

## DICKERSON-GREEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – MDIV. PROGRAM

### Degree Requirements - 75 semester hours

#### A. BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION (BI)

15 HOURS

**BI 501 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible.** The course will consider ancient Israel's understanding of itself, its role in history, and the problems of historical and literary interpretations of the Israelites' religious practices and faith. [3]

**BI 502 Introduction to Hebrew Bible II.** This is the first course in a two-semester sequence leading to a reading knowledge of the Hebrew Bible; concentration is upon the basic elements and grammatical study of the Hebrew Bible. *Prerequisite: BI 501* [3]

**BI 503 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I.** This is the first course in a two-semester sequence leading to a reading knowledge of Biblical Hebrew. Course emphasizes vocabulary and grammatical study of the language of the Hebrew Bible. [3]

**BI 504 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew II.** This course is a continuation of Biblical Hebrew I, where students will continue to master basic Hebrew Bible grammar, vocabulary and syntax leading to advanced exegetical skills. [3]

**BI 505 The Book of Deuteronomy.** An exegetical analysis class of the Book of *Deuteronomy* that considers major themes, historical validity, purposes as well as the book's poetry. [3]

**BI 506 The Book of Joshua.** The course is an exegesis of the book of Joshua that considers the literary, historical, and textual features of the book. [3]

**BI 507 The Book of Job.** A study of the book of Job, attending to its literary features, religious themes, internal disputes regarding theodicy, and its relation to other texts from the Ancient Near East. [3]

**BI 508 Hebrew Bible Exegesis Seminar.** A study of the textual, historical and literary principles, and methods used for academic study and writings regarding the Hebrew Bible. Biblical Hebrew is a prerequisite for the course. [3]

**BI 509 Introduction to Biblical Greek I.** This is the first course in a two-semester sequence leading to a reading knowledge of the Greek New Testament. Course emphasizes vocabulary and grammatical study of the language of the New Testament. [3]

**BI 510 Introduction to Biblical Greek II.** This course is a continuation of Biblical Greek I, where students will continue to master basic biblical Greek grammar, vocabulary and syntax leading to advanced exegetical skills. *Prerequisite: BI 509* [3]

**BI 511 Introduction to the New Testament.** This general introduction to New Testament Studies examines the tools utilized in the contemporary study of early Christianity, its texts and contexts. [3]

**BI 512 The Gospel of Mark.** This course addresses historical context of Mark's account of the Gospel. It will study the book's Christology, depiction of the disciples, and the ramifications of the political, social and gender views that it espouses. *Prerequisite: BI 511* [3]

**BI 513 The Parables of Jesus.** This course examines the nature of parable as a literary form, the history of the interpretation of parables, the study of parables in the setting of the ministry of Jesus and the theology of the Evangelists, and literary criticism and the interpretation of parables. *Prerequisite: BI 511* [3]

**BI 514 Interpreting the Gospels: Matthew.** This class will examine how, through the centuries and today, Christian believers have interpreted and interpret this gospel as Scripture, that is, as a text with a teaching for or about their lives in specific religious, socio-economic, and cultural contexts. *Prerequisite: BI 511* [3]

**BI 515 Synoptic Gospels.** This course is an exegetical examination of a New Testament synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. Issues pertaining to the synoptic will be examined including some synoptic problems. This course will undertake a parallel examination of the synoptic periscopes with an understanding the various sources that may have contributed to their literary accounts. *Prerequisite: BI 511* [3]

**BI 516 The Gospel of John.** This course will consider, (1) John's use of the Hebrew Bible (2) the Gospel's consideration of economics and politics related to Rome's occupancy; (3) its depiction of social roles and groups and (4) Christology. *Prerequisite: BI 511* [3]

**BI 517 The Acts of the Apostles.** Exegesis course of selected passages from Acts 1-15 with attention on the various methods of textual analysis. Introduction to Koine Greek a prerequisite. *Prerequisite: BI 511* [3]

**BI 518 Old Testament Liturgical and Wisdom Literature.** A biblical studies course examining an Old Testament liturgical or wisdom literature text. This course will explore a particular book's historical context, genre, theology and overall content for meaning. *Prerequisites: BI 501 and BI 502* [3]

**BI 519 Galatians.** This course is an exegetical examination of the New Testament letter of Galatians. Focus will be on exploring the content and themes of said work, understanding its genre and historical milieu as first century ancient literature and examining the work's meaning as scripture for modern faith communities. *Prerequisite: BI 511* [3]

**BI 526 – Philemon.** This is a New Testament exegetical course which examines Paul's letter to Philemon. Emphasis will be on the historical, textual and literary nature of the letter as well as its theological and social-political clues. An examination of this letter employing various exegetical and hermeneutical strategies will be highlighted so as to propose a contextualized reading methodology. *Prerequisite: BI 511 Introduction to the New Testament. Fulfill a BI elective requirement* [3]

**BI 530 Biblical Exegesis and Research Methods.** This is a seminar course that explores the exegetical methods used in biblical interpretation. This course explores the approaches to and practice of Bible interpretation, paying close attention to method and ideology behind hermeneutical readings. Attention also will be given to the place of cognate literature used in biblical interpretation as well as the place of archaeological and anthropological findings. [3]

**BI 538 – The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible.** This course examines the literature and material content related to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Emphasis is placed on the scholarly nature and Judeo-Christian interest of the scrolls particularly highlighted through reading primary texts. Texts will be read in light of their historical milieu, particularly as this relates to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and New Testament and explored for their exegetical nature. *Prerequisite: BI 501, 502 and 511 and permission from instructor. Fulfills a BI elective requirement* [3]

**BI 539 – Early Judaism.** This course will survey the history and literary corpus of Early Judaism. From Late Second Temple Period writings, known as Jewish Intertestamental Literature, to early Jewish Rabbinic texts, this course highlights the ideology, theology and thought of this particular period which further explicates the nature of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, and serves as a backdrop leading up to the New Testament Jesus communities. *Prerequisite: BI 501, 502 and 511 and permission from instructor. Fulfills a BI elective requirement.* [3]

**BI 540 Revelation.** This course looks at the New Testament book of Revelation, examining its content, theological message and focused themes. Attention will be given towards understanding the book's genre and historical milieu as first century ancient literature and sacred scripture. *Prerequisite: BI 511* [3]

## **B. HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (HC)**

**9 HOURS**

**HC 521 Church History I.** An introductory survey of life and thought in ancient and early medieval Christianity from the Gnostic crisis (second century) to the parting of the Greek and Latin churches (eleventh century). Some of the issues covered are: the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic character of ancient Christianity; the rise of doctrinal and biblical canons; ethics of war, wealth and sexuality; the flourishing of the ascetical principle; major theological writers and controversies of the early period. [3]

**HC 522 Church History II.** This course offers an introduction to the history of the Christian Church in the Western European tradition between the rise of the medieval Church in the West c. 1000 and the twentieth century. It includes some discussion of the high and late middle ages, the Reformation and Confessional era, the Enlightenment, the era of Romanticism, the movements of Higher Criticism and Liberalism, and the modern Church. *Prerequisite: HC 521* [3]

**HC 523 Church History III.** The main outlines of the history of Christianity from seventeenth-century Puritanism to the ecumenical movement, with emphasis on the experiences of U.S. churches in their immense diversity. *Prerequisites: HC 521 and HC 522* [3]

**HC 524 The History of the African Methodist Episcopal Tradition.** A survey course of the history of African Methodist Episcopal Church and its leaders from its inception to the present. Attention is given to those forces that have shaped the movement and to its impact on its own culture. Approximately. [3]

**HC 525 Religion and the Civil Rights Movement.** The seminar will examine the religious ideas and individuals that played pivotal roles in the civil rights movement by exploring the theological foundations of the black freedom struggle for freedom and equality. [3]

**HC 526 Religion, Slavery, and the American Civil War.** This seminar examines slavery in relation to the religious history of the American Civil War. Based on reading and discussion of primary and secondary sources, the seminar will assess slavery in colonial America and its relation to religious groups through the American Revolution and the early republic. [3]

**HC 527 History of Religion in America.** An introduction to the history of the religions in America beginning with colonial religious experiments in the New World. The course examines American church history, as well as the influence of non-Christian religions in American culture. [3]

**HC 528 - History of Chaplaincy- Past, Present and Future.** This course looks at the history of chaplaincy in various settings. Students will become familiar with the history, function and future of chaplaincy within the different branches of the military, hospitals, hospice care, convalescent facilities, prisons and school campus. *This is recommended course for those on a chaplaincy track*

## **C. THEOLOGY AND ETHICS (TE)**

**15 HOURS**

**TE 530 Introduction to Theological Education.** This is an introductory course that prepares students to think and write in a theological context. This course will help students understand their role as critical thinkers and interpreters according to a faith context with particular regard to addressing such issues as morality, righteousness, evil, racism and injustice. [3]

**TE 531 Introduction to Christian Theology.** This course introduces students to the fundamentals of Christian doctrines and beliefs and is designed to develop a foundation of theological discourse about faith and practice in the Christian tradition. Students will examine Christian Theological doctrines as it relates to other religions, secularly philosophies and commonly held beliefs. [3]

**TE 533 Christian Ethics.** This course explores the concepts of morality and ethics within the Biblical and Christian contexts with particular emphasis on clarifying how our interpretation of these concepts shapes our thinking and actions as it relates to issues such as race, gender, and other justice issues. It challenges students to look at these concepts and their implications for action in the areas of social justice and freedom for the individual, the church, society, and the world community. [3]

**TE 534 African Methodist Episcopal: A Theological Tradition.** This course will survey of the history of theology in the African Methodist Episcopal Church with emphasis on the major doctrinal concerns that have shaped the church historically, informed its social witness and influenced its polity. [3]

**TE 535 Critical Race Theory and Social Ethics.** This course is an introduction to the broad and rich tapestry of the African American Christian experience from the perspective of social ethics as espoused by African American critical and moral thinkers. [3]

**TE 536 The Foundations of Ethical Leadership.** This course will stimulate learning and reflection as key elements and dynamics of leadership and ethical responsibility in professional life. The course uses readings, group and individual exercises, peer consultations, films and written assignments to deepen our moral imaginations and leadership capacity. [3]

**TE 537 Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Social Role of Religion.** Examines King's role as a religious leader and agent of social change with some attention to the intellectual sources of his thought and social activism. [3]

**TE 538 Womanist/Feminist Theology and Ethics.** This interdisciplinary course will examine significant womanist and feminist theological and ethical thoughts in American religious culture. Womanist/Feminist methodology in reference to biblical interpretation, theology and ethics within the context of Black women's racial, gender and class experiences will serve as the foundation for the course. [3]

**TE 539 – Black Theology.** The goal of this course is to introduce students to the study of black theology in North America. It surveys the origins of black theology as an academic discipline and studies the key persons, movements and traditions that have shaped black theology. It also looks at the distinctive methodological approaches that theologians employ in their approach to black theology. Moreover, it offers both an affirmation and critical examination of black theology within the context of constructive systematic theology and the African American religious practices. *Prerequisite: TE 540 and 541. Fulfills a TE elective requirement* [3]

**TE 540 Systematic Theology I.** This course is the first half of a two-semester examination of the methods of doing theology. Special emphasis will be given to the centrality of Scripture, the primacy of human experience and social location, and the priority of history in shaping how and why we do theology. We will also emphasize the relevance of Christian theology to the church's place in contemporary life. *Prerequisite: TE 531* [3]

**TE 541 Systematic Theology II.** As the second half of theology core, this course will specifically engage students in understanding the key doctrines and practices that comprise the core of Christian life and thought, including: the doctrine of God, Christology, Pneumatology, the Trinity, anthropology, sin, salvation, ecclesiology, eschatology, ethics, sexuality, and more. Students will be required to write a paper that outlines their own theological perspectives. *Prerequisites: TE 531 and TE 540* [3]

**TE 544 – The Theology of Howard Thurman.** This intensive reading course introduces students to the life and thought of Howard Thurman, one of the most distinctive and leading American religious thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Thurman's meditations, prayers, sermons and other writings were rooted in his experiences as an African American Christian in the American south. His work embraced a broad spectrum of religious traditions, both mainstream and marginal, Christian and non-Christian, in so doing, he impacted a cross-

sectional, multigenerational group of public figures, pastors, theologians, artists and believers from all walks of life. We will engage his writings, view and listen to audio-visual material, and otherwise explore his relevance to the church in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America. This course will assess both the enormous impact and the limits of Thurman's groundbreaking religious vision. *Prerequisite: TE 540 and 541. Fulfills a TE elective requirement* [3]

**TE 545 Created in God's Image: Theology Anthropology.** This course examines the biblical and theological understanding of what it means to be a human person, created in the image of God (Imago Dei). We will read and discuss both historical and contemporary approaches to this topic. The aim of the course is to help students to understand how the notion of the Imago Dei shapes what we believe about sin, gender, sexuality, capital punishment, human frailty, social justice, and much more. *Prerequisites: TE 531 and TE 540* [3]

**TE 546 Perspectives on Pentecostalism in the Shaping of Modern Christianity.** This course looks at the emergence and spread of Pentecostalism throughout North America, Africa, the Caribbean, and South America. The study will include an examination of the centrality of the African American and African roots of the modern Pentecostal movement. Likewise, we will explore the theological roots of classical Pentecostalism, the Charismatic movement, and indigenous churches in Africa, the Caribbean, and South America. [3]

**TE 547 The Contemporary American Church: Theological Perspectives.** This course explores the theological roots of American Christianity from the Colonial Period to the present. We will examine some of the specific socio-cultural, economic, historical, spiritual, and theological factors that have shaped the theological traditions of American churches. [3]

**TE 548 African American Critical Thought.** This course is designed to introduce students to the process of critical thinking through the lens of race-based theories and selected historical and contemporary discourses of African Americans on race relations and multiculturalism in American society. Examines intersection of race, gender and class. [3]

#### **D. THEORY AND PRACTICE IN MINISTRY (TPM)**

**15 HOURS**

**TPM 541 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling.** This course examines the counseling aspect of pastoral ministry, human spiritual/emotional development, practice of basic techniques, and self-evaluation. [3]

**TPM 542 Fundamentals of Preaching.** Examination of theologies and methods of preparing sermons from Biblical texts. Development of hermeneutical approaches, oral/aural skills, rhetorical strategies, narrative and connective logic. Students are responsible for developing a working theology of the Word, review of major homiletic theories, exegetical assignments, skill-building exercises, sermon sketches, and sermon manuscripts. In-class preaching required. [3]

**TPM 543 Teaching for Faith Development.** This course explores of the role of the Bible in Christian education and faith development. Attention to approaches to teaching the Bible. [3]

**TPM 544 Christian Public Worship.** This course examines the importance of worship in the life of the church. It further provides a framework for the development and practice of worship based upon a biblical and theological foundation. Key elements in the planning and leadership of worship will be explored including the ordering of worship, the role of prayer and music, and models of collaborative worship planning. [3]

**TPM 545 Supervised Ministry and Seminar.** Students are assigned field placements to develop skills for the work of ministry in preaching, liturgical leadership, education, pastoral leadership, pastoral care, and counseling; the course can enable students to enhance their understandings of the dynamics and practice of

ministry, of themselves as persons in ministry, and of the theological motifs that can guide ministry. Permission to enroll required. [4]

**TPM 546 Bible and Sermon: The Gospel of John.** This course focuses on developing exegetical skills for use in preaching. By focusing on one book of the New Testament (in this case, the Gospel of John), students will develop skills that they can apply to other portions of the Bible. The class meetings and assignments are designed to help students develop an in-depth and nuanced understanding of this text and its relevance for preaching. The course seeks to balance a rigorous introduction to the critical issues of scholarship regarding this text and the question of how, if or when these insights are relevant for preaching. Throughout the semester, students will be asked to reflect on what aspects of their exegesis are useful or important for preaching, and to discuss the process of sermon preparation in relation to their exegetical insights. [3]

**TPM 547 Adaptive Leadership in the Church Today: Navigating, Change, Resistance, and Conflict.** The ongoing paradigm shifts in the mainline American church continue to complicate the role of pastoral leader. Adaptive leadership denotes the type of leadership required to help an institution negotiate these kinds of new realities. Church leaders who understand the nature of adaptive work are better equipped to help their congregations discover new solutions to problems that at times seem overwhelming. [3]

**TPM 548 Principles of Church Growth and Health.** An introduction to biblical principles and practices of growing strong churches in rural and urban contexts. Students will explore practical aspects of establishing Christian ministries which effectively serve the felt needs of people groups and contribute to the healthy growth of Christian congregations. [3]

**TPM 550 Church Leadership and Administration.** This course is designed to equip current and future pastors with leadership and managerial skills. Students will receive instruction in time management, planning and managing budgets and organizational planning. Students will also be given principles for identifying his/her leadership style for effective administrative ministry. [3]

**TPM 551 Spiritual Formation and Effective Bible Study Methods.** This course will examine principles and practices for establishing and maintaining an effective and stable Christian walk and witness through prayer and personal Bible study. The course will also explore creative methods of Bible reading and study for personal enrichment and evangelism. [3]

**TPM 552 Church Polity.** This course examines the biblical and theological basis for church government and organization. The course will also focus on church discipline and parliamentary procedure, administration of the sacraments and conducting church meetings using standard rules of order for public meetings. [3]

**TPM 560 Master of Divinity / Master of Arts Degree Seminar and Project.** Required of all third-year students in the Master of Divinity degree program, the seminar addresses the student's program focus and the development of the degree project and a formal paper in which the student explores a specific theme or question while demonstrating progress toward a theologically reflective ministry. For the fall semester, students will earn letter grades for their participation and work in the seminar; the grade will be based on attendance, the level of engagement with the course material, and degree of progress made toward their projects' success. A defense of student projects will be scheduled during the spring semester. [3]

**TPM 561 Advanced Supervised Ministry and Seminar.** Students are given opportunities in field placements to engage in more advanced theological reflections on the experiences of ministry. At the advanced level, students are expected to make more intentional connections between the work of the Academy and the work at a placement site. Attention will be given to developing a profound understanding of the theologies and worldviews that guide one's work. [3]

**PT 532 Introduction to Pastoral Theology.** This course will survey religious themes with a philosophical system that emphasizes relationality, experience, agency and perception, and process theologies that offer new perspectives on traditional religious beliefs and substantively contribute to conversations between theology, and other disciplines (i.e. psychology, science, education, etc.). This course explores the basic concepts of process thought grounded in the philosophical thought of Alfred North Whitehead and Charles Hartshorne, and its theological interpretation and articulation. Attention is given to the doctrine of God, Christology and soteriology, religious pluralism, practical theologies and the interface of process thought with postmodern and ecological theological commitments. [3]

**PT 551 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Theology.** This course focuses on practical application in pastoral care ministry based on sound pastoral theological understanding. It explores areas of congregational life and ministry. [3]

**PT 552 Ethics in Health Care: Theological and Philosophical Perspectives.** This course examines a broad range of theological and philosophical methods for dealing with ethical questions as they arise in contemporary American healthcare. Student will study the dialectic between practice and theology being attentive to their reciprocal influences on healthcare. [3]

**PT 553 Pastoral Theology for Transitions and Crises.** Examines various pastoral responses to persons facing transitions (e.g., birth, vocational choice, partnering, marriage, aging, and dying) and crises (e.g., illness, bereavement, and interpersonal discord). Close attention paid to the theological and psychological dimensions of these experiences. [3]

**PT 554 Pastoral Care with Older Adults.** This course explores theories of pastoral care and specific interventions for predictable human needs including death, illness, trauma, and aging. [3]

**PT 555 Pastoral Therapy with Groups.** This course examines practical ways in which to do pastoral therapy with specific target groups, e.g., abused teens and adults, drug and alcohol abuse, and concerns related to gender and sexuality.

**PT 556 Pastoral Care with African American Families.** This course is designed to assess and address specific needs of African American families relation to the Black Church as extended family, ecclesiological dimensions of family life, emerging lifestyles and challenges; ethical understandings of black love and sexuality and pastoral care. In addition, this course includes a social and ethical analysis towards programmatic pastoral praxis. [3]

**PT 559 Introduction to the Psychology of Religion.** The primary objective of this course is to introduce psychology of religion and its focus on understanding religious experience from psychological perspectives. The nature of the interdisciplinary relationship between psychology and religion will be explored with a review of classical and contemporary theories on religion. Life cycle development and religion, fundamentalism in the US and around the world, the psychology of religious belief and conversion, and religious biography are among various topics to be surveyed. [3]

**PT 560 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).** Students apply to work in an approved clinical pastoral educational setting under the direction of a supervisor who is certified by the board of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE); departmental permission is required before enrolling in this intermediate-level course. [3]

**PT 561 Field Education.** Students serve in local churches or in church or community agencies. [3]

**PT 562 Extended Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).** This course is a continuation of PT 560 Clinical Pastoral Education. [3]

**PT 563 Extended Field Education.** This course is a continuation of PT 561 Field Education. [3]

**F. ELECTIVE COMPONENT (EC)**

**9 HOURS**

**EC 590 Ministry in Higher Education.** This course will survey the history of ministry in American higher education, examining theological constructs that have given shape to the educational, missional, and perennial practices of both chaplaincy and campus ministry. [3]

**EC 591 Congregational Models for Christian Education Ministry with Youths and Young Adults.**

We live in a culture and time of rapid change. The challenges and opportunities facing adolescents and young adults today are more varied and complicated than the time when their parents and quite possibly their pastors were this age. This course will consider congregational approaches to Christian Education ministry with youth, young adults and their families. [3]

**EC 592 God, Faith, and Art.** Through engagement with Biblical text and artistic expression, students will have opportunities to wrestle with their own experiences of the life of faith. Contemporary issues such as living with diversity; reading the Bible in conversation with different cultural, racial and ethnic perspectives; and Psalms for a life of faith will be explored through a variety of artistic media. [3]

**EC 593 Writing Creatively About Religion.** Students who enroll in this course will engage in a series of creative and autobiographical writing exercises in prose, poetry, and drama that explore various religious questions and themes. [3]

**EC 594 Religion and Film.** What makes a film religious? Is it a particular religious content, such as a biblical narrative, a translation of a biblical topic to another time or place? [3]