



BETHANY GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts Course Descriptions

Bible and Theology

BTH511 Dynamics of Kingdom Ministry (3 Credits)

This course gives students a personal and Kingdom-oriented theology of ministry, demonstrating God's heart and passion for the world through Scriptures. How mission fits into the extension and promotion of the Kingdom of God is studied, including the power and resources of the Kingdom, the centrality of the Kingdom in proclamation, and the final victory of the Kingdom over Satan and all his kingdom as mission works towards the culmination of this present evil age and the inauguration of the eternal Kingdom of God, the reign of the King, Jesus, and the role of the glorious people of God in all of these events. The course is intensely practical, each student working through how a Kingdom worldview should transform life and ministry.

BTH512 Transforming Power of the Gospel (3 Credits)

This course looks first at the transformational power of the Gospel in regeneration, making all things new, and through the changed life of the transformed believer, affecting his family, business, perspectives on culture and entertainment, and society. These changes do not occur without profound personal and worldview change. The early church demonstrated this by "turning their world upside down." Secondly, this course wrestles with how the church is meant to be transformative, what this means and how it occurs. Many places where the Gospel has gone in modern missions, corruption has increased. This should not be the case. The course looks at issues in society that are destructive and how the church can respond to these issues. It considers the spiritual authority the church has to enact change as it functions as light and salt. It asks if the church can influence the political and authority structures in society, and if so, how. Finally, it takes into account the "push-back" the church can experience as change takes place, from minor to severe persecution.

BTH513 Biblical Foundations of Leadership (3 Credits)

This leadership course gives the student an overview of the field of leadership from two perspectives – leading secular theories and biblically-grounded frameworks. While many secular theories reflect biblical values, some do not. Unlike secular leadership, biblical leadership arises out of who we are in Christ and a desire to please God and do His will. It is deeply rooted in relationship with God, looking to Him for guidance, understanding, enabling,

and resourcing. It recognizes the Holy Spirit as the agent and empowering source for effective leadership. It is Christ-centered and Kingdom-oriented. As students' progress through the course, they will assess leadership theories and perspectives through the lens of Scripture and biblical values, with a view to developing a personal rubric of leadership that is deeply grounded in Scripture, while connecting with personal calling, traits, gifts, skills, experiences, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

BTH514 Jesus as Leader (3 Credits)

Considering the historical and eternal impact of Jesus' life, it is a fact that He was and is the greatest leader this world has ever known. Leadership results from a wide range of character and spiritual dynamics, knowledge, interpersonal and relational skills, communicational abilities, vision and drive, and many other factors, all of which Jesus had profoundly. Researchers have demonstrated that leadership flows out of being, the very essence of the leadership of Jesus. This course looks at the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that Jesus had demonstrated in His leadership and the possibilities of these in the lives of those who follow His current leadership, submit to His Lordship, and are filled with His Spirit.

Education

EDU511 Training for Affective Growth (3 Credits)

Empirical research has demonstrated that the most critical factors affecting cross-cultural ministry competence are the spiritual, character, and social dynamics of the missionary. This course looks at these empirical studies, detailing the spiritual, character, and social dimensions, and considering ways and models by which these can be developed in the lives of missionaries for effective ministry.

EDU521 Philosophy of Missiological Education (3 Credits)

This course is focused on educating and training missionary practitioners for competent cross-cultural ministry. It studies theoretical and empirical literature on wide-ranging concepts of competence. These concepts include adaptive patterns, competence assessments, cognitive social learning concepts, social and psychological orientations, models of cross-cultural competence, personal qualities, and ministry skills. Empirical field studies that have redefined cross-cultural competence will be presented along with recommended content design models with reference to their defining philosophies of education and training. Please note: this course is a prerequisite for EDU 524 Program and Curriculum Design.

EDU522 Design for Effective Teaching (3 Credits)

Approaches to teaching differ around the world. Each of these approaches have strengths and weaknesses inherent in them. This course looks at effective teaching processes and elements from both inductive and deductive approaches to communicating truth.

EDU523 Design for Effective Training (3 Credits)

Competence in cross-cultural ministry demands skills including language learning, culture study,

religion and worldview study, and ministry skills specific to the cross-cultural context. These are skills that are not easily learned in the traditional classroom but which require experiential field training. This course looks at how to design, manage, undertake, and assess field training in preparing missionaries for effective ministry.

EDU524 Program and Curriculum Design (3 Credits)

This course takes students step-by-step through a system-approach in developing competence oriented missionary training programs. This will enable students to start their own training schools or to evaluate and effectively improve the training in existing schools.

History

HIS511 History of Missions Movements (3 Credits)

This course focuses on how God has used the church for expansion of the Kingdom of God on the earth from the time of the apostles to the present. Seven major turning events in the history of mission development will be identified including the factors that led to those events, the ongoing impact of those events, and current lessons to be learned for personal cross-cultural ministry. Case studies will be presented of the men and women used by the Spirit of God to see these major advances take place.

Intercultural Studies

ICS511 Cross-Cultural Communication (3 Credits)

Communication is complex; cross-cultural communication is even more complex. This course first lays a foundation of theory in the field of intercultural communication. It overviews the many elements and processes involved in the sending and receiving of messages within intercultural contexts. It then addresses issues in communication that students must be aware of, including 15 factors affecting cross-cultural communication, communication competence models, cognitive social learning concepts, perception, categorization, attribution, and cognitive complexity. The course wrestles with the implications of these for effective ministry and how to implement training to develop these competencies.

ICS512 Intercultural Interaction (3 Credits)

This course will explore the factors that serve to facilitate or impede communication within one's cross-cultural context. The student will be able to learn the difference between perceived communication and the reality of what cultural communication consists of and apply the principles to help him or her communicate more effectively.

ICS521 Applied Cultural Anthropology (3 Credits)

This course looks at the universals of culture from the perspective of a missionary, using theory, research, and case studies to help missionaries think about issues and processes of cultural adaptation/contextualization they must work through. As an applied course, this is meant to be practical, its concepts and principles integrated into cross-cultural ministry. Please note: this

course is a prerequisite for EDU524 Program and Curriculum Design.

ICS522 Applied Church-Planting Models and Methods (3 Credits)

Lessons from evangelistic and church-planting models from around the world are compared to identify strengths and weaknesses of each, and how to personally develop a contextually effective method from the insights gained.

ICS523 Contextualization in Missions (3 Credits)

Every church exists in some cultural and sociological context. Yet missionaries tend to plant churches that function like their home-culture churches. It is essential that the church be both biblically sound and culturally viable. Contextualization is an essential concept and a necessary skill. However, contextualization is fraught with controversy over degree of contextualization and how contextualization in various contexts is undertaken. These issues will be considered and a theory and model for a biblically and missiologically sound approach to contextualization developed.

Leadership

LDR511 Spiritual Formation for Leaders (3 Credits)

All too often, leaders who are confident and competent in every way within their sphere of influence and ministry, “burn-out” or “wash out” through failing to keep their personal lives in order. Central to their personal lives is the spiritual dimension. The break-down in their lives results from failure to “put on the character of Christ” so that He directs and empowers for every part of life. This course focuses on passionate pursuit after Christ, how “being conformed to His image” and “identification with him” are to impact every dimension of life, and daily spiritual disciplines that enable the transformation of our lives and ministries, everything flowing from the life of His Spirit and His grace. Various approaches to spiritual formation that the church has developed over the centuries will be considered. Students will learn to assess each method biblically and utilize those that are most personally effective for growth.

LDR512 Transforming Organizational Culture (3 Credits)

Every organization, whether church, mission, or secular business, has a personality, a way of doing things, a culture which often has more impact on its effectiveness to its mission than the actual mission vision and goals. Some organizational cultures are energized, healthy, and motivating to their members. Some are mundane, others chaotic and toxic. The intent of this course is to help you develop an understanding of the concept of organizational culture, how it energizes or enervates the people who are part of that culture, and how it helps or hinders the accomplishment of the organization’s vision and goals. The course is very practical, with tools and keys to researching the culture of the organization, perspectives of how members see it and where they would like it to be, and step-by-step methods for transforming the culture of an organization as it is needed.

Prerequisites: A church, mission, or NGO as a context for research in this course.

LDR521 Comparative Cultural Leadership (3 Credits)

Leading Multicultural Teams is a very complex process taking into account many things. This includes the differences in worldview, sources of identity, ideals of achievement, orientations to authority, responses to (or preferences for) ambiguity, different values in the ways by which knowledge is acquired, perspectives on time, orientations to work and economic values, and other cultural differences which often lead to misunderstanding and conflict. This course looks at biblical and servant-leader-oriented perspectives on multicultural team leadership, contrastive cultural ways of perceiving and functioning, foundational traits and attitudes for managing the multicultural team, how to work with people who have differing cultural values, how to handle conflict, how to develop effective “intercultural intelligence,” and how to lead a multicultural team.

LDR522 Lifelong Leadership Development (3 Credits)

During his years of teaching on Leadership Development, Dr. Bobby Clinton has researched the lives of over 3,000 biblical, historical, and contemporary Christian leaders to identify the factors that made for dynamic and effective leadership over the course of a life-time. In this course we look at his “Leadership Emergence Theory” and the implications for our own lives from foundational inner-life growth processes, ministry maturation processes (God’s deep processing in our lives), focused life processes, integration processes, and orientations to establishing lasting legacies from our lives and ministries. We will be developing a personal timeline, personal core values, purpose and mission statements, and plans for personal development. This course looks at our past, our present lives and ministry, and anticipates the future.

LDR523 Measuring and Improving Leadership (3 Credits)

Extensive research over the past decades has identified many dimensions both of leadership dysfunction and of leadership effectiveness. Most of these fall into three arenas—leader qualities and characteristics, relating to followers, and managing contextual realities. During this course students look at the “dark side” of leadership (the dysfunctional), reflect on essential character qualities for leadership, consider disciplines necessary as good models of leadership, and do self-reflection and personal growth planning on a range of personal character attributes.

LDR524 Mentoring and Developing Leaders (3 Credits)

Leaders lead but, for any number of reasons, often fail to develop new leadership they can work with to expand ministry, or even, who can take over from them one day. The development of leaders, both through personal influence and mentoring, as well as through intentional organizational action, is a crucial need in Christian churches and organizations. As part of the intercultural leadership program, the primary focus of this course will be on the intentional, strategic development of leaders in any organization and culture through coaching and mentoring, based on carefully designed planning as well as through the unplanned and unplannable experiences of life and ministry. The purpose of this course is to help you and your colleagues, as leaders, be intentional in discovering potential leaders, deliberately setting out leadership development strategies, mentor and coach developing leaders, and release new leaders into deeper-level ministries.

LDR531 Collaborative Leadership (3 Credits)

Doing collaboration, engaging in partnerships, and networking across denominational, mission, national, and cultural boundaries is the new norm in missions. This course will prepare the leader with the perspectives, knowledge, steps, and potential for skills necessary for establishing and completing successful ministry collaboration. Starting with a biblical and theological foundation for collaborative ministry, the course moves to foundational elements and personal skills needed, as well as a series of steps that can be followed for successful collaboration. Included are case studies and examples of successful collaborations in mission outreach.

LDR532 Innovation and Change for Transformation (3 Credits)

A study of creation and God's dealings with mankind shows that creativity is one of the hallmarks of God. God's people are also meant to be creative and innovative in life, ministry, and business. Some of the greatest scientists and inventors have identified their creativity to the insights given by the Spirit of God. This course focuses on development of creativity and innovation in bringing the transforming power of the Gospel into ministry, how to find and develop ideas, and how to apply these ideas as the Spirit gives guidance and liberty.

LDR533 Vision and Strategic Planning (3 Credits)

This course will examine how leaders can use creative processes to develop shared vision, communicate it to internal and external groups, and translate it through strategic planning processes into action. Leading theories of vision and strategic planning in organizations will be examined, as well as the dynamic of how these can most effectively be handled in a non-western context.

Research

Thesis Intro: RSC511 Missiological Research Methods (3 Credits)

This course provides an introduction to the principles and practices of missiological research. It will look at how to do research on missions leadership and praxis or any missiological issue utilizing socio-anthropological inquiry integrated with theological and missiological thinking. Development of a research design, bibliography, and database for the thesis will be included.

Thesis Course I: ICS611 Defining the Problem and the Proposed Methodology (3 Credits)

This is the first course in the Thesis process. During this eight week course the student will engage with foundational design and methodologies of missiological research and develop skills of critical engagement with literature in their field. In the majority of cases students will select a qualitative or quantitative approach to their research. The outcome includes a refinement of the methodology used in the thesis, literature research, and developing a bibliography for the students final thesis paper.

Thesis Course II: RSC612 Literature Research and Refined Methodology

Through this course students will engage with foundational design and methodologies of

missiological research and develop skills of critical engagement with literature in their field. The outcome includes a refinement of the methodology used in the thesis, literature research, and developing a bibliography for the student's final thesis paper.

Thesis Course III: RSC613 Discovery and Analysis

This course provides the structure to write the first three chapters for a thesis for the Master of Arts program. The student will be guided step by step through the entire process.

Thesis Course IV: RSC614 Findings and Conclusions

This course provides the structure to write a thesis for the Master of Arts program. The student will be guided step by step through writing chapters four and five for a successful Master of Arts thesis.

Thesis Course V: RSC615 Additional Research Assistance

This is an optional course to assist students who did not complete their thesis by the end of RSC614.

Thesis Course VI: RSC616 Final Research Assistance

This is an optional course to assist students who did not complete their thesis by the end of RSC615.