

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN MINISTRY CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

BIBLE COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST TESTAMENT (3 hrs. sessions for 12 weeks)

This introductory course will seek to enable students to develop a critical awareness of the contents of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible/First Testament from the perspectives of the socio-historical, literary and theological treatments the books have undergone in these modern times. Skills and judgment to be developed out of all this, includes the continual developing of biblical exegetical methods, "the identifying and clarifying of biblical, hermeneutical, perspectives and styles" and seeing the contents of scripture whole for their canonical value in the community of faith.

BIBLICAL EXEGESIS (3 hrs. session for 12 weeks)

The course, Biblical Exegesis, is comprised of 12 sessions designed to introduce and discuss the theories and practice of biblical interpretation. It encourages critical use of the perspectives, tools and methods of biblical scholarship. The goal of all exegesis is to explain what the text meant for its original audience and in its original historical setting to explain what the text mean for today in the hope of proclaiming the "Good News for God's people." Toward this end, we will focus each session on an aspect of the exegetical methods and complete our work with a piece of proclamation, anchored in exegesis.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND TESTAMENT (3 hrs. sessions for 12 weeks)

This course is an introduction to the Christian canon of Holy Scripture and the historical critical method of exegesis. It will introduce to the full scope of the Second Testament with as much attention as possible to the form and content of most of the 27 books as possible. The course will focus upon the integrity of each document, the genres of the literature, and the relationships that these documents have with each other as the Canon. For This the Bible is the primary text.

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND TRADITION

INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY

(3 hrs. sessions for 12 weeks)

This course introduces students to tasks and sources of Christian theology through a survey of contemporary theologies in the U. S. context, paying attention to questions of method. The place of theology in ministry will be addressed throughout the course.

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS

(3 hrs. session for 6-weeks)

This course is an introduction to some of the major approaches to and sources for doing Christian ethics with special attention to the role of Scripture, theology, the worshipping community and social analysis. Some cases will be used to focus upon selected political, economic and social problems.

CHURCH HISTORY

(3 hrs. session for 12 weeks)

This course looks at the trajectories of Christological and Trinitarian thought in various historical contexts using concise narrative history text. It also examines the various forms of 16th and 17th - century Christianity that shaped the modern Protestant heritage.

WORLD CHRISTIANITY (FROM A LATINO CONTEXT)

(3 hrs. session for 6-weeks)

This course starts with the coming of Christianity in Latin America and looks at contemporary critical developments in the Hispanic American churches and their effects on Hispanic-American Christians in the United States.

WORLD CHRISTIANITY (FROM AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CONTEXT)

(3 hrs. session for 6-weeks)

This course introduces the development of the African American religious tradition from the period of enslavement to the present time. Particularly emphasis will focus on the African influence in the African American worship experience.

MINISTRY

FOUNDATION IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(3 hrs. sessions for 12 weeks)

This course will explore the church's teaching ministry and the leadership skills required by pastors, teachers, and leaders to do education with children, youth, and adults. Students will examine the nature of leadership for today's urban church, how people learn, the role of worship, and the development of curriculum. The course will examine some critical issues in contemporary church education, including the role and function of media, educational approaches among ethnic and cultural groups and the relation of the Bible to church education. Relevant sources of curriculum for the urban church will be explored.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

(3 hrs. sessions for 6-weeks)

This course orients students to the role of pastoral counseling in the Christian church. It establishes theoretical foundations for the concept of counseling, the various types of counseling, and the special nature of pastoral counseling.

PREACHING (3 hrs)

(3 hrs. sessions for 6-weeks)

This course will introduce the various skills necessary for becoming an effective preacher. Students will be given opportunity to develop their gifts and graces for ministry in this area. Consideration will be given to preaching as oral communication. During the semester they will be given the opportunity to develop and present sermons.

WRITING FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

(3 hrs. sessions for 8-weeks)

Writing for Theology is an intensive writing course designed to give training in the fundamentals of expository and argumentative writing. The main emphasis is on giving students practice in organizing ideas into coherently structured and effective essays, using as a focal point their own unique experiences. Students are encouraged to look deeply into these experiences and to see them from shifting points of view.

In the course, writing is viewed as a means of communication as well as a means of inquiry, a way of thinking. To this end, the course focuses on analyzing the organizational patterns of various modes of writing and of paragraphs in relation to their development of entire essays. Problem-solving strategies for writing and concepts of critical thinking are explored. In addition to an examination of the four basic forms of writing, the research procedure and exegetical

approaches are introduced. A study of grammar is incorporated into the study of writing, based on the needs of the students enrolled.

INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR (8 hrs.)

The retreat is designed to offer the students opportunities to experience interdisciplinary integrative seminars led by faculty and guest lecturers. The students also have opportunities to engage in peer led learning experiences guided by faculty.

The retreats are part of the core curriculum and are offered in the spring each semester.

ELECTIVES

Additional courses are offered upon request.