

Course Descriptions

OT 531 Old Testament Book Study—Exodus: This course examines the book of Exodus to explore its structure, historical context, themes, relationship to the plan of redemption, the Bible as a whole, and practical applications and meanings for today.

Reimagining Congregational Life Seminar: This course will guide students through the process of assessing the health of a congregation, diagnosing the symptoms, cultivating an authentic vision, and developing a strategy for implementation.

CH 503 The Apostolic Fathers: This course will examine the Christian theologians and leaders of the 1st and 2nd centuries, following the time of Christ and His Apostles. Students will study their historical settings, biographical backgrounds, and writings. The course will cover the intellectual and spiritual contributions and relevance to the Christian Church today. Emphasis is on the writings and lives of Ignatius of Antioch, Clement of Rome, and Polycarp of Smyrna. Students will study the Didache, the oldest known Christian manual of church life, next to the New Testament. Also, as time permits, we will explore the Epistle of Diognetus, the Epistle of Barnabas, and the Shepherd of Hermas. This course will focus its study solely on orthodox Christian theological writers, rather than the copious Gnostic heretical texts that circulated concurrently at that time.

PT 731 Homiletics—Expository Preaching: This comprehensive study explores the principles of Christ-centered sermon preparation and delivery. Students will write and structure expository sermons and practical exercises, along with assigned readings of sermons from famous preachers as models.

AARS 530 Preaching Methods in the African American Tradition—Preaching is vital to the worship context in the African American tradition. Through rigorous biblical criticism, cultural relevance, and a homiletical approach, preaching undergoes several reviews before the preacher proclaims the message. This course will examine the varied ways to move from scripture to sermon. Students will commit to a preselected text for the semester and present it in class using various methods. This will enable students to learn alternative preaching methods, assisting them in their preaching.