

# Theological Studies Course Descriptions

## Sterling College Online

### **GD105 Foundations of Servant Leadership 1 credit**

Designed to introduce new Sterling students to the servant leadership emphasis of our liberal arts curriculum that integrates faith and learning, this course will also focus on skills for academic success, life-long learning, and career/major planning. This course is required of all new students and should be completed in the first semester of attendance. Lab fee.

### **TM1045 - Introduction to the Old and New Testament 5 credits**

This course examines the major themes for both the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament through the study of selected passages, ranging from Genesis to Malachi; and the major themes of the New Testament, ranging from Matthew to Revelation. Attention is paid to the covenant structure of the Bible and its different literary genres. *Meets General Education requirement.*

### **TM1075 - Cross-Cultural Studies 5 credits**

This course examines the area of the global interconnectedness of Christian ministry today, exploring the challenges of multi-ethnic cultural diversity. Through a theological and anthological study of dimensions, such as our concepts of time, event, space, reasoning, task, crisis, vulnerability, relationships, status, group consciousness, etc., students are enabled to foster cross-cultural and international relations and better avoid conflict.

### **TM2485 - Methods in Bible Study 5 credits**

Beginning at ground level, this course reviews the basic importance of individual Bible study with the aim of teaching others. Aspects addressed include exegesis, context, interpretation, genre, application and implementation. Skills in the presentation of a lesson are also developed in group context.

### **TM2835 - Church History and Mission I and II 5 credits**

This course provides a chronological overview of the spread and progress of Christianity from Apostolic times to the present, reflection on the development of ideas, and on missionary activities.

### **TM3055 - Basic Christian Doctrine and The Holy Spirit 5 credits**

This course reflects on the major tenets of the Christian faith, considering their biblical basis and present relevance to life. Topics studied include God, revelation, angels, humanity, sin, Christ, salvation, the church, sacraments and the future. Due to the traditional neglect of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and its relevance in Christianity today it will receive more detailed attention. This will include biblical and historical background as well as contemporary issues of religious experience such as Spirit-baptism and charismatic gifts. *Meets General Education requirement.*

### **TM3105 - Philosophical Concepts and Christian Thought 5 credits**

Students are introduced to the basic divisions of philosophical thought such as cosmology, metaphysics, logic, epistemology, and ethics. The development of a Christian or biblical worldview is pursued. Students will also study contemporary expressions of Christian thought as expressed in twentieth century schools such as neo-Orthodoxy, Vatican II Catholicism, liberation theology, future-oriented theologies, feminism, narrative theology, Pentecostal and Charismatic theologies, and trends in majority-world thinking. *Meets General Education Requirement.*

### **TM3923 - Service Component 3 credits**

Students take the initiative in creating, developing, and providing some form of practical voluntary service to a ministry or agency in which they can utilize skills and apply insight acquired from their academic study of Religion and Christian Ministry. The proposed service must be planned and approved in advance of the proposed service and reflected on later in group debriefing sessions.

**TM4935 - Ethics****5 credits**

This course provides an introduction to ethical theory and moral decision making, i.e. the reflection on ways how we as humans ought to live and the process of making good and right choices regarding our behavior and actions. Major ethical systems include Virtue ethics, Divine command, Natural law, Social contract theory, Duty and Utilitarianism. Areas of application may include matters such as abortion, cloning, euthanasia, capital punishment, war, sexuality, and the environment.

**TM4995 - Research Methods and Thesis****5 credits**

This course exposes students to the research skills and methodologies needed to conduct significant and appropriate research in biblical and theological studies. It guides students through in-depth research and the successful production of an academic paper.

**TM2155 - Old Testament Studies****5 credits**

Within the field of the Old Testament this course is focused on two areas: the background, content, and purpose of biblical prophets and their writings, and an introduction to the poetry and wisdom literature in books such as Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastics, and Job.

**TM2755 - New Testament Studies****5 credits**

Within the field of the New Testament this course is focused on two areas: the life of Jesus, reflected in the differing perspectives of the four gospel writers, asking how and why they wrote and then considering the historical Jesus debate, and secondly on the letters of the apostle Paul in their historical and literary contexts, probing their respective purposes and content.

**TM2315 - Introduction to New Testament Greek I and II 5 credits**

This course equips students with a fundamental understanding of the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of biblical Greek, leading to the reading of selected New Testament Greek texts.

**TM4105 - History of Philosophy and Christian Thought 5 credits**

This course examines the historical development of philosophical thought from the ancient Greeks to the present and explores the interface of philosophical and religious thought, looking at issues such as traditional and current arguments for the existence of God and the validity of religious experience within the contemporary postmodern mindset.