



McMaster Divinity
College

Draft Course Listing 2026–2028

Subject to Change

Updated March 10, 2026

Contents

Counselling & Spiritual Care Courses	2
Ministry Studies Courses	12
New Testament Courses.....	31
Old Testament Courses	55
Theology & History Courses	75

Counselling & Spiritual Care Courses

MS 3P1270/MS 5P1350 – Crisis Intervention

Cathryn Harris, PhD

Description: Any direct service ministerial role will at some point usually involve helping people deal with life crises. We have also been in the midst of a prolonged global pandemic that has created a multitude of other crises. This course will equip pastors, lay leaders, and pastoral counselors with basic level skills in crisis intervention with individuals, couples, families, and organizations. General crisis intervention theory and principles will be reviewed along with approaches to specific situations such as acute depression with suicidal intention, violent and aggressive behavior, psychotic decompensation, developmental crises, spiritual crises, catastrophic life events, and natural/technological disasters. In the process of the course, students will formulate a summary for one special focus crisis area of interest, including a concrete plan of assessment, intervention and follow-up, which is informed by current theory and research. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will exchange their work and collect a library of summaries on the most commonly encountered crisis situations, as ready reference to principles, resources and referrals for these topics.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028

Class Modality: Online Synchronous

MS 3P1080/MS 5P1080 – On Being a Healthy Human: Understanding Human Development and Maturity

Cathryn Harris, PhD

Description: This course will seek a broad understanding of healthy human development over the life span, as it relates to counselling and ministry, integrating theological perspectives on the nature of man, maturity, and our goals in the “curing of souls”. The course will survey psychological theories of healthy human development including psychodynamic, cognitive, behavioural, interpersonal, moral, and social systems paradigms. In all phases of life, we will see the importance of the relational context of growth and change. After considering different approaches to integrating theological and secular views, we will explore how the normal issues of different stages over the life span influence the formation and development of faith. Student assignments will include applying the general theories to specific populations and circumstances, critiquing the theories presented, considering the implications of a developmental perspective for counselling and other areas of ministry, and reflecting on the significance of developmental theories in understanding our own psychological and theological formation and maturity.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1490/MS 5P1480 – Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy*Cathryn Harris, PhD*

Description: How does spiritual care intersect with counselling? The counsellor that integrates spirituality and faith into the counselling process, must do so from an informed and reflective foundation that respects both spiritual and psychological processes of healing. On the one hand, Christian counsellors and pastors must wrestle with how to understand and respond to contemporary mental health crises without compromising a biblically faithful perspective for Christian clients. On the other hand, psychotherapists and chaplains working with clients from a wide range of spiritual traditions must also sensitively approach spiritual issues respecting the client's cultural context. How do we integrate relevant theological and psychological constructs theoretically, and how do we apply this integration practically in the sacred space of counselling? This course will introduce historical and contemporary models in the theoretical integration of psychology and theology, and use these to explore current models of spiritually integrated psychotherapy and counselling. Goals include developing critical thinking and analysis in integration, and developing the student's own model for spiritually oriented psychotherapy and counselling. These objectives will be met through a combination of lectures, reading, research, writing and personal reflection.

Specializations: CS/PS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2028**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1210/MS 5P1200 – When Something Goes Wrong: Understanding Trauma and Psychopathology

Cathryn Harris, PhD

Description: This course will survey the broad categories and most common faces of psychological distress and dysfunction, with an emphasis on tracing the common theme and effects of trauma physiologically, behaviorally, emotionally, cognitively, relationally, and spiritually. Major diagnoses of mental illness will be reviewed, along with the current understandings of etiology and contemporary treatment approaches, including pharmacology. A strong emphasis will be on understanding the brain-behavior connection in human psychological distress, as well as exploring the relationship between modern conceptualizations of mental illness and biblical descriptions of sinful behavior and the concept of “evil”. Systems of integrating psychology and theology will also be briefly considered for advanced students. The goal of the course is to understand ourselves and others better as we grapple with the consequences of “when something goes wrong” in life and in relationships and deepen compassion for ourselves and others as we try to heal those consequences through relationship and faith, in contexts of both pastoral counseling and wider church ministry.

Specializations: CC/CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1230/MS 5P1260 – Advanced Counselling Skills: Focused, Short-term Therapies*Instructor TBD*

Description: This course will examine the theoretical, epistemological, conceptual, and empirical foundations that inform the practice of selected newer approaches to counselling and psychotherapy that have emerged since the 1990s. Though differing in their theory and practice, these newer approaches share several common factors, i.e., present-focused, focused on alternative outcomes, collaborative, and a tendency to be briefer than many traditional methodologies. Focused and short-term therapies in clinical practice will include Brief Solution-Focused Therapy, Competency-based Therapy, Narrative Therapy, and selected third-wave cognitive and behavioural methodologies. Each theory presented within this course will be reviewed and evaluated noting their influence, strength, and effectiveness.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1240/MS 5P1280 – Basic Counselling Skills and Interventions*Instructor TBD*

Description: This is an intensive practical skills course that educates the student in the micro skills that are necessary for empathic listening and effective growth-producing communication. This course requires a level of self-disclosure (but only to the degree that the student is comfortable) and relies heavily upon practicing these micro skills in class in the roles of “counselor,” “counselee,” and observer. Students are expected practice all roles, both in and out of class. Assignments focus on analyzing recorded transcripts of the student’s own “sessions,” both inside and outside the class, with volunteers. Success in this course is based on the ability to observe and analyze one’s own skills, receive and apply feedback, and the ability to reflect on how to improve further one’s own communication. Communicating compassion for oneself and others is the overarching goal.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1250/MS 5P1340 – Counselling for the Grieving and Dying

Instructor TBD

Description: One of the most frequent roles for the pastor or pastoral counsellor is a call to aid those who anticipate death and those who have experienced loss at the death of someone else. This intensive course is a survey of topics related to counselling the dying and grieving. Class discussion, readings and written assignments are designed to challenge the student in exploring their own beliefs, attitudes and values on death and dying, to begin understanding the end-of-life challenges for themselves and others, and to focus on one particular area of interest in the field of thanatology and/or death and bereavement counselling. Subjects covered will include (but are not limited to): understanding psychological responses to loss, the processes of grieving vs. mourning, end of life issues and choices, MAID, helping children and adolescents, helping survivors of catastrophic loss and suicide (disenfranchised grief), Biblical and Spiritual resources for death and bereavement, handling questions of Theodicy, using Lament in mourning, and gender and cultural issues in bereavement.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Spring/Summer 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1380/MS 5P1360 – Couples and Family Therapy

Instructor TBD

Description: This course provides students with an introduction to the difference between counselling individuals and counselling relational systems as well as an orientation to the flow and foci of counselling couples and families. Students will work in groups to research the theoretical tenets, views of family functioning and dysfunction, methods of assessment, therapeutic goals, treatment process & techniques, role of the counsellor/therapist, as well as an evaluation of a selected model of family therapy.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1180/MS 5P1160 – Cross-Cultural Counselling: In Living Colour

Instructor TBD

Description: Cross cultural or intercultural engagement and ministry is not new to the Christian church. Indeed, from its earliest days the church has been a multicultural community that has lived out its vocation within the cultural, linguistic, religious, and socioeconomic diversity of the communities in which it was located. Perhaps more than ever, today's churches and Christian leaders are aware of the many daily reminders of what Marshall McLuhan referred to as the "global village." This is in part a result of the ease with which virtually every part of the world has access to news and information from virtually every other part of the world. It is also a result of business and pleasure travel between countries along with immigration which have brought increased cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity to any community where there is a church.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1220/MS 5P1210 – Current Psychotherapies

Instructor TBD

Description: An exploration of the theoretical, epistemological, conceptual, and empirical foundations that inform the practice of traditional approaches to counselling and psychotherapy, e.g., psychodynamic therapy, behavioural therapy, cognitive-behavioural therapy, and experiential therapy. Major theories within each of these domains will be reviewed and evaluated noting their influence, strength, and effectiveness.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1170/MS 5P1150 – Healing Conversations with Children and Adolescents: A Survey of Counselling Theory and Techniques

Instructor TBD

Description: Healing conversations can happen in many different contexts in ministry, but those with children and adolescents can be enhanced by developing intervention and communication skills which address their unique needs. This hybrid course will survey theories, basic skills, and techniques relevant to counselling children and adolescents in a pastoral counselling and ministry context. Prime focus will be on what is different about healing conversations with this population compared to counselling with adults. Specific conversational and intervention techniques will be explored and demonstrated, including cognitive, behavioural, experiential, family, play, art, and crisis intervention therapy modalities. The course will extensively use case study, role play, and practice of counselling skills to prepare the student to apply course material. Focus will be made on procedural, ethical, and legal considerations in beginning counselling with children and their families. Completion of previous coursework in basic counselling skills and child and adolescent development is recommended.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1200/MS 5P1220 – Professional Ethics & Jurisprudence

Instructor TBD

Description: This course is intended to contribute to the ethical development of persons pastors, spiritual care workers (chaplains), and professional counsellors. This course is designed to offer participants a foundational knowledge of the field of professional ethics, the process of ethical decisional making and, hence, to contribute to the student's overall ethical development. This course will provide students with opportunities to explore the nature of professional and pastoral relationships and integrate their own personal values into their understanding of ethics. The student will read resources from the field of professional ethics, reflect on specific codes of ethics (e.g., CRPO, CASC/ACSS, code of ethics denominational or other professional code of ethics) and reflect on relevant legislation. Through reflection on pertinent case examples students will develop ethical reasoning skills to help them make informed decisions with respect to the interests of clients, families, agencies, and others. Students are expected to reflect on their own personal and professional experience.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1550/MS 5P1500 – Trauma-Informed Therapy and Ministry

Instructor TBD

Description:

Specializations: CS

Next Potential Offering(s): Spring/Summer 2027, Spring/Summer 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

Ministry Studies Courses

MS 3P1350/MS 5P1310 – Christian Spirituality: The History and Practice of Divine Encounter in the Christian Tradition.

Lee Beach, PhD

Description:

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1540/MS 5P1490 – Critical Understandings in Ministry: Addressing the Issues facing the Church Today.

Lee Beach, PhD

Description: Defining effective leadership in ministry is ever evolving as contexts and expectations constantly change. This has been true since the inception of the church. However, there are critical issues in every context that effective ministry leadership must understand and address. This course will address a number of foundational and contextual issues that effective ministry leadership must grapple with in the contemporary North American context. Also, the course will consider how leaders in the past also faced the critical issues of their time. By understanding historical models as well as reflecting on our own contextual challenges the course will explore ways in which we can develop an understanding of what it means to lead effectively in the particular ministry context that we find ourselves in.

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1190/MS 5P1180 – Culture, Context and Christian Mission: Challenges and Opportunities in Contemporary Mission.

Lee Beach, PhD

Description: The mission of the church is always done in a context. The context is inevitably entwined with a culture. Thus, as the church engages in its mission it must understand its relationship with culture. This course is designed to help students consider the relationship between the church and culture and how to think effectively about how to do ministry in a contextualized way that aids its effectiveness. The course will consider topics like; the nature of culture, how culture is formed, a theology and philosophy of contextualization and some of the cultural issues that the church is and will face as it seeks to do mission in a Canadian, North American and globalized context.

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1160/MS 5P1140 – Foundations for Christian Ministry: Understanding the Essentials of Formation for Ministry.

Lee Beach, PhD

Description: This course will explore some essential foundations of Christian ministry such as the call to ministry, the importance of understanding our context, the essential content of Christian ministry and the challenge of the ongoing cultivation of our practice of Christian ministry. The gospel of Matthew and Jesus' own development and work with the twelve as it is depicted in this gospel will serve as a foundation for the course as it unpacks each of these themes. We will explore the inner challenges of ministry life as well as the outer ones that must be addressed if we are to serve Christ faithfully in our given context. The goal of the course is to help orient students to some of the foundational internal, external and theological factors that anchor ministry as we also consider their connection to the actual practice of ministry.

Specializations: CC/CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1360/MS 5P1320 – Leadership in the 21st Century: Contextualizing Christian Leadership

Lee Beach, PhD

Description:

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MF 3P1011A – Ministry Formation 1A

Lee Beach, PhD

Description: This course is an experiential learning course that encompasses five key components. A ministry placement that requires 8 hours per week of engagement in an ongoing ministry context, the development of a ministry learning covenant that sets learning goals for the placement, connection to an experienced ministry practitioner as a placement supervisor, regular meetings with an external ministry mentor (appointed by MDC) and several forms of evaluation at the end of the placement. Three courses in Ministry formation are required for students in the MDiv program and one course is required for students in the MATM and MACS programs.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028

Class Modality: Online Asynchronous

MF 3P1011B – Ministry Formation 1B*Lee Beach, PhD*

Description: This course is an experiential learning course that encompasses five key components. A ministry placement that requires 8 hours per week of engagement in an ongoing ministry context, the development of a ministry learning covenant that sets learning goals for the placement, connection to an experienced ministry practitioner as a placement supervisor, regular meetings with an external ministry mentor (appointed by MDC) and several forms of evaluation at the end of the placement. Three courses in Ministry formation are required for students in the MDiv program and one course is required for students in the MTS program.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029

Class Modality: Online Asynchronous

MF 3P1012A – Ministry Formation 2A*Lee Beach, PhD*

Description: This course is an experiential learning course that encompasses five key components. A ministry placement that requires 8 hours per week of engagement in an ongoing ministry context, the development of a ministry learning covenant that sets learning goals for the placement, connection to an experienced ministry practitioner as a placement supervisor, regular meetings with an external ministry mentor (appointed by MDC) and several forms of evaluation at the end of the placement. Three courses in Ministry formation are required for students in the MDiv program and one course is required for students in the MTS program.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028

Class Modality: Online Asynchronous

MF 3P1012B – Ministry Formation 2B*Lee Beach, PhD*

Description: This course is an experiential learning course that encompasses five key components. A ministry placement that requires 8 hours per week of engagement in an ongoing ministry context, the development of a ministry learning covenant that sets learning goals for the placement, connection to an experienced ministry practitioner as a placement supervisor, regular meetings with an external ministry mentor (appointed by MDC) and several forms of evaluation at the end of the placement. Three courses in Ministry formation are required for students in the MDiv program and one course is required for students in the MTS program.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029

Class Modality: Online Asynchronous

MF 3P1013A – Ministry Formation 3A*Lee Beach, PhD*

Description: This course is an experiential learning course that encompasses five key components. A ministry placement that requires 8 hours per week of engagement in an ongoing ministry context, the development of a ministry learning covenant that sets learning goals for the placement, connection to an experienced ministry practitioner as a placement supervisor, regular meetings with an external ministry mentor (appointed by MDC) and several forms of evaluation at the end of the placement. Three courses in Ministry formation are required for students in the MDiv program and one course is required for students in the MTS program.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028

Class Modality: Online Asynchronous

MF 3P1013B – Ministry Formation 3B*Lee Beach, PhD*

Description: This course is an experiential learning course that encompasses five key components. A ministry placement that requires 8 hours per week of engagement in an ongoing ministry context, the development of a ministry learning covenant that sets learning goals for the placement, connection to an experienced ministry practitioner as a placement supervisor, regular meetings with an external ministry mentor (appointed by MDC) and several forms of evaluation at the end of the placement. Three courses in Ministry formation are required for students in the MDiv program and one course is required for students in the MTS program.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029

Class Modality: Online Asynchronous

MS 3P1410/MS 5P1380 – Mission and Evangelism*Lee Beach, PhD*

Description: This course is an exploration of the challenges of and approaches to mission and evangelism in a 21st century, Western context. Students will be encouraged to develop and/or hone their own theology of mission and evangelism as well as formulate creative approaches to mission and evangelism within the Western cultural context. Particular attention will be given to evangelistic challenges, possible approaches to evangelism, congregationally based mission and issues of contemporary social concern.

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1470/MS 5P1460 – Spirituality of Exile: A Hopeful Vision for The Church in Post-Christian Culture

Lee Beach, PhD

Description: Exile is an experience of living away from home. While most often associated with someone being sent away from their homeland, exilic experience can encompass more than physical banishment. We can experience exile in multiple ways including spiritually when we go through a time of experiencing a sense of God's absence. For ancient Israel exile was a profound experience of removal from their land and of struggle with where God was in their exilic experience. Through the exilic prayers of a number of Psalms and the book of Lamentations Israel cultivated a sustaining communal spirituality that sustained them through this trying time. Today, the church in North America faces a time of cultural displacement and new challenges, yet it remains crucial to the mission of God in today's context. The same spiritual resources that sustained ancient Israel have potential to form and sustain congregations in Post-Christian contexts today. This course will examine the experience of exile, the reality of Israel's historic exile, the movements of lament, reorientation, memory and hope that sustain spiritual communities and how these resources apply to congregations today.

Specializations: CC/CW

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1100/MS 5P1100 – Theology and Practice of Christian Mission: Developing the foundations for leading the church in effective mission.

Lee Beach, PhD

Description: This course provides an introduction to the principles and practice of the church and its mission in contemporary Western culture. The course will seek to help students develop a practical theology of mission by considering its biblical roots, historical practice, the nature of the church, the challenge of contextualization in contemporary culture, and emerging issues and approaches to mission in the current Western cultural milieu. Students will be encouraged to formulate creative approaches to mission and evangelism in their own social contexts as well as begin thinking about mission in other cultural contexts.

Specializations: CC/CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1010/MS 5P1020 – Contemporary Church Leadership

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: To be a Christian leader in the climate of contemporary church life calls for creative, focused and inventive strategy. This course is designed to equip pastors and leaders of Christian non-profits to build their acumen in effective approaches to forward-thinking leadership. The course will guide participants to critically examine the tasks of contextual leadership and will introduce effective constructs for Christian leadership. Forward looking and imaginative leadership calls for collaboration, adaptability, and risk-taking. This course will guide emerging and mature Christian leaders to a sound and creative framework for contemporary church leadership.

Specializations: PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1020/MS 5P1030 – Disability, Ministry and the Church

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: This course seeks to help churches to deepen their welcome and inclusion of all persons regardless of ability; to heighten strategies for care of all persons regardless of ability; and to foster an authentic witness to the love of Christ as a community with an altered moral imagination. While the shape of an inclusive Christian ministry may change in various contexts some fundamental aspects of person-centered ministry, a collaborative approach to shared ministry, and authentic welcome to persons of all abilities will be explored. The course will probe pastoral theological aspects of inclusive ministry, and will offer practical guidance for reimagining Christian ministry that facilitates vulnerable communion. The deeper aim of this course will be to enable a catalytic moral transformation of the church as a community of compassion and to explore various ways of being the church in contemporary society.

Specializations: CC/CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1300/MS 5P1530 – Ministry of Pastoral Care

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: Pastoral care involves shaping human values, cultivating authentic spiritual community, and alleviating human suffering. Pastoral theologian C.W. Brister suggests that such work requires “theological wisdom, moral clarity and personal courage.” The search for such wisdom, clarity and courage will guide the aims of this course. The practices of pastoral care in a variety of ministry contexts will be explored in depth. Participants will be invited to explore their own framework for moral vision, to articulate a vision of pastoral care for their own ministry context, and to prepare themselves for a deeper participation in the care of others.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1420/MS 5P1390 – Pastoral Theology of Henri Nouwen

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: Henri Nouwen published over 40 books and is notably one of the most important and widely read spiritual writers in recent years in North America. He taught at Notre Dame, Yale Divinity School and Harvard Divinity School but spent the last decade of his life as the pastor of the Daybreak Community of L'Arche in Toronto. Nouwen was influenced by early pioneers in pastoral theology including Anton Boisen and Seward Hiltner. These roots allowed him to integrate spiritual ideas with their counterparts in pastoral psychology and psychology of religion. He had extensive training in the field of pastoral theology though little is written on his explicit methods of exploring pastoral theological themes. This course seeks to mine the writings of Henri Nouwen for his approach to pastoral theological exploration as it pertains to contemporary issues in the field.

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1050/MS 5P1060 – Pastoral Theology of Preaching

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: This course identifies dimensions of cultural engagement, discernment of pastoral needs, practices of creative and artful communication, and attention to the contours of spiritual development of congregations. Proclamation practices that facilitate meaning, purpose, and communal identity will be established as critical insight into a framework for contemporary preaching. Finding one's voice, articulating a spiritual vision, and thinking theologically about spiritual formation through preaching will be animated dimensions of this course. The course will offer guidance for both experienced and novice preachers with the aim of strengthening a mature framework for contemporary participation in the pastoral theology of preaching.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027, Winter 2029, Fall 2026

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1070/MS 5P1190 – Self-Care in Ministry

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: This course assists the ministering person to set boundaries for ministry, and to establish livable routines that will sustain and nurture their lives while engaging in the tasks of Christian ministry. This course will explore strategies for self-care, resources to endure ministry for the long-haul, and a careful examination of threats to personal, professional, and institutional/ecclesial success. Participants will be exposed to literature that will aid them in the development of a personal plan that addresses areas of concern, depletion, and emotional fatigue. Furthermore, the course will explore a theology of self that enables a holistic concern for the well-being of those who invest in full-time ministry, spiritual care, and other pastoral activities that demand soulful engagement.

Specializations: CS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: Online Asynchronous

MS 3P1450/MS 5P1440 – Spiritual Formation in the Church

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: The cultivation of a dynamic and vital spiritual life is a central concern of Christian ministry. However, more careful attention must be given to research on faith development, the structure of spiritual commitments, and how spiritual practices are employed to advance the spiritual life of congregations. Participants will be challenged to reflect on their own experiences of spiritual formation in the church and to develop new approaches to faith formation in the context of Christian community. The course will focus on the nature of spiritual formation in the context of our communal participations. The problems and complexities of spiritual formation will be explored and examined with a view towards strategic proposals for cultivation of authentic spiritual life in community. The historical trajectory of key developments in Christian discipleship will be explored. Assumptions regarding authentic spirituality will be uncovered and fresh paradigms for the postmodern context will be developed in dialogue with other course participants. The course design assumes a high level of commitment to the development of strategic proposals for spiritual formation of the gathered Christian community

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1280/MS 5P1420 – Theology of Suffering

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: Gustavo Gutierrez asks, “Are suffering human beings able to enter into an authentic relationship with God and find a correct way of speaking about God?” This is the core question of this course. We will give attention to both the spirituality for a theology of suffering and to the methods for framing a theology of suffering. Participants will be invited to consider ways in which their own view of suffering is being shaped. This course will examine various theological approaches to suffering including those of noted theologians: Dorothy Soelle, Jurgen Moltmann, Gustavo Gutierrez, and Rubem Alves. Nicolas Wolterstorff suggests that “the valley of suffering is the vale of soul-making.” The course will examine the structure of suffering and offer critical reflection on the implications of caring for the afflicted. The social and political root causes of suffering will be assessed with the aim of taking practical steps to alleviate these causes.

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 5P1170/MS 5P1170 – Advanced Research in Practical Theology

Phil C. Zylla, DTh

Description: The past twenty years has witnessed a significant increase in academic research in the field of Practical Theology. The growth of this literature is a significant indicator of the emerging intellectual search to find foundational understandings that will support the advancement of the mission of the church in the world. Of course, this is not a new interest. The church has always deliberately reflected on its mission and its practices. However, the widely-felt need for expanding the nucleus of academic literature to support the theoretical interests of practical theology represent a new development in the field. This course is a call for constructive imagination and humility in approaching the great questions that emerge from what Edward Farley calls, “the ecclesial existence and the constitutive activities” of the church in the world. The course seeks to draw widely from various thinkers who have helped to shape the current (often contested) direction of Practical Theology. Participants in this course will be invited to embrace the intriguing challenge of developing informed and carefully researched contributions of their own, regardless of the complexity of such a task.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029

Class Modality: Online Synchronous

MS 3P1320/MS 5P1270 – Aesthetics and Worship

Wendy J. Porter, PhD

Description: The beauty and wonder of the story of God has been and continues to be told around the world by writers, poets, painters, composers, sculptors, architects, artisans, preachers, theologians, biblical scholars, and others. While one person may see the beauty of God's face or the wonder of God through creation, another finds beauty in the humanity of Jesus or in the majesty of the ascended Lord. One hears the whisper or sees the fire or feels the wind of the Spirit, while another perceives the hand of God or the beauty of Christ manifested in their neighbour. Some glimpse magnificence, but others perceive beauty even in the darkness where they hoped to see light. In many cases, believers worship God more deeply and perceptively through artistic works that participate in the unfolding story of God and of God's people, past and present, at worship. So, the story of God is at the heart of this course in Aesthetics and Worship. But the church has had a troubled relationship with the arts, sometimes welcoming, sometimes prohibiting. Today we see expanding awareness of the value of the arts in worship and increasing efforts to interlace theology and the arts, but churches often default to the lowest common denominator. Churches want arts that make people feel good, are easily accessible, and are widely appreciated, but significant art may require much more of us. Meanwhile, the struggle to be inclusive but discerning about the arts in worship compels us to move towards a more nuanced vision of welcome and wisdom. Come to this course with a spirit of exploratory adventure and be prepared to engage in a collaborative conversation. We won't solve the issues, but we will develop a deeper understanding of theological aesthetics and a greater awareness of AESTHETICS AND WORSHIP 2 how the Spirit of God is moving through the arts and artists in places of worship. These link us worldwide in a community of worship that has potential to transcend boundaries of many kinds and direct us back to God himself, who is both the originator of beauty and of our worship.

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1530/MS 5P1250 – Phenomenology and Liturgy

Wendy J. Porter, PhD

Description: This course is designed to lead towards broader and deeper understanding of phenomenology and its application in theological research, and towards broader and deeper perceptions of and appreciation for Christian liturgy in its various forms. The course is open to all MDC students who wish to investigate (1) phenomenology as a philosophy, as an informed practice, and as a tool for research, and (2) Christian liturgy through both their own experience and that of others, whether contemporary or historical. It is hoped that this course will enrich understanding for all class members in their practices of engagement with God and with each other in their respective churches, in other churches, and in their life in the world outside the formal walls of the church. The second half of the term will involve seminar-style interaction, which is a signature of advanced research, with all students engaged in and responding to each other's learning and investigations. Students are expected to function at the level of their degree program, but are encouraged to expand their horizons as much as they are able and willing to do so.

Specializations: CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1460/MS 5P1450 – Spiritual Life in Ministry

Wendy J. Porter, PhD

Description: Are you too busy to pray, too stressed to hear God's voice, too exhausted, discouraged, or overwhelmed by ministry to attend to your own spiritual welfare, to say nothing of that of others? This course is designed to lead us towards principles and practices of generative spiritual life that are essential for our own spiritual renewal and critical for meaningful ministry to others, even as we learn to simply receive from God's Spirit. Whether we are engaged in formal or lay ministry roles, our spiritual lives matter. I invite you to explore the riches and beauty of the Beatitudes as a creatively-designed multi-faceted guide to spiritual life, not as moralistic teachings but as vistas on a spiritual journey. Come reflect, research, write, create, and share in a community of fellow-learners. We will not only work together, we will simply be with each other, attending to each other's journey, implementing practices of spiritual life, and learning to graciously receive God's care and guidance that alone can sustain us in life, ministry, and career.

Specializations: PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1520/MS 5P1240 – Theological Reflection for Life and Ministry

Wendy J. Porter, PhD

Description: The ability to reflect on experience with eyes and ears tuned to how God may be present and at work in a situation is foundational to the development of wisdom and discernment in our inner spiritual lives and to being engaged in meaningful ministry. One of the richest hands-on ministry practices for personal, professional, and spiritual growth is the intentional practice of reflecting theologically on real experience, whether you are doing it on your own or with a small intentional group. Even more beneficial is the rewarding challenge of sharing this perspective and process with others so that they can use it, and, in turn, share it with others. If you are interested in developing this part of your life and ministry, and helping others to do the same, then this course is designed to help you accomplish that goal. Together, we will explore answers to questions of how and why theological reflection is crucial to our everyday lives and ministry. We will look at how theological reflection has developed as a theological discipline. We will draw on that knowledge to develop personalized plans, so that we can actively engage in the art and discipline of leading theological reflection in ways that resonate with us. We will see how theological reflection may transform not only our own practice of ministry, but the way we live, and even who we are. Your ministry may consist of one-on-one counseling, congregational and family care, chaplaincy, parish nursing, or the more public roles of ministry, such as preaching, teaching, or worship-leading. Or you may be primarily interested in how the spiritual discipline of theological reflection might be valuable for your own life today or for some future or developing ministry. Whatever your personal or professional goals, during this course I will invite you to explore personal embedded and deliberative theology, to discover how theological reflection can shape us and our ministry, to experiment with the various resources, to develop the thought and skills necessary for engaging in and leading others in theological reflection, and to design methods that fit you and your ministry that you can take them with you and continue to use and develop them.

Specializations: CC/CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1140/MS 5P1110 – Wonder and Worship*Wendy J. Porter, PhD***Description:****Specializations:** CC/CW/PS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2027**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 5P1130/MS 5P1130 – Practice-Led Research Methods*Wendy J. Porter, PhD*

Description: One of the distinctive features of the Doctor of Practical Theology degree is that students engage in doing research on their own “practice,” what we call Practice-Led Research (PLR). This requires students to be able to define their practice, and then to engage in credible ways of exploring it. This course is designed to introduce core theories and concepts of practice-led research, to expose students to a range of methodological choices, and to assist them in developing foundational research, writing, and verbal communication skills. Part of this course is focused on doing preliminary thinking, research, and writing about a possible dissertation topic, including theological, theoretical, and methodological choices that are appropriate for their topic, and learning how to articulate these to fellow classmates.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028**Class Modality:** Online Synchronous

New Testament Courses

NT 3P1220/NT 5P1150 – 1 Corinthians: Dealing with a Difficult Church

Christopher D. Land, PhD

Description: As all Christian leaders know, churches are hard to deal with—and Paul's congregation in Corinth was no exception. In this course, we will examine 1 Corinthians, in which Paul expresses his displeasure at a wide range of problems plaguing the community. By reflecting upon Paul's concerns and the way that he addresses them, we can learn about church leadership and better appreciate the complexities that emerge whenever the proclamation of the kingdom of God produces a community that needs to operate within an existing culture.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1230/NT 5P1160 – Acts of the Apostles: Seeing God at Work

Christopher D. Land, PhD

Description: The book of Acts tells the story of a bunch of people trying to make sense of what God is doing. The book has played (and continues to play) an important role in shaping the church's sense of its identity and mission. This course is primarily an exegetical study of the book of Acts. It will examine the book's historical, literary, and theological qualities, and will situate these within relevant first-century contexts. It will also involve a sustained discussion of how the message of Acts can be heard, considered, and integrated into the life of the church today.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1080/NT 5P1060 – Galatians: Keeping It Together When Things Are Coming Apart*Christopher D. Land, PhD*

Description: The Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians is sometimes neglected on account of its more famous cousin, Paul's letter to the Romans. Yet Paul's intensely passionate and controversial personality comes out far more clearly in the earlier Galatian letter than it does in the more measured and diplomatic Roman letter. In Galatians, Paul is surprised, disturbed, and angry. He is lashing out at Christian leaders whose behavior he regards as a betrayal of the radical message of Jesus. In this course, we will examine the text of Galatians and discuss the various historical, hermeneutical, theological, and social issues that it raises. We will also explore the contemporary relevance of Paul's letter, particularly its insistence that the gospel must be embodied in diverse, inclusive communities.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1073 – Greek Syntax: How Sentences Make Meaning

Christopher D. Land, PhD

Description: Today, it is possible for preachers and teachers to examine the Greek New Testament using many different resources (including commercial software, free websites, AI models, written commentaries, etc.). Yet responsible users of these tools still need an understanding of Greek grammar, including not just the morphology of individual words but also the syntax that makes entire Greek sentences meaningful. Ultimately, then, responsible interpretation of both primary and secondary texts requires the ability to evaluate syntactic claims responsibly. And for those who do hope to sight-read Greek, learning common syntactic constructions is the next step once the individual words can be recognized.

The course is structured as a sequence of asynchronous online modules to be completed within Avenue to Learn (A2L). Each module will begin with an intro video and some assigned reading. These will describe and explain the syntax of Greek. You will then complete some exercises on A2L. These will review your introductory Greek (i.e. vocabulary and parsing) and your emerging understanding of Greek syntax. They will also force you to find and discuss some examples from the NT, so that you can practice learning to recognize and interpret actual wordings.

Specializations: BS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029

Class Modality: Online Synchronous

NT 3P1280/NT 5P1230 – New Testament Christology: The Surprising Life of Jesus and the Enduring Christ of Faith

Christopher D. Land, PhD

Description: Nowadays, most people take it for granted that Jesus of Nazareth was a Galilean Jew who lived in the first century and was executed by Pontius Pilate. Yet Jesus is more than this, as can be seen from the fact that an estimated two billion people claim to follow him still today. In this course we will take both a historical and a literary approach to Jesus's astonishing impact. We will examine what Jesus did and said; we will also examine the different voices within the New Testament in order to see what they have to say about Jesus. In some cases, the course will explain seemingly-strange aspects of his character as perfectly normal (for a first-century Galilean Jew); in other cases, it will render still more awe-inspiring those qualities of Jesus that continue to persuade people to follow him and even to worship him.

Specializations: BS/CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1250/NT 5P1200 – Obedience, Integrity, and Maturity according to James

Christopher D. Land, PhD

Description: Martin Luther is infamous for calling the Epistle of James “a right strawy epistle,” but most Christians ignore Luther’s straw man and embrace the Epistle as compelling and perennially relevant. Indeed, people often memorize and cherish the words of James, finding in them a practical yet radical ethic that is akin to Jesus’s teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. In this course, we will explore James’s teachings and reflect upon their relevance for life in the twenty-first century. We will explore the emphasis that James places on maturity and integrity as hallmarks of the human life lived well. We will also discuss the role that James the Just played in early Judaism and in the early Christian movement.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1310/NT 5P1260 – What's That Book You're Reading? Perspectives on the Bible

Christopher D. Land, PhD

Description: The Bible did not descend from heaven as a leather-bound book in King James English, nor did it come with a user's guide. Rather, it is a multifaceted book with a complex history, and it can be read and received in many different ways. In this course, we will look behind the biblical texts (at their cultural contexts and compositional history), within the biblical texts (at their literary and linguistic characteristics), and in front of the biblical texts (at their readers and their reception in church and society). In other words, we will explore where the Bible came from and how people read it

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1120/NT 5P1090 – With Fear and Trembling: Leadership in the New Testament and Today

Christopher D. Land, PhD

Description: What does it mean to lead other people? Our culture longs for inspiring leaders. We are aimless and isolated, and we desperately want to trust people who seem to have a positive vision for us and for our communities. At the same time, however, we are jaded and suspicious of authority. We fear the corruption of power, and we are unable to forget the many (even Christian) leaders who have wittingly or unwittingly harmed people under their care. This course will survey a number of significant New Testament passages that speak to the experience of following Jesus as a leader. We will explore stories of people in the NT who were “called” to lead. We will examine ancient cultural assumptions around qualifications for leadership (including education, eloquence, physical attractiveness and strength, gender, etc.) and discuss some New Testament passages that either share these assumptions or else challenge them. We will consider the tension that leaders navigate between serving as part of a community and being set apart from that community. We will stop to take seriously some of Jesus and Paul’s thoughts on marriage as distracting for leaders, and we will pause to ponder Jesus and Paul’s warnings about the effect that financial remuneration can have on a leader’s ability to maintain his or her integrity. We will discuss how controversies flare up whenever bold responses are needed to unprecedented challenges (exploring not only the tidy narrative of conflict resolution in Acts 15 but also Paul’s forceful denunciations of other Christian leaders as hypocrites and betrayers of Jesus’s good news). We will see how Paul responds to disappointed and even antagonistic congregants in 1 Cor 1–4 and 2 Cor 10–13, and we will reflect upon voluntary suffering for others—even in the face of judgement and rejection—as the Christian leader’s way of obediently following the leadership of Jesus. Finally, we will consider the fact that power and influence so often give rise to inappropriate self-justifications, whether of abuses of power or simply of self-gratification. We will do all of this together, with fear and trembling, mindful of the desperate needs of our own time and the terrible responsibility that is placed on those who are invited to lead.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 6R1080 – Pauline Studies*Christopher D. Land, PhD*

Description: This course will provide an overview of major developments in Pauline scholarship as well as an opportunity for students to pursue specialized research in the area of Pauline studies. Class readings, discussions, and presentations will explore the history and current state of scholarship. The semester will culminate in a research paper that investigates the Pauline corpus, Paul's life and mission, Pauline theology, or some element of Paul's ongoing legacy.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person Only

NT 6R1050 – The Corinthian Letters*Christopher D. Land, PhD*

Description: This course will provide an overview of scholarly issues related to 1 and 2 Corinthians and an opportunity to pursue specialized research involving the letters. Selected primary and secondary readings will be assigned. Seminar discussions will assess the current state of scholarship as regards key topics. Time will be taken to explore the primary texts themselves and to discuss interpretive issues. The semester will culminate in a research paper that investigates Paul's Corinthian correspondence.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person Only

NT 3P1130/NT 5P1100 – Biblical Interpretation*Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD*

Description: This is an essential course for anyone who has a high view of Scripture and believes that it is the primary authority for all Christians. This is a study of the principles of interpretation and application of the Bible. Attention is given to students developing a clearly defined framework for interpreting the Bible that is biblically and theologically grounded, spiritually sensitive, critically aware and practically relevant.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1170/NT 5P1170 – Devotional Practices in the New Testament*Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD*

Description: Devotional practices, or spiritual disciplines, are fundamental ways that we enter the sphere of grace and foster our love for God. The devotional actions of the first Christians with which they worshipped Jesus Christ as God were stunningly innovative in their contexts. Understanding those actions anew in those contexts provides a repertoire that moves us beyond our typical traditional and our popular devotional practices. This course combines the study of the devotional practices in the New Testament with interactive experience in which we explore the application of early Christian devotional practices together.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1350/NT 5P1140 – Romans

Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD

Description: The New Testament Book of Romans has had a major impact on Christian theology and Church History; it is arguably among the most influential books in the Bible. It is effective for spiritual formation and at the same time challenging and doctrinal. The English exegesis course for Romans focuses on the content, interpretation, message, and application of the Epistle to the Romans

Specializations: BS/CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1140/NT 5P1110 – Social Justice in the Bible*Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD*

Description: In our current cultural contexts, now more than ever, there are few issues more controversial, important, and practical than biblical social justice. How do we implement God's justice on earth? This course has practical and urgent implications for the individual as well as the evangelical Church and its mission. The urgent issues that we are confronting concerning racism, indigenous issues, and inequalities exposed and exacerbated during the pandemic are placed within the larger context of the themes of social justice in Scripture and biblical theology. We will bring the two horizons together of Scripture and the present (our current contexts and current events) and determine biblical teaching, biblical practice and relevant strategies that speak to the needs at hand. This course will examine the biblical foundation for the definition and practice of social justice in the church, by exploring the Old Testament foundations, the theology and practice in the life of Jesus and the early church, and the challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities for application in the contemporary Canadian, North American and global context. Content will be alternated with interactive activities of reflection and application. Each student will integrate the biblical content, course activities and field experience with their specialization.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2028**Class Modality:** Online Asynchronous

NT 3P1040/NT 5P1040 – The Book of Hebrews: How to Find God in your Time of Crisis

Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD

Description: Mystery, controversy, deep theology, and extreme challenge, but most of all it's a guide to spirituality in a time of crisis! The Book of Hebrews is one of the least known books in the New Testament but has so much to offer every student. All will benefit from the exploration of its meaning for today in discipleship, community and ministry, and ultimately Hebrews carves a path straight into the presence of God. The core of this course is an exegetical and interpretative study of the Book of Hebrews in English translation. This class involves an acquaintance with structure, content, message, context and other interpretive issues of Hebrews as well.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1110/NT 5P1080 – The Book of Revelation: In View of All This, How Then Should We Live

Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD

Description: Revelation is considered to be one of the most difficult and controversial books in the Bible. The sometime bizarre and often repetitive imagery and narrative has generated a wide variety of interpretations of the various characters and events. The interpretations have sometimes had a dramatic impact on the Christian community, though the outcome has not necessarily been godliness. This course particularly focuses on the overall impact and message of Revelation within its socio-historical and apocalyptic context, with responsible and effective contextualization in the 21st century. We will discover a book that leads us into a direct encounter with God and which transforms our lives in the present.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1200/NT 5P1290 – The Gospel of John*Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD*

Description: Every MDC student should take a course on at least one of the gospels, because the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is at the very core of our faith, and the gospels are the primary means of how we come to know him. The Gospel of John is distinctive from the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark and Luke), in part because the author interprets and explains the meaning of what Jesus said and did more deeply, and therefore has had a major impact on Christology in the early church and throughout church history. This course is devoted to studying the theology of John, delving into the profound way that the story Jesus's life, death and resurrection shaped the theological tradition. While Christology is of central interest, we will look at how the Gospel of John shaped Christian life and thought in a number of areas.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1210/NT 5P1300 – Welcoming the "Other"*Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD*

Description: This course is a place where you can process some of the recent events that broke our hearts, by addressing broken relationships in areas such as social isolation, mental illness/depression, exclusion, victimization, and racism. Seek to develop biblical responses in your reading of Scripture, your theology, ministry and your personal transformation. The welcome of the other is foundational in the identity and function of the people of God, and intimately connected with God's presence, promise and blessing. How do we define welcome? Who do we identify as the other (and who are "we")? What practices can we cultivate to welcome the other? The framework of this course will draw on concepts connected with the invitation of radical hospitality combined with the movement towards incarnational actions of becoming the other, crossing boundaries, sojourning and tearing down walls. By sharing our life, experiences and research interests, we will together identify the other, expand and build on the definition and practices of welcome, and populate the category of the other along with input from a select variety of people in the field and on the front lines. During the in-class time, we will concentrate on pooling our resources and building the biblical and theological bases for the praxis of radical hospitality together with incarnational identity and action rooted in the nature of God.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2026**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1340/NT 5P1130 – Women in Ministry

Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD

Description: The debate on the role of women in the home, church, and society remains one of the major issues among North American evangelicals, and there have been some major developments in the conversation and debate in the last five years. The focus of this course is the biblical, theological, and social support for women in ministry, as well as their roles as equal partners in the creation mandate and equal heirs in the kingdom of God. Whatever your position, this course can be a vital path for understanding the times. Christian leaders and committed laypeople will do well to understand the current situation, work on a coherent biblical theology, and discern their own role and ministry or courses of action in the home, the church, and culture. This course will give each student the opportunity and resources to explore this issue in their area of specialization and to benefit from the insights and contributions of the other areas. This online course relates to the Church & Culture, Biblical Studies, and Pastoral Studies specializations. The format of the course will include videos on topics, weekly Zoom discussion sessions, online sharing of resources, and a major paper or project. The reading will include current scholarship and encourage book reviews for extra credit in some of the influential (and ground-breaking) recent publications.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 6R1070 – Synoptic Gospels

Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD

Description: This is the PhD course in which we encounter the person of Jesus and the narratives about him. The gospels are also arguably the best field in New Testament in which the student can explore a variety of methodologies and how to apply them. This course provides a brief overview of the critical issues in the study of Jesus and the Synoptics, then engages the students in applying various methodologies to the texts and concludes with seminar-style student presentations. The student research and presentations may include a wide variety of topics apart from the “synoptic issue,” including the person and work of Jesus in literary and historical context, the characteristic theology of each gospel, any work in a given synoptic gospel, or other topics that are limited to the study of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Gospels are core to most biblical studies curriculums, so the students will develop an undergraduate-level syllabus on the Synoptics or Gospels for their portfolio and Mastery Checklist.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person Only

NT 6R1020 – The Old Testament in the New Testament

Cynthia Long Westfall, PhD

Description: The study of the Old Testament in the New Testament is relevant to all of the academic degrees in biblical studies! Since 1989, there has been a growing interest in the way that the New Testament interacts with Old Testament texts and Second Temple literature. This course provides an overview and an in-depth exploration of the issues involved in understanding the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament, the spectrum of fields of study and methodologies utilized in different approaches, and the controversies involved in that relationship. Finally, this course will give you the tools to teach a course on this subject of interest at the college level.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person Only

NT 3P1240/NT 5P1180 – Disability Studies and the Bible

Francis G.H. Pang, PhD

Description: “Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable” (1 Cor 12:22). Imagine starting a discussion of Christian ecclesiology with these words of the Apostle Paul! What Paul suggests here is that what makes the church different from other social groups is the inclusion and empowerment of the so-called “weaker” members. The very identity of a believing community as the body of Christ is its willingness to embrace those members that are deemed “weak” (according to various “standards” or cultural understanding of normalcy) and empower them to be Christ’s disciples. However, the witness of the Bible regarding this topic is far from unified. People with physical and cognitive disabilities are often depicted in problematic ways. They are depicted as outcast and marginalized, categorically excluded from leadership and participation in cultic service (Lev 21:17–23), exiled from the city (2 Sam 5:8), and used as a plot device for making larger theological points (such as John 5 and 9). These portrayals of disability raise not only exegetical concerns but also homiletical and pastoral ones in the contemporary faith communities. This course is an exegetical study of biblical texts that portray (and sometimes stigmatize) disability and the impaired mind and body. We will analyze these texts by contextualizing them historically and ideologically, taking into account both ancient perspectives on health care and disability as well as modern assumptions in ableist hermeneutics. The main objective is to seek to determine how a culture’s understanding of the make-up of body and mind contributes to the ways in which disability are described in cultural artefacts (i.e. texts). We will provide a safe space in class to question the problematic texts and to reflect together on the pastoral implications of such literature. We will also examine a few instances in the Bible where people with disabilities were chosen and called to lead by God but their condition/impairment were not “healed” (let’s call them “the indispensables”). Our goal is to work collaboratively towards a biblical theological understanding of disability.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1071 – Greek I: A Guide to Biblical Languages*Francis G.H. Pang, PhD*

Description: People like to talk about what the Bible means, sometimes even with reference to “the original Greek.” However, for readers and teachers of the Bible to access useful resources and make insightful observations about the meaning of a text without making regrettable errors, they need to understand how languages make meaning—and how Greek makes meaning. This course explores the world of human language: language theory and how it applies to understanding texts. It will also review basic English grammar—which many students were never taught—as a basis for understanding Greek grammar. This will enable students to be better prepared to engage with our main task: learning the basics of Greek, focusing on how the linguistic elements lead to meaningful and accurate interpretation. There will necessarily be some memorization of vocabulary and main paradigms, but this course will also significantly reduce the amount of memorization usually required in language learning, since the focus is on understanding and application

Specializations: BS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028, Spring/Summer 2027, Spring/Summer 2028, Spring/Summer 2029

Class Modality: Online Synchronous

NT 3P1072 – Greek II: Picking Up the Pace (Morphology)*Francis G.H. Pang, PhD*

Description: This course is the second half of a year-long introduction to the Greek of the New Testament (NT). It is intended for students who have taken Greek I (Introduction to Biblical Languages) under the MDC language curriculum (NT 3P1072). Continuing the journey of learning Greek from a functional perspective, we will follow a usage-based pedagogical approach to teaching elementary Greek, in which grammar and vocabulary are introduced according to frequency of usage, with the most frequent items introduced first. As a result, students are reinforced in learning the grammatical inflections that appear most frequently in the NT. This course assumes that the student has an awareness of the material taught in NT 3P1072 and has already learned most of the Greek grammatical categories (e.g. you know what an aorist verb is even if you cannot recognize all its various forms yet). Students will focus on mastering Greek at the word level in this course. Emphasis will be on acquiring a broad Greek vocabulary and morphology (words and their forms) for sight reading. We will explore the Greek nominal and verbal systems starting with a review of the most consistent and common forms and paradigms, and then gradually moving on to the more fluid forms. At the end of this course, students should be able to recognize a significant proportion of NT Greek words (and their forms) and hence read a portion of the New Testament in its original language with the help of a lexicon.

Specializations: BS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029, Spring/Summer 2027, Spring/Summer 2028, Spring/Summer 2029**Class Modality:** Online Synchronous

NT 3P1380/NT 5P1340 – The Many Faces of Jesus Christ: The Synoptic Gospels*Francis G.H. Pang, PhD***Description:****Specializations:** BS/CC/PS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2027**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

NT 3P1300/NT 5P1250 – The Present Age and the Age to Come: Biblical Eschatology

Francis G.H. Pang, PhD

Description: Eschatology was once deemed one of the most important sub-disciplines within biblical studies. Ernst Käsemann even proclaimed a half century ago that “apocalyptic was the mother of all theology.” Unfortunately, the place of eschatology in the church today seems to be alternating between eschato-mania and eschato-phobia. Christian literature is full of fictions (and non-fictions) that spend an unhealthy amount of time and energy making end-time predictions, insisting that the drama of “the end” is going to play out according to a literal (and often atomizing) interpretation of certain eschatological passages in the Bible. However, when the biblical authors speak about the eschaton, their primary focus is not so much on the end of time per se but on pastoral concerns in the here and now. They were interested in the end because of how our hopes and fears impact the way we live our lives, knowing that there is an end to our lives and eventually to human society as we know it. This course is primarily an exegetical study of the main eschatological passages in the Bible. Following a two-step hermeneutical approach, we will look at: (1) what these passages meant in their original context and (2) what they mean to us in our contemporary setting. The course consists of three learning components. First, we will examine various prophetic and apocalyptic thoughts before the times of Jesus and look at how various biblical eschatological traditions were developed from these ideas. Second, we will read through the major eschatological passages in the New Testament and discover unifying themes of biblical eschatology by carefully reading through the text in the original context. And finally, we will look at the contemporary significance of the selected texts and discuss how they help shape an eschatological lifestyle, i.e. a Christian way of life that does not lose sight of the second coming of Christ.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CHTH 6R1000 – Research Methods*Paul S. Evans, PhD*

Description: This course explores the theory and practice of research methodologies as they apply to post-graduate study within the theological disciplines. This course will lead students through the process of creating and completing a dissertation proposal. Topics covered will include: writing a clear thesis statement, demonstrating the need for new research, showing proper documentation, building a critical database of primary and secondary sources for the dissertation, the importance of methodology, building a cogent argument, and writing a focused and usable dissertation proposal.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028, Fall 2026

Class Modality: In-Person Only

CHTH 6R1060 – Advanced Grammar and Linguistics*Stanley E. Porter, PhD*

Description: This in-person course in advanced grammar and linguistics—with reference to either ancient Greek or Hebrew (or both if in the Septuagint track)—assumes knowledge of traditional grammar in order to analyze recent developments in language and linguistic study. The course covers both diachronic and synchronic aspects but concentrates on recent theoretical developments and their pertinence for description, analysis, and exegesis of the Greek New Testament or Hebrew Old Testament. The course is aimed toward students of Greek and/or Hebrew as needed.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026

Class Modality: In-Person Only

CHTH 6R1070 – History of Biblical Interpretation

Stanley E. Porter, PhD

Description: This course in the History of Biblical Interpretation focuses upon major individuals who have influenced the discipline of Biblical Studies, whether in Old Testament or New Testament studies. The course assumes that the student is familiar with the basic theories of biblical interpretation and builds upon this knowledge to explore traditional and recent methods of critical biblical interpretation by the direct study of some of its major proponents. Consideration is given to both the development of biblical interpretation and the various methods currently employed.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person Only

NT 6R1010 – Linguistic Modelling

Stanley E. Porter, PhD

Description: This course focuses upon developing appropriate linguistic models and methods to enhance study of the Bible in its original languages. These models may include such approaches as forms of discourse theory, SFL-based models, relevance theory, translation theory and related topics, according to individual student interest—all applied to selected issues and passages in the original languages of the Bible. This course may be taken by those working in either Greek or Hebrew and may be repeated in a new program with new content.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person Only

CHTH 6R1090 – Linguistic Stylistics

Stanley E. Porter, PhD

Description: This in-person course focuses upon developing appropriate linguistic models and linguistically based approaches to the study of the New Testament as a piece of Greek literature (and Hebrew Bible for those approaching it through Hebrew). Linguistics traditionally focuses upon occasional instances of natural language but has often neglected the study of literature. This course addresses this shortcoming by working to develop appropriate linguistic methods for the analysis of literature (note that this is not a Bible as literature course, but a linguistics course using linguistics to study the Bible considered as a collection of pieces of literature). Although students can utilize a range of discourse theories and linguistic approaches in this course, the professor will approach the topic from the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics. This course may be taken by those working in either Greek or Hebrew, and may be repeated in a new program with new content. This course will fulfill the expectations for Linguistic Modeling, with an added dimension addressed to literature. This course also may serve as an introduction to linguistics for study of the Bible.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person Only

NT 6R1040 – Papyrology and Textual Criticism

Stanley E. Porter, PhD

Description: This course is a study of the characteristics, uses, and function of papyrology and related manuscripts from antiquity to the invention of printing. Special attention is given to biblical manuscripts and insights gained for study of the biblical texts, including textual criticism, which forms an important component of the course.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person Only

NT 6R1090 – Septuagint Studies

Stanley E. Porter, PhD

Description: This course in Septuagint Studies is a focused seminar on the major issues in contemporary Septuagint (LXX) studies. The field of Septuagint Studies has recently become an area of renewed scholarly interest, with the result that a variety of major issues are emerging as areas of serious debate. These include (but are not confined to) the nature and history of the Septuagint or Old Greek text, the Septuagint as a translation, the relationship between the Hebrew parent text and the Greek rendering, the use of the Septuagint in Hebrew textual criticism, the theological and historical tendencies of the Septuagint, the role of the Septuagint within Judaism and early Christianity, the use of the Septuagint (in relation to other versions) in the New Testament, the translations and various versions of the Septuagint, and the continuing function of the Septuagint in the life of the church, the construction of a diplomatic or eclectic text of the Septuagint, among many others. The course introduces the student to the major issues in contemporary Septuagint study and allows the student to explore other areas of interest, either for their own sake or as part of the Septuagint Studies area within the MDC PhD program. This course is led by both Professors Porter and Boda, with important input from others in the teaching area of Septuagint Studies within MDC. These other members of the teaching area are Claude Cox, Gus Konkel, Cynthia Westfall, and Al Wolters.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person Only

CHTH 6R1020 – Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning*Instructor TBD*

Description: The course is designed to help prepare students for the challenges of teaching. Teaching requires an understanding of students in social, emotional, physical, and intellectual dimensions; every aspect of a student's life is integrated in the learning experience of each student. Teaching and learning may take place in physical and/or virtual environments, each of which offer both benefits and challenges. One must consider these factors during the instructional design phase. This course covers both theory and practice of teaching, learning, and course design.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2028, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person Only

Old Testament Courses

OT 3P1270/OT 5P1250 – My Servants the Prophets: Reading Old Testament Prophetic Literature for Today

Ambrose Thomson, PhD

Description: An introductory study of Old Testament Prophecy through a survey of the prophetic books of the Old Testament, with a special focus on the historical setting, literary form, content, and message of the prophetic books of Amos and Isaiah. This course examines the meaning of these books in their ancient context as foundational for understanding their message and theological significance for the Church and society today.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 5P1010/MS 5P1010 – The Bible and Kingdom Work: Biblical-Theological Methodology for Practice-Led Doctoral Study

Ambrose Thomson, PhD

Description: This course exposes students pursuing practice-led doctoral research to important scholarship in Biblical Theology with the goal of promoting deeper reflection on the role of the biblical witness within practice-led research. Students will bring their own work into conversation with biblical-theological scholarship and will discern how to integrate Scripture into their practice-led research agendas from the questions they ask to the conclusions they reach.

Next Potential Offering(s): Spring/Summer 2027, Spring/Summer 2028, Spring/Summer 2029

Class Modality: Online Synchronous

OT 3P1180/OT 5P1160 – Joshua

Greg Davidson, PhD

Description: The book of Joshua is a theologically weighty and pastorally challenging text. It recounts the fulfilment of God's promises, even as unresolved tensions persist: the land is taken yet not fully possessed; some peoples are judged, others continue to dwell in the land. For many readers, it raises difficult questions about divine violence, justice, and the mission of God. In this course we will read the book canonically and theologically, rooted in the conviction that Scripture speaks even when it unsettles us. We will wrestle honestly with the ethical tensions of the conquest, while also attending to its theological themes of covenant faithfulness, holiness, leadership, memory and hope. We will also explore how Joshua points toward New Testament themes, and how even its most difficult sections can form us into faithful disciples in a world still shaped by war and longing.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1200/OT 5P1180 – Old Testament Spiritual Theology

Greg Davidson, PhD

Description: This course examines the Old Testament as a key source for Christian spirituality and resource for how Christians may live a faithful life in contemporary society. Emphasis is first placed upon historical dimension of the text with ancient Israelite faith and spiritual practice examined under the rubrics of Creation, Covenant, Cult, Community and Commission. Knowledge of Old Testament spirituality will enable one to put true Christian spirituality in perspective. This course will demonstrate the indebtedness of Christian spirituality to the Old Testament and underscore its significance for contemporary spiritual practice and faith. The course will also reflect upon ways in which contemporary Christian spirituality can be informed, sustained, and nourished by the Old Testament. Furthermore, a foundation of OT spirituality will aid in discernment of truth from error with problematic modern spiritualities

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

MS 3P1060/MS 5P1070 – Preaching Difficult Biblical Texts

Greg Davidson, PhD

Description: The world through wisdom does not know God, but it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to bring those that have faith to salvation. The word of revelation is profound and sometimes difficult to translate or understand. This course is to enable teachers and preachers to expound the whole counsel of God. This course will cover some texts that have multiple translations (Job 13:13-16), passages that are enigmatic (1 Peter 3:18-22), and books that are problematic theologically (an alleged "genocide" in Joshua) or culturally misunderstood (Ruth). All texts will be studied as part of a Biblical theology and not as a basis for a devotional thought. Good preaching depends on a theology derived from the texts of the Bible.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1170 – Preaching Jonah

Greg Davidson, PhD

Description: Why is there a book of Jonah, and what should it do for you when you read it? Jonah is unique among prophetic books. It is a book about a prophet rather than the message God has given the prophet; only a few of Jonah's own words are recorded, and most of these are his objections to the results of preaching in Nineveh. In the historical notice of Jonah in kings, unlike other prophets, Jonah has positive words for an idolatrous king. In the book, Jonah is reluctant to declare the message he has been given. This course will probe the intentions and purpose of the author of this prophetic composition, his method of accomplishing his goals, and how ministers can further these goals in preaching. Though a very short book, it provokes a lot of questions about prophecy, about justice and forgiveness, and the way God deals with his people. It is a deceptively simple narrative; the more it is probed, the more profound it is.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

Preaching the OT – Preaching the OT

Greg Davidson, PhD

Description: This course is intended to contribute to the ethical development of persons pastors, spiritual care workers (chaplains), and professional counsellors. This course is designed to offer participants a foundational knowledge of the field of professional ethics, the process of ethical decisional making and, hence, to contribute to the student's overall ethical development. This course will provide students with opportunities to explore the nature of professional and pastoral relationships and integrate their own personal values into their understanding of ethics. The student will read resources from the field of professional ethics, reflect on specific codes of ethics (e.g., CRPO, CASC/ACSS, code of ethics denominational or other professional code of ethics) and reflect on relevant legislation. Through reflection on pertinent case examples students will develop ethical reasoning skills to help them make informed decisions with respect to the interests of clients, families, agencies, and others. Students are expected to reflect on their own personal and professional experience.

Specializations: Preaching the OT

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1020/OT 5P1020 – The Lessons of Proverbs

Greg Davidson, PhD

Description: Proverbs belongs to a classification of writings that have come to be called wisdom. Ancient Israel seems to have had the classifications of the torah of the priests, the word of the prophets, and the counsel of the wise (Jer 18:18). In this course the structure of the book of Proverbs will be developed, the form and purpose of the Hebrew *mašal* (saying) will be studied, along with the various genres included within the collections.

The lessons of Proverbs come to us in their own code with specific goals: they seek to instill virtue; they are observations to provide reflection on the conundrums of life. Participants in this course will come to better understand the genre of *maškîl* (skillful writing); they will learn the technique of making the wisdom of Proverbs relevant to specific situations.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1260/OT 5P1110 – Lamentations: Longing for Comfort

Mark J. Boda, PhD

Description: This course explores the book of Lamentations as a catalyst for communal devotion, personal reflection and contemporary ministry. Giving attention to its original form and function within a worshipping and reading community will unlock its riches for life today both individually and corporately. Attention will be given to its historical setting, literary form, canonical shape, and biblical-theological significance.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1210/OT 5P1030 – Old Testament Theology: The Heartbeat of the Old Testament

Mark J. Boda, PhD

Description: This course provides an orientation to the core theological expressions as well as the multiplex themes that emerge from the Old Testament. These expressions and themes will be traced into the New Testament with reflection on their relevance for Christian theology, ethics and spirituality today. The discipline of Old Testament theology will be engaged and students will have an opportunity to develop their own hermeneutic for reading the Old Testament as Christian Scripture with relevance for Christian community, witness, and ministry

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1150/OT 5P1130 – Persian Period Prophecy: Haggai-Malachi

Mark J. Boda, PhD

Description: An introduction to the phenomenon and study of prophecy in the Old Testament through a focus on the prophetic books of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi as to their messages, theological contents, literary structures, and present significance. The historical and cultural background of the 6th and 5th Century B.C. will be examined as it relates to the prophetic messages.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1220/OT 5P1200 – Psalms: Worshipping in Spirit and Truth*Mark J. Boda, PhD*

Description: This course explores the Book of Psalms as a catalyst for personal devotion and contemporary ministry. Giving attention to its original form and function within a worshipping and reading community will unlock its riches for life today both individually and corporately. Attention will be given to its historical setting, literary form, canonical shape, and biblical theological significance. Opportunities will be provided to hone skills for interpreting Hebrew poetry for life today as well as to create contemporary expressions based on the Psalms' themes and forms.

Specializations: BS/CC**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2026**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option**CHTH 6R1030 – Biblical Theology: The Bible and Its Role within the Theological Disciplines***Mark J. Boda, PhD*

Description: Drawing on recent studies and debates within the study of Biblical and Old Testament Theology, this course provides an opportunity for deeper reflection on the hermeneutics of Scripture within theology. In this course students will locate their academic discipline(s) within the broader context of theological and cultural reflection. It also exposes students to the resources of the biblical tradition for their M.A./Ph.D. studies.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029**Class Modality:** In-Person Only

OT 6R1050 – Critical Studies on Exile and Restoration*Mark J. Boda, PhD*

Description: This course focuses attention on recent research on the historical context and literary corpus related to the period traditionally understood as “Exile and Restoration,” that is, the 6-5th Centuries B.C.E. (although some reference will be made to the 8th-7th and 4th Centuries B.C.E.). This period has received considerable attention within academic research over the past few decades providing new insights into the experience and literary production of the Jewish community which was marked by the experience of destruction and forced migration as well as the significant transition from independent kingdom to imperial province. Key streams of research over the past few decades will be investigated with the opportunity for students to engage key passages utilizing new methodologies.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028**Class Modality:** In-Person Only

OT 6R1120 – Critical Studies on Old Testament Prayer*Mark J. Boda, PhD*

Description: This course focuses attention on recent research on prayer in the Old Testament and its associated communities. Key streams of research over the past few decades will be investigated with the opportunity for students to engage key passages utilizing new methodologies.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027**Class Modality:** In-Person Only

OT 6R1110 – Critical Studies on Old Testament Prophecy*Mark J. Boda, PhD***Description:****Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2029**Class Modality:** In-Person Only

OT 6R1080 – Septuagint Studies

Mark J. Boda, PhD

Description: This course in Septuagint Studies is a focused seminar on the major issues in contemporary Septuagint (LXX) studies. The field of Septuagint Studies has recently become an area of renewed scholarly interest, with the result that a variety of major issues are emerging as areas of serious debate. These include (but are not confined to) the nature and history of the Septuagint or Old Greek text, the Septuagint as a translation, the relationship between the Hebrew parent text and the Greek rendering, the use of the Septuagint in Hebrew textual criticism, the theological and historical tendencies of the Septuagint, the role of the Septuagint within Judaism and early Christianity, the use of the Septuagint (in relation to other versions) in the New Testament, the translations and various versions of the Septuagint, and the continuing function of the Septuagint in the life of the church, the construction of a diplomatic or eclectic text of the Septuagint, among many others. The course introduces the student to the major issues in contemporary Septuagint study and allows the student to explore other areas of interest, either for their own sake or as part of the Septuagint Studies area within the MDC PhD program. This course is led by both Professors Porter and Boda, with important input from others in the teaching area of Septuagint Studies within MDC. These other members of the teaching area are Claude Cox, Gus Konkel, Cynthia Westfall, and Al Wolters.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person Only

OT 6R1100 – Textual Traditions of the Old Testament

Mark J. Boda, PhD

Description: A study of the various scribal traditions which preserved the Old Testament with attention to the disciplines of textual, redaction and canonical criticism. The variety of ancient witnesses to Old Testament texts will be analyzed and evaluated for their contribution to the establishment of the original text of the Old Testament, to the elucidation of the development of the texts of the Old Testament, and to the role of particular texts and manuscripts as canonical texts.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person Only

OT 3P1250/OT 5P1100 – Biblical Wisdom Books

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: This course explores the theme and traditions of wisdom in the Old Testament as a catalyst for personal reflection and contemporary ministry. The focus will be on the OT books of Job, Proverbs, Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes as well as other texts that deal with the theme of wisdom elsewhere in the Old Testament. Giving attention to its original meaning within ancient Hebrew communities will unlock its riches for life today both individually and corporately. Attention will be given to historical context, rhetorical meaning, theological message and contemporary relevance.

Specializations: BS/CC/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1140/OT 5P1120 – From the Beginning: Reading the book of Genesis

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: This course leads students through a detailed reading of the book of Genesis with a view to its theological, historical and literary interpretation and significance. In order to equip students for interpreting this foundational book we will take into account critical matters & methodologies, ancient Near Eastern parallels and the canonical context of the book as the introduction to the Pentateuch and all of Christian Scripture. We will also focus on several questions throughout our study: What does Genesis say about science and the origins of life on earth? What does Genesis teach concerning the nature of humanity? How does an understanding of Genesis impact our worldview? What does Genesis teach us about God's Covenant(s) with humans? In this course we will examine the literary structure, authorial purpose(s) and theological significance of the book of Genesis, in order to underscore its continuing relevance for the church and society today.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1190/OT 5P1170 – Old Testament Apologetics: Essential Answers to Difficult Questions

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: This course provides essential responses to ethical challenges to Old Testament texts and theology, answering questions such as: Can we trust the text of the Bible or has it been distorted over time? Is the God of the Old Testament different than God in the New Testament? What is the character of God like according to the Old Testament? Is the History in the Old Testament Bad History? Is the Bible scientifically accurate? Is the Old Testament misogynistic or patriarchal? What about the so-called genocidal conquest of Canaan? Why all the harsh punishments in Old Testament law? Are biblical laws immoral? What about Psalms that call for vengeance or even the murder of babies? This course will consider various Christian responses to these challenges and critically assesses their value for defending the authority and theological importance of the OT scriptures in both their ancient context and for the Church today.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1090/OT 5P1060 – Reading and Applying the Old Testament: Strategies for Getting the Most Out of the OT Scriptures

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: The “Old Testament” is the Christian term for the collection of Hebrew & Aramaic books that make up the first part of the Christian canon of Scripture which was the collection of books that Jesus and the first Christians recognized as scripture. This course provides an orientation to the Old Testament and investigates the best ways to study these scriptures. This course provides an interpretive framework that is biblically and theologically grounded, spiritually sensitive, critically aware, and practically relevant. Attention will be paid to the contents of individual biblical books, their growth and development, and the historical contexts out of which they emerged (the ancient Near East). Focus will be given to the unity and diversity within the OT canon and important theological themes and motifs. An orientation will be given to key interpretive principles for reading and applying the OT Scriptures as we seek to mine the scriptures and apply them for church and society today.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1060/OT 5P1040 – The Book of Kings: A Tale of Two Kingdoms

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: What about all those Kings in the Old Testament? In this course we will have a close look at the biblical books of 1–2 Kings and study the epic storyline of the book, explore its historical significance, and also examine the key theological contributions of the book of Kings to Christian theology. We will examine the literary structure, authorial purpose and historicity of the books of Kings, as well as literary issues raised by the text. We will also focus on important questions like: Since God was Israel’s king, what was the proper role of the kingship in Israel’s history? Since God promised David a son on the throne forever, how do we make sense of the end of the Davidic dynasty in the Babylonian Exile? Due to the key role of David’s example and God’s promises to David in the history we will also undertake a biblical theological exploration of the “son of David” in Kings and messianic expectation. We will also consider in what way the kingdom of Israel represented the Kingdom of God on earth and how this theme of God’s Kingdom gets picked up in the preaching of Jesus Christ and consider how the Church fits into this theology of the Kingdom of God today.

Specializations: BS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1230/OT 5P1210 – The Book of Samuel: The Amazing Story of Samuel, Saul and David

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: This course will provide a close reading of the biblical books of 1–2 Samuel, exploring important historical, literary and theological issues raised by the text. We will investigate what the proper role of the monarchy was in Israel's history; why Saul was rejected as king; whether Samuel was an unbiased prophet; the nature of Saul's failure as king, and what qualities of David set him apart as a king. Sustained attention will be paid to the rise of David from young shepherd boy, to Israel's hero and king, and his latter decline as sin, family crises and other tragic events threatened to depose him later in life. The key role of David in salvation history will also be explored with a biblical theological exploration of the "son of David" in messianic expectation. This course will consider the nature of the biblical narrative and its theological importance in both its ancient context and for the modern church today.

Specializations: BS/CC

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 3P1080/OT 5P1050 – The Message of Isaiah: The Holy One of Israel, the Suffering Servant and Coming King

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: Isaiah is known as “the prince of the prophets” and the book named after him is probably the most famous Old Testament prophetic book. There is a majestic character to the book, with its towering theology and memorable passages arguably unmatched in holy writ. In order to appreciate its theological depth and wrestle with its interpretation, this course undertakes a thorough examination of the book of Isaiah in light of the historical and literary setting of the book and the experience of ancient Israel. Special emphasis will be placed on the composition of the book, the call of the prophet, messianic passages, the servant songs and the book’s teaching on social justice. This study will emphasize the importance of the original historical context and its message to its original audience, but also examine the later reception history of the prophecies of the book. In its pages, the prophet brings together the coming glory of the Messiah along with the humiliation of the Suffering servant making it essential for understanding the mission and ministry of Jesus in the New Testament. The message of the book of Isaiah will be examined in an effort to discover its continuing relevance for the church and society today.

Specializations: BS/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

OT 6R1030 – Old Testament Synoptic Traditions

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: A study of ‘Synoptic’ (parallel) texts in the Old Testament through a special focus on the book of Chronicles, which largely parallels Samuel–Kings, as well as drawing on other biblical texts. Areas to be studied include: a survey of the Chronicler’s history with a focus on its distinctive themes; significant individual passages in Chronicles; the Chronicler’s portrayal of David and the Davidic kings; the history of Chronicles scholarship; comparisons with the Deuteronomistic History and other biblical parallels; and the Chronicler’s purpose and method. In addition to the focus on Chronicles, other synoptic texts in the Old Testament will be the focus of seminar discussions and papers.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person Only

OT 6R1090 – The History of Ancient Israel

Paul S. Evans, PhD

Description: A thorough study of the history of Israel with attention to modern historical reconstructions and questions of historiography and historical method. This course will focus on a variety of evidences relevant for critical modern historical reconstructions such as, textual evidence, epigraphic evidence, and archaeological evidence. Areas to be explored include: the role of material evidence; dating archeological evidence, debate over the ‘low chronology’; the role of memory in history writing; methods of ancient historiography; the question of verification, and the role of the biblical text in historical reconstruction.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person Only

OT 3P1051 – Hebrew I: A Guide to Biblical Languages*Instructor TBD*

Description: People like to talk about what the Bible means, sometimes even with reference to “the original Hebrew.” However, for readers and teachers of the Bible to access useful resources and make insightful observations about the meaning of a text without making regrettable errors, they need to understand how languages make meaning—and how Hebrew makes meaning. This course explores the world of human language: language theory and how it applies to understanding texts. It will also review English grammar—which many students were never taught—as a basis for understanding Hebrew grammar. This will enable students to be better prepared to engage with our main task: learning the basics of Hebrew, focusing on how the linguistic elements lead to meaningful and accurate interpretation. There will necessarily be some memorization of vocabulary and the three main paradigms, but this course will also significantly reduce the amount of memorization usually required in language learning, since the focus is on understanding and application.

Specializations: BS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2026, Spring/Summer 2027, Spring/Summer 2028, Fall 2028, Fall 2027**Class Modality:** Online Synchronous

OT 3P1052 – Hebrew II: Picking Up the Pace (Morphology)*Instructor TBD*

Description: This course is a continuation of OT P31051. It assumes that the student has an awareness of the material taught in that course. This course develops the students’ understanding of biblical Hebrew morphology and syntax in order to enable them to translate and sight-read Hebrew text and understand it more fully. It also further develops the students’ Hebrew vocabulary. This course will greatly enhance their capacity for study in the biblical texts and prove a tremendous aid to interpretation.

Specializations: BS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2027, Spring/Summer 2027, Spring/Summer 2028, Winter 2029, Winter 2028**Class Modality:** Online Synchronous

OT 3P1053 – Hebrew Syntax: How Sentences Make Meaning

Instructor TBD

Description: Building upon elementary knowledge of Hebrew grammar (e.g., Hebrew 1 and 2), this course further develops the student's skill in reading and interpreting biblical Hebrew texts, with particular focus on syntactical and discourse analysis. Some exposure to Hebrew poetry will introduce the student to the interpretation of parallelism and figures of speech. Related to these topics is gaining an introductory knowledge of textual criticism.

Specializations: BS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028, Fall 2027

Class Modality: Online Synchronous

TH 3P1110 – Theological German

Instructor TBD

Description: The course will provide a systematic introduction to German grammar to enable comprehension of German research in the areas of bible and theology. Exercises will be provided with the goal of learning to read academic German. There is an expectation that the student will learn all basic syntagms and be able to analyse, comprehend, and accurately translate German at a complex syntactical level, such as is used in scholarly journals and texts. There are no minimal requirements of knowledge of German to enter the course, but some familiarity with German will assist in maintaining the pace of the course.

Next Potential Offering(s): Spring/Summer 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

Theology & History Courses

TH 3P1010/TH 5P1010 – Essentials in Theology

Clement Y. Wen, PhD

Description: This lecture and discussion-based course will explore essential topics and conversations in Christian theology spanning the loci of the doctrine of God, Christology, soteriology, theological anthropology, pneumatology, ecclesiology, and eschatology.

Specializations: CC/CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

TH 3P1090/TH 5P1060 – Evangelical Theology

Clement Y. Wen, PhD

Description: Evangelical Theology as a recognized movement arising within the English-speaking world and expanding throughout the globe has its own particular history and ideational nuances. This course seeks to survey Evangelicalism's historical roots and development as well as its general but also diverse trajectories of thought, all the while also critically and constructively engaging both towards renewal and reappropriation of the tradition for the 21st century (and beyond).

Specializations: CC/CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2028, Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

TH 3P1130/TH 5P1070 – Spirit, Revelation, and the Kingdom of God*Clement Y. Wen, PhD*

Description: A Contemporary move that some theologians have taken recently is to begin their systematic presentation of theology with the loci of pneumatology (e.g. Third Article Theology). This course seeks to experiment with coupling such a move with an eschatological orientation reminiscent of the eschatological turn that took place for theology in the 1960s. Along the way, the doctrine of revelation (and, thus, scripture) will be filed under pneumatology so that Spirit, Revelation, and the Kingdom of God will be explored as a constructive way forward for reorienting Evangelical Theology.

Specializations: CC/CW

Next Potential Offering(s): Spring/Summer 2029

Class Modality: Online Asynchronous

TH 3P1160/TH 5P1110 – The Theology of Wolfhart Pannenberg

Clement Y. Wen, PhD

Description: In recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in the thought of the late German Lutheran theologian, Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928-2014). Insofar as Pannenberg is often seen as being the last major figure who represents the glorious creative period and theological legacy of twentieth-century German Protestantism (some even hailing him as the tradition’s “most complete theologian”), this course seeks to provide a working knowledge of the main lines of his overall programme while also allowing an opportunity to engage critically and constructively with his proposals. With the help of selected primary and secondary source readings, especial attention will be given to Pannenberg’s personal and intellectual formation and his historically-rooted and eschatologically-oriented theological methodology before taking an exploratory dive into the depths of his three-volume magnum opus, *Systematic Theology*. Through a closer look at Pannenberg in his theological particularity, a greater understanding of the general theological contours of twentieth-century German Protestant theology will also be fostered.

Specializations: CC/CW

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

TH 3P1170/TH 5P1080 – Theological Anthropology (Select Readings)

Clement Y. Wen, PhD

Description: This course explores the significance, content, and implications of several prominent figures who wrote about theological anthropology spanning from ancient to modern and contemporary. The course involves close reading of primary texts, in-class presentations with group discussions, and a research paper.

Specializations: CC/CW

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2028

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

TH 3P1180/TH 5P1120 – Theology of Culture (Select Readings)*Clement Y. Wen, PhD*

Description: This course explores the ways in which the Christian Church has sought to relate and engage with its surrounding culture. The aim is to help students make sense of how Christians ought to understand and respond to culture today. Through a text-based approach that is supported by lectures and group discussion, students will consider: (a) the more prominent Christian approaches to culture that have arisen within history; (b) what some of the contemporary options for Christian cultural engagement are today; (c) how Christians are to decide about relating and engaging with culture; and (d) why the question of Christianity and culture matters.

Specializations: CC/CW**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2026, Fall 2028**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option**TH 3P1210/TH 5P1180 – Trinity and Creation (The Doctrine of God)***Clement Y. Wen, PhD*

Description: This course will explore the doctrine of God, namely through a critical and constructive interpretation of the Trinity and how the doctrine of the Trinity comes to bear on the theme of divine action with regard to creation and providence, the problem of evil and suffering, and also themes related to ecological stewardship (though this last category will get only brief attention).

Specializations: CC/CW/PS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Spring/Summer 2028**Class Modality:** Online Asynchronous

TH 3P1190/TH 5P1090 – World Christianity and Global Evangelicalism (Select Readings)

Clement Y. Wen, PhD

Description: This course will explore the recent *theological* conversation surrounding both World Christianity and Global Evangelicalism through a focus on primary source readings from both streams. Students will take turns facilitating the discussion as well as write a major research paper that will be presented in class.

Specializations: CC/CW

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

TH 6R1060 – Christology in the Modern Era

Clement Y. Wen, PhD

Description: This in-person research seminar course on the Christology in the Modern Era will provide an exploration of the key historical developments of the doctrine before turning towards an in-depth look at several important modern figures who continue to carry significance with regard to the contemporary debate and discussion surrounding Christological thought. Students will take turns presenting and leading discussions about the assigned readings throughout the semester and will also write a major research paper on something having to do with modern Christological thought that will be presented towards the end of the course.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027

Class Modality: In-Person Only

TH 6R1030 – Doctrine of the Trinity*Clement Y. Wen, PhD*

Description: This in-person research seminar course on the doctrine of the Trinity will provide an exploration of the key historical developments of the doctrine before turning towards an in-depth look at several important figures (some ancient, but mostly modern) who continue to carry significance with regard to the contemporary debate and discussion surrounding trinitarian thought. Students will take turns presenting and leading discussions about the assigned readings throughout the semester and will also write a major research paper on the doctrine of the Trinity that will be presented towards the end of the course.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person Only

TH 6R1050 – Theological Method in the Modern Era*Clement Y. Wen, PhD*

Description: This course explores the significance, content, and implications of several prominent theological methods that arose in the modern era. The course involves close reading of primary texts, in-class presentations and discussions, a reflection paper and a research paper.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person Only

TH 3P1080/TH 5P1140 – Baptist History and Polity*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: Baptists are one of the world's largest Protestant denominations, numbering close to 100,000,000 adherents. This course is an introduction to the history, doctrine, organization, and style of Baptist congregational life and mission. It begins with the birth of the movement in the early 1600s in England, and continues to the present-day development of a global multi-ethnic movement. Special attention will be given to the development of Canadian Baptist churches, and cultural engagement in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Note that this course is required by the CBOQ for accreditation.

Specializations: CW/PS**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2026, Fall 2027, Fall 2028**Class Modality:** Online Asynchronous**CH 3P1030/CH 5P1020 – Christians, the State, and War***Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: The beginning of the twenty-first century has been marked by terrorism, war, and violent persecution of religious minorities. Christians are to engage culture, but what do they do when that culture is violent? How are Christians to live in the midst of such horrors? Do they take up arms to defend themselves and others, or do they turn the other cheek? This course will examine Christian thinking and practice on militarism, the restraint of war and paths to peace, including just war, non-violence, pacifism and revolution. At the heart of the course is identifying an ancient Christian tradition on war and peace and thinking about how to appropriate it in the modern world.

Specializations: CC/CW**Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2028**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CH 3P1080/CH 5P1070 – Critical Events in Christian History*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: This course examines a wide variety of critical events that have shaped the course of Christian history over the past two thousand years. Specific events and individuals will be examined (e.g. conversion of Constantine), as will be broader movements that impacted the church (e.g. fall of Constantinople, rise of the papacy, the Renaissance). Analysis will focus on the ways in which historians have understood the events over the centuries, as well as the ongoing impact of such events on the church today.

Specializations: CC/CW**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2027**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CH 3P1100/CH 5P1090 – History of Christianity in Canada*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: This course is a historical study of the growth, organization, personalities, development, and struggles of Christianity in Canada. Attention will be given to all three major streams of Christianity (Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant), however the primary focus of the class will be on Canadian Protestantism.

Specializations: CC/CW**Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2027**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CH 3P1120/CH 5P1150 – The Lives of the Saints: Then and Now*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: This course examines the lives of the saints (“then”) and their relevance to life and ministry today (“now”), primarily through a reading of their (or their follower’s) writings. It is concerned with the historical and theological development of the saints, the role of hagiography in the life of the church, and the appropriation of the lives of the saints for life and ministry today.

Specializations: CC/CW**Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2028**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CH 3P1110/CH 5P1140 – The Reformation: Triumph and Tragedy*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: This course deals with the roots, development, and significance of the sixteenth century reformations in Christianity – Protestant and Catholic – in their social contexts. It identifies key people, movements, events, and ideas, as well as briefly outlines the early developments of some significant subsequent movements such as Puritanism.

Specializations: CC/CW**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2028, Fall 2026**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CH 3P1040/CH 5P1030 – Women in Christian History*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: From the book of Acts to the contemporary church, women have played a key role in the life of the church in places such as monasteries, missions, schools, pulpits, home, and hostels. And many have been formally identified as “saints.” This class is a survey and analysis of the roles and impact of such women from the earliest churches to the modern period of global Christianity.

Specializations: CC/CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CH 3P1130/CH 5P1160 – World and Writings of John Wesley*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: Considered by many to be the “father of evangelicalism,” John Wesley is a fascinating figure who was instrumental in the formation of modern-day evangelicalism. This course will examine his life, theology, impact, as well as study his social context and associates (and enemies!).

Specializations: CC/CW

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2029

Class Modality: In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CH 6R1100 – Major Issues in Christian History*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description:

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028

Class Modality: In-Person Only

MS 6R1090 – Ministry and Evangelical Thought*Gordon L. Heath, PhD*

Description: The purpose of this course is to explore how evangelicals have both thought and practiced ministry since the eighteenth century. Attention will be placed on the diversity of ministry structures, theologies, and dominant personalities, as well as on having students develop their own vocational objectives in the light of previous evangelical people and patterns.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality: In-Person Only

TH 3P1240/TH 5P1200 – Early Christian Spirituality*Haitham Issak, PhD*

Description: This course will discuss the spiritual practices and theology of the early Church, focusing on themes of spiritual life and exploring the key figures who enriched this field through their writings and spiritual practice. It will examine the origins of the various spiritualities in the early Church, the Church Fathers who wrote about spirituality, and the practical foundations of spiritual life and holiness through a relationship with God, offering an overview of spiritual development in early Church life.

Specializations: CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029

Class Modality:

CH 3P1071 – Syriac Language I*Haitham Issak, PhD*

Description: Syriac is a dialect of Aramaic. It is one of the oldest languages in the Middle East. Historically, it has been the language of religion, literature, history, and communication. It was and still is used in many churches as a liturgical and communication language. This course is the first, focusing on learning the Syriac language from the beginning. By the end of the period, students can read, write, and translate classical Syriac with help from a dictionary.

Specializations: BS/CW**Next Potential Offering(s):** Fall 2027**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

CH 3P1072 – Syriac Language II*Haitham Issak, PhD*

Description: Syriac is a dialect of Aramaic. It is an important language and has been the language of religion, literature, history, and communication. It was and still is used in many churches as a liturgical and communication language. This course is the second. It focuses on reading Scripture and the Syriac fathers' texts, translating, analyzing, and reviewing grammar. At the end of the course, students will be skilled in reading, translating, and analyzing Syriac texts.

Specializations: BS/CW**Next Potential Offering(s):** Winter 2028**Class Modality:** In-Person with Live-Stream Option

TH 3P1230/TH 5P1190 – The Holy Spirit in the Early Church*Haitham Issak, PhD*

Description: This course will provide a historical survey of the Church Fathers' writings on the Holy Spirit, examining the doctrine of the Holy Spirit from the first to the fourth century focussing on Ignatius of the Apostolic era to the Cappadocians in the fourth century.

Specializations: CW/PS

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2026, Fall 2028

Class Modality:

TH 6R1100 – Athanasius of Alexandria: Defender of the Faith*Haitham Issak, PhD*

Description: This course will examine his main writings in detail and discuss their importance for the fundamental theological issues of the fourth century, including the divinity of both Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Next Potential Offering(s): Winter 2027, Winter 2029

Class Modality:

CHTH 6R1050 – St. Ephrem: A Theologian of Hymns*Haitham Issak, PhD*

Description: St. Ephrem was a teacher, poet, theologian, and defender of faith against heretics in the fourth century. He wrote in Syriac, a dialect of the Aramaic language, and was among the most fruitful and productive Syriac writers. He used metrical poetry to express theology. This course will discuss St. Ephrem's works and read, discuss, and analyze them theologically and spiritually. It helps students to understand the fundamental theological and spiritual themes in Syriac Christianity and provides an overview of Syriac Christianity and its significance in the early church.

Next Potential Offering(s): Fall 2027

Class Modality:
