

Module Course of Study – Course Descriptions

Level 1

MTC1031 – Exploring Christian Ministry

This module is designed for those persons who have received a call from God to full time Christian ministry and for those who wish to explore the foundation and scope of Christian ministry. During the module, learners will have the opportunity to examine the scriptures that provide a foundation for Christian ministry and the key components of ministry. The module content can be summarized as answers to three questions: What should the minister be? What should the minister know? and What should the minister be able to do?

This module is primarily an exploration of what it means to be in full time ministry in the Church. The focus of this course is on those who will be serving in pastoral roles, however those who are not serving in a pastoral role will still benefit greatly from the course.

MTC1001 – Telling the Old Testament Story of God

This module is designed to give students a deeper understanding and familiarity with the Christian Old Testament, or Hebrew Scriptures. As a result of taking this module, students will be able to identify the literary characteristics of the Old Testament as well as differentiate between the various genres that are contained therein.

Students will be able to identify the main characters of the Old Testament as well as trace the theological themes and developments that occur throughout the Old Testament. Students will also be introduced to and practice exegetical disciplines that are essential to responsible interpretation of Scripture. Also, students will get acquainted with the appropriate tools and resources available in the field of Old Testament study.

MTC1011 – Telling the New Testament Story of God

This module is designed to introduce students to the tools, resources, and methods essential to study of the New Testament, or Christian Bible. As a result of taking this module, students should be able to identify the different literary genres that exist in the New Testament and have adequate understanding of how each book of the New Testament came into being.

Special focus will be paid to the political, social, and geographical settings of the early Church, and how these factors contributed to the message of the New Testament. The theological focuses of Jesus and Paul will also be examined extensively. Students will also be introduced to exegetical practices essential for success in New Testament study.

MTC1021 – Communicating with Spoken and Written Language

This module, while not expressly theological in nature, is essential to success in ministry and in proclaiming the gospel. This module will help students to communicate clearly and effectively in multiple ways. As ministers of the gospel, individuals are required to speak articulately and write clearly in order to most effectively proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. This module will help students write and verbally communicate well-reasoned arguments and speak cogently in front of groups of people.

Also, this module will help students identify the parts of an argument and to understand different rhetorical methods used by others. Another goal of this course is to assist the student in

cross-cultural communication and to educate them in different methods of communicating across cultural lines.

Level 2

MTC1041 – Interpreting Scripture

This module is designed for students to be introduced to basic exegetical methods used in ministerial study of scripture. Students will learn about essential tools and resources for studying scripture in appropriate ways for ministry. The primary focus of this module is to introduce students to basic historical, literary, and theological critical methods. Students will also be able to articulate an understanding of the authority and inspiration of scripture that is consistent with the Manual's statement (Article of Faith IV).

Students will also be introduced to the formation of the Christian Bible and do extensive study of topics such as canon. Students will also explore ways in which to apply scripture to contemporary Christian life, as well as explore the differences between the various translations and paraphrases that exist for the Church's use today.

MTC1051 – Tracing the Story of God in the Bible

This module is designed to give students the ability to theologically interpret scripture. The focus of study in this module is making sense of scripture as a theological source. Nazarenes affirm the protestant conviction that the scripture is our primary source for understanding God's work in the world. This module is intended to help students apply this principle and construct biblical theology that is well grounded and can be applied to contemporary Christian life.

This module will also help students develop ethical convictions that are scripturally sound and based. Also, students will develop an appreciation for the differing contexts in which scripture was written and how theological understandings of communities come about. Students will use this knowledge to interpret scripture for their own local church communities.

MTC1071 – Examining our Christian Heritage 1

This is the first course of two that examine the history of Christianity from its beginnings to the present day. This module is designed to give the student insight into how critical study of Church history is accomplished. It will also demonstrate how the Church has developed as a social entity.

The first course examines the history of the Church from the time of Christ to the prereformation era. Study will focus on the Apostolic, Patristic, and Medieval periods. Students should complete this course with knowledge of persons and events significant to each period.

Focus will be given to the development of foundational creeds and doctrines of the Church, and how those developments shaped Church practice and social development.

MTC1121 – Exploring John Wesley's Theology

The Church of the Nazarene is considered a part of the Wesleyan-holiness family of denominations that arose at the start of the 20th century. In order for us to understand our origins and our theological heritage, we rely heavily on an influential Christian thinker by the name of

John Wesley. As Wesleyans we follow specific theological methods and hold certain convictions about the Christian life.

This module seeks to help students understand the particularities of John Wesley's theology and to apply them to ministry. Concepts such as the Wesleyan Quadrilateral are the focus of the module, and the course seeks to demonstrate how John Wesley's theology of holiness, love, and service is relevant to the 21st century Church. The module should also help students gain skill in theological reflection and construction, show that theological study, at its core, consists of dialog with other believers.

Level 3

MTC1101 – Investigating Christian Theology 1

Although all of the modules involve theological reflection, construction, and implementation at one level or another, these two courses provide the student with bedrock theological methods that will serve them throughout their education and ministry. These courses will trace the historical developments of Christian theology and identify the theological contributions of certain individuals in the Christian tradition. Christian doctrines of God will be explored in depth in these courses.

These two courses will help students learn to use scripture, tradition, reason, and experience in their theological reflection and construction, and how to constructively dialog with others whose viewpoints differ from their own. These courses will also help the student with problem solving and rhetorical skills.

MTC1081 – Exploring our Christian Heritage 2

This is the second course in the survey of Christian history. This module continues the study of Church history from the time of the Protestant Reformation to the present. Special focus is given to the historical figures who contributed significantly to the theological development of the protestant tradition.

Students will leave this course with knowledge of persons and events that contributed significantly to Church history. The student should also be able to discern cultural and social factors that contribute to the story of the Church, both in history and today. Students should also gain an appreciation for and a deeper understanding of the theological development of the Church throughout this period. This course will also help students discern how the Church accomplished its mission at various periods in history, and how this material can be applied in today's world.

MTC1131 – Becoming a Holy People

This module is concerned with exposing students to the rich theological heritage of the Church of the Nazarene. Some focus of this course will be on the historical development of the doctrine of holiness, as articulated by John Wesley and later reinterpreted by the Church of the Nazarene. Students will learn how the Church of the Nazarene has developed this doctrine as well as current discussions and debates surrounding the doctrine of holiness. Students will have an opportunity to study the scriptures and explore biblical teachings on Christian holiness. Much of the course will focus on exploring what it means to be a holy people in the 21st century context, and how the biblical themes and historical developments can relate to the world today.

Students will explore what it means to be a sanctified individual, empowered for service in the Kingdom of God.

Level 4

MTC1111 – Investigating Christian Theology 2

Although all of the modules involve theological reflection, construction, and implementation at one level or another, these two courses provide the student with bedrock theological methods that will serve them throughout their education and ministry. These courses will trace the historical developments of Christian theology and identify the theological contributions of certain individuals in the Christian tradition. Christian doctrines of God will be explored in depth in these courses.

These two courses will help students learn to use scripture, tradition, reason, and experience in their theological reflection and construction, and how to constructively dialog with others whose viewpoints differ from their own. These courses will also help the student with problem solving and rhetorical skills.

MTC1141 – Preaching the Story of God

This module serves to train the student in one of the most important tasks of pastoral ministry, the preaching of the word of God. This task is considered foundational to fulfilling the calling of God to the ordained ministry. The Apostle Paul illustrated the importance of proclamation in his charge to Timothy: “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction.” (2 Tim 4:2)

This module addressed the need for preparation of the preacher as a necessary prerequisite to the preparation and delivery of the sermon, so both the preacher and the spoken message will have authority. This module will equip the student to go through the process of sermon construction from a hermeneutical study of the biblical text, through stages of development, until the sermon is ready to be delivered.

Attention will be given to the preaching event as the oral communication of the sermon process, including the call for a decision. In addition, the module will aid the student in understanding the need for planning a preaching program that addresses the need of the congregation and aids in the overall worship experience of the people of God.

MTC1232 – Supervised Ministry Experience (Internship)

This module is different than others in the Course of Study. It takes place over a much longer time and the primary learning environment is the local congregation and not the classroom. Classroom time focuses on reports of real life experience of ministry. The major purpose of this module is to link theory with practice by providing regular, structured, and supervised opportunities for students to apply and test knowledge, skills, and attitudes developed largely during classroom-based studies, in concrete experiences in the congregation and community. The key component for providing practical experience and developing key vocational skills and competencies is found in the Supervised Ministry Experience. The student will be required to demonstrate a range of skills appropriate for his or her ministry context. Issues of character development are also addressed.

The blending of biblical, theoretical, and philosophical tenets with practical ministry provides the student with a balanced perspective. Guided learning and reflective evaluation are vital learning components of this program as preparation is made for life-long learning in the Christian minister.

At-Large

MTC1061 – Practicing Wesleyan-Holiness Spiritual Formation

The goal of this module is to expose students to the practices and disciplines the Church has identified as spiritually formative. This course will also demonstrate to students just how important personal spiritual reflection and formation is, and how one can go about it most effectively. Students will dialog with others about their personal spiritual formation and share experiences and strategies that have deepened their faith and spiritual maturity.

One objective of this course is to show students the power of being open and willing to dialog about the work of God. As students work together to seek God's will and purpose, they will find the practices and disciplines that they all participate in to be a unifying factor among them.

MTC1091 – Exploring Nazarene History and Polity

This module is designed to give students a thorough insight into the governance and historical development of the Church of the Nazarene. This course is foundational for understanding the mission of the Church of the Nazarene. The three main goals of the module are: to help students locate the Church of the Nazarene on the larger scale of the Christian Church (along with this, students will examine the social development of the denomination's core values: Christian, holiness, missional); to help students understand the theological affirmations, articles of faith, and membership expectations of the Church of the Nazarene; and to explore models of ecclesial governance and describe the system in place for the Church of the Nazarene.

MTC1211 – Declaring the Gospel of God

In order to contribute to the biblical and denominational intent for the Church to become a missional people, and because humanity needs redemption, this module will challenge, inform, and equip students to become full participants in Christ's mission by overcoming personal fears, and coping with cultural resistance. The students will be God-called persons, seeking to be prepared adequately, both to be involved personally and to lead others to involvement in Christian mission. These learners usually have limited experience with evangelism and limited exposure to unsaved people; they have few, if any, unsaved friends. If learning is contained only in the classroom, it will not be sufficient to gain exposure, motivation, and on-the-job training critical to be prepared adequately to become a leader in the deliberate intention of the Church of the Nazarene to become missional.

MTC1151 – Shepherding God's People

This module is designed to introduce the student to the world of congregational care. One of the primary responsibilities of the Church leader is care for the needs of the local church, and

to assure that the local church is being faithful to the call of God to be a caring, loving institution in its context.

This module will help students understand the basic needs of a local congregation and how the student can appropriately and most effectively meet each one of those needs. This course will expose students to effective models of discipleship and ministry in local churches.

This module is also designed to give the student the ability to think about his or her own life in relation to the congregation, and will equip students to successfully navigate the course of the many different roles that persons in ministry positions assume.

MTC1181 – Providing Christian Education for All Ages

This course is designed to introduce students to the world of Christian education. This course will focus on the theological reasons for Christian education, as well as explore the history of Christian education. Finally, students will learn models and paradigms for successful Christian education, as well as be challenged to think creatively about how Christian education should take place in the local congregation.

At the completion of the course, the students and teacher will have a clearer understanding of how Christian faith is nurtured in persons and communities. They will be equipped with some basic skills to create strong educational structures, materials, and practices for use in their own settings. They will also have a growing passion to see children, youth, and adults become Christians and be nurtured by Christian faith.

MTC1191 – Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally

This module will help educate the student on methods of cross-cultural evangelism. As citizens of a vastly diverse world that seems to shrink smaller every day, Christians must be effective at communicating the message of Jesus Christ to all people regardless of any cultural boundaries that may exist.

As a result of taking this course, students will learn to engage themselves in personal inspection and reflection and identify culturally conditioned habits, practices, and other things that may make ministering to those of other cultures difficult. This module seeks to educate the student in effective communication across cultural lines and how to build real relationships across those lines as well.

MTC1171 – Leading the People of God

This module is designed to help students be successful leaders in the local congregation. This module will help church leaders learn how to teach and motivate new disciples of Christ in the local congregation. This module is also designed to help students understand their own spiritual gifts and personality traits, as well as potential strengths for leadership.

Students will learn the essentials of developing systems and curricula of Christian education and discipleship. They will also study organizational skills and planning strategies for effective worship services. Students will also be sensitized to contextual ministry. A refrain throughout this course will be the term “servant leader.” This concept will be the guiding principle behind this module, and students should discover new ways in which they can incorporate the model of Jesus as a leader and a servant into their philosophy of ministry.

MTC1161 – Administering the Local Church

This module is intended to provide students with the skills and competencies required for successful leadership in the local congregation. This module seeks to help students integrate theological concerns and convictions, primarily the nature of God's mission, into the everyday life of the congregation.

Students will deal with issues of conflict resolution, time management, resource management, and development of a personal philosophy of ministry. Also, students will learn practical principles of budget keeping and financial strategies for successful stewardship. One of the primary outcomes of this module is for students to be able to articulate to others vision and purpose and to work as a leader in a local congregation. Students will learn strategies for integration of vision and planning, as well as strengthen their teamwork skills and people skills.

MTC1221 – Living Ethical Lives

This module is concerned with the application of the gospel to the everyday life of the minister. The gospel has a moral dimension. The purpose of this module is to call attention to this reality by pointing toward the multiple sources and resources for Christian character found in scripture as it has been handed on to each new generation. Special attention will be given to the unique way in which moral reflection has characterized the Wesleyan-holiness tradition.

Another trajectory for this module is Christian character. Such things as integrity, fidelity, consistence, and generosity speak to the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Part of the importance of this module is to be found in calling attention to the crucial sense in which embodying the faith should be understood as a material outgrowth of the preaching of the gospel. To preach the gospel without intention to live it out is unthinkable in the Wesleyan-holiness tradition.

MTC1201 – Communicating the Gospel in a Pluralistic World

This module is designed to equip students with the knowledge necessary for proclaiming the gospel in a world that is dominated by more than one faith and way of living. The modern world is a world where many religions exist, and consequently, an attitude of religious diversity and plurality has been adopted. The idea that many religions are the truth and a religious relativism has emerged because of this increasing diversity. This reality can be a large obstacle for the Church in the world today – a body that claims to have the truth.

The focus of this course is how Christians today can live in a pluralistic world and still be ever true to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ – the truth – to all peoples of the world. The module will help students engage in evangelism that crosses religious and cultural boundaries.