

Christian Ministries 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.*

TM3925 - Service Component**5 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.

TM2405 - Christian Education and Leadership**5 credits**

This course provides an overview of Christian Education as a mission of the church. A variety of vocational options are explored as well as the leadership styles and spiritual qualities of Christian leaders. Students will be trained in principles and procedures for planning and structuring a program for Christian Education and in the selection and evaluation of teaching resources, as well as the recruitment and training of lay leaders and teachers for educational ministry.

TM2745 - Missions and Theology of Religions**5 credits**

This course examines the biblical foundation of Christian mission, its history and practice. It focuses on communicating the Gospel in the contemporary world, incorporating the challenge of issues of culture, worldview, and ethnicity. It also provides a thorough study of the major non-Christian religions of the world from a Christian perspective and probes the issue of the salvific uniqueness of Jesus Christ.

TM3115 - Worship: Theology and Trends**5 credits**

This course explores the biblical and theological foundations of worship in the Old and New Testaments and the ministry of Christ as the —liturgist in the sanctuary and leader of Christian worship. Contemporary trends are also studied comparatively including liturgical, traditional (or hymn-based), revivalist, seeker sensitive, contemporary, charismatic, and emerging church styles. Students are expected to probe and assess the broad scope of present-day innovations in worship.

TM3385 - Youth Ministry**5 credits**

This course reflects on the distinctive nature of contemporary youth cultures, their influence on society, and application to Christian ministry. The role of the youth minister is explored in relation to the needs of young people and the effective communication of the Gospel. Students are exposed to various models of youth ministry and introduced to the practical, administrative duties involved. Issues of family dynamics are also explored.