

Course Descriptions

The following list of course descriptions is a comprehensive list – all courses are not offered every year. The Supplementary Calendar/Student Handbook published each year in the spring provides information on available courses and electives for the current year as well as timetables for the year. It is available from VST's website: www.vst.edu

Some courses have prerequisites as indicated. For further information, contact the Registrar's Office at 604-822-9563 or email registrar@vst.edu.

Cancellation

The School reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses as circumstances demand. Courses will be cancelled if there are fewer than five students registered.

Biblical Languages

VST offers a 3-credit course (BIBL500) which gives an overview of both biblical Hebrew and biblical Greek. Courses in Hebrew and Greek languages are offered at both the elementary and intermediate level by the UBC and Regent College. Statements on the study of biblical languages appear in the requirements for each degree program.

Denominational Studies

Anglican Denominational Studies

**For Anglican Denominational Courses, please see SP515, TH652 and HIS650

DS510—Introduction to Presbyterian Church in Canada Worship, Theological Emphases, Governance and Mission

The course provides students with an overview of the ethos and traditions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, with particular attention to critical reflection on reformed worship, theological emphases, governance (polity) and mission.

DS521 United Church of Canada Educational Ministries (1.0 credits)

Through experiential learning, this course provides an overview of the history, values and practices of faith formation and education for all ages in the United Church.

DS522 United Church of Canada Worship and Music (1.0 credits)

This course provides an overview of the history and current practices of worship within the United Church, including sacramental ministry and hymnody.

DS523 "Landmarks and Legacies" – History and Ethos of the United Church of Canada (1.0 credit)

The goal of this course is preparation for learned and able leadership in the United Church of Canada. The story of the United Church of Canada is told in many different voices over many decades prior to and after union. By attending to a variety of testimonies to our history and formation, we will trace the threads of our founding traditions to their earlier roots and read our current context for the legacies of historic events, struggles and aspirations. Particular attention

DS525 "Practicing the Faith": Polity and Governance in the United Church of Canada (1.0 credit)

The goal of this course is preparation for learned and able leadership in the United Church of Canada. Using pressing issues within the church as a starting place, the course will provide opportunity to study and reflect together the polity and practices of church governance. There will be a focus on practical issues which call for knowledge of UCC polity. We will review The Manual and other UCC policy documents as well as case studies. Within the context of external and internal challenges to the church, the class will provide an overview of the conciliar governance system and preparation for leadership within that system.

DS624 "Thinking the Faith"- Theology and Doctrine in the United Church of Canada (1.0 credit)

The goal of this course is preparation for learned and able leadership in the United Church of Canada. Within

the context of external and internal challenges to the church, the class will provide an arena both to acquire and practice the ability to reflect theologically on the church's statements of faith (the Doctrine section of the "Basis of Union," "A Statement of Faith," a "New Creed," and "A Song of Faith") and other doctrinally-based statements and reports. It will provide the forum for articulation of a collective understanding of the purpose of the church and the practice of its ministries. Using pressing issues within the church as a starting place, we will reflect together on the theological resources.
Prerequisite: DS523

DS526 Issues and Praxis (1.0 credits)

This course is designed to set current issues and practices in the United Church. Content will vary depending on the speakers.

DS610—Reformed Worship, Polity and Confessions of Faith (Presbyterian Church in Canada)

This course explores the roots of reformed worship, provides opportunity for critical reflection on contemporary worship practices, offers guidance in leading a variety of worship services; provides an understanding of the content, wisdom, foundations and usefulness of the polity of the PCC; examines the place of creeds and confessions in the PCC, and introduces the PCC's approach to justice ministries and stewardship.
Prerequisites: DS510; completion of or concurrent enrollment in PT610 is recommended.

***DS680-689—Directed Studies**

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6-credit hours per degree for the M.Div. and M.A. degrees.

** Denominational Studies for other denominations will be arranged as required.*

Education

ED5/710—Wisdom for Cross Cultural Wholeness

Drawing on the wisdom of indigenous and western cultures, this course examines how to promote teaching toward wellness for the whole person. An initial focus on the ways persons from diverse cultures learn in North America, Asia, and Africa, will provide the student with a foundational philosophy of learning. Students will focus on spiritual health as they research effective

strategies for teaching communities and individuals. Students will hear and discuss lectures on teaching and learning, discuss culture and its effect on learning, and define health of spirit, mind, and body. Students will report progress periodically and present an annotated bibliography as well as the findings from their own research project in this subject area.

ED5/711 – Care of Families and Youth

Fostering healthy families and resilient youth are integral to pastoral care and sound communities. This course surveys the qualities of a well family and examines the factors creating resilient youth. Social problems stress families in living and clergy can provide support and guidance if they are confident in their ministerial power. As the new urbanization continues to pressure families and youth, family advocates minister from a position of taught insight and understanding. Course readings, seminar dialogue, student research presentations, and lectures will enhance the ministry caring clergy can provide.

ED5/712 – Ageing Well and the End of Life

The second half of life can be a time of intense spiritual growth. Welcoming death requires an open soul. This course studies the typical dynamics of ageing and dying as pastoral connections and spiritual triumphs.

ED580-589—Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6- credit hours per degree for M.Div. and M.A. degrees.

Ethics

ETH500—Christian Ethics

This course introduces students to a wide range of perspectives and a variety of practitioners in the discipline of Christian Ethics. The major elements of moral life: character, convictions, standards and the use of social analysis are examined, together with resources from the Bible and Christian tradition. Students are encouraged to relate these elements to their own Christian commitments and to develop and use an ethical model for making moral decisions, for engaging in moral discourse and for formulating, analyzing and assessing moral positions on major social issues.

ETH5/710 – Environmental Ethics

This course attends to both faith-based and philosophical foundations for environmental ethics, acquainting students with the variety of ethical frameworks available with which to consider how and why human activity within the creation is or is not appropriate. Particular concern will be given to the connections between ecological concerns and justice issues, examining implications for faith-based, especially Christian, communities.

ETH511–Spirituality and Ethics: Aboriginal Wisdoms, Lives and Lands

The interconnection of spirituality and ethics is evident in the ancestral traditions of Aboriginal cultures. Through the course, students will gain understanding of and appreciation for the astute and diverse insights Native civilizations have developed to sustain their relationships, human and nonhuman alike. The course will help students respectfully discover Aboriginal cultures without romanticizing them and appreciate the need for such cultures to adapt to current circumstances. Through the cautious use of comparisons, the course will also facilitate student consideration of those elements in their own traditions which can contribute to relationship-based environmental ethics. A further dimension of our work will concern the ethical dimensions and protocols of cross cultural “borrowing.” When, for example, is it appropriate to adopt spiritual practices and intellectual traditions not originally our own, especially when they derive from a land not originally ours?

ETH/TH5/710 – Climate Change and Christian Faith

As the most important issue facing the 21st century, climate change sets the context within which Christian theology needs to be deconstructed and reconstructed. This course will give advanced students an opportunity to participate in this constructive task in regard to major doctrines: God, Jesus Christ, sin and salvation, the Holy Spirit, discipleship, sacraments and church, and hope. *No formal prerequisite, although some theological background recommended.*

ETH/TH5/716: Spiritual Practice for a Just, Sustainable Planet

This course hopes to address appropriate spiritual practice for a time of severe planetary peril, as manifested in climate change and the economic meltdown. What ethic might function at personal, professional, and public levels for a world that is destroying itself

through excess of many sorts—energy use, consumer goods, debt, population, unlimited growth, insatiable desire? This course will investigate the concept of self-limitation (kenosis in Christianity), an ethic dependent on a sensibility oriented to egolessness and sacrifice; awareness of finitude; the sharing of space, place, and energy with others. While the course will focus on Christian sources, it will also include similar motifs from Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and First Nations thinking.

ETH6/710 – Advanced Ethics Elective

Effort is made to regularly invite a visiting professor, often in summer school, to present an advanced ethics elective in such time-sensitive areas as medical ethics, economics, and justice and just business. *Prerequisite: ETH500 or permission from the instructor*

ETH680-689–Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6 credit hours per degree for the M.Div. and M.A. degrees.

ETH699–Thesis–Ethics

Guidelines for the M.A.T.S. thesis are delineated on page 27

Hebrew Bible

HB500–Introduction to the Hebrew Bible I

To encourage an informed and faithful engagement with the Hebrew Bible, this course emphasizes the study of ancient Israel in its ancient Near East context, skills in the critical methods used to study the Hebrew Bible, understanding of the theologies of the Hebrew Bible, and reflection on the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in the church and world. The fall semester covers the Biblical books of Genesis through 1 Kings—beginnings to the United Kingdom. *No prerequisites.*

HB600–Introduction to the Hebrew Bible II

A continuation of HB500, this semester will enhance methodological skills and cover 1 Kings through Malachi -Divided Kingdom to early Judaism. *Prerequisite: HB500.*

BIBL500 Biblical Language Tools for Exegesis

A basic introduction to Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek (NT) for students who have no background in biblical languages and who will need language tools to accomplish exegesis in upper level biblical courses. It will enable students to understand and analyze basic elements of syntax and sentence construction in Hebrew and Greek and develop competence in using exegetical resources and tools (theological dictionaries, interlinear Bibles, lexicons, Bible software, etc.) in the translation and interpretation of biblical texts.

HB6/710 – Wisdom in Israel and the Ancient Near East

As a kind of “underground literature”, wisdom writings offer theological perspectives that are fundamentally different from (and frequently subversive of) the more “mainline” theological literature of ancient Israel. The course, in seminar format, surveys a wide panorama of biblical wisdom and related literature from the ancient Near East, particularly Egypt and Babylonia, with a critical eye on similarities and differences. (Note: This course is designed to complement the course on Exegesis of Proverbs – HB6/744 – but is self-contained. Either course may be taken without the other). *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

HB6/711–Prophecy In Ancient Israel

A chronological survey of the Hebrew Bible prophets, this course will emphasize the interplay between the prophets’ contexts and their message and theology. How Biblical texts can be appropriately related to contemporary contexts and issues will also be discussed. A variety of pedagogical methods will be used in class to provide students an opportunity to experience and reflect on models for the interpretation and teaching of the Bible in church-related contemporary contexts.

Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600

HB6/712–Social Justice: Prophet and Reformer

What is the Biblical and prophetic basis for the church’s involvement in social justice in local communities and the world community? This course will engage both the theology and practice of social justice. An analysis of the types and uses of power in societal relationships will help understand both the biblical call for justice and contemporary social justice issues. A current social justice issue of the student’s choosing, or from a student’s social ministry site, will provide the source for theory and praxis. (This course may be taken to fulfill a Pastoral

Theology Field Education requirement.) *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

HB6/713–Deuteronomistic History

The Deuteronomistic History, the books of Joshua through 2 Kings, tells a history of Israel emphasizing God’s covenantal relationship with the people that required fidelity and offered blessing. Using interpretive tools such as literary, rhetorical, historical-critical, archeological and sociological approaches, as well as insights from Third World, native and feminist perspectives, this course will seek to understand how the Deuteronomistic History shapes the story of Israel’s past to portray theological truth. *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

HB6/714–Social World of Ancient Israel

This seminar will be grounded in a sociological study of ancient Israel as a basis for critical applications/appropriation of social world topics in contemporary contexts. The course will cover methods and topics in the sociology of ancient Israel, and reading in the literature of social scientific criticism in the last three decades in Hebrew Bible studies. Students will study the impact of social scientific methods on Biblical research and interpretation, including perspectives that emerged in biblical studies across disciplines with literary, feminist, ideological, liberation theology, and global approaches. *Pre-requisite: HB500 and HB600*

HB6/740–Genesis 1-11

A major focus of this course is the creation accounts. It includes a study of extra-biblical parallels to the creation story, the problem of myth in the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible and creation theology elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible. Other topics include the problem of source division, the flood story and ancient Near Eastern parallels and the significance of the genealogies. *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

HB6/741–Deuteronomy

The course introduces such issues as the composition of Deuteronomy, legal genres in the Hebrew Bible, the history of interpretation of Deuteronomy, Deuteronomy and the Temple Scroll from Qumran, Deuteronomy and the New Testament. Students will offer detailed exegesis and interpretation of selected passages illustrating major themes in the book including economic ethics, prophecy and false prophecy, warfare, faith and history, law as good news, etc. *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

HB6/742–Isaiah 40-55

This course provides a close exegetical study of the exilic prophet of comfort. As such it focuses on selected passages that illustrate the major theological themes of the book, particularly creation, exodus and the figure of the servant of the Lord, as well as the use made of the prophet's words in the New Testament. *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

HB6/742–Psalms as Proclamation, Prayer and Praise

This course introduces students to the book of Psalms, through a study of selected psalms and their interpretation across the centuries within the Jewish and Christian faith communities. Because the psalms are also central in the public prayer and spirituality of both faiths, the course will give attention to these dimensions of each of the texts studied. *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

HB6/744–Proverbs and Wisdom Literature

Recent biblical scholarship has emphasized the peculiar relevance of the wisdom literature to our own time. It is pluralistic, cross-cultural in scope, and largely secular and practical in character. After a brief survey of the wisdom literature as a whole, the course concentrates on the book of Proverbs as a vehicle for learning exegetical skills and studying the major themes of wisdom. *Prerequisites: HB500, HB600 and competency in Hebrew language*

HB680-689–Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6 credit hours per degree for the M.Div. and M.A. degrees.

HB699–Thesis–Hebrew Bible

Guidelines for the M.A.T.S. thesis are delineated on page 27

Major Exegetical Paper

Master of Divinity and M.A.T.S. students with a concentration in Biblical Studies are required to complete a major exegetical paper as a part of their program. See page 13 for details.

History

HIS500 – Christianity and Judaism in Late Antiquity

An introduction to the central figures, theological and historical developments, controversies, and culture of Christianity and Judaism in the first 5 centuries CE. Topics include but are not confined to, early Christian unity and diversity, creeds, councils, and theological controversies, monastic movements, women in the early church, the relation of Jews and Christians, the Talmuds and rabbinic interpretation, liturgical theology, In addition, an introduction to various forms of historiography and their application.

HIS600–Canadian History Seminar

This seminar provides students with an opportunity to encounter key historical dimensions of the Christian experience in Canada. Where appropriate the broader North American context is considered. Use of both primary and secondary sources facilitates the development of skills in textual analysis and a critical reading of both texts and contexts, and their application to the milieu of the contemporary Church. Themes such as: church state relations as a context for religious definition; the place of gender and race in the unfolding of the Canadian Christian story; denominationalism and the drama of rise and decline in mainline Christianity, will be explored. *Prerequisite: HIS500*

HIS6/710–Seminar in Social Christianity

This seminar provides students with an opportunity to engage key dimensions of the places where Christianity and society meet. Drawing on selected topics from the classically defined modern era, themes such as liberationist movements in the global church; the impact of industrialization on the western religious imagination and the intersection of gospel and culture as a catalyst for both change and resistance to change will be explored. Lecture, film, fiction, student led seminars and textual analysis will frame the parameters of the learning environment. *Prerequisite: HIS500*

HIS6/711–Studies in the History of Biblical Interpretation

Change and continuity in the interpretation of the biblical text across the centuries is studied in relation to the life of the Jewish and Christian communities that received it as Scripture. The course draws upon the rich resources of VST's Centre for the History of Biblical Interpretation for the study of an historical sequence

of selected authors, in translation and in the original.
Prerequisite: HIS500

HIS6/712 – Spirituality of Leadership in Historical Perspective

This course will explore models and themes in the spiritual discipline of leadership through a diverse lens: historical, cross-cultural and gender. Participants will be invited to bring their own experience in leadership into a conversation with the experience of leaders across several centuries in a seminar format. Instructor presentations in a multi-media format, exploration of primary texts and group discussion will frame the work of the seminar. *Prerequisite: HIS500*

HIS615 Gender and Rabbinic Literature

The fraught interplay between gender, sexuality, and religion in our own time has a complex and important genealogy. This aim of this course is to read gender in a selection of late antique Rabbinic texts that circulated between ‘the land of Israel’ (Roman/Byzantine Palestine) and ‘Babylonia’ (Sassanian Iran). Guided by theory and method proposed by recent scholarship, seminar participants will analyze representations of gender in the canonical literary anthologies of classical, post-biblical rabbinic literature: Mishnah, Midrash, and Talmud. Students will (1) be introduced to academic approaches to the classical Rabbinic period and its canonical texts, (2) begin to acquire basic research skills necessary for working with classical Rabbinic sources, and (3) explore how applying divergent formulations of a ‘modern’ analytical category like gender to classical Rabbinic texts enriches and complicates understandings of the development of Rabbinic Judaism as well as present scholarly discussions of gender. *Prerequisite: HB500 and HB600*

HIS650–The Anglican Tradition: From State Church to Global Communion

This course explores, at an advanced level, the social, religious and cultural contexts that have shaped the historical development of the Anglican Communion from its roots in the English Reformation to its present-day manifestation as a communion of autonomous national and regional churches. *Prerequisite: HIS500 or the permission of the instructor*

HIS6/751–Wesley and the Methodist Tradition

This advanced-level course explores the reform activity and thought of the Wesleys within the social, religious

and cultural context of 18th century England. The emergence and development of the Methodist tradition, including its worship, hymnody and spirituality, will be examined, with particular reference to Methodist and United churches in Canada and the USA. *Prerequisite: HIS500*

HIS6/740–The History of the Reformation

This course will familiarize students with the work of major personalities and movements of the Protestant Reformation as these arise and flourish in the social and historical context of Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Europe. While students will be exposed to the family resemblance between the various Protestant Reformation trajectories, an appreciation of the range of reforms and reformers and their continuing influence on Protestant and Anglican confession, worship and church polity will be explored. *Pre-requisite: HIS500*

HIS6/741–Advanced Seminar in Reformation Studies

Selected topics in the story of the Continental Reformations including the thought of key figures and key dimensions of broadly based movements and their inter-relationships will be explored. *Prerequisite: HIS500*

HIS680-689–Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6-credit hours per degree for M.Div and M.A. degrees.

HIS699–Thesis–History

Guidelines for the M.A.T.S. thesis are delineated on page 27

Homiletics

HOM500–Homiletics

Designed to introduce homiletic theory and practice, this course aims to help students articulate a theology of preaching, understand the role of preaching in the life of the church, sharpen exegetical skills, learn to evaluate their own sermons and those of others and explore ways of using imagination in the creation and delivery of sermons.

HOM6/710–1 Corinthians: Preaching to a Troubled Church

There are too many troubled congregations riven by conflict in today's church. This, however, is nothing new. The church in Corinth was also a congregation torn by conflict. These troubles are addressed in Paul's correspondence with those churches. Perhaps preaching from this correspondence can help the minister or priest who is called to serve in a troubled situation. The purpose of this course is to increase the student's ability to preach in situations of church difficulty, making particular use of 1 Corinthians. *Prerequisite: HOM500*

HOM6/711 – From Model to Sermon

The goal of this course is to help students increase their skills in preaching by exposing them to five contemporary models for shaping sermons. Students will preach sermons making use of two of these models and will hear and evaluate sermons based on the other three models. It is also hoped that the course will improve students' skill in exegesis, particularly as it relates to sermon preparation. *Prerequisite: HOM500*

HOM6/712 Rhetoric in the Public Square

Rhetoric took its shape in the ancient polis as a tool to persuade, to enlighten or to delight. Public speaking was by nature a community event and communities were, and are, shaped by the rhetoric they hear. This course is a consideration of the rhetorical skills of persuasion as practiced in the ancient and contemporary world. People of goodwill who wish to help shape the future of the community may also wish to learn and practice the skills of oral communication in order to participate more effectively and more responsibly in today's version of the public square. *Prerequisite: HOM500 for M.Div students*

HOM680–689 – Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6 credit hours per degree.

Integrative Seminars

INT500–Research Methods and Theological Disciplines

This colloquium provides an opportunity for students to receive instruction in a variety of research methods appropriate to their course of study. Research methodologies will be explored, and students will be

given an opportunity to develop their skills in the application of these methods.

INT550–Global Cross-Cultural Experience

Students will be provided with opportunities to immerse themselves in a global cross-cultural experience that is in dramatic contrast to the North American experience. These immersion experiences will require significant preparation preceding and critical reflection after the experience. In years when VST does not provide this immersion education option, similar opportunities through other accredited institutions may be recognized for transfer credit.

INT551 – Theological Learning through International Exposure

This course will introduce students to the societal, theological and ecclesiastical realities of a host country in Latin America. The emergence of the “global village”, the increasing multi-cultural makeup of both urban and rural communities in Canada, the shift of Christianity's centre of gravity from the north to the south, and the life-changing effect of international exposure opportunities are all part of the rationale behind this course.

INT510 or 610–Inter-Disciplinary Seminars

These seminars are offered on an occasional basis and provide an opportunity for students to explore issues and themes of critical contemporary relevance from an inter-disciplinary perspective.

Liturgical Studies

LS500–First Rites: An Introduction to Christian Worship

Christian worship is the product of the interaction between the variety of human cultures and understandings of the gospel. Using primary texts from antiquity, the reformation of the sixteenth century and early modernity, students analyze how the language, structures and central services of Christian worship express in ritual the engagement of gospel with culture.

LS600–A Public Work for the Common Good: Foundations in Liturgical and Sacramental Ministry

The public assembly of the Christian people is engaged in a public work for the common good of all. In this course students examine various cross-denominational and

cross-disciplinary approaches to contemporary liturgical and sacramental theology. *Prerequisite: LS500 or its equivalent as determined by the instructor*

LS6/710 – Advanced Seminar in Liturgical History

In this seminar a particular topic will be examined in its historical development through the early (35 – 600), medieval (600-1500), reformation (1500-1700), modern (1700-1950) and contemporary (1950 to the present). When the seminar is offered, it focuses on one of the following topics: (a) ‘By Water and the Spirit: Christian Initiation’, (b) ‘One Bread, One Body: Eucharist’, (c) ‘Equipping the Saints: Ordination and Commissioning’, (d) ‘Seeing With New Eyes: Healing and Reconciliation’ or (3) ‘“The Rock from Whence You Were Hewn”: Early Jewish and Christian Worship’. *Prerequisite: LS500 or its equivalent as determined by the instructor*

LS6/730 – Advanced Seminar in Liturgical Theology and Praxis

This seminar will explore topics and issues in contemporary liturgical theology and praxis. When the seminar is offered, it focuses on one of the following topics: (a) ‘“Beyond the Worship Wards”: Worship in the Twenty-First Century’, (b) ‘Forming a Holy People: Liturgical Spirituality’, (c) ‘Civic Rites: Christian Worship in the City’ or (d) ‘God’s Love Made Visible: Liturgical Theologies and Theologies of Worship’. *Prerequisite: LS 500 or its equivalent as determined by the instructor*

LS680–689–Directed Studies in Liturgical Studies

Students may elect to do directed studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6 credit hours in either the M.Div. or M.A. degree.

New Testament

NT500–Synoptics

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the critical issues entailed in the study of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Through a close reading of the differing literary genres that constitute the synoptic tradition, students reflect on the theologies of the synoptic gospels as well as on the critical issues involved in moving from biblical text to proclamation.

LS800 – Graduate Seminar in Liturgical Studies

This seminar is intended to support the work of Th.M. students in liturgical studies and may take the form of a deeper examination of topics identified in LS6/710

and LS6/730. The seminar may require some facility in languages appropriate to the topic. *Prerequisite: Th.M student or permission from the instructor*

NT501–Paul

This course introduces students to New Testament Pauline literature. Through focusing on the socio-cultural environment that helped to form this literature, students will encounter the central critical issues in the interpretation of such topics as Jews and Gentiles in Pauline theologies, the role of women in Pauline communities, the relationship of the early church to the world and early Christian Christology.

NT600–John

This course introduces students to the gospel of John as a literary and historical document and as a resource for contemporary theology. By focusing on the socio-cultural environment in which this writing was formed, students will encounter the central critical issues in the interpretation of the relationship of the early church to the world, early Christian Christology and the place of wisdom theology in its formation. Students who elect Greek as their required biblical language will write a major exegetical paper in this course. *Prerequisites: NT500 and NT501*

BIBL500 Biblical Language Tools for Exegesis

A basic introduction to Biblical Hebrew and Koiné Greek (NT) for students who have no background in biblical languages and who will need language tools to accomplish exegesis in upper level biblical courses. It will enable students to understand and analyze basic elements of syntax and sentence construction in Hebrew and Greek and develop competence in using exegetical resources and tools (theological dictionaries, interlinear Bibles, lexicons, Bible software, etc.) in the translation and interpretation of biblical texts.

NT6/710–A Tale of Two Cities: From Jerusalem to Rome in the Acts of the Apostles

Early Christianity, as described in the Acts of the Apostles, was nurtured in the cities of the eastern Mediterranean. Acts is also a “road story,” the stories of the journeys that mark the origin of the Christian faith, a set of journeys that take the Christian Gospel from Jerusalem to Rome. It is also a journey from an entirely Jewish Christianity to a faith that includes Samaritans and Gentiles. This course is narrative critical study of that story of cities and journeys, both geographical and theological. *Prerequisites: NT500 and NT501*

NT6/741–Revelation

This course leads students through a close reading of the Book of Revelation to uncover its meaning in its socio-historical context and to explore its various interpretations both in critical scholarship and in popular culture. It introduces students to Revelation as an example of an ancient genre of literature and considers its enduring relevance to contemporary culture and Christian identity in a secular world. (This course may be taken to fulfill a Pastoral Theology Field Education requirement.) *Prerequisites: NT500 and NT501*

NT6/711 – De/Colonizing Jesus: New Testament Christologies Against the Backdrop of the Roman Empire

This course investigates New Testament representations of Jesus and their function in creating social identity and witness in the context of Roman imperial society. Using the lenses of post-colonial studies, it takes up ways in which early Christians borrowed from the colonizing forces of imperial culture, especially the cult of the emperor, to build a counter-cultural identity. The course unfolds with a view to contemporary forms of Christian identity, rooted in spirited witness to the Reign of God in our midst. *Prerequisites: NT500 and NT501*

NT/HOM6/710–1 Corinthians: Preaching to a Troubled Church

There are too many troubled congregations riven by conflict in today's church. This, however, is nothing new. The church in Corinth was also a congregation torn by conflict. These troubles are addressed in Paul's correspondence with those churches. Perhaps preaching from this correspondence can help the minister or priest who is called to serve in a troubled situation. The purpose of this course is to increase the student's ability to preach in situations of church difficulty, making particular use of 1 Corinthians. *Prerequisites: HOM500 and NT501*

NT680–689–Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6-credit hours per degree for the M.Div. and M.A. degrees.

NT698–Major Exegetical Paper

Master of Divinity and M.A.T.S. students with a concentration in Biblical Studies are required to complete a major exegetical paper as a part of their program. See page 13 for details.

NT699–Thesis–New Testament

Guidelines for the M.A.T.S. thesis are delineated on page 27.

Pastoral Theology and Theological Field Education

Integrative Theological Field Education

All students in the M.Div. program are required to complete five units of supervised theological field education. These units (TFE) are not counted in the credit hour requirement of the degree program nor are students charged tuition for any unit of theological field education. M.A.T.S. students concentrating in Public and Pastoral Leadership are required to take at least one unit of TFE

TFE Unit 1 is normally undertaken in the first year of a student's M.Div. program. Students are assigned to congregations in which they will serve primarily (but not exclusively) as observers. Integration of insights gained through the placement takes place in the context of the required pastoral theology course, PT600

TFE Units 2A&B are normally undertaken in the second year, and require a ten to twelve hour weekly commitment. Students are normally placed in a congregational or a societal setting.*

TFE Units 3A&B are normally taken in the third year, and require an eight to ten hour weekly commitment. Students may be placed in a congregational, societal, or overseas setting.*

****For TFE units 2 and 3, students will meet 4 times/term for an integrative seminar group with the Director of Field Education or assigned faculty. This seminar will replace some of the required placement time that week.**

PT500 – Introduction to Public and Pastoral Leadership

What is ministry? This course explores the theological, vocational, inter-disciplinary and practical implications of this question as students begin their theological studies in preparation for pastoral/public leadership in ministry. Lectures, readings, interviews with on-site field placement supervisors, study group work and written assignments introduce students to tools and methods they will use throughout their theological studies and in preparation for pastoral and public leadership. These tools include theological vocabulary;

models of praxis (action-reflection) learning, including theological reflection and case studies; problem-posing methods and appreciative inquiry; and leadership style inventories. Students will also consider topics related to spirituality and leadership.

PT510 – Strengthening All Youth

Factors in contemporary North American society place all youth at risk of failure somewhere in their lives. This course examines what research identifies as best practice to develop resiliency in youth. Using recent professional research studies, students will explore the qualities of resilience and develop specific plans to implement resiliency in community youth. Didactic and affective experiences will sensitize and motivate students to develop realistic understandings of the dynamics of life for contemporary youth. Special topics will include First Nations, gay or lesbian youth, and the development of a theology that serves youth well.

PT511–Care of the Gay and Lesbian Soul

This course explores three critical dynamics in caring for gay or lesbian persons. Using readings, lectures, media, and group discussions, students will build an understanding of how a gay or lesbian identity is formed. The history and experience of gay or lesbian people provide a community of identification for individuals and families. The response of denominations will be examined critically and students will build a theology which brings gay or lesbian persons into relationship with the Holy.

PT/ED511 – Care of Families and Youth

Fostering healthy families and resilient youth are integral to pastoral care and sound communities. This course surveys the qualities of a well family and examines the factors creating resilient youth. Social problems stress families in living and clergy can provide support and guidance if they are confident in their ministerial power. As the new urbanization continues to pressure families and youth, family advocates minister from a position of taught insight and understanding. Courses readings, seminar dialogue, student research presentations, and lectures will enhance the ministry caring clergy can provide.

PT/ED512 – Ageing Well and the End of Life

The second half of life can be a time of intense spiritual growth. Welcoming death requires an open soul. This course studies the typical dynamics of aging and dying as pastoral connections and spiritual triumphs.

PT512–Addictions: A Christian Issue

This course is a study of addictions that typically exist in parishes and communities. Using medical, psychological, and cultural theories, students will develop an intellectual and affective understanding of addictions. By considering treatment, family effects, health complications, and relapse risks, students will develop pastoral and holistic professional responses. Students will read then resource bibliography, research and report on an area of particular interest, and develop a theology of addiction.

PT5/715–Globalization, Global Cities & the Global Commons

Global Cities, the context in which the majority of this planet’s people will live and Christianity must consequently function in the upcoming century, have been emerging from the forces unleashed by globalization. Globalization not only impacts economic, sociological and ecological well-being, but also the psychological demands placed upon religions and religious practices. Drawing upon biblical and theological reflections of life in the city and with the ancient question “How then shall we live?” in mind, the seminar will engage the collaborative work of developing theologies and ecclesiologies, as well as models of religious leadership, appropriate to life in this planet’s emergent global cities.

PT550–Clinical Pastoral Education

Successful completion of a basic unit of CPE, which requires application to an institution that teaches this course, qualifies for one three-hour course credit and exemption for two terms from the eight weekly practicum hours required of M.Div. students in the third year. In order to receive this credit and exemption, students must submit their final evaluations to the Director of Field Education for approval.

PT600 – Education and Pastoral Ministry in Intercultural Contexts

Education takes place in many forms as we practice the art and skill of pastoral and public leadership. In this course, students will examine the theoretical foundations of education including faith and human development, transformative learning theory, and intercultural communication. The course will model action-reflection models of teaching and learning. Students will acquire knowledge, skills and strategies for the preparation, design, implementation, and evaluation of educational events. *Prerequisite: PT500 or permission from the instructor.*

PT601 – Public and Pastoral Leadership II: Immersion in Context

This course provides an integrated learning experience that is both academic and personal. Situated in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, students will experience this context as a microcosm of today's world, reflecting realities facing communities across the globe. The course develops deep skills in providing public and pastoral leadership through an immersion process that provides insight into ourselves, the context in which we live and work, and our place within that context. *Prerequisite: PT500*

PT602 – Public and Pastoral Leadership: Current and Emergent Practice

Description currently not available.

PT610 – Public and Pastoral Leadership III: Leadership and Integration

This course will explore the implications of what God is doing in the world, and what God's people are called to do in the world, for the exercise of public and pastoral leadership in church and society. The course is designed to facilitate the student's integration of theological study and practical experience through focused conversation and writing, in preparation for diverse leadership roles in the service of church and society. *Prerequisite: PT500 and PT601*



PT6/711–Inside and Outside the Walls: Pastoral Leadership in the Public Arena

Through seminars the class will be stimulated and challenged by engagement with leaders from across a broad spectrum of communities and environments. The class will experientially, dialogically and actively explore and open itself to the Spirit at work in various economic and community sectors. It will explore questions like but not limited to: If the church is the people of God, then what are those people doing when not in church on Sunday or volunteering at church functions? How can pastoral leaders support and serve the people of God in communities and individuals in the world? What does leadership look like in the church when so much work of the church is beyond the walls of the buildings? What are the special concerns of leaders in rural settings and/or urban environments? *Prerequisites: PT601/602 or equivalent*

PT/HIS6/712 – Spirituality of Leadership in Historical Perspective

This course will explore models and themes in the spiritual discipline of leadership through a diverse lens: historical, cross-cultural and gender. Participants will be invited to bring their own experience in leadership into a conversation with the experience of leaders across several centuries in a seminar format. Instructor presentations in a multi-media format, exploration of primary texts and group discussion will frame the work of the seminar. *Prerequisite: HIS500*

PT/HB6/712–Social Justice: Prophet and Reformer

What is the Biblical and prophetic basis for the church's involvement in social justice in local communities and the world community? This course will engage both the theology and practice of social justice. An analysis of the types and uses of power in societal relationships will help understand both the biblical call for justice and contemporary social justice issues. A current social justice issue of the student's choosing, or from a student's social ministry site, will provide the source for theory and praxis. (This course may be taken to fulfill a Pastoral Theology Field Education requirement.) *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

PT/HIS6/713 – Re-mapping Social Christianity: An Exploration of Contemporary Mainline Religion

Over the course of the 20th century, the face of Christianity in a de-colonized world shifted dramatically. The bi-furcation of Christian forms and practices

along the great divide of theological orientation has left mainline Christianity in the west of the early 21st century living the trauma of radical dislocation. This course will explore what happened after colonization, to churches in the Western world. Current statistical analyses, as well as theoretical literature and historical interpretation will all serve to illuminate this path and its implication for the future of mainline Christian practice, particularly within the context of rapid global urbanization. *Pre-requisites: HIS500*

PT650—Eight-Month Supervised Internship

This is required for candidates for ordination in The United Church of Canada and is arranged through the national Church. Successful completion of an internship results in one three-hour course credit and exemption from the required eight hours of practicum for third year M.Div. students. If students do not need the credit-hours, they may opt to take a Leave of Absence rather than pay the credit-fee for their Internship. Students in other denominations who complete an eight-month supervised internship also may qualify for this exemption and credit. *Prerequisite: PT601/602 or equivalent*

PT680–689—Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6-credit hours per degree for the M.Div. and M.A. degrees.

PT698—Ministry Position Paper

Master of Divinity students are required to complete a ministry position paper as a part of their program. See page 13 for details.

PT699—Thesis – Pastoral Theology

Guidelines for the M.A.T.S. thesis are delineated on page 27.

Christian Spirituality

SP500—Spiritual Formation

This introductory course explores the nature of spirituality, introduces resources for the Christian tradition for the nurture of life-in-the spirit and provides a small-group experience for support and accountability in the student's journey of faith. The class will normally consist of three segments: instruction, practice of a variety of prayer and meditation methods, and sharing in small groups.

SP510—Foundations of Christian Spirituality: Ascetical Tradition

This historical journey of discovery invites the learner to engage varied expressions of the Christian ascetical tradition across several centuries. Students will work with primary and secondary source texts that explore the relationship between the ascetical and mystical traditions and the inspiration and motivations of asceticism within Christianity. Students will also explore the dialogical conversation between historical and contemporary praxis. It would be beneficial, though not required, for students to have completed HIS500 prior to taking this course.

SP511—Foundations of Christian Spirituality: Reformation to the Present

Through work with the teaching and wisdom of key spiritual figures of the Christian tradition from the Reformation Era to the 21st century, this course fashions groundwork for engagement and critical reflection between current experience and historical memory. Use of primary and secondary source materials will help students uncover new insights into the texts and persons of the tradition. It would be beneficial, though not required, for students to have completed HIS500 prior to taking this course.

SP515 The Beauty of Holiness: Worship and Spirituality in the Anglican Tradition

Archbishop Michael Ramsey once said that Anglicanism is shaped 'by the sound of church bells'. Anglican worship has shaped its spirituality and the diverse cultures that have embraced Anglicanism have, in their turn, provided new spiritual insights to shape Anglican worship. This course is a thematic exploration of these two dimensions of the Anglican ethos.

SP/TH5/711—Spiritual Autobiography

This course is a study of various religious traditions through autobiographies that provide an insider's perspective, the perspective of believers. The intention of the course is to show how beliefs and concepts are actualized in people's lives. Readings consider the genre of autobiography—its nature and purpose as well as its variety. The focus is on Christian autobiographies but includes authors from other religious traditions.

SP/ETH511—Spirituality and Ethics: Aboriginal Wisdoms, Lives and Lands

The interconnection of spirituality and ethics is evident

in the ancestral traditions of Aboriginal cultures. For thousands of years these traditions have provided spiritual practices and ethical guidelines to the cultures which developed them. Through the course, students will gain understanding of and appreciation for the astute and diverse insights Native civilizations have developed to sustain their relationships, human and nonhuman alike. The course will help students respectfully discover Aboriginal cultures without romanticizing them and appreciate the need for such cultures to adapt to current circumstances.

Through the cautious use of comparisons, the course will also facilitate student consideration of those elements in their own traditions which can contribute to relationship-based environmental ethics.

A further dimension of our work will concern the ethical dimensions and protocols of cross cultural “borrowing.” When, for example, is it appropriate to adopt spiritual practices and intellectual traditions not originally our own, especially when they derive from a land not originally ours?

SP512—Theology and the Practice of Prayer

This course explores the history, theory, language and practice of Christian prayer that lies at the heart of Christian spiritual practice. Students will be given instruction in, and will practice, various models of prayer in a systematic way designed to facilitate progressive spiritual depth and the contemplative life.

SP/TH5/716—Spiritual Practice for a Just, Sustainable Planet

This course hopes to address appropriate spiritual practice for a time of severe planetary peril, as manifested in climate change and the economic meltdown. What ethic might function at personal, professional, and public levels for a world that is destroying itself through excess of many sorts—energy use, consumer goods, debt, population, unlimited growth, insatiable desire? This course will investigate the concept of self-limitation (kenosis in Christianity), an ethic dependent on a sensibility oriented to egolessness and sacrifice; awareness of finitude; the sharing of space, place, and energy with others. While the course will focus on Christian sources, it will also include similar motifs from Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and First Nations thinking.

SP550—Traditions of Spiritual Direction

This course examines traditions and theories of spiritual direction, spiritual discernment and methods and techniques of spiritual direction. It provides students with a range of theoretical perspectives in the practice of spiritual direction.

SP551—Spiritual Direction and Psychology

In this course, students will explore the places of convergence and divergence between spirituality and psychology. Students will study models of psychological and spiritual development relating to the human soul, self, psyche, faith development, prayer development and moral development.

SP610—Foundations of Christian Spirituality: The Biblical Tradition

This course explores the basic elements of Christian spirituality from the biblical tradition. Using both primary and secondary source materials, students will focus on the biblical foundations of the Christian spiritual tradition and the Judeo-Christian narrative as foundational texts informing the development of both spiritual teaching and practice. *Prerequisites: HB500 and NT500*

SP/HB643—Psalms as Proclamation, Prayer and Praise

This course introduces students to the book of Psalms through a study of selected psalms and their interpretation across the centuries within the Jewish and Christian faith communities. Because the psalms are also central in the public prayer and spirituality of both faiths, the course will give attention to these dimensions of each of the texts studied. *Prerequisites: HB500 and HB600*

SP670—Applied Spiritual Direction

In this course, students will apply the theoretical foundations developed through earlier course work. Students will explore applied ethics and engage various assessment tools. Because spiritual directors are not trained in working with people with mental health conditions, this course covers various common mental health conditions that spiritual directors may encounter, such as depression and suicidal ideation. Students will learn how to consult mental health professionals and to make appropriate referrals. This course may be taken concurrently with SP672.

SP671–Supervised Practicum I (The Skilled Listener)

This is an introductory counseling skills course designed for spiritual directors, clergy and others training for various pastoral ministries. Using a non-directive, person-centered approach, the course will focus on developing empathic communication, safety and trust in relationship, listening and reflecting skills, immediacy and self-disclosure, acceptance and congruence. Attention will also be paid to ethical issues such as confidentiality. Students will practice skills by counseling each other. They will learn from observational supervision and transcripts of audio and videotapes.

SP672–Supervised Practicum II

In addition to giving spiritual direction and reflecting critically upon it under supervision, students will engage in group case study, theological reflection and ethical reflection. Those students taking the Practicum during Summer School will have ongoing opportunity, under supervision, to provide spiritual formation and/or spiritual direction in a graduated progression appropriate to their training and skill level at the time. (See fee schedule, page 53.) *Prerequisites: SP551 and SP671. SP672 is taken concurrently with SP670*

SP673–Practicum III

Through the use of cases and case study methods, students will be given a chance to integrate theory and praxis in the arena of spiritual direction. Cases will be both provided for students and written by them based on the experience of concrete spiritual direction encounters. (See fee schedule, page 53.) *Prerequisites: SP551 and SP671. SP673 is taken concurrently with SP670*

SP674–Practicum IV (Group Facilitation and Retreat Design)

This theoretical and experiential course gives students facilitation skills and design models for retreat development, spiritual direction groups and spiritual formation in the congregation. There will be opportunity in the course for students to design, lead and evaluate a group experience. *Prerequisites: SP671 plus one other spirituality course*

SP680–689–Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of six-credit hours per degree for the M.Div. and M.A. degrees.

SP699–Thesis–Spirituality

Guidelines for the M.A.T.S. thesis are delineated on page 27.

Theology

TH500–Constructive Theology I

This course will further critical understanding and appropriation of major Christian doctrines in the context of the contemporary church and in loving engagement with the world. It treats principally central Christian themes of doctrinal reflection (revelation, scripture, Trinity, creation, sin, Christ, reconciliation, Holy Spirit, church and hope) as well as contemporary critiques and reformations in the light of the ordered and sanctified components of Christian theological reflection (scripture, tradition, reason and experience).

TH5/710 – Climate Change and Christian Faith

As the most important issue facing the 21st century, climate change sets the context within which Christian theology needs to be deconstructed and reconstructed. This course will give advanced students an opportunity to participate in this constructive task in regard to major doctrines: God, Jesus Christ, sin and salvation, the Holy Spirit, discipleship, sacraments and church, and hope.

TH5/711–Spiritual Autobiography

This course is a study of various religious traditions through autobiographies that provide an insider's perspective, the perspective of believers. The intention of the course is to show how beliefs and concepts are actualized in people's lives. Readings consider the genre of autobiography—its nature and purpose as well as its variety. The focus is on Christian autobiographies but includes authors from other religious traditions. This course may also be taken as a spirituality or ethics elective.

TH5/712 – Aboriginal/Western Thought

The deepest level of culture is the thought world. This readings course explores the differences between Aboriginal thought and academic Western thought. Students will read both didactic and fictional materials by Native writers. The first goal is to understand fundamental First Nations thought so it can be understood alongside university thought. Students will read a resource bibliography, discuss questions and conclusions, and develop a deeper understanding of one

area of thought to present to others in the class. This course ends with a strong focus on Aboriginal Christian thought and theology in contemporary times.

TH550—Readings in Modern to Postmodern Theology

This course takes students into an in-depth study of theological thought and method through the engagement of selected readings of modern and postmodern theologians whose work influences theologies today. The course follows the 19th through early 20th century euro-american tradition of theological thought, introduces the variety of liberation theologies and concludes by touching upon the postmodern, postcolonial critique of Christian theologies.

TH5/751—Ecological Theology

This course offers study of theology from an ecological perspective – that is, in relation to the natural world of which human beings are a part – that focuses on the deconstruction and reconstruction of central Christian beliefs in light of the ecological context. Readings include issues such as the mixed ecological message of Scripture and tradition, the state of the earth in terms of planetary health, the interface between ecology and economics, the doctrines of God and the world in ecological context, and the churches and the environment.

TH5/752—Process Theologies

Process theologies interpret Christian convictions in terms of relational ontologies and a panentheistic cosmology. Working with vitalistic philosophies, beginning with that of Alfred North Whitehead and his break with the science of mechanistic materialism, but also including the recent energetic materialism of Gilles Deleuze, the course rethinks Christian systematic theological concerns (doctrine of God, Christ, sin, etc.) into a worldview that is relational, holistic and creatively open.

TH570—Religious Pluralism

This course will introduce students to theological questions raised by religious diversity in the contemporary world, and provide the opportunity of first-hand encounters with other living religious traditions. The content of the course will include: consideration of various Christian responses to religious diversity, reflection on the place of Christianity among the world's religions and an introduction to the traditions and practice of other religious communities.

TH571—World Religions

This course, alternately taught as a general introduction to the world religions or as an in-depth study of one particular religion (e.g., Buddhism, Judaism, Taoism, Hinduism, Islam, etc), prepares students to attend to the plurality of religions in our own immediate society as well as the world at large. The course largely entails a history of religions, but with attention to their cross-cultural sharing of wisdom, inter-religious dialogue and hybrid evolution and the effects of religious globalization on Christianity.

TH572—Foundational Traditions in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

What are the functions of religious tales of origin? This introductory-level course will explore the basic content as well as some of the functions of originary tales (foundational traditions) in the formation and incremental development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course will compare and contrast different foundational traditions within these traditions, as well as between the different religious traditions. In addition to exploring common characteristics (such as founders, sacred sites, 'defining' events, canons, 'heresies,' narratives, and counter-narratives), the course will consider some of the functions of foundational tales – sacred, authoritative narratives of religious and cultural origins — in the present day.

TH600—Constructive Theology II

This course, taking in the broad sweep of biblical, historical and contemporary christologies, helps students construct an exegetically informed and socially contextualized christology within contemporary cosmological perspectives. The course will increase students' awareness of the social, cultural and historical forces that contribute to the formation of historical christological articulation and in that way prepare students to shape contemporary christological constructions. *Prerequisite: TH500*

TH6/710—Psychoanalytic Philosophies

As cultural and religious constructions clash world-wide, psychoanalytic discourse holds up the hope of growing subjects with tolerance for ambiguities and respect for difference. As globalizing capitalism continues to taunt us with its bazaar of commodified desire, psychoanalytic discourse may offer us one discursive venue for intercepting such a system that holds power not through repression but in and through "captivating

desire.” Inasmuch as Christianity might itself be described as a philosophy of desire (or love), this course will consider the intersection of such psychoanalytic philosophies with religion, especially with the work of theology. *Prerequisite: TH500*

TH6/711–Popular Culture

The course considers the ways in which media (movies, television, advertising) and literature as well as body technologies (fitness, blogging, tattooing, etc) impact our sense of self, culture and religion as well as how we as theologians interact with these various technologies. In a post-textual world, how do we discursively engage religious authority or truth? With so many media sources interpreting and publicizing religious narratives or selling themselves via religious promises, how do we dialogically enter into, read, appreciate, swerve and/or resist these interpretations? *Prerequisite: TH500 or permission from the instructor*

TH6/712 – Sexes, Genders & Theologies of Desire

This course considers contemporary critical theories related to sexes and genders (feminist, masculinity, gay/lesbian, queer, omnigender) and the theologies developed in their wake. How do these critical theories help us rethink the problem that Christianity has made of sensuality, desire, and pleasure? The course concludes with consideration of the question, How do we break Christianity’s fixation upon sexuality – a fixation which occludes a more extensive justice agenda, an agenda that might, however, be inseparable from that of restoring our sensuous sentient interface and releasing desire? *Prerequisite: TH500 or permission from the instructor*

TH6/713 God and the World

This course will be wide-ranging, taking up a number of contemporary issues and questions regarding the relation of God and the world: experiences of the presence of God; major historical concepts of God’s action in the world (Augustine, Aquinas, Barth, Process); images and metaphors for God (religious language); God and “metaphysics” (the critique of deconstruction). The materials used in the course will range from traditional theological texts to poetry, novels, liturgy, and prayers. *Prerequisite: One course in theology for credit students*

TH/HIS615 Gender and Rabbinic Literature

The fraught interplay between gender, sexuality, and religion in our own time has a complex and important genealogy. This aim of this course is to read gender in a

selection of late antique Rabbinic texts that circulated between ‘the land of Israel’ (Roman/Byzantine Palestine) and ‘Babylonia’ (Sassanian Iran). Guided by theory and method proposed by recent scholarship, seminar participants will analyze representations of gender in the canonical literary anthologies of classical, post-biblical rabbinic literature: Mishnah, Midrash, and Talmud. Students will (1) be introduced to academic approaches to the classical Rabbinic period and its canonical texts, (2) begin to acquire basic research skills necessary for working with classical Rabbinic sources, and (3) explore how applying divergent formulations of a ‘modern’ analytical category like gender to classical Rabbinic texts enriches and complicates understandings of the development of Rabbinic Judaism as well as present scholarly discussions of gender. *Prerequisite: HB500 and HB600*

TH6/750–Reformed Theology in the 19th and 20th Centuries

This course is designed to acquaint students with the evolving theological expression of the Reformed tradition in its 19th and 20th century embodiments as it responds and interacts with modernity and post-modernity in an increasingly non-western context. This will involve examination of Reformed doctrine as it finds expression in major figures, schools and movements throughout the world. Ad hoc attention will be given to the authority of Scripture, the nature of critical biblical interpretation, the role of experience in theological reflection, the relationship between faith and culture and faith and science, Christianity among the religions, social justice and care for creation. *Prerequisite: TH500*

TH6/751 – Postmodern, Postcolonial Theologies

This advanced theology elective surveys theological concerns emergent from the postmodern critique of western enlightenment thought, including the critique of metaphysical idealism and liberalism/humanism, along with their colonial politics and the aggravation of historical violence. In this course, theologies which assume the poststructuralist, postcolonial critique of western history, human subjectivity, truth and Christian eschatology will be complemented by theologies which assume new, non-substance-based scientific cosmologies. Attention will also be given to what happens to religions under the pressures of globalization and how postcolonial and poststructuralist insights might help theologians address the flourishing of persons and earth, given the globalization of consumer capitalism. *Prerequisite: TH500 or permission of instructor*

TH652 – We Who are Many Are One Body: Church and Ministry in the Anglican Tradition

In this course we will explore historical and contemporary Anglican understandings of the church in the light of what Paul Avis calls a ‘baptismal paradigm’ and the consequences of these understandings for the exercise of ministry, lay and ordained, in contemporary Anglicanism. *Prerequisite: TH600 or its equivalent*

TH680–689–Directed Studies

Students may elect to do Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, to a maximum of 6-credit hours per degree.

TH699–Thesis -Theology

Guidelines for the M.A.T.S. thesis are delineated on page 27.

Master of Theology

In addition to the courses listed below, all courses cross-listed with a 700 number in the course listings can be taken at the Advanced Degree level

HB800–Social World of Ancient Israel: Critical Contexts

This advanced seminar will be grounded in a sociological study of ancient Israel as a basis for critical applications/appropriation of social world topics in contemporary contexts. The course will cover methods and topics in the sociology of ancient Israel, and reading in the literature of social scientific criticism in the last three decades in Hebrew Bible studies. Students will study the impact of social scientific methods on Biblical research and interpretation, including perspectives that emerged in biblical studies across disciplines with literary, feminist, ideological, liberation theology, and global approaches. *Pre-requisite: Th.M student or permission from the instructor*

HIS800–Graduate Seminar in Ancient Christianity (Second–Sixth Century)

This course is designed for Th.M Students doing advanced degree work in history. Topics will include Second Century Christianity; Gender and Social Identity in the Early Church; topics relating to central figures in early Christianity (Augustine; Origen; etc.); Art, Empire, and Theology in Early Christianity; Politics and Church in Late Antiquity. *Pre-requisite: Th.M student or permission from the instructor*

HIS805 – Graduate Seminar in Historical Studies

Each year or as needed, VST offers an historical topics seminar at the Th.M level in selected areas. *Pre-requisite: Th.M student or permission from the instructor*

NT800–Graduate New Testament Seminar

This course is designed for Th.M. students doing advanced degree work in biblical studies. Topics will include Postmodern Biblical exegesis; Mark in Literary and Post-Structuralist Perspective; Social Scientific Study of the New Testament; Luke-Acts; Art, Empire, and the New Testament; Colossians and Philemon in the History of Interpretation. *Pre-requisite: Th.M student or permission from the instructor*

TH800 – Religions after Metaphysics

Spirit has become a conceptual “prosthesis” for theological convictions given the critique of metaphysics. The primary focus of the course will be on developing theologies attendant to “weak thought,” to Deleuzian energetic materialism and with regard to various theological postures within secularism. *Pre-requisite: Th.M student or permission from the instructor*

Th.M Directed Studies

Th.M. students may elect to pursue Directed Studies in selected topics and readings with individual instructors, subject to the availability of the instructor’s time.

Th.M.898 – Th.M Project

Guidelines for the Th.M. project are delineated on page 28.

Th.M.899 – Th.M Thesis

Guidelines for the Th.M. thesis are delineated on page 28.