

THEOLOGY (THE)

Theology courses play a central role in the spiritual and academic growth of students. Students are encouraged to enroll in or audit a variety of theology courses. A major in theology at WLC is designed for the student who seeks to prepare for personal or professional ministry in the WELS. Surveys of Scripture, biblical studies, systematic theology, and practical theology courses are combined to provide a solid foundation for a lifetime of learning and Christian service. A student who chooses a theology major will generally be advised to seek an additional major in his or her bachelor program.

Course of Study

For majors, theology courses are categorized into four different areas:

1. Biblical Studies: THE 100, 105, 110, 120, 130, 301-310.
2. Practical Theology: THE 211, PHI 201, 202.
3. Systematic Theology: THE 401, 402, 411, 412, 421, 431, 461
4. Historical Theology: THE 441, 442, 461

A. A major in theology consists of at least 36 credits. Students can choose from four different emphasis areas: broad-field, biblical studies, systematic theology, and historical theology.

Broad-field emphasis includes:

1. Practical Theology: At least one course from the following: THE 211, PHI 201, 202.
2. Biblical Studies: At least three courses from the following: THE 301, 304, 306, 308.
3. Systematic Theology: At least three courses from the following: THE 401, 402, 411, 412, 421, 461.
4. Historical Theology: At least one course from the following: THE 441, 442 and 461.
5. Electives: At least 12 credits from the following: THE 110, 120, 130, 302, 303, 305, 307, 309, 310, 391, 431, 491, 490, 499.
Note: Only one course from THE 110, 120, and 130 may be applied to the major.
6. Capstone: THE 480.

Biblical studies emphasis includes:

1. Core courses: THE 301, 304, 306, 308.
2. Practical Theology: At least one course from the following: THE 211, PHI 201, 202.
3. Systematic Theology: At least three courses from the following: THE 401, 402, 411, 412, 421, 461.
4. Electives: At least 12 credits from the following: GRE 201, THE 110, 120, 130, 302, 303, 305, 307, 309, 310, 391.
Note: Only one course from THE 110, 120, and 130 may be applied to the major.
5. Capstone: THE 480.

Students who select a biblical studies emphasis are encouraged also to choose Greek to fulfill the foreign language requirement.

Systematic theology emphasis includes:

1. Core courses: THE 307, 401, 402, 411, 412, 441.
2. Practical Theology: At least one course from the following: THE 211, PHI 201, 202.

3. Electives: At least 12 credits from the following: THE 110, 120, 130, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 309, 310, 391, 421, 431, 461, 490, 491, 499.

Note: Only one course from THE 110, 120, and 130 may be applied to the major. No more than 6 credits from THE 120, 301, 302, 303, 304, and 305 may be applied to the major. No more than 6 credits from THE 130, 306, 308, 309, and 310 may be applied to the major.

4. Capstone: THE 480.

Historical theology emphasis includes:

1. Core courses: THE 401, 402, 411, 421, 441, 442.
2. Practical Theology: At least one course from the following: THE 211, PHI 201, 202.
3. Electives: At least 15 credits from the following: THE 110, 120, 130, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 391, 412, 431, 461, 490, 491, 499.
Note: Only one course from THE 110, 120, and 130 may be applied to the major.
4. Capstone: THE 480.

To have a major in theology approved for graduation, a student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 in courses selected by the student to satisfy the major.

Consistent with their courses of study, students at WLC are encouraged to include a minor in theology when possible. A minor in theology will provide a student the opportunity to grow in faith and to develop Christian values, a sense of purpose, and a consistently biblical view of life.

B. A minor in theology consists of at least 21 credits in theology, 15 of which must be 300- and 400-level courses, including:

1. Biblical Studies - Old Testament: One course from the following: THE 301-305.
2. Biblical Studies - New Testament: One course from the following: THE 306-310.
3. Practical Theology: One course from the following: THE 211, 412, PHI 201, 202.
4. Systematic Theology: One course from the following: THE 401, 402, 411, 421, 431.
5. Historical Theology: One of THE 441, 442 and 461.
6. Electives: At least 6 credits from any other THE 100-, 300-, or 400-level course. Note: Only one course from THE 110, 120, and 130 may be applied to the minor. A cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required in courses to satisfy the minor requirements.

General degree requirements: 12 credits in theology are required to receive a degree from WLC. For specific requirements, please refer to page 17 of the catalog.

Course Descriptions

THE 100 Introduction to Christianity. 3 cr.

An introduction to the chief teachings of Christianity. (Admission by placement).

THE 105 Introduction to Scripture. 3 cr.

An introduction to Christian theology in the confessional Lutheran tradition which provides a working knowledge of the themes, history, key figures, and salvation story in the Old and New Testaments, as well as the basic teachings of the Christian faith and a brief overview of the history of the Christian church. (Admission by placement).

THE 110 Introduction to Theology. 3 cr.

A study of the basic principles of Christian Theology in the confessional Lutheran tradition, including surveys of biblical, historical, systematic, and applied Theology. (Admission by placement).

THE 120 The Old Testament. 3 cr.

A study of the history of God's people before the time of Christ by means of a thorough investigation of the historical books of the Old Testament, together with an introductory overview of other types of Old Testament literature.

THE 130 The New Testament. 3 cr.

A study of the life and work of Jesus Christ as well as the development of the early New Testament church. Representative readings in the Gospels, the New Testament letters and the Revelation provide a framework for understanding God's New Testament message.

THE 211 Christian Faith and Life. 3 cr.

A biblical study of the Christian's relationship with God, self, and others, with a particular focus on the ministry and fellowship of Christians gathered to be Christ's church. Biblical leadership, spiritual gifts, courtship and marriage, 21st century parish life and bioethics are the thematic emphases.

THE 301 The Book of Genesis. 3 cr.

An in-depth study of the first book of the Bible as a foundation for Old Testament history and biblical theology. Primary emphasis on God's saving activity on behalf of the primeval human race. Patriarchal personalities will be examined, theological themes explored, and comparative ancient history and culture discussed.

THE 302 History of Israel. 3 cr.

A study of the historical books of the Old Testament, with special attention to the formation of the nation of Israel. Major Old Testament themes will be explored and examined, particularly the development of Israel's Messianic expectations.

THE 303 Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom Literature. 3 cr.

A study of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs. Focus on the form of Hebrew poetry, its meaning and usage among God's Old Testament people, and its continued value for God's New Testament people.

THE 304 Old Testament Prophets. 3 cr.

A study of the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament, with special emphasis on the meaning of prophecy among God's Old

Testament people, the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus Christ, and the application of prophetic truths for church and society.

THE 305 The Literature of the Intertestamental Period. 3 cr.

Selected readings in non-canonical Jewish literature during the so-called "silent years" between the end of the Old Testament and the birth of Jesus Christ. Attention will be given to global history during this period, the development of first century Judaism, and Messianic expectations in Israel up to the time of Christ.

THE 306 The Life of Christ. 3 cr.

A study of the birth, ministry, suffering, death, resurrection and exaltation of our Lord as revealed in the Gospels. Special attention given to current critical theories of the Gospel's origins, detailed study of Jesus' teaching, parables, miracles, and Passion history, together with an evaluation of contemporary estimates of the personality and significance of Jesus.

THE 307 Romans. 3 cr.

An in-depth study of Paul's epistle to the Romans, focusing thematic emphasis on sin and grace in the life of the Christian, justification by faith, and Christian liberty.

THE 308 Pauline Epistles. 3 cr.

The historical development, doctrinal teachings, and practical application contained in Paul's letters to the Corinthians, Galatians, Thessalonians as well as the prison epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon).

THE 309 The Pastoral and Catholic Epistles. 3 cr.

The historical development, doctrinal truths, and practical applications contained in the pastoral epistles (1 and 2 Timothy, Titus) and the catholic epistles (Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude).

THE 310 Apocalyptic Literature. 3 cr.

A study of the apocalyptic portions of Ezekiel, Daniel, and selected sections of non-canonical apocalyptic literature. Primary emphasis on the Revelation to John.

THE 401 Basic Teachings of the Bible 1. 3 cr.

A study of those truths which the Bible, as the divinely inspired source of doctrine, presents concerning the Holy Scriptures, God, creation, providence, angels, man, law, sin, and salvation by grace.

THE 402 Basic Teachings of the Bible 2. 3 cr.

A continuation of THE 401, treating salvation by grace, sanctification, the means of grace, the Church, the ministry of the church, church fellowship, marriage, church and state, and the end of the world.

THE 411 Lutheran Confessions. 3 cr.

A study of the origin, content, and significance of the nine confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as contained in the Book of Concord. Emphasis on the Augsburg Confession and the Apology.

THE 412 Theology of Christian Worship. 3 cr.

An examination of the theology and practice of worship in the light of the Lutheran Confessions and history of Christian worship. Prereq.: THE100, THE105, or THE110.

THE 421 Religion in America. 3 cr.

An examination of the major Christian denominations, religious movements and non-Christian cults in the United States. Subject material will be studied for its historical development, distinctive doctrinal characteristics, and impact on American history and culture. Contemporary religious issues will be analyzed and evaluated from a confessional Lutheran perspective.

THE 431 Introduction to World Religions. 3 cr.

Historical background on the life and teachings of the founders, major beliefs and ritual practices of the major world religions, as well as critical religious and ethical issues facing each religious system at the present. Material will be analyzed and evaluated from a confessional Lutheran perspective.

THE 441 History of Christianity. 3 cr.

A survey of the development of Christianity from its origins to the present, focusing on the response of Christianity to the internal and external challenges, and the influence of the church in the world.
Prereq: sophomore standing

THE 442 History of the Reformation 3 cr.

A study of the Conservative, Radical, and Catholic Reformations and their impact on European society, with special concentration on Luther and other major figures.

THE 450 Archaeology and the Biblical World. 3 cr.

An introduction to the terminology, methodology, extent and outcomes of modern Middle Eastern archaeology. The course will survey the significance as well as the limitations of archaeology for providing source material for the reconstruction of the history, sociopolitical structures and religious thought of the biblical world. Does not fulfill 400-level degree requirement.

THE 461 Thought and Life of Martin Luther 3 cr.

A seminar study of the life and major theological writings of Martin Luther. Special emphasis will be given to Luther's historical-theological context and formation and to his major Reformation writings.

THE 480 Theology Colloquium. 3 cr.

This capstone course provides theology majors with an opportunity to reflect on their theological training by conducting research on a specific topic in the discipline of theology under the supervision of their major advisor. Students will summarize their research in the form of a written thesis, and will present and defend the thesis publicly.

THE 490 Theology Internship. 1-3 cr.

By arrangement with department.

THE x91 Selected Topics in Theology. 3 cr.

Course topics from biblical languages and literature, specific eras and developments in church history; historical surveys of doctrine or of confessing communities (denominations); etc. Can be applied to GENEDS depending upon topic. Prereq: varies by topic.

THE 199-499 Independent Study. 1-3 cr.

By arrangement with instructor.