

MASTERS LEVEL CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Old Testament Survey

Old Testament Survey provides book-by-book coverage of the Old Testament and an examination of relevant ancient Near Eastern developments as they impact Israel. Topics covered include: analysis of the various corpora and genres, each book's structure, physical and cultural contexts, and focus on a timeline of events. Special emphasis is given to a selection of themes and theological topics, the ultimate failure of human effort, and the promise of hope embodied in messianic prophecy and prefigurement which pave the way for Jesus's incarnation.

Introduction to Hermeneutics

This course is designed to develop: understanding and utilization of classic historical and linguistic skills; the ability to identify and utilize available critical tools; and principles of biblical interpretation such as: genre, historical and literary context, word study, comparison of translations, and grammatical analysis for interpreting Scripture. These necessary disciplines will be demonstrated with an emphasis on biblical theology and the application of theological truth to life. Additionally, a brief history of hermeneutics, current trends in biblical interpretation, and challenges facing Pentecostal hermeneutics will be addressed.

Theological Thinking Research and Writing

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop thinking, research, and writing skills. Students will develop their theological thinking through study and research in the realm of theology. Students will also discover research and writing preparation techniques. Students will learn how to construct academic papers using the mechanics of writing a paper such as flow of thought, transition from section to section, the art of crafting good sentences and paragraphs, and correct formatting of a paper using the 9th Edition of Turabian and the Northpoint Writing Standard. Emphasis is also given to critical thinking and the implications and applications of theological thinking, research, and writing.

Spiritual Formation

This course is designed to lead to a self-awareness of the need for spiritual growth at the core of one's identity. An understanding of different facets of spirituality will be explored and used as assessment tools to encourage growth in spiritual formation. Additionally, the course will explore various spiritual disciplines that will enhance this process under the direction of the Holy Spirit. The results of this process and their influence on both personal and ministerial levels will be emphasized. Lastly this course will examine Christian hagiographies that provide insight and instruction for spiritual formation and renewal.

New Testament Survey

New Testament Survey provides book-by-book coverage of the New Testament and an overview of Intertestamental period (Second Temple period) literature and developments which inform New Testament studies. Topics include genre, geography, and relevant religious,

social, and political factors. Special attention is given to a selection of theological topics and themes with an emphasis to develop a strong and abiding faith in Jesus, the central figure of the New Testament.

Pentecostal Foundations for Theology and Ministry

Pentecostal Foundations for Theology and Ministry lays a foundation for understanding theology and ministry from a Pentecostal perspective. Topics covered include: an exploration of whether not there is a Pentecostal theology, hermeneutic, or epistemology to adequately support and define ministry; differences and similarities between Pentecostal and traditional evangelical theology; and determining doctrines and practices within 21st century Pentecostalism which may require revisioning. Special emphasis is placed on defining Pentecostalism and the place of Christian experience within Pentecostalism.

Unity of the Bible

Unity of the Bible is a basic overview of the Bible. Topics covered include: a broad overview of the Bible's geography, historical and cultural settings, themes/theologies, the process of canonization, and establishes the groundwork for understanding a biblical worldview with application to 21st century life. Special emphasis is placed on demonstrating how the redemptive plan of God relates to the various covenants in Scripture and their fulfillment in Christ.

Essentials for Theological Thinking

Essentials for Theological Thinking is a basic introduction to the classifications, divisions, and scope of theology. Topics covered include: the study of Scripture through biblical (exegetical), historical, systematic, practical and spiritual theology. From each division, one aspect of theology will be introduced (for example): biblical, the theology of Philippians; historical, Byzantine thought; systematic, the doctrine of God; practical, the doctrine of the vocational calling; spiritual, theology of spiritual disciplines. Special emphasis is placed on theology as a lived experience, gives direction to one's worldview, and is not simply an academic study.