



Reformed Episcopal Seminary
Master of Arts Theology Studies (MATS) - 60 Credits



Degree Overview:

REQUIRED COURSES	(27 Credits)
Option: ANGLICAN THEOLOGY	(18 Credits)
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	(18 Credits)
ELECTIVES	(15 Credits)
TOTAL	(60 Credits)

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□	PT 707 Evangelism & Outreach (3 credits)	7
□	PT 800 Leadership (3 credits)	7

Course Descriptions:

REQUIRED COURSES (27 CREDITS)

- + **BT 500 English Bible (3 credits):** An overview of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments to increase basic biblical knowledge and understanding. This course is foundational in nature. It may be taken as an elective by those in the M.Div. program to further strengthen their Bible knowledge.
- + **BT 506 OT Biblical Theology (3 credits):** An introduction to the study of the content and method of Old Testament revelation. The development of the covenant concept and the history of redemption is traced from the Pentateuch through the prophets. The Biblical Theology of Geerhardus Vos is used as a text for this course.
- + **HT 505 Church History Overview (3 credits):** Moving from beyond the realm of the New Testament, discover what happens when Christian faith meets the messiness of life! Let us take a trip around the world, stretching our legs and sharpening our minds as we view amazing remnants, follow hidden trails, and hear inspiring stories from local Christian guides. Brace yourself as we journey from Asia to Africa, Israel to Iceland, and Tehran to Tokyo.
- + **HT 685 Church & World Culture (3 credits):** The relationship between the church and its faith and practice with culture is an increasingly important one. Christians must understand cultural and society realities both locally and globally as they interact with society. Religion and society is an important social dynamic, both globally as well as in American culture. Beginning with a careful study of Niebuhr's Christ & Culture, students will develop a critical understanding of the relationship of church and culture with an increasingly global and faith perspective.



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- + **HT 775 World Religions: A Historical Study (3 credits):** This course studies the major world religions from an historical perspective. Attention is given to Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Primary source material from at least one religion other than Christianity is studied.
- + **NT 501 Introduction to NT (3 credits):** This course focuses on issues that relate to the New Testament as a whole. Students survey the background of the New Testament (Judaism, Hellenism, and the Roman Empire, with extensive use of primary sources) as the context for the advent of Christ and the beginnings of the Christian church. The New Testament is also studied as canon to determine how and why the writings were collected and preserved in the early church. Finally, students survey the history of New Testament study and criticism to modern times.
- + **NT 502 The Gospels (3 credits):** The four gospels are studied in English. Students investigate the origins of the gospels, noting early church traditions and modern theories. Special consideration is given to the structure of the synoptic gospels, the kingdom of God, interpreting the parables of Jesus, Johannine theology, and modern homiletical use of the gospels.
- + **OT 501 Pentateuch (3 credits):** The structure and authorship of the Books of the Law are treated against their historical setting. The biblical theology of the earliest epochs of redemptive history is examined considering the relationship between the Abrahamic and the Sinaitic covenants. Particular attention is paid to the evidence of the historical reliability of even the earliest of the covenantal documents.
- + **OT 503 Prophetic Books (3 credits):** Both Major and Minor Prophets are studied in canonical order of the English Bible. Familiarity and understanding of their messages are sought through an examination of the texts and their historical and sociological settings. Theological issues and principles of prophetic interpretation are considered.

CHOSEN OPTION (18 CREDITS)

OPTION - Anglican Theology

- + **AN 503 Liturgics (3 credits):** This course offers an introduction to the nature and elements of biblical worship; worship in the history of Israel and of the church; the development of liturgy and the value of liturgical forms; and the origins, development, and public use of The Book of Common Prayer. Students pursue independent research in conjunction with class lecture presentation.
- + **AN 603 Book of Common Prayer (3 credits):** In this course the student is acquainted with the origins and development of the traditional Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican tradition. The different services of the Book of Common Prayer are discussed in terms of both theology and history. Topics include the daily offices, the litany, the lectionary and propers, the psalter, language, Holy Communion, the Dominical Sacraments, the Ordinal, and the Pastoral offices.
- + **AN 615 Anglican Spirituality (3 credits):** Focuses on the contribution of Anglicanism and Anglicans to the theology and practice of the wider church. It consists of an overview of the history, standards, and practice of Anglicanism which have shaped the orthodox Anglican Church. The axis of this course is an in-depth study of Anglican thinkers, writers, theologians who have shaped the course of Anglicanism and the wider church. Students will be encouraged to look at how their religious practice, spirituality, and thought and that of their churches has been affected by Anglicanism. (Clearly it must since they are

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attending an Anglican seminary!) Scholars to be studied include Hugh Latimer, Thomas Cranmer, William Tyndale, Nicholas Ridley, Richard Hooker, Lancelot Andrews, John Donne, George Herbert, John Wesley, John Keble, and C.S. Lewis, among others.

- + **AN 703 Thirty-Nine Articles (3 credits):** This course gives the student an intensive overview of one of the primary theological platforms of the Protestant Reformation. It permits a review of the theology courses previously taken through the lens of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, considered historically and dogmatically. As the formal confessional document of the Church of England and the Reformed Episcopal Church, the Articles are of special importance to those preparing for ministry in the Reformed Episcopal Church; but the study of them will provide valuable theological reflection for students of all Protestant confessional churches.
- + **AN 714 Anglican History and Polity (3 credits):** This covers the history of the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) from the beginning in 1873 to the present day, including its part as a founding partner in the Anglican Church in North America. Students look at the REC in terms of its immediate historical context, as well as the contexts of the English Reformation, the foundation of the Episcopal Church in 18th century America, and the founding of the Anglican Church in North America in 2009. The application of the constitution and canons of the Reformed Episcopal Church to the context of contemporary pastoral ministry is studied.
- + **DT 602 Church & Sacraments (3 credits):** The nature and calling of the church; the invisible and visible church; the holy catholic church; the sacraments of the church: covenant baptism and the Lord's Supper; trans- and consubstantiation; the *communicatio idiomatum*; memorialism; sacramental views of Calvin and Cranmer; pedo-communion; church discipline and polity.

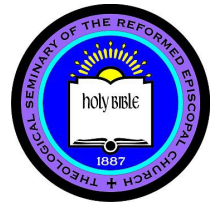
OPTION - Christian Education

- + **PT 501 Homiletics (3 credits):** Introduction to the history, science, and art of preaching. Consideration of sermon preparation (choice of text, exegesis, hermeneutics, history, culture, and doctrine); sermon structure (title, introduction, body, conclusion, outline, and illustrations); sermon delivery (style, use of manuscript, voice variety, projection, and general speech skills); and persuasion as well as argument.
- + **PT 601 Pastoral Theology (3 credits):** An introduction to the calling, content, and skills involved in the cure of souls. The course seeks to address the issues that confront the pastor in his care of God's people. Subjects addressed include: a Theology of Prayer in Pastoral Life; Pastoral Visitation; The Role of Women in the Church; Homosexuality; Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage; and the Sign Gifts.
- + **PT 704 Basic Counseling Skills (3 credits):** Basic Pastoral Counseling introduces the student to the basics of Pastoral Counseling, and what is expected of the pastoral counselor. The course will explore selected secular paradigms of counseling from the great geniuses of depth psychology, through the existentialist and humanistic schools, to family systems counseling. Special care will be taken to contextualize these paradigms within the spiritual safety of the Christian revelation, and seminarians will develop their own critical approach to secular mental health theory and praxis that will assist them in their ministries to the brokenhearted.
- + **PT 706 Pastoral Administration: Pastoral Organization (3 credits):** This course analyzes the role of administration as a necessary function in pastoral ministry. Consideration is given to the daily functions of pastoral ministry with an eye to using the gifts and skills God has given His people to the best



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advantage of Christ and His Church. The focus of this course is management of money and other resources and managing church and personal conflict. This class counts for the degree requirements for PT 705 (3 credits) or if already fulfilled, 3 elective credits. Students may take both PT 705 and PT 706 for credit.

- + **PT 708 Christian Education (3 credits):** The history, scriptural foundations and practice of Christian Education/Formation will be presented. Students will learn to apply the insights of both approaches to Christian growth by distinguishing the theological perspectives, theory, models, and outlook. The centrality of Holy Scripture, the Sacraments, liturgical time, and Christian life stages will be taught.
- + **PT 709 Catechesis (3 credits):** This course guides students in the art of instructing new believers, young and old, in Christian faith and life. Emphasis is put on both instruction in catechesis and its practice. The primary catechism used in the course is *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism*.

ELECTIVES (15 CREDITS)

- + **AN 512 Creeds & Councils (3 credits):** This is an introduction to the ecumenical Creeds and Councils of the church. They are studied both in terms of their historical and theological development and their doctrinal and confessional standing for orthodox faith and practice, particularly within Anglicanism.
- + **AN 614 English Church (3 credits):** English church history from the Venerable Bede and the missionary achievements of St. Patrick to the establishment of the Church of England under Henry the 8th. Included will be the Reformation efforts under Edward VI and the settlement of Elizabeth I through the Puritan revolt and the Cromwellian Parliament and the restoration of Charles II.
- + **BT 601 Hermeneutics (3 credits):** An advanced treatment of the rules and techniques of biblical interpretation, applying acquired skills of exegesis of the Hebrew and Greek text of Scripture within the parameters of sound principles of hermeneutical practice. Founded upon the introduction to the principles and the history of hermeneutics received in introductory courses, this course sharpens the student's abilities in grappling with specific issues of which he or she is now more fully and intensely aware.
- + **BT 775 Abrahamic Religions, Sacred Scripture, & Biblical Worldview (3 credits):** This course compares the Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in terms of the Scriptures and a Biblical Worldview.
- + **DT 501 The Doctrine of God (3 credits):** Theology Proper: Theological prolegomena, the doctrine of revelation (general and special), arguments for the existence of God, the nature and attributes of God, the decrees of God, the providence of God, the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.
- + **DT 502 The Doctrine of Man and of Sin (3 credits):** The origin and antiquity of man; the image of God in man; the pre- and post-lapsarian condition of man; the covenant of works; original sin; the imputation of sin; the total depravity of man; a comparison of the Pelagian, Arminian, Calvinistic, and perfectionistic systems.
- + **DT 506 Research and Theological Methods (3 credits):** An introduction to research in Biblical and theological disciplines, this course introduces students both to the process of writing research papers



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and developing and maintaining a sound theological method for doing so. Areas covered include library research, time management, use of the internet, proper etiquette, format, and argument development.

- + **DT 601 Christology and Soteriology (3 credits):** The person and work of Christ, the hypostatic union, the deity and humanity of Christ, impeccability, theories of the atonement, the Holy Spirit in applying the work of Christ, the covenants of redemption and grace, justification, effectual calling, regeneration, faith, conversion, sanctification, perseverance.
- + **DT 702 Classical Apologetics (3 credits):** Defense of the Christian faith as practiced by advocates of Thomism, natural theology, and reason. Contrast with rationalism, irrationalism, existentialism, empiricism, and logical positivism. Time will be spent relating faith and reason to produce a balanced, rational apology for the Christian hope. Arguments of Reformed epistemology as taught by Hoitenga, Plantinga, and James Kelly Clark will be discussed.
- + **DT 750 Moral Theology (3 credits):** This course is designed to foster critical and connective moral thinking from a biblical Christian perspective with respect to both developing character and holiness through the cultivation of virtue (being formed to the image of the Son, Romans 8:27), and the process of moral discernment of the Christian stance on difficult moral issues (putting on the mind of Christ, I Corinthians 2:13). Lecture content will include special topics in the historical development of Christian ethics, e.g. theological anthropology, pacifism and just war theory, Scriptural moral hermeneutics, and eschatology.
- + **HT 501 Patristics (3 credits):** An introductory course designed to acquaint the student with the history of the Church to the Council of Nicaea. Consideration of views of the Scriptures, the church, the Christian ministry, and the trinity in the early church. Attention will also be given to the various apologetics offered for the Christian faith in the ante-Nicene period.
- + **HT 612 European & American Protestant Theology (3 credits):** This course studies how the Reformation in Europe engaged late medieval Catholicism, Humanism, and the Enlightenment. It then examines developments in Protestant theological thought, from the Puritans in England and the Colonies to Edwardsean Theology, Methodism, the Princeton Theology, and controversies of the 19th century.
- + **HT 613 Medieval & Continental Reformation (3 credits):** Beginning with the Latin west and the end of the Roman world this course covers an expansive period of this early, high and Latin Middle Ages through the European Reformation (500-1600). The student is encouraged to evaluate & discuss the philosophical-theological history of the period with an emphasis on the persons of Aquinas through Luther.
- + **NT 503 Acts & Paul (3 credits):** The narrative of Acts provides the historical framework for introducing each of Paul's letters in chronological order. Special attention is given to the background and contents of each letter and to Paul's role in the development and spread of early Christianity.
- + **NT 602 General Epistles & Revelation (3 credits):** Background, contents, and theology of each of the catholic epistles and Revelation are surveyed. Special attention is given to the historical occasion, structure, and theology of Hebrews, the social setting and teaching of James, the relationship between II Peter and Jude and their mutual concerns, and interpretive approaches to Revelation.



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- + **OT 502 Historical Books (3 credits):** This course concentrates on the study of Joshua through Esther. Special attention is given to the nature and purpose of the Old Testament histories. Introduction, content survey, the archaeological and geographical background, and the biblical theology of the historical books are all examined. Issues of chronology and modern critical theories are evaluated by a careful study of the Scriptures themselves, developing a thorough appreciation for the reliability and accuracy of the narrative histories.
- + **OT 604 Poetic Books (3 credits):** The unique style and role of Hebrew poetry in the "Books of Poetry," among the Writings portion of the Hebrew canon. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, as well as Lamentations, are analyzed for theological, devotional, and didactic significance.
- + **PT 603 Ministry to Women (3 credits):** This course concentrates on the study of ministry to women and by women. Because women constitute more than half of most congregations, pastors and church leaders need to be equipped to minister to their needs. By focusing on the differences and synergy that ministry to women provides, the student will be equipped to enhance the ministry to their own congregation.
- + **PT 610 Supervised Practical Ministry (3 credits):** **AWAITING CURRENT DESCRIPTION**
- + **PT 636 Urban Ministry & Mission (3 credits):** This course will treat Urban Ministry and Missions from the perspectives of Biblical and pastoral theology, encouraging the students to have a heart for evangelism, mission, and God's people wherever they are while being soundly rooted in the Bible and a theology of ministry.
- + **PT 705 Pastoral Administration: Managing Finances & Conflict (3 credits):** This course analyzes the role of administration as a necessary function in pastoral ministry. Consideration is given to the daily functions of pastoral ministry with an eye to using the gifts and skills God has given His people to the best advantage of Christ and His Church. The focus of this course is management of money and other resources and managing church and personal conflict. This class counts for the degree requirements for PT 705 (3 credits) or if already fulfilled, 3 elective credits. Students may take both PT 705 and PT 715 for credit.
- + **PT 707 Evangelism & Outreach (3 credits):** The intent of this course is to enable students to develop and articulate a theological and historical understanding of evangelism, identify important principles in evangelism and outreach and use them to evaluate existing models, and develop a plan for mobilizing a real or hypothetical parish church for evangelism.
- + **PT 800 Leadership (3 credits):** In the providence of God throughout the course of redemptive history, the Lord has called and gifted certain individuals to lead and shepherd his flocks. This course is designed to assist the student in developing an understanding and practice of church leadership that is biblically and liturgically based, and theologically sound. Principles of leadership will be developed and applied by using several biblical models as primary reference. The purpose of this course is three-fold:
 1. To Examine biblical and liturgical principles of leadership
 2. To Evaluate your leadership gifts, style, strengths, and weaknesses
 3. To Expose you to various leadership models, methods, and practical applications.