

Courses and Descriptions for Master or Arts in Theology

THE 505 – Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. David Dippold

This course will examine the science of hermeneutical analysis, processes, and methods in which one can derive the most accurate and valid interpretation of passages of the Bible. Due consideration will be given to the art involved in integrating various lines of thought in the Bible to accomplish an adequate understanding and application of any passage in the Bible.

THE 510 – Sacred Voices: Advanced Biblical Theology 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Dwight Sheets

This course is an introduction to biblical theology covering methodology, history, basic issues, and the foundational content of the field. Correlation between biblical and systematic theology is explored and discussed. The course includes an examination of the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures and the unity and diversity of the biblical revelation.

THE 515 – Echoes from the Journey: Historical Theology 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Bruce Marino

This course is an exploration of thought about Christian theology through the centuries. Special attention is given to the nature of historical thinking (historiography), theology understood in a broad sense to include devotional thought, etc; the development of Pentacostalism, the ways to anticipate the future.

THE 520 – Theology: Classic and Contemporary 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Steven Studebaker

This course is a discovery of theological systems used throughout Church history and into the present with a particular focus on contemporary developments. Special attention is given to Biblical foundations, philosophical presuppositions, psychosocial forces, and the practical consequences of these developments in the life of the Church and the quest for truth.

THE 525 – The Interface of Theology and Psychology 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Ronald Hall

(Prerequisite THE 505 and 515 or 520)

This course will examine the different approaches in relating the long traditions of theological inquiry with the more recent influential theories of psychology. Issues that will be discussed include: human nature, the notion of sin, the concept of salvation/sanctification, and the goal of spiritual and psychological wellness. The role of the Holy Spirit and human agents, as divine and people facilitators respectfully, will be explored.

PHL 505 – Spirituality and Philosophical Thought 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Philip McLeod

This course will examine spirituality and its development in philosophical thought through the centuries, how it has shaped eastern and western thought and approaches to spirituality and where it has left us in our understanding of spirituality today on a philosophical level. Spiritual formation approaches will be examined in this course.

PHL 510 – Apologetics & Ethics: Contemporary Challenges 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Bruce Marino

An exploration of the integration and interdependence of apologetics and ethics in the contemporary world. The reasonableness of Christianity in both its truth claims and moral determinations is considered. Approaches to apologetics and ethics are analyzed, and the combined insights are applied to contemporary issues.

THE 585 – Cross-Cultural Theology 1 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Ronald Hall

This course will consist of an international field course of study under the direction of a professor that will take place within one of the following settings: overseas Universities and training centers, Mission field experiences, mega-churches and cross-cultural settings in which theological analysis, teaching and training will be conducted. Field service will be required. This course will expand the cross-cultural understanding of the student to more effectively assess and respond to the realities being faced in that particular setting and evaluate the transferability of various theological constructs.

THE 590 – Cross-Cultural Theology 2 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Ronald Hall

This course will build upon THE 585. It will also consist of an international field course of study under the direction of a professor that will take place within one of the following settings: overseas Universities and training centers, Mission field experiences, mega-churches and cross-cultural settings in which theological analysis, teaching and training will be conducted. Field service will be required. This course will expand the cross-cultural understanding of the student to more effectively assess and respond to the realities being faced in that particular setting and evaluate the transferability of various theological constructs. In addition to the requirements of THE 585 the student will have to formulate a theological rubric in which to assess various theological issues within a particular culture that is transferable to other cultural contexts. Prerequisite: THE 585.

THE 595 – Research Dynamics 3 credit hours

Course designed by Dr. Donald Tucker

(Prerequisite completion of at least five of required courses)

This course will train the student in the advanced skills of scholarly research, design, writing and documentation as a direct preparation for the final research project of the degree.

THE 599 – Research Project 6 credit hours
(Prerequisite THE 595)

This course will consist of a major written project that reflects graduate level research and writing on an area of study agreed upon and under the direct supervision of a professor who has specialization in the chosen topic of study in keeping with the degree. The final project must receive committee approval.