

COURSES OF INSTRUCTION FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT GRADUATE STUDIES

Course Descriptions

These courses serve the Master of Divinity program, the Master of Arts (Theology and Religious Studies) program, and the Graduate Certificate Program in Theological Studies.

Numbering for Courses:

1000 numbers: Foundation level.

2000 numbers: no prerequisites for this course.

3000 numbers: prerequisites as listed.

Abbreviations for Courses:

BF - Biblical Foundations

CH - Church History

CM - Church Music

ET - Ethics

HB - Hebrew Bible

GS - Graduate Project and Seminar

GTRS - Graduate Theology and Religious Studies

NT - New Testament

PF - Pastoral Foundations/Preaching Foundations

PT - Pastoral Theology

RM - Research Methods and Practices

SFE - Supervised Field Education

SMP- Supervised Ministry Practicum

ST - Systematic Theology

TF - Theological Foundations

WF - Worship Foundations

(Int) designates courses taught asynchronously via the internet.

(Hyb) designates hybrid courses for which students are required to attend on campus or in the virtual online classroom in real time according to the AST Timetable of courses.

Descriptions of prerequisites, teaching methods, and requirements are summary statements only and are subject to revision. Changes may be made in course offerings and instructors due to registration numbers, ongoing curriculum revision and faculty availability. The alpha and numeric designations for courses will be used on the timetables. A combination of alpha abbreviations means that the course may be considered in one of the subject areas for degree and certificate program purposes.

AST students who wish to take graduate courses at another accredited university toward completion of AST program requirements require a Letter of Permission from AST (see "Letter of Permission for External Courses" in Academic Policies and Regulations).

Additional Course Offerings and Update for 2019-2020

For course information not provided in this Calendar and any changes or updates in course offerings please contact the Registrar's Office or AST's website for updates. Timetables for each term are available through the Registrar's Office and AST's website.

Foundation Courses (Summer, Fall and Winter Terms)

BF 1001(Int)

Biblical Foundations: Hebrew Bible (W-20)

The First Testament of Christian Scripture, also called the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, is a fundamental part of Christian tradition and durable rule of faith and practice. Students in this course will therefore be introduced to historical and literary data important for understanding the origins of the Hebrew Bible and its subsequent function as Old Testament Scripture in a variety of cultural and religious contexts.

The broad sweep of biblical tradition will be presented through a survey of representative books from the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. To help foster an ecumenical outlook, primary readings from the Bible will be supplemented by case studies of classic Jewish and Christian readings of biblical texts. Students will develop their exegetical skills by studying these examples, and so learn to appreciate the diverse literary, canonical, cultural, historical, hermeneutical, and theological elements involved in biblical interpretation. In addition, the course will consider some ways that the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament can feature in the practice of ministry and in the spiritual practice of faith communities. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Weekly readings, weekly discussions, a presentation, two short papers.

Instructor: D. Driver

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

BF 1002

Biblical Foundations: New Testament (S-19)

This core course is an introduction to the major methods and issues in New Testament interpretation: source, textual, form and redaction criticism, biblical exegesis, theological interpretation and the world of Matthew's Gospel. Our foci will include Matthew's distinctive hermeneutical, historical, and theological interests. Classes will involve lecture, small-group discussion, and some introduction to New Testament Greek. Students will become familiar with the theology of Matthew's Gospel, gain skill and confidence in understanding and interpreting the text of Matthew's Gospel, and apply aspects of this gospel to the ministry of preaching/teaching.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Short written exercises, preparation for class discussions, one class presentation.

Instructor: D. MacLachlan

BF 1002(Hyb)

Biblical Foundations: New Testament (F-19)

This core course is an introduction to the major methods and issues in New Testament interpretation: source, textual, form and redaction criticism, biblical exegesis, and the world of Matthew's Gospel. Our foci will include Matthew's distinctive hermeneutical, historical, and theological interests. Classes will involve lecture, small-group discussion, and some introduction to New Testament Greek. Students will become familiar with the theology of Matthew's Gospel, gain skill and confidence in understanding and interpreting the text of Matthew's Gospel, and apply aspects of this gospel to the ministry of preaching/teaching.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Short papers, participation, report.

Instructor: J. Campbell

This is a hybrid course for which students are required to attend on campus or in the virtual online classroom in real time according to the AST Timetable of courses.

PF 1001

Pastoral Foundations (F-19)

The purpose of this course is to explore the importance of meaning, connection and relationship in the lives of those with whom we will minister. Pastoral Foundations is designed to assist participants in developing their identity as spiritual care practitioners. The course will lay the basis for the deep work of "curing souls." We will investigate how the divine emerges, develops, and is responded to in the pastoral life of the individuals and Christian communities. We will also examine who we are as people who bear responsibility as leaders, particularly as we work with those who seek support and guidance in times of stress and transition. This course will focus on theories of pastoral diagnosis, psychology, ethics, congregation dynamics, and leadership. Participants will dive into the dynamic nature of the spiritual arts, such as prayer, meditation, contemplation and spiritual discipline, all of which enhance meaning, connection and relationship.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: None.

Instructor: J. Clarke

PF 1002

Preaching Foundations (S-19)

This course will focus on developing 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 ideally have completed at least two Foundations courses, including PF 1001.

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. Note: first class session (June 17, 2019) will take place 1:30 to 4:30 pm; all other class sessions will take place 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Instructor: R. Edwards

PF 1002

Preaching Foundations (W-20)

This course will focus on the development of capacities to interpret texts and contexts and to proclaim the gospel in multiple ways. Attention will be given to the interpretation of biblical texts, a variety of cultural texts, and the various contexts in which our faith communities find themselves embedded. Students will gain understanding in the nature of the gospel message and challenges and opportunities that exist for proclaiming that message in contemporary contexts.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None. Before enrolling in this course students will ideally have completed at least two Foundations courses, including PF 1001.

Requirements: Attendance. Evaluation by oral presentations (sermons/homilies), written assignments, and class participation.

Instructor: D. Csinos

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

RM 1000

Research Methods and Practices (F-19)

This course is required for all MDiv students and should be taken within the first ten credits. In this course, students will learn foundational methodologies and practices for graduate level research in theology, including information literacy; citation style and standards; plagiarism and academic integrity; and the competencies required for qualitative research methods including the research traditions such as Basic Qualitative Research, Phenomenology, Ethnography, Narrative Analysis, and Qualitative Case Study.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Attendance at all classes, in-class exercises, quizzes, short and mid-length written projects.

Instructors: R. Martel & L. McKeen

TF 1000(Hyb)

Theological Foundations (F-19)

An exploration of the questions, tasks, methods and habits of Christian theology. Through a combination of lectures and seminar discussions, the course will investigate the substance and architecture of the ecumenical core of Christian doctrine in running conversation with a wide-range of contemporary theological perspectives.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Preparation for weekly seminars, several short essays, and a final take home examination.

Instructor: D. Deane

This is a hybrid course for which students are required to attend on campus or in the virtual online classroom in real time according to the AST Timetable of courses.

WF 1000

Worship Foundations (S-19)

Worship beats at the heart of every Christian community. This course will explore worship as a practice of Christian discipleship, looking primarily at elements of various worship traditions and styles. We will also examine ecumenical implications for worship and look at some of the current issues in liturgy and music

which churches face and consider questions of hospitality in worship with different ages, cultures and theological convictions.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: TBA.

WF 1000(Int)

Worship Foundations (W-20)

Worship beats at the heart of every Christian community. This course will explore worship as a 'practice' of Christian discipleship, looking primarily at elements of various worship traditions and styles. We will also examine ecumenical implications for worship and look at some of the current issues in liturgy and music which churches face and consider questions of hospitality in worship with different ages, cultures and theological convictions. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Reading and online discussion (in small groups); one reflection paper, one research paper, one aesthetic project

Instructor: S. Willhauck

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

MDiv Program Required Courses

Denominational Formation Program Credit

MDiv students receive one credit (pass/fail) for active participation in the denominational formation program throughout their studies. This credit is registered and paid for in the final term (usually Winter Term) of the MDiv Program. Students not affiliated with one of AST's three founding traditions should consider a directed study in their own spiritual and religious tradition to meet this requirement.

DF 3000(ACC)

Formation Program (Anglican Church of Canada) (W-20)

Anglican students preparing for ordained ministry within the MDiv curriculum of AST are required to participate in the Anglican Formation Program. It is sponsored by the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the Diocese of Fredericton, and AST. Please obtain the permission of your Bishop to enter the Program. Normally, participants will be a postulant or candidate for ordination.

1 credit (Students register for DF 3000(ACC) credit in final term of the MDiv Program.)

Prerequisites: RM 1000 or GTRS 6000. Students enter Formation at the request of their sponsoring Bishop.

Requirements: Attendance at class, liturgies and Anglican community events, preparation and participation, occasional short papers.

Instructor: P. Jennings

DF 3000(BAPT)

Formation Program (Baptist) (W-20)

Course description: TBA

1 credit (Students register for DF 3000(BAPT) credit in final term of the MDiv Program.)

Prerequisites: RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: TBA

Instructor: E. Colqhoun

DF 3000 (RCC)

Formation Program (Roman Catholic Church) (W-20)

To receive one AST credit for the Roman Catholic denominational formation program, you are required to take the Friday evening Spirituality components and Saturday afternoon Pastoral Dimensions of the Roman Catholic Church in *Koinonia* each year over three years and a Wednesday Roman Catholic Formation Program when offered by Roman Catholic Faculty at AST.

1 credit (Students register for DF 3000(RCC) credit in final term of the MDiv Program.)

Prerequisites: RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: Attendance and participation in Koinonia, Koinonia liturgies, RC community events, and occasional reflection papers related to Koinonia.

Instructor: A. Sadi

DF 3000(UCC)

Formation Program (United Church of Canada) (W-20)

For on-campus students, credit for DF 3000(UCC) is granted if you participate in the Wednesday afternoon United Church Formation program for three years. This program includes weekly gatherings for worship, small group ministry, presentations and discussions on topics specific to ministry leadership in the United Church of Canada. A final-year retreat completes the program. All Candidates for ordained ministry are required to participate in the AST United Church Formation Program. Students pursuing Discernment are strongly encouraged to attend. Part-time students are encouraged to attend Wednesday Formation Group in their first, third, and fifth year.

The Formation program for Summer Distance students includes daily worship and occasional community activities on campus during the Summer Term, and monthly online reflections and discussions during two of the five years of the program. A weekend retreat caps off the Formation program during the final summer of the program.

1 credit (Students register for DF 3000(UCC) credit in final term of the MDiv Program.)

Prerequisites: RM 1000 or GTRS 6000. Students enter Formation as candidates for ordained ministry or discerning ordained ministry in the UCC. Those preparing for diaconal ministry are very welcome to attend. Other students may be admitted with the instructor's permission.

Requirements: Preparation for and participation in all aspects of the three year UCC Formation program; worship planning, leadership and reflection; assigned reflection papers.

Instructor: R. Bartlett

GS 3000A&B

Graduate Project and Seminar (F-19 & W-20)

The Graduate Project and Seminar is a required and invaluable component of AST's MDiv Program. The Seminar provides students with an exciting opportunity for students to engage in a piece of original research. Students will develop, execute and evaluate a question in ministry that has consequence for the student-researcher and the church. Students will become familiar with current trends in qualitative research methodologies, and will sharpen their capacity to formulate essential questions, push at assumptions, and break into brave new worlds. They will also develop an appreciation for the skills

necessary to analyze the numerous phenomena that impact ministry. Participants are expected to produce a piece of novel research and present these insights to a public audience.

1 credit for GS 3000A

1 credit for GS 3000B

Prerequisites for GS 3000A: All Foundations courses, three SFE/SMP credits, and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Prerequisites for GS 3000B: GS 3000A.

Requirements: Research Ethics Board proposal, public presentation, and final essay.

Instructor: J. Clarke

GS 3000A & 3000B(Int)

Graduate Project and Seminar (S-19 & F-19)

The Graduate Project and Seminar is a required course for the Master of Divinity 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 develop, execute, 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.

1 credit for GS 3000A

1 credit for GS 3000B(Int)

Prerequisites for GS 3000A: All Foundations courses, three SFE/SMP credits, and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Prerequisites for GS 3000B(Int): GS 3000A.

Requirements: Research project and final paper

Instructor: S. Willhauck

GS 3000A is offered on campus in the Summer Term 2019.

GS 3000B(Int) is offered asynchronously via the internet in Fall Term 2020.

SFE 1000

Supervised Field Education (W-20)

This course is about the disciplined study of ministry as it is lived out in the lives of ministerial personnel and people. Supervised Field Education is designed to provide students with a context within which they can explore, practice and reflect on the nature of ministry, congregational life, worship, and mission. This action/reflection format will focus specifically on the leadership needs of the church. SFE 1000 also prepares students for SFE 2001 and SFE 2002. In most cases, the student will remain in the same setting for the second year of her or his program. This course will also cultivate praxis theology, in which lived experience is correlated and integrated with theological reflection.

1 credit

Prerequisites: PF 1001. Students registered in this course must be interviewed by the instructor prior to placement. The instructor may require further studies or reflection prior to acceptance into the course and placement in a learning site.

Requirements: Participants will develop a learning covenant between themselves and their supervisor. Students will be expected to become active members of the parish/congregational setting. They will be

expected to preach at least once, explore Christian education, and participate as a leading-learner within the parish/congregation. An on-campus seminar is part of the course.

Instructor: K. Wagner

SFE 2001 and 2002

Supervised Field Education (F-19 & W-20)

Fall Term: Building on the groundwork established in SFE1000, students will most often remain in their site from year 1 and continue to deepen relationships within the community of faith through worship leadership and a focus on pastoral care. Learning goals will be established and weekly reflective meetings with the supervisor held. Experiences are shared and evaluated from pastoral, formational and theological perspectives in peer groups. Students must complete both the site component and the school component satisfactorily to receive credit.

Winter Term: Continued participation in the life of the congregation or parish. Students will plan, carry out and evaluate an education event using a curriculum they have designed. Continued work on learning goals and weekly reflective meetings with the supervisor are to be held as well as reflective work in peer groups. Again, students must complete both the site component and the school component satisfactorily to receive credit.

1 credit for SFE 2001

1 credit for SFE 2002

Prerequisites for SFE 2001: PF 1001 and SFE 1000 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.

Prerequisites for SFE 2002: SFE 2001 or permission of instructor.

Requirements: Leadership in worship and preaching, pastoral care assignments, a minimum of 9 weekly integrative seminars during the term, a weekly 1-hour session with supervisor and a minimum of 8 hours on-site experience weekly. Normally students must pass all required components of SFE to receive credit for the course.

Instructor: S MacAlpine-Gillis

Summer Distance MDiv Program Required Supervised Ministry Practicum Courses

SMP 1000(Int)

Supervised Ministry Practicum (F-19 & W-20)

The course is required for all Summer Distance M.Div. students, and is open only to students in that program. It is the first half of a two-year cycle of courses (followed by SMP 2000) that provides the online seminar component for students undertaking ministry placements at a distance from campus. The focus is on theological, pastoral, and personal reflection on the practice of ministry, and the integration of academic and pastoral concerns. Students enrolling in this course must have an approved ministry placement (paid or unpaid) and a local ministry supervisor prior to beginning this course. Completion of both fall and winter terms of SMP 1000 are required to earn one credit.

1 credit

This is a full-year course from September to April. Credit is awarded in the Winter Term.

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: K. McNabb

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

SMP 2000(Int)

Supervised Ministry Practicum (F-19 & W-20)

The course is required for all Summer Distance M.Div. students, and is open only to students in that program. As the sequel to SMP 1000, it is the second half of a two-year cycle of courses that provides the online seminar component for students undertaking ministry placements at a distance from campus. The focus is on theological, pastoral, and personal reflection on the practice of ministry, and the integration of academic and pastoral concerns. Students enrolling in this course must have an approved ministry placement (paid or unpaid) and a local ministry supervisor prior to beginning this course. Completion of both fall and winter terms of SMP 2000 are required to earn one credit.

1 credit

This is a full-year course from September to April. Credit is awarded in the Winter Term.

Prerequisites: SMP 1000.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: K. McNabb

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

SMP 3000(Int)

Supervised Ministry Practicum and SME (F-19 & W-20)

The course is required for all United Church of Canada Summer Distance M.Div. students, and is open only to United Church students in that program except by special permission. It is the first half of a two-year cycle of courses (followed by SMP 4000) that provides the online seminar component for students undertaking Supervised Ministry Experience placements (SME), formerly known as “internship.” The focus is on theological, pastoral, and personal reflection on the practice of ministry within the United Church, and the integration of academic and pastoral concerns. Students enrolling in this course must have an Office of Vocation-approved SME placement and a local ministry supervisor prior to beginning this course. Completion of both fall and winter terms of SMP 3000 are required to earn one credit, and both SMP 3000 and SMP 4000 must be completed to fulfill denominational SME requirements.

1 credit

This is a full-year course from September to April. Credit is awarded in the Winter Term.

Prerequisites: SMP 2000.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: D. Zub

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

SMP 4000(Int)

Supervised Ministry Practicum and SME (F-19 & W-20)

The course is required for all United Church of Canada Summer Distance M.Div. students, and is open only to United Church students in that program except by special permission. As the sequel to SMP 3000, it is the second half of a two-year cycle of courses that provides the online seminar component for students undertaking Supervised Ministry Experience placements (SME), formerly known as “internship.” The focus is on theological, pastoral, and personal reflection on the practice of ministry within the United Church, and the integration of academic and pastoral concerns. Students enrolling in this course must have an Office of Vocation-approved SME placement and a local ministry supervisor prior to beginning this course. Completion of both fall and winter terms of SMP 4000 are required to earn one credit, and both SMP 3000 and SMP 4000 must be completed to fulfill denominational SME requirements.

1 credit

This is a full-year course from September to April. Credit is awarded in the Winter Term.

Prerequisites: SMP 3000.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: D. Zub

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

**MA (Theology and Religious Studies) Required Course
GTRS 6000(Hyb)**

Theory and Methods in Theology and Religious Studies (F-19)

Theology and Religious Studies are multidisciplinary fields of inquiry. Theology is the scholarly exposition of the practices and thought of religious practitioners. It includes the disciplines of Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, ethical theory and practice, and pastoral training. Religious Studies considers religions in their diverse cultural and social settings. It encompasses the theories of religion, the social scientific study of religious experience, comparative study of religions and cultures, and comparative ethics. The course requires students to study and compare the theories and methods of Theology and Religious Studies.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Argument maps, presentation, book review.

Instructors: A. Faber and A. Hussain

This is a hybrid course for which students are required to attend on campus or in the virtual online classroom in real time according to the AST Timetable of courses.

Elective Courses for all Programs

Summer Term 2019 Courses Arranged by Session

(See above for Foundation Course titles and descriptions; and below for elective course titles and descriptions.)

May 2019 (May 20 to 30): ST/CH 2103

Session One (June 17 to June 28): PF 1002, PT/ST 2111, and HB 3109

Session Two (July 1 to July 12): WF 1000, PT/ET 3135, and ST 3164

Session Three (July 15 to July 26): BF 1002, ST/ET 2102, and GS 3000A

Please note that registration priority for Summer Term courses will be given to Summer Distance MDiv students.

Summer Term 2019 Elective Courses (Listed alphabetically by subject area)

HB 3109

The Book of Isaiah (S-19)

The Book of Isaiah is regarded by both Jews and Christians as sacred scripture. It tells of God's plan for God's people as worked out in human events. This course explores the historic, linguistic, and theological framework of the Book of Isaiah, viewed both as a canonical whole and as an assemblage of discrete oracles and events brought together in one document.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1002 and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000; Hebrew language an asset but not necessary.

Requirements: 4 short papers and a bibliography.

Instructor: W. Eisner

PT/CH 2111

Indigenous Culture, History and Contemporary Issues (S-19)

This course provides an introduction to Indigenous culture in Turtle Island (North America) from the perspectives of Indigenous peoples of eastern Canada, particularly the Mi'kmaq people of the Algonkin language family. Further sources of learning will arise from engagement with the Bible, Indigenous history, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A survey of Indigenous people across the country in light of land, languages and cultures will set the stage for discussion of colonization and its impact on Indigenous people. The dynamics of Indigenous cultural development, change, adaptation, resistance, destruction and recovery will be discussed. Honoring the traditional lands of Mi'kmaq people will include an Indigenous knowledge keeper and ceremony of welcome. Each day will begin with Indigenous ceremony to set the tone for daily discussions from readings, presentations and student research into Indigenous culture, history and contemporary issues. Participation in Indigenous ceremony is entirely voluntary will not affect anyone's grade. This course is open to AST students and to anyone desiring Continuing Education in Aboriginal issues.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: A. Jacobs

PT/ET 3135

Virtue, Ethics and the Lost Art of Leadership (S-19)

This course is an exploration of those practices and habits that contribute of enhancing how we live as individuals and citizens within a wide variety of communities. Participants will be invited to explore the nature of virtue and experiment with how the nurturing of various disciplines can enhance their lives. Living within a community places demands on how we make decisions. The course will also explore some of the ethical frameworks that can optimize our commonwealth. In the age of tyrannical, reactive and prescriptive leadership models, the course will attempt to excavate ways of leading that drawn on an emerging (or perhaps an ancient) understanding of virtue and ethics that will assist in charting a bold new course for ourselves and those we serve.

1 credit

Prerequisites: PF 1001, or permission of the course instructor, and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: A degree of creativity, courage and openness. The course will entail approximately 30 pages of reading per day, students will be expected to present their insights in the form of short reflections, a creative project and a brief exam. (For those who dread examinations, this is your opportunity to challenge such fear. The promise is that the exam will be enjoyable . . . more or less.)

Instructor: J. Clarke

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

ST 3164

Theologies of the Global South (S-19)

This course explores the theological methods, content, and challenges of theological movements among communities that are found south of the equator and in diaspora. The unique impact of context, history, and socio-economic circumstances will form part of our investigation. The course will also consider how these global theologies might influence and change the theologies of the North Atlantic. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: TF 1000, or equivalent, and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: TBA

ST/CH 2103

Ecumenical Pilgrimage

This course is comprised of a study tour to various sites of ecumenical significance, including Geneva, Cluny, Taizé, and Chartres in May 2019. In addition to examining the theme of pilgrimage, participants will also study the current international migration crisis and its implications for Christian witness and service. Extended walking is part of the study tour (approx. 4 hours/day). Course participants must separately register with AST for the course credit and pay the tour operator for the travel costs. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants. A limited number of spaces are available for non-credit Continuing Education participants. Contact instructor for more details.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Participation in the study tour; pre-event and post-event seminars (online); readings; four reflection papers; final essay.

Instructor: R. Fennell

This is a field-based course offered from May 20 to 30, 2019

ST/ET 2102

Body Sculpting: Virtue Ethics for the 21st Century (S-19)

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, develop muscle memory and brain patterns that can enable us to "do" something really well. Even Wayne Gretzky 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 exploration of both Cardinal and Theological virtues we will be exploring the moral life in terms of virtuous practices of the person the gracious self-giving of the Holy Spirit.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Reading texts, conversing in class, some short reflections and a short paper.

Instructor: D. Deane

Fall Term 2019 Elective Courses

CH/ST 2104

The First Christian Theologians (F-19)

This course will explore the history, theological movements, personalities, and issues in the period of Christian history between the completion of the New Testament canon and the Council of Nicaea (325). Readings will be drawn from a range of sources, including the Apostolic Fathers, Ignatius, Polycarp, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Clement of Alexandria. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: D. MacLachlan

NT 1001

New Testament Greek (F-19)

This course will present and explore the basics of NT Greek grammar and syntax needed to begin translating and interpreting the NT Greek text.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Class preparation, quizzes, midterm and final tests.

Instructor: D. MacLachlan

NT 3118

The Parables of Jesus (F-19)

The purpose of this course is to explore how the form known as the parable functions in the Synoptic Gospels. The course will consist of readings, Joan's Notes, written assignments and much discussion. We will normally focus upon one parable per session. In each case we will apply the principles of the historical critical method and cultural criticism in order to better understand how the Synoptic evangelists employed the particular parable. Moreover, we will critique some of the current scholarly analysis of each parable. Emphasis will be on understanding the parables in their canonical contexts while finding bridges to contemporary applications.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1002 and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: Short assignments, participation, report.

Instructor: J Campbell

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

NT 3120

Meeting Jesus in the Fourth Gospel (F-19)

The Gospel of John is a fundamental resource for Christian theology. Narrative encounters between Jesus and a variety of other characters provide an important means by which the Johannine author has created a unique portrait of Jesus and of the Johannine community. Exegetical and cultural analysis of several such scenes will introduce students to the Fourth Gospel's Christology, ecclesiology, and the social context out of which this gospel emerged.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1002 and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: short assignments, participation, report

Instructor: J. Campbell

PT 2142(Int)

Coming to Faith: The Formation and Development of Faith in the Life Cycle (F-19)

Coming to Faith is a theological exploration of how is faith experienced throughout the life cycle. It uses a thematic approach rather than solely structural/developmental one, incorporating traditional and contemporary expressions of faith formation in the church community and family settings. The course will engage students in writing their faith histories to explore theological themes such as trust, doubt, play, identity, estrangement and humor. It will consider contributions of socialization theorists, developmentalists, and moral theologians concerned with character formation, as well as biblical and historical understandings of nurture, conversion and sanctification. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Lecture and discussion, essays, faith history project.

Instructor: S. Willhauck

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

PT 2501

United Church Polity and Ethics (F-19)

This course focuses on the professional behavior of the minister in leadership of a United Church of Canada pastoral charge with concentration on (1) ethical behavior; (2) church polity and practice; and (3) leadership in changing times. Special attention will be directed to the changed organizational norms and structures of the United Church. This is a required course for students seeking ordination in The United Church of Canada. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: R. Bartlett

ST 2138(Hyb)

Mary and Mariology (F-19)

This course offers an extended engagement with the theology of Jesus' mother, Mary. It focusses on 4 main areas (1) The development of Marian doctrines in the history of the Church, particularly the patristic

period. (2) The role of the blessed Virgin in Christian piety, past and present. (3) Marian dogma, its theological development and recent expressions. And (4) Modern lenses, exploring Marian theology in light of feminist and ecumenical perspectives. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Readings, Class Conversation, Short and longer papers.

Instructor: D. Deane

This is a hybrid course for which students are required to attend on campus or in the virtual online classroom in real time according to the AST Timetable of courses.

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

ST 2140

The Holocaust and Theology: Reading Between the Lines (F-19)

This course explores the phenomenon of the Holocaust by examining its relationship to religion in both its institutional and theological frameworks, beginning with a study of relevant scriptural passages (Hebrew Bible, New Testament). A key question will be the nature of the connections between religion and the climate that led to the Holocaust. Course participants will also have the opportunity to learn within the broader context of Holocaust Education Week in Halifax. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Informed participation; reading assignments; short papers; project (sermon or community event); final essay.

Instructor: B. Zahra

ST/CH 2178(Int)

History & Theology of the European Reformations (F-19)

This course undertakes an examination of several major themes of the Reformation and Enlightenment eras, including theological contexts, political motivations, social realities, spiritualities, and competing understandings of the church and salvation. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Learning covenant that combines informed seminar participation, short assignments, presentations, and final essay.

Instructor: R. Fennell

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

ST/CH 3106

Sacramental Action: The Anglican Narrative (F-19)

This is a course whose objective is to make participants conversant with the liturgical heart of the Anglican tradition—the sacraments. The course itself has an historical shape, as the early Anglican tradition inherited the sacramental theology and practice that had developed from the earliest centuries and then

evolved, in dialogue with the wider western church, within what became an independent catholic communion. Participants will consider key sacramental texts drawn from early, medieval, and reformation documents as they focus on Anglican sacramental evolution to the present, especially the authorized sacramental rites of the ACC.

1 credit

Prerequisites: ST/CH 2107 *Anglican Theology: Roots and Branches*; and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: Course participation; essay preparation assignments; term essay.

Instructor: P. Friesen

ST/ET 2103

Violence and Theological Ethics (F-19)

Violence arrests and wounds theological attention. In response, Christian theologians often structure their interpretations of violence within a dualism of good/evil. This course complicates such an approach with narrative ethics and lyrical approaches to violence, using novels and film as resources. This way, another kind of theological response to violence comes into view: a difficult, patient attention to violence as a phenomenology of the body threatened. These approaches will be contextualized through a framework for ethics proposed by Samuel Wells and Ben Quash: universal, subversive, and ecclesial ethics, focussed, respectively, on decision, power, and character. Among others, we read works by Hannah Arendt, Judith Butler, Cherie Dimaline, Stanley Hauerwas, Primo Levi, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Lee Maracle.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Critical questions, essay, creative project

Instructor: A. Faber

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

Winter Term 2020 Elective Courses

ET/CH 2101

The Virtue of Friendship in an Age of Facebook (W-20)

The course explores friendship as a virtue for our time. We consider the synergies and surprises that emerge when we read classical ethical and theological understandings of friendship in the context of contemporary insights and dilemmas. We read, among others, selections from Aristotle, Augustine, Aelred of Rievaulx, Teresa of Avila, Janet Martin Soskice, Shannon Vallor, Jacques Derrida, Ann Patchett, and Andrew Sullivan, on friendship. Topics include the mutations of friendship through “everyday liturgies” of platforms like Facebook and other social media, the reconsideration of friendship in a culture that fetishizes romantic love, friendship as the habit of conversation across difference, the possibility of friendship as a practice of reconciliation with First Nations, and the implications of the radical biblical metaphor of friendship with God.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Critical questions, short essay, creative project.

Instructor: A. Faber

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

HB 3111

The Book of Genesis (W-20)

From the creation of the world to the call of Abraham, and from the promise of children to the establishment of the people Israel, the Book of Genesis is one of the greatest origin stories ever told. Biblical scholars today write about the “lost world” of Genesis, and so try to account for the genesis of Genesis. There is indeed much to learn about the history behind the first book of the Bible. The book has given rise a major history of its own, however, and this history of reception has lately become an area of interest in modern research. The history of the text thus includes the question of how Genesis relates to the so-called Abrahamic religions, and so invites ecumenical study. This course will consider multiple approaches to the text. It ultimately seeks to integrate what can be known about worlds behind and before the Book of Genesis into a comprehensive theological vision that includes both its prehistory and its role as Jewish and Christian scripture, from antiquity down through the present day. Students will have an opportunity to sample some of the best ancient and modern interpretations of the book, and to develop their own expositions of it. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1001 and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: Weekly readings, weekly discussions, a presentation, two short papers.

Instructor: D. Driver

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

NT 3003

New Testament Greek Seminar (W-20)

This course will be a follow up to NT Greek Introduction.

1 credit

Prerequisites: NT 1001 or equivalent, and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: Weekly translations, a paper on a NT Greek text or part thereof.

Instructor: D. MacLachlan

NT/PT 2100(Hyb)

Journeying through the Fifth Gospel (Israel study tour) (W-20)

This course offers students a ten-day study-abroad experience in Israel and the Palestinian territories, a land whose history and major cities and sites allow a unique opportunity to explore the history and development of the biblical literature, as well as of the three major monotheistic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This course may be used as either a Pastoral or a New Testament elective, depending upon the student’s research interests. Some preparatory classes will be held prior to travel. Assignments will include a book review and presentation on the chosen research theme (prior to travel), participation (such as preparing worship services for the group while abroad), journal/blog during the time in the Holy Land, and an integration paper following the study experience. The travel dates will correspond with February term break and the final cost will be determined by the size of the group that is travelling.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Book review, presentation, participation, journal/blog, integration paper.

Instructors: J. Campbell & S. MacAlpine-Gillis

This is a hybrid course for which students are required to attend on campus or in the virtual online classroom in real time according to the AST Timetable of courses.

NT/ST 3132(Int)

The Epistle to the Hebrews, Then and Now (W-20)

This course will examine and discuss the New Testament Epistle to the Hebrews. The class will work on the usual exegetical and theological topics that arise in its chapters, but contemporary themes will be brought into dialogue with its arguments and theology. This will include particularly the Christian view of Judaism and the potential for anti-Judaism, and the Christology prevalent in the Epistle and its significance and challenge for modern conversations with other religious traditions. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1002 and TF 1000 and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000. Greek will be used but not required.

Requirements: Weekly preparation and submissions for class, participation in discussions, a small exegetical paper, a paper on a contemporary issue.

Instructor: D. MacLachlan

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

PT 2153

The Challenges of Ministry Leadership (W-20)

Using a combination of readings, case studies, and presentations, this course will engage with crucial aspects of leadership in congregations and parishes in this time of flux and change. Augmented by four experienced ministry practitioners from different denominational traditions, the course will address real issues confronting ministry personnel today. Attention will be given to a variety of factors, including pastoral concerns, leadership best practices, theological reflection, and the spiritual life of leaders. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Active engagement with readings and classroom discussions; group work on case studies; book review; original case study.

Instructor: R. Bartlett

PT 2502

United Church Worship (W-20)

This course explores the historical and present practices, theologies and theories that inform and shape the diverse worship and liturgical experiences of the United Church of Canada. This course assumes that the purpose of worship is to praise God, to nurture and strengthen the spiritual lives and practices of individuals and communities, and to foster discipleship for the transformation of God's world. This is a required course for students seeking ordination in The United Church of Canada.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: TBA.

Instructor: S. Shaw

PT/ET 3136

Pastoral Care Emergencies (W-20)

This course will explore the hard edges of pastoral ministry. The particular focus will be on those events that hold of potential of traumatizing individuals or a community. This is not a course for the faint of heart. Topics include sexual and physical assault, suicide, murder, complex and complicated grief as well as aftermath of accidents, crisis care

1 credit

Prerequisites: PF 1001, or permission of the course instructor, and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: A degree of creativity, courage and openness. The course will entail approximately 30 pages of reading per day, students will be expected to present their insights in the form of short reflections, a creative project and a brief exam. (For those who dread examinations, this is your opportunity to challenge such fear. The promise is that the exam will be enjoyable . . . more or less.)

Instructor: J. Clarke

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

PT/HB/NT 2101(Int)

The Bible and Spiritual Formation (W-20)

The Bible is both an ancient and contemporary source for the spiritual life. This course will explore ways in which the Bible is formative for adult faith by lifting up biblical themes in spirituality. It examines numerous methods of studying scripture; the relationship between biblical interpretation and spiritual growth, as well as how reading and study can deepen one's relationship with God. Participants will practice spiritual disciplines stemming from and related to the Bible. Attention will be given to approaches to teaching the Bible to enhance spiritual growth.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Reading and class participation; journaling; project presentation, self-guided retreat.

Instructor: S. Willhauck

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

This course is offered asynchronously via the internet.

PT/ST 2144(Hyb)

Re-imagining Ministry with Children and Youth (W-20)

Children and youth occupy an ambivalent space in our churches—and our world at large. On the one hand, we want them in our communities and congregations, as they represent new and ongoing life. Yet on the other hand, we often don't want to deal with the noise, messiness, and unpredictability that seem to accompany young people everywhere they go. In this ecumenical and experiential course, we'll dig deep into assumptions about children, youth, and Christianity, exploring doctrinal and ministerial questions such as: What do resources in theological anthropology have to say about what it means to be a young person? What do scripture and tradition tell us about our responsibilities toward them? How do theological matters such as soteriology, sanctification, and ecclesiology intersect with the lives of young people? How can we nurture generative faith in young people and what innovative approaches exist to help us along the way? How does prioritizing children and youth challenge our current thoughts and practices? This course isn't intended to help you choose a new children's liturgy or curriculum or attract teens to church; it will call you to critically engage in assumptions, ideas, and practices surrounding ministry with children and youth in

order to help foster living, active, and flourishing faith in young people. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Attendance, reflection paper, class presentations, theological research paper, and critical resources analysis.

Instructor: D. Csinos

This is a hybrid course for which students are required to attend on campus or in the virtual online classroom in real time according to the AST Timetable of courses.

ST 2129

Confessing to Love: Theology and Literature (W-20)

This course brings theology and literature into conversation with the aim of interpreting the theological significance of “neighbouring.” How do we understand the call to “radical availability” (Breidenthal) in the Judeo-Christian love ethic for contemporary society and culture? Beginning with Augustine’s *Confessions* and George Eliot’s *Silas Marner*, we shift to contemporary novels, J. M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*, Katherena Vermette’s *The Break*, and Carolyn Marie Souaid’s *Yasmeen Haddad Loves Joanasi Maqaittik*.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Critical questions, 1 short essay, creative project.

Instructor: A. Faber

This course includes an arts component (e.g. visual, literary, performing) of at least 20% of the course grade.

ST 2162

Non-Christian Religion in Canada (W-20)

This course is an introduction to non-Christian religious traditions from a historical and contemporary Canadian perspective. Religious traditions explored in this course may include: Indigenous traditions, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and New Religious Movements. We will explore the basic components of these traditions, how they developed within a Canadian context and notable challenges these communities faced, as well as the scope of their current presence. We will also explore various approaches to interfaith/interreligious encounter, dialogue, and cooperation. This course is intended for students who do not have a previous academic background in world religions. Students will be expected to have interfaith encounters as part of this course. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Seminar attendance; required readings; attending a religious service; written assignments.

Instructor: L McKeen

ST 3170

Trinity (W-20)

When Christians resolve not to keep silent about God, what do they say? This course explores the nature and implications of this central expression of the Christian account of the relational, dynamic, loving reality of the triune God. Historic, liberationist, feminist, global, and interreligious perspectives will be considered in ecumenical context. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: TF 1000 and RM 1000 or GTRS 6000.

Requirements: Learning covenant that combines informed seminar participation, short assignments, presentations, and final essay.

Instructor: R. Fennell

ST/CH 2104(Hyb)

Roman Catholic Apologetics: The Difficult Questions (W-20)

Statistics show that Church attendance, participation in Christian life, and faith in God have declined **dramatically** in the last 40 years. We like to think that this is because we were not welcoming enough. We hope that if only we could give people more hugs the Gospel would flourish once again. These same statistics, however, also show that massive numbers of people aren't participating in the Christian life, not because they think we're mean, but because they think that Christian beliefs are utter nonsense.

While Catholics may seem like nice people, millions of people think that belief in God is like belief in a flying spaghetti monster in the sky, that transubstantiation is little more than an adolescent belief in voodoo and that things like the Catholic view of sexuality, the priesthood, original sin and so on are not just feeble minded but hate-filled bigotry.

This course is a response to this situation. It aims to offer coherent and dynamic accounts of Christian thought that so many find implausible, it aims to show the beauty and radicality in the Catholic understandings many consider to be bigoted and hate filled. This course aims to offer intellectual resources to propose, to secular modernity, that it may have misunderstood the very Christian beliefs it rejects. This course is open to AST students and to Continuing Education participants.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Reading texts, attending lectures, speaking in class, thinking bravely and rigorously, and writing short papers.

Instructor: D. Deane

This is a hybrid course for which students are required to attend on campus or in the virtual online classroom in real time according to the AST Timetable of courses.

Internet and Hybrid Courses for 2019-2020 (See above for course titles and descriptions.)

Students must have an up-to-date computer and high-speed internet access to take online courses and to access online study/research resources. Students must be familiar with current technology in order to make full use of the AST Library on and off campus. We encourage you to take technology training.

Internet courses are normally offered using Brightspace, a comprehensive asynchronous education technology platform.

Hybrid courses may be taken on campus in the classroom, or online in real time as the classroom group is meeting.

Note: Campus and distance students may register for internet and/or hybrid courses.

Fall 2019 Internet:

GS 3000B(Int), PT 2142(Int), SMP 1000(Int), SMP 2000(Int), SMP 3000(Int), SMP 4000(Int), ST/CH 2178(Int). (Note: SMP courses are full-year courses from September to April.)

Fall 2019 Hybrid:

BF 1002(Hyb), GTRS 6000(Hyb), ST 2138(Hyb) and TF 1000(Hyb).

Winter 2020 Internet:

BF 1001(Int), NT/ST 3132(Int), PT/HB/NT 2101(Int), SMP 1000(Int), SMP 2000(Int), SMP 3000(Int), SMP 4000(Int) and WF 1000(Int).

Winter 2020 Hybrid:

NT/PT 2100(Hyb), PT/ST 2144(Hyb) and ST/CH 2104(Hyb).

Please note that registration priority for internet and hybrid courses may be given to Summer Distance MDiv students.

***Clinical (Supervised) Pastoral Education
PT 3901 and PT 3902***

AST in conjunction with the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC) provides unique clinical educational experiences for students. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is offered in accredited health care settings. The educational methodology is based on praxis pedagogy. Students work closely with patients and staff in a variety of health care settings. They then analyze and theologically examine the experience.

Contained within Clinical Pastoral Education are two essential education objectives. First, the chaplain-intern has an opportunity to practice pastoral ministry. Second, the intern will be expected to master a body of technical skills and academic material related to their role as a professional and a member of a health-care team. This body of material is available through seminars, clinical case conferences, directed reading and interaction with thoughtful and experienced resource people.

Academic credit for Clinical Pastoral Education falls in the area of electives in pastoral theology.

One basic unit of CPE is valued at two academic credits. A unit consists of 400 clinical hours, divided among direct service, supervision, clinical presentations, didactic seminars, and peer group work. Clinical Pastoral Education grounds students in the lived experience of individuals, relational units, and institutions. It is out of these experiences that students are challenged to hone their skills and ask critical questions of themselves and their world while forming their identity as practitioners of spiritual care.

All CPE units registered for credit through AST will form part of a student's academic record. CPE units will be designated as PT 3901 or PT 3902 on a transcript for the term in which the unit is completed.

Students who complete a CPE unit for credit through an accredited theological school outside the Atlantic Region may request that AST receive the credits in transfer as per AST's Transfer of Credits into AST policy. Students who seek to transfer CPE credits to AST must provide a transcript from the authenticating professional school. Only CPE units completed within ten years prior to the request for credit transfer will be considered for authentication by AST.

AST will issue credits for authentication of CPE units completed at an appropriate CPE institution. A fee of \$100 per credit authenticated will be charged by AST in addition to required fees.

Credits for CPE included in AST's determination of a student's status as full-time or part-time for student loan purposes are subject to the student loan specifications.