

THEOLOGY (THL)

Program Director: Richard W. Miller
Program Office: Humanities Center, Room 134

GRADUATE STUDY IN THEOLOGY

The graduate program in theology engages Christians of all denominations in intensive investigations of developments in the major areas of contemporary theology: Biblical Studies, Systematic and Historical Studies, Christian Life Studies (Moral Theology and Spirituality). The program is designed to provide a broad overview of the major areas and concentration in one area of theology chosen by the student. The program is intended for students preparing for doctoral studies, for the growing number of professionals engaged in theological and ministerial activities in churches and schools, for lay people seeking to further their theological education. While respecting and exposing students to other religious traditions, Creighton University, a Catholic and Jesuit university, conducts its theological inquiries within the Catholic-Christian tradition.

Inquiries about the program should be directed to The Director, Graduate Program in Theology, Department of Theology, Creighton University, Omaha, NE 68178.

Program Goals

General Learning Outcomes

General Knowledge

1. Broad knowledge of methods, movements, figures, and primary texts in the three major areas of contemporary theology: Biblical Studies, Systematic and Historical Studies, Christian Life Studies (Moral Theology & Spirituality);
2. An understanding of the role of theological scholarship in the life of the Church.

Skills

1. Ability to reflect critically and creatively upon the relationship between the Christian tradition (as expressed in classic religious texts and arguments) and contemporary experience;
2. Ability to deal with change and sequence in the development of Christian self-understanding and discipleship;
3. Ability to read primary texts and the pertinent secondary literature critically;
4. Ability to research and write a coherent theological paper;
5. Ability to think critically and constructively and to engage in theological conversation.

Faculty

Professors: M. Hamm (Graff Chair in Catholic Theological Studies), W. Harmless, R. Hauser, B. Malina, J. Mueller, J. O'Keefe (Jacobsen Chair in Communication), R. Reno, T. Salzman, R. Simkins, W. Wright (Kenefick Chair in the Humanities); Professor Emeritus: M. Lawler; Associate Professors: E. Burke-Sullivan, J. Fleming, T. Kelly, N. Roddy, T. Shanahan; Assistant Professors: S. Calef, R. Miller, L. Weber.

Admission Requirements

Entry into the program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum of nine (9) semester hours of credit in theology or equivalent. Applicants should also have a "B" average in their undergraduate work and above average Graduate Record Examination scores of at least 500 on the verbal section. GRE scores from the last 10 years are accepted. The Graduate School requires all students from countries in which English is not the native language to demonstrate competence in English by a score of 550 in the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) examination or 80 on the Internet-based Test (iBT) at the graduate level.

Master of Arts (M.A.) with a Major in Theology

The Graduate Director will serve as the student's advisor and will help students choose a program of study best suited to their interests and career plans. Thirty-three (33) semester hours are required for the degree, including Plan A: 33 hrs. of courses followed by comprehensive examination; Plan B: 27 hrs. of courses followed by comprehensive examination, then 6 hrs. of THL 799.

Three required courses: Nine credit hours

THL 700	Seminar in Biblical Studies	3 credits
THL 730	Seminar in Systematic Theology	3 credits
THL 755	Seminar in Moral Theology	3 credits

Three area courses: Nine credit hours

One course (3 credit hours) in Biblical Studies	3 credits
One course (3 credit hours) in Systematic Studies	3 credits
One course (3 credit hours) in Christian Life Studies	3 credits

Elective courses: 9 or 15 credit hours:

Five courses (15 credit hours) Plan A	15 credits
Three courses (9 credit hours) Plan B	9 credits

Thesis Required for Plan B:

THL 799	Master's Thesis	6 credits
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Teacher Certification

Students who are preparing to teach Religious Education must consult with the Education Department and the Theology Department before being accepted in one of the teacher certification programs. Students are also responsible for consulting with the appropriate agency in the state in which they intend to teach to learn about teacher certification requirements. Both the Education and Theology Departments must approve the student's admission to the BA/MA or MA with teacher certification programs.

B.A./M.A. Theology/Religious Education Teaching Certification (Five-Years)

The departments of Theology and Education offer a national accelerated five-year Bachelor's and Master's degree program with teaching certification in religious education. Students concentrate on a theological curriculum that prepares them to teach religion. The Education component offers full Nebraska state certification for those remaining in the state as well as methods for teaching religion for those teaching elsewhere. Significant tuition scholarships are available for the one year of graduate studies. For more information, contact the Theology Department or Education Department.

M.A. in Theology/Religious Education Teaching Certification (Two-Years)

The departments of Theology and Education offer a national accelerated two-year Master of Arts in Theology with teaching certification in religious education. Students concentrate on a theological curriculum that prepares them to teach religion. The program comprises two academic years and two summers. Significant tuition scholarships are available for participants in this program. For more information, contact the Theology Department or Education Department.

Requirements for the Master of Arts in Ministry

See page 168 for information on the Master of Arts in Ministry program.

Cross-Listing of Courses with the Master's of Arts in Christian Spirituality (CSP) program and the Master's of Arts in Ministry (MAM) program

Courses in the Master's of Arts in Christian Spirituality (CSP) program that are cross listed with Theology may be taken to fulfill electives in the MA in Theology. Theology courses in the Master's of Arts in Ministry (MAM) program may be taken, with permission of both program directors of the MA and MAM programs, to fulfill requirements and electives for the MA in Theology except for the three foundational seminars (i.e. THL 700: Seminar in Biblical Studies; THL 730: Seminar in Systematic Theology; THL 755: Seminar in Moral Theology).

Graduate students may enroll for 500 level courses at a 700 level, in order to complete their programs. They may not repeat a course that they have on their transcripts at a 500 level, and when they register for a 500 level course they will do so under one of the following numbers:

THL 794 Special Elective in Biblical Studies	3 credits
THL 796 Special Elective in Historical-Doctrinal-Liturgical Studies	3 credits
THL 798 Special Elective in Christian Life Studies	3 credits

Students, when registering, should see the program director, who will complete the special elective course registration.

Biblical Studies

- THL 501 The Pentateuch (3) OD**
Origin and composition of the first five books of the Bible. Historical and theological traditions contributing to their formation. Emphasis on their unique theology and on the use of the books in the New Testament period.
- THL 502 Old Testament Themes (3) OD**
In-depth study of the themes of covenant and community as they are developed in the Pentateuch and in Prophetic and Wisdom Literature. A survey of contemporary scholarship will support a careful study of the pertinent texts.
- THL 503 The Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament (3) OD**
The uniqueness of the prophetic movement. Background literary styles, relevance of the prophetic message.
- THL 504 The Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (3) OD**
Study of the patterns of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, some of the Psalms, compared with the wisdom literature of other ancient peoples.
- THL 505 History of Biblical Interpretation (3)**
A wide-ranging historical examination of the ways in which individuals and communities have understood and appropriated the texts of the Bible. Specific topics include theologies of Scripture, inner-biblical interpretation, early Jewish and Christian exegesis, medieval interpretation, and the study of the Bible during the Renaissance, Reformation(s), scientific revolution, and the modern period. **P: THL 100 and 200-level Scripture course and Jr. stdg.**
- THL 507 The Gospel of Matthew (3) OD**
A study of the theological vision of the text of this gospel, using all available methods and resources: redaction criticism, composition criticism, narrative criticism, etc.
- THL 508 The Gospel of Mark (3) OD**
A study of the first written gospel, its outline and structure, authorship, sources and influence on later New Testament writings.
- THL 509 The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles (3) OD**
Study of Luke-Acts as a two-volume whole - a work of history, theology, and literary artistry.
- THL 511 The Gospel of John (3) OD**
Study of the unique witness to the meaning of Jesus in the Johannine Gospel.
- THL 514 The Pastoral Epistles (3) OD**
The first attempts to weld Christianity and Western humanism as initiated in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.
- THL 516 The Book of Revelation (The Apocalypse) (3) OD**
A contemporary scholarly interpretation of the book of Revelation with reference to contemporary apocalyptic.
- THL 517 The Parables of Jesus (3) OD**
Stories that formed the core of Jesus' preaching. How he told them. How the evangelists retold them. How we understand them today.
- THL 518 Women and the Bible (3) OD**
Study of the representations of women in biblical narratives; attention to the construction of gender in the ancient world. Introduction to the various approaches contemporary women are taking to these biblical texts.
- THL 519 Reading the Bible in the Context of the Time (1) OD**
This course is intended as a primer for more carefully discerning the message of biblical passages by tempering interpretation with knowledge of the culture. Emphasis is on an analytical perspective of the cultural context within which the passages were written.

- THL 520 The Dead Sea Scrolls (3) OD**
Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls and various theories about their origin. Exploration of the light they shed on the textual history of the Hebrew Bible, developments in ancient Judaism, and the early history of Christianity.
- THL 523 Israelite Religions (3)**
This course will examine the manifold expressions of Israelite religions - biblical, archaeological, and epigraphic. Emphasis will be placed on the diversity of Israelite religions and the relationship of Israelite religions to the religions of her Near Eastern neighbors.
- THL 524 History of Ancient Israel (3) OD**
An examination and reconstruction of the history of ancient Israel from biblical and other ancient New Eastern literary texts, and from archaeological and epigraphic materials.
- THL 525 Archaeological Field Work and Analysis (3) (Same as ANT 525, CNE 525)**
The student learns the principles of stratigraphic archaeology (or underwater archaeology) by participating in an excavation for a minimum of four weeks. The student will learn stratigraphic theory and excavation strategy, basic archaeological techniques, and the basic analysis of archaeological materials recovered from the site. (Underwater archaeologists will learn basic underwater techniques in place of some terrestrial methods.) **CO: THL 526**
- THL 526 Archaeology of Roman Palestine (3) (Same as ANT 526, CNE 526)**
Study of ancient Palestine from the rise of the Herodian dynasty in the first century B.C.E. to the aftermath of the Muslim conquest in the seventh century C.E. The material of the course is the physical remains of archaeological sites throughout modern Israel, along with movable cultural remains that issued from these sites. The major focus of the course will be the interaction between Classical Mediterranean civilization on the one hand, and the Israelites and other Middle Eastern peoples on the other, in the age that yielded Rabbinic Judaism, Christianity and Islam. **CO: THL 525.**
- THL 527 Study Tour of Biblical Israel (3) S**
Two-week guided tour of the biblical sites in Israel. Typical sites: Caesarea Maritima, Sea of Galilee, Tiberias, Bethsaida, Capernaum, Tabgha, Jordan River, Sepphoris, Megiddo, Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, Hazor, Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Tel Bet Shean, Jericho, Judaean Wilderness, Mt. of Olives, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Masada, and Qumran. A biblical scholar accompanies the group, supplementing local guides. Requirements include readings before trip, written reflections afterward.
- THL 528 The Septuagint (3) II (Same as Greek 528)**
Readings from the Greek Old Testament, commonly known as the Septuagint (LXX); study of its cultural and religious background.
- THL 529 Translations of the Bible (3)**
Various ancient translations of the Bible and their significance.

Historical-Doctrinal-Liturgical Studies

- THL 530 Contemporary Catholic Theologians (3) OD**
Key themes in the thought of Rahner, Conger, De Lubac, Lonergan, and other contemporary Catholic theologians.
- THL 531 Studies in Early Christianity (3) I OD**
The emergence of early Christian theology through the writing of the theologians of the first 500 years of the Church's history. Attention to some of the following themes: the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, the emergence of Classical Christology, early Christian exegesis, the thought of St. Augustine.
- THL 532 Ecclesiology: Contemporary Church Questions (3)**
Study of selected issues in the contemporary church. Offered at the Jesuit College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

- THL 533 Ecclesiology: Contemporary Church Questions (3)**
Basic contemporary questions about the life of the church will be explored in the context of the Creed and traditional dogmatic theology. Particular emphasis on the church's transition into the third millennium.
- THL 534 Introduction to Liberation Theology (3)**
Liberation theology arose during the sixties and seventies in Latin America as a way of reflecting upon and acting out Christian faith from the perspective of those who directly experience a world of poverty, injustice and violence. Although particular to Latin America, the issues raised by liberation theology are relevant to Christianity in North America as well.
- THL 535 Doctrinal Development: Christology (3) OD**
Development of the Christian community's understanding and teaching about the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- THL 537 Doctrinal Development: Sin and Grace (3) OD**
Development of the Christian community's understanding and teaching about the mysteries of grace and sin.
- THL 538 Seminar in Christian Anthropology (3)**
Study of Christian theological anthropology in eastern and western traditions.
- THL 539 Seminar in Christian Eschatology (3)**
Study of issues and images related to the theology of the afterlife in Christian traditions.
- THL 540 Ecclesiology: The Documents of Vatican II (3)**
Basic contemporary questions about the life of the church will be explored through a careful study of *Lumen Gentium* and other selected documents from Vatican II. The Council's theology is examined in the context of the Creed and traditional dogmatic theology.
- THL 544 Christian Celebration: The Liturgical Year (3) OD**
Biblical origins and historical development of feasts and seasons, e.g., Christmas and Easter. The theologies of the saints' days and celebrations. History and meaning of daily common prayer in the Church.
- THL 545 Liturgy and Christian Life (3) OD**
The historical development of Western Liturgy and its technical interpretation through the centuries. Emphasis on the saving presence of Christ and on the role of liturgy in the rest of Christian life.
- THL 550 History of the Christian Church (3) II**
Survey of the intellectual, ecclesiastical and political developments which shaped Christianity through two millennia. Exploration of complex relations among beliefs, institutions, and practices which constitute Christian history.
- THL 552 Studies in Medieval Christianity (3)**
This course surveys the history and theology of the medieval Church, examining key religious institutions (e.g., the papacy, monastic orders, universities) and key leaders and theologians (e.g. Benedict, Gregory VII, Anselm, Bernard of Clairvaux, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas).
- THL 555 Major Christian Theologian (3)**
This course involves an in-depth study of the life and writings of a major Christian theologian, one who shaped Christian history and doctrine in a decisive way: for example, Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, Maximus the Confessor, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Calvin. This course is repeatable is taken under a different topic to a maximum of 6 credits.
- Christian Life Studies*
- THL 560 Theology of Ministry (3) OD**
Through historical investigation of the practice of ministries in the western church from earliest times to the present, this course aims to arrive at some systematic conclusions about the nature of ministry.

- THL 561 Finding God in Daily Life: Prayer and Discernment (3) OD**
 General introduction to Christian spirituality with special emphasis on Ignatian spirituality. Goal is to deepen understanding of spirituality as well as to improve the quality of Christian living by developing practices of personal prayer and discernment of spirits. Special emphasis placed on the theology of the Holy Spirit, Ignatian spirituality and the spirituality of Thomas Merton.
- THL 563 Contemporary Moral Problems (3) OD**
 A comprehensive study of one or more moral issues facing contemporary society.
- THL 564 Christian Sexual Ethics (3) OD**
 Investigation of the historical and methodological dimensions of sexual ethics within the Catholic tradition; contemporary magisterial teachings on issues such as premarital sex, artificial birth control, homosexuality, and reproductive technologies; critical analysis of those teachings from various theological perspectives.
- THL 565 Catholic Social Teaching (3) OD**
 Historical development of Catholic social teaching from the 1891 publication of “The Condition of Labor” to the present. Students are encouraged to apply the core insights of the tradition to contemporary issues.
- THL 567 Ethical Issues in Health Care (3) OD**
 Inquiry into the values and ethical problems of modern medicine from the viewpoint of Christian theology.
- THL 568 Women in the Christian Tradition (3) OD (Same as WGS 568)**
 Study of the outlook on man, woman, and divinity in the Bible, the Christian churches past and present, and “post-Christian” feminism. Examination of the Judeo-Christian tradition, both the pervasiveness of its patriarchal assumptions, and the liberating resources it can contribute to a healthy understanding of maleness and femaleness today.
- THL 572 Ethics and Spirituality (3) OD**
 Consideration of the diverse spiritual traditions of Christianity to see asceticism, prayer, contemplation and discernment as categories which bridge spirituality and ethics. The traditional strands of Christian spirituality as resources for the contemporary life of faith and action. Readings from John of the Cross, Kierkegaard, Kenneth Kirk, Dorothy Day, Merton, Barth and Rahner.
- THL 573 Religion and Politics (3)**
 Four Christian formulations of the relation of religion to politics: the sectarian approach, linked to liberal humanism; the natural law tradition, reformulated as basic human rights; the integration of religion and politics in liberation theology; and Christian realism with its dialectic of distance and engagement. Some of the complex interpenetrations of religious issues and political realities.
- THL 574 Faith and Food (3) OD**
 A biblical and contemporary approach to food as fellow creature, medium of fellowship, component of worship, tool of exploitation, prophetic symbol, and object of stewardship.
- THL 575 Foundations of Christian Spirituality (3) OD**
 Designed to introduce students to the major historic and contemporary themes, images and practices in the Christian spiritual tradition. Focus on students' integration of that tradition into their own lives.
- THL 576 Introduction to Jesuit Spirituality (3) OD**
 Study of the life and selected writings of St. Ignatius Loyola as well as contemporary interpretation of his spirituality. Topics include Jesuit prayer, selections from the Constitutions of Society of Jesus, chief documents from the 32nd Congregation of the Society of Jesus, discernment, and the vow of obedience.
- THL 577 Special Questions in Jesuitica (1-4) OD**
 Systematic and/or historical investigation of topics relating to the Society of Jesus. Content and number of credits to be specified when the course is offered. (This course offered only at the Jesuit College, St. Paul, Minn.)

- THL 579 Special Methods of Teaching Religion in the Secondary Schools (3)**
Overview of the principles for communicating the Christian message effectively to different age levels with opportunities to observe and put them into practice. The course deals with the objectives and functions of Religious Education in terms of secondary school learning experiences. Attention is directed to the selection, organization, and presentation of meaningful learning materials and selection, use and evaluation of textbooks and related aids.
- THL 580 Christianity and Modern Humanism (3)**
Comparative study of classical Christian accounts of the human condition and various modern, post-theological accounts.
- THL 583 Exploring Buddhism (1)**
An overview of the Buddhist tradition. The basic doctrines of Buddhism and the path to liberation (nirvana). Concentration on Buddhism in Tibet and the Zen tradition in Japan.
- THL 585 Foundational Principles and Leadership Skills For Youth Ministry (4)**
The foundational understandings and principles of comprehensive youth ministry; a deeper understanding for the minister of the theological foundations of youth ministry. Theories, skills and approaches for effective leadership in ministry.
- THL 586 Fostering the Faith Growth of Youth Through the Components of Youth Ministry (4)**
Exploration of adolescent spirituality, theological and spiritual foundations for engaging young people in the work of justice and service, theological understandings of faith, discipleship, and Catholic identity, and caring for young people and their families.
- THL 587 Methods of Teaching Religion in Elementary School (3)**
The course is designed to prepare students to effective religious educators in Catholic elementary schools. The course content will encompass the four dimensions of religious education: message, community, service and worship. Students will not only become acquainted with methods and materials for teaching religion, but they will also gain experience planning liturgical celebrations.
- THL 588 Christian Ethics of War and Peace (3) (Same as JPS 588)**
Introduction to the development and application of Christian ethical perspectives on the use of lethal force from the biblical period to the present day. Just war theory and pacifism in both Catholic and Protestant traditions; at least one non-Christian perspective on war. Special attention given to the formation of personal conscience in reflection on public policy and world events, both historical and current. **P: THL 250; Jr. stdg.**
- THL 594 Special Seminar in Biblical Studies (3)**
- THL 596 Special Seminar in Historical-Doctrinal-Liturgical Studies (3)**
- THL 598 Special Seminar in Christian Life Studies (3)**
- THL 660 Dreams and Spiritual Growth (3) S (Same as CSP 660)**
This course will explore the significance of dreams in discerning spiritual growth. Some attention will be given to the role of dreams in scripture and Christian tradition. The primary aim of the course is to familiarize participants with the psychology of dreaming and with contemporary methods for discerning the religious meaning of one's dreams: in one's own spiritual growth and development as well as in working with dreams in the context of spiritual direction.
- THL 661 T'ai Chi Chih: Joy through Movement (1) S (Same as CSP 661)**
T'ai Chi Chih's body movement meditation releases stress by relaxing the body and refreshing the mind. The twenty simple movements can be done by all regardless of age and physical condition.
- THL 662 Chi-Kung Moving Meditation: Embodying Spiritual Attentiveness (1) S (Same as CSP 662)**
An introduction for Christians to an ancient system of movements developed by Chinese hermits and contemplatives in order to harness and order the body's energies, thereby providing a positive role for the body in spiritual development. This class is also open to students enrolling as auditors.

- THL 664 Spirituality of John** (1) S (Same as CSP 664)
Course examines themes from writings of John in the New Testament central for spirituality.
- THL 665 Theological Virtue Ethics** (3) (Same as MLS 665)
In recent decades, virtue ethics has made a comeback. This seminar will give a close reading to the principal source of Christian virtue ethics, Thomas Aquinas's *Treatise on the Virtues*. We will then examine a contemporary Ignatian appropriation of virtue for a Christocentric ethics for the real world today.
- THL 666 Centering Prayer and the Experience of God** (1) S (Same as CSP 666)
Contemplative practices such as *Lectio Divina* and Centering Prayer, which directly cultivate the experience of God's presence and extend the interior silence of prayer into daily life. Additional topics include prayer as relationship, the experience of the Dark Night, and fruits of contemplative prayer in daily activity.
- THL 667 Masculine Spirituality** (1) (Same as CSP 667)
Reflection on issues in Christian spirituality of particular relevance to men.
- THL 668 Feminine Spirituality** (1) (Same as CSP 668)
Reflecting on issues in Christian spirituality of particular relevance to women.
- THL 669 Salesian Spirituality** (1-3) S (Same as CSP 669)
Introduction to the Salesian spiritual tradition co-founded in 17th century by Francis de Sales and Jeanne de Chantal. Seminal texts such as *Introduction to the Devout Life* as well as the lives of the founders as backdrop for exploration of central Salesian themes as resources for contemporary living.
- THL 670 Art and Spirituality** (1-3) OD (Same as CSP 670)
With an experiential, hands-on format using watercolor and other art media, this course provides an opportunity for right-brain expressions of prayer, spiritual understanding, and experience of God.
- THL 672 Text and Context: A Study of the Bible in Transmission and in Translation** (3)
The Bible, both Old Testament (or Hebrew Bible) and New Testament, has been transmitted (that is, copied in original languages) and translated (into other languages) more than any other document from antiquity. This course will focus on the social, political, historical, religious, even technological circumstances in which this activity has been conducted for more than two millennia, exploring how the texts reflect both the contexts of the copyists and translators, their own society and their understanding of the sacred texts with which they worked.
- THL 673 Spiritual Dialogue: East Meets West** (3) OD (Same as CSP 673)
Overview of perspectives and practices from Eastern wisdom that have parallels in Christianity and can deepen prayer experiences, as well as Eastern ideas that challenge Christian beliefs.
- THL 675 Spirituality of Luke-Acts** (3) S (Same as CSP 675)
Study of the spirituality implicit in Luke's two-volume masterpiece. Focus on God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, discipleship, possessions, community, mission, the Christian reading of the Hebrew Scriptures, and how narrative is a vehicle of theology and spirituality.
- THL 678 The Spirituality of Paul** (1-3) S (Same as CSP 678)
A study of the Pauline correspondence to analyze what these letters imply regarding the gospel vision as a way of seeing that leads to a way of being. This course will focus especially on Paul's Jewish background and his use of that tradition to explain Jesus as the climax of the covenant and his way as the fullness of human being; creation, community, cross, new creation.

Biblical Studies

- THL 700 Seminar in Biblical Studies (3)**
Introduction to fundamental issues in biblical studies, with special attention to methodology and development of research skills.
- THL 701 Biblical Interpretation: Hermeneutics in the Writing and in the Reading of Scripture (3) OD**
A study of the ongoing interpretive process that first formed the Judeo-Christian biblical traditions and then made use of those traditions in the development of the post-canonical tradition. First, how the Bible was made; then, what was made of the Bible. Implications for interpreting Scripture today.
- THL 702 The Gospel of Mark (3) OD**
In-depth study of earliest gospel, using historical, literary, and theological perspectives. Special attention to Mark's use of the Old Testament, his interpretation of Jesus and the Church, and the implications for using this text for Christian life and worship today.
- THL 703 The Social and Historical Context of the Bible (3) OD**
An examination of the social and historical world out of which the texts of the Bible were written.
- THL 704 Contemporary Biblical Interpretation: The Synoptic Gospels (3) OD**
Investigation of the two main approaches to biblical interpretation, the historical critical method and the literary aesthetic method, and of the specific theories of reading from which they derive. Reasons for following the scenario model of reading. Methods applied to selected Synoptic passages and to selected statements of church councils to test their ramifications.
- THL 705 New Testament Churches (3) OD**
Study of realities of first-century church life expressed and implied in the canonical documents, e.g. the church of Mark, of Matthew, of John, of Luke-Acts, of Hebrews, of 1 and 2 Corinthians. In what ways are these New Testament images of first-century church life normative for church life today?
- THL 706 The Gospel of Matthew (3) OD**
An in-depth exploration of the Gospel of Matthew using a variety of methods, especially redaction criticism and narrative analysis. Special attention to Hebrew Bible background.
- THL 707 The Life and Spirituality of Ignatius of Loyola: Relevance for Today (3) OD**
Course presents the historical context, life and spirituality of Ignatius of Loyola. Focusing on his writings, especially *The Spiritual Exercises*, it explores relevance for contemporary spirituality. Special attention paid to recent superior general Father Pedro Arrupe as an interpreter of Ignatius for today. Course invites students to practice Ignatian spirituality and to reflect on relevance for own spirituality.
- THL 708 Paul: The Major Writings (3) OD**
Study of Galatians, Romans, and the Corinthian correspondence, with special attention to their literary forms and their implied pastoral settings.
- THL 709 The Gospel of John: Contemporary Approaches (3) OD**
An investigation into the framework of John and exegesis of select text-segments in terms of Johannine source criticism, historical criticism and socio-linguistics, viewing the gospel as a prime example of anti-language.
- THL 710 The Mediterranean Matrix of Christian Theology (3) OD**
Christian theology has most often been articulated in analogies taken from the Mediterranean world and Mediterranean social experience: God the Father, Trinity, Grace, Salvation, Mediation, Patron Saint, Holiness and the like rank among such analogies. This course investigates the cultural and contextual meanings of these analogies, not as sets of abstract philosophical ideas, but as the vibrant social metaphors they originally were. Comparative scenarios describing the culture(s) of the Mediterranean basin are presented. The aim is adequate interpretation of what these originally meant in their Mediterranean setting, with parallel developments in Judaism and Islam.

- THL 711 Israelite Religion in Perspective (3) OD**
The development of the religion of Israel will be studied from its origins to the time of Jesus. Emphasis will be placed on the relationship between Israel's religion and the religion of her Near Eastern neighbors, and on its continuities and discontinuities with the Christian faith.
- THL 712 Creation and Ethical Order (3) OD**
The biblical views of creation will be studied and compared with ideas of creation in other cultures, ancient and modern. Emphasis will be placed on the role creation plays in structuring societal values and defining the meaning of existence.
- THL 713 Liberationist Readings of New Testament Texts (3) OD**
The perennial hermeneutical issue - how one interprets, understands, and uses past traditions in the present - addressed from a liberationist perspective. Introduction to hermeneutical theory followed by examination of readings of New Testament texts from diverse liberationist perspectives: South African, Latin American, Asian, feminist, and womanist.
- THL 714 The Pentateuch: Issues of Ethics and Morality (3) OD**
A textcritical study of human behavior in the narratives of the Pentateuch focusing on the Book of Genesis. These stories are examined in light of their ancient Near Eastern socio-historical context to better understand their often strange, sometimes disturbing plots and to discern their timeless and universal themes.
- THL 715 Marian Spirituality (1-3) S (Same as CSP 715)**
This course will explore "Mary as mother and teacher of the spiritual life," e.g., Mary and the Holy Spirit, Mary's virtues, Mary as first disciple of the Lord, as Servant of the Lord, and as Model of the Church. This course likewise studies the various expressions of Mary's place in the universal call to holiness, e.g., the "Marian thread" in the lives of the Saints, with a special emphasis on the new Saints and Blesseds of Pope John Paul II.
- THL 716 C.S. Lewis: Christian Apologist and Spiritual Writer (3) S (Same as CSP 716)**
This course will study the religious thought and spirituality of the 20th century's foremost Christian apologist through a reading and discussion of his many-sided religious and spiritual writings.
- THL 717 Jungian Psychology and Christian Spirituality (3) S (Same as CSP 717)**
This course will explore the relationship between major aspects of Jung's psychological theory and Christian Spirituality. The principal aim of the course is to familiarize participants with basic concepts of Jungian psychology and to assimilate what is most useful in Jung for pastoral practice, one's own spiritual life and development as well as spiritual direction. Some films and fairytales will be used to convey concepts.
- THL 718 Scripture, Spirituality, and Feminism (3)**
An introduction to the presuppositions and principles that inform feminist biblical interpretation, followed by an exploration of the implications of feminist readings for Christian spirituality.
- THL 722 Mary in the Life of St. Ignatius (1)**
This short course will explore Mary in the life of St. Ignatius by investigating his autobiography and other writings. It is written, "Ignatius dreamed of a lady who was for him the doorway of the graces he would receive throughout his life. He asked Mary to grant his greatest desire, "to deign to place him with her Son."

Systematic and Historical Studies

- THL 730 Seminar in Systematic Theology (3)**
Introduction to fundamental issues in systematic theology, with special attention to methodology and development of research skills.
- THL 731 Systematic Theology: The Mediated God (3) OD**
This course examines systematically: (a) the mediating function of symbol in a human life; (b) theology as humankind's search to mediate the Transcendent in symbolic language; (c) Christology as Christian humankind's search to mediate the Transcendent in Jesus called *christos*; (d) ecclesiology as Christian humankind's search to mediate the Christ in the community of women and men called *ekklesia*; (e) sacramentology as Christian humankind's search to mediate the Transcendent in solemn symbolic actions called *mysteria*.
- THL 732 Theologies of Salvation (3) OD**
A theological reflection on the question: "What does it mean to be saved in Jesus Christ?" In dialogue with biblical, traditional and contemporary insights, including liberationist, feminist and ecologically sensitive theologies, students are asked to propose a theology of salvation relevant to contemporary life.
- THL 733 Images of the Church through the Ages (3) OD**
The kaleidoscopic journey of the pilgrim church through successive historical paradigms—from primitive Christianity's apocalyptic paradigm, to the post-modern ecumenical paradigm, including the Hellenistic, medieval-Roman-Catholic, Reformation-Protestant, Counter-Reformation Catholic, Protestant-Orthodox, and Modern-Enlightenment paradigms. Salient images of the church within each of these historical paradigms and movements accompanying them.
- THL 734 The Quest for Christian Identity (3) OD**
The meaning of being Christian in contemporary times within American society.
- THL 736 Systematic Theology According to Karl Rahner (3) OD**
Theological methodology of one of the premier Catholic theologians of the 20th century: Karl Rahner's thought as foundational for much of contemporary Roman Catholic theology. Topics include: the human family and its relationship to mystery (Sin and Grace); the theology of symbol—how the mystery of grace is worked out in our material world (Christology and Ecclesiology); and the life of Grace—the work of the Holy Spirit in our social liberation (Prayer, Discernment, and Ethics).
- THL 737 The Historical Context for Theology in America (3) OD**
Examination of forces that have influenced Catholic theological thought in the United States. Topics that may be explored include denominationalism, church-state relations, civil religion, evangelicalism, fundamentalism, gender, nativism, the African-American experience, Native American experience, Judaism, trusteeism, immigration, social justice, etc.
- THL 740 Inventing Christianity: The Emergence of the Christian Theological Tradition (3) OD**
Course explores development of early Christian theological tradition from its apostolic foundations through the Council of Chalcedon emphasizing four themes: the origin and development of the Christian empire, the search for the Christian doctrine of God, understanding the God-Man, Augustine and his influence.
- THL 741 The Writings and Theology of Augustine (3)**
An exploration of the career and thought of one of the greatest theologians of the Christian tradition through a focus on three classic texts, *The Confessions*, *The Trinity*, and *The City of God*; includes examination of the controversies and debates which have shaped Christian views on creation, Church, sacraments, and grace.
- THL 744 Christian Social Ethics (3) OD**
Introduction to the major alternative modes of thought and action by which Christians have sought to express concern for social and political issues. Stress on the social dimension of Christian ethics.

- THL 745 Ecumenical Theology: Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox (3) OD**
Examination of post Vatican II ecumenism, from a theological analysis of the problem of church division to the rationale for ecumenical dialogue. Models of ecumenical agreement and progress with special attention to the question of consensus and ecumenical "success". Current topics from Protestant-Catholic and Orthodox-Catholic dialogues are surveyed.
- THL 746 Justification and Justice: Jewish, Protestant and Catholic Models (3) OD**
Different models of divine intervention into human life lead to different models of human response. The center of gravity for this course will be the doctrine of justification. Under examination will be the ways in which contemporary theologians articulate the social and political response engendered by the divine initiative in modern life. Four responses come into play: self-transcendence (Niebuhr and Metz), obedience (Ramsey and NCCB), discipleship (Yoder), and dialogue (Buber).
- THL 752 The Sacraments of Initiation (3) OD**
Study of the anthropological roots, historical formation, and interrelation of the three traditional moments in Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, in light of the new Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) as basic text, of official Catholic Church pronouncements, of the Lima Document of the World Council of Churches, and of various contemporary theologies.
- THL 753 Liturgy and Time (3) OD**
Reflection on the temporal nature of Christian life by study of the historical formation and sacramental dimensions of the liturgical (a) day, (b) week, and (c) year. Topics include: meaning of Christian celebration, origins of Christian daily prayer (the Divine Office), Christ's presence in the Church through liturgical memorial, Sunday and the weekly cycle, the Easter and Christmas cycles, the feast day as Christian sacrament, the Sanctoral Cycle, the reforms of Vatican II, the ethical significance of the liturgical year.
- THL 754 Liturgical Praxis and Ecclesial Self-Consciousness (3)**
Examines the liturgical practices (time, place, event) of Latin Rite Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Anglican traditions in order to understand the basic liturgical forms of the traditions and to explore the ecclesial self-consciousness of these Christian bodies through the lens of liturgical practice.

Christian Life Studies

- THL 755 Seminar in Moral Theology (3)**
Introduction to fundamental issues in moral theology, with special attention to methodology and development of research skills.
- THL 756 Theology of the Moral Life (3) OD**
Elements of Christian moral experience and understanding, as well as the criteria of Christian moral judgment and action.
- THL 757 Christian Nonviolence: Jesus, Prince of Peace (3) OD**
History of peacemaking and non-violence through Christian figures and movements. Biblical roots, pacifism in the early Church, the medieval "peace of God," Reformation peace churches, and recent developments: the 20th century Catholic peace movement, official documents from Christian churches, and Christian leaders including Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, and Dorothy Day. Non-violence is considered as both social action and spiritual discipline.
- THL 758 Roman Catholic and Protestant Ethics (3) OD**
Ethical approaches of leading European and American Catholic and Protestant ethicists: Rahner, Janssens, Gustafson, Ramsey, Fletcher, Grisez and McCormick.
- THL 760 Scriptural Foundation of Christian Spirituality (3) S (Same as CSP 760)**
Introduction to Scripture, especially the New Testament, as the foundation to all Christian Spirituality. Faith, prayer, Holy Spirit, Church, centrality of Christ.

- THL 761 Liturgical Foundations of Christian Spirituality** (3) S (Same as CSP 761)
An exploration of the Church's liturgical prayer life as an important basis and foundation for Christian Spirituality.
- THL 762 Doctrinal Foundation of Christian Spirituality** (3) S (Same as CSP 762)
This course examines the foundational doctrines of faith, such as, the Trinity, the divine and human Jesus, salvation by Christ, God's activity in history, the Holy Spirit, and explores their relevance for the Christian spiritual journey, including the relationship to God, to all humanity and to the entire created universe.
- THL 764 Prayer and Christian Spirituality** (3) S (Same as CSP 764)
Using classical and contemporary texts in Christian Spirituality, course studies the theology, methods, stages and dynamics of personal prayer and mysticism. This course is graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.
- THL 765 Prayer, Intimacy, and True Christian Growth** (3) S (Same as CSP 765)
The connection between spiritual and human growth, the necessity of keeping a relationship with Christ, and concrete simple ways of doing it each day.
- THL 766 Contemplation in the Christian Tradition** (3) S (Same as CSP 766)
Course examines approaches to contemplation in classical and contemporary texts. Among authors and texts studied are the following: Pseudo-Dionysius, Cloud of Unknowing, Meister Eckhart, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross.
- THL 767 Spanish Mysticism** (3) S (Same as CSP 767)
Study of Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, discussing their spirituality, teachings on prayer, and understanding of human life as a pilgrimage with Jesus, ending only when total union with God is reached.
- THL 768 Foundational Texts in Christian Mysticism** (3) OD
Introduction to a wide variety of primary texts in medieval mysticism including works of Teresa of Avila, early Franciscan sources, and Ignatius of Loyola. Students are guided through texts and challenged to apply these texts to practical ministerial experiences.
- THL 769 The History of Christian Spirituality** (3) S (Same as CSP 769)
Development from post-apostolic age to the present. Some of the classics of Christian Spirituality.
- THL 770 Called to Holiness: The Christian Vocation** (3) S (Same as CSP 770)
Saints, ways to sanctity, past and present. The Communion of Saints. **NOTE:** This course fulfills the requirement for a course in the history of spirituality.
- THL 773 The Theology of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius** (3) S (Same as CSP 773)
Theology, interpretations, commentators, structure, with practical applications. Students will draw greater benefit from this course if they have a prior experience of the Spiritual Exercises either in an individually directed silent retreat or an extended retreat in daily life.
- THL 776 Discernment of Spirits: Theory and Practice** (3) S (Same as CSP 776)
Study of the tradition of discernment in the Church with special emphasis on the rules for discernment of spirits in the Spiritual Exercises and the application of these to Christian life and practice.
- THL 778 Biblical Roots for Peace and Justice Ministry** (3) S (Same as CSP 778)
How to use Scripture responsibly in approaching the social and planetary issues of the third millennium. Sample topics: creation and ecology, violence and nonviolence, hunger and stewardship, conscience and civil authority, option for the poor. Opportunity for special issue study.

- THL 779 Spirituality and Social Concerns** (3) S (Same as CSP 779)
Reflections on the practice of spiritual direction, retreat leadership, and other pastoral ministries in light of themes of justice, peace and solidarity in scripture, Christian history, Catholic social teaching, and human experience. Investigation of how the reality of social injustice affects the private and public dimensions of the spiritual life. Emphasis on personal appropriation and leadership development so that students may integrate knowledge that gain into the ministries.
- THL 785 Psychodynamics of Spiritual Growth** (3) S (OD) (Same as CSP 785)
Human development studied through the main traditions within psychology and spirituality. How psychological and spiritual dynamics are integrated in personal formation with practical applications for spiritual direction and other ministries. Stress, anger, anxiety, control issues, fear, leisure, addictions, grief, sexuality, guilt and shame are seen within adult life-stages moving toward healing, discernment and wholeness.
- THL 786 Family Spirituality** (1-3) S (Same as CSP 786)
Designed for both those who are familial and those who minister to families. Key questions: What are the elements of a spirituality derived from within the experience of family? What is the relationship between such a spirituality and the classic traditions of Christian spirituality?
- THL 789 Spirituality for Americans: Thomas Merton's Contemplative Vision** (3) OD (Same as CSP 789)
The relevance of Merton for contemporary American spirituality. Merton in context of the American experience: his life, writing and thought as guidelines for living the Gospel today. Special attention to themes of True Self, Contemplation and Non-violence.
- THL 790 Spiritual Formation** (3) S, OD (Same as CSP 790)
The nature and dynamics of spiritual formation, emphasizing personal developmental aspects of spiritual growth. Practical aspects of the spiritual life: spiritual identity, spiritual consciousness, holistic spirituality. Theoretical perspective on formative relations in structured situations: religious formation, seminary formation, spiritual formation in parishes. Formation issues: spiritual growth through stages of the life cycle, sexuality and chastity, conflict and community, suffering and death, work and ministry.
- THL 791 Spirituality and Sexuality** (3) (Same as CSP 791)
As body-persons, all men and women are called to integrate the various dimensions of our human existence within a thought out/lived out perspective, i.e., a spirituality. For various historical, cultural, and religious reasons incorporating our sexuality can be challenging, even problematic. Through lecture, guided reading/reflection, class discussion, and writing, students will be encouraged to develop their personally meaningful spirituality of sexuality.
- THL 792 Practicum in Ministry** (3) OD
Supervised experience in a practical ministry of the student's choice in consultation with the Program Director.
- THL 793 Directed Independent Readings** (1-4) OD
To be arranged. Repeatable up to 8 credits.
- THL 794 Special Elective in Biblical Studies** (3)
- THL 795 Directed Independent Study** (3) OD
- THL 796 Special Elective in Historical-Doctrinal-Liturgical Studies** (3)
- THL 797 Directed Independent Research** (3) OD
- THL 798 Special Elective in Christian Life Studies** (3)
- THL 799 Master's Thesis** (3) OD