courses in Modern Black Theology during a two-year fellowship. Our second Faculty Fellow, Rev. Chris Dorsey, taught courses in Multi-Cultural Ministry and Theology and Social Movements and is now a permanent member of the faculty. Han-Luen Kantzer Komline taught church history courses during 2014-15 and was appointed as an assistant professor starting the fall of 2015. Our current Faculty Fellows are Rev. Duane Loynes, Sr., whose research interests lie in African-American religion/philosophy and justice/liberation, and Dr. Dynna Castillo Portugal, who will be teaching pastoral care and counseling.

Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry
This program is shaped to meet the unique educational needs of those practicing ministry in the urban context. The courses are taught by an ethnically diverse group of professors who balance theory with practical learning. (see pg 28)

The Sacred Page Bookstore & Coffee Shop
• textbooks
• Bibles, music, worship materials
• Christian literature
• Materials supporting student and faculty research
• snacks
• Fair Trade coffees
• Inspirational gifts

The Sacred Page
Mary Huisman
Manager of the Sacred Page
Beardslee Library
The John Walter Beardslee Library, housed in the Cook Center for Theological Research, is the seminary’s center for access to information resources supporting student studies, faculty research, and area ministries.

Beardslee Library’s resources include more than 110,000 books and bound periodicals. Approximately 1000 books are added to the collection each year; current periodical subscriptions number 420. Electronic resources for theological study, including databases, thousands of e-books, and 7200 e-journals are available through links on Beardslee Library’s webpage at www.westernsem.edu/library. Graduates of the seminary may participate in the ATLAS for Alumni/ae program which provides access to full-text e-journal articles at no cost.

Library users find information on the collection through HopeCAT, the shared catalog of the Hope College Libraries and Beardslee Library. The college and seminary libraries maintain reciprocal borrowing privileges and work cooperatively to develop strong collections for each institution. In addition, seminary students and faculty can request materials from other libraries through interlibrary loan.

Special Collections
Several special collections complement Beardslee Library’s core of materials. A Japanese collection includes Japanese translations of significant theological works. An area on the library’s fourth floor is devoted to religious education curricula from a wide range of publishers. Historical denominational materials and faculty publications are also available. The Kolkman Memorial Archive (housed at the Theil Research Center on the corner of 10th St. and College Ave.) contains papers documenting the history of Western Theological Seminary and of the Reformed Church in West Michigan.

Study Environment
The Cook Center for Theological Research provides an environment conducive for study, offering study carrels, tables, lounge chairs, seminar rooms on the 2nd and 5th floors, catalog access on each floor, the capacity for photocopying, printing, or scanning documents, and wireless access throughout the building. A sight reader is available to help the visually impaired.

Beardslee Library is a member of the American Theological Library Association, the American Library Association, the Michigan Library Association, and the Michigan Library Consortium.

Classroom Resources
• wireless internet
• video and audio-recording/playback
• overhead projection
• videotaped learning labs
• Canvas course management software
• sound amplification equipment
Journey Center for Learning

For students, pastors, and congregations
As a learning pathway, Journey offers opportunities to learn throughout the academic year around themes of leadership, preaching, discipleship, and youth. Students are encouraged to attend and receive a reduced rate.

One initiative specifically for students is called Learning to Follow...Learning to Lead. It develops followership and leadership qualities in M.Div. students while in school. After seminary, knowing that the first five years of ministry are crucial, Journey brings recent graduates back to WTS for the annual Transition into Ministry Summit. As these young leaders reconnect with peers and professors and attend helpful training by mentors, they find encouragement and feedback to process what they are experiencing in ministry. They return to their calls renewed and re-energized.

Learning opportunities Journey offers:

- Ridder Church Renewal
- Bast Preaching Initiatives
- The Osterhaven Theology Lectures
- Journey Groups provided through The Lilly Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Grant
- Annual Discipleship Conference with the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church
- Annual Youth Conference with the RCA
- Transition into Ministry: Learning to Follow...Learning to Lead
- Various conferences and gatherings

westernsem.edu/journey
journey@westernsem.edu
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Cornelius Van der Meulen Professor Emeritus of Old
Testament

I. John Hesselink
Albertus C. Van Raalte Professor Emeritus of
Systematic Theology

George R. Hunsberger
Professor Emeritus of Missiology

Christopher B. Kaiser
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Stanley A. Rock
Florence M. Charavay Professor Emeritus of Pastoral
Care and Counseling

Paul M. Smith
Associate Professor of Theological Bibliography

Dennis Voskuil
Marvin & Jerene DeWitt Professor Emeritus of
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Dr. Wayne Brouwer
Rev. Jonathon Brown
Dr. Chris DeVos
Dr. Ray Donatucci
Rev. Fred Harrell
Dr. Derek Hicks
Dr. Mark Husbands
Rev. Brian Keepers
Nathan Johnson
Dr. Trygve Johnson
Johnny LaLonde
Rev. Duane Loynes, Sr.
Dr. Marilyn McEntyre
Rev. Jeff Munroe
Dr. Chad Pierce
Rev. Lindsay Small
Dr. Scot Sherman
Rev. Julie VanTil
Rev. Matthew van Maastricht
Dr. Kent Van Til
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Vice President of Operations and Advancement
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Libby Pearson
Administrative Assistant
C.J. Kingdom-Grier
Assistant to the President for Racial Initiatives

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Interim Academic Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs
John Brogan
Associate Academic Dean
Glenn Swier
Director of the Dual Track MDiv-MSW Program and the GCUPM Program
David Stubbs
Director of the Th.M. Program
Katy Sundararajan
Master of Theology Program Administrator and International Student Advisor
Pat Dykhuis
Registrar and Financial Aid Administrator
Theresa Hamm
Academic Office Associate, Assessment Coordinator
James Vlisides
Educational Technologist
Carol Ann Bailey
Educational Technology Specialist and Student Support Coordinator
Kathy Ehmann
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Laurie Baron
Writing Studio Director

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Receptionist, Secretarial Assistant
Gretchen Torres
Receptionist
Sara Russell
Manager of The Bridge
Jan Nyhof
Sales Associate at The Bridge
David Becker
Superintendent of Building and Grounds
Joe DeWeerd
Custodian/Maintenance Assistant

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Associate Director of Development
Rob Housman
Associate Director of Development
LuAnne VanSlooten
Administrative Assistant
Evonne Wernlund
Office Assistant
Carla Capotosto
Associate Director of Communications and the Lilly Economic Challenges Grant
Megan Rice
Communications Assistant
Beardslee Library

Ann Nieuwkoop  
Interim Director

Stephen E. Michaels  
Emerging Technologies Librarian

Benjamin Boss  
Resources Management Librarian

Allison Van Liere  
Circulation Supervisor

Maria Emerson  
Technical Services Assistant

Journey

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Director

Rev. Pam Bush  
Associate Director of Journey, Discipleship

Rev. Chris DeVos  
Associate Director of Journey, Ridder Church Renewal

Rev. Lindsay Small  
Associate Director of Journey, Bast Preaching Initiatives

Lee Ann Sotok  
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Shanna Houssman  
Administrative Assistant

Student Services/Formation for Ministry

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Dean of Formation for Ministry

Stephanie Croom  
Associate Director of Formation for Ministry

Glenn Swier  
Associate Director of Formation for Ministry

Rev. Pam Bush  
Associate Director of Student Care

Beth Smith  
Administrative Assistant for Student Services

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Friendship House Director

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The Bridge
A few short blocks from campus, Holland’s downtown thrives with specialty shops and galleries. One of the shops, The Bridge, is an unusual type of "specialty" store—a developing-world store staffed entirely by volunteers. The merchandise is purchased from cooperatives of artisans around the world who depend upon their work for economic survival.

Because The Bridge bypasses expensive importers and operates with minimal overhead, it can offer reasonably priced handmade goods to shoppers and insure a fair return to the artisans who produce them.

The Bridge is owned and operated by Western Theological Seminary. Profits from The Bridge help to bring scholars from around the world to our Master of Theology program.

Bridging...Equality
Bridging...Sustainability
Bridging...Fair Trade
Bridging...Cultures

thebridge@westernsem.edu

The Community Kitchen
The Community Kitchen is delivered through a partnership with the Community Action House and Western Theological Seminary and operates out of the seminary Commons. The Community Kitchen is our doorway to those struggling with poverty, providing a place to identify the needs and struggles of our most vulnerable neighbors while providing them with a free meal.

Volunteers from local churches and the seminary help to staff the kitchen and feed hundreds of people a week year round. Luncheon in the Commons is a time and place where people of all backgrounds, incomes, faiths, and social positions are welcome to nourish their bodies with food and their spirits with the companionship of others.

Students, staff, and faculty are invited to volunteer their time in this ministry that links Western to the community in which we reside. Some pray with people in a private prayer room; others simply join the community in a meal. Others, such as Friend residents from The Friendship House, help with custodial tasks.

info@communityactionhouse.org
Jim Piersma, Manager
Courses

BIBLICAL FIELD

Required Courses:

BL100 New Testament Greek I

BL101A New Testament Greek II
Continues BL100, with special emphasis upon syntax and translation. 1.5 cr

BL101B New Testament Interpretation
An introduction to the tools and principles required for the exegesis of the New Testament in its own linguistic, historical, and canonical context, as a foundation for interpreting the New Testament in a contemporary context. 1.5 cr Prereq: BL100, BL101A

BL102 New Testament Foundations
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the New Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the New Testament for today.

BL103 Old Testament Foundations
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the Old Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the Old Testament for today.

BL110 Biblical Hebrew I
An introduction to Biblical Hebrew in its cultural context for those who seek to interpret the Bible faithfully and fully. Using multi-sensory and interactive approaches, students will learn the basic vocabulary, grammar, syntax and world view of the Old Testament.

BL111 Hebrew Translation and Interpretation
A continuation of BL110 which more fully engages interpretive and devotional approaches to Old Testament texts. Prereq: BL110

Old Testament:

BL507-DL Caring for Creation
In this course we will trace the confluence of forces that have shaped the western Christian understanding of the created order, and we will explore how this understanding has led to the loss of vitality in both the Christian community and in the created order.

BL509 Conflict in the Created Order
This course will explore how the conflict between the ordering word of God and the disordering waters of the deep in the creation story is recapitulated in the narrative, prophetic, and wisdom literature. We will explore why Western Christians have tended to overlook this conflict, and how a deeper understanding of it can revitalize Christian communities.

BL510-DL The Old Testament in the New
Many Christians, though at home in much of the New Testament, feel out of their depth in the Old. Yet, the New Testament is largely unintelligible outside of knowing the narratives, poems, apocalypses, wisdom sayings, and laws of the Old Testament. This course is bridges the canonical gap by exploring the Old Testament as it is used in the New. By canvassing how Paul, James, the Evangelists, and ultimately Jesus imaginatively use the Old Testament, we will discover how and faithful ways in which the Spirit is speaking to the Church through Scripture. 1.5 cr

BL513 Studies in Prophets
The role of prophets in Israelite society, their theology, and their impact on Western culture.

BL514 Seminar in Psalms
An exegetical study of selected psalms in the context of both the Old Testament and the larger canon of Scripture. Attention is also given to the role of the psalms in the liturgical, devotional, and theological life of the church. 1.5 cr

BL515 The Earth is the Lord’s: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible
A theological exposition of the book of Esther that looks to literary issues such as theme, character, and irony as guides for interpreting the book in the contexts of both the Old and the New Testaments. Originally intended as a model for life in the Jewish Diaspora, the book is a potentially important guide for Christians seeking to live faithful lives in a secular society. 1.5 cr

BL518 The Trial of Galileo and Its Implications for Biblical Interpretation Today
Galileo (1564-1642) refined the telescope and turned it toward the heavens. Observing the movements of planets and moons, he saw that the sun was the center of the world and not the earth, as the theologians of his day taught. The Church put him on trial during which there was intense debate about the authority of the Scriptures and the relationship between general and special revelation. In the end, his books were banned, and he was put under house arrest. We will study the trial of Galileo and use it as a lens to look at similar controversies facing the Church today about the structure of the world. 1.5 cr

BL519 Seminar in Performance Criticism
In this course students will engage Old Testament narratives deeply through both translation and performance. Beginning with translation, students will explore the heart of the Hebrew dramas in the Old Testament and render them in faithful English translation with an eye and ear toward performance. Then, the class will engage each narrative through embodied exegesis to develop a performance of the narrative, which will be offered publicly, either in a church service or in morning prayers. 1.5 cr Prereq: BL110

BL520 Esther
A theological exposition of the book of Esther that looks to literary issues such as theme, character, and irony as guides for interpreting the book in the contexts of both the Old and the New Testaments. Originally intended as a model for life in the Jewish Diaspora, the book is a potentially important guide for Christians seeking to live faithful lives in a secular society. 1.5 cr

BL522 Old Testament Narratives
This course will explore the artistry, drama, and theology of Israelite storytelling. We will consider the cultural, historical, and theological context out of which these dramatic stories arose, and will discover their transforming power through performance. 1.5 cr

BL524 Ruth
A literary and theological exposition of the book of Ruth. Emphasis placed on improving Hebrew reading and on refining exegetical skills. 1.5 cr; Prereq: BL110

BL548 Pentateuch
A study of the first five books of the Bible. Examines the accounts of creation, the fall, Israel’s ancestors, the exodus, and the giving of the Law. The class will explore theological issues such as the nature of God, human beings and the world, our covenantal relationship with God, and the presence of God in historical events.

BL614 Hebrew Reading/Performance
Using memorization and movement as the primary tools of exegesis, students engage with one Old Testament narrative deeply for 14 weeks. This course builds on BL110 and BL111, deepening students’ engagement with the oral nature of the Hebrew Bible. Pass/fail, 1.5 cr
BL616 Christianity and Literature
A study of the biblical and theological motifs in selected literature by both classical and contemporary authors. Emphasis is on the use/study of such works in ministry settings, as well as their relevance for those involved in leadership roles in the church.

BL618 Advanced Biblical Hebrew
Advanced learning in the language and theology of the Old Testament. Students develop a deeper understanding of grammar, syntax, and interpretation through hearing, speaking, and reading Hebrew, as well as memorizing and enacting biblical stories. Prereq: BL110 & BL111

New Testament:

BL508 Revelation
This course studies the book of Revelation within its historical, political, and literary contexts. Particular emphasis will be placed on the apocalyptic nature of the work within the first century C.E. Additionally, it studies the impact this book has had on contemporary views on eschatology. Finally, students will examine the variety of ways that Revelation can be used in the church, including preaching, liturgy, and pastoral care.

BL529 The Gospel According to Matthew
An overview of the theology and narrative shaping of the first gospel, using close readings of selected texts. Particular attention is paid to Matthew’s vision for discipleship, the church, and Christian life and witness. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B or equiv.

BL530 Letter to the Romans
Introduction and overview of the letter, together with exegetical study of selected portions in Greek. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL532 The Gospel According to John
Considers important historical, literary, hermeneutical, and theological issues in the Gospel of John, with exegesis of selected passages in Greek. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL534-DL Reading Acts in its Contexts: Communities, Conflicts/Contemporary Church
This course will examine Acts in light of its varied social, political, and canonical contexts, with a particular emphasis on the Spirit’s formation of the people of God. Students will undertake a close reading of the text of Acts and will consider the ways that Acts can help the contemporary church imagine communities of faith and practice that bear witness to the Triune God. 1.5 cr

BL535 Interpreting the Parables
A survey of recent approaches to interpreting the parables of Jesus provides the context for considering hermeneutical issues in preaching and teaching the parables. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL537-DL Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke
This course studies Matthew, Mark and Luke and their cultural, historical and literary contexts. Students will also explore ways of using gospels in worship, preaching and teaching.

BL540 The Corinthian Correspondence
An exploration of Paul’s First and Second letters to the Corinthians, with particular attention to the interaction between pastoral engagement and theological reflection. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL541 Letters to the Philippians and Galatians
An exegetical study of two Pauline letters in light of modern interpretation, with attention to their use in modern theology and the preaching and teaching of the church. Selected Greek passages will be studied in depth. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL542 General Epistles
An overview of all the General/Catholic Epistles, with closer exegetical treatment of three of them. The epistles selected for closer treatment will vary, and key passages in them will be exegetically treated in Greek. Attention will be paid to the use of these epistles in the teaching and preaching of the church today. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

Though often overshadowed by the Pauline and Johannine texts, Luke’s two-volume narrative comprises over one fourth of the entire New Testament. Not only is this the largest contribution of any N.T. author, it provides us with the only extended portrait of the earliest communities of Christians. This course focuses on Luke’s witness to Jesus, salvation in Lukan perspective, the role of the Holy Spirit, the practices of the early church, and the relationship between church and empire. Special attention is given to the implications for the practice and proclamation of the church today.

BL545 Acts of the Apostles
This course explores the book of Acts within its historical, cultural, literary, and theological contexts. Students will read through the entire book, engaging sections of the text in Greek. Questions include: how did early Christians live and thrive in tension with the world around them, and how is their story significant to our own ministry in our contexts? Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL546 The New Testament and Christian Ministry
This course seeks to synthesize vision for proclaiming and teaching the Gospel today through the study of selected texts and themes from the New Testament. These texts, studied in Greek, focus on the themes of unity and diversity of the Gospel message, the general ministry of the church in the New Testament, and special ministries in the New Testament. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B or equiv.

BL547 The Bible, Gender, and Sexuality
A survey of major biblical texts on sex and sexuality in general, with a view toward developing an overall framework for understanding biblical teaching on these themes. Within this overall framework, particular attention also will be given to exploring the questions of gender roles and homosexuality. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL550-DL Living and Active: The Doctrine of Scripture and Biblical Studies
In this course, we will be asking a cluster of interrelated questions: What is the Bible? How was the biblical canon formed, and what led to these particular books being chosen over others? Can God speak through multiple translations; are all the Word of God? How have technological innovations – the scroll, the codex, the printing press, digital media – changed how we interact with God’s Word? In arriving at answers, students will also refine statements on Scripture for their senior Credo. 1.5 cr

BL613 Greek Reading
Maintains and enhances Greek language skills through weekly translation practice, and a study of intermediate Greek grammar. Pass/fail, 1.5 cr. Prereq: BL100, BL101A&B, BL102 or equiv.

BL617 Ordination of Women: Exploring Biblical Authority and Church Order
In-depth biblical exegesis and focused theological and hermeneutical reflection around the ordination of women— in an attempt both to assist students to clarify their understanding of this particular issue and to provide handles and tools for wrestling with the use of Scripture in the ordering of the church’s life more generally. A full range of views on the topic will be explored. 1.5 cr

THEOLOGICAL FIELD

Required Courses

TH100 Church History I
This course explores the life and witness of the church from the New Testament era to the Protestant Reformation.

TH101 Church History II
This course explores the life and witness of the church from the Protestant Reformation to the present.
TH112 Gospel, Culture, and Church
An introduction to the church’s self-understanding as a missional and eschatological community formed by the good news of Jesus Christ and made to be its living witness. The course seeks to cultivate a biblical-theological rationale for the existence of the church and for its mission, an appreciation for the historical, cultural, and contextual rootedness of the church, an understanding of the dynamic interaction between the gospel and human cultures, and a vision for what missional faithfulness requires of any church in its own time and place.

TH113 Systematic Theology I
This first course of the two course Systematic Theology sequence explores four major Christian doctrines: the doctrines of God, creation, humanity, and Christ. These expansive headings include many other matters of theological importance, including Trinity doctrine, divine attributes, creation, humanity, the image of God, sin, providence, covenant, Israel and the significance of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. Readings will range from early church to contemporary sources.

TH114 Systematic Theology II
This course explores the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, salvation, church and sacraments. Exploring these expansive topics will include an examination of the work of the Spirit in the believing community, scripture and divine revelation, justification, sanctification, and the final judgment, as well as the theology of Word and Sacraments in the church. Readings will range from early church to contemporary sources.

TH121 Christian Ethics
This course explores how the theological vision of the Christian community expresses itself in specific intentions, practices, virtues, and actions and how Christian communities can grow in moral discernment.

TH124 Credo
In this senior seminar, students will write a theologically comprehensive statement of their Christian belief in conversation with their respective theological traditions. 1.5 cr. Prereq: MN121, TH112, TH113, TH114.

Historical Theology

TH451 RCA History and Mission
Examines the development of the Reformed Church in the context of North America. Special attention devoted to the leaders, approaches, and philosophies of RCA missions. (MFCA)

TH513 Theology and Social Movements
This course examines the relationship between social transformation and faith by studying some of the most significant social movements of the past 100 years.

Through scholarly writings, literature and film we will explore the theological and ethical concerns involved in the efforts of groups to achieve a more just society. Particular attention will be given to how urban communities of faith conceive of and engage in social transformation. Notions of God’s divine reign of justice; how the oppressed marshal spiritual resources; and the dichotomies between majority and minority perspectives will be central to the course.

TH519 American Evangelicalism
Since Newsweek magazine declared 1976 the “year of the evangelical,” evangelicals have seemingly infiltrated all aspects of American culture, from politics to popular entertainment. This course surveys the history of the evangelical movement from its origins in the Great Awakening to its place in the contemporary church. Along the way we will examine issues including theology, race, gender, and social reform.

TH525 Theologies of Liberation
This course examines the content, context, and historical development of liberation theologies in the 20th century. It covers Black theology, Latin American liberation theology, feminism theology, and others. A primary focus is understanding the role of race, class, gender and other human particularities in shaping Christian understandings of God, God’s relationship to creation and theological anthropology. Significant attention is given to the role faith plays in ameliorating the conditions of oppression experienced by God’s people.

TH532-DL Augustine of Hippo: His Life and Thought
Western philosophy, so the saying goes, consists of footnotes to Plato. Augustine has impacted western theology in a similarly profound way. In this course, students will engage this North African Christian living on the margins of the crumbling Roman Empire in his own words, reading both classics, like the Confessions, and lesser-known texts stemming from Augustine’s pastoral ministry, such as sermons and letters he wrote to colleagues, parishioners, and other inquisitive citizens of his late ancient world. 1.5 cr

TH544 20th Century Theology: Major Figures and Theological Currents
Close readings of some of the “classic” works of 20th century theology by theologians such as Barth, Bonhoeffer, Cone, Gutiérrez, Lindbeck, Jones, deLubac, von Balthasar, Zizioulas and Hauerwas. We will highlight the place of these works in larger theological and cultural currents that shaped Christian thought in this tumultuous century.

TH557 Church and State in America
The wall of separation between church and state that Thomas Jefferson famously observed has served better as a landmark for one of America’s most vibrant debates than as a secure border. This course examines the relationship between church and state in America from the colonial era to the present, ranging from John Winthrop’s declaration aboard the Arbella in 1630 that America would be a “city on a hill” to present debates over White House sponsored Faith-Based Initiatives. Along the way we will treat such topics as marriage, medicine, education, and civil religion.

TH568 Calvin’s Theology and Its Reception
Calvin’s theology is not only central to the Reformed tradition, but continues to be the subject of vigorous theological discussion for theologians and pastors of many Christian traditions. After setting the context of Calvin’s life and times, this course will examine select key theological ideas in Calvin’s writings. The course will examine significant retrievals and prominent criticisms of Calvin’s theology in order to assess its value for the church’s life and ministry today.

TH575 Malcolm, Martin, Baldwin, and the Church
Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., and James Baldwin were seminal figures in the Civil Rights Movement with diverse approaches to establishing racial justice. We will engage their critique of both American society and the Christian faith in an attempt to understand our role as Christians dealing with race and religion in the 21st century.

TH578 Theologies of Martin Luther King and Bonhoeffer
This elective course is an examination of the theologies as well as the social and historical contexts of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The readings and discussions will be focused on four particular themes: justice, peace, liberation, and service. 1.5 cr

TH585-DL Christianity in China
Time magazine reporter David Aikman’s book Jesus in Beijing points to the importance of this topic in its subtitle: “How Christianity is transforming China and changing the global balance of power.” In this course we will study Chinese Christianity from its earliest appearance to its contemporary expressions, learning about its history, theology, and impact. Along the way we will deal with issues such as enculturation, missions, politics, and gender. 1.5 cr

TH590-DL Reading the Bible with the Dead: Retrieving Pre-modern Biblical Interpretation
This course explores the way in which reading the Bible in the company of pre-modern interpreters can benefit the life and ministry of the church today. After considering the basic features of a pre-modern approach to scripture, the course
will focus upon challenging biblical texts (e.g., Hagar, Psalms of cursing, etc.), exploring the new insights that patristic, medieval, and Reformation-era interpreters can bring in helping us proclaiming scripture as God’s word. 1.5 cr

TH618 Theological German
Inductive study of basic German grammar and syntax and of selected texts in contemporary German theology. (Offered on request.)

TH633-DL World Christianity
This course examines the growth of Christianity in a variety of strikingly different cultural contexts. Today there are more Presbyterians in Ghana than in Scotland, more members in Brazil’s Pentecostal Assemblies of God than in two of the largest U.S. Pentecostal denominations, and China is on pace to become the largest Christian country in the coming decades. Taking into account recent developments in the history of Christianity across the globe, we will focus on the transmission of faith as a cross-cultural process. 1.5 cr

Ethics:

TH527-DL Reformed and Ethical
The course will include readings from major figures in ethics from the Reformed tradition, including, but not limited to Abraham Kuyper, H. Richard Niebuhr and Nicholas Wolterstorff. The goal is for you to set your ethical compass in light of what others in the Reformed tradition have done. 1.5 cr

TH545 Ecological Theology and Ethics
An in-depth study of the nature and causes of current ecological degradation, the witness of Christian Scripture and the Christian theological tradition concerning matters ecological, the duties and responsibilities we humans have as earthkeepers, and the practical implications of living in a more earth-friendly way at home, at church, at work, at play.

TH546 War, Peace and Peacemaking
We will consider Christian views on war, peace and peacemaking. We will survey some of the key theological and biblical perspectives on war that have shaped the history of the church, look more carefully at various Christian responses to select wars and U.S. policies, and explore the thought and practices of Christian movements of peace and reconciliation.

TH566 God and Mammon
In this course, we will wrestle with biblical and theological foundations for thinking about economics and money, engage with different traditions of economic and political thinking within Christianity, and also engage with concrete examples of individuals, communities and organizations that are self-consciously engaged in these economic matters.

TH589 Theology of the Book of Numbers
This course seeks to bridge biblical studies and theology, focusing on the narratives and laws of the book of Numbers. Theological themes and issues treated include Israelite worship practices, the moral vision indicated by its laws, the idea of wilderness, stories of temptations and sin, war, the place of women, and its view of God. We will study the book with an eye to the impact this important Old Testament book has had on Judaism and the New Testament and might have on Christian theology and practice.

Theology:

TH126-DL Summative Examination
The task of the summative examination is to address a contemporary issue deeply and competently in a way that demonstrates integrated reflection on Scripture, theology and Christian practice.

TH450 RCA Standards
A survey of the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort, and the Belhar Confession designed to highlight distinctive elements of the Reformed tradition and to prepare RCA candidates for their ordination examinations. (MFCA) Prereq: TH113, TH114

TH511-DL Theology and Film
This course will explore a theology of culture through a concentrated focus on theology and film. Students will view, discuss, and analyze a wide selection of films, cultivate a biblically informed and theologically robust posture for engaging culture and consider its role in Christian discipleship and ministry. 1.5 cr

TH514 Theology of the Word: God’s Word as Divine Action
This course explores the surprising reality that God’s speech is an action—that the Triune God is at work in and through the Word in the church and the world. Students will explore this issue in the doctrine of God and revelation with an eye toward renewing the church’s ministry of word and sacrament. Readings will include works in biblical studies, historical theology, and contemporary systematic theology. TH113 recommended but not required. 1.5 cr

TH518 & TH518-DL Eschatology: Christian Hope and the Last Things
Eschatology (the study of the “last things”) concerns Christian hope for the future consummation of all of God’s promises and purposes and what this means for Christian living today. Drawing on biblical scholars and theologians past and present, as well as art, music, and literature, this course will explore scripturally-founded contours for thinking wisely about the “last things” and help us to recognize the impact of our eschatological views on our disciple ship now.

TH524 Theologies of Prayer: Petition, Contemplation, and the Triune God
How does the work of the Triune God relate to the praying life of Christians? This course explores two biblical and theological traditions of Christian prayer with an eye toward discerning how God is active in and through them: petitionary prayer and contemplative prayer. After a section focusing upon the New Testament and petitionary prayer (especially prayers for healing), the course explores the writings of two major theologians: Karl Barth on petitionary prayer, and Sarah Coakley on contemplative and charismatic approaches to prayer. 1.5 cr

TH526 Seminar in Contemporary Theology
In this seminar we will read, discuss, present on and write about an important work or works in contemporary theology. It is an opportunity to go deeper into important theological issues and tests in a small seminar setting. 1.5 cr. Prereq: TH114

TH528 From Scripture to Theology: Topical Readings in the Theological Interpretation of Scripture
This course seeks to bridge biblical studies and theology by focusing upon a key biblical and theological topic for examination. While the specific topic rotates, the course explores ways in which biblical and theological studies can be received in a complementary way, receiving the Bible as God’s word for the church today.

TH548 Theologizing Violence
Violence is a problem of profound significance in the world today and it presents a unique challenge to the Christian Church in its mission to proclaim and live the gospel. This theology seminar examines at various types of violence (i.e. criminal, military, ethnic/religious, domestic, etc.) to gain insight into how violence shapes and threatens individuals, communities and the world around us. One primary goal of the course is to better understand the kinds of theological claims that Christians can and should make in response to a world that continues to be plagued by violence.

TH552 Karl Barth: Life and Theology
It is difficult to overestimate the importance of Barth’s theology for contemporary Christian thought. Our course will include an overview of Barth’s life and the forces that shaped it and his theology, and close readings of selections from his theological works. The student will gain a good overview of Barth’s theological vision, his major contributions to theology and typical critiques of his thought.
TH553 Interreligious Witness and Dialogue
In North America as well as the broader world, the church’s life and witness plays out in multfaith social contexts. This course examines theological orientations for understanding religions and religious traditions and explores proposals for the church’s approach to confident witness in a spirit of mutual hospitality and humility. 1.5 cr

TH556 Atonement Theory
“Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again” – these are the familiar affirmations of the communion liturgy. They express the central Christian claim that Jesus is Lord and Savior. This seminar course will examine some of the most important statements of the doctrine of the atonement in the Christian tradition. It will include readings from Scripture, Athanasius, Augustine, Anselm, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, John McLeod Campbell, Katherine Tanner, and others who express both the central conviction and the remarkable variation in Christian atonement theology. 1.5 cr

TH560 Kingdom of God: Theologies of Church & World
This theology seminar course explores themes associated with the relationship between church and world as they appear in the theological writings of select figures throughout the history of the Christian church. We will examine biblical and historical notions of the “Kingdom of God” as well as recent trends in global Christianity. A primary focus is on understanding how Christian theologians address questions about Christian responsibility for and/or in the world.

TH577 Global Christianity and the Mission of the Church
Exposure to Christianity has become a global faith. Special attention is given to the developments in Asia and Africa where the Church has recently experienced explosive growth as well as tensions with Islamic cultures.

TH580 Theology of the Lord’s Supper
Explores the biblical and theological dimensions of the Lord’s Supper, with an eye for the renewal of the contemporary church. Readings draw from various Christian traditions and explore the Lord’s Supper in relation to topics such as biblical foundations for eucharistic theology, the history of eucharistic theology, and the implications of the Supper for discipleship and the church’s witness. 1.5 cr

TH581-DL Women and Theology
This course explores the way in which the dismantling of patriarchy is inspired by and transforms the study of theology. In conversation with the Christian tradition, its primary areas of concern are the interpretation of the Bible, doctrines, rituals, and ethics. Since this theological work traverses boundaries of class, race, and nationality, we read a diverse collection of voices. Because feminist concerns also cross over religious boundaries, the study broadens to include women of Judaism and Islam, with special attention to how interreligious work might be conceived in a feminist perspective. The examination of women’s experience, both positive and negative, invites the development of a theologically informed practice that aims at the flourishing of all humanity. 1.5 cr

TH583 Public Theologizing: The Way of the Church with the World
This course fosters the pastoral vision and competence necessary for leading the church to be faithful followers of the Way in the midst of the world. It explores the arenas of social life where the church’s public theologizing takes form, the posture with which the church stands and the voice with which it speaks in public action and discourse, and the church’s calling to be both a contrast community and a humble companion in public life. 1.5 cr

TH584 Communion with God and Justification: Roman Catholic and Reformed Perspectives
How are sinners made right with God? What is the nature of life in Christ, in communion with God? After introducing contemporary debates on this issue in biblical studies, this course explores how two significant theologians in history would respond: Thomas Aquinas (Roman Catholic), and John Owen (Reformed). Through this examination, this course explores different ways to retrieve the rich biblical language and teaching regarding union with Christ, communion with God, justification, and sanctification. 1.5 cr

TH586 Issues in Contemporary Islam
An introduction to current debates in the study of Islam. Cultural practices, tradition, and belief will be explored. Gender and state politics, which involve the spiritual, intellectual and social life of Muslims in both public and private realms of their existence, are particularly important. This course is taught by a Christian anthropologist who is a former Muslim. The class will analyze historical and empirical forms that Islamic discourses and practice take, and will invite students to test and explore the truth-claims and worldviews presented in such discourses and practices. 1.5 cr

TH591 African-American Religious Experience
The unique experience of African-Americans in the United States has led to a particular expression of Christianity. We will evaluate the historical, sociological, political, and methodological components of African-American religious experience, and consider how this experience challenges our theology, our practice, and our self-understanding.

TH621 Apologetics in Post-Christian Culture
This course is an exploration of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian worship. 1.5 cr

TH632 Introduction to the World’s Religions
An introduction to the beliefs and practices of the major religions of the world, with a study of their scriptural traditions. New religious movements such as Baha’i, The Unification Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (“Mormons”) are also treated, paying special attention to their relationship to Christianity. The Christian theological response to other religions is also considered.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FIELD

Required Courses:

MN100 Worship Foundations
This course is an exploration of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian worship. 1.5 cr

MN101 Preaching Foundations
First-year students explore and grasp a biblical and Reformed vision of preaching. Includes a sermon preparation workshop and a “lab” in which written and preached sermons are carefully analyzed by faculty and peers. Significant homiletical concerns are presented, discussed, clarified, and applied to the task of preaching.

MN102 Practice of Discipleship
Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples. In this course, learners will explore how Christian practices have shaped them into disciples and learn how to use these practices in the making of 21st century disciples. The course will include opportunity to practice these skills in a teaching church or the studio setting of a learning lab.

MN105 Pastor as Person
This course explores the ways in which a minister’s life history, spiritual growth, and vocation intersect and shape his/her personal and professional identity. Students will reflect on their own psychological and spiritual development and their opportunities for personal growth. They will develop their own particular plans for self-care. 1.5 cr

MN107 The Urban Christian
In this course, students will explore the challenges and opportunities that Christians face in an increasingly globalized and urbanized world. The United Nations projects
that 70% of the world’s population will be urban by 2050, so this is a time of urgency for the church. Implications of the urban context for many issues, including work, family life, education, sexual ethics, evangelism, and more will be explored. 1.5 cr

MN108 The Urban Church
This course will explore the components of a missional ecclesiology for the city, with implications for preaching, worship, spiritual formation, and discipleship. The urban church’s involvement in social justice, faith and work, church planting, and other important opportunities for engagement will be explored. The urban environments of North America will be the cultural context for this course.

MN115 Practice of Counsel and Care
In this introductory course, students explore giving counsel and offering care as ministers of Word and sacrament. They develop an understanding of the fundamental principles of pastoral care and acquire basic skills required for giving counsel and offering care. Numerous pastoral themes are addressed in lectures, learning labs, and small group interaction. Students will be encouraged to develop their own pastoral presence in offering counsel and care.

MN117 Urban Church Planting
In this course, students will explore the unique dynamics of new church development in urban and secular contexts. These contexts require re-thinking communicating the Gospel, forming and leading a worship service, leadership development, faith and vocation, and much more.

MN120 Leadership
An introduction to the theory and practice of Christian leadership from a missional and theological perspective. For seniors.

MN122 Church Revitalization in the Urban Context
Students will explore church revitalization in a general context and in the specific context of the city. Key issues of revitalization including leadership, cultivating change, worship for revitalization, navigating conflict, challenges of context, evangelism, and more will be explored through readings, discussion, and case studies.

MN124 Practice of Worship and Preaching
This course invites students to deepen their theological understanding of both preaching and worship while they practice the crafts employed in these two of the Church’s most central tasks.

Dual Track Master of Divinity-
Master of Social Work

MN331 Dual Track Cohort Group
Meets bi-weekly during the first year of the Dual Track degree program. 1.5 cr

MN332 Dual Track Cohort Group
Meets weekly during the second year of the Dual Track degree program. 1.5 cr

MN333 Dual Track Cohort Group
Meets online during the third year of the Dual Track degree program. 1.5 cr

MN334 Dual Track Cohort Group
Meets online during the fourth year of the Dual Track degree program. 1.5 cr

Pastoral Care and Counseling:

MN513 Basic Clinical Pastoral Education
A pastoral ministry practicum that integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting with special attention given to the person in ministry. A basic practicum accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. 6 cr

MN513N Basic Clinical Pastoral Education – non-accredited
A pastoral ministry practicum that integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting with special attention given to the person in ministry. Ministry is not completed in an accredited CPE setting. 6 cr

MN529 From Baptism to Burial: Pastoral Essentials
From baptism to burials, pastoral work is filled with opportunities to minister amidst the most glorious and difficult moments of congregational life. In this course, major pastoral responsibilities are covered in both content and practice, including baptism, pre-marital counseling, rehearsals and weddings, and funeral services/burials. Theological, biblical, psychological, and ethical foundations and frameworks will be explored. Best practices for issues such as policies, fees, and boundaries will also be covered. Special attention will be given to how these unique opportunities serve the mission of God. 1.5 cr

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MN538 Transforming Conflict from the Inside Out
This course explores multiple layers of conflict—intrapersonal, interpersonal, and communal—as opportunities for transformation. Students will develop a theology of compassion and learn the skills of compassionate communication as a means of connecting to God, self, and others in the midst of difference, disagreement, and conflict. The course seeks to enhance specific competencies in speaking honestly, listening empathetically, responding to criticism, staying in dialogue, dealing with guilt and grief, and using restorative circles for community-wide crises. Experientially based; includes case studies, role plays, journaling, and small group work.

MN542-DL Addictions
This course will provide a framework for engaging the dynamics of addictions. These addictive dynamics will be examined through a theological lens which honors the relational narratives that we all possess. Diagnosis, conceptualization, treatment and recovery will be engaged through this lens.

MN556 Psychology and Christian Spirituality
There is a strong tradition of psychological wisdom with the contemplative Christian tradition. In fact, the contemplative tradition provides a kind of framework for self-reflection, for healthy intimacy, and for genuine spirituality. Looking at resources from Augustine and Calvin, Evagrius and Theresa, we’ll see that contemporary ministry, pastoral care, and mission can all be aided by a rich and deep understanding of Christian spirituality.

Religious Education

MN515-DL Covenantal Perspectives and Cultural Influences on Youth Ministry
This course will seek to explore cultural changes and influences within the past three decades that are shaping our understanding of adolescents today, all within the framework of historical perspectives on covenant theology. We’ll further examine how an inter-generational approach to youth ministry and a “shared stories” strategy could create the necessary context for deepened relationships that foster sticky faith in youth.

MN518 Talking the Talk: Beyond and Behind Christian Clichés
This course will focus on Christian, denominational, and congregational discourses, and how the ways we speak of and address God, the Bible translations we choose, the words we import from other faith traditions, and our relationship to historic churches imbedded in class systems and their language cultures shape our practice of faith. 1.5 cr

MN530 Christian Formation in Gospel Communities
This course is designed for those contemplating pastoral ministry or educational ministry in a congregational context or Gospel community. Themes include designing and implementing education programs, evaluating and selecting curriculum resources, exploring emerging models of faith formation, and the pastor as teacher.

MN531 Christian Formation of Children and Youth
This elective course focuses on the education and faith formation of youth and children. Attention will be given to the family and intergenerational settings as contexts for faith formation, as well as the faith development of children and youth.

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Master of Social Work

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MN533/MN533-DL Justice, Discipleship, and the Church
This course explores how the church can form disciples with a vision of justice. It engages the biblical and theological roots of Christian commitments to justice and places contemporary interest in social justice within a larger biblical, theological, and historical context. Students will have the opportunity to articulate a biblical theology of justice and explore how the church can shape disciples with a lifelong commitment to justice. 1.5 cr

MN573 The Practice of Youth Ministry
Students will be introduced to various models of youth ministry and will become familiar with the theological and social scientific resources that will aid them in evaluating and reforming the practice of congregational and para-church ministry. Students will consider theories of development, articulate a theological foundation for youth ministry, and develop an appreciation for the potential impact of peer-to-peer ministry. They will also explore some of the challenges faced by youth ministers and consider how technology factors into discipling networked youth.

MN574-DL Foundations of Youth Ministry
This course provides the foundational concepts and best practices to prepare the student for ministry to adolescents in both a church and non-church settings. The course will provide a basic understanding of adolescent development, contemporary culture, and incarnational witness. The course is designed to help the student to think and respond theologically to the needs and expectations of adolescents and provides practical tools enabling the student to design a theologically sound youth ministry program suitable in any context. 1.5 cr

Worship and Preaching

MN451 Worship (RCA)
Drawing from Scripture and Reformed confessions and liturgies, and in sympathetic discussion with a wide range of other worshiping traditions, this course will present, discuss, clarify, and apply a Reformed vision of worship to congregational settings in the RCA in the United States and Canada. 3 cr (MFCA)

MN507 Models of the Lord’s Supper
The Lord’s Supper is layered with biblical-theological meaning, as its celebration rehearses for us the scope of salvation history, creation to re-creation. While spoken with different accents, these biblical-theological themes are common to every Christian tradition. By engaging several of these themes expressed pastorally by a voice from the Roman Catholic tradition, we will explore together the richness of these themes in the Reformed tradition. 1.5 cr

MN511 Spiritual Writing
An intensive creative workshop for those interested in writing, however tangentially, about matters of faith. We will focus our attention on nonfiction prose in which the writer’s own life experience or personal opinions are placed in the foreground. Students will consider the work of specific Christian authors. This course will suit those who enjoy literature, as well as those aspiring to publish or preach. No creative writing experience necessary. 1.5 cr

MN512 Living Water
Baptism is steeped with biblical-theological meaning. It has profound significance for the life and ministries of a church community (though we don’t dwell on this significance, much less dwell on it imaginatively), as well as the life, ministry, and even death of each of its members. In this course, we will immerse ourselves in Baptism generally considered, and then explore its liturgical-pastoral expression among God’s people at seminal moments in communal ministry and personal discipleship. 1.5 cr

MN543 Worshipping with Jesus, the Twelve and the Early Church
This course is designed to provide each participant with the time and space to explore authentic worshiping experiences and practices of Jesus, his disciples and those who followed him in the early centuries of the Christian movement. The prize of the course will be to think deeply and complexly about those experiences and practices and through the implementation of “appreciative inquiry” be prepared to draw the best of our ancient past into our postmodern future. 1.5 cr

MN547 Preaching in the Urban Context
Participants will explore authentic strategies for preaching and effectively communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ to urban, contemporary hearers. In dialogue with peers and the professor, the participants will reflect on the person of the preacher, examine the urban context, explore the homiletical demands in diverse, city congregations, and incorporate experiential context and theological content in sermons. Participants will explore new strategies for preaching, reflective of their commitment to the biblical text, the urban community, and their personal voice.

MN548 Preaching and the Missional Imagination
In recent years there has been an avalanche of literature about what it means to be a missional church. Curiously, so much of this literature is silent on the task of preaching. In many cases, preaching is even seen as a barrier to “going missional.” This course will explore the central but often neglected role of Word and Sacrament in leading a church that is seeking to be both missional and Reformed. 1.5 cr

MN549 Preaching in the Dark (Preaching Practices for Gospel/Culture Engagement)
In this course we will consider a range of ways to think about the relationship between the gospel and our culture(s) and practice ways of faithful and fruitful preaching on the cultural issues confronting the church in the early part of the 21st century. 1.5 cr

MN551 The Holy Spirit and Christian Worship
Nothing good transpires apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. Affirming this Triune truth, we will explore together the work of the person of the Holy Spirit, biblically and theologically understood, as it intersects with the movements of Christian worship. A variety of theologians, confessions, and worship resources will be engaged, including those of the Reformed tradition past and present.

MN552 The Worship of Yesterday for Today
We will listen and look closely to the worship of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us, perhaps long before us. This will be a socio-archaeological pursuit for the refreshment of our understanding of Christian worship and the renewal of our practice of Christian worship today. Elements include Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, the Word, prayer, postures, texts, visuals, spatial design: the whole scope of the experience of worship.

MN553 The Church’s Common Chord: The History, Theology and Practice of Music in Christian Worship
Students will chart key historical developments in the use of music in worship. They will encounter various theologies of artistic expression, as well as profound theological themes and motifs expressed in hymnody, spirituals and popular songs. Students will learn applied skills such as basic music terminology, using hymnals, evaluating music and shaping repertoire, use of choirs, praise bands and instrumental music, copyright law, amplification concerns, and more. For musicians and non-musicians.
MN554 Preaching the Christian Year
The Christian calendar provides a counter-cultural means for the Church to mark time – i.e., to remember, celebrate, and anticipate. This course will explore how to root preaching not first in our own perceived needs, but in the life and person of Jesus whom we follow. Drawing upon historical and contemporary sources, we will learn about the church year itself – its primary themes, narratives, and moods. Students will then prepare and preach at least three sermons and will prepare a draft preaching calendar with scripture texts and topics for Advent through Ordinary Time.

MN561-DL 21st Century Spirituality for a Secular Age
This course explores spiritual resources for sustainable ministry in a secular age, including resources for both personal transformation and creative ways of engaging spiritual formation in the church amidst changing ecclesial realities. We’ll explore significant voices for contemporary spirituality in a secular age include Thomas Merton, Charles Taylor, Etty Hillesum, Elizabeth O’Connor, Richard Rohr, David Whyte, Henri Nouwen, Mary Oliver, Paulo Coelho, Thomas Keating, James Finley, Ila Delio and more. Insights for wise and faithful Christian engagement in a re-enchanted secular world will be explored, and the practice of daily contemplative prayer encouraged.

MN585 Issues in Contemporary and Emerging Worship
Exploration of key issues in present-day liturgical enculturation – i.e., what it means for the church to worship authentically and faithfully in an increasingly postmodern world. We will attend to recent historically significant cultural impulses (e.g., the Christian movement, charismatic movement, liturgical renewal movement, and increasing cultural diversity). Then we will think seriously about the changing use of the arts (music and presentation technology) to express and shape the church’s devotion. Thirdly we will explore shifting postmodern paradigms of knowing, praying, and being-in-community in order to see how they affect the central worship practices of the church.

MN592 Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry
Carefully examines the role and use of language in worship, looking at Contemporary Worship Music, hymns, prayers, responsive readings, sermons, etc. Students renew appreciation for and understand the beauty and power of words in worship. They become better equipped, by inspiration and weekly exercises, to employ language more intentionally in worship preparation for the greater glory of God and the greater blessing of God’s people. 1.5 cr

MN594 Ancient Future Preaching
A course designed to provide each person with the time and space to explore and evaluate instincts and patterns of preaching in the earliest years of the Christian movement, with a view toward implementing them in the eerily similar social and cultural context(s) in which we find ourselves today.

Leadership:

MN121 Church Governance and Denominational Standards
(required for RCA candidates)
Within the context of an overall theology of church governance, explores the candidate’s specific ecclesiastical tradition (including polity and standards) as a framework for mission.

MN450 RCA Polity
A survey of the Book of Church Order and the organizational theory, structure, and function of the Reformed Church in America. 3 cr (MFCA)

MN501 Multicultural Ministry: Theory and Practice
This course examines the paradigms, practices, and challenges of multicultural ministry with a particular focus on urban contexts. We begin the course by looking at biblical and theological paradigms related to multiculturalism followed by an examination of the role of race, ethnicity and cultural specificity in adhesion and tension within communities of faith. In the second half of the course we work toward understanding the intersections between multicultural realities and practical aspects of Christian ministry within the church.

MN503 Leadership Summit August 2015
This course is in partnership with the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit (GLS). Online course will occur prior to and after the intensive. The purpose of this course is to appreciatively and critically engage The Global Leadership Summit seeking to explore, question, and develop the skills, practices, and habits for leading Christian communities. Participants will meet in Barrington, IL from August 5–8, 2015 for the GLS. Attendance in Barrington is required to receive a grade for the course (satellite attendance does not count for credit).

MN505 Leadership Development for Missional Congregational Ministry
Explores the integration of biblical hermeneutics, congregational leadership, and ministry practices. Focuses initially on the redemptive story arc of scripture as it informs community missional developments, followed by specific attention to congregational ministry initiatives, assessments, and outcomes.

MN508-DL Writing (and Reading) for the Pastoral Life
Ecclesiastes 12 says that there is no end to the making of many books, and in the pastoral life there is no end to the writing and saying of many words. Words have enormous power—after all, it was with words that God spoke his creation into being. This course will help students choose and use words with care and thoughtfulness. We will work toward becoming better writers (and readers), and in the process become better preachers, teachers and pastors. 1.5 cr

MN510 Foundations for Church Planting
Initiatives for planting new churches arise from particular notions about why it should be done, how it should be done, and what the outcome should look like. Such visions are diverse, and often unconsciously or uncritically assumed. This course examines what is at stake theologically and sociologically with particular choices regarding rationale, method, and aim. It culminates for each student in a position paper articulating a philosophy of church planting to which his or her sense of call corresponds. 1.5 cr

MN522-DL Ministry Through Technology
This course will have a twofold focus on technology. First, it will entail an examination of Christian engagement with an increasingly technological world. Second, it will look at the practical use of technology in ministry. This will include ways in which technology can be effectively utilized to support ministry. 1.5 cr

MN523-DL Leader as Practical Theologian
This course introduces various models of practical theology, including confessional, congregational, feminist, and intercultural, with the goal of helping students develop their identity as Christian leaders. Students will learn hermeneutical lenses drawn from practical theology for leading communities of faith in the midst of crisis and change. Special attention will be given to integrating theology, the social sciences, and practices of ministry.

MN525 Power and Authority
Power and Authority are theological claims and sociological phenomena constantly at work in the life of the church, generally, and the pastoral vocation, specifically. Inherent to the church as “life together” are the ongoing negotiations of conferring authority (legitimacy) and exerting power (influence). This seminar course will examine power and authority biblically, theologically, and sociologically in expectation of deepening one’s understanding and practice of pastoral leadership.

MN539 Living the Christian Life
According to Pop Christian Culture
Through generous and critical engagement with recent best-selling Christian books, this course will explore the different visions of living the Christian life that emerge. We will look at authors that “people in the
forms of culinary expression in the African American faith tradition and the ways in which food becomes transformative for those struggling for human dignity. 1.5 cr

MNS81/MNS81-D: Ministry and Margins
Explores the boundary-crossing ministry of Jesus, in particular how he redefined the margin and the center with a Kingdom perspective. The class will consider ways in which ministry to and with those who are often marginalized in our society can amplify the witness of our congregations. People groups that are underserved include, but are not limited to, the elderly or homebound, people suffering from dementia, people in group homes, people struggling with literacy, people with disabilities, people living in poverty, immigrant communities, and people without homes. 1.5 cr

MNS89 Reformed Church in America Studies
An intensive study of the history and life of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). Different instructors teach a four module sequence including RCA Polity, RCA Standards, RCA History & Mission, and RCA Worship. Completing the modules prepares candidates for ministry in the RCA, for successful completion of classis examinations, and for full participation in the life of the denomination. 9 cr

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

FR101 Retreat for Christian Formation (J-Term)
A spiritual retreat using autobiography, peer engagement, and the spiritual disciplines to assist students in clarifying and embracing God’s call upon their lives. 1.5 cr

FR111 Intercultural Immersion Experience (J-Term)
Provides cognitive and experiential knowledge of the global character of the church’s witness and mission in North America and around the world, with concern for the problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism. 3.0 cr

FR116-DL Entering and Exploring Christian Ministry
This unit explores the elements of fruitful theological field education, the context for ministry is understood and the management of tasks and people for ministry is reviewed. 3.0 cr

FR117-DL Engaging Christian Ministry I
FR118-DL Engaging Christian Ministry II
FR119-DL Engaging Christian Ministry III
Students write a learning covenant with a ministry focus that will further explore and deepen their sense of calling. 1.5 cr

FR121 Entering Christian Ministry
Students are assigned to a teaching church setting and are introduced to the dimensions of theological field education. 1.5 cr

FR122 Exploring Christian Ministry
Continuing the journey in formation for ministry, students explore basic ministerial tasks centered in congregational life. (However, many of these are transferable to any ministry or social service agency.) Exploring aspects of ministry with the help of pastor(s) and lay leaders facilitates clarity around the student’s call to ministry. Students learn and grow to appreciate these service elements of ministry that are often unseen but essential for effective Christian ministry. There are three components: the Teaching Church (a supervised ministry setting), a peer group commitment, and course assignments. 1.5 cr

FR123 Engaging Christian Ministry
Students are given the opportunity to engage deeply in a ministry competency they are passionate about or have been longing to explore. After being sagely directed into the practice of Christian ministry in FR121 and 122; students embrace their learning in this self-directed opportunity in a ministry setting. Each student designs a learning covenant with a mentor focusing on a ministry area such as: Preaching and Worship, Leadership and Administration, Evangelism, Social Justice/Advocacy, Education and Faith Formation, Pastoral Care or Cross-cultural Competency. Both FR123 and 124 are completed in one semester in an internship commitment of 100 hours. 1 cr

FR124 Leading Christian Ministry
Students write a learning covenant with a ministry focus that will further explore and deepen their sense of calling and understanding of pastoral leadership. 1.5 cr

FR125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry
This 400-hour full-time supervised ministry experience requires the student to exercise a wide range of ministerial skills at the highest personal, professional, and pastoral levels. This requirement may be satisfied in a number of settings including participation in Clinical Pastoral Education, parachurch ministries, cross-cultural ministries, and congregational ministry. Due to the significant level of ministerial and educational investment, it is highly recommended that the student invest time in a discernment process with the Formation for Ministry office before selecting a placement. This learning experience will be evaluated by the student, a supervising mentor, and a lay support committee.

FR130A&B Internship I
The embedded internship places students into supervised ministry settings where students will be introduced to the missional vision and practices of church
planting and urban church renewal. Students will process their ministerial experiences with ministerial coaches at their embedded internship site as well as a community group composed of peers from their NHS cohort by distance and in person during intensives. A third component of the embedded internship will focus on issues of ongoing spiritual and ministerial formation.

FR131A&B Internship II
This ministry internship places the WTS-Newbigin student in an urban ministry setting that gives the student the opportunity to exercise a wide range of ministerial skills. The student will work three-quarters time (approximately 400 hrs in a 14 week semester) in ministry practice and one-quarter time (approximately 15-20 hrs in a semester) in ongoing academic coursework. Integration of the ministry experiences, the coursework, and mentoring from both a seasoned urban pastor and a gifted church planter will be a strong feature of the embedded internship. The two years of the internship will track specific learning outcomes in ministry readiness.

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

MT210 Orientation Seminar
This seminar orients incoming students to the Th.M. program, to life at Western Theological Seminary, and to the larger academic world of the theological disciplines. Forms a "community of scholars" in which scholarly reflection on intercultural issues is engaged. Creates new configurations of self-understanding for theological reflection in community and introduces the philosophy, format, and thesis requirements of the Th.M. program. Meets annually during the last two weeks in August. 1 cr

MT220 Research Design
Assists the Th.M. students in the preparation of a thesis proposal by introducing the basics of academic research and writing. By the end of the course the student 1) will be able to construct a well-designed research proposal; 2) will be familiar with basic strategies and tools for research and academic writing; and 3) will plan a research strategy for writing a Th.M. research paper or thesis. Meets monthly during the first semester. 1.5 cr

MT235 Seminar in Theological Method
What makes one statement, opinion, or argument better or wiser than another in the fields of theology, biblical studies, ethics or practical theology? How does one best understand how scripture, tradition, reason, experience, context, and future function as authorities or factor into our understandings? We take up these difficult methodological questions and come to provisional answers, drawing from both trusted traditional understandings and contemporary discussions.

MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics
Explores and applies methodologies for the interpretation of Scripture in intercultural contexts and addresses the interaction of gospel and culture in intercultural dialogue. Meets during the January-term. 1.5 cr

MT253 Comprehensive Exam
A faculty advisor and a faculty colleague, in consultation with the candidate, assign discipline and thesis-related bibliographies. The lists reflect the major contributors to a particular discipline, the methodological issues involved in that discipline, and the current questions or debates among scholars in that discipline most relevant to the thesis topic. The exam is given at the end of May and has two components: a two-hour written examination conducted by the Th.M. Director and a 45-minute oral examination conducted by an examination committee.

MT255 Independent Research
In the event that courses critical to a Th.M. candidate’s program are unavailable within current curriculum offerings, the candidate may request one independent study in a particular field of inquiry within the chosen focus area. It may be done only with the consent of a professor who provides guidance and evaluation and only with the approval of the Academic Dean. It may combine course materials from a required M.Div. course with additional independent work, at the professor’s discretion.

MT260 Thesis
A major research paper, which builds upon and extends in a focused area the knowledge and critical ability gained in the basic divinity degree, and includes the Th.M. coursework. The topic and plan are subject to the approval of the Th.M. Committee. The candidate’s Faculty Advisor, in conjunction with a Second Reader, provides guidance for the research. 6 cr

MT260A Research Paper
A major research paper, which builds upon and extends in a focused area the knowledge and critical ability gained in the basic divinity degree, and includes the Th.M. coursework. The topic and plan are subject to the approval of the Th.M. Committee. The candidate’s Faculty Advisor, in conjunction with a Second Reader, provides guidance for the research.
Advanced Latino/a Theological Education
Courses offered in conjunction with ALTE (see www.scupe.org/alte/)

BIBL401 Proclaiming the Good News of the Old Testament
This course considers both the historical context of the biblical texts and the manner in which they might be used in preaching and teaching in Latino churches. We will study examples of 1. The law (or Torah); 2. The Prophets (or Nebe’im), both those from historical books as well as the “classical” prophets; 3. The Writings (or Kituvim), in particular the wisdom books (Proverbs and Job).

CHMN401 Christian Education in the Latino Community
This course examines content and use of Christian Education as a discipleship tool for mobilizing congregations for spiritual and social ministry. Examines cultural education and history as key components in the sharing and development of programs that meet the personal and leadership development needs of Latino churches/communities.

HIST401 History of the Latino Church in the U.S.
This course provides an overview of the Latino church in the United States from the perspective of a Latino theological framework. The course traverses through the various epochs, conflicts and schisms throughout the history of the Latino church. The course explores the ecclesiology of various denominations, local churches and religious practices. Students present a project examining a historical period or situation that has changed or impacted the Latino church.

MIN401 Urban Ministry in the Hispanic Context
The complexity of the urban context requires the attention of the Latino church and special skills of every ministry leader. This course provides theological reflection and practical experiences of urban ministry in the Hispanic context. Explore how the urban environment and its global connections impact how we do ministry in today’s urban communities with Latino residents. Discuss the intersection between the biblical mandate and the perspective of the city. Explore what this means for developing an urban theology for the Latino context.

PAST401 Pastoral Care in the Latino Community
The Latino church can be an ecology of care, healing and wholeness. It is essential to address key theoretical and practical issues for pastoral care among Latino people. This course explores: 1. The church as a caring community, caring ministry, pastoral care and counseling, and pastoral theology; 2. Specific challenges, struggles, and crises as contexts of pastoral care; 3. Pastoral care of family and marriage; 4. Foundations and principles of pastoral counseling.

THEO401 Immigration Theology and Changing Demographics
This course explores a theology that deals with the reality of migrations particularly of Latinos. Students will examine the reasons why people migrate and the historical, political, legal, cultural, and social dynamics of international migration in the US.

THEO402 Introduction to U.S. Latino Theology
This course examines the emerging voices and directions of Hispanic American/Latino theology. The need for its perspective and contribution to theology and to the Church in the United States will be highlighted. The course examines Hispanic American diversity, sources and norms of its theology, paradigms and theological foci as well as the perspective and contribution of mujerista and feminist Latina theologians.
Young Life
Courses offered in conjunction with Young Life

BL104-YL Introduction to Old Testament
An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the Old Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the Old Testament for today.

BL632-YL Proclaiming Christ
Young Life course on communicating Christ to the Adolescent Culture

BL633-YL Gospel and Acts

FR110A-YL Leadership I
Course designed to equip individuals to lead an effective incarnational ministry with young people. Trainers in the field lead students through a curriculum in which action and reflection are emphasized.

FR110B-YL Leadership II
Building volunteer teams for ministry is an important element of the course. Focus is given to spiritual development of the student, the ministry of discipleship, and administration.

MN104-YL Minister as Person
This course provides an integrated overview of the process of human development in various social contexts with particular emphasis on implications for people in full time ministry.

MN514-YL Introduction to Youth Ministry
Course gives an overview of contemporary culture, especially as it affects youth ministry, and provides historical and theological youth ministry concepts and grounding.

MN535-YL Supervision and Organizational Leadership
Focus on the theory, reflection, and practice of effective supervision in ministry. Students will explore the philosophical foundations for effective organizational leadership, as well as practical guidance on issues such as personal leadership style, the emotional intelligence of the leader, team building, conflict resolution, interviewing, placement, delegation, supervision, and evaluation.

MN536-YL Equipping Leaders who Volunteer
Course designed to develop Young Life staff into effective volunteers.

MN537-YL Youth Ministry/Community Development
This course is part of the Area Director Training for YL staff.

TH115-YL Systematic Theology I
Course designed to introduce Young Life staff to the discipline of theology. Its goal is to help students cultivate their capacity to think about Christianity, particularly as this relates to topics of method, God and Revelation, creation, and humankind and sin.

TH502-YL Kingdom of God and Cultural Intelligence
TH503-YL Christology, Soteriology and Pneumatology
Course designed to assist Young Life staff to think, pray, speak, and mentor as Trinitarian Christians conformed to the image of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.
Quick Facts

Western Theological Seminary is a mid-sized seminary located in Holland, Michigan and affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. We are fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

Location
Holland, Michigan - Population 35,000

Programs Offered
- In-Residence Master of Divinity
- Distance Learning Master of Divinity
- WTS-Newbigin Distance Learning Master of Divinity
- Dual Track Master of Divinity - Master of Social Work
- Master of Arts
- Master of Theology
- Doctor of Ministry
- Graduate Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry

Students
Approximately 275 full and part-time students

Faculty
- 20 faculty members, 1 visiting professor and 2 faculty fellows
- 12:1 student/faculty ratio

Financial Aid Available
- Grants, awards, tuition reductions, loans, and work study programs

Affiliation
- Reformed Church in America
### Academic Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canvas Online Training (all students)</td>
<td>Aug 3-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Online Orientation begins</td>
<td>Aug 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th.M. Program begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Junior M.Div. orientation</td>
<td>Aug 26-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Middler/Senior M.Div. orientation</td>
<td>Aug 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall semester begins</td>
<td>Aug 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day - Seminary closed</td>
<td>Sept 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop/Add deadline</td>
<td>Sept 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration for Spring semester due</td>
<td>Oct 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Half semester ends</td>
<td>Oct 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Fall break</td>
<td>Oct 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL on-campus Intensive</td>
<td>Oct 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL after-Intensive break</td>
<td>Oct 26-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving recess</td>
<td>Nov 23-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall semester ends</td>
<td>Dec 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas break</td>
<td>Dec 19-Jan 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades due for Fall semester</td>
<td>Jan 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>J-Term</td>
<td>Jan 4-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop/Add deadline J-Term</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intercultural Immersion Trips</td>
<td>Jan 5-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canvas Online Training (new students)</td>
<td>Jan 4-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Online Orientation begins (new students)</td>
<td>Jan 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Orientation (new students)</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring semester begins</td>
<td>Jan 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop/Add deadline</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades due for J-Term</td>
<td>Feb 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Winter break</td>
<td>Feb 29-Mar 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Half semester ends</td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cut-off for financial aid applications</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(returning M.Div./M.A./GCUPM students)</td>
<td>Apr 4-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring break</td>
<td>Apr 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration for Fall semester due</td>
<td>Apr 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Senior Blessing Worship Service</td>
<td>Apr 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR Spring semester ends</td>
<td>May 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Senior Blessing Worship Service</td>
<td>May 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Grades due for Spring semester (noon)</td>
<td>May 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>May 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Spring Semester Intensive</td>
<td>May 9-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.Min. seminars</td>
<td>May 9-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Spring semester ends</td>
<td>May 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Summer semester</td>
<td>May 18-Jun 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR Summer semester</td>
<td>May 18-Aug 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Grades due for Spring semester</td>
<td>May 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DL &amp; IR Drop/Add deadline Summer Term</td>
<td>May 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th.M. program ends</td>
<td>Jun 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>DL Grades due for Summer semester</td>
<td>Jul 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newbigin DL M.Div. Late Summer Intensive</td>
<td>Jul 15-Aug 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>(online class)</td>
<td>on site in San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR Grades due for Summer term</td>
<td>Aug 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Semester Schedule for DL Programs

- **Fall Semester**: September-December, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-October.
- **January Term**: 3 weeks, online courses.
- **Spring Semester**: January-May, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-May.

### Semester Schedule for WTS-Newbigin DL M.Div. Program

- **Fall Semester**: September-December, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-October.
- **January Term**: 3 weeks, online courses
- **Spring Semester**: January-May, 14 weeks. Includes courses conducted entirely online and courses that blend online learning with a 5-day campus residency in mid-May.
- **Summer Term**: May-June, 6 weeks, online courses.
- **Late Summer Intensive**: early July-late August. Includes a one-week class held in San Francisco during years 1-3 of the program.