

Graduate Course Offerings 2022-23

Notice regarding Textbooks

Students are responsible for locating and purchasing their own books for all courses. AST does not have a bookstore and does not order books for purchase. To find the list of books for each course, consult the “Students” page on the AST website, and click on “Textbooks.”

Course Indicators

BF	Biblical Foundations	RM	Research Methods and Practices
CH	History of Christianity	SFE	Supervised Field Education
ET	Ethics	SME	Supervised Ministry Education
HB	Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	SMP	Supervised Ministry Practicum
GS	Graduate Project and Seminar	ST	Systematic Theology
GTR	Graduate Theology and Religious Studies	TF	Theological Foundations
NT	New Testament	WF	Worship Foundations
PF	Pastoral Foundations or Preaching Foundations		
PT	Pastoral Theology		

SUMMER 2022 (June 13 – July 22)

Note: All Summer term courses are scheduled to take place in person on campus.

Session 1: June 13-24

HB 2201

Beginning Biblical Hebrew I (S22)

For students who wish to read, hear, and even (to an extent) produce Hebrew, this course offers a textually immersive introduction to classical Hebrew. Grammatical features like morphology, phonology, and syntax are learned inductively, through a cycle of illustrated readings drawn from Genesis. Techniques of second-language acquisition are also used to help develop language competency. Continuation in HB 2202 is strongly recommended.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Daily assignments and in-class work, periodic quizzes, one or two longer interpretive exercises or exams.

Instructor: D. Driver

Session 1: June 13-24

NT 3112

The Corinthian Correspondence (S22)

This course will study the major literary, theological and exegetical issues in the epistles of Paul to the Corinthians. This work will be supplemented by bringing the pastoral concerns of today's churches and society to bear on his writings to the Christians in Corinth. The interaction of these two horizons will help us hear both settings better and gain new insights into the preaching and living the Gospel today. Familiarity with Greek is helpful but not required.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1002, RM 1000 or GTR 6000.

Requirements: Informed participation, short assignments, major paper

Instructor: D. MacLachlan

Session 1: June 13-24

CH 2005, PT 2005

Indigenous Culture & History (S22)

This course is an introduction to Indigenous culture in Turtle Island (North America) from the perspectives of Indigenous peoples of eastern Canada, particularly the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, and Abenaki peoples of the Algonkin language family. Further sources of learning will include 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. We will conduct a survey of Indigenous people across the country in light of land, languages, and cultures that 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 will feature a Mi'kmaq 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. Participation in Indigenous ceremony is entirely voluntary will not affect anyone's grade.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Daily journal; research project

Instructor: A. Jacobs

Session 1: June 13-24

Directed Study PT 2182

Rural Context & Ministry (S22)

This Directed Study will provide students with an opportunity to reflect critically and creatively on rural context and culture for ministry. Students will register separately for and must attend the “Rural Routes Through the Holy: Thrive Where We Are” program at Camp Ta-Wa-Si, near Johnston Point, New Brunswick, June 16-18, 2022. The costs of the conference are separate from the cost of course tuition. In addition, students will meet with the instructor twice online prior to the event, and once afterward. Students will synthesize their on-site learning and assigned reading in order to re-evaluate how the narrative ‘sense of place’ vis-à-vis their geography informs and sustains the cultural identity and spirituality of rural communities and congregations. Conference registration and information website: <https://hemofthelight.com/>

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Informed participation in three online meetings; full in person participation in “Rural Routes” conference (June 16-18); one written essay.

Instructor: M. Anderson

Session 2: June 27 – July 8

TF 1000

Theological Foundations (S22)

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: Informed participation, short daily writings, final essay

Instructor: D. Deane

Session 2: June 27 – July 8

HB 3106

The Book of Jeremiah (S22)

The book of Jeremiah offers the portrait of a prophet compelled to witness to the end of the kingdom of Judah. This course considers the multi-voiced witness of the Jeremiah-tradition as instanced in the book, as well as attending to our own multi-voiced responses. Our reflections on Jeremiah and ‘his’ book will turn towards what it might mean to practice hope in turbulent in-between times.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1001, RM 1000 or GTR 6000

Requirements: Informed participation; daily preparation via study guides; short paper

Instructor: S. Slater

Session 2: June 27 – July 8

PT 2501

United Church Polity and Ethics (S22)

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 of Canada. *This course is a requirement for United Church of Canada students seeking ordination.*

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Informed participation; discussion leadership; book review; case studies.

Instructor: R. Bartlett

Session 2: June 27 – July 8

PT 2134

Dynamic Pastoral Psychology (S22)

Those in ministry do a great deal of frontline, acute therapeutic work. This course will look at many of the emotional issues that pastors regularly encounter in the lives of those with whom they minister. It is designed to examine the scope of therapeutic practice that naturally falls to pastors. It will look realistically at what spiritual care practitioners can competently offer in the way of appropriate short-term interventions. Participants will be invited to combine the central elements of the psychotherapeutic process such as the establishment of a therapeutic covenant, transference implications, pastoral diagnosis, along with basic counselling theory. The course will function much like an intense workshop. Pastoral sessions will be videorecorded and then reviewed by the class.

Students will be introduced to many of the primary tenets of Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy. These principles, which 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 buoyancy.

1 credit

Prerequisites: A conversation with the course instructor.

Requirements: Two daily experiential blocks: one 3-hour session in the morning and one 2-hour session in the afternoon. Two focused writing assignments.

Instructor: J. Clarke

Session 3: July 11-22

BF 1002

New Testament (S22)

The writings of the New Testament are foundational for Christian faith and practice. In this course, students will closely read selections from across the NT canon – from the Pauline corpus; Synoptic gospels and Acts; Johannine literature; and Catholic epistles. To aid their reading of these texts, students will learn to engage questions of historical origins, exegesis, theology, and the New Testament's imprint in the life of the Church.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: TBA

Instructor: E. Kozitza Dean

Session 3: July 11-22

PT 2184

Celtic Worship and Music (S22)

This course will enable an understanding of a distinct strain of Christian witness which is rooted in both the Celtic past and present. It will cover a little history, but much more liturgy, music, poetry, and reflections which offer fresh insights into everything from the Incarnation to the central significance of the environment to God and God's people, and draw on the experience and resources of The Iona Community.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Informed participation; short project; final essay

Instructor: J. Bell

Session 3: July 11-22

ET 3139, PT 3139

Upsetting the Pulpit (S22)

This advanced course in preaching pushes the boundaries of homiletical imagination by moving beyond common assumptions about and persistent norms for sharing the gospel in Christian communities of faith. Students will critically engage with voices from marginalized communities and issues related to diversity—especially postcolonialism, intergenerationality, and gender and sexual diversity—and consider how they dare pastoral leaders to rethink the task of preaching. More than simply new ways to deliver sermons, these are ethical challenges that transform the pulpit into a locus of justice by prioritizing marginalized persons and neglected contexts. Students will experiment with anti-discriminatory preaching in light of their own congregations and parishes. *A second course in preaching, such as this course, is required for United Church of Canada students seeking ordination.*

1 credit

Prerequisites: PF 1001, PF 1002, RM 1000 or GTR 6000

Requirements: Informed participation, sermons/homilies, choice of creative presentation or annotated bibliography

Instructor: D. Csinos

FALL 2022 (September 12, 2022 – December 12, 2022)

BF 1001 (INT)

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (F22)

The First Testament of Christian Scripture is a fundamental part of Christian tradition and durable rule of faith and practice. Students in this course will be introduced to historical and literary data important for understanding the origins of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and its subsequent function as scripture in a variety of contexts. The outlook will be broadly ecumenical, with case studies that exemplify Jewish and Christian interpretation. This course will be offered online (asynchronous format).

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

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

Instructor: D. Driver

GTR 6000 (HYB)

Theory and Methods (MA) (F22)

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 will require students to study and compare the theories and methods of Theology and Religious Studies. *This course is required for all MA students and should be taken in the first year of the MA program.*

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Chapter summaries, short essays, book review

Instructor: A. Faber & S.A. Hussain

HB 2202 (HYB)

Beginning Biblical Hebrew II (F22)

The natural continuation of HB 2201, this course is for those who wish to have a complete introduction to the basics of biblical Hebrew. Students will progress through encounters with less regular paradigms and more complicated syntax, building confidence as they master select readings from Genesis. The goal of the full course series, in two parts, is a proficiency in the rudiments of Hebrew that is sufficient for the independent reading of biblical books.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Daily assignments and in-class work, periodic quizzes, one or two longer interpretive exercises or exams.

Instructor: D. Driver

NT 2114, CH 2114 (HYB)**Jesus' Birth & Infancy (F22)**

This course investigates multiple traditions of Jesus' birth and infancy in the 1st -6th centuries CE. Students learn to trace the contours of these traditions as they developed in New Testament and apocryphal narratives, theology, apologetics, liturgy, and artistic expressions.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: TBA

Instructor: E. Kozitza Dean

NT 3133 (HYB)**Hebrews: Theology and Liturgy (F22)**

The epistle to the Hebrews is one of the most theologically rich writings of the New Testament. In recent decades, scholars have sought to contextualize the theological drama of Hebrews with various proposals about how it relates to ancient Jewish and early Christian liturgy. This course will conduct a close reading of the epistle, with a special focus on this interrelation between theology and liturgy.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1001, BF1002 , RM 1000 or GTR 6000

Requirements: TBA

Instructor: E. Kozitza Dean

PF 1001 (HYB)**Pastoral Foundations (F22)**

The purpose of this course is to explore the very substance of ministry. With equal vigor we will explore how we are shaped and formed as pastoral professionals. Pastoral Foundations is a venture in learning how to live our spirituality in a way that connects theory with practice, action with reflection and service with mission. This course places a priority on the human search for meaning, connection, and relationship as well as dimensions of life that we have not yet discovered. We will explore contemporary methods and themes that enhance our appreciation of practical theology, with a focus on assessing, interpreting, and contributing to the current state of the church and the world.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Readings and short responses, presentations, brief essay, final project. This course includes an arts component.

Instructor: J. Clarke

PT 2156, ET 2156 (INT)

Economic Justice & Mission (F22)

From climate change to fair trade, congregations seeking to live out their mission by thinking globally and acting locally often have to wrestle with large and complicated issues of economics and politics. Using historical and theological perspectives on economic justice, this course will engage with current critiques of globalization and the market society. Students will also learn to shape congregational approaches to mission-focused strategic planning, community partnerships and social enterprise. This course will be offered online, combining asynchronous and synchronous elements.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Readings; informed participation; recorded presentation; research essay

Instructor: A. O'Neill

PT 3000, CH 3000 (INT)

Pastoring in a Secular Age (F22)

“What does it mean to say that we live in a secular age?” This question that Charles Taylor asks to open his 2007 opus *A Secular Age*. This course will dive off the deep end into Taylor’s theories surrounding how we have moved “from a society in which it was virtually impossible not to believe in God, to one in which faith, even for the staunchest believer, is one human possibility among others” (Taylor, p. 3). Along the way, we will be accompanied by theologians who consider how Taylor’s understanding of this massive change in Western society invites ministers to rethink and adapt the practice of pastoral leadership for the sake of God’s mission. What does it mean to say that we minister in a secular age? While pastors might answer this question differently, one thing that’s clear is that it’s a question to which we must respond.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Participation includes larger than normal amounts of reading, asynchronous online activities, and attendance at synchronous online classes on three full Fridays (9:30-4:30 Atlantic Time on September 23, October 21, November 18).

1 credit

Prerequisites: PF 1001, RM 1000 or GTR 6000

Requirements: Participation, presentations, research essay, pastoral practice

Instructor: D. Csinos

RM 1000 (INT)**Research Methods and Practice (F22)**

In this course, students will learn foundational methods and practices for graduate level research such as information literacy awareness; citation style and standards; plagiarism and academic integrity; and the writing style required for annotated bibliographies and literature reviews. Students will also receive an introduction to qualitative research methodologies such as basic Qualitative Research, Phenomenology, Ethnography, and Narrative Analysis. This course will be offered online (asynchronous format). *This course is required for all MDiv students and should be taken in the first year of the MDiv program.*

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Assessment includes Brightspace discussion board posts, a quiz, short and mid-length written projects

Instructor: R. Martel

ST 2133, CH 2133 (HYB)**RC Apologetics (F22)**

Apologetics is an intellectual defense of what you believe. This course offers apologetic resources for Roman Catholics seeking to defend their faith in the 21st century. It focusses on the most challenging and difficult questions they face.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Short weekly writings and readings for DNE and EQUIP students. Readings, class preparation, short weekly writing, and two larger essays for graduate students.

Instructor: D. Deane

ST 2164, CH 2164 (HYB)**Roots and Branches: Anglican (F22)**

This is an introductory course whose key objective is to acquaint participants with the overall shape of Anglican theology and key issues within Anglican theology in the ecumenical context of the other great Christian traditions. *This is a required course for Anglican MDiv students.*

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

Requirements: Weekly reading and analysis of documents and commentary; ten 500-word response essays; informed participation in weekly seminars.

Instructor: P. Friesen

ST 2174, ET 2174 (HYB)**Virtue Ethics (F22)**

This is a course on virtue ethics and explores the cardinal and theological virtues. It engages classical models in dialogue with 21st century moral questions (particularly concerning sexuality and economics).

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Short writing assignments and readings

Instructor: D. Deane

WINTER 2023 (January 5, 2023 – April 5, 2023)**CH 2126 (HYB)****Early Christian Music (W23)**

This course surveys the extant evidence for the musical practices of Christians in antiquity, and studies representative hymn texts from this period. Several interrelated questions help to define the course's main avenues of inquiry: What was the place of music in early Christian piety? How are we to engage various types of evidence – literary, papyrological, and material – in our construction of ancient Christian musical practices? In what contexts do we find early hymns, and what themes emerge from reading them? This course will be offered on campus only.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: TBA

Instructor: E. Kozitza-Dean

DFA 3000

Formation: Anglican (W23)

The course aims to guide students in the formation of their own identity as an ordained minister, as they integrate their own gifts, passions, and challenges with the church's expectations of the role. We will explore the theological foundation and practical responsibilities of ministry, but also the student's own spiritual growth into this new role.

1 credit

Prerequisites: RM 1000; permission of sponsoring bishop.

Requirements: Attendance; participation in weekly classes and AST Anglican eucharist and community events; self-reflective essay.

Instructor: TBA

Note: Students register for DFA 3000 credit in final term of the MDiv program.

DFC 3000

Formation: Roman Catholic (W23)

This course will help students to bring together their theoretical learnings with their pastoral practice to better equip and engage them in the life of ministry as an individual and as part of a parish community in the Roman Catholic context. Students will discern and develop their gifts through prayer, reflection, and small group discussion to explore how they live and share the mission of Christ.

1 credit

Prerequisites: RM 1000

Requirements: Weekly reflection assignments.

Instructor: A. Sadi

Note: Students register for DFC 3000 credit in final term of the MDiv program.

DFU 3000

Formation: United Church (W23)

Through engagement with guest speakers, visits to local sites of interest, discussions, small groups, readings, and worship, students explore the deepening of their call to ordered ministry within The United Church of Canada and the impact of faith on life and leadership. This course must be taken on campus for residential students and online for summer distance students.

1 credit

Prerequisites: RM 1000

Requirements: Attendance and participation; shared worship leadership; integrative essay.

Instructor: R. Bartlett

Note: Students register for DFU 3000 credit in final term of the MDiv program.

ET 2102 (HYB)**Sexual Ethics (W23)**

Christians confess that God comes to us *in the flesh*, incarnate in Jesus Christ. How is our sexuality implicated in our love for God? What sources and norms do Christians appeal to for their understanding of “just love”? How might diverse sexual practices express “the body’s grace”? How do contemporary conversations about gender, gender queering, consent, etc. impact Christian talk about sex?

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Critical questions, short essay, creative project

Instructor: A. Faber

NT 3101**The Revelation to John (W23)**

This course will examine the Book of Revelation as a piece of Christian imagination for its time and ours. It will help participants to understand better the symbolism and realism contained in its visions and to locate the Revelation within the Biblical and the Jewish/Christian apocalyptic literature. The course will concentrate on what John’s purposes were in writing this book as these are revealed in the organization, structure, original context, and theology of the book itself. The course will encourage participants to relate the book to contemporary events and conditions in ways that are both responsible to the original purpose of the book and to the proclamation of the gospel in our time. This course will be offered on campus only, but distance students may request a hybrid option. Contact the instructor for details.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1001, BF 1002 , RM 1000 or GTR 6000

Requirements: Weekly preparation of readings and Revelation passages; peer discussion; major exegetical paper.

Instructor: D. MacLachlan

NT 3126 (HYB)**Acts of the Apostles (W23)**

The Acts of the Apostles is a vivid historiographical narrative of the infancy of the Church. This course will engage in a close reading of Acts and investigate its multi-faceted cultural setting, its emerging ecclesiology, and its portrayal of foundational Christian figures including the apostles Peter and Paul.

1 credit

Prerequisites: BF 1002; RM 1000 or GTR 6000

Requirements: TBA

Instructor: E. Kozitza Dean

PT 2183 (INT)**Part Time Ministry (W23)**

Part-time employment in ministry is becoming common across mainline denominations. This course introduces students to concepts and practical tools to thrive in this new context. This course will be offered online, combining asynchronous and synchronous elements.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Readings, class participation, short written assignments

Instructor: R. Bartlett

PT 2502 (INT)**United Church Worship (W23)**

The purpose of this course is to explore the liturgy and sacraments of The United Church of Canada, with special attention to their historical development, how our worship today reflects the varied richness of voices within our congregations and communities, and the critical challenges and opportunities facing worshipping communities as they respond to continuous change. This course will equip candidates for ministry with the tools and approaches necessary to help them in preparing and leading worship, especially the best practices for preparation, collaboration with volunteers and staff, and the use of technology within various church contexts. Students will reflect critically on the role of worship in the life of the congregation and wider community, and the minister's role in worship as servant leader. This course will be offered synchronously ("live") online. *This course is a requirement for United Church of Canada students seeking ordination.*

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Informed discussion; reflection paper; video presentation; final essay.

Instructor: A. O'Neill

PT 3139, ET 3139**Upsetting the Pulpit (W23)**

This advanced course in preaching pushes the boundaries of homiletical imagination by moving beyond common assumptions about and persistent norms for sharing the gospel in Christian communities of faith. Students will critically engage with voices from marginalized communities and issues related to diversity—especially postcolonialism, intergenerationality, and gender and sexual diversity—and consider how they dare pastoral leaders to rethink the task of Christian preaching. More than simply new ways to deliver sermons, these are ethical challenges that transform the pulpit into a locus of justice by prioritizing marginalized persons and neglected contexts. Students will experiment with anti-discriminatory preaching in light of their own congregations and parishes. This course will be offered on campus only. *A second course in preaching, such as this course, is required for United Church of Canada students seeking ordination.*

1 credit

Prerequisites: PF 1001, PF 1002, RM 1000 or GTR 6000

Requirements: Readings, participation, sermons/homilies, choice of creative presentation or annotated bibliography

Instructor: D. Csinos

ST 2200, CH 2200 (HYB)**Mysticism, Art & Theology (W23)**

Often with wild poetics, mystical theologians including Augustine, Evagrius Ponticus, Hildegard of Bingen, Marguerite Porete, Meister Eckhart, Simone Weil and Thomas Merton explore the strangeness of God's presence in relation to self-presence, and to "decreation." We read the primary works of these theologians, and art created in response to their theologies.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Critical questions, short essay, creative project.

Instructor: A. Faber

ST 2202, CH 2202 (INT)**European Reformations (W23)**

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 will be offered online, combining asynchronous and synchronous elements.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None.

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

Instructor: R. Fennell

ST 3170 (HYB)**Trinity (W23)**

This course explores the doctrine of the Trinity. The first half of the course explores the biblical foundations of the doctrine and the theological conversations (in the first 500 years of Christianity) that shaped it. The second half looks at how the doctrine informs Christian theology in moral, social, and liturgical contexts.

1 credit

Prerequisites: TF 1000, RM 1000 or GTR 6000

Requirements: Readings, class preparation, and essays

Instructor: D. Deane

ST 3180, CH 3180 (HYB)**The Doctors of the Church (W23)**

This course engages some key figures – "doctors" of the Church – through their sermons. It (A) offers an exploration of their theology and the historical debates against which their theology was framed, and (B) interrogates their written sermons to learn about how they sought to proclaim their faith in their cultural milieux. "Doctors" engaged will include John Chrysostom, John of Damascus, Hildegard of Bingen, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Martin Luther King Jr.

1 credit

Prerequisites: TF 1000, RM 1000 or GTR 6000 Requirements:

Readings, class preparation, and essay writing

Instructor: D. Deane

WF 1000 (INT)**Worship Foundations (W23)**

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 examine the work of the ecumenical movement and its implications for worship. We will also look at some of the current issues in liturgy and music that churches face, and consider questions of hospitality in worship with different ages, cultures, and theological convictions as well as worship in virtual space. The course engages students in exploring the role of art in worship. This course will be offered synchronously (“live”) online.

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Weekly readings, online discussion, art project, worship exploration and leadership, research paper

Instructor: S. MacAlpine-Gillis

TWO TERMS COURSES (September 12, 2022 – April 5, 2023)**GS 3000 (HYB)****Graduate Project and Seminar (F22-W23)**

The Graduate Project and Seminar is a required course for the MDiv program. It may be taken in the MA program if desired. 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, students will develop their project proposal. After approval by the AST Research Ethics Board, students will research, draft, present, and evaluate their projects. 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. Both fall and winter terms must be completed to earn the course credits.

2 credits

Prerequisites: For MDiv students: all Foundations courses; RM 1000 or GTR 6000; SMP 2000 or SFE 2002. For MA students: GTR 6000.

Requirements: Research Ethics Board proposal, field research, public presentation, final essay

Instructor: D. Csinos

MAP 1000 (HYB)

Ministry Action Program (F22-W23)

This course is required for all MDiv students and should normally be taken in the first year of studies. It is the first half of a two-year cycle of courses (followed by MAP 2000 in 2023-24). This course is about the disciplined study of ministry as it is lived out in the lives of ministerial personnel and people. The Ministry Action Program works directly with students as they experience a learning context within which they can explore, practice, and reflect on the nature of ministry, congregational life, worship, and mission. This action/reflection format focuses on the current and future needs of the church and world of which the church is a part. Students enrolling in this course must work (paid or volunteer) within an approved ministry placement site. Both fall and winter terms must be completed to earn the course credit.

1 credit

Prerequisites: All students will need an approved learning site.

Requirements: The course begins in early October. Students are expected to spend approximately 8 hours per week in the learning site. Seminars and short papers.

Instructor: J. Clarke

SFE 2001 & SFE 2002

Supervised Field Education (F22-W23)

In SFE 2001, building on the relationships established in SFE 1000 students will continue to deepen the relationships in the community of which they are now a part. This includes a focus on liturgical leadership and concentrated attention on pastoral care and relational dynamics. Learning goals and weekly reflective meetings with the supervisor become a vital part of the learning process.

Experiences are shared and evaluated from pastoral, formational, and theological perspectives in peer groups. In SFE 2002, now deeply immersed in the life of the community, 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 held as well as reflective work in peer groups. This course will be offered on campus only.

2 credits

Prerequisites: For SFE 2001: PF 1001, SFE 1000, or permission of instructor. For SFE 2002: SFE 2001 or permission of instructor.

Requirements: Readings; leadership in worship and preaching; pastoral care assignments; weekly seminars; weekly supervisory sessions; a minimum of 8 hours on-site experience each week; educational project

Instructor: J. Clarke

SME 3000 (INT)

Supervised Ministry Education (F22-W23)

This course is required for United Church of Canada Summer Distance MDiv students, and is open only to such students in that program except by permission. It is the first half of a two-year cycle of courses (followed by SME 4000) that provides the online seminar component for students undertaking Supervised Ministry Education placements (SME), formerly known as “internship.” The focus is on theological, pastoral, and personal reflection on the practice of ministry within The United Church of Canada, 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 SME 3000 are required to earn course credit, and both SME 3000 and SME 4000 must be completed to fulfill denominational SME requirements.

1 credit

Prerequisites: SMP 2000

Requirements: Readings; informed participation; reflection papers

Instructor: A. O’Neill

SME 4000 (INT)

Supervised Ministry Education (F22-W23)

This course is required for United Church of Canada Summer Distance MDiv students, and is open only to such students in that program except by permission. As the sequel to SME 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. Both SME 3000 and SME 4000 must be completed to fulfill denominational SME requirements. Completion of both fall and winter terms of SME 4000 are required to earn course credit, and both SME 3000 and SME 4000 must be completed to fulfill denominational SME requirements.

1 credit

Prerequisites: SME 3000

Requirements: Readings; informed participation; reflection papers

Instructor: A. O’Neill

SMP 2000 (INT)

Supervised Ministry Practicum (F22-W23)

This course is for students in the Summer Distance MDiv program, engaging theological reflection, study, and conversation with peers. The focus is on forming pastoral identity and leadership and applying learning in the placement site. Both fall and winter terms must be completed to earn the course credit.

1 credit

Prerequisites: SMP 1000

Requirements: Students must be in an approved field placement site; informed participation in online discussions; 3 “live”/synchronous class sessions; short essays and projects.

Instructor: K. McNabb

INTERSESSION (April 16 – June 16, 2023)

CH 2000, NT 2000, PT 2000 (HYB)

Footsteps of St. Paul (I23)

This course offers students an 18-day pilgrimage in Turkey and Greece, a land whose history and major cities and sites are central to the early church. Immersed in the geography, history and culture of this ancient land, students will delve into the pages of Scripture each day of the tour. Walk the excavated ruins of Ephesus, visit the river where Lydia was baptized, see the place where Paul and Silas were held captive, journey to Patmos where John wrote the Book of Revelation and visit the sites of the Seven Churches named in that book. Our pilgrimage will start in Istanbul and end in Athens. There will be preparatory online classes prior to travel. Assignments will include a pre-travel presentation on the chosen research theme, participation (such as preparing worship services for the group while abroad), and a journal/blog during the time we are traveling plus an integration project following the study experience. Tentative travel dates are May 23 – June 9, 2023. The costs of travel are separate from the cost of course tuition and will depend on the number of participants. A full itinerary and costs should be available by May 2023.

1 credit

April-June 2023

Prerequisites: None

Requirements: Pre-trip seminars, research presentation, community formation/participation on the trip, journal/blog, integration project. Physical ability to walk at least 5 km per day.

Instructor: S. MacAlpine-Gillis

Please note that the following AST courses have been discontinued:

SFE 1000 (replaced by MAP 1000)

SMP 1000 (replaced by MAP 1000)