



Asia Biblical  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
*Cornerstone University*

2017-2019

CATALOG

Asian Ministry for a Global Kingdom

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## ASIA BIBLICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY

Asia Biblical Theological Seminary of Cornerstone University, in cooperation with multiple mission organizations, makes available graduate level theological education to eligible Christian leaders serving in Asia. Since 1983, this program has provided the opportunity to earn master's degrees from Cornerstone University while remaining in Asia.

### OUR PHILOSOPHY

ABTS aims to accomplish its mission through an integrated program of biblical, theological, and professional studies delivered through a combination of distance education courses and residence seminars offered in selected cities in Asia. Educational activities endeavor to provide training within the context of the student's life, work and ministry. Tuition assistance is provided to the majority of our students through the ABTS Scholarship Fund.

ABTS is headquartered in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with a complement of resident personnel for the purpose of general management and oversight of the program as well as to provide a centralized core of full-time scholars and teachers. This office also serves as a resource and consultation center of curriculum and research materials for theological education in Asia. Seminars are taught by a carefully selected roster of full-time faculty members, professors from the Grand Rapids campus and qualified adjunct faculty with experience in Asia.

### OUR ACCREDITATION

Degree programs of ABTS are fully accredited through Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA. Cornerstone University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is authorized to grant degrees by the Michigan State Board of Education.

Cornerstone University is a Christ-centered university with a passion for global influence through the transforming power of the gospel. They exist to empower men and women to excel as influencers in the world for Christ by offering a student-focused learning community where Jesus Christ is central.

### **OUR PURPOSE**

Asia Biblical Theological Seminary exists to provide theologically conservative graduate education in Asia to pastors, lay leaders, Christian educators, and missionaries, to the end that our students and graduates will be better equipped to serve the Lord in their vocations and ministry contexts. Our goal is to accomplish this by helping to shape Asian theology and to enhance ministry competencies by honing already-existing ministry skill-sets.

### **OUR EDUCATIONAL VALUES**

- Centrality of the text: the Bible as our final authority for all we do, functioning as the foundation of our curriculum
- Importance of theology: theology as the proper articulation of Scripture for faith and practice, and the guide for each educational discipline
- Critical thinking: knowing how best to apply the unchanging truth of Scripture in our time and our cultures
- Andragogy: acting and equipping others to act as lifelong learners and teachers
- Cultural sensitivity: recognizing and equipping others to recognize that God's truth is transcultural, enabling proper articulation of that truth into each cultural situation

### **OUR STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students of Asia Biblical Theological Seminary will demonstrate competence in the areas of specialized knowledge, applied knowledge and collaborative learning, intellectual skills, global and civic engagement, and biblical worldview integration and action. Student learning will target the following sub-outcomes:

- Appreciate the centrality of the biblical text: demonstrate competence in exegeting, interpreting and applying Scripture in personal and ministry situations.
- Develop theological convictions and philosophies of ministry: integrate these principles into personal life, ministry settings, and cultural milieu.

- Synthesize new insights from seminars, reading, and analysis into ministry contexts: trace the end results of ministry innovations, either verification of methods applied or analysis of failure and lessons learned.
- Apply critical thinking in reading, writing and discussion: evaluate relevant data and make decisions consistent with Scripture.
- Evaluate concepts of leadership utilizing effective organizational and group communication skills: network with colleagues who can support one another in the ministry.
- Analyze culture from a distinctly Christian worldview: develop methodologies for, and deepen commitments to, building Christ's church worldwide.

### **OUR STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY**

To encourage our students' growth in biblical character, ABTS limits enrollment to those who seek to live in conformity with the teaching of Scripture and to fulfill their responsibilities as students and Christians. We ask, therefore, that students certify their willingness to abide by the following basic standards of conduct:

- To seek to obey every divine command in order to maintain a right relationship with God, other people, and the created order.
- To participate in Christian service and faithfully attend a local church.
- To study carefully and complete course work to the best of their abilities.



# MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## PASTORAL CONCENTRATION

### DESCRIPTION

The MRE Pastoral Concentration is a 31 credit hour program designed to help both pastors and lay leaders enhance their ministry competencies and broaden their biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of a minimum of three years of ministry experience prior to graduation, with evidence of commitment to Christ and moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. 18 of these 31 hours must be taken in approved residence seminars. The remaining 13 hours may be taken by extension. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last 5 years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours in biblical studies, 6 credit hours in theology, and 12 credit hours in the Pastoral Ministries area of concentration.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills and ability in the Word as a result of the student's educational experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within 5 years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES	13 CREDIT HOURS
Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
Bible Elective	3 credit hours
Systematic Theology 1	3 credit hours
Theology Elective	3 credit hours

AREA OF CONCENTRATION (CHOOSE FOUR)	12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS500 Spiritual Formation	MNS621 Issues in Asian Ministry
MNS510 Organizational Leadership	MNS626 Interpersonal Communication
MNS511 Theology of Church Ministry	MNS681 Pastoral Care
MNS534 Evangelism/Discipleship Ministries	MNS636 Homiletics
MNS551 Theology and Culture	MNS785 Readings in Pastoral Ministries
MNS564 Urban Mission and Ministry	

GENERAL ELECTIVE COURSES	6 CREDIT HOURS
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>31 CREDIT HOURS</b>

# MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## EDUCATIONAL CONCENTRATION

### DESCRIPTION

The MRE Educational Concentration is a 31 credit hour program designed to help teachers and educational administrators enhance their ministry competencies and broaden their biblical and theological foundations for educational ministry.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of a minimum of three years of educational experience prior to graduation, with evidence of commitment to Christ and moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. 18 of these 31 hours must be taken in approved residence seminars. The remaining 13 hours may be taken by extension. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last 5 years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours in biblical studies, 6 credit hours in theology, and 12 credit hours in the Educational Ministries area of concentration.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills and ability in the Word as a result of the student's educational experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within 5 years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES		13 CREDIT HOURS
Introduction to Graduate Theological Education		1 credit hour
Biblical Hermeneutics		3 credit hours
Bible Elective		3 credit hours
Systematic Theology 1		3 credit hours
Theology Elective		3 credit hours
AREA OF CONCENTRATION (CHOOSE FOUR)		12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS500 Spiritual Formation	MNS622 Foundations of Education	
MNS510 Organizational Leadership	MNS626 Interpersonal Communication	
MNS511 Theology of Church Ministry	MNS643 Adult Education	
MNS534 Evangelism/Discipleship Ministries	MNS644 Curriculum and Teaching	
MNS551 Theology and Culture	MNS786 Readings in Educational Ministries	
MNS621 Theological Issues in Asian Ministry		
GENERAL ELECTIVE COURSES		6 CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL REQUIRED		31 CREDIT HOURS

# MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## INTERCULTURAL CONCENTRATION

### DESCRIPTION

The MRE Educational Concentration is a 31 credit hour program designed to help missionaries and cross-cultural professionals enhance their ministry competencies and broaden their biblical and theological foundations for intercultural ministry.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of a minimum of three years of ministry experience prior to graduation, with evidence of commitment to Christ and moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. 18 of these 31 hours must be taken in approved residence seminars. The remaining 13 hours may be taken by extension. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last 5 years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours in biblical studies, 6 credit hours in theology, and 12 credit hours in the Intercultural Ministries area of concentration.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills and ability in the Word as a result of the student's educational experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within 5 years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES		13 CREDIT HOURS
Introduction to Graduate Theological Education		1 credit hour
Biblical Hermeneutics		3 credit hours
Bible Elective		3 credit hours
Systematic Theology 1		3 credit hours
Theology Elective		3 credit hours
AREA OF CONCENTRATION (CHOOSE FOUR)		12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS500 Spiritual Formation	MNS564 Urban Mission and Ministry	
MNS510 Organizational Leadership	MNS621 Issues in Asian Ministry	
MNS511 Theology of Church Ministry	MNS626 Interpersonal Communication	
MNS534 Evangelism/Discipleship Ministries	MNS665 Understanding Islam	
MNS551 Theology and Culture	MNS670 World Religions	
MNS563 History and Philosophy of Christian Missions	MNS787 Readings in Intercultural Ministries	
GENERAL ELECTIVE COURSES		6 CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL REQUIRED		31 CREDIT HOURS

# MRE CHECKLIST

## EDUCATIONAL, PASTORAL, AND INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

Use this checklist to record progress toward the MRE degree. Courses already listed below are required of all MRE students in the Educational, Pastoral, and Intercultural Ministries Concentrations. A copy of this checklist must be filed in the ABTS office before graduation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry Concentration \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Credits	Course #	Course Name	Completed	Portfolio SLA
1	THL500	Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	_____	_____

<b>Bible</b> (6 Credit Hours Required)				
3	BIB501	Biblical Hermeneutics	_____	_____

<b>Bible Elective:</b>				
3	BIB _____	_____	_____	_____

<b>Theology</b> (6 Credit Hours Required)				
3	THL540	Systematic Theology 1	_____	_____

<b>Theology Elective:</b>				
3	THL _____	_____	_____	_____

**Ministry Concentration** (12 Credit Hours Required)  
Choose courses from area of concentration.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Electives** (6 Remaining Credit Hours)

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

### 31 TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED

**Ministry Follow-up Reports** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduation Reports** \_\_\_\_\_

# MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MARKETPLACE CONCENTRATION

## DESCRIPTION

The MRE Marketplace Concentration is a 31 credit hour program designed to help lay professionals integrate their faith with the workplace by providing biblical and theological foundations for a theology of work. This concentration is typically offered as a cohort. Contact the ABTS office for information on cohorts near you.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Currently engaged in a marketplace context with evidence of commitment to Christ and moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. 18 of these 31 hours must be taken in approved residence seminars. The remaining 13 hours may be taken by extension. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last 5 years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours in biblical studies, 6 credit hours in theology, and 12 credit hours in the Marketplace Ministries area of concentration.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, workplace integration skills and ability in the Word as a result of the student's educational experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within 5 years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES	13 CREDIT HOURS
Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
Bible Elective	3 credit hours
Christian Worldview	3 credit hours
Theology Elective	3 credit hours

AREA OF CONCENTRATION (CHOOSE FOUR)	12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS500 Spiritual Formation	MNS551 Theology and Culture
MNS510 Organizational Leadership	MNS564 Urban Mission and Ministry
MNS515 Vocation, Work and Ministry	MNS626 Interpersonal Communication
MNS516 Christian Ethics in the Workplace	MNS788 Readings in Marketplace Ministries
MNS534 Evangelism/Discipleship Ministries	

GENERAL ELECTIVE COURSES	6 CREDIT HOURS
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>31 CREDIT HOURS</b>

## MRE CHECKLIST

### MARKETPLACE MINISTRIES

Use this checklist to record progress toward the MRE degree. Courses already listed below are required of all MRE students in the Marketplace Ministries concentration. A copy of this checklist must be filed in the ABTS office before graduation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry Concentration \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Credits	Course #	Course Name	Completed	Portfolio SLA
1	THL500	Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	_____	_____

**Bible** (6 Credit Hours Required)  
 3 BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Elective:**  
 3 BIB \_\_\_\_\_

**Theology** (6 Credit Hours Required)  
 3 THL572 Christian Worldview \_\_\_\_\_

**Theology Elective:**  
 3 THL \_\_\_\_\_

**Ministry Concentration** (12 Credit Hours Required)  
 Choose courses from area of concentration.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Electives** (6 Remaining Credit Hours)

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**31 TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED**

**Ministry Follow-up Reports** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduation Reports** \_\_\_\_\_



# MASTER OF ARTS

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN BIBLE, THEOLOGY, AND MINISTRY

### DESCRIPTION

The Master of Arts (MA) degree is a 64 credit hour program providing opportunity for in-depth investigation into the three basic content areas. A substantial elective category allows students to explore areas appropriate to their ministry context. Students who have not accomplished any postgraduate studies are encouraged to complete the MRE degree before progressing to the MA degree.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of 64 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. 39 of these 64 hours must be taken in approved residence seminars. The remaining 25 hours may be taken by extension. A maximum of 25 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last 5 years may be transferred into the MA degree.
- Completion of the one-hour Introduction to Graduate Theological Education course, a minimum of 15 credit hours in biblical studies, 15 credit hours in theology, and 18 credit hours in ministry leadership.
- Submission of a graduation portfolio demonstrating academic growth, growth in spiritual development, ministry skills and ability in the Word as a result of one's educational experience in this program.
- Evidence of personal commitment to Christ as well as moral character and conduct.
- Completion of all degree requirements within eight years. Students who apply credits from the MRE will be allowed five years for program completion.

CORE STUDIES	49 CREDIT HOURS
Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
<b>Bible</b>	
Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
Old Testament Biblical Theology	3 credit hours
New Testament Biblical Theology	3 credit hours
Bible Electives	6 credit hours
<b>Theology</b>	
Systematic Theology 1	3 credit hours
Systematic Theology 2	3 credit hours
Systematic Theology 3	3 credit hours
Philosophical Theology Elective	3 credit hours
Historical Theology Elective	3 credit hours
<b>Ministry Leadership</b>	
Spiritual Formation	3 credit hours
Organizational Leadership	3 credit hours
Pastoral Ministries Elective	3 credit hours
Educational Ministries Elective	3 credit hours
Intercultural Ministries Elective	3 credit hours
Marketplace Ministries Elective	3 credit hours
<b>ELECTIVE COURSES</b>	<b>15 CREDIT HOURS</b>
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>64 CREDIT HOURS</b>

# ELECTIVE CHOICES

## BIBLE ELECTIVES

Seminar Courses	Extension Courses
BIB520 Genesis	BIB504 Understanding the Old Testament
BIB524 Daniel	BIB523 Psalms
BIB550 Matthew	BIB552 Gospel of Luke
BIB554 Romans	BIB553 Acts of the Apostles
BIB556 Pastoral Epistles	BIB556 Pastoral Epistles
BIB559 Revelation	BIB557 Hebrews
BIB600 Bible Backgrounds and Ancient Cultures	BIB630 Wisdom Literature
BIB627 Ephesians	BIB632 Isaiah
BIB630 Wisdom Literature	BIB762 Parables of Jesus
BIB632 Isaiah	
BIB789 Advanced Topics	

## SYSTEMATIC/PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY ELECTIVES

Seminar Courses	Extension Courses
THL572 Christian Worldview	THL572 Christian Worldview
THL789 Advanced Topics	THL576 Christian Ethics
	THL770 Apologetics

## HISTORICAL THEOLOGY ELECTIVES

Seminar Courses	Extension Courses
THL510 Historical Theology Survey	THL515 The Ancient Church
	THL517 Reformation Church History
	THL526 History of the Charismatic Movement

## PASTORAL MINISTRIES ELECTIVES

Seminar Courses	Extension Courses
MNS511 Theology of Church Ministry	MNS564 Urban Mission & Ministry
MNS681 Pastoral Care	
MNS636 Homiletics	

## EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES ELECTIVES

Seminar Courses	Extension Courses
MNS622 Foundations of Education	MNS622 Foundations of Education
MNS643 Adult Education	
MNS644 Curriculum and Teaching	

## INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES ELECTIVES

Seminar Courses	Extension Courses
MNS551 Theology and Culture	MNS564 Urban Mission & Ministry
MNS563 History and Philosophy of Christian Missions	MNS665 Understanding Islam
MNS670 World Religions	

## MARKETPLACE MINISTRIES ELECTIVES

Seminar Courses	Extension Courses
MNS515 Vocation, Work and Ministry	MNS564 Urban Mission & Ministry
MNS516 Christian Ethics in the Workplace	

# MASTER OF ARTS CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to record progress toward the MA degree. Courses already listed below are required of all students. A copy of this checklist must be filed in the ABTS office before graduation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Credits	Course #	Course Name	Completed	Portfolio SLA
1	THL500	Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	_____	_____
<b>Bible</b> (15 Credit Hours Required)				
3	BIB501	Biblical Hermeneutics	_____	_____
3	BIB502	OT Biblical Theology	_____	_____
3	BIB503	NT Biblical Theology	_____	_____
<b>Bible Elective:</b> (see list on preceding page)				
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Theology</b> (15 Credit Hours Required)				
3	THL540	Systematic Theology 1	_____	_____
3	THL640	Systematic Theology 2	_____	_____
3	THL641	Systematic Theology 3	_____	_____
<b>Historical Theology Elective:</b> (see list on preceding page)				
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Philosophical Theology Elective:</b> (see list on preceding page)				
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Ministry Leadership:</b> (15 Credit Hours Required)				
3	MNS500	Spiritual Formation	_____	_____
3	MNS510	Organizational Leadership	_____	_____
<b>Pastoral Ministries Elective</b> (see list on preceding page)				
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Educational Ministries Elective:</b> (see list on preceding page)				
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Intercultural Ministries Elective:</b> (see list on preceding page)				
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Marketplace Ministries Elective:</b> (see list on preceding page)				
3	_____	_____	_____	_____

**General Electives:** (15 Remaining Credit Hours)

3	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Total Credit Hours Required: 64**

**Ministry Follow-up Reports** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduation Reports** \_\_\_\_\_



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It is vital that students understand the following information in order to successfully complete the course of study and graduate from the program. All students should read everything carefully and make sure that they have met all requirements. The ABTS office, country coordinator, or the resident faculty will be happy to provide advice.

### REQUIRED COURSES

Checklists for the degree programs are provided to assist in planning the program of study. It is the student's responsibility to assure that he/she has completed the necessary requirements in accordance with the checklist. **A checklist displaying successful completion of all academic degree requirements must be submitted to the ABTS office for approval prior to graduation.**

### STUDENT PORTFOLIO

All students are required to complete a Student Learning Assessment (SLA) for each course, plus three Follow-Up Reports (FUR) analyzing attempts to apply new concepts in ministry and workplace contexts. These reports, together with assessments from the professors, are gathered together into a portfolio kept in the ABTS office and reviewed before graduation. Although individual course assignments are cited in these forms, the assignments themselves are not retained in the portfolio.

The student's degree checklist, outlining courses taken to fulfill degree requirements, and an application for graduation must be submitted at least six months before graduation. Final summative reports involve the student's evaluation of his/her growth during the degree program and a form completed by a ministry supervisor or colleague assessing effective integration of course content into relevant contexts. A portfolio kit containing complete instructions for these reports is available on the ABTS website or from the country coordinator.

### APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

All students must make application for graduation. Students should notify the ABTS office when they have successfully completed 27 credit hours (9 modules) toward the MRE degree or 57 credit hours (19 modules) toward the MA degree. The office personnel will respond with an analysis of progress made toward graduation. The necessary forms for graduation portfolio reports can be filled out online at the ABTS website.



# ADMISSIONS

## APPLICATION FOR DEGREE STATUS

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Demonstrate commitment to Christ and evidence of the new birth.
- Demonstrate sufficient life experience for adequate integration of course content with ministry and workplace contexts.
- Have earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from a recognized college or university and maintained a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 system. Students having a GPA less than 2.5 may apply for admission under Academic Probation.
- Enroll in the Introduction to Graduate Theological Education course.
- Pass the ABTS English Proficiency Test. Applicants who score 450 and above will be considered for admittance without academic restriction. Applicants who score 400-449 will be considered for admittance under Academic Probation.
- Affirm the Asia Biblical Theological Seminary Core Confessional Statement.

### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION

- Completed application form, including an essay relating the applicant's personal faith and a statement of support from the applicant's spouse, if applicable.
- Officially signed and sealed academic transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate schools attended.
- Reference forms from a pastor, elder or deacon of the applicant's local church and from one other person (not a member of the applicant's family).

### APPLICATION PROCESS

All application materials should be sent to the ABTS office or filled out online at the ABTS website. The seminary operates a rolling admissions process. Acceptance for admission will be considered upon receipt of all the required documents and successful enrollment in the Introduction to Graduate Theological Education course. Students who have not

accomplished any graduate studies are encouraged to complete the MRE degree before progressing to the MA degree.

Applicants will be notified by letter when they are accepted as students. The acceptance process does take time. In order to expedite the process, we request that applicants fill out all forms promptly and completely before submitting them to the ABTS office. If the application process is not completed within six months, the student must re-apply.

Students are allowed to enroll in only one residence seminar, in addition to the Introduction to Graduate Theological Education course, before official acceptance. Credit will only be granted upon formal acceptance. No student will be allowed to enroll in any course for credit without first submitting an application form.

## OTHER APPLICATIONS

### READMISSION

Any former student who has been withdrawn must apply to the ABTS office for readmission, preferably before arriving to take a class. Official transcripts of all studies which have been completed in the interval must be submitted. Updated reference forms may also be required. Readmitted students must comply with all new requirements for admission.

### NON-DEGREE ENROLLMENT

ABTS permits the enrollment of students seeking advanced education in Bible, theology or ministry without a specific degree objective. These students are required to complete the Non-Degree Application form, submit official academic transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate schools, and sign a statement of awareness of and non-objection to the ABTS Core Confessional Statement. Non-degree students who possess a recognized undergraduate degree may apply courses taken for graduate credit on a non-degree basis toward fulfillment of a specific degree program at a later time.

### TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who wish to transfer to ABTS should submit a transcript of all credits previously earned with their application for admission. Credit may be given for approved, comparable work taken in graduate programs in accredited colleges, universities, or seminaries. By approval of the Dean, credit may be given for a limited number of courses taken in graduate



programs which are not offered in the seminary, but which correlate with ABTS degree programs. MRE students may transfer 12 credit hours into their degree program. Master of Arts students may transfer 24 credit hours. Students may complete up to 50% of their degree program at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary on the US campus of Cornerstone University. Biblical Hermeneutics and Systematic Theology 1 earned from other institutions cannot be transferred into an ABTS program.

### **GUEST STUDENTS**

ABTS welcomes guest students from other accredited seminaries for limited enrollment. A Guest Student Application is required in advance of enrollment and must carry the certification of the home institution. Upon completion of a given course, an academic transcript can be secured from Cornerstone University for the transfer of credits to the home institution. Contact the ABTS office for instructions.

### **AUDIT STUDENTS**

ABTS classes are open to those who wish to audit. Auditors who are not enrolled as students must complete an Audit Application form. The extent of participation in the class by an audit student should be arranged between the professor and the student.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **FEES**

Thanks to the generosity of donors, significant scholarships are available to the majority of studies from Asian countries. Current tuition prices after the scholarship deduction and information regarding other fees are available from the ABTS office, the country coordinator, or the ABTS website.

Books, lectures in CD or MP3 format, postage and handouts are at additional cost and will be listed on the individual fee assessments. Books and materials for extension courses are available from the ABTS office. Postage for shipping extension courses is paid by the student.

All fees are payable on the first day of a residence seminar or before the beginning of an extension course. Payments may be made in local currency to the country coordinator or to the onsite ABTS representative at residence seminars. Payment may also be made by US dollar, made payable to "ABTS." Arrangements can also be made to transfer funds directly from a mission agency to the ABTS Mountain View Foundation account in Thailand, or to a specific mission account by special arrangement.

Transportation and room and board are the responsibility of the individual student. Contact the coordinator at the seminar site for information about available housing near the site where courses are being held.

### **SPOUSE BENEFIT**

The spouse educational benefit is intended to provide spouses of ABTS students with opportunity to participate in the theological educational experience in order to promote a shared pilgrimage of growth and learning. The spouse of an active ABTS student, regardless of prior academic record, is entitled to audit any class free of charge. This audit opportunity provides for class attendance only; course work will not be submitted or graded and there will be no official academic record. The benefit is not applicable to courses the student audits or to courses the spouse takes for credit.

### **AUDITING**

The cost to audit a course will be 1/3 of the regular cost of tuition with the exception of Myanmar, where all Myanmar students enjoy extensive tuition remission. Myanmar audits pay the same as credit students.



# ACADEMIC POLICIES

## COURSE LOAD

The total course load, including both residence and extension courses, will be a maximum of two courses. Students who manifest discipline in completing course work may enroll in a third course with the prior approval of the Dean.

## SCHOLASTIC STANDING

The student's scholastic standing is indicated by his Grade Point Average (GPA). Grades for each class earn points according to the following scale:

A.....4.0	B.....3.0	C.....2.0	D.....1.0
A-.....3.7	B-.....2.7	C-.....1.7	D-.....0.3
B+.....3.3	C+.....2.3	D+.....1.3	F.....0.0

Grade points are averaged together to obtain the GPA. In the best interest of the student, the school has established a scale for determining probation and dismissal levels. The probationary level for 9 credit hours is 2.0; after 18 credit hours, the probationary level is 2.25. Students are liable for dismissal when their GPA falls below 1.5 after 9 credit hours or 1.75 after 18 credit hours. Students whose GPA falls below the probation level but above the dismissal level are placed on Academic Probation. **Students on Academic Probation are permitted to take only one course at a time.** It is hoped that this restriction will help them raise their GPA by giving full attention to each course.

Graduation with honors is applicable to the MA program only. To qualify, one must achieve a GPA minimum of 3.85 for summa cum laude, 3.7 for magna cum laude, and 3.6 for cum laude.

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's intellectual work as one's own, and will not be tolerated in course work done for ABTS. Students are encouraged to conduct academic research and otherwise utilize reference materials from a variety of sources; however, intellectual honesty in scholarly pursuit is expected as the norm from our students. All sources used must be appropriately cited and documented. Students who commit acts of plagiarism will receive severe grade reductions, possible course failure, or dismissal.

## WITHDRAWALS

Courses may be dropped without penalty before the second day of a residence seminar or during the first week of an extension course. Permission to withdraw from a class must be specifically requested from the professor, the country coordinator, or the ABTS office. In every case, the student is responsible to notify the ABTS office of his/her intent to withdraw. Courses will be treated as follows on the student's record:

Official Record	Extension	Residence
No record on transcript	First week	First day of seminar
W — no effect on GPA	Tenth week	Last day of seminar
WP or WE*	10th to 14th week	1st to 3rd month
WE	After 14th week	After 3 months

\*Between the 10th and 14th week of an extension course, or before the due date for post-seminar assignments, a student will receive WP or WE depending on the quality and amount of assignments submitted in relationship to the date of withdrawal. WP (withdrawn passing) will have no effect on GPA. WE (withdrawn failing) is treated as an F for GPA.



# RESIDENCE SEMINAR COURSES

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Each residence seminar consists of two parts:

- One- or two-week period of intensive classroom study and interaction with the professor and other students
- Three-month period allowing further investigation, integration, evaluation and reporting

Residence seminars are taught by full-time ABTS faculty, visiting professors from Cornerstone University, or qualified adjunct faculty from Asia and the US. Where professors are resident in seminar sites, occasional seminar courses may be scheduled over longer periods of time. Seminars are held in participating countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region. View the schedule on the ABTS website, or contact the country coordinator for specific courses and dates.

## REGISTRATION

Advance registration for seminars should be made with the country coordinator at each seminar site at least two months prior to the first day of classes. **Seminars are subject to cancellation for insufficient registration.** Students who register ahead of time will be given priority for textbook distribution.

The ABTS website is the best place to check for up-to-date information on the seminar schedule. Students may also contact their country coordinator or the ABTS office by phone or e-mail to obtain information and register for courses.

No course may be taken for credit without formal application for enrollment in the seminary. Courses may be audited without credit by ABTS students and non-students alike. Arrangements to upgrade from audit to credit status must be made with the professor during the seminar. Students wishing to switch from credit to audit must do so within the first week of the seminar.

## STUDY FEES

All fees are due on the first day of class and are payable to the on-site representative of the seminary. **Students who have not met their financial**

**obligations by the end of the second day of class will not be permitted to continue.**

The seminary office will endeavor to announce the course texts and costs on the school website and course announcements to enable students to prepare for the seminar. Texts, syllabi and course materials will be made available by the ABTS representative on the first day of the seminar. These materials are offered at or near cost and payment is due upon receipt.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all regular sessions of a seminar. However, students with a valid reason are permitted to miss one day (4 hours) of the seminar, with the permission of the professor. For illness or genuine emergency, the professor may replace up to 6 additional hours with extra reading or assignments. Students missing more than 25% (10 hours) of the course must withdraw.

## POST-SEMINAR ASSIGNMENTS

All post-seminar assignments are due three months from the last day of class. Assignments may be submitted by e-mail attachment to the ABTS office. Posted assignments must be postmarked by the due date and may be mailed to the country coordinator or to the ABTS office. Students should keep a copy of all work submitted since course work is sometimes lost en route to the office. If it becomes necessary to mail the copy, be sure to make another copy before putting it in the mail.

**If the ABTS office receives no formal communication, students will automatically receive an “F” for each missing assignment.** In most cases, this results in a failing grade for the course. If a student’s work is lost in cyberspace, proof of having sent the work, in the form of a copy of the original email by which the work was sent, will be required. Those who desire to receive credit for the course will be permitted to re-enroll at their own expense and attend the course again. Full tuition will be charged. Regardless of circumstances, students should write to the ABTS office well before the scheduled due date of the course as this allows us to explore all the alternatives before any actions are taken that will affect students’ permanent academic records.



# RESIDENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## BIBLICAL STUDIES

### **BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics**

**3 credit hours**

An introduction to the process of determining the original meaning and contemporary significance of biblical texts. The course includes lecture, discussion and individual research. This is a required course for all students.

### **BIB502 Old Testament Biblical Theology**

**3 credit hours**

A study of Old Testament history, literature and theology with emphasis upon the historical development of key concepts of Old Testament biblical theology.

### **BIB503 New Testament Biblical Theology**

**3 credit hours**

A study of the New Testament history, literature and theology, focusing upon the theological development of the NT. The course will emphasize the contribution of each individual book to that theological development.

### **BIB520 Genesis**

**3 credit hours**

Analysis of the English text in terms of the historicity, theology, cultural background, and significance of this book of beginnings.

### **BIB524 Daniel**

**3 credit hours**

An analysis of the English text of Daniel, its structure and message, and its contributions to Old Testament biblical theology, especially eschatology.

### **BIB550 Matthew**

**3 credit hours**

An exposition of this gospel with emphasis on its themes of Christology, Kingdom and Church.

### **BIB554 Romans**

**3 credit hours**

An exposition of this letter in terms of its significance for biblical and systematic theology. Particular attention is paid to the epistolary and rhetorical constructs contained in the letter and how these mechanisms affect its interpretation.

### **BIB556 Pastoral Epistles**

**3 credit hours**

An Exposition of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus based on their nature as occasional documents. The individual theological witness of each letter is emphasized.

### **BIB559 Revelation**

**3 credit hours**

An exposition of the Apocalypse in view of its historical setting, genre, history of interpretation, structure, and theological significance.

### **BIB600 Bible Backgrounds and Ancient Cultures**

**3 credit hours**

A study of the role and findings of archaeology in the Ancient Near East, emphasizing the contributions of artifactual data for understanding the history and culture of both the Old and New Testament periods.

### **BIB627 Ephesians**

**3 credit hours**

A study of the structure and content of the Epistle, integrating the teachings of Ephesians with life and ministry in Asia.

### **BIB630 Wisdom Literature**

**3 credit hours**

A study of the Old Testament wisdom literature, with comparisons and contrasts with other ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature.

### **BIB632 Isaiah**

**3 credit hours**

An inductive, biblical and theological study of the major passages of Isaiah. The student will develop an understanding of the prophet's historical message and its futuristic aspect. The result is a compilation of the major themes of the book and their importance to the redemptive program of God.

### **BIB789 Advanced Topics**

**3 credit hours**

This is a course centered in the professor's interest or research specialization, allowing in-depth coverage of material otherwise not available to the student. This course will be offered on an occasional basis.

## THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

**THL510 Historical Theology Survey** **3 credit hours**  
An introductory survey of the history of the church from the time of the Fathers to the modern day. This course highlights the most significant events, councils, persons and writings with special attention given to the development of doctrine and to Asian Christianity.

**THL540 Systematic Theology 1** **3 credit hours**  
This course introduces and practices systematic theology within the context of the large Story of Scripture (or Metanarrative) that begins with creation, is centered in Jesus' first coming, and reaches its culmination in the new heavens and earth. The course also presents the doctrines of Scripture and God within the Metanarrative.

**THL572 Christian Worldview** **3 credit hours**  
A philosophical elaboration of the Christian perspective upon all of life and reality with emphasis on the metanarrative framework of creation, fall, redemption and new creation.

**THL640 Systematic Theology 2** **3 credit hours**  
This course continues the metanarrative approach in the study of angels, the human race, our rebellion against God, our need and the great provision of salvation in the person and work of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**THL641 Systematic Theology 3** **3 credit hours**  
This course presents the eschatological people of God (the Church), our salvation, and the consummation of all things in the second coming of Jesus Christ, His Kingdom, and the new creation. These promises of God are presented within the context of the Metanarrative and from a premillennial perspective.

**THL789 Advanced Topics** **3 credit hours**  
This is a course centered in the professor's interest or research specialization, allowing in-depth coverage of material otherwise not available to the student. This course will be offered on an occasional basis.

## MINISTRY STUDIES

**MNS500 Spiritual Formation** **3 credit hours**  
A survey of biblical spirituality and helpful models of its application from church history for contemporary cultural contexts.

**MNS510 Organizational Leadership** **3 credit hours**  
This course presents the biblical foundation for leadership, studies its historical foundations and analyzes the administrative processes vital to ministry. In-class exercises use skills necessary to apply biblical truth to cultural settings.

**MNS511 Theology of Church Ministry** **3 credit hours**  
A study of the functions of the church from an exegetical base, with emphasis on worship, evangelism and education.

**MNS515 Vocation, Work and Ministry** **3 credit hours**  
This course traces the concept of work as it is developed throughout Scripture and explores the implications of that investigation for integrating faith in the workplace. Priority is given to a comprehensive vision of calling and ministry with practical application to Asian work contexts.

**MNS516 Christian Ethics in the Workplace** **3 credit hours**  
An applied study of Christian moral action for the Asian workplace. Biblical principles will be applied to real-world case studies with the goal of helping students maintain Christ-like integrity and witness in the workplace.

**MNS534 Evangelism and Discipleship** **3 credit hours**  
A study of the New Testament's theology of evangelism and discipleship. Emphasis is given to the gospel message and the biblical methods of evangelism and discipleship, with the goal of helping students integrate these into their life contexts.

**MNS551 Theology and Culture** **3 credit hours**  
A study of the biblical basis of culture/anthropology and of historical principles of cultural engagement. Emphasis is given to understanding one's own culture and the culture of others in order to communicate the gospel clearly in intercultural contexts.

**MNS563 History and Philosophy of Christian Missions 3 credit hours**

This course is designed to explore and develop a biblical philosophy and theology of mission by considering relevant Scripture passages and reflecting on the historical work of God in the world. Specifically, we will consider the missions movements of the 19th and 20th centuries and compare these with a biblical theology of mission and its models. This course seeks to supply the student with the ability to evaluate past models and to form his/her own working model of mission for his/her life context.

**MNS621 Issues in Asian Ministry 3 credit hours**

This course is designed to help students deal with current theological, biblical, and sociological issues they face in their ministries in the light of Scripture.

**MNS622 Foundations of Education 3 credit hours**

An exploration of the biblical principles of education, the historic traditions that formed education in Asia, and the application of these foundations to the cultural and social milieu of the 21st century.

**MNS636 Homiletics 3 credit hours**

This course provides an introduction to homiletics with attention to the philosophy and priority of preaching, skills in hermeneutical organization of sermons, and principles of delivery. Emphasis is given to exegetical expository preaching in a pulpit ministry designed to communicate for clearer understanding of truth, richer relationship with God, and more obedient action in response to His Word. The course will include a laboratory in which each student will prepare, deliver and evaluate messages.

**MNS643 Adult Education 3 credit hours**

The dynamics of adulthood throughout its various stages are studied. Principles of andragogy are applied to the total program with special focus on the needs, characteristics and problems of adult learners. In-class exercises are used to practice the andragogical method.

**MNS644 Curriculum and Teaching 3 credit hours**

This course focuses on a complete and systematic process of developing a Christian education ministry for a local church. The course begins with a practical framework for developing a church ministry philosophy. On that basis, the student is led through the process of designing a comprehensive education ministry for the church. The last half of the course equips students to develop and teach creative life-impacting learning experiences focused on biblical truth for all age groups.

**MNS670 World Religions 3 credit hours**

An introduction to the history, significance, beliefs and practices of religions with special emphasis on the dominant religion(s) of the country in which the course is being taught and their sociological impact. Emphasis is also placed on relating to adherents of these religions with a view to clearly communicating the gospel, and integrating new believers from these religious backgrounds into new churches.

**MNS681 Pastoral Care 3 credit hours**

A study of the biblical concept of pastoral care and the varied responsibilities involved in caring for people in both individual and group settings, developed with an awareness of how cultural identity and worldview relate to biblical principles, exposition and care.

**MNS789 Advanced Topics 3 credit hours**

This is a course centered in the professor's interest or research specialization, allowing in-depth coverage of material otherwise not available to the student. This course will be offered on an occasional basis. Check with the ABTS office in advance of the class to determine applicability to MRE concentrations.



## EXTENSION COURSES

### ONLINE COURSES

Some extension courses are available in online format. In addition, students are now able to join certain residence seminars live via online streaming. Availability is limited, and sufficient equipment and internet capability are required. For more information, contact the ABTS office.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Extension courses consist of textbooks, lectures in CD or MP3 formats, and various other necessary materials, to guide students in their course of study. These courses are self-guided studies and involve no direct instruction from ABTS professors.

Courses will be assigned to an ABTS faculty member for oversight and grading. Any questions that arise during the course may be directed to the ABTS office via letter, email or phone call. Extension course descriptions begin on page 26. Students who are interested in personalized readings or independent study courses should contact the ABTS office.

### TERMS OF STUDY

Students may register for an extension course at any time that is convenient for them. Registrations should be sent to the ABTS office. Personnel there will respond with a fee assessment, and materials will be posted to the student when payment is received. Please allow approximately 6 weeks between the date of registration and the beginning of the course in order to allow time to process the registration and post the materials.

The course will begin on the 15th of the month following registration. Four months will be allowed for course completion. We will accommodate requests to study during a specified four month period if we possibly can.

It is strongly recommended that students enroll in only one extension course at a time. They may, of course, complete courses in less than the allotted four months and register for a second course upon completion of that first one. Students are not allowed to enroll in more than two courses at the same time, whether extension or residence or a combination of the two, except by special permission from the Dean.

Completed assignments should be sent to the ABTS office. All work must be postmarked on or before the course due date. Students should keep copies of their work to safeguard against loss in the mail. Submission of course requirements electronically by email attachment is permitted.

## EXTENSION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### BIBLICAL STUDIES

#### **BIB504 Understanding the Old Testament** **3 credit hours**

The course provides a survey of the history of salvation in the Old Testament, especially related to the universality of Old Testament theology. Overall emphasis is given to the rule of God in the establishment of God's kingdom in all the earth.

**Textbooks:** According to Plan, Goldsworthy, IVP  
Making Sense of the OT, Longman, Baker  
The Faith of Israel, Drumbrell, Baker

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Bruce K. Waltke

#### **BIB523 Psalms** **3 credit hours**

A study of the book of Psalms, giving attention to the various forms of the Psalms and their function within the historical experience of Israel. The course begins by focusing on the formulation and interpretation of the Psalms, then examines in detail the various types of psalms, giving sermonic treatment of selected psalms with application for today's Church.

**Textbooks:** The student is not required to purchase any specific texts. However, it is assumed that the student will have access to the standard lexicons, concordances and other lexical and exegetical aids. Of special importance is E. W. Bullinger's Figures of Speech Used in the Bible (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1968) or a similar expanded dictionary of biblical figures of speech

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Bruce K. Waltke

**BIB552 Gospel of Luke****3 credit hours**

A textual examination of the Gospel of Luke, highlighting significant theological themes found in the gospel. The course enables students to prepare narrative material for preaching and teaching.

**Textbooks:** Luke (New International Bible Commentary), Evans, Peabody One other commentary of the student's choice

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Darrell L. Bock

**BIB553 Acts of the Apostles****3 credit hours**

An exegetical examination of the Acts of the Apostles with concentration on the biblical theology of the book of Acts, the historical background of events, and the theological emphasis of the speeches. Special attention is given to articulating the message of Acts in ways that are both textually accurate and contemporarily relevant.

**Textbooks:** Acts (New International Commentary on the NT), Bruce, Eerdmans  
Acts (Tyndale N.T. Commentary), Marshall, IVP

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Darrell L. Bock

**BIB557 Hebrews****3 credit hours**

An exploration of the background, context and content of the Epistle to the Hebrews, focusing on the key interpretive issues and theological contributions of this rich, Christocentric book and building confidence in the superiority of Jesus and the New Covenant.

**Textbook:** Hebrews, 2 vols. (Word Biblical Commentary), Thomas Nelson Pub.

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Dennis E. Johnson

**BIB762 Parables of Jesus****3 credit hours**

Methods of interpreting Jesus' parables are surveyed and then an eclectic model drawing on the best insights of each is applied to each of the major narrative parables in the Gospels. The course examines differences among parallel accounts and suggests plausible reasons for the variations, applying conclusions regarding the theology and significance of Jesus' parables to life and ministry.

**Textbooks:** Interpreting the Parables, Blomberg, IVP  
Studying the Parables of Jesus, Jones, Smyth & Helwys  
The Parables of Jesus: Pictures of Revolution, Wenham, IVP  
A synopsis or harmony of the gospels  
New International Version Bible (Not available from this institution)

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Craig L. Blomberg

**BIB780 Readings in Biblical Studies****1–3 credit hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in biblical studies through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.





## THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

### **THL500 Introduction to Graduate Theological Education 1 credit hour**

An introduction to the nature, methods, expectations, and values of theological education at ABTS. This course highlights research methodology, theological terms and issues, the ABTS learning environment, and degree portfolios.

**Delivery:** Contact ABTS office for course materials.

### **THL515 The Ancient Church 3 credit hours**

A history of the ancient church from Pentecost to AD 500, together with the men and writings of that era. Significant creeds are also analyzed for their intentions, influence and correctness. Students are encouraged to evaluate their own beliefs as compared to historical orthodoxy.

**Textbooks:** Early Christian Doctrines, Kelly, Harper & Row Reader

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Richard C. Gamble

### **THL517 Reformation Church History 3 credit hours**

This course traces the historic development of the Protestant Reformation from its background prior to the 16th century to its impact on the world and church of today. The lives and teachings of the leading Reformers (Luther, Zwingli, Calvin and Knox) are examined in some detail, along with the course of the Reformation in various nations: Germany, England, Scotland, France and the Netherlands. In addition, both the rise of the major Protestant Movements: Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anabaptism and Puritanism and the Roman Catholic and Remonstrance reactions are outlined.

**Textbooks:** Institutes of the Christian Religion, Calvin, Westminster (e-book)  
The Bondage of the Will, Luther, Attie (e-book)  
History of the Christian Church, Vol. 5, Schaff, Scribner's (e-book)  
The Renaissance and Reformation Movements, Spitz, McNally  
Creeds of Christendom, Schaff (e-book)

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. William R. Godfrey

### **THL526 History of the Charismatic Movement 3 credit hours**

A historical and theological study of the origins and development of charismatic thought through the 20th century with emphasis given to theological backgrounds and trends in the USA. In addition to a theology of spiritual gifts, the themes of worship, bibliology, sanctification and ecclesiology are analyzed. Throughout the course, the pros and cons of the various charismatic movements are presented so that students can make informed decisions on what a victorious Christian life entails.

**Textbooks:** New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, Burgess & Van Der Mass, eds., Zondervan  
Keep in Step with the Spirit, Packer, Revell

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. John D. Hannah

### **THL576 Christian Ethics 3 credit hours**

This course presents a biblical model for ethics in a postmodern world, examining the ethical theories of obligation and value from a philosophical perspective. A survey of various ethical systems identifies unstated assumptions in ethical theories and evaluates those theories for legitimacy, relevance and cogency, providing a Christian framework of values and ethics as a foundation for God-honoring decisions in the student's life and ministry.

**Textbooks:** Ethics for a Brave New World, Feinberg, Crossway  
Biblical Christian Ethics, Jones, Baker  
Christian Ethics: Options and Alternatives, Geisler, Baker

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. James M. Grier

**THL770 Apologetics****3 credit hours**

An investigation of the biblical, historical and modern approaches to defending faith in God, Christ and Scripture. The course emphasizes the apologetics of Peter among Jews in Jerusalem (Acts 2) and Paul among the Gentiles in Athens (Acts 17), compares the approaches of early church fathers and focuses on the apologists who led the resurgence of evangelicalism during the last half of the twentieth century.

**Textbooks:** Testing Christianity's Truth Claims, Lewis, Moody  
Intellectuals Don't Need God and Other Modern Myths, McGrath, Zondervan  
The Universe Next Door, Sire, IVP

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Gordon R. Lewis

**THL780 Readings in Theology****1–3 credit hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interest in the theological disciplines through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice approved by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

**MINISTRY STUDIES****MNS564 Urban Mission and Ministry****3 credit hours**

A course that focuses on Christian missions and ministry in the world's growing cities. The biblical basis for urban ministry is presented and case studies of effective urban strategies worldwide are examined. Attention is given to urban issues such as ministry to the poor and homeless, pastoring and raising a family in the city, and planting urban churches, providing key logistics, strategies, models and insights from one of today's leading experts in urban missiology.

**Textbooks:** The Urban Christian, Bakke with Hart, IVP  
Cities: Mission's New Frontier, Greenway and  
Monsma, Baker  
Theology as Big as the City, Bakke, Inter-Varsity Press

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Roger S. Greenway

**MNS626 Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Management****3 credit hours**

An examination of the biblical principles of interpersonal communication and conflict management in human relationships within the body of Christ. Attention is given to communication models, self-concept, non-verbal messages, stress and other strategies that assist the Christian leader in developing interpersonal communication skills and managing conflict acceptably and productively.

**Textbooks:** Caring Enough to Confront, Augsburg, Regel  
Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands, Tripp, P&R  
Publishing  
The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving  
Personal Conflict, Sande, Baker

**Course Lecturers:** Dr. Kenneth O. Gangel and Dr. Samuel Canine

**MNS665 Understanding Islam****1–3 credit hours**

This course presents the tenets of the Muslim religion and discusses the points of contact with the Muslim for the gospel. It is a practical and theological study to introduce the student to Islam and to Christian witness and ministry within the house of Islam. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the Muslim mind and sharing the Savior within it.

**Textbooks:** Copy of the Koran  
Course Reader  
CD or textbooks – contact ABTS office for more  
information

**Course Lecturer:** Dr. Patrick O. Cate

**MNS785 Readings in Pastoral Ministries****1—3 credit hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in the homiletics or pastoral areas through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

**MNS786 Readings in Educational Ministries****1—3 credit hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal Christian education interests through the reading of educational journals, periodicals, and books and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

**MNS787 Readings in Intercultural Ministries****1—3 credit hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in Intercultural ministries through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

**MNS788 Readings in Marketplace Ministries****1—3 credit hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in marketplace ministries through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

The following courses are available both in seminars and by extension. Students should plan to attend these courses in-residence, but those having difficulty attending seminars should contact the ABTS office for information regarding the textbooks and requirements for these courses. Refer to residence course descriptions for more detail.

BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics	Course Lecturer: David Turner, ThD
BIB502 Old Testament Biblical Theology	Course Lecturer: David Kennedy, ThM
BIB556 Pastoral Epistles	Course Lecturer: John R. W. Stott, PhD
BIB630 Wisdom Literature (covers Proverbs only)	Course Lecturer: Bruce K. Waltke, ThD
BIB632 Isaiah	Course Lecturer: Allen P. Ross, PhD
THL572 Christian Worldview	Course Lecturer: James Grier, ThD
MNS500 Spiritual Formation	Course Lecturer: John R. Lillis, PhD
MNS622 Foundations of Education	

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

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We worship the one, true God, almighty Creator and Ruler of all things, who has revealed Himself as spirit and eternally triune: three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-extensive in essence and character. Having boundless knowledge and power, God acts with absolute freedom in accordance with His perfect holiness, love, goodness, justice, wisdom, and faithfulness.

We believe that while God has revealed Himself in many ways and most fully in Jesus Christ, the Bible is God's unique, written self-disclosure to humanity, fully human and divine in its authorship. Scripture is as true as its divine Author, clear and uniquely powerful in its message, sufficient for all of our deepest needs, and our only infallible guide and final authority for faith and life.

We believe that God created angels as immaterial and holy beings who are unique in their ministry of worship and service to God. Satan is a fallen angel who, along with his demons, rebels against God's sovereignty in active opposition to God and His plan of redemption until the time of their ultimate doom.

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image as His perfect representatives on earth. Through an act of willful disobedience, Adam sinned, resulting in the depravity of the human race and the corruption of all creation. Consequently, humans are now imperfect representatives, sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God and under His wrath, subjects of the kingdom of Satan, and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is God incarnate, the fully divine Son of the Father who added to Himself a full human nature; two natures united in one Person. He is the Agent and Sustainer of creation who was sent by the Father for our redemption; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, Mary; who lived a sinless life as the perfect image of God; and who was crucified and died as our representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and bodily rose again defeating sin, Satan, and death. As our ascended Lord, Jesus now intercedes on behalf of His people and rules over His Church until the time of His triumphant return as King of creation.



We believe that the Holy Spirit, as the fully divine, third Person of the triune God, is involved in all the works of God and was sent to apply the redemption accomplished in Christ. The Spirit brings new life to God's people through His works of conviction, illumination, regeneration, and baptism into union with Christ. At salvation, the Spirit permanently indwells believers, guiding, equipping, and empowering us for Christ-like service in and through the Body of Christ, and sealing us as the Guarantor of our inheritance.

We believe that all those who, by God's grace, through faith and repentance have responded to His call are justified, adopted, and made members of the Body of Christ, the universal Church. This Church is made visible in local congregations which advance God's kingdom by making disciples who increasingly image Jesus Christ throughout creation. Jesus commanded His Church to observe two sacred practices: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe in the blessed hope of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection and reward of the just unto everlasting life, and the raising of the unjust unto final judgment and punishment. He will fully establish His kingdom on the earth, destroy all His enemies, make all things new, and submit all things to the Father; and God will make His dwelling with mankind forever.



## ABTS PERSONNEL

### ABTS FACULTY

#### **James A. Blumenstock**

*Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology*

BA Cedarville University; MDiv Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; ThM Calvin Theological Seminary; PhD cand. Australian College of Theology. Youth Director in USA 1998-2001; ABWE ABTS 2001-present.

#### **Robert H. Howder**

*Distinguished International Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology (Ret.)*

BS Cedarville College; MDiv Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; DMin studies Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. ABWE Missionary in Japan 1965-1992, ABTS 1993-present.

#### **Timothy C. Miskimen**

*Associate Professor of Systematic Theology*

BA Cedarville University; MDiv and ThM Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Internship in South America 1991-1992; ABWE ABTS 1999-present.

#### **Greg Vrugink**

*Assistant Professor of Old Testament*

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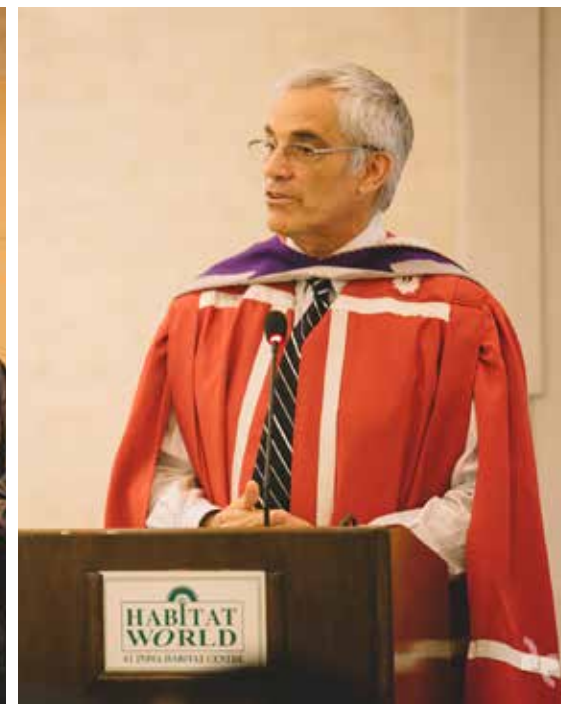
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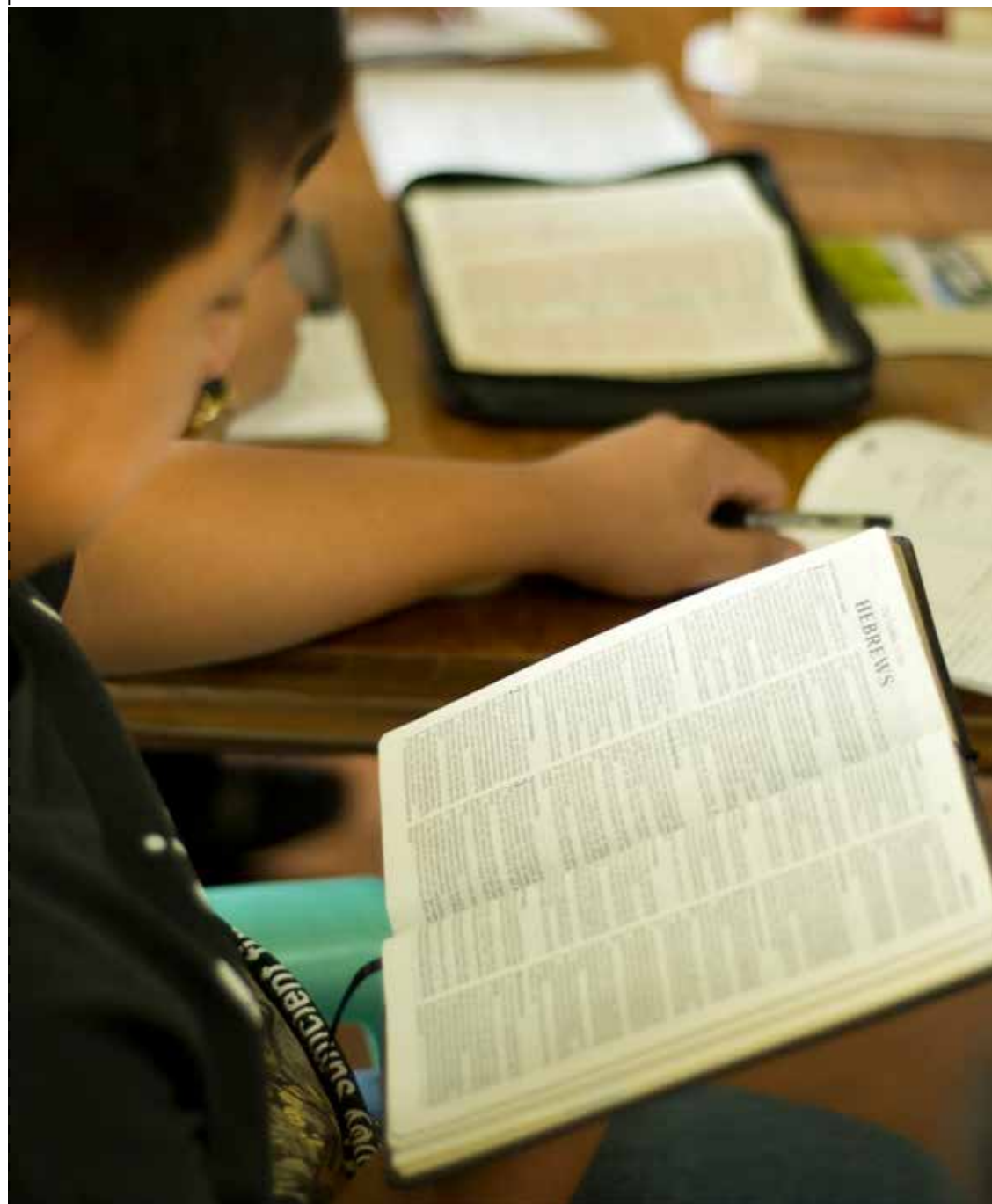
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