

**Courses of Study for Master of Arts in Biblical Ministry (by concentration)**

| <b>Biblical Ministry Pathway<br/>(30 credit hours)</b> | <b>Biblical Studies<br/>(36 credit hours)</b>  | <b>Spiritual Formation<br/>(36 credit hours)</b>       | <b>Strategic Leadership<br/>(36 credit hours)</b>        |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Contextualized Hermeneutics (3 hours)                  | Contextualized Hermeneutics (3 hours)          | Contextualized Hermeneutics (3 hours)                  | Contextualized Hermeneutics (3 hours) <sup>1</sup>       |
| Christian Doctrine and Theology (3 hours) <sup>2</sup> | Christian Doctrine and Theology (3 hours)      | Christian Doctrine and Theology (3 hours) <sup>2</sup> | Christian Doctrine and Theology (3 hours) <sup>2</sup>   |
| Worldview and Cultural Discernment (3 hours)           | Worldview and Cultural Discernment (3 hours)   | Worldview and Cultural Discernment (3 hours)           | Worldview and Cultural Discernment (3 hours)             |
| Biblical Theology of Mission (3 hours)                 | Biblical Theology of Mission (3 hours)         | Biblical Theology of Mission (3 hours)                 | Biblical Theology of Mission (3 hours)                   |
| Spiritual Formation and Discipleship (3 hours)         | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship (3 hours) | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship (3 hours)         | Spiritual Formation and Discipleship (3 hours)           |
| Self-Awareness and the Christian Leader (3 hours)      |                                                |                                                        | Self-Awareness and the Christian Leader (3 hours)        |
| Pastoral Counseling (3 hours)                          | Greek 1 (3 hours)                              | Awareness and Identity (3 hours)                       | Ethics in Leadership (3 hours)                           |
| Exegesis Elective (3 hours)                            | Greek 2 OR Hebrew (3 hours)                    | Historical Streams of Christian Spirituality (3 hours) | Dynamics of Change and Conflict (3 hours)                |
| Free Elective (3 hours)                                | Hermeneutics Elective (3 hours)                | Spiritual Formation for Christian Community (3 hours)  | Multi-Cultural Dynamics in Leadership Settings (3 hours) |
| Free Elective (3 hours)                                | Exegesis Elective (3 hours)                    | Spiritual Theology (3 hours)                           | Strategic Leadership Elective (3 hours)                  |
|                                                        | Exegesis Elective (3 hours)                    | Spiritual Formation Elective (3 hours)                 |                                                          |
|                                                        | Free Elective (3 hours)                        | Exegesis elective (3 hours)*                           | Exegesis Elective (3 hours)*                             |
|                                                        |                                                |                                                        |                                                          |
|                                                        | Thesis (3 hours)                               | Capstone Project (3 hours)                             | Capstone Project (3 hours)                               |

\*Students with an undergraduate degree in Bible may appeal to change this elective into a free elective  
 Course titles are subject to change

**MASTER LIST:**  
*Course Descriptions*

|                                          |
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| <b>CORE COURSES – ALL CONCENTRATIONS</b> |
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***Contextualized Hermeneutics*** (3 hours)

A critical examination of various principles of interpretation through the book of Acts intentionally engaging in missiological, pastoral, and historical-grammatical contextual analysis. Students will learn both general and specific hermeneutical principles necessary to acquire and apply scriptural insights to various contexts.

***Christian Doctrine and Theology*** (3 hours)

A survey of Christian Doctrine and Theology based on historical, theological, and philosophical inquiry with special emphasis on the first six centuries of the church. Students will learn to navigate theological categories and controversies with special emphasis on the articulation of core Christian doctrine and scriptural contexts.

***Worldview and Cultural Discernment*** (3 hours)

This course outlines and analyzes the content of the many worldview systems operative in our world today from a Christian worldview rooted in Scripture. Attention is paid to the development of these worldviews over time as well as their many present applications. Students will learn how to understand and appreciate these worldviews, and how to evaluate and respond from a Christian worldview perspective.

***Biblical Theology of Mission*** (3 hours)

A critical examination of the principles of missiology as seen in Scripture specifically engaging the major historical and theological perspectives on mission. Students will learn to distinguish missiological approaches with a particular emphasis given to the significance of Abrahamic covenant in Missio Dei theology.

***Spiritual Formation and Discipleship*** (3 hours)

An examination of the biblical truths that guide how spiritual practices become helpful to the spiritual journey of the individual and groups. Students will learn why spiritual practices are important, how they can be approached healthily and unhealthily, and how to apply certain spiritual practices for specific seasons of the spiritual journey.

***Self-Awareness and the Christian Leader*** (3 hours)

An exploration of the nature of Christian leadership development, which highlights an integration of spiritual leadership, inner life formation, and identity, as found in Scripture. The student will learn how God shapes a leader over a lifetime for His unique purposes and how to partner with this process through various aspects of self-awareness.

## **BIBLICAL STUDIES**

### **LANGUAGE COURSES**

#### ***Greek 1*** (3 hours)

An introductory examination of New Testament Greek with emphasis on vocabulary, grammar basics, and language tools. Students will learn basic translation principles and implications of various linguistic nuances in the biblical text.

#### ***Greek 2*** (3 hour)

An introductory examination of New Testament Greek with emphasis on expanded vocabulary, grammar basics, and language tools. Students will expand their knowledge on basic translation principles and implications of various linguistic nuances in the biblical text.

#### ***Hebrew 1*** (3 hour)

An introductory examination of Biblical Hebrew with emphasis on vocabulary, grammar basics, and language tools. Students will learn basic translation principles and implications of various linguistic nuances in the biblical text.

### **EXEGETICAL COURSES**

#### ***The Gospel of Matthew*** (3 hours)

An exegetical study of the Gospel of Matthew based on grammatical, socio-cultural, literary, and theological insights from both the Greek and English texts with special emphasis on regal themes in the narrative. Students will learn to engage the socio-political contours of Matthew from a first-century perspective with special attention given to Jewish intersections in the text.

*Prerequisite: Contextualized Hermeneutics.*

#### ***First and Second Thessalonians*** (3 hours)

An exegetical study of first and second Thessalonians based on grammatical, socio-cultural, literary, theological, and pastoral insights from both the Greek and English texts. Students will learn the purposes and argument of both Thessalonian epistles with special emphasis on eschatological implications on Christian communities. *Prerequisite: Contextualized Hermeneutics.*

#### ***Romans*** (3 hours)

An exegetical study of Paul's letter to the Romans based on grammatical, socio-cultural, literary, theological, and pastoral insights from both the Greek and English texts with special emphasis on the nature of the gospel of salvation in Christ and its impact on the shape of Christian communities in the first-century and today. Students will learn the purposes and argument of Romans as well as the details of key texts and their theological and pastoral implications.

*Prerequisite: Contextualized Hermeneutics.*

#### ***The Book of Revelation*** (3 hours)

An exegetical examination of the Apocalypse of John based on grammatical, socio-cultural, imperial-critical, and theological insights from both the Greek and English texts. Students will

learn to navigate apocalyptic literature from a first-century perspective with special attention given to appropriate modern-day application. *Prerequisite: Contextualized Hermeneutics.*

***Jeremiah*** (3 hours)

An exegetical examination of the book of Jeremiah based on grammatical, socio-cultural, literary, pastoral, and theological insights from both the Hebrew and English texts. Students will learn to navigate this tragic period of Hebrew history with special emphasis on Messianic texts and God's call to repentance amidst suffering. *Prerequisite: Contextualized Hermeneutics.*

***Daniel*** (3 hours)

An exegetical examination of the book of Daniel based on grammatical, socio-cultural, literary, pastoral, and theological insights from the Hebrew, Aramaic, and English texts. Students will learn to engage historical background and the prophetic-apocalyptic genre with special emphasis on Messianic prophecies and God's kingdom. *Prerequisite: Contextualized Hermeneutics.*

## **HERMENEUTICS COURSES**

***Christian Hermeneutics of the Old Testament*** (3 hours)

A comparative analysis of the historical-grammatical approach to biblical interpretation and the hermeneutical practices of the early church from the apostle Paul to Origen of Alexandria to the Cappadocian fathers. Students will learn the differences and similarities, strengths and weaknesses, advantages and disadvantages of modern interpretative approaches in light of early hermeneutical approaches. *Prerequisite: Contextualized Hermeneutics.*

***Imperial-Critical Readings of the Biblical Text*** (3 hours)

A critical examination of the biblical text from an imperial-critical approach that explores the relationships and interactions between an empire and its subjects utilizing archeology, anthropology, sociology, and the historical-grammatical method. Students will learn to appreciate the socio-political dynamics in the biblical text and how the insights from this approach apply to the church today. *Prerequisite: Contextualized Hermeneutics.*

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

### **CORE CONCENTRATION COURSES**

***Awareness and Identity*** (3 hour)

A critical examination of self-awareness and its relation to identity using Scripture, ancient and modern texts, assessment tools, and personality profiles. Students will learn spiritual practices that focus on deepening self-awareness, unearthing their identity in Christ, and how this impacts Christian community.

***Historical Streams of Christian Spirituality*** (3 hour)

A study of the major spiritual traditions in Christian history with special attention on integrating their concerns, foundations, and methods for contemporary disciple-making. Students will be

introduced to major figures in the history of Christian spirituality and will apply their concepts to issues in spiritual formation today.

***Spiritual Formation for Christian Community*** (3 hour)

A synthesis of various issues and traditions of Christian spiritual formation into the liturgical practices of a local community. Students will utilize biblical foundations, historical practices, and insights in group dynamics to imagine a fellowship that leads to personal spiritual maturity.

***Spiritual Theology*** (3 hour)

A critical approach to the nature and development of the spiritual journey, with special attention to helpful and unhelpful responses to God's work in the life of the Christian. Students will learn how to articulate, tend to, and build a framework for the work of the Spirit in their own lives and in the lives of those they companion.

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

***The Power of Scripture in Spiritual Formation*** (3 hour)

A study of how the content and various genres of Scripture define and shape models for spiritual formation. Students will craft a bibliological foundation for discipleship, as they integrate the message and form of Scripture with historical and contemporary concerns in Christian spirituality.

***Narratives in Divine Authority and Identity Formation*** (3 hour)

An examination of the effect of models of divine authority on the formation of identity: the meaning, relationships, and purpose of the human person. Students will use Scripture and ancient/modern literature to examine the sociological, psychological, and devotional ramifications of their understanding of the sovereignty of God.

***Soul Care and Discipleship*** (3 hour)

This course will explore soul care practices and habits, as well as gain understanding of a Rule of Life. Students will experiment with different spiritual practices and habits throughout the semester and create a working Rule of Life.

***Ancient and Modern Mystics*** (3 hour)

A critical exploration of the lives of ancient and modern mystics found throughout Scripture and Christian history to examine their intent, practices, and lifestyle. Students will learn ways to integrate key aspects of the lives of mystics into their own and expand their understanding of the influencers of the church over the centuries and today.

***Pastoral Counseling*** (3 hours)

An introduction to pastoral counseling as a practice of ministry and a theological bridge that connects sound theology with the best practices of psychology and counseling. Students will learn specific interventions for the common issues pastors face including (but not limited to): addictions, marital problems, divorce, sexuality issues, trauma and death. Students will learn the solution-focused counseling model with an emphasis on ethical practice, confidentiality, and the

skill of referral, with special attention given to the pastor's own need for self-care in pastoral ministry.

## **STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP**

### **CORE CONCENTRATION COURSES**

#### ***Ethics in Leadership*** (3 hours)

A critical analysis of the foundation, purpose, and methodology of various ethical systems, approaches to ethical decision-making, and applications to leadership contexts. Students consider leadership from the perspective of the personal character of leaders—their ability to make decisions and take actions considered good and right.

#### ***Dynamics of Change and Conflict*** (3 hours)

An examination of the dual impact of the dynamics of change in organizations/social systems and the inevitable conflict that arises in any setting. Students will learn practical, biblical approaches to navigating and communicating through both change and conflict, both on an interpersonal and organizational level.

#### ***Multi-Cultural Dynamics in Leadership Settings*** (3 hours)

An examination of the dynamics in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic teams seeking to execute strategies in a diverse setting. Students will be able to identify the strengths and opportunities that diversity brings to organizations and teams while developing strategies for problem solving and communication.

### **ELECTIVE COURSES**

#### ***Communication Dynamics*** (3 hours)

An analysis of the foundational concepts of intercultural communication with an emphasis on how social psychology, cultural anthropology, and communication theory informs one's ability to send and receive messages in diverse environments. Students will examine the major value systems that inform communicative behavior to gain understanding of how perception, expression, and non-verbal communication relates to comprehension.

#### ***Strategic Planning and Project Management*** (3 hours)

An exploration of the strategic planning process with an emphasis on project management. The student will learn the steps to develop strategic plans, engage in analytical assessment, and employ project management principles.

#### ***Leadership in a Global Context*** (3 hours)

A comparative analysis of leadership styles as seen in the largest cultural groupings worldwide with special attention given to how these approaches effect both organizational and church leadership structures. Students will learn the advantages and disadvantages of these leadership methods in light of their cultural moorings and contexts.

***Cultural Intelligence and Agility*** (3 hours)

An introduction to various multicultural frameworks, with special attention given to a variety of different cultural codes, values, worldviews, and the journey through the different stages of cultural intelligence. Students will learn to engage, discern, and do ministry in a variety of cultural contexts by utilizing various tools to identify cultural agility in themselves and others.

***The Church in the Public Sphere*** (3 hours)

A critical engagement with a variety of contemporary social issues including (but not limited to) racial issues, gender issues, classism, and sexuality from a Christian worldview. Students will learn what the Bible says about such issues, the history of the social issues, and how the church has responded historically.

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| <b>CAPSTONE COURSES</b> |
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***Thesis*** (3 hr.)

A guided study where students propose, write, and defend a central thesis in the area of Biblical Studies. Students will learn to research and write on a scholarly level, interacting with scholarly conversations through summarization, critique, and contribution. *Prerequisite: students must have completed 60% of degree sought.*

***Extension: Thesis*** (0 hr.)

An independent study where students complete and defend a central thesis in the area of Biblical Studies. Students will utilize learned skills in research and writing on a scholarly level to complete their thesis. *Prerequisite: BT 7990 Thesis (3 hr.).*

***Capstone Project*** (3 hr.)

A guided study where students propose, develop, and write an integrative project on a specified area of practical ministry. Students will learn to integrate theology and ministry while interacting with qualitative and quantitative research. *Prerequisite: students must have completed 60% of degree sought.*

***Extension: Capstone Project*** (0 hr.)

An independent study where students complete an integrative project on a specified area of practical ministry. Students will utilize learned skills that integrate theology and ministry to complete their capstone project. *Prerequisite: BT 7993 Capstone Project (3 hr.).*