

Theology Curriculum Course Syllabus

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Rationale: Preparation is key for anyone called/ assigned/ appointed and or pursuing a career as an Ordained Pastor, Licensed Minister, or Clergy Person. The endorsing or seeking organization might require this aptitude and learning, as well as society might expect academic certification in this discipline to provide certification for its social criteria as a professional Christian Church pastor/ clergy person.

This curriculum will satisfy your fundamental theological interests without having to complete college or university matriculation requirements. This curriculum will further provide you with a basic understanding of essential Biblical Doctrine, Philosophy, and Christian Church Developmental History.

I. Christian Leaders Personal Formation

- a. How are you conscious of your ministry calling? (2-3 pp,)
- b. Describe your personal walk with God? Its basis? How is it realized or experienced or expressed in time and space? (2-3 pp,)
- c. What does a Praxis for personal devotion mean to you? How does it affect your thinking, behavior, and ministry interactions? (2-3 pp,)
- d. Develop a menu of spiritual disciplines for personal empowerment. Explain their motivation and objective. (2-3 pp,)
- e. Who have you identified and covenanted with to be your life mentor? To whom are you a mentor? How did this relationship become established? (2-3 pp,)
- f. Do you understand and embrace the benefit of personal VISION, MISSION, and OBJECT statements? Codify and explain their rationales. (2-3 pp,)
- g. Do you understand who you are and how you relate to others, society, government, etc.? (2-3 pp,)

II. Introduction to Christian Doctrine

This course focuses on some of the fundamental Bible doctrines for guiding Christian belief and behavior. You (student) will learn where these doctrines can be found in Scripture, and discover

your ability to search, collate, and state a Christian doctrine clearly for others to comprehend and or embrace.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Christian Leaders Personal Formation course.

1. Study and draft summative papers on the following Bible doctrines (theological basis, history, developer, pundit, student's opinion (3-5 pp. each):

- a. God and the discipline of theology
- b. Christology
- c. Soteriology
- d. Pneumatology
- e. Ecclesiology
- f. Election theology
- g. Eschatology

2. Study and draft summative papers on the following praxis topics(3-5 pp. each): :

- a. Trinity
- b. Catholic Sacraments
- c. Calvin's TULIP theology
- d. Sabbatarianism
- e. Second Coming theology
- f. Foot washing theology
- g. Lord's Supper theology
- h. Baptism
- i. Ordination

3. Study and draft summative papers on the following hermeneutic basics 82-3 PP.):

- a. What is hermeneutics?
 - 1.) What is exegesis or eisegesis?
- b. What is homiletics and its relationship to theological development?
- c. How does apologetics effect theological discover and presentation?

4. Study Sermon/ lecture research, writing, and oral communication.

- a. Complete the Biblical Preaching Seminar (PP)—Contact Dr. McCleary for materials.
- b. Write opinion and reflection paper, 3-5 pp.

5. Prayer Theology

- a. Compile a 12 x 12 (O.T x NT) theology on Prayer—who, communication format, content, when, for what, impact (2-3 pp.).
- b. Develop and maintain a Prayer journal/ Blog record for a 40-day period (2-3 pp.).
- c. Ethnography of ten persons who pray—Profile (name, social role, date), prayer-issue, message, location, individual/ group? motivation,

- duration, answer (how, when), praise report? Personal impact (3-5 pp.).
- d. Write on (7) examples of prayer/ praying from the Bible—descriptive report (3-5 pp.).
 - e. Essay on one of the following types of prayer: praise, confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession (2-3 pp.).
 - f. What does the Bible reveal about prayer and the Holy Spirit? (2-3 pp.).
 - g. Write a summative theology on prayer from the above Prayer and Theology learnings (3-5 pp.).

III. A Christian Paradigm to Philosophy

This course will expose you to the historical discipline of philosophy, from its secular and “pagan” roots to its influence on early Christian thinkers. Some posit that Christian, philosophy, and theology are not connected. However, the historical development of theological and liturgical praxis says otherwise, especially, when they are studied in their *sitz en leben* or “life situation.”

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Christian Leaders Personal Formation course, and Biblical Doctrine courses.

1. Philosophy and Christianity

- a. What is the basic definition for Philosophy and Christianity? What do you know or know about either? How does each express meaning in life? What aspects of human existence are either concerned with? (3-5 pp.).
- b. List and summarize 5-7 Ancient Philosophers. Do you agree or disagree with their position? (3-5 pp.).
- c. List and summarize 5-7 Modern Philosophers, from the Enlightenment era and Contemporary times (i.e., 20th century). Compare them with one ancient philosopher. Do you agree or disagree with at least one or two of these Modern philosophers? (3-5 pp.).
- d. What did you discover was Christian or anti-Christian in 2-3 of the above philosophers? (2-3 pp.).
- e. How are Philosophy, Theology, and Christianity related or unrelated? How do purpose to consider, embrace, and share either/ all, or not? (Reflection, Opinion paper, with citations), 3-5 pp.

2. Ethics and Christianity

This course focuses on the integration of theory and practice--living according to God’s will. It focuses on discovering and deploying God’s values and principles for living in time and space.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Christian Leaders Personal Formation course, Biblical Doctrine course, and the Philosophy and Christianity courses.

- a. List and summarize some of the famous historical Ethicists (2-3 pp.).
- b. Research the Bible—“God’s will” and write a summary and theology thereof (2-3 pp.).
- c. Exegete John 7:17 for empowering believers to know and do God’s will (2-3 pp.).
- d. How does “I will” reveal a theology of God’s ethics for believers? (2-3 pp.).
- e. Author an essay on Galatians 5:16-26 as it speaks to Christian ethics . (2-3 pp.).
- f. Write an opinion report on the application of ethics to real life instances(2-3 pp.).
- g. What are some major ethical and philosophical cases since 2000 CE and what is your opinion concerning them? (3-5 pp.).
- h. How does Spiritual Warfare affect ethical discourse and application? (2-3 pp.).

3. Apologetics and Christianity

This course will introduce students to basic Apologetic issues and how they relate to Christian Faith. Students will explore the Christian-biblical worldview, consider and respect cultural analysis, and how to apply the gospel values and principles for Christian praxis’s sake.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Christian Leaders Personal Formation course, Biblical Doctrine course, the Philosophy and Christianity course, and the Ethics and Christianity courses.

- a. Research, pinpoint the great Apologists of the last two hundred years—5-7, summarize major and salient positions, write your thoughts about 2-3 of them (3-5 pp.).
- b. How do you view Christianity and apologetics relating? (2-3 pp.).
- c. Author an essay on the following biblical phrases/ terms:
 1. The Word of the Lord (O.T.). How does it relate to Apologetics? (3-5 pp.).
 2. The Truth (N.T.). How does it relate to Apologetics? (3-5 pp.).
- d. Research the topic of Christian Belief? How does it relate to Apologetics? (2-3 pp.).
- e. How would you deal with someone who professed the following:
 1. “I am an atheist.” (3-5 pp.).
 2. “I am an agnostic.” (3-5 pp.).
 3. “I am do not believe in religion or Christianity.” (3-5 pp.).
- f. What is your worldview—is it biblical-based? Explain.
 1. What is your understanding of epistemology and your worldview and or Christian Faith? (3-5 pp.).

IV. Christianity and History

History concerns persons, places, and things. It also comprises the observations, interactions, events, and reflective impact of these factors. Among these considerations is the Christian aspect to social-political-religious life. It is from within the matrix of history that Christian theology has developed. These courses will help you research and understand the reasons for why Christians do what they do and believe what they believe in relationship to historical theological liturgical praxis.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Christian Leaders Personal Formation course, Biblical Doctrine course, and the Philosophy and Christianity courses.

1. History of Christianity

This course looks at events, key persons, and important trends in the history and development of the Christian church. Such observations should help students to see God's faithfulness in the past and to better understand the church's present challenges and opportunities.

- a. What noteworthy events, persons, and trends in church history do you know? Include sources.
- b. Google and research ten notable events, persons, and trends in church history. Summarize and give your brief opinion. (3-5 pp.).
- c. What is the history of Christianity in your location? (2-3 pp.).
- d. How is Christianity received or rejected where you are and its surrounding region? (2-3 pp.).
- e. How has Christianity and culture related in your area, country since 2000 CE? (2-3 pp.).
- f. What is your opinion concerning Christianity and God's purpose going forward? (2-3 pp.).
- g. What is your ministry vision, mission, and objectives and how do they relate to Christianity and history? (2-3 pp.).

2. Early Christian Church History and Doctrinal Formation

This course looks at key persons and important trends in the early development of Christianity and the church's historical and doctrinal development After Jesus' ascension.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Christian Leaders Personal Formation, Biblical Doctrine, the Philosophy and Christianity, and the History of Christianity courses.

- a. Who were the early church people who provided doctrinal guidance to early church (i.e., 100-400 CE; name at least five) development? What was their input? How do you feel about their impact? (5-7 pp.).
- b. What were the major heresies dealt with by the Church, first—fifth centuries? What is your opinion concerning each? (3-5 pp.).
- c. What are the salient tenants of the following? (2-3 pp.).
 - i. Lutheranism
 - ii. Reformed
 - iii. Catholicism
 - iv. Protestantism
 - v. Islam
 - vi. Hinduism
 - vii. Buddhism
 - viii. Atheism
- d. What are the principal forms of church governance? What is their biblical basis? (3-5 pp.)

- e. What are the major bible doctrines every believer should be well versed in and why? (3-5 pp.).
- f. What is your understanding of church history as it relates to your present ministry assignment into the future? (3-5 pp.).

2. Church Leadership and Diversity and Women Issues

This course surveys the early church into contemporary times regarding leadership and the issues of diversity and women. This course will help students view ministry beyond personal roles to a more peripheral perspective for inclusivity.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Christian Leaders Personal Formation course, Biblical Doctrine course, the Philosophy and Christianity courses, the History of Christianity, and the Early Christian Church History and Doctrinal Formation courses.

- a. What was the ethnic profile of the O.T. Characters? Research and summarize Genesis 5, 9-11 and key characters from Judges to Malach concerning their ethnic identity. (5-7 pp.).
- b. Use Acts (1-15) to report on the profile of believers as far as ethnicity, culture, and women involvement. (3-5 pp.).
- c. Sample the major religions and the issues of diversity, women, and inclusion (i.e., Buddhism, Hinduism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Your present affiliation). (3-5 pp.).
- d. Author an essay on the Bible's theology on ordination. (3-5 pp.).
- e. Exegete Romans 16 and included conclusions and recommendations for diversity, women, and inclusion in Christian ministry. (2-4 pp.).
- f. As the primary visionary, administrator, and practitioner for your ministry, what is your philosophy, theology concerning diversity, inclusion, and women in Christian church ministry? (2-4 pp.).

3. Missions and Revivals

This course focuses on missionary activities and the impact of intentional evangelism activities and ministry outreach. The student will research the agency of the Holy Spirit throughout the development of the Christian Church worldwide.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Christian Leaders Personal Formation course, Biblical Doctrine course, the Philosophy and Christianity courses, the History of Christianity, the Early Christian Church History and Doctrinal Formation course, and the Church Leadership and Diversity and Women Issues courses.

- a. Author an essay on the missional methodology in Acts 1-5. (2-3 pp.).
- b. Author a report of the major missionary advances and revival movements in Christian history in the USA and or your geographical region. (3-5 pp.).
- c. Research and report on the church growth example of Korean Christian ministry under Pastor Paul Cho. (3-5 pp.).
- d. Research the manifestation, history, and contemporary state of the Pentecostal movement. (3-5 pp.).
- e. Write a Bible-based theology of revival. (2-3 pp.).
- f. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in missions, evangelism, and revival? (2-3 pp.).

- g. What is your vision, mission, and objective as a Christian Church Leader as it relates to local and foreign missions, evangelism, and Church growth? (2-3 pp.).