ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SUMMER TERM 2015 COURSES

Nine graduate-level courses will be offered in the Summer Term 2015 for those interested in the study of theology for academic program requirements or for professional and/or personal development. Each course is valued at one credit. Registration for summer term courses will be accepted by the Registrar's office beginning on March 2nd. Payment for summer term courses is due by June 15th. For information about program admissions and/or course registration, please contact the Registrar's Office at (902) 425-3691 or registrar@astheology.ns.ca, or visit our website at www.astheology.ns.ca. (Please note that registration priority for summer term courses will be given to MDiv Summer Distance students.)

Summer Term courses are scheduled for Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Classrooms will be assigned prior to June 15th.

Session One (June 15 to 26)

PT 2501 United Church Polity & Ethics
This course focuses on the professional behavior of the minister in leadership of a United Church pastoral charge with concentration on (1) ethical behavior; (2) church polity and practice; and (3) leadership in changing times. This is a required course for students seeking ordination in The United Church of Canada.
1 credit
Prerequisites: None
Requirements: (a) Completion of readings; (b) seminar participation and leadership; and (c) responses to case studies.
Instructor: L. Yates

RM 1000 Research Methods and Practices
In this course, students will learn foundational methodologies and norms for graduate-level research in theology, including information literacy; style and standards; core writing competencies; qualitative research methods; and the models and methods of theological reflection. This is a required prerequisite for all 3000-level courses for those commencing MDiv studies after January 1, 2011.
1 credit
Prerequisites: None
Requirements: Attendance at all classes and tutorials. Assessment will include short and mid-length written essays and projects, as well as seminar participation.
Instructor: R. Martel with S. Pringle

ST/CH 2181 Martin Luther: The Reformer Then and Now
Nearly half a millennium has passed since a monk from the back-woods of Germany issued 95 theses for discussion in the church. It caused many to think of him as a heretic, while others hailed him as a liberator. His work came to be known as “the Reformation.” The course will look at his life, the impact he made on his own time, and trace crucial aspects of how he influenced theology, church, and social-political life since.
1 credit
Prerequisites: None
Requirements: Regular attendance and full participation in class-discussion, assigned readings, one essay on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.
Instructor: M. Rumscheidt

Session Two (June 29 to July 10)
**Session Two courses will meet from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No classes on Canada Day, Wednesday, July 1st.**

GS 3000A Graduate Project and Seminar
The Graduate Project and Seminar is a required course for the MDiv Program. This course will provide students with opportunities for in-depth exploration of questions emerging from the practice of ministry. Each project will be based in a research context chosen by its author. With support of peers and the Instructor in class during GS3000A students will develop their project proposal. After approval by the AST Research Ethics Board students will then research, draft, present, and evaluate their projects in context. Further support and ongoing evaluation will be provided online during GS3000B(Int). Students will become familiar with current trends in qualitative research methodologies. They will also sharpen their capacity to analyze phenomena in ministry. Participants are expected to demonstrate in a public event the results of original research that has consequence for the student and the wider church.
PF 1002 Preaching Foundations

This course will focus on development of capacities to read and interpret texts, plan and prepare written and spoken presentations for liturgical and educational contexts, and present self to others with integrity. The balance of the course will be tipped toward preaching, but on the whole will be useful for any student preparing for pastoral leadership in any role, including religious education.

1 credit
Prerequisites: None. Before enrolling in this course students will normally have completed at least two Foundations courses, including PF 1001 (formerly PF 1000) Pastoral Foundations. Exceptions will be made if the scheduling of courses makes this the first or second course available to a student (e.g. in First Year of Summer Distance M.Div.).
Requirements: Attendance at all classes. Evaluation by written and/or oral assignments which may include one major presentation to the class and/or a peer group as determined by the instructor, and class participation.
Instructor: R. Bartlett

PT 2139 Lustily and with Good Courage: Introduction to the Music of Worship

It has been said that the Christian Liturgy was born singing, that from earliest times the human voice has been lifted in prayer and praise. Course material will be focused on the practical and pastoral considerations around music in congregations. A historical survey of hymnody will be offered, as will a guide to understanding the organization and content of hymnals currently in use. Students will learn to sing psalms using a variety of styles including the Responsorial Psalms found in Voices United, Anglican Chant, plainsong as well as metrical settings. The implications of introducing new music to congregations will be considered, in addition to creating a rubric for assessing the suitability of hymns and songs for congregational use. Guidelines for wedding and funeral music will be considered. Music for Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter will be examined, as will music for special occasion worship such as Blue Christmas and Healing Services. Music resources for children and youth will be explored. Students will learn to lead hymns, how to galvanize local resources to integrate music in worship in meaningful and pastorally sensitive ways. Vocal instruction will be offered each day. A panel discussion will conclude the course, focusing on the working relationships between clergy and musicians, with particular emphasis on rural ministry.

1 credit
Prerequisites: None. No musical ability or background is required.
Requirements: TBA
Instructor: G. MacPhee

Session Three (July 13 to 24)

BF 1001 Biblical Foundations - Hebrew Bible

This course explores the First Testament of the Bible as a foundational element of Christian religious heritage. Students will be introduced to a progression of historical and literary data important to understanding the Old Testament in its originating cultural contexts and to considering its resonances in later cultural contexts, including our own.

The broad sweep of biblical tradition and related historical considerations will be presented in large part through guided study of the course textbook. Each week we will also give close attention in class to a particular textual instance, allowing students to develop their exegetical and interpretive skills in a process that moves towards integration of historical, literary and theological elements.

In addition, we will explore a range of practices—“things you can do with the Bible”—thus encountering the Hebrew Bible in the context of applications that have constituted much of its experienced liveliness within faith communities over millennia. The Bible’s historical and contemporary contributions to personal and communal spiritual formation and practice come into focus here, and students are given an opportunity to consider how the Bible might figure in formative ways within their practice of ministry.
PT 2134 Introduction to Dynamic Pastoral Psychotherapy
The reality is that clergy do a lot of therapeutic work. This course will take an honest look at many of the emotional issues that pastors regularly encounter in the lives of those with whom they minister. The course will examine the scope of therapeutic practice that naturally falls to pastors. It will also look realistically at what spiritual care practitioners can competently offer in the way of appropriate interventions. The course will combine the central elements of the psychotherapeutic process such as the establishment of a therapeutic covenant, transference implications, pastoral diagnosis and the central dynamic sequence with a closed-circuit video practice/supervision.
Students will be introduced to many of the primary tenets of Dr. Habib Davanloo’s Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy. These principles, that have their foundation a classical understanding of the nature of suffering, will be amalgamated with an exploration of resilience, forgiveness, empathy and character change. It is a course predicated on a deep appreciation of the human spirit’s capacity for resilience.

ST/ET 2102 Body Sculpting: Virtue Ethics for the 21st Century
On October 17th, 1978, a young man named Wayne Gretzky found a book on hockey and read it. The next day he bought a pair of skates and took to the ice. To his surprise at 4 pm on October 18th he discovered that he was the greatest hockey player who had ever lived. Soon after he was signed by the Edmonton Oilers.

Now, I don’t think I could persuade anyone, even an Irish person, that the above story is true. While we Irish know nothing about “ice” hockey, everyone knows that to be good at something we need to practice, shape ourselves, and develop muscle memory and brain patterns that can enable us to “do” something really well. Even Wayne Gretzkey (whom even we Irish know to have been a great hockey player!) wouldn’t have been able to just read a book and then do something really well.

Despite this, do we assume that we can do justice or tolerance really well, having simply read about them in a book called the Bible? For countless voices within the Christian tradition (some of whom we’ll read) justice is an embodied practice, and so requires, well, practice, such as the practice of the "Cardinal virtues".

Does this, however, imply a works based righteousness, where we, in essence, “save” ourselves through our actions? In responding to this question we will also look at the “Theological virtues”, again within a 21st century context. Through both we will be exploring the moral life in terms of virtuous practices of the person and not least those virtuous practices stemming from the gracious self-giving of the Holy Spirit.