

# THEOLOGY

MASTER OF ARTS  
PROGRAM (36 CREDITS)

The Master of Arts in Theology is designed to expand the depth of Christian thought from an in-depth biblical and theological position. The focus is to equip students to more effectively wrestle with contemporary and human condition issues in a scholarly fashion. Multiple cultures are taken into account. Students are exposed to the most recent scholarship in the various disciplines of theology. To accomplish this, the program confronts the issues through a biblical, theological, philosophical and sociological grid. This provides a platform for skills in scholarly research and insight into world issues. The program serves those desiring to pursue a Master of Arts degree, additional degrees, those actively involved in academia, church ministries, Christian organizations and parachurch groups.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

THE	505	Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation
THE	510	Sacred Voices: Advanced Biblical Theology
THE	515	Echoes from the Journey: Historic Theology
THE	520	Theology: Classic and Contemporary
THE	525	The Interface of Theology and Psychology
PHL	505	Spirituality & Philosophical Thought
PHL	520	Apologetics Classical to Contemporary
PHL	530	Ethics Classical to Contemporary
THE	570	Cross-Cultural Theology
THE	595	Research Dynamics
THE	599	Research Project

## PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will communicate in writing biblical and theological academic research that addresses concerns within the community of faith.
2. Students will analyze empirical and theological concepts in cross-cultural settings and directly assess and formulate theological construct to enrich that particular culture.
3. Students will delineate the historical roots of theological and philosophical developments and identify the societal influences upon those developments.
4. Students will articulate various schools of theological thought and how they apply to the interpretation of Scripture.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **THE 505 Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation 3 credits**

This course will examine the science of hermeneutical analysis, processes, and methods in which one can derive the most accurate and valid interpretation of passages of the Bible. Due consideration will be given to the art involved in integrating various lines of thought in the Bible to accomplish an adequate understanding and application of any passage in the Bible.

### **THE 510 Sacred Voices: Advanced Biblical Theology 3 credits**

This course is an introduction to biblical theology covering methodology, history, basic issues, and the foundational content of the field. Correlation between biblical and systematic theology is explored and discussed. The course includes an examination of the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures and the unity and diversity of the biblical revelation.

### **THE 515 Echoes from the Journey: Systematic and Historical Theology 3 credits**

This course is an exploration of thought about Christian theology through the centuries and systematic theology. Special attention is given to systematics and the nature of historical thinking (historiography), theology understood in a broad sense to include devotional thought, etc; the development of Pentecostalism, the ways to anticipate the future, etc.

### **THE 520 Theology: Classic and Contemporary 3 credits**

This course is a discovery of theological systems used throughout Church history and into the present with a particular focus on contemporary developments. Special attention is given to biblical foundations, philosophical presuppositions, psychosocial forces, and the practical consequences of these developments in the life of the Church and the quest for truth.

### **THE 525 The Interface of Theology and Psychology 3 credits**

This course will examine the different approaches in relating the long traditions of theological inquiry with the more recent influential theories of psychology. Issues that will be discussed include: human nature, the notion of sin, the concept of salvation/sanctification, and the goal of spiritual and psychological wellness. The role of the Holy Spirit and human agents, as divine and people facilitators respectfully, will be explored.

Prerequisites: THE 505, and 515 or 520.

### **PHL 505 Spirituality and Philosophical Thought 3 credits**

This course will examine spirituality and its development in philosophical thought through the centuries, how it has shaped Eastern and Western thought and approaches to spirituality and where it has left us in our understanding of spirituality today on a philosophical level. Spiritual formation approaches will be examined in this course.

**PHL 520 Apologetics Classical to Contemporary 3 credits**

This course will consist of an exploration and analysis of the principles of apologetics and their application to contemporary culture. Theological, philosophical, historical, scientific, anthropological, psychological, and other dimensions will be considered.

**PHL 530 Ethics Classical to Contemporary 3 credits**

This course will consist of an exploration and analysis of the principles of ethics and their application to contemporary culture. Theological, philosophical, historical, scientific, anthropological, psychological, and other dimensions will be considered.

**THE 570 Cross-Cultural Theology 3 credits**

This course will consist of a stateside or international experience in which the student will be under the supervision of a leader in a field experience of cross-cultural ministry as defined by factors of belief, economics, education, gender, language, race, etc. Settings may include: local ministries, media centers, mega-churches, missions, universities, etc. Reading, interviews, reflections, etc. will be used to help the student better understand their cultural presuppositions and to develop principles and theological concepts that may be applied in a number of cross-cultural settings.

**THE 595 Research Dynamics 3 credits**

This course will train the student in the advanced skills of scholarly research, design, writing and documentation as a direct preparation for the final research project of the degree. The student must receive an "A" or a "B" in this course to proceed to the final Research Project. A "C" will require the student to retake THE 595.

Prerequisite: Completion of at least five of required courses.

**THE 599 Research Project 6 credits**

This course will consist of a major written project that reflects graduate level research and writing on an area of study agreed upon and under the direct supervision of a professor who has specialization in the chosen topic of study in keeping with the degree. The final project must receive committee approval.

Prerequisite: THE 595.