

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Purposes

- To help students appreciate and understand Christian history, theology, and spirituality from the perspective of the biblical, historical Christian faith;
- To create opportunities for students to apply and integrate classroom knowledge and principles to in-service training experiences in local churches, cross-cultural settings, and missions;
- To prepare students to pursue the study of philosophy, theology, or religion in a graduate school or seminary;
- To educate students to be “practical thinkers” and “thinking practitioners.”
- To prepare students to apply principles of Christian formation for the practice of ministry.

Tradition of Excellence

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry faculty is committed to Christian service and the Wesleyan heritage. It offers personal attention and programs geared toward preparing women and men for ministry in a variety of forms as well as for other professions. With approximately fifty denominations represented at Point Loma, students have the opportunity to learn the similarities and differences between the major denominations and traditions within the Christian faith. The faculty of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry is diverse in educational background, with degrees from leading seminaries and universities across the country. Faculty members have published commentaries, articles in scholarly journals, books, and resources for pastors and Church leaders. All professors are members in academic societies in fields of study. Outside the classroom, the faculty are committed members of local congregations and often spend weekends preaching, teaching Sunday school, or speaking at camps and retreats.

Career Opportunities

Many of our students go directly into Christian ministry or other professions; others go on to seminary or graduate school. The School is proud of the acceptance rate of its alumni into a variety of graduate programs and law schools across the United States. To assist those entering Christian ministry of all sorts, “hands-on” internships in local churches are available. Also, up to six units can be earned through the summer ministries program by working in a local church, urban mission, or summer camp.

Faculty

Dean - Mark Maddix, Ph.D.

Brad Kelle, Ph.D.
Emory University

Rebecca Laird, D. Min.
Drew University

Michael Lodahl, Ph.D.
Emory University

Kara Lyons-Pardue, Ph.D.

Princeton Theological Seminary

Mark Maddix, Ph.D.
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Mark Mann, Ph.D.
Boston University

Stephanie Matthews, Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University

Heather Ross, M.A.
De Paul University

Robert Thompson, Ph.D.
University of Oklahoma

Montague Williams, Ph.D.
Boston University

To view requirements for majors, minors, and certificates, see the Degree Program Information (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/degree-program-information/>) page.

- Traditional Undergraduate Theology and Christian Ministry (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/>)
 - Christian Studies, B.A. (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/christian-studies-ba/>)
 - Philosophy, B.A. (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/philosophy-ba/>)
 - Biblical Studies Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/biblical-studies-minor/>)
 - Christian Mission & Intercultural Ministry Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/christian-mission-intercultural-ministry-minor/>)
 - Christian Studies Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/christian-studies-minor/>)
 - Philosophy Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/philosophy-minor/>)
 - Science and Christian Faith Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/science-christian-faith-minor/>)
 - Vocational Ministry Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/vocational-ministry-minor/>)
 - Worship Arts Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/worship-arts-minor/>)
 - Youth and Family Ministries Minor (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/youth-family-ministries-minor/>)

- Intercultural Ministries Certificate (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/intercultural-ministries-certificate/>)
- Leadership in Ministry Certificate (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/leadership-ministry-certificate/>)
- Spiritual Formation Certificate (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2022-2023/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/sotcm/tug-theology/spiritual-formation-certificate/>)

Bible

BIB 1001 Old Testament History and Religion (FE) (2 Units)

Within the context of the history of Israel, an overview of the literature of the Old Testament with special attention to its literary history and theological themes.

BIB 1002 New Testament History and Religion (FE) (3 Units)

Within the context of Christian origins, an overview of the canonical literature of the New Testament with special attention to its literary history and theological themes.

BIB 2040 Reading Scripture Faithfully (3 Units)

An exploration of the methods and approaches for engaging the Bible faithfully in relationship to Christian faith and practice; its nature, context, and origins; and its reception in global contexts, with attention to justice, gender, race, and class.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

BIB 3035 New Testament Books and Early Churches: Sermon, Letter, and Apocalypse (3 Units)

This course studies the New Testament books about and addressed to the general church - Acts, Hebrews, the Catholic Epistles, the Johannine Epistles, and/or Revelation - and focuses in on a particular portion of these books. What are the varieties of expressions of faithfulness to God and God's own faithfulness expressed in early Christian churches? How do these foster the diversity of Christian communities today?

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

BIB 3078 Old Testament Psalms and Wisdom Literature: Worship and Wisdom in a World of Suffering and Injustice (3 Units)

A study of the psalms and wisdom literature from their ancient Near Eastern antecedents to second century Judaism and Christianity, with attention to the ongoing realities of grief, suffering, and injustice in the world.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

BIB 4001 Jesus and the Gospels: Four Portraits of One Christ (3 Units)

A study of the content, theological perspectives, relationships, and reception of the canonical Gospels. This class asks the driving questions: Who is Jesus? How do the Gospels reveal the life, ministry, and death of Jesus? The heart of the course is growing in understanding of and reverence for the Christ of history and faith.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

BIB 4002 The Letters of Paul: Faith, Hope, and Love Across Distance and Difference (3 Units)

How do followers of Christ live in step with the Holy Spirit? A study of Paul's letters to far-flung churches around the ancient Mediterranean, most of which he founded and nurtured as a missionary pastor.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

BIB 4010 Biblical Theology (3 Units)

A study of the major theological themes of the Christian Scriptures in relation to Christian faith and practice.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

BIB 4013 Old Testament Torah and Israel's History: God's Story and God's People (3 Units)

An exegetical and theological study of Old Testament narrative and legal materials (Pentateuch, Deuteronomistic History, various writings) that introduces their basic content, movement, context, and significance. Attention also is paid to biblical and archaeological data related to the origins of Israel and its literature.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

BIB 4014 Old Testament Prophets and the Holy Imagination: Power, Gender, Justice, and Economics (3 Units)

A study of the prophetic phenomena in the Old Testament, setting each book in its historical and canonical context, with attention to how these books speak to ancient and contemporary issues related to power, gender, justice, and economics.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

BIB 4090 Special Studies in Bible (1-3 Units)

An investigation of a topic in biblical studies not otherwise covered in the curriculum.

May be repeated up to a total of nine (9) units.

Prerequisite(s): Consent of the Dean of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry

BIB 4095 Seminar in Biblical Literature (3 Units)

Advanced study in a topic in Bible.

May be repeated up to a total of six (6) units.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002 and consent of instructor.

Church History

CHU 3040 Women in the Christian Tradition (FE) (3 Units)

A historical survey addressing the ideas, practices, and institutions of Christianity emphasizing the contribution and challenges of women as disciples, preachers, martyrs, writers and community leaders from the end of the New Testament period to the present with attention to the Wesleyan and American Holiness traditions.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

CHU 3095 The Christian Tradition (FE) (3 Units)

A historical survey of the ideas, practices, and institutions of Christianity from the end of the New Testament period to the present, with attention to the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

Christian Ministry

CMI 1055 Christian Formation and Ministry (3 Units)

What is ministry? How are all Christians called to discipleship, faith formation, and service? What does the Christian tradition require from those granted authority of oversight in the Church? Students will learn from the various roles and offices of the church, to practice and teach others the classic Christian disciplines as a means of grace, and the importance of theological reflection for ministry.

CMI 3000 Teaching and Preaching the Bible (3 Units)

Students will examine the teaching and preaching offices of the Church. Students will learn how the essentials of biblical interpretation (hermeneutics and exegetical method), theology, and an understanding of the "social location" of the local congregation for effective teaching and preaching.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055

CMI 3025 Christian Care of Souls (3 Units)

What is Christian Care? What did the early church mean by the "care of souls"? This course will explore the intersection between discipleship and pastoral care and its relation to and divergence from psychological counseling. Emphasis will be given to multi-generational and congregationally-based ways for spiritual nurture and care of individuals and families in need. Special attention will be given to spiritual direction and lay-led ministries.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055

CMI 3040 Foundations for the Practice of Youth Ministry (3 Units)

Students will explore approaches to the discipleship ministries for youth in the local church and parachurch organizations.

CMI 3045 Enacting Worship (3 Units)

How do good theology, sound scriptural understanding, and sustaining pastoral care become enacted by a local congregation in weekly worship? This course will allow students to design and lead worship following specified themes and liturgical patterns in a classroom setting with regular feedback.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055 and CMI 4000 or consent of instructor.

CMI 3050 Church as a Witness to the World (3 Units)

What is the nature and mission of the church? The course explores biblical assumptions of missional theology and the social and contextual issues of a local congregation as they relate to evangelism, missions, social witness, and justice making.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055

CMI 4000 The Christian Gathering: Scripture, Baptism, and Eucharist (3 Units)

The most fundamental practice of the Christian tradition, from Jesus and the twelve, involves gathering in a particular spatial location. This course will examine two traditions of gathering: the Ministry of the Word and the Ministry of the Table. The course will examine varied worship traditions arising out of the different understandings and historic periods of the church. The course will emphasize the different manifestations of historical Christian practices like the church year, baptism, funerals, and the Lord's Supper and how to oversee these practices in alternative traditions.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055

CMI 4010 Leading in Ministry (3 Units)

How do Christians lead and equip others to further God's purposes? Attention is given to administration, team building, conflict resolution, and a biblical understanding of gifts, ministry roles and functions. The course also examines the pressures of ministry and the changing structures and forms of the church in American society.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055

CMI 4015 The Church of the Nazarene: History and Polity (3 Units)

Who are the Nazarenes? This course will identify the formative influences of the Methodist societies in 18th Century England and the distinct ways the Methodist way of life was adapted in Colonial America and gave rise to the 19th Century American Holiness Movement and the Church of the Nazarene. Attention will be given to the organization and ministry of the local, district and general church as articulated in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055

CMI 4020 Compassionate Ministry in Local Context (3 Units)

Students will be immersed and examine how the church worships and engages in works of mercy and devotion in a community-based intercultural context. Students will learn how to analyze congregational and community demographics, understand sociological dynamics and employ theological reflection in ministry. The course will examine the difference between non-profit ministry structures and congregationally-based, direct-action approaches to local ministry.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055

CMI 4025 Youth and Family Ministry (3 Units)

How do we lead so that children and youth will follow Christ? How are the gifts of the young employed in mission? How does the church equip families to support faith? This course will examine recent sociological studies of emergent adulthood and look at ministry practices designed to sustain the long term witness of the church through intergenerational ministries.

Prerequisite(s): CMI 1055

CMI 4050 Internship (1-3 Units)

Supervised on-site ministry to help students integrate theory and classroom experience with the practice of ministry.

May be repeated up to a total of six (6) units. Credit/No Credit.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002 and CMI 1055 and consent of instructor.

"C" Designation is for California Internships. "E" Designation is for Out of State Internships.

CMI 4090 Special Studies in Christian Ministry (1-3 Units)

An investigation of a topic in Christian ministries not otherwise covered in the curriculum.

May be repeated up to a total of nine (9) units.

Prerequisite(s): Consent of the dean of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry

Biblical Languages

GRK 2007 Biblical Greek I (FE) (4 Units)

A linguistic approach to the language of the New Testament providing students with sufficient knowledge to read selected passages from the Greek New Testament with the use of a grammar and lexicon.

GRK 2008 Biblical Greek II (FE) (4 Units)

A linguistic approach to the language of the New Testament providing students with sufficient knowledge to read selected passages from the Greek New Testament with the use of a grammar and lexicon.

Prerequisite(s): GRK 2007

HEB 2005 Biblical Hebrew I (FE) (4 Units)

An introductory study of the syntax and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew, with Old Testament readings along with an introduction to the tools and methods of exegesis.

HEB 2006 Biblical Hebrew II (FE) (4 Units)

An introductory study of the syntax and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew, with Old Testament readings along with an introduction to the tools and methods of exegesis.

Prerequisite(s): HEB 2005

Philosophy

PHL 2001 Introduction to Philosophy (FE) (3 Units)

A historical survey of selected philosophical ideas, systems, and methods, especially as these have developed in Western civilization.

PHL 2011 Ethics (FE) (3 Units)

The study of right and wrong in principle, character, and conduct; practical moral issues analyzed from the basis of sound moral theory; characteristics of an adequate, consistent code of ethics.

PHL 2050 God and Philosophy (3 Units)

This course provides an exploration of issues related to theological discourse, especially language about God. The class engages significant figures and ideas throughout the Western philosophical tradition. There will be a focus on Medieval Christian philosophers including St. Augustine, St. Anselm, and St. Aquinas. There will also be a focus on justice issues related to gender, racial, and economic circumstances.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 2077 Logic (3 Units)

A study of the logical appraisal of arguments with attention given to formal and informal fallacies.

PHL 3001 Plato and Aristotle (3 Units)

This course is designed to examine developments in Western philosophy with an emphasis on ancient Greek philosophers utilizing readings from significant and representative texts of the historical eras.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 3002 Descartes Through Hegel (3 Units)

This course examines developments in Western philosophy with an emphasis on modern philosophy from Descartes through Hegel utilizing readings from significant and representative texts of the modern historical period.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 3021 Justice, Politics, and the Social World (3 Units)

This course traces the emergence and development of political and social philosophy, with special consideration given to Plato's notion of justice, Social Contract Theory, Marxism, racial justice, feminism and poststructuralism.

Also offered as SOC 3021.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 3031 Existential Philosophy and Literature (3 Units)

A philosophical and historical examination of themes within existentialist literature and philosophy. This course includes such figures as Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Dostoevsky, and Camus.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 3041 Philosophy and Art (3 Units)

Classical and recent theories of beauty, the sublime, and art, with selected coverage of such concepts as aesthetics, expression, mimesis, criticism and the relationship between art, the art-world, and society.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 3060 Philosophy and the Sciences (3 Units)

A philosophical and historical examination of the nature and epistemological foundations of science, the scientific method, and the relationship between science and such areas as religion, morality, and culture.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 3071 Education and the Ethical Life (3 Units)

An examination of significant works in the philosophical tradition from ancient Greek to contemporary texts that deal explicitly with the topics of education and pedagogy.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 3080 Alienation, Transformation, and Reconciliation in Film (3 Units)

A philosophical exploration of the themes of alienation, transformation, and reconciliation through the interpretation of film. Possible foci include apocalyptic, post-apocalyptic, and dystopic genres.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 3081 Ethics, Responsibility, and Love (3 Units)

This course examines the ethical implications of love. The course includes such figures as Plato, St. Augustine, Kierkegaard, Buber, Levinas, and Irigaray.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 4001 Contemporary Voices in Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics (3 Units)

This course will study 20th century Western philosophy and critically reflect upon those trajectories of thought that arise out of and respond to the philosophical work of the Western philosophical tradition as a whole.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 4011 The Search for Meaning: Goodness, Being, and Truth (3 Units)

An examination of the nature of reality, meaning, and knowledge, and what constitutes each. Possible topics include realism, nominalism, freedom and responsibility, God, space, time, causation, skepticism, belief, truth, and justification.

Prerequisite(s): PHL 2001 or PHL 2011

PHL 4090 Special Studies in Philosophy (1-3 Units)

An investigation of a topic in philosophy not otherwise covered in the curriculum.

May be repeated up to a total of nine (9) units.

Prerequisite(s): Consent of the dean of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry.

Theology

THE 2050 Introduction to Christian Theology (3 Units)

This course introduces students to the study of Christian theology and to the body of Christian doctrines. It approaches Christian theology from the perspective of the Wesleyan theological tradition.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 3005 Christian Faith and the Natural Sciences (FE) (3 Units)

This course explores central Christian convictions, e.g., the doctrines of creation, providence, the incarnation and the resurrection of the body, in careful and respectful dialogue with the natural sciences, especially cosmology and biological evolution.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 3006 The Life of Holiness (3 Units)

A study of the biblical foundations of the Holiness message, Wesleyan theological perspectives set in the context of the history of the Church, and the classic disciplines of spiritual formation.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 3015 Christian and Religious Themes in Literature (3 Units)

This course explores theological themes, beliefs, and practices, as well as literary images of God, evil, and redemption in short stories, novels and poems.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 3020 The World's Faith Traditions (3 Units)

This course introduces students to the convictions, writings, and practices of people in the Abrahamic (Jewish, Islamic, Sikh) and Asian (Hindu, Buddhist, Taoist, Confucian) traditions from a Wesleyan theological perspective.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 3025 The Human Person and Theology and Psychology (3 Units)

This course surveys views of human nature and personhood in the Christian tradition and also in leading psychological theories. It also examines the relationship between theological discourse and the discipline of psychology.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 3030 Christ and the Church (3 Units)

This course will examine the relationship between the Church's teachings on the identity and ministry of Jesus Christ (Christology) and the ongoing life of Christ's community of disciples, including worship, evangelism, the sacraments, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and eschatology.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001, BIB 1002, and THE 2050

THE 3035 Christian Ethics (3 Units)

This course studies major Christian ethical theories and views of the moral life. It also explores the Christian use of the leading philosophical theories of ethics. Finally, it examines contemporary moral issues such as justice, war and peace, work, and family.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 3060 Christian Life as Vocation (FE) (3 Units)

A study of the theology and practice of vocation as they have developed in the biblical and Christian traditions. Students will be led to reflect on career and professional life in a Christian way. The course will also study Christian ethical ways of living in the world.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 3070 Global Christianity (FE) (3 Units)

This survey course covers Christianity's two-thousand-year history looking at its origins and history in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. The great expansion of Christianity into Europe and the West will be highlighted while the primary focus will be on more Christian movements and theology from the Global South.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001 or BIB 1002

THE 4010 The Ministry and Sermons of John Wesley (3 Units)

This course introduces students to the life, ministry, and preaching of the co-founder of Methodism as a model for contemporary Christian formation, service, and theological reflection.

Prerequisite(s): BIB 1001, BIB 1002, and THE 2050

THE 4015 Three Traditions of Protestant Theology (3 Units)

This course will study traditions of Protestant theology in their historical origins, classic expressions, and contemporary manifestations.

THE 4090 Special Studies in Theology (1-3 Units)

An examination of a topic in theology not otherwise studied in the curriculum.

May be repeated up to a total of nine (9) units.

Prerequisite(s): Consent of the dean of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry.

THE 4095 Justice in the Church: Gender, Households, and Unity in the Body of Christ (3 Units)

The course will give special attention to the thought and practices of Christian righteousness in light of dynamics of inequity that have long faced Christian communities. Students will engage Christian tradition and contemporary life on the issues of the subjugation of women, economic alienation, slavery, racism and other structures of power. Approaches to these issues will be multi-disciplinary - underscoring the integration of biblical, theological, historical, and philosophical perspectives - and culminate in concrete practices of ministry.

Prerequisite(s): Consent of the dean of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry.