

Flourish Online Seminary Course Descriptions

Fall Courses

PC511 – Introduction to Pastoral Counseling

Introduction to Pastoral Counseling is designed to equip individuals in a variety of ministry and church settings to offer effective, short-term counseling and basic care from an integrative, pastoral perspective.

Themes will include theoretical approaches to pastoral counseling, the development of a personalized approach to pastoral counseling, the role of a pastoral counselor, pastoral counseling ethics, multicultural competence in pastoral counseling, and self-care.

This course is designed with the assumption that students are active participants in the learning process. This course is designed to value critical thinking, courteous dialogue, theological reflection, openness of expression, empathy toward others, and honest interaction.

TH501 – Theology Survey I

This course is an introduction to Christian theology. It will cover five modules:

1. An introduction to theology looking at methods, approaches, sources, and foundations of theology.
2. The Bible and the doctrine of Scripture, looking first at inspiration and canon and then at its authority and interpretation in theology.
3. The Doctrine of God and the Trinity through the insights of the early church and its labour to put into words the realities of God that had been revealed.
4. A study of the doctrines of Creation and then the fall which will include creation and providence, human nature, original and actual sin.
5. A fifth module will end the course but will consist of your own study, research, and completion of final projects/papers.

EV510 – Evangelism in the Local Church

This course provides a comprehensive and practical introduction to the theology and practice of evangelism, particularly in and through the local church. It is designed to prepare pastors and church leaders in fostering the evangelistic outreach of individuals and of the congregation as a whole. The course focuses on the nature of congregational life and how it impacts the type of outreach and missional texture it promotes. Further, there is attention to the change process associated with moving a congregation into a new direction.

MC/SF501 – Spiritual Formation for Ministry

The goal of this course is to introduce and explore the spiritual habits and disciplines of the Christian faith in conjunction with crafting a rule of life, which will help sustain a lifetime of ministry and mission. This exploration will be informed by the great spiritual leaders and traditions of the Christian Church.

Unlike many courses that rightly focus on mastering a body of knowledge and/or expertise, this course will be more of a “lab” course focusing on developing one’s relationship with God. Emphasis will be on the personal development of spiritual habits and disciplines through daily practice, combined with discovering the importance of accountable community in sustaining one’s soul over a lifetime of ministry.

Spring Courses

OT500 – Exploring the Old Testament

This course highlights the big picture of the Old Testament through the lens of relationship. Book by book it plots God's relentless pursuit of a *people* (with whom he might relate), a *place* (for the relationship to unfold), and a *presence* (God's presence that reveals his character). Through this tri-fold emphasis of a people, and a presence (PPP) we will see how each book fits into the overarching story of the Old Testament and how the unfolding narrative points forward to the New Testament.

MC601 – Polity of ECO

The goal of this course is to give students a practical and working knowledge of the polity of ECO. We will present the polity in a larger context of the ethos and culture that ECO has been founded upon and seeks to enhance.

Our polity is short and there are few concepts that need to be mastered, so we will also discuss some best practices for utilizing the polity within congregational and denominational contexts. Students therefore will have shorter lectures than many courses that have a larger body of knowledge and will spend more time in reflection, observation, and dialogue in a variety of settings.

TH502 – Theology Survey II

This course is an introduction to Christian theology. It will cover five modules:

1. The person of Christ which will explore Scripture's witness, how the two natures, divine and human find union in the one man, Jesus, and how this shapes redemption.
2. This second module looks at the person and work of the Holy Spirit in manifesting the work of Christ in our lives and the church.
3. The third module will look at human sin and depravity and the need of salvation and then explore the concepts of redemption, reconciliation, and atonement.
4. The fourth module looks at the nature of the church as the redeemed people of God and explore its Life, order, and mission.
5. The fifth and final module looks toward future things and the return of Christ but also the fact that these "heavenly realities" have already begun.

MC512 – Discipleship and Disciple-Making

This course provides a comprehensive and practical introduction to the theology and practice of discipleship, particularly in and through the local church. It is designed to prepare pastors and church leaders in fostering the discipleship and equipping of individuals and of the congregation as a whole. This course focuses on the nature of congregational life and how it impacts the type of discipleship and missional texture it promotes. Further, there is attention to change process associated with moving a congregation into a new direction.

Summer Courses

CL/MC707 – Leadership in the Local Church

There are many roles that ministers play – teacher, preacher, equipper, pastor, shepherd, etc. Today, a congregation yearns for the role of skilled servant leader in a congregational context. As the North American church leaves the context of Christendom behind and heads into a more missionary encounter with the culture, ministers need to gain experience in leading change. Making changes in congregations is a very complicated venture, requiring many different facets of leadership. In this course, we will examine the elements of leadership in a Christian context from a biblical and historical basis. Particular focus will be upon self-understanding, what parts of leadership will be natural, and which ones will need to be acquired.

MC/EV665 – Church Planting in a Post-Christian Context

This course is a practical course designed to provide students with a grasp of the issues and dynamics involved in planting churches in a post-Christian context. Students will learn how to develop a strategy for starting and multiplying churches that is applicable to their context and community. This course will address current church planting models, methods, and processes.

NT501 – New Testament Survey

This course is designed to introduce students to the New Testament Survey, providing a framework to understand its message as a whole, as well as the particular message of each book.

Recognizing the richness of the New Testament message as a faithful witness to the self-disclosure of God in Christ, attention will be given to the broader theological picture of God's redemptive act running throughout the whole New Testament canon as well as the historical particularities in which that message was communicated. To that end, the historical-cultural, literary, and theological aspects of the New Testament will be explored.

PR601 – Preaching: Principles and Practices

This course is designed to equip the student for developing and delivering biblical, exegetical sermons that are relevant to the preaching context. You will gain experience in the spiritual, biblical, communication, and administrative practices necessary to preach an effective sermon.