

WTS 2021-2022 New Curriculum Courses

Abbey 1-6

The Abbey, a .5 credit course held for six semesters, invites students into intentional relationships with faculty and fellow students to explore spiritual disciplines, engage in vocational discernment, and integrate their classroom learning with their life of faith. As part of the Abbey, students will also engage in the practice of preaching outside of the classroom and be invited to reflect upon their experience of and sense of call to preaching. 3 cr

Biblical Capstone

This capstone course explores how our biblical hermeneutic, i.e. the approaches we bring to interpreting scripture, affects the way we engage our Christian life and ministry. 3 cr

Christian Interior Life

This course explores the ways in which a minister's life history, spiritual growth, and vocation intersect and shape his/her personal and professional identity. Students will reflect on their own psychological and spiritual development and their opportunities for personal growth. They will develop their own particular plans for self-care. 3 cr

Christian Life & Ethics

This course explores how the theological vision of the Christian community expresses itself in specific intentions, practices, virtues, and actions and how Christian communities can grow in moral discernment. 3 cr

Christian Life & Mission

An introduction to the church's self-understanding as a missional and eschatological community formed by the good news of Jesus Christ and made to be its living witness. The course seeks to cultivate a biblical-theological rationale for the existence of the church and for its

mission, an appreciation for the historical, cultural, and contextual rootedness of the church, an understanding of the dynamic interaction between the gospel and human cultures, and a vision for what missional faithfulness requires of any church in its own time and place. 3 cr

Church History I

This course explores the life and witness of the church from the New Testament era to the Protestant Reformation. 3 cr

Church History II

This course explores the life and witness of the church from the Protestant Reformation to the present. 3 cr

Cohort Group – MDiv-MSW Dual Track

Meets bi-weekly during all of the years of the Dual Track degree program, except years one and two of the M.Div. distance learning format. 3 cr

Credo

In this senior seminar, students will write a theologically comprehensive statement of their Christian belief in conversation with their respective theological traditions. 3 cr

Foundations of the Christian Life

An introductory course for all MDiv and MA students, this course invites students to explore 1) God's story through an introduction to the story of Scripture, 2) our stories through an exploration of our callings to be disciples with particular vocations in the world, and 3) cultural stories through acknowledging the cultural contexts in which we live out these callings and exploring specific contemporary cultural dynamics and realities. 3 cr

Intercultural Immersion

Provides cognitive and experiential knowledge of the global character of the church's witness and mission in North America and around the world,

with concern for the problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism.

Languages

New Testament Greek

An introduction to New Testament Greek vocabulary, grammatical forms, and sentence structure with a view to New Testament Greek as a resource for ministry. 3 cr

New Testament Interpretation

The course continues New Testament Greek, and introduces the tools and principles required for the exegesis of the New Testament in its own linguistic, historical, and canonical context as a foundation for interpreting the New Testament in a contemporary context. 3 cr

Biblical Hebrew

An introduction to biblical Hebrew in its cultural context for those who seek to interpret the Bible faithfully and fully. Using multi-sensory and interactive approaches, students learn the basic vocabulary, grammar, syntax and world view of the Old Testament. 3 cr

Hebrew Translation & Interpretation

The course continues Biblical Hebrew and more fully engages interpretive and devotional approaches to Old Testament texts. 3 cr

Leading Christian Communities

An introduction to the theory and practice of Christian leadership from a missional and theological perspective. For seniors. 3 cr

New Testament Foundations

An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the New Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the New Testament for today. 3 cr

Old Testament Foundations

An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the Old Testament, with a view to appropriating the message of the Old Testament for today. 3 cr

Practice of Counsel and Care

In this introductory course, students explore giving counsel and offering care as ministers of Word and sacrament. They develop an understanding of the fundamental principles of pastoral care and acquire basic skills required for giving counsel and offering care. Numerous pastoral themes are addressed in lectures, learning labs, and small group interaction. Students will be encouraged to develop their own pastoral presence in offering counsel and care.

Preaching Foundations

First-year students explore and grasp a biblical and Reformed vision of preaching. Includes a sermon preparation workshop and a "lab" in which written and preached sermons are carefully analyzed by faculty and peers. Significant homiletical concerns are presented, discussed, clarified, and applied to the task of preaching. 3 cr

RCA Standards and Polity

(required for RCA candidates)

Within the context of an overall theology of church governance, explores the candidate's specific ecclesiastical tradition (including polity and standards) as a framework for mission. 3 cr

Systematic Theology I

This first course of the two course Systematic Theology sequence explores four major Christian doctrines: the doctrines of God, creation, humanity, and Christ. These expansive headings include many other matters of theological importance, including Trinity doctrine, divine attributes, creation, humanity, the image of God, sin, providence, covenant, Israel and the significance of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. Readings will range from early church to contemporary sources.

Systematic Theology II

This course explores the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, salvation, church and sacraments. Exploring these expansive topics will include an examination of the work of the Spirit in the believing community, scripture and divine revelation, justification, sanctification, and the final judgment, as well as the theology of Word and Sacraments in the church. Readings will range from early church to contemporary sources.

Teaching Ministry

This 4-course sequence in the M.Div. program provides a place for students to practice ministry and engage in theological reflection on their experiences. Through contextual learning, it offers students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice while they engage in vocational discernment and grow in ministerial identity. Students enter a ministry setting under the guidance of a supervisor-mentor and with the support of a mentoring team who will do their best to foster a nurturing, yet challenging learning environment. WTS course work complements and enriches the student formation and learning taking place in students' ministry sites. Ministry settings for each student are identified through a careful process that involves vocational discernment and reflection in conversation with the associate director of formation for ministry. 6 cr

Worship Foundations

This course is an exploration of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian worship. 3 cr